LONDON DAY BY DAY

The Queen comes to town on Tuesday for the purpose of holding a Drawing Room on Wednesday at Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty returns to Windsor Castle on the following day.

By special command of the Queen, Mr. D'Oyly Carte's Company from the Savoy Theatre will give a performance of "The Gondoliers" at Windsor Castle on Friday, March 6. The opera will be produced as elaborately as circumstances will allow, Mr. Seymour, the Savoy stage-manager, having visited the Castle yesterday for the purpose of ascertaining the available amount of space in the temporary theatre. The curtain will rise on this interesting occasion at four o'clock in the afternoon, so that it will be necessary to abandon the usual evening performance in London.

The Prince of Wales and suite witnessed the performance of "The Parvenu" at the Globe Theatre last evening.

The Princess of Wales intends introducing a pretty novelty in the shape of a tea-service adorned with photographs taken by her Royal Highness whilst in Scotland. It is being manufactured by John Mortlock and Co., under the Princess's own superintendence, after an old Wedgwood plate, the border of which is etched in graduated lines of orange. The service will consist of sixty-three pieces, on each one of which a different photograph will be printed from her Royal Highness's own negatives. The idea opens up a new branch of work for amateur photographers. This will, we believe, be the first time that negatives have been successfully printed on pottery. The views are of course small, but exquisitely soft and distinct. Most of them are pretty bits from the grounds of Balmoral and Abergeldie, and figures of members of the Royal family and household appear in almost every picture.

Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein has been appointed orderly officer to General Elles, commanding the force in the Black Mountain Expedition, and starts on March 1.

The Duke of Richmond, who came to town for the levee, has returned to Goodwood Park.

The Earl and Countess of Pembroke have arrived in town from Wilton House, Salisbury.

Earl Brownlow is confined to his room in consequence of a severe cold.

The Earl of March came to town yesterday from his place near Chichester.

The Earl and Countess of Carlisle have arrived at Palace-green for a few days. Viscount Morpeth is lecturing in connection with the University Extension in the provinces.

The Countess of Aberdeen held her first reception last night in Grosvenor-square. The Bijou Orchestra performed during the reunion. Among the guests were the Austrian and Italian Ambassadors, the Marquis and Marchioness of Tweeddale, Earl and Countess Amherst, Viscount and Viscountess Dalrymple, Lord Herschell, Lady Tweedmouth, Lady Hothfield, Lord Dorchester, Lady Constance Leslie and Miss Leslie, Lady Reay, Lady Cotterell and the Misses Cotterell, Lord Sandhurst, Lord Camoys, Viscount de Stern, Lady Carew and Miss Lethbridge, the Right Hon. Edward and Lady Fanny Marjoribanks and Lady Sarah Spencer-Churchill, Sir Charles Palmer, M.P., Sir Arthur and Lady Hayter, Sir Algernon Borthwick, M.P., Sir U. K. and Lady Shuttleworth, Sir Arthur and Miss Gordon, Sir John and Lady Lubbock, Sir Redvers Buller and Lady Audrey Buller, Sir Henry Roscoe, M.P., and Lady Roscoe, Sir Frederick Mappin, M.P., and Lady Mappin, Sir Horace Davey, M.P., and Lady and Miss Davey, Sir John Adye and Miss Adye, Sir Leslie Field, Sir John Swinburne, Sir Andrew and Lady Clarke, Mr. and Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, Mr. Birrell, M.P., Colonel Cornwallis West, M.P., and Mrs. and Miss West, Mr. Plimsoll, Mr. James Bryce, M.P., and Mrs. Bryce, Mr. and Lady Harriet Lindsay, Mr. Channing, M.P., and many others.

Lord and Lady Wantage have arrived at Carlton House-terrace.

Sir Francis and Lady Jeune received at dinner Countess Brownlow, Lord and Lady Tweedmouth, the Marchioness of Tweeddale, Lady Dorothy Nevill, Lord Herschell, Lord Morley, Sir Henry Thompson, Lord Justice and Lady Lindley, and others.

Lady Tenterden had an evening party at her residence, No. 30, Upper Grosvenor-street, which was numerously and fashionably attended.

