

IN ENGLAND'S CAPITAL. WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY IN THE GREAT CITY.

Bonnie Scots and Their new Conquest of England—Programme of Jubilee Week—Just What Will Happen During the Victorian Gala Days—Gossip of London.

LONDON, May 12.—I thought I should like to have a good close look at our dear old Queen after her return from foreign ports, and by the kindness of a friend, who is a director of the Great Western Railway Company, I was permitted to be present on the platform at Paddington on Monday when her Majesty arrived from Windsor in order to hold the drawing room of the season yesterday. The dear old lady looked splendid for once; she was dressed right royally, and in lieu of a rather dowdy beadgear we are accustomed to see, she wore a bonnet, quite a stylish affair in shape and make of the present fashion, white appearing in the trimming, and quite a tall aigrette sticking up jauntily at the back.

The grand old lady seemed really to fancy herself in this dainty millinery, and it was evident she was discussing arrangements for the jubilee week in the gayest mood. She looked full of health, with a good color and walked across the platform with a firm step and unaided to her carriage. The brilliancy of yesterday's drawing room fulfilled our liveliest expectations. Thanks to the kindness of the Duchess of Albany I had again my old position in the grand corridor and can safely say that never has there been in my recollection so brilliant a display of dresses, jewels and beauty. Some of the debutantes arrived in the hall so early that their carriages were sent back by the police. Heads were dressed in the early hour of the morning and L., who strolled about the park for some hours, was amused at the maids coming to many of the carriages to give a final touch to their mistresses' dresses before they entered the sacred precincts after passing many hours of impatient waiting in their carriages under the soothing influence of a cold east wind.

The Scotch are determined to push the conquest of England to the bitter end. A fiery Scotch patriot is, it seems, preparing a monster petition to be signed by all Scotchmen and to be presented to the House of Commons, praying that in commemoration of the diamond jubilee the word 'England' may be officially abolished and the word 'Britain' substituted for it. At the same time the word 'English' is also to disappear and 'British' to take its place.

It is certainly the most daring and original suggestion that has yet been made for the commemoration of the Queen of England—Britain, I should say—record occupation of the throne. I cannot find words in the British language to express my admiration for the—the—the—well, let us say 'ruddy cheek' of the Scotch patriots who have put the suggestion forward in all sober Scotch seriousness. To celebrate the Queen of England's Diamond Jubilee the words 'England' 'English' and 'Englishman' are to be abolished by act of Parliament. Eh, mon, mon! he that hews aboon his head may get a spae in his ee.

Considerable disappointment is in store for those who have taken seats in St. Paul's churchyard for June 22. The dean and chapter have had under consideration the advisability of erecting an awning over the steps of the main entrance, and so much farther out as shall embrace the stand occupied by her Majesty's carriage. The proverbial uncertainty of the weather in June is responsible for the proposal. At first the Cathedral heads hoped to provide a covering made of Spitalfield's silk, but the expense of this has been found to be too great, and it will now be of the material used for marquee. In thus providing for possible rain the needs of aged and bareheaded ecclesiastical dignitaries have been considered quite as much as the health of her Majesty, who, it is well known, little minds rain.

This week promises to be very gay, and I am told there are to be four balls every night for the next three weeks, Monday beginning with the arrival of the queen in London and the opening of the Italian Opera. I found the house very much improved—some attention was paid to decorations—the old and worn fittings no longer offend the eye, and there are plentiful signs of garnishments, and the subscribers had turned out in full force and made a goodly display in stalls and boxes. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria and the Duchess of Fife occupied one box, while among the general public were the Duchess of St. Albans, Lily, Duchess of Marlborough, and Lord William Beresford; the Countess of Derby, the Marchioness of Londonderry, Lady Lurgan, Lord and Lady de Gray, Lady Randolph Churchill and all the usual first-nighters. The season began with 'Faust,' and the cast was for the most part familiar.

We all know the Marguerite of Madame

Emma Eames, the Siebel of Madame Brazzi, the Marthe of Madame Bauermeister, the Mephistopheles of Mr. Plancon and the Faust of Mr. Bonnard. But with these more or less familiar creations came a new Valentine in the person of Mr. Note—a baritone who uses an assertive voice, on no account to be ignored, with resolution and confidence which one is bound to feel.

