THE DEVON AND EXETER DAILY GAZETTE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1895.

OPENING OF A DRILL HALL AT SIDMOUTH.

Mainly owing to the initiatory exertions of Captain Orchard, the members of the B Company (Sidmouth) 3rd V.B. Devon Regiment have been provided with an excellent Drill Hall, the building also comprising other accessories, such as an armoury, Committee-room, a spacious reading-room, and such-like. It has been erected by Messrs. Tucker and Sons, of Sidmouth, at the east end of the Esplanade, and Mr. James Jerman, of Exeter, very kindly gave his services as architect. The front of the new Hall is in the Italian Renaissance style. It is built of the best pressed bricks, and as a sample of good workmanship it has been admired by all experts in the trade. It has box ground Bath stone dressings, and has curved oriel and bay windows, glazed with plate glass. In a pedimented gable is placed a large clock, supplied by Mr. R. Passmore, of Sidmouth, and this will prove a very useful addition to those using the sea walk. In the front wall two inscription stones have been fixed. One bears the following:—"The site for this Drill Hall was presented to the Volunteers of Sidmouth by J. George G. Radford, Esq., of this town. The foundation stone was laid by Miss Constance M. Radford, April 4th, 1895. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. T. Kennet-Were, October 15th, 1895." On the other stone is: "Volunteer Drill Hall for B Company 3rd V.B.D.R. Sir John H. Kennaway, Bart., M.P., Colonel; J. Albert Orchard, Captain B Company; George H. Vallance, Fredk. J. Potbury, Lieutenants B Company. James Jerman (Exeter), F.R.I.B.A., Honorary Architect. R. Tucker and Sons (Sidmouth), contractors." The main hall measures 60ft. by 32ft. in the clear, and is 21ft. high. It has an open timbered roof with hammer beams, connected with iron tiers. The blank wall towards the Gas Company's office has been treated with an arcading. Opening on to a balcony facing the Alma Cliff are four French windows and six exits altogether are provided in case of emergency. The balcony is regarded as a feature of the building, and will prove a very pleasant rendezvous during the summer months. Upstairs is a very pleasant room measuring 22ft. by 17ft., and on either side of the entrance, which is approached from the Esplanade by means of a tiled covered way, is the armoury and Committee-room. In the basement will be found dressing-rooms, and large accommodation for boats. The building is artificially lighted by gas, incandescent burners being used. The inside woodwork is painted white, with pale pink relief, and the exterior has been done in two shades of Quaker green, the window sashes being white. Messrs. Tucker and Sons have carried out their contract in a most efficient manner, and have completed the work well within the stipulated time. The rubber brick carving and the lettering was done under the superintendence of Mr. Rogers, of Exeter, and the gas work and plumbing by Mr. Godfrey, of Sidmouth.

Yesterday the opening ceremony took place. It rained nearly all the morning, but during the afternoon there were finer intervals. Outside the new Hall fir trees had been planted, flags suspended, and the Coastguards had gaily decked their flagstaff with bunting. Even the beach at the end of the Esplanade had been swept and garnished, and it is hoped this spot will no longer be a tipping place for a good deal of the refuse of the town.

The B Company paraded at 4 o'clock at the old Drill Hall under the command of Captain Orchard. There were also present on parade Lieutenant Vallance, Lieutenant Potbury, Sergt.-Instructor Doyle, Quartermaster-Sergeant Dare, Sergeants Purchase, Salter, Churchill, Stoneman, 2 buglers, 72 rank-and-file; total, 81. Headed by the band under Sergeant Purchase, the Company marched along the Esplanade and returned to the front of the new Drill Hall. Before the opening ceremony took place Mr. Bellinger, photographer, took a group consisting of Mr. J. G. G. Radford (the donor of the site), Miss Constance Radford (who laid the foundation stone in April last), Mrs. Kennet-Were, Colonel Sir John Kennaway, Bart., M.P., commanding the 3rd V.B.D.R., Captain Orchard, Lieutenants Vallance and Potbury (officers of the B Company), Mr. J. Jerman (the architect), Mr. R. Tucker and Sergeant Tucker (the builders). This being concluded,

Captain Orchard said they were assembled to open and celebrate the opening of a beautiful and useful building, and to dedicate it to the service of their beloved Queen and country. Mrs. Kennet-Were, who had so often demonstrated her zeal for their cause, had been requested to perform the opening ceremony. In asking her to declare the Hall open he had much pleasure in requesting Mrs. Kennet-Were to accept from the Company a key of solid gold, as a memento of the auspicious occasion, and as a token of the Volunteers' appreciation of her unfailing kindness. They trusted Mrs. Kennet-Were and her husband would long be spared to appreciate the kind feelings of the Company towards them. (Applause.) The key bore the inscription: "Presented to Mrs. Kennet-Were by B Company 3rd V.B.D.R., on the opening by her of their new Drill Hall. October 15th, 1895." (Applause.)

Mrs. Kennet-Were then unlocked the main door of the building, and said: "I declare the Hall open, and I hope it will prove of great service to the Sidmouth Volunteers." (Applause.)

The Volunteers then fired a feu de joie, following this by giving a general salute, the band playing the National Anthem. Cheers having been given for the Queen, the men were then marched into the Drill Hall. The walls were ornamented with shields, bearing the mottoes "Success to Sidmouth," "to the B Company, and to the 3rd V.B.D.R.," "Queen and Country," "Loyalty and Liberty," and "Peace and Plenty." A number of framed pictures were displayed, and at the head of the room was the sentiment "God Save the Queen."

