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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE LONG BOW.

That truth is mighty and must prevail is a venerable axiom which is too often overlooked in the heat and stress of electioneering. Just now both great parties in England are preparing for the turmoil of a General Election, the exact date of which is still a matter of uncertainty. Cabinet Ministers and other dignified personages are compelled for the moment to relinquish their ordinary duties to go "on the stump." The enthusiasm of an English crowd is somewhat difficult to rouse. The orator never quite knows how to approach his audience, and the audience themselves rarely condescend to proffer a hint. But there are two or three plain issues before the British electorate today, so plain, indeed, as to allow of no equivocation or side-stepping. The country will be asked for its verdict on two prominent counts: First.—Is it politic to raise money urgently needed for a score of purposes, prominent among which are Old Age Pensions and the Navy, by indiscriminate taxation which introduces a revolutionary element into the national finances; or, secondly, is it preferable to first try the merits of Tariff Reform as a means of increasing the revenue, a system under which two great industrial nations have achieved phenomenal progress in the last generation. These are the plain issues, but there are corollaries of hardly less importance. The trend of the present Government is undeniably Socialistic. The brakes have been removed from the Chariot of State and it is speeding along a course which many people believe to be the road to destruction. It is admitted that a return of the so-called Liberals to power would give an added impetus to the venerable vehicle's mad career; while the Unionists would return to power pledged to set the brakes without a moment's delay. This, we believe, explains the case clearly and impartially, and it remains for the electorate to pass judgment upon it one way or the other.

We have more than once had occasion to complain of the unrestrained language of Messrs. Winston Churchill and Lloyd George, both of whom have delivered speeches hardly calculated to maintain the dignity of the high offices into which a freak of Fate has ushered them. It has remained for another Government official—whose office has for centuries been filled by men who, whatever their political opinions, have fully maintained its lofty traditions and its peculiar dignity—the Lord Advocate, to stretch the long bow to breaking limit, and to deliberately step across the thin but clearly defined line which divides legitimate argument from unvarnished mendacity. Mr. Ure, who so unworthily discharges the duty of Lord Advocate in Mr. Asquith's administration, has been touring the country for more than a month. He has spoken in scores of towns, and on almost every occasion has made the Unionist Party the object of a vile calumny. Not content with hinting, he has openly charged the Unionists with an intention, if returned to power, of putting an end to Old Age Pensions. And this after the Pensions have been guaranteed by the King, the Lords, and the Commons. Mr. Balfour—who in spite of his proverbial open-mindedness never forgets he is a gentleman—has nailed this base insult by a brilliant speech, of which we give a brief resumé, delivered in London on Tuesday. He pointed out that apart from the extreme meanness of such tactics, the Lord Advocate's suggestion must have caused infinite anxiety and distress of mind to the many old people throughout the country whose only stay from destitution is the Government dole they receive. When a Government official stoops to tear the heart-strings of the aged and helpless just to catch a handful of votes for his party, he ceases to command our respect. As Mr. Balfour remarked, there has been nothing quite so despicable as this in the stormy history of Parliamentary controversy.

MR. BALFOUR'S DENUNCIATION.

It is no exaggeration to say that never in the history of modern politics has utterance been given to so scathing a denunciation of political mendacity as that which Mr. Balfour delivered on Tuesday afternoon, and never before have the circumstances warranted the studied invective with which the ex-Premier exposed the unscrupulous calumny of a political opponent. For twenty minutes by the clock,

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Cognac, as well as Port, Sherry etc.
in glasses! Champagne!
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Mr. Balfour, with a suppressed emotion, which made a deep and lasting impression on his audience, dealt with the "frigid and calculated lie" which the Lord Advocate has been disseminating up and down the country, and when the right hon. gentleman sat down those who had listened to him felt that he had performed one of the greatest public services of his career, and had used the high position he holds in the estimation of his countrymen with the object of cleansing political life of a real and dangerous growth.

It had been intended that the luncheon which Sir Thomas Wrightson gave to the executive of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations should have been a private affair, but the new and pernicious element which the Lord Advocate had introduced into political controversy moved Mr. Balfour to ask for a meeting which should be open to the Press. In his own words, he "wished to say things which he would not desire to say behind closed doors, and without taking the full responsibility before the general public for what he said among friends and in private." The forms of the House of Commons (a Radical member has put down a "blocking" motion on the subject) had rendered it impossible for the Unionist leader to challenge the calumniator face to face across the floor, and so it came about that in rising to respond to the toast of his health, Mr. Balfour found himself by his own desire confronted by as many representatives of the Press as political associates.

