

MUNICIPAL

Cities in the Past Generation.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION STAMPED OUT

The Evils of Franchised Corporations Reduced to the Minimum.

Statistics of the Tax Rate and Other Revenues of Leading Citics.

SKETCHES OF ROYALTY ON PARADE and honesty.

Loyal Thousands Shiver in a Cold Blast and Yell for Prince and Dake-How They Look and Act-An Interesting Family Group.

LONDON, Feb. 16 .- (Special Correspondence cities more agreeable for the poor. This is being done in England, and I must say with annals of the American Academy for May, 1894, a remarkable article on "Problems of transportation, free music, reading rooms, libraries and clubs, hospitals, lectures, it goes toward the relief of the paving tax; seems as if the great aim of modern society water, \$120,000 on gas and \$15,000 on markets; was to fill the cities." And yet, as Mr. Godkin points out, both Europe and America are lamenting over the migration of poulation urbanward To chack this measurement urbanward. To check this movement, in undertakings; England, as I have shown in a previous letter, the parish councils were formed, and during my stay here I have read many glowing accounts of what the old village will become under the benign influence of the parish councils. In fact, the boys, and girls, too who have gone forth to seek their fortunes in the rush and bustle of the modern town may return once more to the fascinations of the revolutionized village. However this may be, the work of making the lot of the dwellers in towns more easy goes on vigor-ously, and I propose to briefly summarize in this letter some of the more striking of the recent changes in half a dozen of the large provincial towns. All these towns are provincial towns. All these towns are fazniliar to me, and in the last fifteen years I have visited them repeatedly. The one great difficulty, which is undoubtedly dis-couraging in our own country-municipal corrupilon-has of late years been pretty much eradicated in England. Nevertheless, within the recollection of some of the present genera-the following table shows: tion of Englishmen, many of the chartered towns and corporations of England were reek. ing with corruption-a class of corruption which never has been tolerated in the United States at any period of its history-corruption debasing that the open sale of municipal es was looked upon as a matter of course, and the arrangements for such transfers was a lucrative business. An impartial student of the British municipalities from the time of the first reform act to the present time would be able to note changes more sweep ing than those which would place American municipalities on a footing, so far as hon-

esty of management is concerned, with Eng-ABUSING AMERICAN LOCAL GOVERN-

MENT. It has become a fad in some quarters to

tioned above contains some gloomy presenta-tion of local corruption and villainy. Some Some Remarkable Ohanges Effected in English of these articles declars we have nothing to learn from England. For such the present article will be of no value. Others declare that a large part of the degrading influence our city politics comes from the relations of the large cities to the states in which they are localized. The states and the cities, it is contended, have so few common interests that the contact of the two lowers their moral tone and leads to bargains, trades and corruption. Some declare we are wallowing hopeless misery and corruption; others that wa must work out our own salvation; and yet others think that, as the municipal spirit LOW COST AND MUNIC PAL PROFITS grows, corruption will give way to better government. And so it will. Democratic institutions are capable of giving honest government in national affairs; and as our citi-zens better understand what has been aptly

termed "the most solemn, the most difficult but also the most imperative of all the political duties which our age imposes." nicipal government will improve in efficiency

WHAT ENGLAND HAS DONE.

To this end let us take a rapid glance at what England has recently accomplished. I have before me the advance proofs of a work entitled "Municipalities at Work," by Frederick Dolman, with an introduction by Sir John Hutton, L.C.C. This work will be published in March and available for those interested in these questions. Meantime it may be wise to encourage the municipal spirit at home by some of the useful facts of The Bec.)-The tendency of the times in the United States and Europe is to make size of St. Louis, Boston, Baltimore, Buffalo, Cleveland and San Francisco have municipal-

ized their markets, gas, water, tramways, being done in England, and I must say with a considerable degree of success. A dis-tinguished American editor contributed to the community-have secured a municipal fund without an increase in taxes. Birmingham in seventeen years made a 1894, a remarkable article on "Problems of Municipal Government," in which, among of Manchester hand over \$75,000 annually to other bright things, he said: "What with the city treasury; while the markets of parks, gardens, baths, wash-houses, cheap Liverpool make a profit of \$82,500; the surplus of nearly \$35,000 on the trams of Liverpool

while Bradford made a profit on its electric light of over \$10,000.

