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DRESDEN AND BERLIN, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1908.

10 PFENNIGS.

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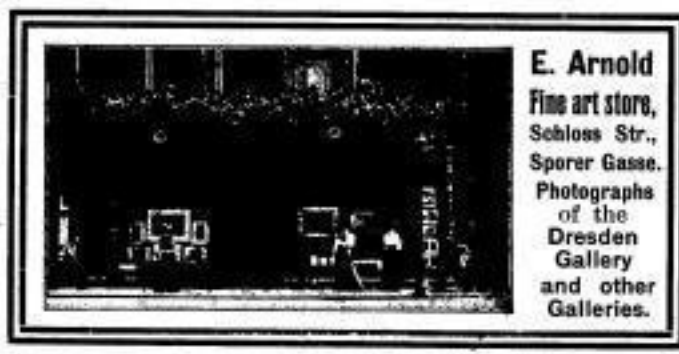
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THE DEARTH OF PLAY- WRIGHTS.

(From our London correspondent.)

For some weeks four plays by one and the same author have been running together in London. The author is Mr. W. Somerset Maugham and the plays are "Lady Frederick," "Mrs. Dot," "Jack Straw," and "The Explorer." Against the author and his plays there is not a word to be said. If Mr. Maugham could succeed in running a dozen plays at the same time and reaping an income almost as great as that of any leading publisher or pickle manufacturer there would still be nothing to say against him. He is justified in making the best of his opportunities; it is even his duty to do so. But if there is nothing wrong with Mr. Maugham there must be something wrong with London. Mr. Maugham is not, and, I think, does not profess to be more than a playwright who writes to amuse us. He writes most amusingly, to be sure. He has a pretty wit, a neat ingenuity, a certain pathos—all of them things which are very admirable. He is not, however, a social reformer, a stage reformer or a preacher under any disguise. Among dramatic authors he is what Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., M.P., is (or was, for tastes change rapidly) among politicians—an adroit young man with a strong faculty for making people laugh by means of a quite respectably intellectual method of titillation. Mr. Shaw could make one laugh by an even more intellectual method; Shakespeare could make one laugh, or cry, even more worthily than Mr. Shaw. Yet neither Shakespeare nor Shaw hold the undisputed field; Mr. W. Somerset Maugham does. Why? The answer is very simple. People go to the theatre with the sole motive of being amused, and Mr. Maugham amuses them. Mr. Shaw also amuses them—for a time; Shakespeare also amuses them—for a time. But to seek amusement at the risk of having also to feel gloomily sentimental or morbidly thoughtful constitutes a deterrent always present with plays which have body; and it is a deterrent which sufficiently deters the majority. A great deal of nonsense has been talked, and unfortunately also written, lately about a change in the character of playgoers. The people who are constantly readjusting the social divisions in order to accommodate their shifting perceptions or to tone down the colour of some social defeat, have been discovering that the audiences in theatres are no longer the same. The old audiences, who liked and understood good drama, stay in their suburban homes and do the gardening; the smart people, being composed entirely of successful chandlers, money-lenders, book-makers, cosmopolitan Americans and degenerate aristocrats, occupy the stalls and clamour for vulgarity; while the pit, the circles and the gallery, crammed with all kinds of stupid people, indelicately poor, ignorant, conventional, snobbish, sentimental and banal clap or hiss in harmony with their so-called "betters" in the stalls and boxes, thus doom-ing for ever and ever any intelligent attempt at artistic drama. The admirable ones can only with difficulty be drawn out of their suburban gardens to attend the Stage Society's plays on Sundays; they are so sick of the whole business that they no longer attempt to agitate against the unspeak-ability of the public taste; matters go from bad to worse, and, to crown all, Mr. W. Somerset Maugham, who is no genius but merely a little sparkling, a little original and a little human, becomes the autocrat of the managers.

That is one of the current analyses of our dramatic backwardness, and it is, strangely enough, somewhat of a favourite with unsuccessful authors for the stage. It may be true, although personally I think it is not; but if it is true, it is only a part of the truth, not the whole of it. The other part of the truth, and much the most important part, is the fact, patent and lamentable, that we have no authors, no new blood. Given good material, you are bound to draw once more to the theatre the best class of playgoers (supposing, for the sake of argument that such a class exists and has been alienated by the persistent output of rubbish). Good material need not neces-sarily be garishly new or revoltingly morbid; an author like Wedekind, for instance, would never



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find a place on the English stage. A touch of originality, a new vein, healthy, pleasant, not too fantastic, something that will not shock the consistency of British stage traditions—here are a few simple conditions for a successful and good new play. Such plays are produced and are popular; "The Mollusc," "The Education of Elizabeth," "Diana of Dobson's," and many others, are at once competent in workmanship and profitable from the business standpoint. They are not great drama certainly, but they are not bad drama either. Anything too ambitious, too loaded with ideas or idealism would be a risky speculation. A Somerset Maugham play (and when I say that it does not matter whether Mr. Somerset Maugham or some other pleasant person wrote it I have said the worst) just hits the public taste. Surely, the public taste might do, and has done, worse. Mr. Somerset Maugham is writing so many plays because the other young authors are too ambitious or too incapable to write similar ones.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

London, July 21.