Among those present were Mrs Kennet-Were, Colonel Sir John Kennaway, Bart., M.P., Lady Kennaway, Miss Kennaway, Miss Joyce Kennaway, Lady Leese, Miss Leese, Colonel and Mrs Mewburn, Major Whittaker, Captain Balfour (lord of the manor), Captain Gratwicke (4th V.B.D.R.), Captain Hastings, Mrs Anderson Morshead, Mrs Hunt, Miss Kennedy and friends, Mr and the Misses Radford, Mr T Kennet-Were and friends, Mrs Stanford, Mrs Orchard and Miss Orchard, Mr J P and Mrs Millen, Mr and Mrs F H Orchard, Mr and Mrs W T Orchard, Mr A L Hosier, Mr J Jerman, Mrs and Miss Faulkner, Mrs King, Miss Howard Reynolds, Mrs W Trump, Mr E Barrett, Mr F Hayman, Chief Coastguard-officer Ridge, Mrs Hunter, Mrs Whittaker, Miss Harrison, Miss Kennedy, Mr and Mrs Holden, &c.

Captain Orchard wished, in the first words publicly spoken in that room, to thank those patrons and subscribers who had kindly come to his assistance and provided funds to the erection of the building. He called for cheers for the donors, which were heartily given, as were also cheers for Mr. Radford, Mrs. Kennet-Were, the architect, and the builders. In giving a brief history of the origin of the fund, Captain Orchard remarked that £135 had been given in donations, and by the most successful bazaar ever held in the town they had realised in one afternoon the sum of £265. (Applause.) If he were to name any among the many ladies who worked so hard on that occasion, he would mention Mrs. Kennet-Were, the Misses Radford, Miss Kennedy, and Mrs. Faulkner; but many others also rendered most valuable work in bringing the bazaar to a satisfactory result. (Applause.) The site for the Hall was given by Mr. Radford, and probably it might not be taking too much pride to himself when he said that probably his personality had something to do with Mr. Radford's generosity. (Applause.) He had been connected with B Company since its formation, and felt proud that they now had so excellent a building for their use. The contract was £1,200, but, with extras and furniture, the expenditure would be £1,300. Of that amount £400 had been provided, leaving £900 to be raised by means of loans. He was proud to say he had no difficulty in getting that assistance, and with a little effort he might, he thought, have obtained double that sum had it been required. Everywhere he had been met with the greatest kindness, and there would be no difficulty in satisfying the builders' claims if the bill was presented the next day. (Applause.) He wished to thank Mr. Jerman, the architect, who had come forward and voluntarily given his services. (Applause.) To Mr. Douglas, of the Gas-works, their thanks were also due, for he had saved them in various little matters a great deal of expense. He had had the co-operation of almost everyone in Sidmouth, and he thanked them for their kindness. (Applause.)

Colonel Sir John Kennaway, M.P., expressed his pleasure at being present that day to assist in the opening of so splendid a Hall. When he witnessed the foundation-stone laying he had no idea they contemplated erecting such an excellent building, and he was proud, as commanding the 3rd Devon Volunteer Battalion, that Sidmouth had set such a good example to the other Companies. The Hall must prove of the greatest benefit to the B Company, both from the point of view of drill as well as of discipline. He trusted the Company would soon reach its full strength, and that the advantages which they now enjoyed would be the means of benefitting not only the Volunteers, but also the town. In learning the use of arms, young men were trained in habits of discipline, steadiness, self-restraint, and endurance. These qualities in men must be a benefit to any town. (Applause.) He congratulated Captain Orchard on having achieved such a grand success. (Applause.) He had now the pleasure of presenting Mr. Jerman with a pair of silver candlesticks on behalf of the Company. He was sure Mr. Jerman would receive them in the spirit in which they were given. Mr. Jerman was deserving every thanks for his kindness. (Applause.)

Mr. Jerman said he was greatly obliged to them for their beautiful present, which was quite unexpected. He should value it as a token of their kindness, and he was only pleased his small services had been useful to them. (Applause.)

Lieutenant Vallance, on behalf of the Company, then presented Captain Orchard with a silver cup as an acknowledgment of the great services he had rendered the Volunteers, and especially B Company. The cup was won by the Company some years ago for efficiency at drill, and was presented by Colonel Troyte. He asked Captain Orchard to now accept it. (Applause.)

Captain Orchard, who was evidently taken by surprise, said nothing they could have given him would have been more prized than the cup. He had something to do with earning it; but the feeling they had given him their share of it was kindness he should never forget. They knew he had the efficiency of the Company at heart, and as long as he was able he would do what he could to maintain the good name which it had earned for itself. (Applause.)

Mr. T. Kennet-Were thanked the Volunteers, on behalf of his wife, for their kind present of a gold key to her. She would always keep it as a proud memento of this happy day. (Applause.) Mrs. Kennet-Were had always been associated with soldiers. She was brought up with a family of soldiers, and she still retained that high opinion which all people who knew the Volunteers must have for them. (Applause.) He thanked them not only for their kindness to his wife on that occasion, but on the many other occasions in which she had been brought in contact with them. (Applause.)

Captain Orchard said they were aware the building was to be used as a Drill Hall, and he was now going to ask Mrs. Kennet-Were to kindly take the first drill.

Mrs. Kennet-Were then called the Company to attention, numbered them off, told the men off into sections, followed by the commands fours—right, fours—left, front, stand at ease. Mrs. Kennet-Were gave the commands in good style. When she had concluded the task of "proving the Company" she was loudly cheered.

