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RUIN AND ITS REASON

Decadence of the British Empire Laid to Its Present Society.

FOIBLES OF SOCIAL VOTARIES SHOWN

Easy to Comprehend How England's Discredit Has Been Compensed.

DEMONSTRATION AT MRS. PAGET'S SHOW

Her Guards' Theatricals and the Conduct of Those Who Participated.

DIRV'L OF NINNIES AFTER MANY FLUKES

Art an Almost Unknown Quantity at the Entertainment—Desire to Show Fine Goods—Materialistic Ideals.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.)

LONDON, Feb. 17.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Mrs. Arthur Paget deserves the Victoria cross for the dauntless valor and consummate strategical talents she displayed in bringing her Guards' theatricals to a successful financial conclusion. It demands no ordinary tact and patience to manage a team of fashionable beauties, all with a variety of peccados and every participant an expert in the art. Mrs. Paget was most rightly the leading figure in her particular tableau and desired to be in any but the one for which she was chosen. The rehearsals were scenes of incessant strife and at each some spoilt darling insisted upon upsetting all arrangements. Some-times she succeeded, but often Mrs. Paget weeded or compelled her into submission. Occasionally a fair rebel gathered up her skirts and left the theatre. The ordinary stage manager makes the air blue with language over such trials, but Mrs. Paget was devoted ever that relief.

The severest blow she got was the retirement of the majestically beautiful Lady Cynthia Graham from the character of Britannia. Lady Cynthia wilted because she was required to wear a gold wig covering her own raven locks. It was sought to compromise on auburn and then on chestnut, but unavailingly. She would be a black-tressed Britannia or nothing, so she left. The Countess Westmoreland, Lady Warwick's sister, proved an ineffective substitute.

Fluke by Countess Craven.

Then the Countess of Craven's (Mrs. Bradley-Martin) resignation was another tragedy. She was to be the leading figure in the fashionable crowd in the Gainsborough tableau, "Miss Gunning in the West." At the final rehearsal it was proposed to have the countess seated. She objected, saying she had not given \$500 for a dress to conceal it by sitting down. Diplomacy failed and the countess withdrew in high dudgeon. She afterward good naturedly sent her dress to be used for her successor, but it proved two inches too short. Mrs. Bradley-Martin went to the performance with the countess.

Lady Gerard, when she found she was to be placed in the back of a picture instead of in front, doctored it with a name of her own. At the final rehearsal it was proposed to have the countess seated. She objected, saying she had not given \$500 for a dress to conceal it by sitting down. Diplomacy failed and the countess withdrew in high dudgeon. She afterward good naturedly sent her dress to be used for her successor, but it proved two inches too short. Mrs. Bradley-Martin went to the performance with the countess.

The princely diamonds worn by Lady Geo. Sturt were of enormous value. Prince Victor Singh's were almost equally valuable, including one emerald which must have been four inches square.

Then the scene, "Britain and Her Colonies," produced almost a riot at the rehearsal. It went with painful slowness because each woman insisted on having the stage completely to herself. Beechbon Tree mildly suggested that the pace might be quickened. A dozen pair of the most beautiful eyes in England darted murderous glances at him as they the footlights, so he subsided.

After All It Is Dull.

The whole performance, to tell the truth, was frightfully dull. It was simply deplorable as an exhibition of the artistic taste and intelligence of English smart society. Money's power was unstintingly displayed in dress and jewelry.

There was an abundance of beauty among the women, but a most striking absence of charm and grace. There were handsome, exquisitely dressed beauties, but no real animation. Their sole ambition was to display their costly clothes to the most advantage. There were exceptions. Muriel Wilson was not only very beautiful, but she acted with genuine artistic talent. Mrs. Edward Tennant, in her "corona" wig, under the authority of war, looked the part of St. Cecilia to perfection. Mrs. Willie James, the princess of Wales' great favorite, was also above the average.

The remainder were lamentable. The lack of intellect and culture shone far too brightly in the narrow, unglowing eyes. The ruling social set here that their interests are purely material. Dressing, dining and flirting occupy their lives.

Have Led the Empire to Its Ruin.

It is easy to comprehend how England's discredit before the world has been compassed when it is remembered that these are the people who have led the empire to its ruin in South Africa.

Louis Parker's "Marque" was simple driven. It was written down presumably to the requirements of its interpreters.

