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Here and There

The King Found a Club.

The keen interest which the King manifests in his workpeople is demonstrated by the fact that his Majesty has had the Bull Inn at Shernbourne, which stands on the Sandringham estate, converted into a club for the labouring men of the parish.

The house has been considerably altered, and the old drinking bars have been replaced by commodious game and reading rooms.

This is the second club the King has provided for his employees on the Sandringham estate, the other being the admirably equipped building known as the West Newton Club, which stands not far from Sandringham House.

Vogue of the Peridot.

The new floral jewellery, which is one of the novelties of this winter, has brought into favour a gem which has hitherto been little known, remarks the London "Express."

It is called the peridot, and is a transparent variety of the olivine.

"The name of the peridot has given rise to much speculation," a representative of Messrs. Benson's, the well-known jewellers, said. "Some people attribute it to Greek origin and some to Arabic."

"The gem is found deposited in olivine rock, and, curiously enough, it has sometimes been discovered in fragments of meteoric matter which has fallen to the earth from space."

The peridot is a delicate pale green in colour, and is generally set with pearls. It has been made up in the form of missettes, daisies, or lilies-of-the-valley in the shape of pendants, rings, brooches, and bracelets.

Their Name Legion.

Statistics published by the Paris "Temps" concerning the number of citizens who are decorated with the Legion of Honour show that one person in about every 882 in France has this decoration. On June 1 last the roll of the order was 45,185.

New Cavalry Sword.

The new pattern cavalry sword is being tried experimentally in the 1st Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot. Major-General H. J. Scobell, now Instructor of Cavalry, recommended that a sword for pointing instead of cutting should be adopted, and a new pattern was devised suitable for point work in pursuit and thrusting in shock tactics. The blade is slightly longer than the old one, but is much lighter, and is made of the very best steel. The blade is straight, and without an edge to it, although stability is obtained by a thickened back. A few inches at the point only are sharpened at the edges for thrusting. The hilt is made so as to protect the hand, and, being splendidly balanced, the "play" of the sword is swift and effective.

In the Early Seventies.

Mrs. George Cornwallis-West, in continuing in the "Century Magazine," the "Reminiscences of Lady Randolph Churchill," draws some vivid pictures contrasting fashionable life in London in the early seventies and to-day.

A lady never travelled in those days in a railway carriage without her maid, to ride in a hansom alone "was thought very fast," and walking "was permitted only in quiet squares or streets."

"Life, however, seemed as full then as it is now, although people did not try to press into one day the duties and pleasures of a week, finishing none and enjoying none."

"The strict observance of Sunday filled one with awe and amazement," says Mrs. Cornwallis-West. "There was no Queen's Hall concert, the fashion of week-ends in the country was unknown, and very few people had their carriages out,

"Thirty years ago none of the restaurants now crowded with well-dressed people existed. Sometimes Randolph and I would be passing through London in August, and as our house was closed we were sorely put to it to know where to dine."

"Even in such restaurants as were open, smoking was never allowed, and people of opposite sex dining together were looked at very much askance."

Mrs. Cornwallis-West gives an amusing "honeymoon" incident.

"In the old days," she says, "it was supposed to be quite extraordinary, if not actually improper and embarrassing, to mix with your fellow creatures for at least a month after one's wedding."

"Shortly after my marriage I was presented to Czar Alexander II. at a ball given in his honour at Stafford House."

"On being told that I had been married only a few weeks, he exclaimed, with a look of censure, 'And you here already!'"

A story of Lord Charles Beresford is characteristic. He had accepted the wagers of some friends that—despite regulations to the contrary—he would drive up Rotten Row without police interference.

"He succeeded—by driving a water-cart, which careered up and down, splashing everybody."

The Kaiser's Yacht.

As royal yachts go, the Kaiser's yacht, the Hohenzollern, is by no means specially gorgeous. Plenty of show and glitter would somehow be expected. Instead, severe simplicity is the keynote.

The Kaiser's own apartments are especially simple. A brass bedstead, a single wardrobe, a dressing-table with a very large triple mirror, and a barber's chair with a headrest, are all the furniture. The walls are nearly bare, almost the only thing hanging on them being a faded New Year's card, in a little black frame. The card is inscribed, "To Dear-est Willy, with all best New Year wishes, from Mama." Photographs of the Kaiser and the Kaiserin practically complete the wall furniture.