Viscount Midleton asked whether the Government had adhered to the declaration recently made by the Secretary for War that no further reductions of the Regular Army were in contemplation.

The Earl of Crew: My reply is in the affirmative, but at the same time the circumstances under which the question is asked, I think, make it desirable that I should say a few words in explanation. The question is in itself a somewhat unusual one, because it has relation to the Army Estimates. I conceive the reason for asking it is the existence of certain rumours which have reached the newspapers. Political small talk and rumours of this kind—what the late Lord Beaconsfield called "Coffee House Babble"—are very apt to concentrate upon one office. I think it would be desirable, in the public interest, to state what has actually happened in this case. What has been going on has simply been an ordinary inquiry into the general expenditure, and has not been confined to one department, such as the Government is bound to make from time to time. We are as alive as the noble lords opposite to the needs of the defence of the country and I think that it will be found that we have devoted quite as much attention to the subject, if not more than, any Government which has existed before our time. It is perfectly true we are bound in the matter to study economy in the matter of the defensive services so far as we can, but we certainly do not intend to sacrifice efficiency to economy (cheers).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, July 21.

Mr. H. C. Lea asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he was aware that Admiral Lord Charles Beresford was chairman of John Henry Andrew and Company (Limited), Toledo Steel Works, Sheffield; whether it was permitted by the Admiralty that naval officers on full pay could engage in any form of business whatever; and would he state whether the firm above mentioned had during the last five years received any contracts from the Admiralty, and, if so, the value of such contracts in each of the five years respectively.

Mr. McKenna: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, according to the latest published information. Naval officers are not forbidden by the King's Regulations to engage

in business, but are forbidden to have any pecuniary interest or personal advantage in contracts for the supply of goods to the naval service. There is no record of any contract having been placed by the Admiralty with this firm during the last five years (Opposition cheers).

Mr. Lea: Arising out of that astonishing reply—(cries of "Order").

The Speaker: The hon. gentleman is not entitled in asking a question to make remarks on a reply. If the hon. member has another question to put let him put it courteously (loud cheers).

Mr. Lea: In deference to your remarks, may I say the reason I said it was astonishing was because I understood that no officers or men on full pay in the British Navy—

The Speaker: Order, order. The hon. member is now arguing. He had better put down any further question.

Mr. Macneill asked the Home Secretary whether the ladies sentenced to various terms of imprisonment in connection with the agitation for women suffrage was not merely compelled to wear clothes in prison which had been worn previously by ordinary women convicts, but were likewise deprived of their boots and shoes and compelled to wear boots worn many times by ordinary women convicts, which, of course, could not be boiled or washed, like the clothes, did not fit, and often caused blisters.

Mr. Samuel, who replied, said all the clothing supplied to these ladies was either new or clean. New shoes were supplied in every case. If any complaint that they did not fit, or that they caused blisters had been made they would have been immediately changed, but no such complaint had been made.

Mr. Macneill: Is the hon. gentleman aware that they make no complaint no matter what their grievances?

Mr. Samuel: I fail to see how the grievance is to be remedied unless it is brought to the attention of the authorities.

Mr. Stanier asked the First Lord of the Admiralty, with reference to the report of the Treasury Committee upon the subject of national insurance of merchant shipping, and to its conclusion that the latter must depend for protection exclusively on the Navy, and in view of the fact that we had only 67 unarmoured cruisers, most, if not all, of which would be required for service with our battle fleets, would he say how the Government proposed to maintain the security of our trade routes in time of war, and how many cruisers they expect to have at liberty for that purpose.

Mr. McKenna replied that it was not in the public interest that information should be given which would disclose the probable strategical disposition of our ships in war time (hear, hear).

In answer to a question by Mr. Bellairs, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. McKenna, said that the Government had no intention of abandoning the plans of creating a naval base at Rosyth.

Mr. Gretton desired to know if the question of a grant to cover aerial navigation experiments had been considered; whether such experiments were to be undertaken under the supervision of military authorities; and if naval officers were to be consulted on the subject. Mr. Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, replied that the entire question was being considered by the naval and military authorities, and that both were coöperating with each other.

THE BOMBAY DISTURBANCES.

Bombay, July 21.

One thousand dock labourers went on strike this morning, but so far no rioting has occurred. The authorities are on the alert, and all measures have been taken to prevent a repetition of yesterday's disturbances by the spinning factory employes.

THE WALFISH BAY QUESTION.

Cape Town, July 21.

