



MOPLAH REBELS.

LORD WILLINGDON:—I AM AFRAID I HAVE CAUGHT
MORE FISH THAN MY BASKET CAN HOLD.

Events of the Week.

The Aga Khan is reported to have declared to an interviewer in Paris that "unless Great Britain revises her Mohammadan Policy, a great revolution in India is inevitable." The weighty voice of the Aga Khan has never been at the service of any kind of fanaticism or extremism: and when he speaks in such grave accents, his opinion is entitled to the greatest weight. The Aga Khan is right when he says that the Turco-Greek situation can only be settled by giving the Turks Adrianople. Into the ramifications of this question it is needless now to enter: it has been discussed thread-bare. The Aga Khan proceeds however to urge that peace can be restored to India only by unburdening India of taxation for the army and by the frank adoption of the Montagu-Reading proposals. In other words, it means that British policy should be so shaped as to reduce Indian Military commitments to a minimum. There is hardly anything unfair in such a plea. But that it raises practical issues bristling with ever so many difficulties will be apparent to even a tyro. It is easily seen that such a policy can only be fruitful if the severest economy is practised in the civil and military departments. Sir Malcolm Hailey's was a reckless finance in that the Assembly was forced to cut and the Government to accept it—so large a share of it. We hope and trust the new Retrenchment Committee will be able to make further drastic reductions in unnecessary and wasteful expenditure.

The pathetic belief of most people in these days in Committees and Conferences would be very comic were not the results to the taxpayer in every instance so very tragic. Optimism with certain people is unbounded: and the most flagrant instance thereof is the appointment of an Industrial Education Committee by the local government of about twenty gentlemen "to produce a comprehensive scheme for an organised system of industrial and technical education." This is rather provoking and leads to nasty comments on the baneful feature of Committee-ing. The wonderful Indian Industrial Commission, presided over by a Geologist, con-

sumed a lot of public money and its only recommendations were to deal with the subject in an amateurish way and to advocate the institution of various other committees for definite purposes. And now what is this Madras Committee going to do? It will no doubt draw up a questionnaire, witnesses will be examined: and the procession of the old familiar Juggannath car will go on much to the delectation of the members of the Committee and gentlemen of the Press, and followed by languid debates in the legislature.

The personnel of the Committee is distinctly discouraging. It is the essence of this and like Committees that the persons composing them should have unchallengeable competency for the task they have been called to undertake. When we look at all the talents and lack of them and the divergences in equipment we are only bewildered what this precious Committee is out to achieve or intended to. The right course is to entrust the task to a select and competent official, whose memorandum may subsequently be circulated to those of the public and the press who will be competent to deal with the issues raised. It may be desirable also to provoke a discussion in the legislature. It is then for the minister to prepare his scheme and to stand or fall by it. One other consideration ought not to be overlooked: and it seems to us that the labours of the Committee would prove infructuous and another piece of injustice to the taxpayer if the Finance Member is not in a position to guarantee funds for the successful prosecution of such a scheme as may be elaborated. Otherwise even the most beneficent of schemes this amusing body of "experts" may be able to draw up will go to pieces on the rock of "no finance," and will exasperate the public mind needlessly.

The past few months have been busy with rumours of impending changes in Mr. Lloyd George's cabinet; the latest from *Sunday Illustrated* is mixed with the usual improbabilities and plausibilities. We are told that on Mr. Lloyd George's return from Genoa he will receive the resignations of Lords Birkenhead, Curzon and Reading, and Mr. Shortt. The favoured individuals who will replace these are Sir F. Pollock, Lord Derby, Sir Henry Wilson and Sir H. Greenwood respectively. It is not possible to forecast the course of "Galloper" Smith; but it has been known that Lord Curzon has for some time past desired to resign owing to ill-health. Lord Reading's resignation has been definitely forecasted thrice within the last three months. Sir Hamar Greenwood's disastrous policy in Ireland is perhaps responsible for this promotion suggested in journalistic circles. Lord Derby has made his position sufficiently clear and is not likely to be an office-bearer in the Coalition Ministry. Mr. Lloyd George's position must be very shaky indeed if he chooses to enlist the ex-Chief of the General Staff under his banner.

