

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

No one is more profoundly sad than he who laughs too much.—RICHTER.

This world is a beautiful book, but of little use to him who cannot read it.—GOLDONI.

If you were to take the concentric out of some people the remains would defy identification.

Sorrows are like thunderclouds; in the distance they look black, over our heads, hardly gray.—RICHTER.

The heaven that rolls around cries aloud to you while it displays its eternal beauties, and your eyes are fixed on the earth alone.—DANTE.

The enemies which rise within the body hard to be overcome—thy evil passions—should manfully be fought; he who conquers these is equal to the conquerors of worlds.—BHARAVI.

RECIPE ON A TOMBSTONE.—A Parisian restaurant keeper, who departed this life some years ago, left his fortune, a matter of 250,000 francs, to his two nephews. To this bequest a curious condition was affixed. The testator stipulated that, instead of the epitaphs usually to be read on tombstones, his nephews should attach to that which marked his final resting-place a culinary recipe, to be renewed daily. To facilitate this he left three hundred and sixty-five such recipes, the object in view, according to his will, being to be useful to his fellow-citizens after his death. There exists, it should be said, in France an Epitaph Committee, and the members of the same absolutely refused to allow the condition indicated in the dead man's will to be carried out. The unpleasant consequence for the nephews of the deceased is that, according to the conditions of the will, they cannot touch the fortune left unless their late uncle's instructions are complied with.

A LORD ROSEBERY STORY.—One day in Edinburgh, Lord Rosebery realised the disadvantage of owning swift horses. His brougham had met him at Waverley Station to take him to Dalmeny. Lord Rosebery opened the door of the carriage to put in some papers and then turned away. The coachman, too well-bred to look round, heard the door shut, and, thinking that his master was inside, set off at once. Pursuit was attempted, but what was there in Edinburgh streets could overtake those horses? The coachman drove seven miles until he reached a point in the Dalmeny Parks where it was his Lordship's custom to alight and open a gate. Here the brougham stood for some minutes awaiting Lord Rosebery's convenience. At last the coachman became uneasy and dismounted. His brain reeled when he saw an empty brougham. He could have sworn to seeing his Lordship enter. There were his papers. What had happened? With a quaking hand the horses were turned, and driving back, the coachman looked fearfully along the sides of the road. He met Lord Rosebery travelling in great good humour by the Queensferry bus.

A STRANGE EXPEDIENT.—Mr Walter Ross, writer to the Signet, Edinburgh, by way of protecting his property from midnight marauders published the following handbill:—'Thou shalt not steal! All persons whom it may concern are desired to take notice that steel traps of the largest size, for catching breakers of the eighth commandment, are every night regularly placed in the garden of St. Bernard's, between Stockbridge and the Water of Leith, on the north side of the water; that spring guns are set to rake the walls with shot upon the touch of a wire, and that a tent, having in it an armed watchman, is pitched in the middle, with orders to fire without mercy. If, therefore, any evil-disposed person, or persons, shall attempt to break into the grounds of St. Bernard's, his blood be upon his own head!—Amen.' This seemed very well for some time; but at length a suspicion arose that the arrangements were all of a fictitious nature, and the boys and blackguards of the city began to pick up their scattered courage. On learning that such was the state of matters, Mr Ross adopted the strangest expedient that could perhaps have entered the head of a country gentleman. He procured the limb of a corpse from the Royal Infirmary, dressed it in a striking, show and buckle, and sent it through the streets of the city with the public crier, proclaiming that it had been found last night in the grounds of St. Bernard's, and that it would be restored to the owner on being properly vouched. The garden of St. Bernard's was no more broken into.

WHAT HE COULD AFFORD.—Robert Carrick was one of the earliest bankers of Glasgow. He went to the city a poor boy, but became the leading partner of the old Ship Bank. He lived and died a grim, penurious man, and left not a penny to any benevolent institution in the city where all his wealth had been accumulated. Once, however, according to Mr Paxton Hood, he was obliged to act with an appearance of generosity. He was waited on by three fellow-citizens for a subscription to the Royal Infirmary, then in its infancy. They wished him to head the subscription, and to their mortification and surprise he put down his name for only two guineas, and when they besought him to increase the amount he became indignant, and threatened to withdraw his name altogether. He could not really afford even so much as two guineas he declared. The deputation proceeded next to the office of Mr Milquham, one of the great manufacturers of Glasgow. He looked at the paper and exclaimed: 'Bless me, what's this? Banker Carrick only two guineas?' They told him that the banker had said he could not really afford any more. 'What's that you say?' He turned to his faithful cashier. 'Jamie, bring me the bank-book.' Then he wrote a cheque on the Ship Bank for ten thousand pounds. 'Now, Jamie, run to the bank, and bring that money to me.' The cheque was presented. Old Robin stared. 'Go back,' said he; 'there's some mistake, and presently he came running into Milquham's counting-house in great anxiety. 'What's wrong wi' ye the day?' asked the banker. 'Nothing in the least degree wrong with me. But I suspect there's something far wrong with you and the bank,' answered the manufacturer, 'for these good gentlemen sitting here have assured me that, in your own office and out of your own mouth, you declared you could only afford them two guineas. And that being the case, I think it is high time I removed my deposit.' Mr Carrick was in a hard place, but he finally put down his name for fifty guineas. Then Mr Milquham cancelled his cheque, and the deputation went away rejoicing.