Mr. Merriman, Prime Minister of Cape Colony, stated today that the Government did not intend to give up Walfish Bay because of the inadequacy of the arrangements for its defence. On this point, he added, the South African Government were unanimous.

(Continued on page 4.)

BERLIN

At the Neues Theater the successful farce, "Der Zerrissene," by Nestroy, will be repeated every night this week.

At the Morwitz Opera (Schiller Theater O.) the following operas are on the programme, with Heinrich Bütel as star, in the first three: Wednesday, "Martha"; Friday, "Die weisse Dame"; Saturday, "Undine"; Sunday, "Der Postillon von Longjumeau"; Sunday afternoon, "Carmen."

In the Friedrich-Wilhelmstädtische Theatre the popular English sensational play "Die Diebin," by Mc.Lellan, is still running.

At the Lustspielhaus "Die blaue Maus" is performed every night.

At the Kleines Theater "2 x 2 = 5," a farce in four acts by Gustav Wild, will be performed every evening this week.

Kammersängerin Ida Hiedler and Lola Ortót de Padilla (Comic Opera) have been engaged by the management of the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

The Comic Opera commences its season on September 1st, with a performance of Leoncavallo's "Zaza," in which we shall see two new artists, viz. the tenor Otto Marrak, of the Tschech National Theatre, and Fräulein Servais, of Paris.

The management of the Trianon Theater have purchased the performance rights of "Die Liebe wacht," a farce in three acts by Flers and Caillavet, and will stage it during the forthcoming season.

"Populäre Kammerspiele" will be the future name of the Theater an der Spree (Köpenicker Strasse 68), which has been leased by Herr William Wauer for a term of several years, for the purpose of giving the poorer classes an opportunity of witnessing artistic, high-class performances of literary value at low prices.

The Thalia Theater commences the season on August 14th with a new farce by Kren and Lipp-schütz, music by Viktor Holländer, libretto by Schönfeld. This novelty will be followed by Alexander Girardi as a star visitor, who is still fresh in the memory of the Berlin public owing to the enthusiasm his previous visit evoked. He will this time appear in his two best-known rôles, viz. as *Bruder Straubinger* and as the *Afor Torelli* in Eivler's "Künstlerblut," followed by Adolf L'Arronge's "Mein Leopold," in which he represents *Weigell*. A new farce, with Girardi in the cast, is planned; it has been written by the Vienna authors Siegmund Schlesinger and Jean Kren, and Paul Lineke will be responsible for the music.

BERLIN CURRENT ENTERTAINMENTS.

This evening:	
Royal Opera House	(closed).
Royal Theatre	(closed).
New Royal Opera Theatre	Tannhäuser (Knotel) . . . at 7
Deutsches Theater	Brettlgräfin (Sári Fodák) . . . 8
Lessing Theatre	Kammerspiele (closed).
Berliner Theatre	(closed).
New Theatre	Der Zerrissene . . . 8
New Schauspielhaus	Company of the New Operetta Theatre from Hamburg: Die Dollarpriessin . . . 8
Kleines Theater	Zweimal zwei ist fünf . . . 8
Comic Opera	(closed).
Residenz Theatre	(closed).
Lustspielhaus	Die blaue Maus . . . 8
Trianon Theatre	(closed).
Theater des Westens	Ein Walzertraum . . . 8
Schiller Theatre O.	Company of the Morwitz Opera: Oberon . . . 8
Charlotten- burg	(closed).
Frdr. Wilhelmst. Theatre	Die Diebin . . . 8
Thalia Theatre	Der Mann mit dem Monocle . . . 8
Urania Theatre	Durch Dänemark & Südschweden . . . 8

Every evening until further notice.

Metropol Theatre	Das muss man seh'n . . . at 8
Bernhard Rose Theatre	Das Geheimnis von New York . . . 8
Apollo Theatre	London Suburbia. Spezialitäten . . . 8
Passage Theatre	Berlin i. Stimmung. Spezialitäten . . . 8
Berliner Prater Theater	Die Welt ein Paradies . . . 7
Walhalla Theatre	Spezialitäten . . . 8



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AMERICAN NOTES.

Experience has shown that the most honest of all debtors is the United States Government, and as a further confirmation we may cite the recently reported case of a soldier, William Young, who had a deduction made from his pay in error, during the struggle between North and South. Young seemed to have vanished into space, but still the balance to his credit was brought forward year by year, with interest added, and recently Young was found in a sick hospital at Dayton, in Ohio. There he has received the sum of one dollar, representing his twenty cents with the accrued interest. It was accompanied with a most polite letter from the Treasury, which may lead the cynical to speculate that had Young's interest been represented by a million dollars, whether he would ever have been found.

