

AN AMERICAN VIEW OF THE SHAH'S VISIT TO ENGLAND

THERE is another celebrity in London and a greater personage than the Shah—the heir to the crown of all the Russias—but the Londoners only want one excitement at a time. To be sure, the Czarewitch joins all the excursions the Shah participates in, but nobody notices him. Indeed, he is rather under a cloud; for many think he came here only as a spy to take care that England makes no convention with the Shah and treats him no more royally than Russia did. But if the Czarewitch be all his enemies declare, he is not a whit more mercenary than England. In the following extract from one of the leading political journals of London will be found, I fear, the mainspring of this great uprising and outturning of a people to do honor to the Shah:

"Insignificant as is his kingdom," says the 'John Bull,' and feeble a creature as is the Shah himself, the geographical position of his country between our Indian possessions and Russian territory, and his attitude, are important to some considerable extent to us in the event of Russia ever entertaining the serious design of invading India. We were never of the number of those who suffer from Russophobia; but it is evident that through Persia will be the Russian attack, if ever there is to be an attack at all. It is well, therefore, that in addition to having the independent provinces which form our northwestern frontiers friendly to us, it would be well that the sympathy of Persia was with us. Russia already overhangs Persia on the west of the Caspian Sea; and when Khiva is annexed it will overhang it on the east; and the late history of the northern empire shows that in due course of time it would have no objection to swallow and assimilate the dominions of the Shah. Nar-Ed-Deen has doubtless sense enough to see this, and has no wish to be swallowed up. To this we may fairly attribute his visit to this country. This time he has visited Russia and Germany and Belgium; but he has plainly intimated England was the chief object of his journey. He probably understands that we have no wish to annex his territory, though we have some interest in preventing Russia doing so. We by no means grudge him all the attention he will receive, nor the cost at which it will be shown. He is heartily welcome to it; and if, after all he sees and hears, he thinks it worth while to offer himself and his kingdom as a buffer to the advance of Russia towards India, by all means let us accept his offer, and promise what aid we can give him towards maintaining his independence."

A candid admission, surely! And this by no means the opinion of the editor merely. The Shah has already seen two reviews of the English navy, and by this afternoon will have seen two of the English army. He is immensely interested in the fighting powers of England, and the English, as if they recognised that they were on trial with the Russians, are straining every nerve to impress him favorably. Many people in this tax-ridden country are doing nothing but counting the cost of this royal entertainment. Will it pay? That is the question. Will the Shah's visit stimulate trade, and will it in the slightest degree discourage Russia? If it accomplishes either of these objects, the English will regard the necessary expenditure as well laid out.

THE ELECTIONS IN ALSACE-LORRAINE.

"J. G. K."—initials which we recognise as those of a young gentleman who has borne a chivalrous part in defending the temporal rights of the Sovereign Pontiff—writes in the 'Crusader':—"The elections which have taken place during the last fortnight in Alsace and Lorraine show that 'Prussian Rule' is no more popular than it was in 1871. Out of about eighty elections, twelve are void on account of the small number of votes given. The country districts are said to have returned 'moderate' men, but this is not to be understood in the way in which the German organs explain it. The truth is that the country districts are thoroughly Catholic and French, but the leading men have either emigrated to France or are too much afraid of persecution to state their opinions boldly. In Strasburg, however, the Government candidates suffered a great defeat—M. Louth, the ultra-Catholic ex-mayor, who has been deposed by the Prussians, being elected at the head of the poll by a large majority. It is said that during the last two years about 2,600 Germans have settled in Strasburg, and have been placed on the register, but the total votes given for the German candidates did not exceed 2,500, so few of the original inhabitants can have voted for their oppressors."

A TRUE HEROINE.

If Dona Maria de Bourbon, the wife of Alphonso, brother of Don Carlos, were a Garibaldian or an internationalist, she would be by this time the greatest heroine of our Protestant contemporaries. As she happens to be a Catholic she is not noticed by them, but she does deserve special mention from her brothers in the faith. This gallant lady has accompanied her young husband through all the fatigues of the campaign, dressed in a riding habit tucked into a thick pair of top boots. She sleeps often in the open air, and rides not unfrequently twelve hours a day. She is described as a very beautiful young woman, only nineteen years of age; she nurses the sick and encourages her youthful husband, who is often downhearted notwithstanding his frequent successes. Whenever they can this noble pair hear Mass and receive communion together. The country folk are enthusiastic in their praise of *la Senora Dona Maria de la Nieves*—the Lady Mary of Snow, for so is the infant called. Her Highness is the daughter of the legitimate King of Portugal, Don Miguel, and the lineal descendant of the fair and unhappy Inez de Castro. The French papers applaud her courage, her beauty and charity, and style her a model Catholic wife, who follows her husband through thick and thin, in peace and war.—'Catholic Review.'