Captain Orchard thanked Mrs. Kennet-Were and the other visitors for their attendance, and the proceedings then terminated.

In the evening the Volunteers dined together in the new Hall, and several complimentary speeches were given. A report will appear in Friday's "Gazette."

TIVERTON DIVISIONAL POLICE.

Yesterday the Magistrates present were Messrs. W. C. L. Unwin, G. J. Cruwys, W. J. Llewellyn, and N. Chichester. A summons was ordered to be issued against Mr. P. Martin, of the London Hotel, Watchet, owner of a well on Upton Farm, Cullompton, to show cause why the well should not be closed. Mr. C. M. Hole made the application on behalf of the Tiverton Rural District Council. Frank Taylor, landlord of Redwood's Inn, Uplowman, was summoned for being drunk on his own premises on October 9. Fined 10s (the costs), no conviction to be recorded. George Guard, carpenter, of Halberton, was summoned by Hannah Major, of Halberton, for assaulting her on September 16. Guard issued a cross-summons against Major. Mr. W. T. Watkins prosecuted, and Mr. W. H. Martin defended. Complainant said on the day in question, as she was coming up the garden, defendant told her she looked ugly enough for an Irish woman, and that she ought to have been in Ireland with the navvies. Defendant had a kettle in his hand, and this he rubbed down her apron. He dropped the kettle and caught hold of the front of her dress and shook her. He tore the front of the dress and sleeve, and said he would shake the life out of her. She did not kick him, but put up her foot to save herself being struck with the kettle. He also pushed her against the wall and bruised her shoulder. Defendant was always annoying her. Mary Ann Andrews and complainant's mother (Mrs. Wilson) corroborated. For the defence, Guard said he was standing in his workshop on the day in question, when Mrs. Major came up and kicked him from behind. He put the kettle up to defend himself and smutted Mrs. Major's apron. Witness went outside, and Mrs. Major threw a washing stool at him and struck him. Mrs. Dowland, a neighbour, said she saw Mrs. Major go into Guard's workshop, and when she came out she said she had kicked him. Eliza Carter said she saw Mrs. Major throw a washing form at Guard. P.C. Ball spoke to being called to the scene of the fracas, when both parties complained of assault. Both cases were dismissed. Frank Copp, labourer, of Cheriton Fitzpaine, was summoned by Mary Ann Hackworthy, single woman, of Bickleigh, for assaulting her on September 22. Mr. W. T. Watkins was for complainant, who is a domestic servant in the employ of Mr. Bond, of Bickleigh, and on the day in question was returning home. She met defendant, whom she had never seen before, and he knocked her down and knelt on her chest. Complainant being a strong girl pushed him off. Defendant had nothing to say in reply to the charge, and as Hackworthy pleaded for leniency, the Bench fined him £3, or 14 days. William Sparkes, labourer, Stoodleigh, was summoned for not sending his child Laura to school regularly. The excuse was that the Schoolmistress chastised the girl, and the Bench adjourned the case for inquiries to be made. George Warren, sawyer, of Silverton, was fined 10s for a similar offence in respect of his son John. John Govier, labourer, of Bampton, was fined 10s for being drunk in the Shillingford-road, Bampton. Defendant pleaded guilty, and P.S. Glandfield proved the case.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

(By Train, Post, and Wire.)

Lord Salisbury remained at Hatfield yesterday, but is expected at the Foreign Office to-day.

Mr. David Wykes, of the Wolverhampton Wanderers Football team, has died at Walsall.

The strike among the dockyard workmen at Ferrol is at an end. The men have resumed work.

The news published of the death of Dr. Jordan, director of the Berlin National Gallery, was erroneous.

Mr. Oscar Wilde has been removed to the infirmary in Wandsworth prison. His health has broken down.

M. Ballot, Governor of Dahomey, is expected at Marseilles shortly. He is accompanied by the two sons of King Toffa.

The Portuguese authorities, it is reported, have settled the troubles in Goa by amnestying all the mutineers unconditionally.

Mr. Chaplin, President of the Local Government Board, returned from Scotland yesterday, and transacted business at his office.

The Hon. Clement Edward Finch, only surviving brother of the present Earl of Aylesford, died at Offchurch Rectory, near Leamington.

The Government of Cape Colony has resolved to place the management of the railways in the hands of some expert of standing in the railway world.

In consequence of the outbreak of rabies at Croydon, the County Council have ordered that from and after to-day all dogs shall be muzzled in the district.

A man named Duff and his son are in custody at Ennistymon, County Clare, charged on suspicion with causing the death of the elder prisoner's wife.

At Westminster yesterday Sir James Stansfeld was presented with a silver bowl from the women of the United Kingdom in recognition of his efforts on their behalf.

The body of a man about 45 years of age has been picked up on the beach at Porthcawl. He is supposed to be one of the crew of the brigantine Zoe, lost off the Mumbles on the 5th inst.

At Bolton yesterday a man named Cross was committed for trial on a Coroner's warrant on a charge of the manslaughter of Alima Conolly, his paramour, whom he is alleged to have fatally kicked.

The police engaged in the investigation of the silver robbery have arrived at the conclusion that the thieves have baffled them, and that the bulk of the bullion has somehow or other left the country.

At Lanark, during Monday night, a thief removed the foundation stone of the new Mission Hall, laid during the day in connexion with the parish church, and stole the coins placed underneath.