NOTABLE PEOPLE

THE British public have long been sated with Mr Stead, his insupportable egotism and self-sufficiency, his overweening conceit, and his never-ending sensational charges against those in high places—scandal which usually ends in mare's nests. If there were another *Review of Reviews*, it is safe to say the present one would soon die a natural death, for the whole thing reeks of the goodness and greatness of Stead. But, unfortunately, the man



SIR FREDERICK ROBERTS.

is without question the finest sub-editor in the world, and can extract the interest of an article and gauge the public's taste in literature in a manner truly marvellous. But none of Mr Stead's 'fads' (always excepting the Maiden Tribute) have cost him more friends than his latest, the attack on Lord Frederick Roberts, whom he accuses on the testimony of a couple of travelling female lecturers of conniving at mutiny in the British army in India. Lord Roberts has, of course, denied the charge. Those who know 'Bobs,' as he is usually called, will take the denial as final, despite the frenzied cries of Stead for an enquiry—an enquiry which, like that into the Mattei case, would end in his utter discomfiture. He received his first commission as second lieutenant in the Bengal Artillery in 1851, and, after passing through the various other grades, was promoted to lieutenant-general in 1883. He served with distinction throughout the Indian Mutiny campaign, and received the Victoria Cross for personal bravery in the field in 1858. 'Lieutenant Roberts' gallantry has on every occasion been most marked. On following up the retreating enemy on January 2nd, 1858, at Khodagunge, he saw in the distance two sepoy going away with a standard. Lieutenant Roberts put spurs to his horse, and overtook them just as they were about to enter a village. They immediately turned round and presented their muskets at him, and one of the men pulled the trigger, but fortunately the cap snapped, and the standard-bearer was cut down by the gallant young officer, and the standard taken possession of by him. He also, on the same day, cut down another sepoy who was standing at bay, with muskets and bayonet, keeping off a sowar. Lieutenant Roberts rode to the assistance of the horseman, and rushing at the sepoy, with one blow of his sword cut him across the face, killing him on the spot.' Throughout the Abyssinian campaign of 1868 he held the office of Assistant-Quartermaster-General; he superintended the re-embarkation of the whole army, and was selected by Sir Robert Napier as the bearer of his final despatches. He also acted as Assistant-Quartermaster-General with the Cachar column in the Lushai Expeditionary Force (1871-72). At the beginning of the Afghan campaign he was appointed Commander of the Kuram Field Force, and subsequently he had the chief command of the army in Afghanistan, where he achieved the most brilliant triumphs. After the massacre of our embassy, Sir Frederick Roberts re-occupied Cabul at the close of 1879. Towards the end of July, 1880, a terrible defeat was inflicted by the troops of Ayoub Khan, at Maiwand, on General Burrows, the remnant of whose force with difficulty joined General Primrose's garrison at Candahar. An attack on that city seemed imminent, but Ayoub hesitated, and lost his opportunity. Meanwhile, a bold resolution was taken at Cabul, Sir Fred Roberts gathering a force of over 9,000 picked men, marched to the relief of Candahar, allowing Abulrahman Khan to occupy Cabul, and leaving to General Stewart the duty of leading back the rest of the British troops by the Khyber to the Panjab. Sir Frederick Roberts, cut off from direct communication with his countrymen, disappeared, as it were, from human ken for three weeks, during which time the national anxiety was extreme. At last he emerged victorious from the trackless region between Cabul and Candahar. Immediately, he grappled with Ayoub Khan, and inflicted on that pretender a crushing defeat. On the return of Sir Frederick Roberts to England he was loaded with honours; he was presented with the freedom of the city of London, received the thanks of Parliament, and was created a baronet. In February, 1881, he was appointed to succeed Sir George Colley in the command of the troops in Natal and the Transvaal, but peace was concluded with the Boers before his arrival in the colony. He was afterwards appointed a member of the Council of Madras, and commanded the troops in that Presidency from 1881-85, and since then has been Commander-in-Chief in India.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

ELECTRICITY FOR BALLOONS.