Tr/al Not Gag, Water, Market, Profit, 136,096,53 19,908,8518,259 04 174 302,43 148,861,86 100,377,52131 /s.42 129,525,51 4 21,892,0109,067,20,81 166,45 148,551,75 201,233,06,73 059,45 364,014,23 Manchester Liverpool . Glasgow ... Bradford ... -54,942.78 2,447.24 10,657.63 **2,187.55 26,153.22 59,789.81 93,655.79 Londs

The above figures represent dollars. • The Liverpool gas works are still owned by

In reference to this table it is to be remembered that in all cases profits are reckoned only after provision has been made for payment of interest on loans and repay-

ment of the principal. In technical education, libraries and art

	Annual Expendi- ture on Technical Education,	Annual Expendi- ture on Libraries, Art Galleries, etc.	Rooks In Libraries.
Birmingham	\$ 34,451 82 87,150 67	\$ 82,681 83 *102,196 50	190,00

62,018 67 76,473 18 165, •44,798 50 **108, 25,938 44 28,308 43 80, 39,391 29 44,990 79 183, Glasgow Bradford Leeds 80,003 183,000

• Approximately.] •• In the Mitchell library, which is for refer

The taxes of these cities are not excessive,

Rates in the f. excluding School Board Rate.) Assets. Debt. 2

\$37,125,528 50 \$ 8,290,054 60 \$.89 67,590,322 11 14,409,145 85 *.97 35,219,522 34 37,495,423 79 71 to 94 12,594,852 38 67 to 94 12,594,852 38 67 to 98 Birmingham anchester iverpool 12,594,852,38 67 15381 22,982,625 36 6,985,172 33 .55 24,218,137 25 6,578,928 88 89 to\$1.18 tradford .eeda

• Average over the whole municipal area. • Divided between owner and occupier, raduated according to amount of assessme The tax in England is levied on the renting value of the property, not the assessed or estimated value of the property, as with us. One more little table, which will, I am sure, e useful for comparative purposes. It shows at one glance the population, density of popu-lation, death rate, acreage of parks, and ex-

penditure on public baths: Annual Expendi-ture on Baths. Number to the Acre. Pepulation of funicipal Area of Parks.

202 Hrmingham Manchester ... |478,000|29.1 |10.416 04 | 260/22.0 iverpool Insgow ceeds . Baths now in course of erection.

I think these little tables comprise a glimpse into English municipal work only to » obtained by a long and weary search of municipal reports. They are fresh and up to date, the book containing these and maby kindred facts now being in course of publi-

cation. Mr. Dolman has performed a useful task in giving us full particulars about these cities, and one that will be appreciated, not students of municipal institutions, but by the public, because the facts touched on do not present a dry account of budgets, but a bright description of what is being done to make life more agreeable to the dwellers in cities. I have, of course, changed the

English pounds into dollars. WELCOMING HOME THE PRINCESS. I propose in this letter to give a slight glimpse into a subject which is always interesting-namely, how royalty is treated in these democratic days. The scene described, with some degree of detail perhaps, I witneesed on Tuesday at Charing Cross station, and the impressions are given precisely as they were received, without prejudice of any sort. In the language of the Londoner, last Tuesday was "a bitter day," but to an Ameri-can it was "a slight cold snap." But, all the same, hundreds upon hundreds of people crowded, blue and shivering, into the great station of Charing Cross to welcome home their beloved princess of Wales, and thou-sands upon thousands of loyal subjects filled the Strand and Trafalgar square to look and cheer as the royal cortege went by. The day in itself was memorable, for the sun came out, and stayed out for three whole hours and considering it only showed itself for twenty-two hours during the preceding month, there was plain cause for thankfulness. The white dove that bore Queen Eleanor's cros fluttered in and out in merry commotion, even turned upward as if at the discovery f a new planet, and an amateur photographer took several snap shots at the shy and distinguished visitor. It was a quarter past 11 when we reached the station. The special train was due at ten minutes past 12, and now the real preparations began. Traffic of all kinds was stopped on this, one of the busiest lings in Great Britain, while the princess was in transit from Dover to London

and the station, usually full of life and bustle, became as quict as a cometery. The next move was to back all the cab horses from the'r stand down an inclined elippery place into the tunnel.