What gave added gravity to his subsequent appeal for decency and truth in the conduct of public controversy was the personal note introduced at the opening of his speech. He had never allowed even the acutest political difference to interfere with private friendships (and here one immediately thought of his close personal attachment to Mr. Asquith), but it was a different thing when a man holding high office uttered such calumnies, "manifestly with deliberation and obviously with intention, and repeated time after time." Then he knew of no language of condemnation which could be too strong to expose that enormity before the public.

The right hon. gentleman proceeded to speak of the long tradition of the office of Lord Advocate, an office the holders of which in olden and often unscrupulous times were guilty of unscrupulous methods. But for long years the traditions of the Lord Advocate had been such as the Bar of both countries might well be proud. The office had been filled by a great line of lawyers and statesmen with honour and credit until they came to Mr. Ure, who had been guilty of a scandalous dereliction of duty.

He had time after time repeated a calumny which he knew was a calumny. His was a double crime. In suggesting to the poor old people that with a change of Government they ran the risk of losing their pensions, he had played on their fear and anxiety. When the right hon. gentleman resumed his seat, the quiet applause which greeted the conclusion of his address was the best indication of the deep impression it had made on the minds of his audience.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

LONDON, Thursday.—The Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, stated in the House of Commons last evening that the third reading of the Finance Bill would probably be concluded on November 4. On the following day, November 5, the Government would introduce a proposal that the House of Commons reject *en bloc* the amendments made to the Irish Land Bill by the House of Lords. On that day the Lower House will adjourn until November 23. It is now certain that the second reading of the Finance Bill in the House of Lords will not commence before November 22.

LONDON, Wednesday.—A balloon which ascended from Nancy, France, yesterday evening with a young Lady, Mlle. Marvia, and M. Garnier in the car, was driven by the violent wind across the North Sea and came into contact with some telegraph wires at Southwold, Suffolk. At the moment of impact Mlle. Marvia, apparently overcome by fright, sprang out of the car, and escaped with only slight injuries to her foot. The balloon, relieved of her weight, shot high into the air, and sailed two miles further inland before colliding again, this time with a plantation of trees, whereupon M. Garnier jumped from the car and landed unhurt on the thick undergrowth. He made his way to the nearest house, where help was procured to save the balloon. Meanwhile Mlle. Marvia had found hospitable shelter in a cottage. The lady, who is a well known athletic enthusiast, states that the journey across the North Sea was most exciting, the car, many times skimming along the top of the waves. Neither she nor M. Garnier contemplated such a long flight when they ascended, but the balloon was at once caught by a strong wind and carried along at a great speed.

(From our correspondent) **NEW YORK, October 18.**—According to reports from San Francisco, the Chinese Government intend to place contracts abroad for the building of several battle ships and a large quantity of ammunition. A sum of \$20,000,000 has been set aside for this purpose. It appears likely that the United States will be afforded a special opportunity of gaining these contracts. A Chinese Commission, headed by Baron Liang, will arrive at San Francisco in a few days. The Commission will visit practically every dockyard and ammunition factory in the States with the object of learning which of these establishments are in a position to fulfil the conditions of the contract.

The second two new American Dreadnoughts, Arkansas and Wyoming, each of 26,000 tons, will be equipped with Parsons turbines. This method of propulsion has been decided upon for the new mastodons after lengthy conferences between the Secretary for the Navy and Admiral Washington Capps, Chief Constructor to the Navy, who has just returned from an extensive tour in Europe, during which he visited and inspected most of the naval shipbuilding yards.

NEW YORK.—The past week has witnessed the hottest municipal electioneering of recent years, and all the indications point to the coming week as likely to establish another record. There are, as usual, an enormous number of "tickets" representing a multiplicity of interests, but this does not confuse the experienced voter, although it causes an immense amount of trouble among the alien voters. For practical purposes there are only three tickets, those of the Republican Party, combined to some extent with the Fusionists or Reformers, Tammany, and the Independence League. Careful observers express the opinion that Judge Gaynor has made the most progress, with Mr. Hearst next, and Mr. Bannard, the Republican, some way behind. Tammany Chief Murphy was never more confident of victory than he is today. The customary charges have been made against Tammany of illegal practices; but these are always made at election times, and never proved. As a matter of fact Tammany's strength lies in its perfect organisation, and the most elaborate and continuous nursing of not only every district, but of every street during the intervals between elections.—*Globe.*

BRUSSELS, Thursday.—In the hamlet of Boom near Antwerp six deaths from Asiatic cholera and two new cases are reported. A further spread of the epidemic is not anticipated as all possible measures of precaution have been taken by the authorities.