

PERSIAN FINANCE.

London, January 3.

The *Daily Mail* learns from Teheran that the Legislative Assembly held its first sitting yesterday, after the arrival of the Deputies from the Provinces. Many Deputies were absent. After a long discussion it was decided to work energetically for the improvement of the financial situation.

Latest Telegrams on page 4.

HISTORIC MOUND THREATENED.

The historic mound at Clontarf, near Dublin, the legendary site of the great battle between King Brian Boru and the Danes 900 years ago, formed the subject of a midnight meeting on Thursday night in Clontarf Town Hall, where the national societies of Dublin were represented, with the object of protesting against what was described as an atrocious act of vandalism on the part of the City Council. The speakers, who addressed the meeting in Gaelic, complained that the Dublin Corporation Distress Committee had put a large number of unemployed to work at levelling the famous mound known as Conquer Hill, and filling up the adjoining fosse. The hill was the burying place of the chieftains who fought under King Brian, and should, therefore, as one speaker said, be regarded as sacred.

After deciding to call a monster indignation meeting for Sunday next, a resolution was adopted protesting against the unspeakable act of vandalism which was being perpetrated by the Corporation of Dublin by levelling the venerated and historic mound, under which have reposed for nine hundred years the relics of the Irish heroes who fell at the battle of Clontarf, and calling upon the citizens of Dublin to take means to put a stop to these ghastly operations and to restore the mound to its original condition.

A telegram was dispatched to the Lord Mayor demanding the immediate withdrawal of the workmen.

GENERAL NEWS.

(From our London correspondent.)

It has been arranged that the Baroness Burdett-Coutts is to be buried at noon on Saturday in Westminster Abbey. The last woman buried in Westminster Abbey was Mrs. Gladstone in 1900.

The progress made by the Princess Royal still continues satisfactory, but her complete recovery must naturally be slow, considering the serious illness which she has undergone, necessitating two operations.

A new telegraphic wonder is about to be adopted. The New York Central Railway intends to install a new telegraph system, by which a thousand messages can be sent at the same time, in each direction, over a single wire.

Tullio Giara, a young Italian, is the inventor and he says that the system will also be applicable to wireless telegraphy, by which twenty messages can be sent in each direction at the same time.

Sir Robert Romer, who has resigned his position as a Lord Justice of Appeal, has now been appointed a justice of the peace in Hertfordshire.

When the frost became so sharp last week it is a fact that the price of coal in London rose 5/- a ton. A good spell of mild weather would certainly reduce it to its former price.

Many more lives have been lost in the railway disaster near Washington than was at first anticipated; at the time of writing sixty three have died.

Carelessness is attributed to the men who ran down the local train, and five of them have been arrested. The morgue and the hospitals of Washington have been filled with the victims.

George Gourlay, the driver of the North British express train, which crashed into the local train at Elliot Junction, was taken into custody by the Edinburgh police on Monday afternoon. Gourlay has been nearly all his life in the service of the North British Railway Company and is one of the eldest drivers on the line.

The death of the Countess of Clancarty occurred at Garbally Court, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, on Monday evening. The end came peacefully after several years of suffering, endured with great fortitude.

It is just eighteen years ago since Lady Clancarty, then Miss Belle Bilton, gained fame as one of the most beautiful artistes on the Music Hall stage, where she and her sister "Flo" were known as the Sisters Bilton. In 1889 she became the wife of Viscount Dunlop who in 1891 succeeded his father as Earl of Clancarty.

Professor McGee of New York has lately declared that the American of the future will be the noblest of all human beings. He says the American of today is more cultured and more vigorous and nobler—physically and morally—than any other person.

Continued "cross-breeding" will produce the great race of the future, when Americans will be taller, stronger, more intellectual, and longer lived than today.

Now that the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Leuchtenberg has been dissolved, it is considered probable that the Princess will marry the Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia.

Charles Trocee was married on a surgeons' table in New York just before undergoing an operation for injuries sustained in a duel he had fought about his bride who was a waitress, and with whom both he and his antagonist were in love.

Mme. Litvinne, who is to sing during the German Opera season at Covent Garden this month, has been engaged for a series of performances at the Paris Opera in March and April.

The German Opera starts at Covent Garden on the 14th inst. with "Die Meistersinger" which will be conducted by Herr Leopold Reichwein, a young man who has already made a great name for himself.

No opera has ever had a greater success than "Salome" which is now creating such a sensation in Düsseldorf and in Elberfeld. It is the biblical subject alone which prevents it being heard in England.

Mr. George Edwardes is seriously contemplating the despatch of his entire Gaiety company with "Aladdin" to the United States next summer.

Established 1835.

Schramm & Echtermeyer
Grocers
10b, Sidonien Strasse 10b
(corner of Prager Strasse).
Breakfast and other Teas.
Coffee, Cocoa, Chocolate.
English and German Biscuits.
Tinned Meat, Fish and Vegetables.
Preserved Fruit, Marmalade and Jams.
English Pickles and Sauces.
Wines, Liqueurs, &c.

The mail steamer "Armenian" arrived at Boston, U. S. A., on the 30th ulto and on the same day the "Pannonia" arrived at Liverpool from New York and on the 31st ulto the "Australia" arrived there from Bombay.