Impressive and solemn was the scene in Westminster Abbey during the funeral service in memory of the late Earl of Albemarle. A detachment from his lordship's old regiment—the 14th (Prince of Wales's Own, West Yorkshire)—the colours of which he carried at Waterloo, accompanied the coffin from Portman-square to the great monumental fane, the chief mourners consisting of his son, Viscount Bury, and several near relatives. The Queen was represented by Major-General Sir Henry Ewart, K.C.B.; the Prince of Wales by Rear-Admiral Stephenson, the Duke of Edinburgh by Colonel the Hon. W. Colville, and the Duke of Connaught by Colonel Alfred Egerton. Among the assembly in the Abbey were the late Earl's daughters, Lady Louisa Charteris and Lady Augusta Noel, Viscountess Bury and her daughters, the Earls of Morley and Leitrim, Field-Marshal Sir Patrick Grant, General Sir George Higginson, Adjutant-General Sir Redvers Buller and Lady Audrey Buller, Major-General the Hon. William Feilding, and many other distinguished soldiers; Lord Egerton of Tatton, Lord Arthur Russell, Lord Claud Hamilton, the Hon. Evelyn Ashley, Earl Fortescue, Viscount Melgund, Viscount Anson, Viscount Coke, and Viscount Lewisham. The coffin was covered with wreaths, one of laurel being from her Majesty, and others from the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Teck, the Dukes of Edinburgh and Connaught, and the 14th Regiment. The late earl being an Old Westminster boy, twenty of the scholars were present at the funeral ceremony. Afterwards the remains were conveyed to Quidenham, where the interment will take place to-day.

We regret to announce the death, at St. John's, Ryde, Isle of Wight, of Sir Richard F. Sutton, the well-known yachtsman, owner of the Genesta and Elmina. The late baronet, who had been ill only a few days of peritonitis, recently completed his thirty-eighth year. He married, in 1888, Edith Constance, daughter of Sir Vincent Corbet, and is succeeded in the title by his brother, Arthur Edward Sutton.

In political circles the Royal Commission on Labour still forms a prominent subject of discussion. The rumours afloat as to the terms of the reference, in so far as they go beyond the statement of the First Lord of the Treasury on Tuesday, are, of course, pure conjecture. The matter has not been settled by the Cabinet, nor will it be determined until the Chancellor of the Exchequer has recovered from the slight indisposition which for the present confines him to his house. The actual language is of vital import. Everything calculated to throw light upon recent differences between Employers and Employed will be included, whilst anything that might raise hopes incapable of realisation will be rigorously excluded. Some of the Labour representatives complain of the delay which may arise in relation to questions that are already ripe for legislation. Much loss of time, however, need not occur if the precedent set by the Commission on Trade Depression be followed—of reporting at once upon any subject as to which they are agreed, the Government making the recommendations the basis of speedy legislation.

Many names are suggested for the *personnel* of the Commission, but as yet little progress has been made by the Government in the difficult and delicate task of selection. The Earl of Derby, Lord Randolph Churchill, and Sir John Gorst are spoken of as possible chairmen—the Under-Secretary for India because of the experience he gained at the Berlin Labour Congress. Mr. Courtney has also been mentioned, but he probably cannot be spared from his duties as Chairman of Committees. It would not be surprising if Mr. Chamberlain were fixed upon, though the member for West Birmingham might not be acceptable to a certain section of Radicals.

Quite apart from the Labour Commission, the Conservatives and Liberal Unionists representing constituencies in the Eastern Counties held a meeting at the House of Commons, under the presidency of Sir Edward Birkbeck, when it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Round, seconded by Lord Francis Hervey, to form a committee for the purpose of furthering the interests of the labouring and wage-earning classes, and watch all legislation and questions raised in Parliament on the subject. The committee appointed consisted of Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson, Major Rasch, Colonel Lloyd Anstruther, Lord F. Hervey, Sir C. Hall, Colonel Eyre, Mr. S. Hoare, Mr. Cuthbert Quilter, Mr. Cust, Sir E. Birkbeck, Mr. Gurdon, and the Hon. Ailwyn Fellowes—the latter to act as secretary.