LAYING DOWN THE CARPET. A dozen porters, armed with big brooms,

herself, not only with ease, but considerable dignity. The duchess, though she wore the form itself, treated in a similar manner, was then swept with conscientious care. Wooden barriers were crected at either end of a spac same simple black stuffs as the others, with a knot of purple flowers in her little bonoufficient to contain the engine and three net, gave the impression of being much betrailway carriages. Then appeared the titled ter dressed. directors of the S. E. R .- important, im-The duke of York I have not seen since he

maculately dressed, and watching with anxi-ety every detail of the arrangements. Then the carpet, which always forms the main material feature of these occasions, appeared in a gigantic roll, borne by six men. red, as it always is, shabby, as it always is,

and in this case had an extra breadth that and d'dn't match-much to the nervous worry of the ladies present. The carpet was fitted to the floor like a gant de Suede to a fair hand-it was smoothed, and twitched, stretched and coaxed into place, unt'l the smallest wrinkle was exercised, every func-tionary from the porter to the policeman and the titled directors lending their fingers and persuasive powers.

GRISELDA OF A LATTER DAY COURT. made on the prince of Wales' looks, the fact Never before had the princess been away He is portly, broad-shouldered, and thick from England so long. Three months had passed since she went to Russia on her ernecked, but he has a good head, large and well proportioned, and courtliness of manrand of love and sympathy. Three times had ner that would distinguish him anywhere. the announcement been publicy made that she was to start home on a given day, that Marlborough house was being made ready, and the prince and her daughters coming un from Sandharbar THE TWO FUTURE KINGS OF ENGLAND.

up from Sandringham to meet her. Finally the royal equerries were dispatched to escort the princess home, but they had only the pleasure of dangling their heels, first in St. Petersburg, and again in Copenhagen where the princess stopped to visit her royal

parents The British public began to tremble, for some one started the horrid rumor that this sudden independence and assertion on the part of her royal highness was but the outcome of the revolt of woman, and that the new woman should ever be personified by the gracious princess who has so long been held up as the Griselda of a latter day court, took the British breath away. Whether that portion of it at Charing Cross expected to see their very womanly princess step from the train with the Russian eagle under her arm and a liberty cap on her head I know not, but they evidently did look for some

thing different from the usual. Meantime a brisk rattle of wheels ensued, and there dashed into the station three fine carriages drawn by superb chestnut horses, and con-spicuous also for the magnificent altitude of e coachers and footmen, clad in tan-colored livery, with white gloves and black cocades n their hats. THE PRINCE OF WALES ARRIVES.

As the door to the first carriage opened every head in the station was uncovered and inclined. The prince of Wales, who retains that lightness of foot-peculiar to some heavy men, stepped out, and recognized the public greeting with a smile that had more warmth in it than the winter's sun. It is several years since I saw the heir to the British crown, and I was struck by the great im-provement in his appearance. He has accepted his age-never an easy thing for a man in his position-changed his stple of dress-ing accordingly, and is browner of skin and wore had no court train, so to speak, and in contradistinction to some of his suite had ne'ther fur trimmings nor linings. His gloves were of dark gray, his trousers of a still dark ar gray, and his slik hat shone like a reflector. H. R. H. carried in his left hand an ebony cane with a sliver mounted head, and looked head in the short of the start of the sta

in all a healthy, well dressed, prosperous gentleman, whose sense of humor migh sometimes do battle with his dignity. In the same carriage came the Princesses Victoria and Maude, slender, paie, wearing the heavy black aerge gowns, short black jackets with Persian lamb collars, and sim-ple black hats that are a part of their mourning.

shortest of the family. shortest of the family. THE DUKE OF YORK ON THE SCENE. all hats were off. Then the prince of Wales A dozen porters, armed with by broks of rought the place of the royal pression, but gives an apparent roundness of for he emerged smiling.

afterwards James II., but, of course, at the time duke of York, was out hunting one day. In the excitement of the chase they lost sight and sound of the royal suite, and grew bewildered in the mazes of a forest. James, with a dolorous countenance, ex-pressed great anxiety lest some evilly-dispressed great anxiety lest some evily-dis-posed persons should selze the opportunity to harm his majesty. "Never fear for me, brother," replied the handsome monarch, with a smile. "No one will ever assasfamilies? sinate me to make you king!" This may seem a triffe severe in its application, but a glance at the illustration of the royal heads will show the temptation Other dignitaries now rapidly arrived, and

Whatever criticisms might

emains that he is distinctly a personage.