Whatever the outcome of these journalistic prophecies, it is abundantly clear that soon after his return from Genoa, the premier will have to face a General Election. The Genoa Conference has almost gone the way of all other conferences: and its only practical result has been to raise Mr. Lloyd George, not in his own estimation which is impossible, but in that of all distant onlookers. The golden results that were to flow to Europe and all the rest of us through Genoa have vanished into the circumambient atmosphere: and Mr. Lloyd George is too astute to believe that he can cling to office by a mere reshuffling of his cabinet.

Ahmedabad is reacting badly to the recent pressure put upon it; and its discomfiture at the hands of the authorities. Like children driven to bay, it has been attempting to kick and bite. We note that at an informal meeting Congress workers and some of the members of the discomfited Municipality have resolved that the time has come to start the campaign of non-payment of taxes: and a Committee was appointed to take such steps as may be deemed advisable. The consequences of such revolutionary campaigns have often been stressed by Indian and anti-Indian pressman and publicists. We hope the poor gentlemen of Ahmedabad know what they are about.



The Hindu Message

The Key to Retrenchment.

The much advertised Retrenchment Committee is slowly emerging into final shape. The name of the President of the Committee has been wired out and has inspired at least one journalist with feelings of distrust, if not of the contempt born of familiarity with his name. Sir James Mackay's wide knowledge of India has also been set down to be a dangerous disadvantage—to India. We for our part are not so very pessimistic; but still confess to the lurking fear in our minds that the Committee will not be able to do much with the restricted terms of references. It is a fond delusion to hope that it will be in the nature of a Super-Axe Committee. The Committee does not, and is not intended to, touch the pivotal issue on whose solution rests the real way to effect economy and retrenchment in administration. Thanks to Sir Malcom Hailey's reckless methods of budgetting, the Assembly has been able to effect some savings; and here again the statesmanly wisdom of the Viceroy has saved the credit of the Assembly. We still fancy some cuts can be effected in the civil departments; one or two of them could be conveniently abolished; an army of under-secretaries and deputies, with the paraphernalia incidental thereto could be done away with; "the gold lace and frills" as the *Times of India* called them, could be changed into less costly metal. But still in a country so financially circumstanced as ours and where numerous developmental and constructive policies are being staved for lack of funds these reductions will not carry us far. The kernel of the discussions will therefore rest in the possible retrenchments in our military budget. Here the Committee may possibly be able to help us in cutting down expenditure in details, but we venture to doubt if they will be able to do anything which will produce any appreciable effect on the 59 crores. All honest publicists and pressmen are hard at work criticising

the military budget and, barring the business instincts of certain Anglo-Indian journals which smell danger to their profits in expending taxation and try to exploit the prevailing shortsighted Indian antipathy to the military budget, we are afraid we have not seen any profitable alternative solution offered by anybody. On the other hand the wrong impression has somehow got hold of the public mind that economy can be effected by ruthless cutting of expenditure. This is an obvious puerility. Economy, on the other hand, really means getting value for the money spent. This cannot be too often insisted on. Experienced old soldiers bewail the fact that the army in this country is being run on a wasteful financial system; but as it is the soldier's duty simply to translate the statesman's policy into terms of military units have often to keep silent. In this connection we think it a great pity that the purely soldier's point of view is seldom heard in the Assembly, and when it is heard is ineffective owing to the prevailing racial bias. But to return, Sir Sivaswami Iyer the other day made a number of criticisms, all of them hopeful and constructive at sight. But an examination into any detail of expenditure shows that the departmental case is unanswerable. Where differences of opinion do arise, perfectly naturally and legitimately, is in connection with the three outstanding problems of (1) the true frontier policy (2) the strength of the army and (3) economy by way of Indianisation. As these again will be dealt with in the series of articles on Defence Problems which will shortly be resumed, we shall only glance at the outstanding facts. In regard to the Frontier policy, we have already signified our substantial agreement with the soldiers' view of the case. As regards the process of Indianisation we know of a scheme to effectuate it in twenty five years, but have freely admitted our fears that it may not be more economical than the present system: nonetheless we do welcome it, and desire it is effectuated in much less time, on grounds of sentiment, expediency and public policy. The strength of the army depends on many factors, not the least of which is the political situation in the country. Gratifying as has been the response so far to the new Territorial scheme, we think it is too early yet to base much hopes thereon. A substantial reduction in the British forces *parri passu* with an increase in the Indian element may and ought to be aimed at. All this, as we have said, depends on the political situation in the country. And here we touch what we believe is the key to retrenchment: hence also our doubts if