Mrs. Arthur Paget will leave England for the Riviera in a month, with Mrs. Vagliano as her companion. The reason for the delay is Mrs. Paget's wish to be present with her daughter at an early drawing room.

Miss Lelia Paget ought to have great social success. She is taller than her mother, has beautiful dark hair and eyes and a rather brilliant complexion. She dresses very well and on the night of the theatricals she looked not only handsome but very graceful in a trailing white dress with a transparent yoke of lace and long lace sleeves. Her hair was simply knotted rather low on the neck. Her only ornament was a string of pearls.

Means Expansion of Trade.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.) LONDON, Feb. 17.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—An announcement that parcel post arrangements between England and the United States will probably be completed shortly is regarded as of supreme importance by the business community here. It is a surprising fact, seeing that the import trade from the United States exceeds \$500,000,000, while more than \$6,000,000 is transmitted in postal orders annually in this country. Henniker Heaton, M. P., who is mainly responsible for the report, says it is anticipated that 1,000,000 parcels will be sent to and from the United States by next Christmas. The facilities offered will open the way for an immense expansion of the trade between the two countries in articles now dealt in or interchanged.

GERMAN COLONIES LOSERS

Other Methods Than Those Employed Are Needed to Make Them Successful.

(Copyright, 1900, by Associated Press.)

BERLIN, Feb. 17.—(Associated Press.)—The attention of the Reichstag this week, the debate unmistakably showing the unprofitable state of the colonies, even in the case of the hitherto most promising, like the Cameroons. It likewise showed the growing appropriations, with stationary or diminishing export and imports.

Official reports demonstrate that famine and sickness in German East Africa have devastated that colony. In the district of Tanga, for example, within the year 1899 123,208 to 81,328, owing to famine, leprosy, smallpox and typhoid fever. The condition of the whole colony appears appalling. The base of this colony, which is twice the size of Germany, is insignificant and mostly in British India, while the cost to Germany is five fold the value of the trade. The reports from the other colonies are not much better.

The Cologne Volks Zeitung says the railroad projects for the colonies now adopted amount to 200,000,000 marks, while on the other hand German trade with the colonies cost another 100,000,000 marks without entailing a cost of expense.

It cannot be denied that the sentiment is growing and obtaining in a large part of the nation that other methods than those employed are needed to make the German colonies successful. It was significant that during the several days' debate in the Reichstag the government remained on the defensive. Thus the colonial debate has in no way strengthened the chances of the naval bill. Dr. Barth, the Freinliges leader, however, believes the bill will pass, though the situation is muddled, owing to the uncertainty as to the center's position. Dr. Lieber, the centerist leader, is dangerously ill and there is nobody in authority in the party with whom the government and the other parties can negotiate.

WAR'S EFFECT ON THE MARKET

Strong Influences Keep London's Financial Circles in Continual Excitement.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.)

LONDON, Feb. 17.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The money market has been increasingly affected during the week by the impending issue of £50,000,000 of stock to meet the war expenditure. Chancellor of the Exchequer Hicks-Beach will put the market out of its agony Monday and there will be considerable disappointment and disapproval in financial circles if he chooses to raise money by consols rather than a 3 per cent war loan for a term of years.

Lord Rosebery's alarmist speech more than neutralized the effect of the relief of Kimberley, while the policy adopted by the Bank of England in not replacing maturing bills, together with the heavy tax collection, has caused a severe reaction in the market.

Next week the market probably will be greater, as several railway dividends have to be paid and the demand for money in connection with the Stock exchange settlement has to be met.

Buying of bills has been restricted by the severity of the market, and the bill is not taken under 2 1/2 per cent. The business of the stock market has been dull and the markets failed to respond as was expected to the news of Lord Roberts, owing to profound skepticism in both New York and Paris concerning the value of his achievements. Home buying was offset by large sales for both French and American account.

ANGLOPHOBIA IN RUSSIA

Sentiment is Shown at a Pantomime Burlesque of the South African War.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.)

LONDON, Feb. 17.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The London Times, in its editorial, declares that the Anglophobia in St. Petersburg knows no bounds. The most popular entertainment there is a burlesque imitation of the fighting in South Africa, in which performers representing English soldiers are placed in every possible position of defeat and degradation, while the imperious Russian and his followers perform prodigies of valor.

On the first night of this pantomime there was a wild scene of excitement, the spectators hissing and hooting the English and lustily cheering the Boers. The Soviet says it was an explosion of that universal hatred of the English which has been growing for centuries in the hearts of all nations of the world.