Mr. L. S. Seargeant is retiring from the position of general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada and will be proposed for a seat on the board of the Grand Trunk Company in London.

Michael Macnamara, lately a porter at the Hotel Metropole, Dublin, who was awaiting his trial for manslaughter in connexion with a lift accident, caused, it is alleged, through his neglect, has committed suicide.

An invitation from the Whips of the Conservative party has just been sent to the Conservative agents of the various constituencies, requesting them to meet the Right Hon. Arthur Balfour, M.P., at dinner at the King's Hall, Holborn, on November 20 next.

The master of the Richmond (Yorkshire) Workhouse reports the admission of a Russian in distress, who has unfolded a long tale of his wanderings and his escape from exile in Siberia, from which place he smuggled himself on board ship and got landed in the Tyne.

During the year ended the 31st of March last, the payments to the Imperial Exchequer on account of Customs duties proper amounted to £20,115,000, and £5,552,523 were handed over to the Inland Revenue on account of duties collected by the Customs officials for that department.

The Attorney-General (Sir Richard Webster) speaking at Newport, Isle of Wight, last night, said it was gratifying to know that in connexion with the Chinese and Turkish difficulties we had at the helm of foreign affairs the greatest statesman that had presided since the Earl of Beaconsfield.

On the Great Western Railway near Finsbury Park Station, an engine-driver, named Seth Peacock, residing at Peterborough, was underneath his engine in the act of oiling it, when another engine was by some means driven against Peacock's. The man was knocked down and practically cut to pieces.

Homer Jordan, a boilermaker, on board the Royal Mail steamer Orinoco, was charged at Southampton with being concerned in concealing 115lb. of cavendish tobacco, and a quantity of cigars, cigarettes, and perfumed spirits. The Magistrates inflicted a penalty of £60, or six months' imprisonment.

The Hon. Schomberg McDonnell, Lord Salisbury's principal Private Secretary, returned to the Foreign Office yesterday. Mr. McDonnell having spent his holidays in Constantinople, comes back to his duties with exceptional knowledge of the Eastern question, now occupying the attention of the diplomatic world.

At Birmingham, shortly before mid-day, a cashier named Cyril Stone, in the employ of a firm of foreign merchants, was going through his accounts as usual, when he suddenly retired to a dark corner of the office, and immediately the report of firearms was heard. Mr. Stone fell dead from a self-inflicted revolver shot in the brain.

The Southend Town Council has confirmed the recommendation of its Finance Committee to transfer, from the pier account, nearly £3,000 profit on the season's working, to the borough fund account. This is equal to an 8d rate and meets the whole expenses chargeable to the borough fund, including School Board precept and other items.

ASSAULTING AN EXETER WOMAN.

At the Exeter Police-court yesterday, before Messrs. T. Linscott (Chairman), W. H. Dunn, and J. Knapman, Thomas Mitchell, of Smythen-street, was summoned for assaulting Sarah Morris on Saturday. Complainant, who lived at 18, Stepcote-hill, said that on Saturday evening defendant came home drunk, and would not give her any money for housekeeping. He became very violent, and hit witness in the face. Defendant said complainant first struck him with a poker. The Chief-Constable proved a previous conviction against defendant in September, 1893. The Chairman said defendant would have to go to prison for 21 days.

AN ABUSIVE TRAMP AT EXETER.

At the Exeter Police-court yesterday James Osmond, on tramp, was charged with begging in Sidwell-street on Monday evening. The Chief-Constable said that in consequence of defendant's bad language on being refused alms he was given into custody. Defendant pleaded guilty. William James Pearse, living at 142, Sidwell-street, said on Monday evening defendant came into his shop, and on being refused alms made use of very bad language. Witness ordered him out of the shop, and gave him in charge. Thomas Harris, of 141, Sidwell-street, said that on Monday evening he was in a room above when defendant came into the shop. Witness went down, and found that both his assistants had left the shop, and were outside on the path. Witness asked them what was the matter, and they told him that defendant had come into the shop and asked for alms, and on being refused he threatened to "do" for one of them. When taken to the charge-room at the Police-station he commenced to bite and kick. Defendant said he was a native of Crewkerne, and that it was better to be a beggar than a thief. The Chief-Constable proved a previous conviction against him at Honiton. Prisoner was sent to prison for 14 days with hard labour.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not necessarily endorse the opinions of our correspondents. We cannot enter into any discussion concerning rejected communications; if not inserted they are destroyed.

We shall be happy to answer in this column any reasonable questions on matters of public interest.

Inquirer.—Mr. W. Easton, of Northernhay-street, Exeter, has a copy of Peter Pindar's lampoon, and would be glad to show it.

THE TRAMS.

To the Editor of the Daily Gazette.

Sir,—In the name of humanity, can nothing be done to alleviate the burden of the poor tram horses?

A few minutes ago I was ascending Heavitree-hill with a friend; a tram car, loaded with 21 persons, was likewise going up the hill. Between the bottom and top of Higher Summerlands the horses stumbled twice, and, apparently, were in a state of great suffering under their load. I protested. The driver informed me that the tram was licensed to carry 28 people. But surely not with two horses only—and such horses—and up the steep incline of Heavitree-hill.

I am, yours truly,
J. G. D.

Exeter, 14th October, 1895.

PAPAL CLAIMS.

To the Editor of the Daily Gazette.