the Committee will be able to do any substantial good by way of achieving its objects. That situation then is getting alarmingly complicated. Law and order has been discredited mainly by the self-opinionative custodians thereof. Unless there is a radical change in policy, we are afraid the situation will go worse. It has often been demonstrated, notably in the case of the last Afghan War, that there is an indisputable connection between internal politics and external policy. The Government do not seem to heed the advice of far-sighted and independent publicists and take bold and courageous steps to stem the rising tide of popular discontent. But, on the other hand, they are driving the country almost into revolutionary chaos by their acts of omission and commission. Svaraj, Dominion Self-Government is certainly the pivotal issue in our politics. The plea of an ignorant electorate or of an untried intelligentsia far from constituting an impediment, is the most supreme reason for a further and bolder step forward in Governmental policy. As a recent writer has well said, "every one who has made any study of the nature of mankind is aware that when once people have embarked upon a course of agitation for Self-Government, they are bound to succeed unless, indeed, they can be exterminated as the people of Melos were exterminated by the Athenians, an act of barbarity, hubristic folly which helped to bring Athens to its doom soon afterwards. There is not, so far as I can recollect, a single instance in history of the permanent repression of attempts to secure freedom from alien rule save in those cases where both the rulers and the unwillingly ruled were involved in common destruction, as it is pretty certain we and the people of India should be if we were to keep on reiterating our determination to allow no infringement of our supramacy and borrowing other such Tsarist Hapsburgian, Abdul Hamidian phrases." Yes, the key to retrenchment as well as to more things vital in present India is the overshadowing question of policy in regard to the burning, insistent demand for Self-Government. If that issue is shirked, not only is no real economy or retrenchment possible in civil or military administration, but the very mentality which shirks the vital solution will lead to more and greater expenditure, till a revolution prevents imminent financial bankruptcy. It is foolish to keep idle, because this dismal failure may not be the lot of our present generation.

"The Bearnna Baoghail."—III.

By S. P. THIAGA RAJAN.

The most obvious answer to the cult of armed resistance preached by MacSwiney with such fervour and with such severe logic is furnished by the course of events today in that distracted country. Geraldus Cambrensis has been quoted as saying in a spirit of justifiable optimism that the Irish question will be solved a little before the Day of Judgment. Others again tell the story of the Spanish nobleman who was fond of saying that when the Devil tempted the Lord Jesus with all the kingdoms of the world he kept Ireland for himself. The Civil War into which Ireland has in these last days drifted would justify both the above views. Now what are the facts. It is now nearly five months since a treaty of peace fair on all accounts to both the parties was settled; and Ireland is now engaged in a fratricidal struggle. It is worthy of note that the trouble is not so much between two factions of one people as between two armies pledged to different principles. The rebel forces are practically the old Irish Republican Army of the days of the Dail's regime and though the latter did itself prefer to ratify the treaty, the army clings to the Valerite persuasion. Mr. De Valera has captured this army and has declared his intention to use it as his last result. The army, according to him, is "the last defence of the nation and is therefore entitled to save the nation from the calamities that must follow the acceptance of the Articles of Agreement."

This, the reader will see, is the logical result of the sixth of the tests imposed or suggested by Dr. Murray, which we examined last week. In discussing these same conditions Mac Swiney says: "I think it might fairly be said that our leaders generally would, if asked to lay down conditions for a rising, have framed some more stringent than these." That may be: but what is necessary for us to note here is that these have not prevented one set of Irishmen lying at the throats of another, simply because they are alleged to have stopped halfway in the realisation of their aims. Truly has it been said that the mass of the Irish do not seem to be as bitterly opposed to the Articles of Agreement as De Valera himself. Yet, as the learned ecclesiastic declares, with the unfeigned approval of our author, resistance becomes lawful and a matter of duty.