In February, 1891, the New York *Sun* printed a page-deep picture of a 30-storey building, and with it the line of amazing query: "If the *Sun* should try it!" In 1908 the 30-storey building is a commonplace. Broadway boasts the Singer tower of 41 floors, with a tip-top height of 612 feet; Madison-square has the Metropolitan Life's tower with 46 floors and a gold-riveted tip 700 feet in the air, and the plans are filed for an Equitable structure of 62 stories and 909 feet. The plans excite not so much wonder over themselves as interest in the question where the skyscraping limit is to be found. Evidently this line will be set by law, if at all.

With reference to the report we published yesterday relative to the pending establishment of an airship passenger and freight service between certain towns in the Eastern States, this rumour is practically confirmed by a telegram to hand from New York. According to this message the new concern is to bear the imposing title of the "American Aerial Navigation Company," under the presidency of Mr. Charles Glidden, the well-known automobile manufacturer. A fleet of large airships is to be constructed, while stations for landing and embarkation are also contemplated. In this connection we venture to suggest that the roofs of some of the loftiest New York skyscrapers would answer the purpose admirably. The scheme as a whole appears to us, to say the least, rather premature. Under present conditions and in view of the adolescent stage of aerial navigation it would be an impossibility to maintain a regular service between fixed points regardless of weather conditions. Furthermore, we are not yet aware that any aeronaut has demonstrated his ability to land exactly on some designated spot. All things considered we are inclined to regard the project as very much in the air—in a strictly metaphorical sense!

Professor H. G. Russell, the principal of the Greenfield, Illinois, High School, has added a course in courtship to the curriculum of the school. The course will consist of a series of lectures, combined with the study of love poems. At intervals during the course the pupils will be required to write essays on such subjects as the following:—"How to take the heart by storm." "How to detect the advent of the grand passion." "How to behave if parental objection is manifested." "How to encourage bashful suitors." "How to propose." The introduction of this new subject into the educational course at the school has raised strenuous objections from the parents, but their attitude has been nullified by the great enthusiasm aroused among the pupils.

THE GREATEST EDITOR OF "THE TIMES."

(Continued.)

The mid-Victorian Englishman of the *Times* public was always a bit of a Pharisee, and the more selfish he was the more impeccable his conduct appeared in his own eyes. His policy was always a policy of British interests first, and the devil take the hindmost. As often happens in politics as in religion, those who seek their life shall lose it. Delane never seems to have realised the importance of the great new factors which came into existence under his eyes. The giant growth

of the United States only seemed to rouse in him a feeling of jealousy and dislike. The development of our colonies excited in him no enthusiasm. He disliked and distrusted the triumph of democracy. He was opposed to the Emperor Napoleon, but there is little to show his appreciation of the German Empire. He was clear-sighted enough to support the making of the Suez Canal against the warnings equally ludicrous and lugubrious of his friend Lord Palmerston. But the general impression left after reading these two volumes is that of a clear-sighted short-sighted man full of interest in everything within his limited range, but almost totally indifferent to everything that could not be seen from the windows of the Athenaeum or the terraces of Dunrobin Castle.

Within the frontiers partially self-created and partially imposed on him by his position, Delane was magnificent. He knew everybody, met everybody, and was trusted by everybody. Nothing is more interesting in these volumes than the evidence they afford as to the extent to which the Queen regarded the *Times* as one of the institutions of the realm. She does not seem ever to have sent for Delane to talk things over with him. But through Lord Torrington, Lady Ely, and others she was constantly communicating with him at second hand. It is, however, in his dealings with Ministers that we learn to admire him most. He had a supreme position, and he used it supremely. He had his personal partialities. Liking Palmerston, Aberdeen and Peel most of the Ministers of the Queen, he nevertheless was constantly consulted even by Mr. Gladstone in the crisis of the Irish Church Bill, and was on terms of confidential intercourse with the leaders of every governing party. He was emphatically a man of the old régime, in which the governing families ruled the nation by permission of the middle-classes. He does not appear to have ever identified himself either as a Whig or a Tory. He was not in sympathy with Mr. Gladstone, and he welcomed the dawning of Disraelian Imperialism. If he was a kind of domestic chaplain or journalistic confessor to Lord Palmerston, he was all the while constantly consulted as if he were an outside Cabinet Minister by members of every Cabinet that met in Downing Street. He welcomed the repeal of the Corn Laws, but did not break with Disraeli. He had one fierce passage at arms with Mr. Cobden, but he paid loyal tribute to the greatness of the services which which the chief Free Trader had rendered to the nation. Take him all in all he did his work wonderfully well. He was a hard worker, a vigilant editor, and a true friend.

The man who, although he is not a journalist, most nearly corresponds to the position of Delane in modern times, is Lord Esher. There is the same detachment from party, the same power of effective work, the same ability to command confidence from men of all parties, and the same power to influence the course of events—a power all the more remarkable when, as in Lord Esher's case, it is exercised by a man without the sceptre which Delane possessed in the control of the *Times*.

