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BERLIN

Mrs. Babcock, of Speyerer Strasse 26, will give her last At Home before going away, tomorrow afternoon. She leaves about March 9th, expecting to return to Berlin in about two and a half months.

Mrs. Ballentine entertained her many friends at tea on Wednesday last at her apartment, Motz Strasse 72.

Besides the grand Ball which Mr. and Mrs. Willi Albrecht are giving at their home, Königin Augusta Strasse 35, this evening, they have also invited the youngest folk of the American Colony to a children's ball on Saturday.

Mr. William C. Dreher, one of the Berlin correspondents of the *Associated Press*, and Mrs. Dreher have sent out numerous invitations for an At Home, at their residence, Speyerer Strasse 26, on Thursday evening, March 5th next.

Though the exhibition of old English masterworks was officially closed on Tuesday evening as reported, it was once more visited by the Royal family on Wednesday morning. The Empress appeared at 10.45 a.m. attired in a beautiful robe of old gold velvet and a dark hat. She was accompanied by Princess Victoria Louisa, the Crown Princess and Princess Alexandra Victoria, the fiancée of Prince August Wilhelm. Half an hour later the Emperor arrived, and was received and escorted through the exhibition by the president of the Academy, Professor Artur Kampf, and the director, Professor Justi. The Royal visitors again closely inspected the pictures which had most interested them at their former visit. At 1 o'clock Their Majesties departed, expressing their hearty thanks to the professors. Many members of the *Reichstag* and the Prussian Diet, with their ladies, also visited the exhibition once more before its actual conclusion.

German aeronautic circles have been greatly surprised by a cable report from the United States to the effect that the President of the Aero Club of America, C. F. Bishop, had received word from Berlin that the balloon race for the Gordon Bennett Cup could not take place this year as the capacity of the Berlin gas factories was insufficient to produce the quantity of gas required for the inflation of the many balloons participating in the race. This report is entirely erroneous. There is gas enough in Berlin not only to provide the 23 balloons which are entered for the race proper with all the gas required, but also to arrange a race for the other balloons not entered for the Cup race, the day before. The cause of this rumour in America might be the fact that the management of the Berlin race has decided not to start from Tegel, as had been proposed in the beginning, because the gas produced there is a trifle heavier than that produced elsewhere; differences of weight, however, are of great importance in such races.

As a consequence of his visit to England Emperor William has now bestowed a number of Prussian orders on British naval officers. We note among them the following: Admiral the Rt. Hon. Lord Charles Beresford, commanding the Channel Fleet, received the Grand cross of the Order of the Red Eagle; Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Hedworth Lambton, aide-de-camp to His Majesty the King, the Order of the Red Eagle of the first class; Captain William Baker-Baker, Chief of Staff of the Admiral commanding the naval station of Portsmouth, the Red Eagle of the second class; Commander Hubert Cardale, commanding the destroyer "Teviot", and Paymaster of the Fleet Edmund Gipps, Secretary to the Admiral commanding the naval station of Portsmouth, the Red Eagle of the third class; Vice Admiral Charles Robinson, director of the Portsmouth Dockyard, the Order of the Crown of the first class; Commander Sir Charles Cust, aide-de-camp of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the star of the Order of the Crown of the second class; Lieutenant-Commander William Macdonald, commanding the Yacht "Firequeen," the Order of the

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LORD RIBBLESDALE'S SECESSION.

Lord Ribblesdale, one of the most influential Liberals outside the Ministry, has withdrawn his allegiance from the Government. A few days ago he resigned his position as president of the Skipton Liberal Association, on the ground of his complete disagreement with the Government's proposed readjustment of the relations of the two Houses of Parliament; and since then a fuller statement has been published in explanation of the step. "To begin with," says Lord Ribblesdale, "I am in favour of a Second Chamber." The proposals of the Government, he believes, would destroy the power of the House of Lords so completely as to reduce it to a state of submission bordering on nonentity. The issue drawn by the resolution of last June should have been joined at the earliest convenient time by a dissolution on that sole question. Lord Ribblesdale does not deny the right of a Government to choose its own time and method; but he recalls the significant treatment which the Committee of the House of Lords, now considering the question of reform, received at the Government's hands. It might have been urged that while such a committee existed the issue was not ripe to go to the country, were it not that the Committee has been completely boycotted by the Government. Not only was its formation officially opposed in the House of Lords, but no member of the Administration was allowed to sit upon it.