The outstanding fact is that a spirit of resistance and rebellion has been unchained as a result of the struggles of the immediate past. We are not of those who condemn the insurrection of Easter week. Those who were responsible for that

insurrection were guided by intuition rather than by reason: they "believed that the soul of Ireland was for Irish independence and not with the Empire"; and that "the soul of Ireland when aroused would know itself truly and decide by the nature of its being." Now that that insurrection has led to the Treaty of Peace, the spirit, the glorification of armed resistance is still alive, and must perforce spend itself in fratricidal struggles.

In truth it must ever be so. To fight against evil, except in a metaphorical sense, is in some measure to partake of its nature. If war is immoral, non-moral as assuredly it is, it is no justification that you have recourse to it in order to prevent a graver wrong. Logic does not help us very far here. As an other accomplished Irish writer has said, there is an incalculable element in human life influencing us from the mystery which envelops our being; and when reason is satisfied there is something deeper than reason which makes us still uncertain of Truth. Mac Swiney himself says that *in matters of principle there can be no tactics, there is one straightforward course to follow, and that course must be found and followed without swerving to the end.*

Resistance in arms is no principle but is an affair of tactics: and when we have said it, we think we have answered the writer. In the mentality that advocates it and in the tendencies it generates it is an odious tactic: and the sooner the leaders of men abjure this mad worship of force the better will be the chances of the Future.

"All Things Considered."

Last week we referred to the proposal put forward by a sub-committee of the Nagpur Provincial Congress Committee for defining Svaraj or the polity which the Congress is advocating. Our austere countryman, Babu Bhagavan Das of Benares, has now addressed a letter to the *Bombay Chronicle* on this same subject by way of commenting on Mr. Patel's declaration that Svaraj means "nothing more nor less than Parliamentary Svaraj or Self-Government in the British Commonwealth of Nations." It may not perhaps be within the recollection of our readers that Babu Bhagavan Das sought to raise this vital question of the Svaraj polity at the sessions of the All-India Congress Committee at Bombay in July last year, but could not do so for lack of time. Subsequently he adumbrated his position in the public press in a series of articles which were later on embodied in his pamphlet on *The meaning of Svaraj or Self-Government*. There is no denying in fact that the settlement of fundamental principles is the first and most urgent and most practical business of all great public movements and that the time and trouble strident from such settlement in the beginning mean much more time and trouble wasted afterwards. It is necessary, as Babu Bhagavan Das had said earlier, that what has been gained by the people's heart, by the propaganda, initiated by Mr. Gandhi, should be safe-guarded from loss

by the peoples head; that the clearer their conviction, the greater their courage; that knowledge and inspiration act and react on each other.



This conviction ought to be our excuse for labouring this point so often and so wearisomely. Were there such a frank recognition as is now pleaded for, we think it would not have been possible for Mr. Sunderlal to have indulged in such arrogant nonsense as he did at the Nagpur City Congress Committee recently. Mr. V. J. Patel in his speech referred to spoke of "the reported writings and speeches of Mr. Gandhi" and said that they "made abundantly clear" his own definition of Svaraj. Babu Bhagavan Das asks here very pertinently if a pronouncement by Mahatmaj, however weighty, exactly the same in authority, for at least formal purposes if nothing else, as a resolution by the Congress, or the A. I. C. Committee, or the Working Committee. It is not enough, as Mr. V. J. Patel says, for the satisfaction of critics, to proclaim once again from the house-tops, what he has thus *inferred*. Let him get it proclaimed from the table of the Working Committee, or the A. I. C. Committee. And let him get it proclaimed very diligently throughout the land, by all the local Committees. For there are many dangerous misunderstandings afloat, which cannot be set at rest otherwise, and which have caused the outbreak of violence that has so hampered the progress of the Congress work.