John Thaddeus Delane was of Irish descent. The second son of a London barrister, he was born two years after the battle of Waterloo, in South Molton Street. From King's College, London, he went to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he distinguished himself more by his horsemanship than by his studies, although even then he had a ready pen and used it to meet some of the expenses of his stable. His father, having made the acquaintance of the Walters in Berkshire, was appointed to a financial post on the *Times*—a circumstance which paved the way for the appointment of John Thaddeus Delane to a subordinate post on the *Times* in 1840. In that year Barnes, then editor, died. In 1841, at the age of twenty-four Delane was appointed editor. Was he not afraid of assuming so vast a responsibility? "Not a bit," he replied in after years. "What I dislike about you young men of the present day is that you all shrink from responsibility." Delane, as this remark shows, died before the dawn of the era of the New Journalism, of which shrinking from responsibility is certainly not the besetting sin.

He inherited an editorial staff which he speedily remodelled. Dament, his brother-in-law, was his assistant editor, and among the men whom he trained in leader-writing and started in journalism were Robert Lowe, Leonard Courtney, Sir W. H. Russell, Lawrence Oliphant, Dr. Woodham, of Cambridge, Dr. Wace, W. Stebbing, Mr. Macdonnell, Thomas Mozley, and A. W. Kinglake. Lord Torrington, Abraham Hayward, and Charles Greville served for him outside, and Mowbray Morris became business manager in 1847. Like Dament, he also was a brother-in-law of Delane. The *Times* in those days was almost as much a family party as the Harmsworth press is today.

(Continued on page 4.)

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The English Chancellor of the Exchequer, when on the look-out for means of "broadening the basis of taxation," might do worse than to cast an eye upon some of the hideous billboards which defile English landscape. A heavy tax upon these abominations would be hailed with enthusiasm by a long-suffering public.

In Hamburg and in Berlin posters can only be displayed upon advertising pillars built for the purpose, under the authority and control of the city, which receives in Hamburg 25 per cent. of the gross profits. There are 100 similar pillars in Berlin, which, besides being utilised by the Corporation for storing sand, tools, &c., yield a profit of £ 20,000 per annum to the City Treasury. In France, in communes of less than 2,500 inhabitants, twelve cents. per square meter; in communes from 2,500 to 40,000 inhabitants, thirteen cents.; in cities over 40,000, twenty cents., and in Paris thirty cents. per square meter. This is for business or other announcements of more or less permanent character. Temporary "affiches" or posters are subject to a stamp tax according to size from two to six cents. per sheet.

Professor Kattenbusch, of Göttingen, has compiled some interesting statistics of Protestant Christianity. In the United States Protestantism, notwithstanding the great progress of Catholicism, counts 65 millions of adherents in a population of 79 millions. Great Britain comes second, with 37 millions of Protestants in 42 millions of British citizens. The German Empire has 35 millions in a population of 56 millions. In France the number of Protestants has remained 700,000 during the last century. The total number of Protestants in the world is given as 180 millions, 114 millions of whom speak the English language.

The International Congress of Hotel Proprietors, which met recently at Ostend, suggested the use of a special telegraphic code for the use of travellers desiring to send their orders by telegram. Thus, according to the proposed vocabulary, "alba" signifies "reserve a room," "ciroc" means three bedrooms, "kind" is "child's cot." When for some reason or other it is desired to cancel an order already given, the word "canul" is all that is necessary. Unfortunately the postmasters of the different countries, the Belgian Postmaster excepted, have refused to officially recognise the code.

The programme of the orchestral concert at the Royal Belvedere this evening will be as follows:—(1) Lanner-Marsch, Trenkler. (2) Overture "Lodoiska," Cherubini. (3) "Wiener Boben," Walzer, Strauss. (4) Feierlicher Zug zum Münster, Wagner. (5) Vorspiel "Hänsel und Gretel," Humperdinck. (6) Intermezzo aus "Hoffmann's Erzählungen," Offenbach. (7) Tonbilder aus "Carmen," Bizet. (8) Zwei slavische Tänze, Moszkowsky. (9) Bei dir mein liebes Mütterlein, Lied für Posaune mit Orchester (1. Mal), Bolma. (10) Mitternachts-Polka, Waldteufel. (11) Czardas aus "Der Geist des Wojewoden," Grossmann.

The guards in the city today are furnished by the 1st Grenadier Regiment No. 100. No music will accompany guard mounting today.

DRESDEN CURRENT ENTERTAINMENTS.