Sir,—A few words on the above subject may serve to dispel illusions. Twenty-five years ago, General Cadorna despoiled Pius IX. of his temporal power. The enemies of the Catholic Church saw in that event the aggrandisement of Italy. Like many another prophecy of the soothsayers, the very opposite of their predictions has been realised. Of all the Pontiffs since the Reformation, Leo XIII. wields by far the mightiest influence. This can easily be ascertained by reading the opinions of those who, from their knowledge of the subject, have a right to speak.

It is a cogent argument with Anglicans that national success since the Reformation argues propitiation of the offended Deity. Since the spoliation of temporalities of the Supreme Pontiffs, Italy has been brought to the verge of financial ruin. The integrity of its Prime Minister has been questioned. What is the meaning of this?

Your obedient servant,
J. A. W. P.

Exeter, 14th October, 1895.

LANDLORDS AND THE TITHES.

To the Editor of the Daily Gazette.

Sir,—I should like, if you will permit me, to draw the attention of Churchmen to the meanness of very many landowners in connexion with the payment of Tithe Rent Charge under the Act of 1891. No proceedings for recovery can be taken until after the expiration of three months from the date of its becoming due. It is well known that the general depression of agriculture has grievously affected the incomes of the country clergy, and one would have supposed that this would have been borne in mind by county magnates and other landowners. Many of them are strong supporters of the Church, but this does not prevent them, through their agents, taking full advantage of the time allowed by law. As rents, like tithe rent charge, are mostly paid half-yearly, I need hardly point out the unfairness of this, inasmuch as one-half of the amount due has actually been in their pockets for something like two months before the date at which it is legally due, though not recoverable.

Yours faithfully, H.

North Devon, October 15, 1895.

"BAZAARS AND BUSINESS."

To the Editor of the Daily Gazette.

Sir,—I think the universal thanks of tradesmen in general (and in this city in particular) are due to the writer of the letter signed "Business," for his candid, but very true, remarks on the superfluity of bazaars in Exeter.

They are without doubt very injurious to local business. No one would be so uncharitable as not to support them "in moderation." But when we are now called upon once, or sometimes twice, a week, not only to contribute goods or money, but at the same time to suffer the loss of trade which must necessarily ensue, I think it is as well to point out to these charitably-disposed ladies that although they may be doing good in one direction, they are indirectly, though perhaps unknowingly, doing a great injury to the shopkeepers in general.

I will not repeat the many just causes of complaint pointed out by "Business." But I would add that appeals are even made to the wholesale houses to supply goods for this purpose, and which, in some cases, are responded to under the cloak of "charity," but, in reality, are welcomed by them as a capital outlet for old-fashioned and damaged stock.

My argument is "moderation in all things," even in bazaars.

Any tradesman would, I feel sure, willingly allow a special discount for a quantity of goods purchased for a charitable purpose, and as buyers at bazaars know full well that they pay about twice the usual value of the article, the stall-keepers would thereby be enabled to obtain a good profit towards the fund for the charity they are interested in.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,
MODERATION.

Exeter, October 14, 1895.

To the Editor of the Daily Gazette.

Sir,—The writer of the able letter in this morning's issue of your paper has done, I hope, some service to the hitherto non-complaining and yet severely handicapped tradesmen of the city.

There was one point missed which I think it would be well to notice and bear in mind—that is, that some London houses actually supply to some Bazaar Committees immense cases of fancy and Japanese goods on sale or return. What answer would a tradesman get if he asked for similar treatment from the same firms?

For sales of Japanese goods, sales of work, and dozens of bazaars, poor old Exeter is indeed, a happy hunting ground, and scores of struggling tradesmen know it to their bitter cost.

Your obedient servant,
October 14, 1895. TRADESMAN.

THE BELFAST STRIKE.

A Belfast correspondent telegraphs that practically no development has taken place in connexion with the shipbuilders' strike, so far, at least, as the engineers are concerned. The masters remain firm to lock out on Friday all Society engineers, no matter how or where employed in the city. With regard to the ironmoulders who have threatened to strike on Friday should the increase of two shillings per week not be conceded, it is understood that they have received no communication from the masters, and that none will be sent, so that they also will swell the ranks of the strikers by the end of the week. This fact has rather decreased the chances of a speedy settlement which were on Monday considered hopeful.

A Glasgow correspondent says in commercial circles yesterday there was a more hopeful feeling that the masters and men in the shipbuilding trade would soon come to terms. The Glasgow pig iron market was firmer yesterday. As to the probable lock-out of the Clyde engineers, the men, it is stated, do not wish to cease working, and the masters are of the same opinion, and in well informed circles the opinion prevails that there will be no lock-out.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

LONDON,
Tuesday Night.

That boom of "Kaffirs," of which we have recently heard so much as making the fortunes of no end of people, has been the subject of much contemplative searching of heart during the last few days, since the downward rush has come. The "slump" is, indeed, the one subject of conversation in the City just now. There was a heavy fall at the last account, and now, after a 19 days' run, the fall is found to be heavier still. Various reasons are, of course, assigned, and there seems to be some cause for thinking that the big men who control the market have got alarmed at the prospect of the enormous dimensions of the speculation, and by forcing sales have brought about the present result. The worst of it is that no one among the authorities seems to be able to say whether the end has yet come.

The adjustment of the account now proceeding, indeed, rather favours the view that it has not. There is, however, one cheering feature for the genuine investor: The prices of good things have not fallen; but the production of new ventures is certainly and decidedly checked. The fact is, I think, that the market is about to take up West Australian business, and the leading men want to quiet down the "Kaffirs." For the present, all that they seem to have done is to shake out the speculators, and while frightening off would-be investors, to have done nothing more than to make the old ones feel temporarily uneasy. It does not look as if African mines had yet touched bottom.