The King of Siam recently delivered two speeches that have amused a good deal of speculation outside that little country. The tone and substance of his utterances are given in the public press and are intended somewhat to mystify people. His Majesty, speaking at a dinner to the officers of his Army, emphasised the value of their work on manoeuvres as a training to enable them to defend the country in case of necessity. Assuredly as head of the nation, he had no wish that danger should ever threaten his people. But as head of the army and as comrade of all present he did firmly believe that if perchance it were their fate to fight in self-defence, his comrades would defend their race and their homes with all their might and all their strength. There was also a reference made by the King to neighbours "who once led an independent existence and were not now exactly in that position.....It ought to be our firm determination to preserve our independence." Siam's independence and territorial integrity, so far as we can now see, do not seem likely to be menaced, under any set of circumstances conceivable in the near future, by the powers protecting her neighbours, and it is not possible that any danger threatens her from other sources. We do not know if the smouldering animosities behind the Quadruple Entente will in any way threaten Siam's integrity. But it is noteworthy that the King of Siam returned to this same subject, in reply to a toast of his health at a dinner by the 1st Guards Division of the Army, as though he would give additional emphasis to his warning. Needless to say that this has caused much flutter in all the chancellories of the world.



A Moscow newspaper, the *Gropetarshaja Revoluzija*, referred in one of its recent numbers to the

scholastic career of Nikolai Lenin, whose real name appears to be Wladimir Ilitscse Ulianow. Lenin's school certificate and the headmaster's written testimonial about his pupil's character and ability are also published by that journal. Lenin's school course was finished at the public school of Simbrisk in 1887; and it looks like almost an irony of fate that the headmaster in question was F. M. Kerensky, whose son was Lenin's predecessor in the mastership of Russia's chequered fortunes. It is also recalled that Lenin's father was himself a public school teacher and finally became a State Councillor with the title of Excellency.



Pupils in Continental public schools have to pass a so-called examination of maturity which entitles them to pursue university studies. Russian schools at that time not only issued "certificates of maturity," but gold medals were awarded the most efficient pupils. Lenine received this "hierarchical symbol of bourgeois society" as he might call it to-day. The head master's testimonial characterizes him as a boy who "owing to his progress in school, his ability, industry and strength of character gives the greatest hopes of future progress in science. He is extremely gifted, zealous and accurate." In each class Lenine was first among the pupils. He was awarded a gold medal on finishing his course. He was the one most worthy of it owing to his progress, development and behaviour. Not a single instance is known when Lenine either in or out of school created an unfavourable impression on his superiors or teachers.



"The basic ideas of Ulianow's education were religion and discipline," the testimonial continues. "The good results of his domestic education became apparent in Ulianow's excellent behaviour. If I watch Ulianow's domestic life and character however, I cannot help noticing an over-great reserve and seclusiveness even towards his friends and most efficient school mates and a certain shyness in general."



The new number of the *National Review* gives the leading place to two remarkable articles on Mr. Lloyd George. One is "The Man who did not win the War," by "Centurion"; and the other is "The Fetish" by Lady Bathurst. The first is a close examination of the Prime Minister's record before and during the war. After an exhaustive examination of his career beginning from 1908, "Centurion" concludes that if Mr. Lloyd George "is the man who did not win the war, but allowed the British people and the British Armies to win it, there can be very little doubt that he will go down to posterity as the man who lost the peace." The second article has for its text an extract from the Lloyd Georgian "Sunday Times" of March 19th, which suggests that "if the Prime Minister took these little men" (meaning the Die Hards) at their word and resigned, "blank dismay" would follow. Lady Bathurst invites her readers to remember a "little what this superman has done," and very briefly presents the facts that "Centurion" has given in detail. She points out that his chief part in winning the war was "to spend profusely building aerodromes that were never wanted, and building them regardless of expense, cutting down forests, the timber of which was never required;

entering into contracts about which the least said the better, handing out war bonuses to right and left and overpaying people for work which they should have been conscripted to do just as much as the fighting man was conscripted." "Where are we now?" asks the authoress. Rebellion in Ireland and India; Egypt virtually given up ("No doubt the Sudan will go too if Mr. Lloyd George remains in power a little longer"); the Army and Navy even smaller than before the war; practically no Territorial Force, unrest in the country; crushing taxation, and vast unemployment. "The only monument to Mr. Lloyd George's Government will be the rows of very hideous houses which have been erected in all the most beautiful villages in England." If the writer in the "Sunday Times," concludes Lady Bathurst, "would take the opinion of the average plain honest man and woman of all classes in the country, he would find there is a great longing to be governed by a plain honest gentleman, whose standard would be whether a thing was right or wrong, just or unjust, not whether it was expedient or popular."