Royal Opera House.		
Closed till August 8.		
Royal Theatre Neustadt.		
Closed till September 11.		
Residenz Theatre.		
Tonight	Seine Hobelt	at 7.30
Friday night	Seine Hobelt	" 7.30
Saturday night	Im Sperlingsnest	" 7.30
Central Theatre.		
Tonight	Das letzte Mittel	at 8
Friday night	Das letzte Mittel	" 8
Saturday night	Das letzte Mittel	" 8

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OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The numberless admirers of that unfortunate genius Oscar Wilde will welcome this reprint of what must take rank as one of the most forcible works he ever penned. As a character study Dorian Gray is a profound object lesson. The awful corruption of soul following upon a crisis in youth and developed under the pernicious influence of unscrupulous intimates is remorselessly depicted; the denouement, as might be expected of such an intensely dramatic author, is powerful and uncanny. The book teems with pages of word colouring marvellous in its exquisite aestheticism, but the morbid strain that distinguished Wilde throughout his picturesque career is never quite absent. The author's artistic tenets here find articulate expression in a somewhat allegorical form.

Messrs. Philippotts and Bennett have previously collaborated with distinguished success, and we recently had the pleasure of reviewing one of the former's latest narratives in these columns. The work under consideration is a sensational romance of high rank. Its lurid background is exploited to the utmost by two writers who have long been favoured by the reading public. We are taken behind the scenes of international finance, brought into intimate touch with men in whose hands are held the destiny of nations, and in spite of the daring flights of fancy undertaken by the authors the thread of probability is never strained to breaking point. This book gives ample promise of notable work in the future from the same source.

At a time when Poland and the Poles are again attracting the world's attention, when the papers are monotonously regular in printing harrowing despatches from that unhappy land of suffering and unrest, Miss Gerard (Mme. Longard de Longard) has been opportune in producing a work which is calculated to throw a new light on the ever-seething revolutionary spirit which directly or indirectly affects three great nations. Miss Gerard has had peculiar privileges of gaining a clear insight into the life of the people about whom she discourses, and these privileges she has evidently availed herself of to the utmost. There are many thrilling incidents in the book, that dealing with the escape from the prison at Warsaw—the details of which are founded on fact—being described most skilfully. This is a volume not to be overlooked by those who appreciate a breathlessly exciting, well-written romance.

That Mr. W. E. Norris has achieved widespread popularity among Anglo-American readers is evidenced by the fact that no less than twenty-four of his works have already appeared in the Tauchnitz edition. His latest work, *Pauline*, we are inclined to hail as the best he has yet given us. A motive of profound pathos takes the place of that light humour which we had come to regard as an essential characteristic of Mr. Norris, but the change is undoubtedly for the better. A wide knowledge of human nature is a distinguishing feature of this most readable book.

The Picture of Dorian Gray, by Oscar Wilde, 1 Vol.
The Statue, by Eden Phillpotts & Arnold Bennett, 1 Vol.
Restitution, by Dorothea Gerard, 1 Vol.
Pauline, by W. E. Norris.

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NEW BOOKS.

Tauchnitz edition, to appear July 30th.
"Buried Alive" by Arnold Bennett. Author of "The Grand Babylon Hotel" &c. 1 vol.
"De Profundis" and "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" by Oscar Wilde. Author of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" &c. 1 vol.

VISITORS AT THE SPAS.

Arrivals at Bad Elster up to the 17th of July numbered 7,363.

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Saturday, July 25th. S. James A. and M. 8.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 9.0 a.m. Matins.
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GENERAL NEWS.

(Continued from page 1.)

THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

London, July 21.

The eight hundred metre race was won today by the American athlete Sheppard. Braun (Germany) came in third.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

MR. TAFT AND THE TRUSTS.

London, July 21.

The *Times* publishes the following report from its New York correspondent: Keen interest has been aroused here by Mr. Taft's announcement that he will accept no contribution whatever from corporations to his campaign funds. Mr. Taft adds that he believes his resolution will put him well within the law regulating contributions to campaign funds, which was passed in 1907. This desire to conform to a law of doubtful constitutionality but undoubted popularity will, it is thought, take the wind out of Mr. Bryan's similar act of self abnegation. It is understood that Mr. Taft is devoting much care to that part of his speech of nomination acceptance which will deal with the Trust problem. However, unless he has changed his mind since leaving Washington, it will be found to contain nothing radical. The general opinion, therefore, is that Mr. Taft's refusal to accept money from corporations is due, not to a feeling that in any case their help would be small, but to a desire to prove that if hereafter he refrains from pressing the attacks made on the large Trusts by Mr. Roosevelt it will not be from a spirit of gratitude. Be this as it may, Mr. Taft's determination will certainly be endorsed by the mass of his party, whatever the opinion of some of his political lieutenants who, like Mr. Sheldon, the official guardian of his campaign fund, have committed themselves unreservedly to a continuance of the old methods of collecting money.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNREST.

New York, July 21.

The Government of Guatemala has notified the U.S. State Department that war is imminent between Nicaragua and Honduras.

GERMAN STEAMER WRECKED OFF FRISCO.

San Francisco, July 21.