CARDS SHUFFLED FOR A WILL

Court Upholds Property Bequest Assigned in This Manner—Relative's Protest Overruled.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.)

LONDON, Feb. 17.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—A perfectly correct method of making a will was revealed in a suit which Count Moore, M. P., an Irishman, brought to set aside the testament of his sister, a woman of large wealth. She was paralyzed and was unable to express herself by words, though when she wrote words written she knew their meaning.

Her lawyer printed two sets of cards, one set showing her various properties, the other the names of her relatives. The cards were shuffled and dealt out and as she came to each name she indicated by signs the property she assigned to be owner of it. The judge upheld the will.

Irish-Grown Tobacco Too Strong

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.)

LONDON, Feb. 17.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Tobacco-growing experiments in Ireland have been attended with great success. The planus flourish luxuriantly and the net profit per acre is about \$800. The product is of the side of strength, being twice as potent as the strongest tobacco and containing an abnormal proportion of moisture and nicotine. A great difficulty surrounding the development of the industry arises from the necessity of excise supervision owing to the heavy duties.

Melba Enters a Deal

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.) NICE, Feb. 17.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—You can deny the report in the New York papers that I am engaged to Herr Joachim, the violinist," said Melba, the prima donna to me at the Casino theater. Joachim is older than my father."

ONE EYE ON RUSSIA

England Not Losing Sight of the Situation in Central Asia.

(Copyright, 1900, by Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 17.—What is known in Great Britain as the Central-Asian peril once more obscures the pacific international aspect of affairs. As viewed by the Manchester-Street the definite news shows that in spite of denials Russia has advanced a strong force within striking distance of Herat and whether it intends it as a distinct demonstration against Afghanistan or merely as a blind to draw off attention from or to ultimately assist its objects in the Persian gulf is merely a matter of surmise. Whatever all this really means a large portion of the British public and press is devoting serious attention to that time-worn bugbear, the menacing shadow of the East.

Though Lord Salisbury has yet been taken or declined on by the British. Weeks ago the report of a Russian advance was circulated and when questioned on the subject the Russian ambassador assured his dear friends in Downing street that the report was exaggerated. It was nothing but a bluff, he said, and he intended as a menace. In fact it was so belittled by this diplomat that the British officials had no other alternative but to believe the reports were practically untrue, especially as Russia, in conjunction with every other European power, had a few weeks previous formally assured Lord Salisbury that it had not the faintest intention of profiting by Great Britain's embarrassment in South Africa by pressing outstanding claims or interfering in any way.

RUSSIA IS FOXY

News from Central Asia trickles into England slowly, but this week there came from many sources information showing that Russia's policy in the East is not so mild, mislead Lord Salisbury, and the foreign office, Wednesday last, had to bring itself up with a sharp turn to the realization that the Central Asian situation demanded immediate attention. Yet what form such attention should take constitutes a dilemma, on the horns of which the British government is still perched. Details of the proceedings on the borders of Afghanistan are still lacking, and are likely to be so for some time. As a high official said to a representative of the Associated Press: "It will be some time before we can give a definite answer to a further explanation is in order, we are sure to get the same friendly assurances that it does not amount to anything. If we address a formal, stringent protest to St. Petersburg we deliberately cast doubt on Russia's practically spontaneous declaration of friendship and good will, and the British call a bluff. But we have to be very sure of our facts before proceeding on such a basis. The answer is not ill, in spite of all the alarming reports. I suppose he will die some day and then the desire to get rid of him will be great. But until this occurs, I am sure that what Russia can effect, if the movement is as important as represented, I think it far likelier that she intends to make a demonstration of the strength that might be brought to bear upon some minor concerns to be solved for by Russia hereafter."

NO IDEA OF WAR

The opinion of officials and those of the majority of persons accurately formed is that Russia's move is merely one of the finest points of the diplomatic game and that it has no more idea of forcing a war with Great Britain than it has of forcing a war upon the United States. So while it appears that international relations are really not threatened with any serious break, it also appears that Russia is likely to get whatever it asks for within reasonable diplomacy in the near future. Nothing is more patent from the conversation of the cabinet ministers and officials than the desire to conclude that international relations are really not threatened with any serious break, it also appears that Russia is likely to get whatever it asks for within reasonable diplomacy in the near future. 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