The Tithe Rent-Charge Recovery Bill will be considered in committee in the House of Lords this evening. In the Commons the Factories and Workshops Bill stands for second reading, and the Army Estimates will be further considered. Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck and Mr. Hulse will ask questions as to the regulation of London street traffic in foggy weather; Mr. Cobb, as to the method pursued in summoning the jury at the inquest held upon the late Duke of Bedford; and Mr. Sexton, respecting the provision intended to be made, in the constitution of the Royal Commission on the relations between employer and employed, for taking cognisance of the special interests of Ireland.

Scotch Gladstonian members assembled in force, under the chairmanship of Mr. Campbell-Bannerman. It was agreed that the Government proposals for the creation of a Commission to which Scottish private bills should be referred are on many points open to objection. Ministers are to be requested to withdraw their scheme, and to substitute a reference of all such bills to a joint committee of the two Houses, with power to conduct the investigation in the localities affected by the measures.

Under the superintendence of Mrs. Bancroft a rehearsal took place of the beautiful tableaux she has prepared with so much care and taste, and which, by permission of Mrs. Frederich Beer, will be shown publicly on this, to-morrow, and Saturday evenings, under the personal patronage of the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince and Princess Christian. There can be no doubt but that the Royal School of Art Needlework and the Home of Rest for Nurses will materially benefit by the excellent representations. In these columns the programme, which includes fourteen living pictures, varied in nearly every instance by three separate scenes, has already been given, but, without drawing comparisons, it may safely be asserted that "Charles II. and Court Beauties," in which Viscountess Glentworth, Miss Gorst, Miss Aimée Lowther, Miss Hilda Morell Mackenzie, Miss Olga Morell Mackenzie, and Mr. Harry Nevill appear, will meet with great approval, together with "A Lovers' Quarrel and Reconciliation," illustrated in effective style by Mr. Cosmo Gordon-Lennox and Miss Lena Dene, and "The Cloisters," a charming study in black and white, wherein Miss Mary Collette, Miss Florence Bright, Miss Kathleen Cooke, Miss Martindale, Miss Knyvett, Miss L. Routledge, and the Misses Mackenzie are seen to great advantage.

So, too, applause will surely greet "The Farewell of Charles I." to his Wife and Children, which is nicely grouped by Mr. Oswald Yorke, Miss Kathleen Dene, Miss Glover, Miss Olive Routledge, and Mr. Alphonse Kann, while "The Duel in the Snow" is capitally interpreted by Mr. Lennox, Mr. Melvill, Mr. F. C. Althaus, Mr. A. Pollock, and Baron Walleen. What would the picture scene from "Masks and Faces" be without Mrs. Bancroft herself? She has good assistance from Miss Aimée Lowther, Mr. Paul Monckton, Mr. Wilfrid Stopford, and Mr. Albert Russell. In "Romeo and Juliet" Mrs. Bancroft stood for the absent Mr. Gordon Craig, and actually made a hit in the part, so well did she play to the tender heroine, impersonated by Miss Lena Dene, Miss Robertha Erskine making a capital nurse. "The Trial of Queen Katharine" showed Miss Dorothy Dene to great histrionic advantage, associated with her being Mr. Alfred Lambart as Cardinal Wolsey, and Mr. Rudolph Glover as Henry VIII.; while a realisation of Mr. Orchardson's "Queen of Beauty" may be reckoned another trump in the managerial hand. Full houses in Chesterfield-gardens may undoubtedly be prophesied.

A motion is before the County Council for the removal of the gates from the thoroughfares specified in the London Streets Act. It seems that the dwellers near these obstructions prefer that the experiment should be made first with their neighbours. A gentleman whose house adjoins one of these suggests that a beginning should be made with two others a little farther away. The public hope that all will go, and this being the case it matters little which goes first.

As was indicated in a letter published in these columns yesterday, the West-end assessments, increased by the recent action of the County Council, are provoking energetic opposition. Among those who are appealing—and their number is legion—are four Privy Councillors.