Literary and Educational.

The Golden Age.

The golden Age: is it a dream of a day that is gone or a glowing vision of time to come? For all the strong hopes which theories of evolution and the ascent of man have encouraged, now, as always, there lingers the tendency to hark back to "good old times"! to Gardens of Eden, or King Arthur's table round; to the golden prime of good Haroun al Raschid, or the spacious times of Queen Elizabeth. Each and all ideals alluring in proportion to the vagueness of our knowledge of them, but differing in this, that some include a promise of renewed felicity, of an Arthur who shall one day return from Avalon, while for others hope is not included in Pandora's box. Sometimes the expected redeemer of the people is figured as a warrior king; sometimes as a prophet of peace; and again there is the view of an evolution not dependent on individual effort, but impelled by the automatic process of a mechanistic theory of society.

Professor Ure, in his "Greek Renaissance", recalls the archaic poet Hesiod's story of the successive metallic ages which so curiously anticipates the trend of modern archaeology: especially if we regard the age of gold, a metal which, being found in native purity, passed into use with little need of distinctively metallurgical treatment, as continuous with the later stages of the stone age. It is true that it is not easy to isolate anything corresponding to a definite silver age, but the bronze and iron ages are well established matters of history. When Hesiod wrote, the tradition of the bronze-working civilization on the shores of the Mediterranean, which was overthrown by the invasion of men with iron swords, was still fresh. The spade of the archaeologist is year by year increasing our knowledge of the arts of this civilization and through them of its society and even its politics. But so far we learn little of the process by which this bronze age displaced the last phase of the stone age or gold. We know that in a dimly remote past a race of hunters left records of their prowess incised and painted on the rocks, but little enough of any golden ideals of social life is discernible in their day. But

between them and the dawn of history there came an epoch of progress, which has left us a heritage of wisdom more precious than rubies in the domestication of our tame animals and the development of our farm and garden plants from their wild progenitors: achievement which certainly required a long period of settled peace; a memory to be handed down as that of a veritable golden age by a long succession of cultivators oppressed by recurrent raids of robber tribes and chieftains. Yet, through all the hard times the established methods and cultivated stocks of the farmer's art persisted; though it is likely that the farm lore of Hesiod showed as little advance on that of a thousand years before his time as that of our English Hesiod, the author of *Piers Plowman*, might on that of Cato and Virgil. When we reflect on the obstinate pertinacity with which rural tradition is maintained we are compelled to rank the initiative and brain power of those who first developed rye and barley, and finally wheat, from the wild grasses as at least on a level with the mentality of the physicist of modern times and guess that regression rather than progress was the mark of such unsettled periods as Homer and Hesiod record, or such as our native chroniclers tell after the Romans were gone.

It is difficult for us to realise the force of character superadded to inventive genius needed to make the first start in arts now so familiar. The beginning of metallurgy, culminating in the mysterious process of hardening and tempering steel, the skill of working in glass, how was the path which led to these entered upon? True that the extant procedure of savage tribes preserves some stages in the development, but they are stationary, or even retrograde, with no hint of advance in prospect or in retrospect. Whence came the inspiration and the energy of progress? Even within the scope of written history we know of long periods when no advance was made and men looked back to intellectual as well as social golden ages. How many of the 260 varieties of pear grown by a certain French pomologist of the seventeenth century dated back to Roman times; and of these how many did that iron race derive from those pastoral fore-runners whose memory the poets sang? There are archaeologists who tell us that the remains of terraces for cultivation and irrigation in Italy indicate a capital investment surpassing the wealth of the cities which, after whatever interval of chaos, succeeded them.

