

(Continued from page 1.)

chess of Northumberland. At three came Mr. Steward till four. At four came M^{me}. Bourdin till half-past four.

"At seven we dined. At nine we went to the play to Drury Lane, with Jane, Victoire, and Lehzen as usual. It was 'The Sleeping Beauty' or 'La Belle au Bois Dormant,' for we came at the end of 'Don Juan.'

"Wednesday, 24th May, 1837.—Today is my eighteenth birthday. How old! And yet, how far am I from being what I should be. I shall from this day take the firm resolution to study with renewed assiduity, to keep my attention always well fixed on whatever I am about, and to strive to become every day less trifling and more fit for what, if Heaven wills it, I'm some day to be."

Suddenly this young girl was awakened and found an Archbishop kneeling at her slippered feet acclaiming her Queen.

Two days after her accession we read in the journal:

Saturday, June 25.—Saw Lord John Russell. Wrote. I really have immensely to do; I receive so many communications from my Ministers, but I like it very much.

Regarding a review on July 9, 1838, she wrote in her journal: "At a quarter-past-eleven I went to a review in Hyde Park. I could have cried almost not to have ridden, and been in my right place as I ought. But Lord Melbourne and Lord Hill thought it more prudent, on account of the great crowd, that I should not this time do so."

In the archives at Windsor there were 1,050 volumes of papers and correspondence of Queen Victoria bound in large folio volumes, and there would be another 200 volumes to be added when the arrangement of these papers was complete. Through all these documents from beginning to end the Queen not only was always herself, but thoroughly complete in herself as Sovereign of these realms. From childhood she "took herself seriously," and her point of view never changed as time rolled on. In foreign affairs and whenever interests affecting the Navy or the Army were under discussion, she expected to be consulted, and, indeed, insisted upon it. From the critical zeal of the Queen and the Prince Consort Ministers occasionally suffered inconvenience, but, as these volumes showed, the country derived nothing but benefit.

"We owe to Queen Victoria," said Lord Esher, in conclusion, "the reinstatement of the monarchical principle in the eyes of all grave and earnest men. We owe to her the deep respect with which the British Crown is regarded by the subjects of this vast Empire. The secret of her influence was her unflinching devotion to duty, her simple regard and, if the word is not misplaced, her narrow adhesion to the plain, unvarnished truth in every action and relation of her long life. The Queen's place in history cannot yet be defined. This much, however, may be safely ventured, that as the reign of Elizabeth rounded off and set a seal on that period of splendid intellectual growth during which England became one of the first of European Powers, so the reign of Queen Victoria rounded off and set a seal upon that no less heroic period of commerce and racial expansion in which Great Britain became a world-wide Empire."

LOSS OF THE "YARMOUTH."

FINDINGS OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY.

SERIOUS ERROR OF MARINE SUPERINTENDENT.

Mr. Dickinson, the metropolitan magistrate, sitting at the Caxton Hall, last Thursday, delivered the judgment of the court of inquiry into the loss of the Great Eastern Railway Company's cargo steamer "Yarmouth", which foundered off the Outer Gabbard Lightship in October last, with all hands.

The court found that the "Yarmouth" carried too heavy a deck cargo, which led to a heavy list to starboard and final capsizing, with a suddenness which gave those on board no opportunity to save themselves. Blame did not attach to the Great Eastern Railway Company, but the system in existence was bad. The court strongly condemned the practice of carrying deck cargo upon structures such as the poop and fore-castle, and was glad to hear that the company had decided to discontinue it on their ships. Capt. Daniel Howard, marine superintendent, ought to have realised earlier the danger of such loads, and the court considered it was a serious error of judgment on his part to have permitted them to be carried. The vessel at the time of her loss was valued at £33,000, and was uninsured.

MR. BIRREL AND HIS CRITICS.

BELIEVES IN HIMSELF THOROUGHLY.

Addressing his constituents on Friday night, Mr. Birrell said that he had been the subject of abuse, some of it scandalous, through his determination to apply Liberal principles to the administration of Ireland. He was glad to think that despite it he had been able to do some good for the Irish people.