Under ordinary circumstances etiquette prescribes abstention from canvassing for a "death vacancy" until after the funeral. In the case, however, of the now vacant Alderman's gown for the Ward of Vintry, the election must, by the law of the City, take place within fourteen days. It is not then to be wondered at that several candidates are already mentioned, among them the Deputy of the Ward, one of the present Sheriffs, and an ex-Sheriff.

Without doubt the demand for the Sunday opening of national art treasures—especially the Bethnal-green Museum—has been further accentuated by a crowded and enthusiastic meeting held at the Shoreditch Town Hall, under the presidency of Mr. Lawson, M.P., at which Sir Charles Russell and several other East London members were among the speakers. Replying to the allegation that this reform would mean seven days' work for the museum officials, the chairman intimated that he and other members of the Council of the National Sunday League would personally make arrangements to relieve them of duty on that day; while Mr. Pickersgill, M.P., said that if the Government would open Bethnal-green Museum he would devote to it four hours on every alternate Sunday for a twelvemonth. Resolutions urging metropolitan members to support Mr. Lawson's motion in favour of Sunday Opening, which is down for consideration by the House of Commons on the 20th prox., were carried by acclamation.

Earl Amherst presided last night at the festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and contributions were announced to the large total of £15,300.

It was a hundred years on Monday since John Wesley preached his last sermon, on Feb. 23, 1791, exactly a week before his death. That historic discourse was delivered in the little Surrey town of Leatherhead, and the First of Methodists took for his text Isaiah lv. 6, 7: "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found," &c. A passage so characteristic, Dr. Moulton, President of the Conference commemorating the occasion, took yesterday also as the basis of his address. The Wesleyans of Leatherhead propose to celebrate the centenary by the erection of a new church.

"Stitch, stitch, stitch!" in sickness and in want, need no longer be the lament of milliners and dressmakers in London. By an annual subscription, varying according to age, to the Provident and Benevolent Institution specially identified with their class, they can provide against misfortune, whether physical or financial. At the annual meeting of the institution, held at the Portman Rooms, it was stated that during last year the income was £566 1s 8d, and the disbursements for the relief of distressed members amounted to £632. A special appeal is to be made to avoid drawing upon the funded capital. Some surprise was expressed that, considering the advantages secured to "the trade," only about 1 per cent. of the 5,000 milliners and dressmakers in London had become members of the institution; and, as an encouragement to her sisters, Miss Jenkins, one of the speakers, put it to them, "that the girl who belongs to this society is also providing for herself in another way."

If the Rev. Mr. Jenkins, of South Tottenham, desires to gain success in his crusade against overcrowding on railways, he must effect an immediate and entire alteration in his plan of campaign. His present method seems to be to get into a first-class carriage, on the Midland line, although holding only a third-class season-ticket, and decline to pay the excess fare on the plea that the third-class compartments were all crowded. Obviously everything depends on whether he can support that plea by trustworthy evidence; and on the occasion of the latest collision between the ecclesiastic and the company, the evidence was, in the opinion of the magistrate, overwhelmingly hostile to the former. In other words, he chose to ride "first" when there was plenty of room "third," and for indulgence in this luxury he has incurred a rather heavy fine. Nobody with any experience of London lines will deny the existence of overcrowding at certain times of the day, but it is an evil which to some extent is inevitable, and at all events the right way to abate one nuisance is not to convert oneself into another.

Love of the Fatherland is well known to be a distinguishing feature of most Teutons; but it is as well not to carry patriotism to the extreme length of assaulting a stranger in a public conveyance because his views on the comparative merits of different nations happen not to coincide with our own. Such was the unphilosophical conduct of three Germans who were travelling on the outside of a tramcar in East London. They were discussing Prince Bismarck and the German Army, and declared that the German fighting man was "the best in the world." Unfortunately an old soldier who was sitting near overheard them, and, "as a matter of course," expressed his dissent from their statements, and loyally asserted his belief in the superiority of the British redcoat. This view seems to have met with spirited opposition from the Teutonic trio; their arguments, indeed, were of so forcible a character that the old soldier "recollected nothing more" until he found himself beneath the seat, with the dauntless three "all on the top of him." From that position of vantage they were endeavouring to persuade him of his errors of ratiocination in a manner which has led to fines of forty shillings being imposed on each.