But in any case this thing stands out that the men of the Bronze Age and their successors with iron swords, and presently from iron ploughshares, found ready to hand the great achievement of a systematic agriculture; the basis of all the civilisations which have followed. At what cost of patient labour, persistent through untold generations? To this we have small clue. As to their social life we can only feel sure that if it was hard and laborious, as must be for men tilling stony hillsides without the aid of metal tools, the lot of their descendants whom the warrior chieftains of heroic legend enthralled and held as serfs was such as to warrant a memory of the former state, that as of dwellers in paradise; though perhaps we should relish its conditions as little as we should enjoy a return to more recent phases of good old times. However fancy may picture the past and however necessary historical knowledge may be to a right imagination of the future trend of progress step by step, a healthy

mind will not hark idly back, but cast forward for approaches to the vision of a golden age.

:—*The Times Educational Supplement.*

Miscellaneous.

The Idler.

Love in Parliament.

"I hope we are not going to add a flirting lobby to the House?" so said Mr. Baresford Hope when the building of the Houses of Parliament was under consideration and it was suggested that the Commons should be provided with a gallery for ladies. No doubt it was with a view to the prevention of flirting that the rule was laid down that if a member desires to converse with a lady in the gallery he may do so for five minutes only. Members especially the young and impressionable make frequent visits to the cage and if in doing so he should exceed the five minutes the gallery attendant is empowered to call his attention courteously but firmly to the fact that he has overstayed his limit. But love laughs not only at bolts and bars but at the rules of the House of Commons. It is not all law making, that goes on at St. Stephens. This is shown by an incident that happened in the Reporter's Gallery. While one of the reporters was busy taking notes of the speeches a piece of paper fluttered down on his book. At first he thought it was a note from a colleague but what was his surprise when on opening it he read pencilled in a lady's handwriting on half a leaf of a notebook gilt edged and dainty the mysterious question: "How much longer, pet?" It was not meant for him or for any in the Reporter's Gallery. It must have been meant for one of the Ministers on the Treasury Bench. There is many a love letter in the heavy post which leaves the House of Commons every night during the Session. The benches on each side of the House of Commons are thronged with apparently eager listeners. But if the truth were known it would be found that the thought of many are wandering far, far away from the House. And many are the secluded nooks of the member's quarters which are most appropriate for the writing of love-letters. An interesting discovery was made recently in a blotting-pad in the library. It was no less a document indeed than a love letter unfinished and unsigned. It ran

"My Own Darling Love,

"There is a busy debate on in the House: but I have stolen away to the library, eluding the watchful Whips to write you for the thousandth time how I adore you. Arthur Balfour is making it hot for C. B. Before I met you I thought nothing could have tempted me out of the House on such an occasion..... But how trivial and wearisome it all seems now that you have come into my life! I swear that I more dearly prize a kiss from you than all the glory of a seat in the House of Commons."

The House of Commons was vastly amused one night by a story told by Mr. Gibson Bowles. "At one time," said he, "Ministers had little to do. Lord Carteret used to read his love-letters to the Cabinet Council." Then turning to Mr. Arthur Balfour, a confirmed bachelor who sat below him on the Treasury Bench he added "that is a proceeding of which I am sure my right hon. friend is incapable" and the House laughed heartily at this. Carteret had perhaps the most fascinating personal attractions of any man of his time and was a noted convivialist besides. His first wife died in 1743 while he was a Cabinet Minister and in the following year he married Lady Sophia Fermoy the greatest beauty of the period. It was at this time that he used to amuse the Cabinet by reading selections from the many letters he received from women infatuated by his good looks and renown. "Love letters have often been penned amid strange environments," writes Sir Herbert Maxwell in *His Life and Times of W. H. Smith* who was leader of the House during 1886-92—"from dungeons and garrets and from Arctic wastes and torrid African sands; but surely were none more tender or more true than those written by Smith to his wife

from the Treasury Bench amid the din of debate or the langour of obstruction.

Jokes against Kings

"Kings are ill to joke with," Carlyle once observed.

Numerous examples might be quoted, however, of amusing retorts and sallies at the expense of monarchs. Among the nearest, perhaps, was that made to the Prince of Wales afterwards King William IV, by the Secretary of the Admiralty. The Prince had been bantering the Secretary for some time "When I am King," said he "you shall not be Secretary of the Admiralty, what do you say to that?"

"God save the King," rejoined the witty secretary.