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WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

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AN ANGLO-AMERICAN THEATRE IN GERMANY.

The bridging over of national contrasts and the encouragement of amicable *rapprochement* between the nations is the political aim of all civilised countries today. America and Germany exchange scientific doctrines for the promotion of mutual understanding. The introduction of German art into foreign countries has aided much in minimising the existing contrasts between the nations. In Paris Wagner's music is triumphant; in England and America German theatres have existed and flourished for many years. Why not then establish an English theatre in Germany, in the hopes that histrionic art may awaken and strengthen a better understanding of, and a greater interest in, the languages and particularities of the two nations so closely related? The execution of this, artistically and politically so important plan has been undertaken by the well-known actress Meta Illing, formerly a member of the Hamburg "Thalia Theater" and later of the Berlin "Schiller und Lessing Theater." After her marriage Frau Illing relinquished her membership of the theatrical companies and went on tour independently through the United States of America. In this manner she has acquired great experience in, and knowledge of, German and English stage matters. Under the direction of this very competent manageress, well-trained English actors are to perform the best products of English fiction. By means of conveniently arranged programmes the understanding of the plays will be facilitated for the German public. The new institution will be heartily welcomed by the many English and Americans residing in Germany, and they will be able to find a bit of home on foreign soil, in the plays performed by their own countrymen. The influence on the younger population will be particularly great, and with special regard to this the "Kultusministerium" has placed the "Urania" at the disposal of this new theatrical undertaking for the purpose of giving cheap performances for schools. As this undertaking is not to be confined to Berlin alone, it will necessarily bear the character of a travelling theatrical company. The performances will begin in May at the royal theatre at Wiesbaden, then the company will play for three days at Frankfurt on the Main. The first performance of the English Theatre in Berlin will be given on October 1. Arrangements for performances to be given elsewhere have already been made, so for instance in Cologne, Breslau, Hamburg, Dresden, Homburg, etc. In recognition of the importance of this undertaking, committees have been formed in Berlin, Dresden, Frankfurt, Bremen, Wiesbaden, and Breslau comprising the heads of the municipal authorities, leaders in art and science and representatives of commerce and industry, for the purpose of aiding Meta Illing in every way possible.

THE COLD WEATHER.

THIRTY DEGREES OF FROST IN LONDON.

A remarkably keen frost was experienced over the whole of the United Kingdom last week, and in some places the temperature reached was the lowest for many years. According to the *Globe*, 30deg. of frost were registered in the south-east of London.

The minimum temperature registered in St. James's Park during Thursday to Friday night was 18deg. Fahr., or 14deg. of frost. Far lower temperatures than this, however, were recorded in other parts of the country. The lowest in the provinces was at Dungeness, where, according to the report of the Meteorological Office, 20deg. of frost were experienced, though Bath came a good second with 19deg. On the Continent, London's minimum was equalled by that of Berlin, though the temperature at Paris was 5deg. higher. The rise was in each case more rapid than in London, for while here the mercury stood at 19deg. at seven o'clock in the morning, in Paris it was 24, and in Berlin 27.

In conversation with a representative of the press, Mr. J. H. Steward, the meteorological expert, of the Strand, stated that a reading he himself took in the South-Eastern district was as low as 2deg. Fahr., or 30deg. of frost. The district, however, is very open, and lies in a valley. With regard to other very low readings in March, it is necessary to go back as far as 1890 to find anything like the present weather, when there were 19deg. of frost in South-East London. Some idea of the exceptional nature of the cold may be gathered from the statement that it is not until 1845 that we find a similar record again in the same month. Other low temperatures for London during the past half century were:—February, 1895, 25deg. of frost; January, 1867, 26deg.; December 25, 1860, 24deg.

The weather on Friday was very severe in the South of Scotland, the frost registered being 27deg., or within 5deg. of zero. This is the hardest frost for several years. Good sport is being had on the ice, which is very strong. Flockmasters are hand-feeding the hill sheep.

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