Mr Butt, Q. C., and America.—The Philadelphia 'Catholic Standard' says:—"There is a rumour here that Mr Isaac Butt, Q. C., at the urgent request of his friends and admirers, has consented to deliver a series of lectures in the United States on Ireland and the Irish in the present day, and that he will proceed to New York in the first instance for that purpose in the course of the ensuing autumn."

SHOWING HIM A MIRACLE.

THE following is full of interest to the readers of the beautiful translation appearing weekly in our pages.

Ernest Kenan having said in his "Life of Jesus" that the proper way of proving a miracle is to show one, a pamphleteer "shows" one in a letter "Upon the Establishment of the Christian Religion," which we here translate:

SIR:—Permit me to-day to draw your attention again to the establishment of the Christian religion—a fact upon which we naturally differ in opinion. Like you, when I have striven to identify its cause with the mere forces of man, I have failed in my endeavor. The supernatural, then, has been the only conducting thread which has helped me to escape from the labyrinth, where I see you continually seeking to rectify yourself, without ever doing it, and condemned to escape therefrom only when you shall have proved that there is nothing miraculous in the establishment of Christianity. Pardon this little digression; I go straight to the work. There is a religion called the Christian, whose founder was Jesus, named the Christ. This religion, which has lasted eighteen centuries, and which calls itself the natural development of that Judaism which ascends near to the cradle of the world, had the apostles for its first propagators. When these men wished to establish it they had for adversaries:

The national pride of the Jews.

The implacable hatred of the Sanhedrim.

The brutal despotism of the Roman Emperors.

The raileries and attacks of the philosophers.

The libertinism and caste-spirit of the pagan priests.

The savage and cruel ignorance of the masses.

The faggot and bloody games of the circus.

They had an enemy in:

Every miser.	Every murderer.
Every debauched man.	Every proud man.
Every drunkard.	Every slanderer.
Every thief.	Every liar.

Not one of the vices, in fact, which abuse our poor humanity which did not constitute itself their adversary.

To combat so many enemies and surmount so many obstacles, they had only:

Their ignorance.	Their weakness.
Their poverty.	Their fewness.
Their obscurity.	The Cross.

If you had been their contemporary at the moment when they began their work, and Peter had said to you, "Join with us, for we are going to the conquest of the world; before our word pagan temples shall crumble, and their idols shall fall upon their faces; the philosophers shall be convicted of folly; from the throne of Caesar we shall hurl the Roman eagle, and in its place we shall plant the cross; we shall be the teachers of the world; the ignorant and the learned will be our disciples!"—hearing him speak thus, you would have said, "Be silent, imbecile!" And as you are tolerant from nature and principle, you would have defended him before the Sanhedrim, and have counseled it to shut up the fisherman of Bethsaida and his companions in a mad house. And yet, sir, what you would have thought a notable madness is to-day a startling reality, with which I leave you face to face.

AN UNFOUNDED STATEMENT.

THE 'RECORD'S' WONDERFUL STORY.

THERE recently went the rounds a big story to the effect that two clergymen in England now holding livings in the Church of England had been received into the Catholic Church, but had received dispensation from the Pope enabling them to hold their present offices. As many non-Catholic readers are ignorant enough of the Catholic Church to be gulled by this, we hope that those New Zealand papers in which the statement appeared will be unprejudiced enough to publish the following regarding it:—"The story," says the London 'Tablet,' "was circulated on the authority of Prebendary Brooks, who now writes to the 'Record' to admit that he has been unable to adduce any evidence in support of it. We challenged Mr Brooks to give the names. The rev. gentleman expresses sincere regret that he should have been deceived."

It is but in very few instances that the authorship of these reckless calumnies can be traced, and it is in still fewer instances that the person who first brings them into print has the honesty and manliness to do what Mr Brooks has done—namely, to express his regret at having published what he has found to be false, and to admit having been the victim of deception.

MISCELLANY.

In the bar parlor of a snug hotel in Kilmore, some few nights ago, a discussion arose concerning the merits and demerits of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy. After much had been said for and against the hon. member for Dalhousie, an impartial old gentleman delivered himself of the following oracular remark:—"Pot I blame Duffy for was for bringing his previous experience into his after career; but in spite of that I forgive him on account of the usefulness of the man." The effect on the disputants was wonderful. A leading office-bearer in the local Hibernian Society cried "Hooroo!" and a Pastmaster of an Orange Lodge shook the ashes from his pipe as he sententiously observed, "Give us the same agin, and tie the mule at the door." The order was carefully attended to, and spoons were soon heard to tinkle pleasantly against the sides of the glasses.

In 1848 the total stock of gold, coined and uncoined, in Europe and America was estimated at £560,000,000. The actual coinage of gold at the principal mints of the world from 1848 to 1872 was:—

England	...	...	£123,608,000
Sydney	...	...	28,799,000
France	...	...	259,801,000
United States	...	...	185,579,000

Total ... £597,787,000