Elsewhere all over the yacht the walls are absolutely covered with pictures. Little sketches by Martino, larger pictures by Willy Stower, some choice old engravings frequently of incidents in British naval history, some modern proof engravings, photographs of nearly all the ships in the German navy, special photographs of incidents in the Kaiser's various cruises, are cheek by jowl with other examples of the catholicity of the Kaiser's taste.

Among these are also to be noted two of the four-page supplements of the British Fleet, issued by the "Graphic," and an ordinary coloured Christmas number plate from the "Sporting and Dramatic"—"Nelson's Last Hours in Portmouth." One or two German chromo-lithographs are also to be found beside most valuable old engravings or artistic masterpieces.

There is, however, one strange picture still. It hangs just outside the Kaiser's cabin "on the line." It is a rather large photograph of an Orange demonstration at Belfast, entitled "We will not have Home Rule!"

Honouring a Spanish Actor.

The official Madrid "Gazette" announces that it has conferred His Majesty, King Alfonso, to confer upon Fernando Mendoza, Spain's foremost actor, the title of Count Valazote and Marquis of Fontanar. This is the first time in the history of the Peninsula that a member of the Spanish stage has been raised to the rank of a Spanish grandee, and it is a significant sign of the times that the announcement of the distinction conferred for artistic merit alone has evoked no protest, and even caused no great astonishment among the proud Spanish aristocracy. Spanish grandees have seats in the House of Peers and are addressed as "your excellency." His excellency the new count and marquis does not intend, it appears, to say farewell to his profession.

Hand Life-belts.

A Norwegian inventor has patented a suit of clothes which will protect its wearer against drowning. The clothes are lined with a non-absorbent material made of specially prepared vegetable fibre which without being too heavy will effectively hold up the weight of a man in the water. Twelve ounces of the new material will, it is claimed, save a person from sinking. The invention has been tested with favourable results at Christiania. Successful trials were also made with rugs made of the same material, capable of supporting two persons in the water.

The Jap's Thirst for Knowledge.

The Japanese student of to-day strips off his simple uniform or kimono, dons the dungaree garments of John Chinaman, strolls out to the furthest corner of the Celestial Empire, notebook in sleeve and eyes open for anything useful to his country, in appearance a Chinese, in fact, the Japanese "investigator" of to-morrow. It was from the Japanese college of Tun-wen, founded near Shanghai after the Sino-Japanese war, that Japanese spies, who did such great work for their country during the recent war, were drawn. It is from this college that the Japanese Government recruits its intelligence department in its campaign of political and commercial conquest of the Chinese Empire. Indistinguishable from any Chinaman, equipped with every necessity and unhampered by any superfluity, the ex-student of Tun-Wen penetrates yamen (official residence) and hong (merchant's office) on his tour of investigation. Rice and water is his only commissariat, the clothes of day are his bed at night.

Marvellous Memories.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, England, is one of the most remarkable of chess players. During a visit to India he made long journeys with an official who was superintending the laying of a new railway, and the two men were constantly playing chess without a board or pieces. They made the moves verbally and held the game so well in their minds that they never forgot a move or a point.

Smart Business Woman.

Miss Mary E. Orr, assistant treasurer and director of the Remington Typewriter Company, is the first woman ever to enter the directorate of a great American corporation. Beginning with a salary of six dollars a week, with no influence, no "pull," no relatives to advance her, she has placed herself with the few remarkable business women of the world.

Generous by Proxy.

Many men who are not close-fisted in most directions are systematically mean with their employees.

The skipper of a steamship, on arriving in port, got the ship's boy to carry a box of oranges, weighing nearly half a hundredweight, from the vessel to his house.

Afterwards the lad came up to draw his wages for the voyage, which amounted to £2 10/3d. The skipper handed him £2 10/4, and asked him for the half-penny change. The lad said he hadn't one.

"Oh, well," answered the skipper, with a sigh, "you can keep it, young man, for taking those oranges to my house."

Another instance. A carter was loading his dray outside his employer's shop, when one of the horse's cloths blew off. A man passing by ran after it, picked it up, and very considerably spread it over the animal's back again. The shopkeeper, noticing this, gave the man threepence, but at the end of the week stopped it out of the carter's wages.

The toiler in the city had been given an advance in salary. "Now," he said, jubilantly, "I can begin saving to buy a farm." Out in Washington the agriculturist looked at the check received for his season's wicant. "Another such crop or two and I can move into the city," he mused.—"Philadelphia Ledger."

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