The official announcement of the new Peerages includes one name which no one seems to have thought likely to appear in it—that of Mr. David Plunkett. Mr. Plunkett, like Baron de Worms and several others, was crowded out of the present Administration by the Liberal Unionists, but those who know him best seem to think that he was pleased rather than dissatisfied by the omission, and so I believe he was, though as First Commissioner of Works in the last Conservative Government he rendered very signal service. Mr. Plunkett is in the highest sense of the word a popular man with his fellows in the House of Commons. When in office, of course, he had to answer questions, but out of office he only joined in the debates so far as they concerned his own country, and here he was a great force.

His style was of the fervid order, associated with the eloquence of Burke and Sheridan, and he never made a great speech without making a great impression on foes as well as friends. Mr. Plunkett will be much missed from the House of Commons, but his retirement from the representation of the University of Dublin will make way for one of those supporters of the Government who failed to get a seat at Ulster at the last General Election.

Mr. Arthur Balfour is always careful to show his gratitude to the Conservative agents. There has been no Leader of our time who has done so much to go out of his way to show them little compliments whenever he could. The invitation he has sent out to the agens to meet him at dinner on the 20th November is something more than a kindly recognition of the many services that these gentlemen have rendered during the past few months. The gathering cannot fail to partake of the nature of a great Conservative demonstration, and we may look for some very interesting speech making on the occasion.

Bishop Durnford's death, announced this morning, will awaken many memories as well as cause widespread regret. His Oxford career goes back to the time before John Henry Newman had made himself famous. He numbered Bishop Wilberforce, Lord Winmarleigh, and Mr. Gladstone among his College friends. It was to Mr. Gladstone that he owed his Bishopric, though he did not latterly share Mr. Gladstone's political views. He was a Churchman of the old school, and a man of late years of phenomenal activity. He believed in plenty of physical exercise, and boasted of his seven or eight miles constitutional on each day. He did not keep a carriage—he said he could not afford it; and, seeing the large amount he gave away in charity, it was probably true.

He attributed his life and activity to his long walks, and it is characteristic of him that he should have died away in the neighbourhood of the Alps, which, even with the weight of 93 years upon him, he did not hesitate to visit and attempt to climb. The Bishop's death will give the Bishop of Truro his seat in the House of Lords, he being the next on the rota to be called to take his seat as a Spiritual Peer.

According to rumour, Admiral Sir John Commerell is to be the new Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. It is likely enough that he may be; but it is impossible that anything like a selection can have been made as yet. One would have thought that Sir John Commerell would scarcely have cared for the post under the new conditions. The office has been docked of half its salary, and the official residence at the House of Lords is to be taken away. Still, it is a snug little berth, with £1,000 a year, with very few duties, and no responsibility; and, perhaps, even an Admiral of the Fleet on the retired list may think it worth his while to take it.

Oscar Wilde's health has quite broken down under the prison regime to which he has been subjected by the sentence passed upon him six months ago. I commented on his changed appearance, and the ravages prison life had made upon his health, some short time ago, when he was brought up from one of Her Majesty's prisons to appear at the Bankruptcy Court; and to those who saw him on that occasion the announcement that he is now so ill that it has been necessary to remove him to the infirmary at Wandsworth Prison came as no surprise. Only those who have been behind the scenes, or who have "done time," can realise what a sentence of two years hard labour means.

The weather continues quite phenomenal. The Autumn lingers with us just as the Summer did, and we are enjoying just now a delightful interlude between Summer and Winter. The nights are cold, but the days are warm, and one or two efforts on the part of the fog to make its appearance have been checked. To-day has been a warm, delightful, early Autumn day, and Winter seems to be far in the background. The coal merchants have put up the price of coals by a shilling a ton; but they have done it timidly, as well they may, for we have not yet begun sitting-room fires, except in the early morning.

A BIG ARBITRATION.

An arbitration involving a very large sum of money was commenced yesterday at the Surveyors' Institute, Westminster, before Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who has been appointed sole arbitrator, the parties being the Eyre Trustees and the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company. The latter require some land on the St. John's Wood estate for the purposes of their new railway, for which it is said the Eyre Trustees claim about half-a-million of money as compensation. Sir E. Clarke, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Cripps, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. A. T. Lawrance appeared as counsel for the claimants; and the Railway Company was represented by Mr. Littler, Q.C., Mr. Lewis Coward, and Mr. Hans Hamilton. The case is expected to last ten days or a fortnight.

ARMENIAN REFORMS.

CONFERENCE WITH SAID PASHA.

(Reuter's Telegram.)

Constantinople, Monday Night.

The Ambassadors of the three Powers met yesterday and to-day in conference with Said Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the object of drawing up a final scheme of Armenian reforms. The city continues tranquil, but many Armenians in Stamboul keep their shops closed.

THE KU-CHENG MASSACRES.

THE BRITISH ADMIRAL'S ULTIMATUM.

FURTHER EXECUTIONS ORDERED.

(Reuter's Telegram.)

Hongkong, Tuesday.

According to information received here from Ku-Cheng, there is reason to believe that the deadlock to which the Commission of Inquiry into the recent massacres had come, owing to the obstructive proceedings of the Chinese authorities, is at an end. Mr. Mansfield, the British Consul with the Commission, had an interview yesterday with the Viceroy of Fu-Kien, which resulted in an agreement that 18 more convicted prisoners should be executed, and that the remainder of those in custody should be tried by the present Commission, which will have power to sentence to death. This satisfactory result is considered to be due to the reported ultimatum of the British Admiral.