From New Orleans comes the sad news of the death there on Saturday last of the well-known cricketer, Mr. G. R. Bardwell, formerly captain of the Oxford team, and a member of the Lancashire Eleven.

Mr. Bardwell had undergone a serious operation some months ago from which it was believed he had quite recovered. He was only thirty-three years old. His death, sudden as it was, has greatly shocked his many friends in Manchester, where he was especially popular.

General Sir Henry de Bathe, Bart., the father-in-law of Mrs. Langtry, is lying seriously ill with an acute attack of bronchitis at Wood End, near Chichester.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have appointed Mr. Sydney S. Hough, F. R. S. chief Assistant to the Astronomer at the Observatory, Cape of Good Hope, to be Astronomer at that Observatory on the retirement of Sir David Gill, K. C. B.

A bread famine has been caused by the recent snowfall in East Lothian. Six days have elapsed since many snowed up villages got their last supply of bread.

There is no foundation for the reports circulated with reference to the health of Mr. W. H. Lever, M. P. He is perfectly well and declares that he has not had a day's illness for years.

The City Police have left their head quarters in Old Jewry, in consequence of the break out of typhoid fever, owing to defective drains. It is probable that it will be three months before they can return to their old quarters.

Two liners of 11,000 tons are to be added to the Allan Line fleet. The Allan Line carried 77,942

passengers to Canada last year against 70,045 in 1905.

A bust of the late Mr. George Herring is to be executed by Mr. George Wade at the request of the executors of the late philanthropist. This is to be placed in the Mansion House.

On Monday evening a real Prince and Princess will entertain the audience at the Tivoli Music Hall. Prince Robert de Broglie will conduct the orchestra, and his American wife Princess Estelle de Broglie will sing Italian, English, French and American songs.

When Prince Robert de Broglie married Estelle Alexander, a California girl, his father, Prince Amedee, disinherited him. They eventually became very poor and with their child were actually starving when discovered two months ago in a New York garret. An offer from an American Music Hall was accepted and now they are seeking their fortune in England.

Four polo grounds are to be opened at Ranelagh this summer, and on each Saturday afternoon the band of the 21st Lancers will be in attendance.

The Ranelagh Club has issued its preliminary programme for the season of 1907. Open-air plays are to be given in the gardens during the summer, and there will be visits from the Four-in-Hand and Coaching Clubs.

Sir Bache and Lady Cunard, who have been visiting Prince and Princess Hatzfeld at Draycott House, Chippenham, returned to town before going to Nevill Holt, Market Harborough.

NOTES FROM ALL QUARTERS.

The prorogation of Parliament gives point to a story told in *Macmillan's Magazine*. It is customary for a copy of the King's Speech to be given to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who reads it in due course in the Lower Chamber. On his return to the Other Place in the August of 1903 the Speaker, sitting on the chief clerk's chair and putting his hat on the table, said that he should be unable to conform to the ancient usage owing to the fact that by some oversight he had not been furnished with a copy, and he hoped it would be taken as read. What the faithful Commons would have liked to have said about the Minister responsible for this forgetfulness is not known, for Parliament was already prorogued, the gold mace had disappeared, and the two score members were powerless to protest against the indignity.

An amusing incident is related in the *Sunday at Home* regarding the late Duke of Argyll. He had entered, at a Scotch railway siding, into the carriage which contained, in addition to the narrator, a passenger, who proved to be the Duke of Rutland, and a Scotch bagman. His Grace of Belvoir engaged the lord of Inveraray in a conversation which gradually admitted the commercial occupant of the compartment. Presently the English Duke got out. Enquired the bagman of the Duke, "Pray, sir, can you tell me the name of the gentleman who has just alighted?" "And only fancy," said the business gentleman, on hearing who it was, "a great swell such as that talking so affably to two little snobs like you and me!"

Travelling from Preston after "writing up" an important service in one of the principal Roman Catholic churches (says the *Manchester Guardian*), a newspaper man found seated opposite him in the railway compartment a priest who was regarding him with considerable attention. At last he said: "I believe, sir, you are connected with the Press." The reporter acknowledged the connection. "There is one thing that I wish you gentlemen of the Press would do for us here in the north." Thinking, of course, that he was about to be favoured with some statement of importance the reporter gave his undivided attention. "Yes," the cleric continued, "I wish you would give us longer accounts of the northern football matches."

Writing on "judicial bon-mots" in the *Grand Magazine*, Mr. L. Temple Gray says that Mr. Justice Maule, one of the most notable of the Victorian judges, is the prince of judicial wits. "My lord, you may believe me or not, but I have stated not a word that is false, for I have been wedded to truth from my infancy," exclaimed a witness, when cautioned by the judge.—"Yes, sir," said Mr. Justice Maule, "but the question is how long you have been a widower." At one time the bailiff in charge of a jury was sworn to keep them "without meat, drink, or fire." It was Mr. Justice Maule who gave the classic reply to the bailiff who inquired whether he might grant a jurymen's request for a glass of water: "Well, it is not meat, and I should not call it drink. Yes, you may." Another characteristic display of Mr. Justice Maule's humour was occasioned by the appearance of a little girl in the witness-box. It was the judge's duty, before