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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

When the House met on Monday Mr. Asquith, who was loudly cheered from all parts of the House, announced the resignation of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and went on to say that the Government was now without a leader. That was not the time, said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to do fitting justice to the great qualities of the revered and respected statesman, or to dwell upon the brilliant services that he had rendered to the State. (Cheers.) In the annals of English history there was no man who, after a long life spent in the fiercest of political strife, had resigned the highest office under the Crown with more general popularity won or greater services accomplished. (Cheers.) The Minister concluded by proposing that the House should forthwith adjourn until the 14th instant.

Mr. Balfour associated himself with the feelings expressed by Mr. Asquith, and gave utterance to the cordial sympathy of the Opposition.

The House then adjourned until the 14th instant.

MR. ASQUITH'S DEPARTURE.

Mr. H. H. Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer, left London on Monday evening for Biarritz.

THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION.

The following noteworthy passages occur in the Russian reply to the British proposals for reform in Macedonia: In the Gendarmerie question Russia differs from the British standpoint. Above all, the status of the general organiser must be raised to the extent of his taking part in the finance commission. The proposed appointment of a general governor had no chance of gaining the unanimous approval of the Powers or of being accepted by the Sultan. The same object might be obtained by extending the powers of the general inspector. The tasks which concern the Gendarmerie must be imposed upon the finance commission, which must also frame the regulations respecting the Gendarmerie.

THE PERSIAN GULF TROUBLE.

Reuter reports from London that the Foreign Office received news from the British Embassy that by the Arab attack on the British steamer "Blösse" (or "Lynch") three passengers and a stoker were wounded. The Foreign Office immediately telegraphed the Constantinople Embassy instructing them to demand of Turkey the punishment of the assailants; in answer to which the assurance was received that Turkey would do all in its power to accede to this demand and to guarantee the safety of ships bound for the Tigris.

A NEW NAVAL PROJECTILE.

We hear that the new "Eron" projectile of Messrs. Hadfield, Sheffield, has been adopted by the British Government, and recently, after having been severely tested at Shoeburyness, a large number have been accepted for service by the Admiralty and War Office. This "Eron" projectile places a powerful means of attack in the hands of the gunner, afloat or ashore. Not only will the "Eron" shell penetrate 9 in. to 10 in. of Krupp cemented armour at a range of four miles, but at the same time it carries a bursting charge about three times that of the ordinary armour-piercing projectile. It has also a steadier flight, a longer range, and is inexpensive—all important advantages. This projectile is a patented invention of Messrs. Hadfield.

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SERIOUS BUILDING ACCIDENT.

A scaffolding in Upper Thames Street, says a London telegram, on which 30 men were at work, suddenly gave way, precipitating 20 of them to the street, a distance of from 15 to 20 feet. Some 12 of those who fell sustained injuries more or less severe.

AMERICAN NEWS.

BOMBS AT STEAMER DOCKS.

It is reported from New York that a bomb outrage has taken place at the new landing wharf of the White Star Line. Two bombs which had been placed under the bridge partially exploded, but caused little damage. The attempt, it is believed, was a private act of revenge on the part of the strikers.

JAPANESE OUTRAGE IN AMERICAN CONSULATE.

Four Japanese forced their way into the American Consulate at Mukden and attacked the native officials there. The attack was an act of private vengeance. The assailants were arrested by the Chinese police and taken to the Japanese Consulate. No apology for the outrage has been tendered, so that it is probable the affair will be made the subject of diplomatic representations.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

The House of Representatives has approved the Bill respecting the liability of employers. The United States is thus following Great Britain's example, but the Bill mentioned above will undoubtedly meet with considerable opposition on the part of American employers.

THE CRUISE OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET.

The visit to Australia by the United States Atlantic Fleet on its homeward voyage has now been definitely fixed by a telegram from the Navy Department to the Australian Premier, Mr. Deakin. The American battleships will arrive at Melbourne on September 1, and stay there ten days. The armoured cruisers will not visit Australian waters, but the 16 battleships will be divided into two squadrons of eight each. Mr. Deakin has telegraphed to say that the other Australian States hope that the fleet will also visit Perth, Hobart, Adelaide and Brisbane.

THE ELECTIONS IN PORTUGAL.

An official note issued at Lisbon announces that in practically all districts the elections passed off quietly. Several outbreaks in the capital itself were promptly suppressed. In Alcantara, Sao Domingos and Santos every measure was taken to maintain order and prevent the coercion of voters. The total number of arrests made in connection with the elections was 110. Troops guarded the church of Sao Domingos, against which stones were hurled.

A GHASTLY DISCOVERY.

The grave-digger of Wolfersdorf, a village in Bohemia, died recently at the age of 70, after 26 years' service. The cottage in which he had lived all that time belonged to the parish, and the authorities resolved to take the opportunity of repairing and improving it. When the bricklayers came to examine the kitchen chimney they found a male corpse hanging in it, wrapped in a cloth. A number of gold rings and other personal ornaments were also found in the cottage; how they came there is not known.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.*

By H. C. B.

The wares offered us by Agnes and Egerton Castle carry the hall-mark of originality and good writing. Moreover, so carefully accurate with regard to detail is the work of these gifted collaborators that the most critical reader fails to discover the minutest flaw in the historical *mise en scene* they artistically utilise in this and previous books. In the intricacies of fencing nomenclature, for instance, such as are introduced in that masterly narrative "Todescan's Secret Thrust," the picturesque phraseology is skilfully employed; indeed, one would suppose the authors to have made a life study of this particular theme. It is unnecessary to say that this conscientious, though by no means pedantic, attention to minutiae is rapidly becoming a lost art among latter-day novelists.

The charming sentiment of several of the stories in the present book is quite as unique a feature. In its own particular way, "If Youth but Knew" was a classic; and here we have the same delightful simplicity that characterised that former work. The cynical may sound the praises of the neurotic problem novel, but it is, nevertheless, a fact that the majority of the public remains as partial to healthy sentiment as ever. Unmarred by bathos, the writings of Mrs. and Mr. Castle continue to represent the highest modern standard of light literature, and prolific authors as they are, we welcome their output since it continues to maintain the same plane of thoughtful, erudite craftsmanship.

* *Flower o' the Orange*, by Agnes and Egerton Castle. Tauchnitz Edition. 1 Vol.

PIGEON'S WANDERINGS.

Into the yard of Mr. Stiles Jermaine, near Wolcott Centre, Connecticut, a carrier pigeon wandered a few days ago. Mr. Jermaine found that the carrier was one of his own flock, which had been gone three years. The leg showed that the pigeon had been in the naval service and had been liberated for speed tests.

EARNINGS AT THE BAR.

The Attorney-General recently entered into a speculation as to how many of the 10,000 members of the Bar might be considered as active members of the profession. Sir William Robson went on to quote a magazine article showing that the average earnings of members of the Bar did not exceed £75 per year. The *Law Journal*, however, points out that Sir R. Finlay some years ago expressed the view that there were 2,000 members of the Bar who were practising in the sense that they either got work or were in the way of getting it. If this estimate be accepted then the yearly earnings of the average member of the Bar would be £375.

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