It is related that when Charles II was inspecting a warship at Chatham he asked Killigrew, "Don't you think I should have made a good shipwright?" "I have always thought that your Majesty would do better at any trade than your own," replied Killigrew.

Almost as disconcerting was the answer given to Frederick the Great, who wishing to humiliate his physician, asked: "How many men have you sent into the other world?"

"Not nearly so many as your Majesty" was the retort, "but with infinitely less glory."

An eight-day Clock

An Irishman went into a jeweller's shop to buy a clock. The shopman showed him one for £ 2. "What, £ 2 for that bit of a clock?" exclaimed Pat. "Is there anything wonderful about it?" "Why," answered the shopman, "It goes eight-days without winding." Pat scratched his head in bewilderment. "So much as that," he, said. "Begorra, there's wan thing, I do like to be after asking ye. If it goes eight days without winding how long will it go if ye wind it?"

The Younger Generation

At the Old street Children's Court yesterday a boy of seven was charged with stabbing a boy of six because he would not get off a swing; a girl of 15 was charged with being drunk, and a boy of 15 with street betting.

The Newest Fans

Enormous ostrich feathers, ranging 12in. to 15in. in length, and in colour every hue of the rainbow, fill the shop windows of the fashionable drapers to-day. They are the new fans, which all women who claim to be well-dressed must take to the opera and the theatre. As fans, they are useless, for their width is insufficient to create the lightest draught; yet women are paying anything upwards from 3½ guineas for them. They can be bought to match with a frock of whatever colour, some even having a shot effect. Women who dress less extravagantly say their luxury-loving sisters carry fans to make up for the deficiency in covering of their smart evening toilettes.

Olla Podrida.

I read a few days ago about an athlete called Baby Ruth whose income is about Rs. 20000 a year and who recently signed a contract in America stipulating for that sum as salary. Yet they talk of hard times and grinding poverty! Baby Ruth gets a higher salary than the President of the United States and is a much more important man than the latter.

America is really a wonderful place. By radio-telephone political candidates can address the constituents while sitting at home. America has really achieved everything except what are worth achieving—peace, love and happiness.

There is a harmless madman who thinks that he is bottling up sun's rays and who promises to cure all diseases by bottled rays. There is an attempt made to examine chemically the bottled rays of this bottlewallah! I wonder who is really mad.

SCRUTATOR.

"DRY" AMERICA:

AN OBJECT LESSON TO INDIA

A timely publication under the above title from the facile pen of Mr. St. Nihal Singh, the well-known journalist, has just now come out in which the author has given a succinct, and interesting narrative of how the prohibition movement succeeded in America describing in detail the Rise and Victory of the movement, the effect on Capital, the improvement of labour conditions, Social effects, health under prohibition, decrease in crime, saving to the community, and the Indian problem.

This book is written to indicate how the United States overcame the difficulties standing in the way of prohibition, and the results which are already visible, in the hope that it may prove useful to us in effectively dealing with our own problem. The present is the right moment for us to undertake such a task, because Indians, irrespective of their political differences, are determined to seize every opportunity to regain for India the primacy of position which she once occupied in the comity of nations.

Though conditions in India differ from those in America yet there is no reason why the American experience may not be repeated in our country. It is as true of India as of the United States that the State derives only a small amount of the money actually spent upon drink. The extinction of the liquor traffic may mean the extinction of the revenue derived from liquor, but it cannot mean that the money now paid for liquor will be destroyed. On the contrary, the banishment of liquor will mean that the money, instead of being wasted, will be available for productive purposes, and will help to improve the general condition of the people, who will not be able to spend it upon intoxicants. General improvement of living conditions must favourably react upon the State Exchequer.

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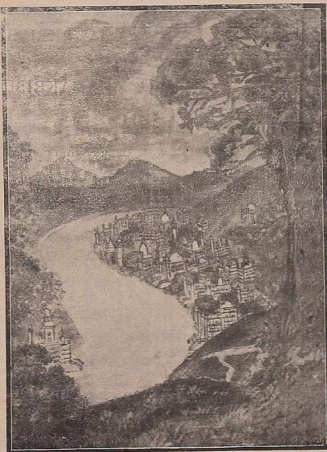
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