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THE PHILISTINE.

The importance of fashion, in its strictly scientific bearing, is only just beginning to be recognized among the theorists. It may be, perhaps, that in the tilt of a hat or the twist of a boa the plodding student of Nature will discover some illuminating corollary to the Darwinian theory, and that philosophic historians who are eager to complete the speculations of Schlegel or Herder or Buckle from the data of fashion will base their theories on the decline of the silk-hat or the recrudescence of silver buckles. These researches must have the unqualified approval of such sensible people as would wish to see the work of the author of "Sartor Resartus" in the clear light of scientific inquiry, or understand exactly why the follies of yesterday appear no less absurd today than those of tomorrow will appear next week. Meanwhile, what one sees can only increase one's wonder at the fertility of human resources—a feeling which Mr. H. G. Wells once described as his "constitutional amazement" at his fellow-creatures—and one's thankfulness that one may be saved from boredom by being at least irritated into actual resentment. It is not a little difficult to cultivate a decent optimism in the face of the terrible majority whose lack of taste and reason, and the sensitiveness which depends on both, offends one in ugly sights and sounds on every hand. One cannot, after all, walk through life, as it were on the tight-rope of one's self-sufficiency, although one has the reiterated warning of even fine natures succumbing to the caprices of the moment because they had not the strength or the judgment to snatch the scanty wheat without the bounteous tares. For there are fashions not only in the hang of a garment or the length of a lock, but in ideas, in expression, in sensibility, in generosity, in receptiveness; so that in trying to trace the dividing line between actual progress and the ephemeral imitative faculties of men one may well be much bewildered.

By transporting the forcible epithet of Philistine from Germany when that weapon still bore upon it the traces of Heine's victims, Matthew Arnold did much to fix a standard for the serious observers of vulgarity; but at this moment it is perplexing to determine whether we are on the upward sweep of an intellectual wave which is to leave us perched upon a higher level or whether we are again to descend into the easy depths where the voices of the elect reach us faintly, if at all. Is it, then, that the intellectual and artistic striving of today in England, in Germany, in America, in Scandinavia is actually taking effect, and is it an illusion or the truth that the Philistine and the Philistine creed are disappearing? In Scandinavia the case may be otherwise; but there is much to show that in Germany, in America and in England intellectual movements are conditioned by circumstances which tend to render them transitory and superficial. It appears to us that Philistinism has not grown less real, but more suave and hypocritical. The mid-Victorian Philistine was an honest, outspoken, table-thumping creature, a dweller upon the earth and a worshipper of secure foundations; at heart the modern Philistine is perhaps the same, but he shuns violent moods and direct expression. Where his father was genteel, he is smart, and often where his father was solid, he is merely fashionable; and just now it is not unfashionable to be a little intellectual. It is well to make it entirely clear that Philistinism and fashion are interdependent, firstly, because Philistinism, like fashion, draws its essence from self-consciousness, secondly because Philistinism sprang originally, and still thrives, in the desire to do not what is worthy, but what is conventionally correct. The conclusion that Philistinism and stupidity are almost synonymous terms is not only logically plausible, but

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actually true; and Philistinism which apes good taste, like "the pride that apes humility" is the most painful of the stupidities. Each age carries its own afflictions; but we doubt whether the self-satisfaction which goaded Carlyle's wit into savagery was worse than the placid assumption of an intellectual superiority consciously false and ludicrously unconvincing.

RIVAL SUFFRAGIST CAMPS.

The split in the ranks of the Suffragettes was clearly demonstrated on Saturday when a conference of the adherents of Mrs. Despard, representing thirty-one branches of the Women's Social and Political Union, was held at Caxton Hall, Westminster. The following resolution was passed:—

"That this conference asserts its absolute right to the name, funds, property, and literature of the W.S.P.U., now at 4, Clement's Inn but, in view of the fact that it would harm the women's movement to waste time and money in litigation, they do not intend to take legal steps to make good their claim, but they demand a statement of accounts."

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Rather strong easterly winds, dry, variable skies,
somewhat cooler.



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LONDON PREPARING FOR THE KAISER.

London, October 17.

The Westminster Council have decided to decorate the streets through which the German Emperor and Empress will drive on their way to the Guildhall. It was at the same time resolved to present their Majesties with an address of welcome.

THE VISIT OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS TO ENGLAND.

Sheffield, October 18.

The Lord President of the Council, the Earl of Crewe, said, in the course of a speech delivered here yesterday evening: "I am convinced that the English people will give a cordial welcome to the German Emperor and Empress, not only because of the relations of kindred that exist between their Majesties and our Royal family, although that fact would secure them a friendly reception, but also because we consider the Kaiser a great man, whether as an idealist and at the same time a man of action, a thinker and prominent administrator".

LORD CREWE ON FOREIGN POLICY.

The Earl of Crewe, Lord President of the Council, made a speech at Sheffield on Wednesday in which he declared the Anglo-Russian Convention to be satisfactory for both parties. He went on to express his regret that the Hague Conference had not arrived at a more satisfactory result. Its proceedings had been of too theoretical a nature, but before the next Conference the Powers would have to be agreed on the topics of discussion.

AMERICAN NEWS.

DINNER WITH THE PILGRIMS IN NEW YORK.

New York, October 16.

A dinner was given in honour of the Bishop of London by 250 Pilgrims last night. The hall was profusely decked with British and American flags. Three cheers were given all the company standing, for King Edward, for President Roosevelt, and for the Bishop of London. A telegram was read from the Pilgrims in London, who said they joined in honouring "an all-round tennis player and Anglo-Saxon."

The Bishop said he accepted the splendid welcome given him there as an honour paid to his country and the great city he represented. Of President Roosevelt the Bishop said: "He struck me as a man who kept everybody in America alive." Dr. Ingram declared that he did not play singles with Mr. Roosevelt, but doubles, and when the Bishop's side won, as it did, the President looked as pleased as if he had beheld a man who had had twenty children. He expressed his admiration for America's power to assimilate over a million immigrants yearly. He proposed a competition between Great Britain and America in the problem of dealing with the slums in great cities. He had been studying New York slums that day, and had been impressed by the efficient work which was being done in that direction here.

THE VANDERBILT WEDDING.

The reports that the Vanderbilt family, with the exception of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, are opposing the marriage of Miss Gladys Vanderbilt with Count Czechenyi, appear to be quite correct, says the New York correspondent of the *Globe*, but there is no ground whatever for the newspaper story that, on that account, the wedding will not take place. The function may perhaps be shorn of a little brilliancy, but even if matters are not smoothed over, as they are generally expected to be, the wedding is bound to be a big society event.

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