As I looked at the next two kings of

England and emperors of India I involun-tarily thought of another duke of York, who

In times past waited for the throne. Charles II. was king then, and with his brother,

onplace.

formed a sort of semicircle on the platform. No one approached the prince except on his invitation, the wife of the Danish ambassa dor being the first. When within a few feet of H. R. H. Madame de Biltse stopped, made the curious, short, stiff dip currently known as the "charity bob," really a steno-graphic curtesy, and then shook hands. The few other ladies followed suit, and the gentlemen escaped with a profound obeisance.

AN INTERESTING FAMILY GROUP.

It is not often that one sees so many of the royal family together, but of the group on the platform there were just three persons of apparent distinction—the prince of Wales, who, as I said, bears in public the same grand air that distinguishes the queen and makes her four feet ten inches of majesty seem above the average height, and the duchess of York, who towered above everyone else and has the carriage of an aristocrat. The third person was a really superb footman, "almost finer than nature, and quite up to anything brighter in eye than for many years. For the benefit of young Angiophobiacs whose cos-tumes cost them wakeful nights, it may be added that the black overcoat the prince

All through the preliminary ceremonies not a sound was heard. Everyone spoke in a minor chord. Not a laugh or a joke was aid. heard from the vulgar herd behind the barriters.

Things were depressing enough to have raised the spirits of a fashionable undertaker, when-presto, without a whistle, a creak, or a jar, there rolled into the station, in a subdued and perfectly well brad way, the special

train with its preclous freight. The little engine stopped to the inch, and drew a long breath of relief; it was too polite to snort, as one of our wild and woolly locomotives g. They were joined by their sis-duchess of Fife, the plainest and privilege it was to open the door of the from the west might have done. No one

of The Bee: I have been asked to give exof The Bee: I have been asked to give ex-pression to the very general feeling of discon-tent in this township over the methods fol-lowed by the relief commission. Many papers in the cast are praising the ability and business management of Rev. Mr. Ludden, the ness management of Rev. Mr. Ludden, the secretary of the commission. They are con-gratulating him that contributions are being light the secretary defined and the secretary of the contribution of the secretary of the secretary of the commission. They are con-gratulating him that contributions are being was a boy, and as he stepped onto the plat form and stood by his royal father-who, is distributed with care and wisdom, and they a few inches taller, would be pronounced point with satisfaction to his rules and regufine looking man-I was struck by the con lations. How do you suppose it seems to us who are forced to accept these benefactions? trast between the two. The duke is in-significant in stature and has a singularly small head. Side whiskers, full, short Suppose for a few moments that you put your-self in our place. It isn't a very pleasant place, and Mr. Ludden's "rules and regulations" beard and thick hair of sandy brown eke the head out; but one could not help wonder have not rendered it any pleasanter. He re-quires that the needy shall receive aid only through the county in which they live. That ing what would be left if a sharp razor made a clean circuit. A certain dapperness of dress and manner emphasize the duke's tule means a drive of twenty-five miles to physical deficiencies, and ill accord with his position, and there is nothing in his face to those in this township. Our horses gen the buffalo grass which they find on the attract or criticize-it is too essentially com

prairie. This renders it extremely difficul

o make the trip there and back in one day

an imaginary line between, have received county. They are like pigs about a trough. Those who, by accident or strategem, have fill themgained an advantageous position, fill them-selves to repletion, then calming lie down upon what is left and rest, utterly indifferent to the cries of those less favored than them-

And Mr. Ludden's "business methods" make possible this fraud. Very truly yours,

HATTA ALLEN DEHNER, Blair Township, Kearney County.

WORDS OF PRAISE.

Official Opinion of Omaha's Western Union Telegraph Office.

and the expense of staying over night woul almost buy the provision they award us, for we are only allowed ten days' provision Under the heading, "A Model Telegraph Office;" the Telegraph Age, the leading jourat a time. A drive of forty or fifty miles every ten days through this land of blizzards nal devoted to telegraphy, prints an illustrated description of the Omaha office of the and cold waves is no joke, I assure you, and It places one in danger of actual suffering, an you cannot receive more until you have ab-Western Union, together with a picture of Manager W. W. Umsted. The Age says: solutely nothing left, as they require an oath to that effect. Now, tell me, what is gained? What is the reason for this "rel tape?" Why "Assistant Superintendent W. J. Lloyd of Chicago recently remarked that the Omaha Western Union office had a perfect service and was as prompt and efficient as any he may we not go to our market town only eight miles distant, where we are known, and had ever seen, and that it was hardly without swearing our self-respect away reto be improved upon. Mr. Lloyd knows a perfect office when he sees onc, or his long years of excellent and valuable service to ceive freely what you so freely have given? Are we to dishonest we must be guarded at every corner? Are the housewives of Ne-braska so incompetent that they cannot be Western Union company count for the nothing. trusted with a reasonable supply for their