The German freight steamer "Anubis" has stranded off Point Conception, and will probably become a total wreck. The first and second officers, together with several of the crew, have been landed at Point Conception by a lifeboat. There are still 77 people on board, including 19 passengers.

A later *Lloyd* telegram announces that the entire crew has been rescued.

SENSATIONAL STORY OF A PLOT.

New York, July 21.

A New York detective has been accused by a young milliner's assistant of having offered her, at the instance of Mr. Frank J. Gould, the well-known capitalist, the sum of one thousand dollars in consideration of her giving information to the State Attorney that she had caught Mr. Gould in a compromising situation with a dancer. The idea was to facilitate Mr. Gould's efforts to become divorced. The girl at first consented to the detective's proposals, but later, becoming conscience-stricken, she revealed the plot.

(The latest book of reference gives Mr. Frank J. Gould, who is thirty years of age, as unmarried.)

BRITISH BLUEJACKETS ON U.S. WARSHIPS.

According to a contemporary's New York correspondent, newspaper dispatches from Canada state that complaint has been made by the officers commanding the British warships now at Quebec that alleged American agents have been at work among the bluejackets, with the result that there have been numerous desertions. Experience, however, has always been that it is not necessary for Uncle Sam to employ special agents for the purpose of inducing the British bluejacket to desert. No British warship has ever put into an American port without losing a number of men. The same may be said of American warships visiting foreign ports. The American sailor man deserts in British ports mainly, it has always been believed, because he wants a change of scene and relief from severe discipline. The British bluejacket deserts at American ports as a rule because he knows that he can forthwith obtain a job in the United States Navy at double the pay and no questions asked.

Time was when half the lower deck personnel of the American Navy were Britishers, but the proportion of American born seamen and stokers is more satisfactory now, and the service is steadily growing in popularity. Nevertheless there is still a shortage of men, and the supply of officers is insufficient to fill up the authorised establishment. It is understood that the subject of the personnel of the Navy is at present under the consideration of a Departmental Committee, and that its report is expected in Naval quarters to make important and far-reaching recommendations.

MUTINY ON A STEAMER AT HAMBURG.

Hamburg, July 21.

The Bremen-Hansa steamship "Rabenfels," lying in harbour here, was the scene of a serious mutiny this morning. The entire body of coloured stokers, some 20 Hindoos, became riotous, and felled two white machinists with iron bars and shovels. The harbour police boarded the vessel and succeeded in restoring order, after having taken the ring-leaders into custody.

PRESIDENT FALLIÈRES IN DENMARK.

Copenhagen, July 21.

Early this morning President Fallières paid a visit to Roskilde, where he laid a wreath on the tomb of King Christian IX. Later in the day he gave a lunch at the French Embassy, the guests including the King and Queen, members of the royal family, Ministers of State, and other prominent persons. During the afternoon M. Fallières was entertained at the town hall, where he expressed his gratitude to Senior President Oldenburg for the warm welcome he had received.

THE NEW YORK-PARIS AUTOMOBILE RACE.

St. Petersburg, July 21.

The American Thomas automobile which is competing in the New York-Paris automobile race arrived at Moscow yesterday. None of the other competitors has yet been sighted.

THE "YOUNG TURKEY" MOVEMENT.

Constantinople, July 21.

The "Young Turkey" movement in the district of Salonica, garrisoned by the third army corps, continues to manifest itself in threats and outrages against military officials, the situation giving rise to grave apprehension. During the last few days Lieut.-Col. Nazim has been wounded at Salonica, while a cavalry colonel at Serres and another officer at Dibre have been assassinated.

THE BOMB OUTRAGE AT MALMO.

Malmo, July 21.

The carpenter Nilson who was arrested on suspicion of implication in the recent bomb outrage which occurred on the hulk "Almathea," in which were eighty English dock labourers, has now confessed his guilt, as have also the two men Stern and Rossberg, who were previously taken into custody. It now transpires that Rossberg was primarily responsible for the plot and also stole the dynamite, but that Nilson, being unmarried, volunteered to do the actual work of blowing up the ship.

LATE TELEGRAM.

DEATH OF A FAMOUS PEACE ADVOCATE.

London, July 22.

Sir William Randal Cremer, M. P., founder of the Interparliamentary Conferences, died this morning.

(By the death of Sir Randal Cremer the cause of peace loses one of its most earnest and distinguished advocates. He will chiefly be remembered as the founder of the Interparliamentary Conferences, which have met since 1888 at Paris, London, Rome, Berne, The Hague, Buda Pesth, Brussels, Christiania, Vienna, and St. Louis, U.S.A. He was also mainly responsible for the arbitration treaty between Great Britain and the United States. For 37 years he was secretary of the International Arbitration League, and in this capacity visited every country in Europe advocating its objects. In 1903 he was awarded the gold medal and Nobel Peace Prize, £8,000 of which he gave to the International Arbitration League as an endowment. He was also a prolific writer of articles championing that noble cause to which he may truly be said to have devoted his life.—Ed.)