PARIS DAY BY DAY.

[BY SPECIAL WIRE.]

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PARIS, Wednesday Night.

No change has taken place in the weather, which continues marvellously fine. This afternoon the thermometer registered 56deg. Fahrenheit in the shade, although for some time after sunrise the grass was still covered with hoar-frost, and ice was to be seen in places where water had been flowing when the temperature fell last evening after a splendid day. In this glorious weather the Empress Frederick and Princess Margarethe of Prussia are enjoying thoroughly their excursions in the metropolis and its environs, and this morning the illustrious ladies, with Countess von Perponcher and Count von Seckendorff, visited the Louvre, and spent some time in admiring the masterpieces of art contained in its galleries. I noticed a group standing in front of the German Embassy in the Rue de Lille this afternoon, and although the few policemen who have been posted in that part of the street have not been reinforced there seemed to be more animation in the neighbourhood than has hitherto been the case. Passers by looked attentively at the large mansion in this usually quiet thoroughfare with a very different expression of countenance from that which they had worn until so-called patriots began to raise an outcry against her Majesty's visit to Paris.

It is a regrettable fact, but one that must be noted, that owing to the agitation promoted by the members of the defunct Patriotic League the visit of the Empress Frederick is not viewed with quite as much sympathy as was the case when the news of her Majesty's arrival here was announced. This feeling certainly is not shared by moderate Frenchmen, but unluckily a great deal of prejudice and fanaticism has to be reckoned with as well. I informed you yesterday that several Deputies had conceived the idea of interpellating the Government on the subject, and but for the personal intervention of the President of the Council, who was supported with much tact by the President of the Chamber, it is probable that before the close of the sitting M. Paul Déroulède would have created an incident. The question was as to the removal from the pedestal of the statue of the painter Henri Regnault at the *Ecole des Beaux-Arts* of the wreath which had been placed there by the Leaguers after the meeting at the Salle Wagram. Henri Regnault was killed at Buzenval in January, 1871, and some one who had noticed the disappearance of the coronal asked an official for the reason, and was told that it had been removed in consequence of her Majesty's visit to the Fine Arts School. The news put the Boulangists and some of the Deputies from the Eastern Departments into a state of excitement, which seemed to presage some lively proceedings, but public opinion generally was quite alive to the inopportuneness of any interpellation. M. Paul Déroulède, who had been asked to see M. de Freycinet, was still at the War-Office when the sitting closed, and as the wreath has since been replaced and a subscription has been opened by honourable members who desired to give the Patriots some satisfaction, it is hoped that nothing more will be heard of the affair.

At a Boulangist meeting held in the neighbourhood of the Invalides last evening business was soon put aside, in order that the speakers might enlarge on the subject of the Empress Frederick's visit. M. de Ménorval, in the course of a violent harangue, said that they would hold out their hands to the Germans if her Majesty had brought Alsace-Lorraine in the folds of her dress, but M. Paul Déroulède, who followed and seemed beside himself with excitement, asserted that no agreement was possible between Cain and Abel, and denounced the excursion made by the Empress to the Palace at Versailles, where the German Empire was proclaimed. He proposed that the French artists who sent their works to Berlin should be forbidden to exhibit in Paris, and said that Kaiser Wilhelm must not come to the capital except as a prisoner. They would know how to bid a fitting farewell to the Empress Frederick. They did not want her to prolong her stay in Paris. Her excursion to Versailles was "a piece of German impudence." She was the daughter of the Queen of England, but she had become a Prussian. In conclusion M. Paul Déroulède declared that the Empress must be escorted to the railway station with cries of *Vive l'Alsace-Lorraine!* and *Vive la République!* and finally a resolution was voted protesting against her Majesty's visit and congratulating the French artists who had declined to exhibit in the German metropolis. This feeling is also to be noticed in some of the newspapers to-day. Thus an Opportunist journal appears this evening with the words *Au large les Allemands!* In an article headed *Bon soir Madame!* the same paper tells the Empress that she is abusing French hospitality. Another journal says that the Empress in coming to Paris was deceived by bad advisers, who exposed her to unmerited insult. A third organ preaches calmness, and tells M. Paul Déroulède and his allies that if they persist in their agitation against her Majesty they will place the Government in a very difficult position. This is the line also taken by M. Paul de Cassagnac, though he adds that Frenchmen cannot forget that the Empress is a "descendant" of Agincourt by her birth and of Sedan by her marriage. Meanwhile, M. Paul Déroulède denies this evening that he said at the meeting held last night that they ought to hiss the Empress, as stated in one of the morning journals. The words were uttered, but not by him. He said, however, that they ought to cry *Vive l'Alsace-Lorraine!* and *Vive la République!* when her Majesty was passing by, and that this was the double souvenir of her visit to Paris which she ought to take back with her to Prussia, as these cries were hateful to the German Emperor.