We must take care to point out that Lord Ribblesdale is not in any sense attacking the Government's general policy or the principles of his party. In giving his views with much impartiality he does full justice to the opinions of others and the dangers of controversy; and in summing up his arguments for putting the issue to the country he urges that "the grumbling excuse of an obstructive and paralyzing House of Lords should not be left any longer to the Government, nor the reproach of playing disingenuous and circuitous tricks with the Constitution be left as a weapon to the opposition." So too, Lord Ribblesdale has something to say for the principle of single-chamber Government, although he holds that the English people would not like it. This is to dole out justice to all parties, but it does not destroy the emphasis of Lord Ribblesdale's concluding

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DRESDEN

The many friends of Dr. and Mrs. Kretzschmar will be sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Kretzschmar's mother, in her eightieth year, which occurred at Brooklyn, N. Y., on Wednesday last.

Concert of Sophie Staehelin and Elsa Ruegger. Alto voices are today more rare than ever; and that seems all the more surprising because the crowding of lady singers to the stage and concert hall was never so great as now. Therefore, one may be particularly glad to meet with such a beautifully soft and pure-toned voice as that which Fräulein Sophie Staehelin possesses. This young Swiss lady has learnt much in the school of her Dresden mistress Miss Wollen; she well understands how to produce her tones and to spin them out nobly, while the ease and certainty with which she executes florid passages are surprising. The tone is not, as yet, quite free from the throaty quality peculiar to Swiss voices. But Fräulein Staehelin will surely get over that defect by earnest endeavour and with her considerable musical intelligence; and when she further avoids forcing the chest register upwards, and uses the head register more fully, she will be a concert-singer of rank. Fräulein Staehelin already knows well how to sing the old Italian masters and Händel, and her interpretation of Schubert's lovely songs "Die junge Nonne" and "An die Musik" deserves unreserved praise, while she was no less successful with Sinding's "Ein Maientag" and the Swiss composer Schoeck's refined song "Abschied."

Fräulein Elsa Ruegger, a pupil of the Brussels violinist Jacobi, has already had great success in Dresden at the *Harmonie Society's* concerts, and lately created a sensation in Berlin. She is unquestionably an artist of rank and master of her instrument, which she plays with great certainty of execution and fine taste. Technical difficulties she overcomes with ease; her *staccato* passages are particularly astonishing and, as her tone is of that warm and soulfully poetic quality that goes direct to the heart, she was the object of sincere ovations. It is much to be hoped that this specially gifted artist will soon come to Dresden again. She will without doubt attract a great crowd of enthusiastic adherents.—M. N.

At the Central Theatre today *Der fidele Bauer*, an operetta in 1 Vorspiel and 2 Acts by Victor Léon, music by Leo Fall, will be repeated. Tomorrow afternoon, at 3.30 p. m., the last performance of *Christbaums Wanderschaft*, a Fairy Play by F. A. Geissler, music by G. Pittrich, will take place; in the evening, at 7.30, *Der fidele Bauer*.

The guards in the city today are furnished by the 1st Grenadier Regiment No. 100. The band plays about 12.40 p. m. at the Schloss Platz.

Whoever has lost or left anything in the streets or squares of this city should enquire for the same at the *Fundamt* (lost property office) of the *Königliche Polizeidirektion*, Schiess Gasse 7.

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THE DEMOCRATIC GREEK.

A characteristic feature of Greek society is its democratic tendency. Such may be expected (says the *Wide World Magazine*) in a nation which has not enjoyed corporate existence long enough to permit the assumption by any one class or section of society of especial prestige, and in Greece the doctrine that all men are socially equal is very frankly observed.