TOO OLD AT SIXTY?

Will Dr. William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, be too old at sixty? He must settle the question within twelve months, for last week he celebrated his fifty-ninth birthday. He is commonly reported to have originated the phrase "too old at forty," but this is not the case. Here are his actual words:—

"The teacher's life should have three periods—study until twenty-five; investigation until forty; profession until sixty, at which time I would have him retired on a double allowance. Whether Anthony Trollope's suggestion of a college and chloroform should be carried out or not, I have become a little dubious, as my own time is getting so short."

Many men who heard Dr. Osler, indignantly denied that they were too old; but one of his disciples burst out thus:—

Brother, I am sixty-one,
So my work on earth is done;
Calm should follow after storm—
Reach me down the chloroform.

THE GREATEST EDITOR OF "THE TIMES."

(Continued from page 2.)

From that time till 1877 the history of the *Times* and the biography of Delane are one, and as neither can be told without rewriting the history of the world for thirty-seven years, I shall not attempt the task, but confine myself to indicating with Mr. Dasent's aid some characteristics of the man and his work.

As an editor Delane achieved much that was good, prevented much that was evil, and by way of a counter-weight did a good deal of harm by his devotion to Lord Palmerston and his antipathy to the Northern States of America. "John Bright... declared his conviction that the leading journal had not published one fair, honourable, or friendly article towards the States since Lincoln's accession to office."

The bitter anti-English feeling that prevailed in the States after the war was due more to the *Times* than to any other agency of the Evil One. As to Lord Palmerston, Delane was his *fidus Achates*, and more than that, if we may believe Lord Torrington, he was largely the maker of Palmerston. Lord Torrington, writing to Delane, said:—

It recalled to my mind what was his position and popularity till you gave him aid and support!... In fact but for you he would have died almost as unnoticed as I should be, and possibly quite as little regretted.

Mr. Dasent, speaking of this intimacy, says:— "We doubt if any Minister of the Crown, of whatever shade of politics, had ever lived in such close and intimate alliance with the editor of a great organ of public opinion in this or any other country."

To have made Lord Palmerston great was a notable journalistic achievement, although not one which should be counted to Delane for righteousness in making up his final account. For Palmerston was the Jingo Primeval who begat Beaconsfield, Jingo Secundus, who in turn brought forth Jingo Tertius in the person of Mr. Chamberlain. Delane was, however, more civilised than Lord Palmerston, in that he approved of the Suez Canal. He had a sneaking fondness for Disraeli:—

"We have known each other now a very long time," wrote Disraeli, "and notwithstanding the harsh obstacles which political differences insensibly offer to social intimacy, have maintained relations of more than friendliness. I wish to cherish them, and that you should believe me with sincerity."

Mr. Chamberlain had only begun to emerge from obscurity when Delane left Printing House Square.

Delane achieved one of the great successes of his life in announcing in advance of anyone else the determination of Sir R. Peel to abandon the Corn Laws. If he was never an admirer of Mr. Cobden, he had too much intelligence to be a Protectionist. It is not necessary here to renew the personal controversy between him and Mr. Cobden. But the following extract from a letter published in the *Morning Star*, which Mr. Dasent thinks may have been inspired if not actually written by Mr. Cobden, recalls the passions which were aroused and expressed in those days of plain-speaking, hard-hitting controversy. The letter is headed "The *Sbirri* of the *Times*," and begins thus:—

"First on the list stands the name of John Thaddeus Delane, who may be called the editor-in-chief, and therefore the suggestor or approver of all the subtle baseness, and scandalous personalities that degrade and disgrace the *Times*. He it is who selects, moves, and instructs the mechanical intellect of the *Times*—directs the trained *sbirri* to the mark and counsels the exact force, weight, size, and quality of the malignant matter to be manufactured for each special case. The rest have neither power, volition, nor free agency of any kind in discriminating the principles, policy, purpose, or persons to be served or scathed by their instrumentality. They are ordered to their post, and whether the work be to shield or assassinate they must do it or depart... This is the daily occupation of the Secret Council of Ten presided over by the Doge of Printing House Square."

If Delane was abused in the *Morning Star* he was in high favour in Society and at Court. Sir Algernon West, in his "Recollections," says:—

Editors of the *Times* have existed before and since Delane, but none, I will venture to say, ever filled the place in Society that he did. He was in the confidence of everybody of both political parties, and this confidence he never betrayed. No Minister would have thought it odd if he had sent in his card and asked to see him at any hour of the day or night.

Mr. Dasent complacently purrs over his uncle's popularity:—

That a man so influential in position as Delane should be sought out by Ministers and courted by society was a matter of course. He felt it to be a part of his duty to consort with the inner circle of cabinets and to mix in the great world.

(To be concluded tomorrow.)