A curious letter from Madame Meissonier, referring to the agitation about the Berlin Art Exhibition, is published this evening. A note having appeared in the *Soir* referring to the action which Meissonier probably would have taken with respect to the participation of French artists in the German picture show, Madame Meissonier writes to the editor of that paper as follows: "My husband, who was French to the heart's core, would never agree to exhibit in Berlin. Not a German had crossed his threshold since the War!" The artistic storm is, in the meantime, raging fiercely, and it seems likely that the ultra-patriots, headed by M. Puvis de Chavannes, will gain the day. Names are struck off the list of probable exhibitors every moment almost, and painters who had been ready to follow M. Bonnat's example have grown alarmed at the turn which things are taking, and alter their resolutions accordingly.

It appears that some days before the arrival of the Empress Frederick in Paris the list of expected exhibitors was forwarded to the German Embassy, and as the names of several artists were put down in it without their knowledge, there are loud protests on the part of these gentlemen. Two painters—MM. Iwill and Aimé Perret—who had intended to send pictures to Berlin now declare formally that they have changed their minds owing to the controversies which have arisen on the subject. There was no meeting of artists to-day, as had been announced, but to-morrow there will be a solemn conclave of the brethren of the brush who belong to the opposition *Salon* or *Société Nationale du Champ de Mars*, and it is probable that they will discuss the question as to whether it would be advantageous or prejudicial to French painters to take part in an important artistic exhibition to which they had been invited rather late in the day. The organisers of the meeting, it is said, will refrain sedulously from deliberating on the patriotic issues of the question before them, and will confine themselves strictly to the subject from the points of view of art and artistic interests only.

Her Majesty lunched at the German Embassy, and drove out in the afternoon, paying several visits, among others to the studio of M. Carolus Duran. The Papal Nuncio and the Spanish Ambassador joined the dinner-party at the German Embassy this evening.

On the strength of a report to the effect that a chance meeting had been arranged to take place between the Empress Frederick and the President of the Republic at the picture exhibition now being held at the Artistic and Literary Club, in the Rue Volney, a crowd assembled in the street only to be disappointed, for all this was based on the barest rumour, which had no foundation in fact. Quite a reality, on the other hand, was the fortuitous *rencontre* between Princess Mathilde and Madame Carnot a few days ago. The Princess was calling at the Italian Embassy when the wife of the President of the Republic was announced. They had never met before, so the Countess Menabrea introduced them to each other, and they conversed together for some time. As for the talk of a possible meeting between the Empress and the President of the Republic there is not the slightest ground for such a speculation.

For many months past great sensation has been caused in Theosophist circles in that part of Paris near the Botanical Gardens. A tall, dark, dreamy-faced young man, with long hair, and eyes with a far-away look in them, as if they were endeavouring to pierce the dim future of things, appeared suddenly among the Theosophists, and attracted large audiences to his esoteric lectures. He was thirty-two years of age, and a law student, but recently had given up his forensic studies in order to devote himself to Theosophy with more diligence. The fair sex naturally predominated among his auditors, and of all his lady listeners the most attentive was the youthful and good-looking wife of a wealthy tradesman. For this young matron the lecturer had a wonderful attraction. She has now gone away with him, having previously stocked herself with a considerable sum of money abstracted from her lord and master's till. The disconsolate husband, who at first thought that his wife had committed suicide, has been informed by a Theosophical authority that the dreamy-faced individual had employed mysterious and other-world influences in order to spirit the young woman away from her domestic hearth and from the commercial counter, where she used to sit diurnally in order to superintend the takings.