"The manager of this office is Mr. W. W. Umsted, a young man of sterling integrity and general worth, of broad ideas and mind-Mr. Ludden says he has found by experiment that the provisions go further when doled out in ten-day lots. I don't doubt it, No wonder the ten-day plan saves provision, just such a man needed to give a company and the public a gitt-edged telegraph service. Colonel J. J. Dickey is the superintendent of this district, with headquarters at Omaha, and Charles B. Horton is assistant superin-tendent; M. P. Doyle, cashior; J. P. Barnjust such a man needed to give a company but at a wonderful sacrifice on the part of those who already have enough to bear. To bo sure, "beggars can't be choosers," but it seems to me Mr. Ludden makes the bread of charity most uncommonly bitter. Mr. Ludden's rules are based throughout on the supposition that we would all be giad hart, chief operator; W. J. Rusland, traffic chief, W. Salisbury, wire chief; W. A. Mc-Elroy, assistant traffic chief; J. H. Owen, night chief operator; E. H. Parrar, assistant to beg, and if we were not watched would freely steal. Only two are allowed in a relief night chief operator, and C. L. Pond, all-

store at a time! Is it possible that we have night chief. "Omaha boasts of one of the best-appointed fallen so low that it is impossible for six or seven clerks to watch more than two of us at and most handsome offices in the company's service, and New York and Chicago are exa time, lest we "pocket" something? Is it possible Mr. Luden believes that? It is no wonder that those who have been independcepted only as to size, but not in completeness or attractiveness either in the operating ent, self-respecting and self-supporting all or business department. The company have some 200 employes in Omaha and South If the rule requiring an affidavit of abso-

If the requiring an almost of abso-lute destitution is adhered to I am afraid these gifts will not reach many of those it was intended to help. I with some who have contributed would write and define just what class they meant to help. Can you not it is howed that forty-six sendings could be had being the requiring an almost of abso-world. "When Omaha was a competitor for the national republican convention in 1892 it showed that forty-six sendings could be had

what class they meant to help. Can you not let us know definitely? Is it the city or county pauper who expects to be kept every to Chicago, provided all wires were in working order. Since then four additional cop-per wires have been built to Chleago, mak-ing seven copper wires to that city. There are three copper wires to the west and one winter and counts it no shane? Is it the al-ways improvident, as Mr. Ludden supposes, or is it also those who would not quite stary. without your help, but would go partly fed and half clad in order to save enough to start themselves on the read to self-support an-other year? It seems impossible that it could be this first discussion of the self-support anto Minneapolis

Omaha has 150,000 inhabitants. It is connected with Chicago, 515 miles east, by four competing trunk lines of railway, namely: Burlington, Rock Island, Northwestern, and be this first class-those who always expect when supplies get short, to apply for publithe Milwaukee. Ther are three trunk lines to Kansas City and St. Louis, three to the I cannot suppose that the woes of this class have called out this world-wide sym-pathy, or that it was for their necessities west, two to the Black Hills country, and two to Minneapolis and St. Paul.

such generous supplies have been forwarded. If for them, why any more this year than an-other? For this class of poor we indeed "have "The messenger force is a credit and a pride to the wide-awake management. It consists of twenty-four boys, fifteen of whom always with us." Yet a very considerable part of the contributions are being used for possess bleycles. A brighter-looking and better lot of boys were never before seen these people, thereby lessening the tax on property holders. Neither can I believe that Mr. Ludden's interpretation is correct, for together in one group. They are kept in full uniform both summer and winter. The licker service is also a perfect and satisfacthat would exclude the whole class of hard one, while the force of good-looking clerks adds grace and beauty to this working, painstaking farmers, for improvi-dent indeed must the farmer be who has not some stock, which he is straining every nerve to carry through until spring comes. Such well regulated office. The operators are also energetic, capable and loyal."

Riffes After Prizes.

Captain Scharff, formerly of the Thurston soli for one-fourth their value what we have worked so hard and saved so closely to obtain, while your benefactions feed and clothe those who will neither work nor save. Perhaps the worst rule is the one permit-

farmers cannot take the oath that is re-quired. Yet we think it hard that we must sell for one-fourth their value what we have