A BALLOON capable of seating 10 persons is to be navigated at the Frankfurt Exhibition, and is to demonstrate the application of electricity to aerial navigation. The pulley controlling the ascent and descent will be operated by an electric motor, and telephonic communications will be possible at all heights, so that in future an aeronaut may regulate the movements of an enemy at great distances. Experiments are to be made with a view to steering the balloon by electricity, and charging with electrically prepared water.

GLASS CURTAINS.

Glass curtains are a novelty in art industry for home furnishings. They are in coloured glass, and have the effect, when closed, of stained glass. They consist of a series of little squares of coloured glass each set in a small zinc frame, the squares being attached to each other at the four corners by little S-shaped hooks. It is stated that they can be as easily taken down and moved as any other curtains, and in the case of changing from one size of window to another can easily be enlarged or decreased in size by the addition or subtraction of a certain number of squares. They are also easily cleaned, and one of their particular attractions is said to be cheapness. They are now being shown at the Palais Royal, Paris.

SNORING.

A remedy for snoring would be an acceptable discovery, if practical and efficient. It is recorded that Dr. Rand, of New York, had, in the case of a poor man dying of apoplexy, given instantaneous relief to his stertorous breathing by pressing upward and forward under his chin. A cardboard prop from the chest was therefore improvised, the flesh being protected by a handkerchief; it was easily kept in position by the nurse, and throughout the twelve hours which the patient survived the respiration continued quiet and natural. 'Now, could not something of the sort be used by persons who snore so inveterately that they become a nuisance to everybody in the house?' asks a correspondent. If a cure for snoring could be found, the discoverer would be among the great benefactors of humanity.

THE SUN'S RAYS AND COLOURS.

An Indian gazette gives an account of the protective effect of certain colours against the sun's rays. It is urged that no one has ever been a victim to sunstroke or sun fever through a dark colour of heat. It is said it is not the heat rays which act injuriously, but the chemical ones. As a photographer treats his plates by enveloping them in yellow or red, so, a correspondent says, he treated his body. All the linings of his hats and coats were yellow, with the satisfactory result that after a trial of five years, even often under circumstances of extreme exposure, there was no return of either fever or sunstroke, to both of which the writer declares himself to have previously been a victim.

A NOVEL MACHINE.

There is in use at Millwall Docks a novel and ingenious machine for discharging cargoes of grain in bulk, the principle applied being the removal of the grain by the creation of a strong current of air. The machine is erected on a barge which is placed alongside the ship to be unloaded. One end of each of six five-inch flexible pipes is attached to the machine, the other ends being carried into the hold or holds of the vessel and immersed a few inches in the grain. When the engine is started the grain immediately flows at the rate of 100 tons an hour through the pipes into receivers whence it falls by gravity into weighing machines, and then again by gravity, into the craft sent out by the purchasers to carry it away.

NEW STYLE OF SHIP.

Some extraordinary inventions for expediting ocean navigation have emanated from Lieutenant Apostolov, of the Russian navy. He recently exhibited to some naval officers in Odessa a new style of ship, without screw or paddle, but which had instead a kind of running electrical gear round the vessel's hull under the waterline, and a revolving mechanism which will propel the ship from Liverpool to New York in twenty-eight hours. He offers the alternative of a submarine passage, without rock, roll or vibration, and with a good supply of oxygen and hydrogen during the short voyage. This, says *Invention*, sounds very much like the realisation of some of M. Jules Verne's fictions.

THE FUEL OF THE FUTURE.

Water gas in the United States is said to be superseding coal gas. It is quite inodorous and easily ignited, gives off no smoke or soot, burns with a somewhat weak flame, but throws out immense heat, and can be used for all purposes for which coal gas is employed, that is for lighting, heating and furnishing motive power. It is sometimes saturated with naphtha or benzine, which considerably increases its illuminating power. The total cost per hour of a light equal to eighteen candles is, according to a recent authority, only about 1/4 or less than that of many oil-lamps of equal power. 'It is admirably adapted for any process which requires great heat. It is used for welding tin, for soldering, glass-blowing, smelting; it is employed in chemical factories, ironworks, in short in every branch of industry where it is desirable to obtain heat of all temperatures easily, without smoke. Practical experiments show that the cheapest form of motor for small trades is the engine driven by this gas. These engines can compete so successfully up to 150 h.p. with either steam or coal gas engines, that there is a strong probability of these two last being superseded by the new-comer.' The article from which the above facts are compiled concludes by strongly recommending it also for dwelling-houses, restaurants, and elsewhere—the cooking would be done by this new production of science, the rooms could be warmed by it, and in houses not wired for the electric light, it would take the place of oil or coal gas.