Singular wagers are sometimes made by Frenchmen, as well as by Americans and Englishmen. A boatman of Lyons bet recently that he would go on a floe of detached ice along the Saône from Thoissey, in the Department of the Ain, to his native city, cooking pancakes during his voyage. He started on Sunday evening, taking with him a stove and the apparatus for making the *crêpes*. Yesterday afternoon he sailed through Lyons on the ice-raft, acclaimed by thousands of spectators, to whom he threw ashore his pancakes, and then, planting a tricolour flag on his floe, jumped to firm earth.

"Reine des Bois," the latest novel from the pen of M. André Theuriet, published by Charpentier, is, as its name implies, of a rustic and idyllic character, like all the works by the same entertaining author. There is nothing Parisian about it—no elegant town-bred hero; no Phrynes from perfumed boudoirs near the Parc Monceau or the Arc de Triomphe; no millionaires, *rastaquouères* or Boulevard sharpers figure in it. It is all innocently rural, if we except the necessary allusions to the amours of a certain Claude de Buxières, a kind of gentleman-farmer, who lives at Vivey, near Langres, in an ancestral *château*. Buxières dies suddenly, leaving his illegitimate son, Claudet-Séjournant, and the latter's mother, who had acted as the squire's housekeeper, totally unprovided for. There was a half-written autograph will found among Buxières' papers by a garrulous notary and his equally talkative friend, a Justice of the Peace, but the deceased, who had evidently intended to constitute Claudet Séjournant his sole heir, had neglected to complete the document, so that it was null and void. The *château*, grounds, and fortune of the intestate accordingly go to a younger cousin of his, Julien de Buxières, who is employed as a civil service official in Nancy. Manette Séjournant, the housekeeper, is disconsolate at the turn now taken by affairs, but her son Claudet, while hiding his bitter disappointment, resolves to bear it like a man, and to go off in order to seek death or glory in the big wars. While musing on his future the young man meets the Queen of the Woods, Reine Vincart, the daughter of an innkeeper in comfortable circumstances. She, who has long known him, consoles him in his misfortune and bemoans the fate which flung him penniless on the world.

In the meantime the Government clerk, Julien, a pale, studious person with mystical leanings, comes to take over his property, and although ignorant of the relationship of Claudet with the deceased squire, offers to do his best for the young man and his mother. This Claudet spurns, but the Queen of the Woods intervenes, and with as much modesty as she can command tells Julien that Claudet is really his own cousin. The ex-clerk, who has by this time thrown up his appointment in order to devote himself to mysticism and metaphysics, once more displays a magnanimity most wonderful even in rural France and in an utilitarian age, for he offers to halve his fortune with his cousin. With this generous proposal Claudet closes, and all goes on well until Julien falls desperately in love with the Queen of the Woods. This is the first half of M. Theuriet's interesting tale, and the remainder of the volume explains how Julien, discovering that Claudet loves the Sylvan Queen, persuades him to marry her straight off; how Reine herself, after having first kept Julien at a distance, falls gradually in love with the pale, dark-eyed student and mystical enthusiast; and, finally, how the Abbé Pernot, the local parish priest, whose character as a plain, practical, unimaginative, and withal pious, ecclesiastic is limned finely, reveals a secret which makes the projected marriage with Claudet an impossibility. This is to the effect that Reine des Bois is really the daughter of the amorous lady-killing squire of Buxières, who was also Claudet Séjournant's father. The end may be guessed easily. Julien weds Reine, and Claudet, fulfilling his original intention of becoming a soldier, goes off to join in the Italian Campaign of the Third Napoléon, and finds a warrior's grave near the walls of Alessandria. So healthy, simple, and yet fascinating a volume has not been published in Paris for many a day.

On the Bourse to-day the last quotations were:

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