AFFAIRS IN KOREA.

THE REVOLT AT SEOUL.

MASSACRE IN THE PALACE.

FEELING IN PARIS.

(Reuter's Telegrams.)

Yokohama, Tuesday.

An Imperial Ordinance has been issued prohibiting the Japanese from visiting Korea without special permission. A despatch received from Seoul states that during the confusion occasioned by the attack of the Anti-Reform party upon the Royal Palace the rioters entered a bedroom and murdered three ladies. One of these is supposed to be the Queen.

Paris, Tuesday.

In an article upon the rising at Seoul the "Soleil" states:—"The Powers will have to take Korean affairs in hand, for they cannot leave the Japanese masters of the country. Russia, in particular, cannot allow a stringent Protectorate to be established in favour of Japan. A very dangerous complication has arisen, which may compromise the results obtained by the intervention of the Powers in the settlement of the Chino-Japanese dispute."

The "Figaro," referring to the reported death of the Queen, says:—"The Koreans do not want the Japanese yoke. Japan is in a nasty position, and her policy has just received a check from which it will have great difficulty in recovering."

The "New York Herald" publishes the following telegram from its special correspondent, Colonel Cockerm, dated Seoul, October 10, but marked by the Japanese authorities, "Delayed by interruption at Fusan":—On Tuesday morning, at five o'clock, the palace was broken into by a body of Korean troops and a band of Japanese Soshi in civilian dress. The colonel in command of the troops refused to enter the palace. He was killed, and a number of palace guards were slain. The Japanese entered the Queen's room and killed the Minister of the Household, the Queen, and three of her women. The bodies were then taken outside and burned. There were Japanese troops at the palace, but they took no part in the events described. The Tai Won Kun, the King's father, reached the palace soon after the assault, and assumed authority. He is now dictator. He is known to have been in the plot. A pro-Japanese party is now in control. Many members of the Queen's family have been arrested, and many more have fled. It is believed that the Queen Dowager was killed last night, and that the King will be forced to abdicate. Guards have been ordered up from the United States gunboat Yorktown and the Russian cruiser at Chemulpo. The greatest excitement prevails here. It is thought the butchery will hasten action on the part of Russia."

POLITICAL CRISIS IN ROUMANIA.

(Reuter's Telegram.)

Bucharest, Tuesday.

The Ministry has resigned to-day, because the King would not fix the Parliamentary elections before the expiration of the term of the present Parliament. His Majesty has summoned M. Demeter Sturdza.

SPAIN.

THE ATTACK UPON A RELIGIOUS PROCESSION.

(Reuter's Telegram.)

Cadiz, Tuesday.

Seven persons, including the Superior of the Dominicans, were injured in an attack upon the rosary procession here on Sunday. The Government has decided that the rights of the Church shall be respected, the law permitting religious processions in the streets.

FILIBUSTERING EXPEDITION TO HAWAII.

(Reuter's Telegram.)

San Francisco, Tuesday.

The following information (dated the 7th inst.) has been received here from Honolulu:—The Government received information that a boat-load of armed men landed on this island at a spot ten miles from Honolulu on the 4th inst., and after questioning the natives, put off to a large schooner which was awaiting them. An armed tug was subsequently sent in search of the schooner, but no trace of the vessel could be found. The police have been armed, and extra soldiers enlisted. It is supposed that the schooner came from South America.

News from Puerto Principe states that on October 9 the Cuban insurgents placed a dynamite bomb on the railroad of Nueritas, which exploded under a train composed of a locomotive, an armoured carriage containing an officer and 15 soldiers, and three cattle waggons. The engine was completely destroyed, and the rest of the train derailed. The driver and stokers alone are reported wounded.

FRANCE & MADAGASCAR.

THE FIGHTING AT FARAFATRA.

Admiral Besnard, Minister of Marine, has, says Reuter, received from Rear-Admiral Bienaime, Commander-in-Chief in the Indian Ocean, the following telegram, dated Tamatave, 11th inst.:—"The lines of Farafatra were penetrated during the night of the 5th to 6th inst. towards the northern end by means of a night attack admirably carried out by Lieutenant-Col. Belin. In spite of a well-maintained fire, and the real difficulties of the position, no one was wounded. From the position thus gained a reconnaissance was made towards the point dominating the works, so that everything might be ready for a general attack on the arrival of reinforcements promised by the steamer due on the 8th inst., but which did not arrive until the 11th. On the 9th inst. I heard of the capture of Antananarivo and of the Hova Government from the dispatch vessel Rance, which had been sent to Vatomandry to obtain by peaceable means or by force news of the General-in-Chief. I at once informed the Hova General, and summoned him to surrender unconditionally. After 48 hours of negotiations he was induced to hand over the forts, as well as the arms and ammunition. We went through a bombardment and two night attacks without loss. At the moment of dispatching this telegram I am in receipt of a communication from the General-in-Chief announcing the definitive signature of the treaty. The environs of Tamatave are being rapidly organised. I shall be able to revictual Antananarivo. The Dupetit-Thouars, which takes this telegram, will await your orders in reply."

CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of this Council was held last evening, at the Masonic Hall, Crediton. Mr. W. B. Berry presided, and there were also present the Rev J Tucker, Messrs J Cleave, W Dart, W H Adams, H Churcher, W Dymond, H Elston, J Mortimer, and G C Hoskings. A letter was read from the Local Government Board drawing attention to their letter of the 27th June with regard to the site for an Isolation Hospital, and reminding the Council that they had received no reply thereto. The site suggested by the Council was not sanctioned by the Local Government Board as a suitable spot. The Council, however, were already negotiating for the purchase of the said spot. Mr. H. Elston thought it would be a convenience if they could with honour withdraw from the transactions already entered into, if the Overseers would allow them to do so. He would, therefore, move a resolution to this effect. This was seconded by Mr. Dart, and carried. The Rev. J. Tucker, in supporting, thought it advisable to add to the resolution the words "without compensation." The matter was eventually referred to the Roads and Streets Committee to consult with the Rural District Council. Two letters were read from Mr. Fisher, of the Engineers' Department at Queen-street Station, Exeter, stating that there was no objection to the District Council laying a cast-iron water main under the South-Western line near the Crediton Station. A letter was read from Mrs. Mann, who wrote from Torquay, complaining of the alteration of the footpath in front of Flower-place, Mill-street, thereby making it necessary for an extra step to be placed there. Mr. Dart observed that he thought Mrs. Mann's property had been greatly improved by the alteration, and the subject dropped. On the proposition of Mr. H. Churcher, seconded by Mr. W. Dart, Dr. L. M. Body was unanimously re-elected Medical-officer of Health for the ensuing year. A letter was received from Mr. J. Buckingham, Secretary to the Crediton Gas and Coke Company, stating that the Company had given careful consideration to the matter brought before them by a deputation from the Council, and wished to co-operate with that body for the benefit of the public in general. They ventured to say that if the lamps were burnt by meter it would be satisfactory to all concerned. If the Council were favourable to this proposition, the Gas Company would be prepared to lay down all the mains. The Chairman did not think the letter was a satisfactory one. Mr. Adams moved that a deputation, consisting of the Lighting Committee, be formed to meet the Gas Company. The Rev. J. Tucker, in seconding, observed that in reference to the burning by meter, it was the fairest plan by far, both for the Gas Company and the Urban Council. The Urban Council possessed the lamps and the posts, and they could order them to be lit when they wished. Captain Mortimer thought it would be a very bad investment for the Council to go partners with the Gas Company with the lamps. The names of Messrs. W. H. Adams and H. Elston were added to the deputation. On the motion being put to the meeting it was carried. The Roads and Streets Committee's report, presented by Mr. Elston, was adopted without comment. The question of forming an Assessment Committee was brought forward by Captain Mortimer. He mentioned that he had agitated the subject on two or three former occasions, and the longer the matter was delayed the more he felt the necessity of a special Committee being appointed to inquire into all matters appertaining to the Assessment and rating of all property within the district. There were a great many discrepancies and quire into all matters appertaining to the assessment. It would be within the recollection of the Board that in June, when the last rate was signed, they were told that the rate must be signed within a day or so. He, at that time, pointed out these discrepancies. He was told that he would get his remedy later on. From that time to this they had taken no step in that direction. They had appointed no Committee, neither had they taken any step whatever to put those irregularities straight. He thought it was a matter which was urgent and imperative, and must commend itself to the opinions of the members of that Council. It was a case of what was everybody's business was nobody's business, and, therefore, he thought that a Special Committee should be appointed at once to investigate the irregularities complained of. He would move that a Committee be formed to act as an Assessment Committee, to inquire into the whole matter. Mr. W. H. Adams seconded, and the resolution was carried. On the proposition of Mr. Churcher, seconded by Mr. Dymond, it was decided that the Committee should be a Committee of the whole Council.

WONFORD PETTY SESSIONS.

The Magistrates present at the Wonford Petty Sessions yesterday were Mr. T. Snow (Chairman), Colonel Sir Dudley Duckworth-King, and Mr. C. J. Webber. Alfred Birch, a gipsy, who did not appear, was summoned, on the information of P.C. Vanstone, for allowing two horses to stray on the highway on the 5th October. A fine of 10s inclusive was inflicted. Jane Southard, married woman, of St. Thomas, was fined 10s inclusive for being drunk and disorderly at St. Thomas on the 4th October. P.C. Ridgway proved the case. Thomas Prior, 16, and Robert Callin, 15, boys, of Heavitree, were charged with stealing growing apples from an orchard at Heavitree, on the 29th September, to the value of 3d, the property of John Capron. Prior pleaded guilty; Callin did not appear. Evidence was given by P.C. Holman, who saw the boys in Mr. Capron's orchard at Sweet Briar-lane on Sunday, September 29. They were bound over in the sum of £10 to come up for judgment when called upon. William John Burridge was summoned for assaulting Mary Ann Tubles, a married woman, of White's Cottages, Heavitree, on the 5th instant. Mr. Dunn represented the complainant, and Mr. Brown defended. The case against defendant was that while Tubles was drawing water from the pump defendant, who resides two doors away, came up and, catching her by the neck, threw her against the wall, almost stunning her. The altercation was consequent upon complainant having a dispute about their children. Cross-examined: Complainant did not commence the row. Gertrude Hudson and George Bradford, neighbours, corroborated the complainant's statement. For the defence, Mr. Brown called Eliza Burridge (defendant's mother), Annie Hawkins, and Harriett Payne, all neighbours, whose statements were a direct contradiction of the complainant's story. The Bench considered the case proved, and fined the defendant 2s 6d and costs—in all £1 7s.

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