Yesterday several charity banquets and some small dances took place. Today Viscountess Maitland gives a dance at Dover Street. Arthur Kennard and Mrs. Adler also have dances, and an enormous gathering of some three thousand people will be entertained at Oxford by the Mayor in honor of the Prince of Wales' visit to the town. On Thursday the Hon. Mrs. Stanley's party takes place, and on Friday Mrs. Arthur Wilson was to have had a dance, but she is not well and has been sent off to Carlsbad. There are balls at Lady Ancester's, Lady Zeland's, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck's, Lady Hulfax's and Mrs. Oppenheim has sent out a most beautifully decorated card for a 'Flower Ball,' in which every lady is to be dressed to represent a flower, and even the chaperons are requested to cover themselves with garlands. Mrs. Oppenheim also asks every lady to send a buttonhole of the same flowers as she wears to her gentleman, which might be most embarrassing, but many of my friends say they don't intend to send flowers to anyone, and so the jeunness doree will be saved from a most delicate position. Then there is to be a fancy dress ball at Devonshire House, but I really know nothing more than I heard Lady Feo Sturt was going as Semiramis, and was to be attended by six pages, and that on the strength of the rumor a good many people have ordered their costumes.

On Friday last Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crane gave a charming fancy dress ball to celebrate the coming of age of their eldest son, Mr. Walter Crane was Cimabue, painter and poet; Mrs. Walter Crane 'The Rose Queen;' Miss Crane, 'The Herald of the House;' Mr. Lionel Crane, the hero of the occasion, wore a Utopian costume of the future, another son being the Knave of Clubs; Sir James Linton, a venetian Senator in red and gold. Mr. Rowley was in a fine Chinese dress. Several ladies wore dresses designed by Mr. Walter Crane—one as a 'Britomart' creating quite a sensation. The success of the evening belonged, however, to Mr. Pretorius, whose dress was that of Pawnee chief from Santa Fe, with a huge crown of feathers.

I have just heard all about the Jubilee week, and what is to happen. On Monday the 21st, the day the Queen comes to London, she is to give a banquet at Buckingham Palace, and a reception to the Corps Diplomatique and the members of the Government after dinner, when her guests will witness a tattoo of all the bands of the different regiments stationed in London, which will be a magnificent sight, and take place in the gardens of the palace. Tuesday will be Jubilee day, and that is enough. There will be a gala night at the Opera on Wednesday. On Thursday Mr. Chamberlain will give a banquet to the Colonials, and there will be a party given by some member of the Government. On Friday there will be a state ball, and the naval review on Saturday, and on Monday the garden party at Buckingham Palace, at which the Queen will be present.

All the royal family have been very anxious about the Duchess of Teck, who was much more seriously ill than the general public was permitted to know. She even was in great danger, and for a couple of days it was feared she would not recover. Happily, however, she is doing as well as possible, and one trusts all anxiety is at an end; but her illness has been as sudden as it was dangerous. She will not, I fear, be well enough to take part in the Jubilee festivities, but everyone will be thankful to hear she is no longer in danger.

'The Yeoman of the Guard,' which has been revived at the Savoy, comes up as fresh and bright as 'The flowers that used to bloom in the spring—Tra-la.' I always think the music of this opera is in Sir Arthur Sullivan's best vein, pretty melodies alternating with that fine writing in which the traces may be discovered of the composer's early training in English church music, while the intrigue of the story has such striking dramatic surprises. Indeed, in all Mr. Gilbert's plays there is never a more exciting scene than that at the end of the first act, where the executioner stands waiting at the block, and Colonel Fairfax, disguised as a tower warden, has to announce that the prisoner, who is none other than himself, has escaped from his cell. Miss F. Perry has the part of Præbe, and it she cannot make the old playgoer forget Miss Jessie Bond's performance, she sings with point and with perfect enunciation, and acts amazingly well. Her delivery of the pretty song, 'Were I Thy Bride,' is a pure delight. Miss Rosina Brandram, as Dame Carruthers, plays her old part as it were eight days, not eight years, since she made it her own.

Newmarket was extremely pleasant last week; there was plenty of sunshine and it

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was very agreeable to stroll about the Bird-cage during the afternoon. I stayed with Dick and Eva, at their little box, and the number of house parties was about the same as usual. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, who stayed at the Jockey club rooms, dined out every night. The Duke and Duchess of Portland, who were not at any of the meetings last season, came direct from Scotland, and no one looked better on the Guinea day than the Duchess, in a plain dress of black cloth, with a cluster of her favorite Malmaisons. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire were at their house, opposite the rooms, with Lord Charles Montagu and Lady Alice Stanley, but Lord Stanley was detained in London by his duties as Junior Whip on the Two Thousand day. Lord and Lady Londonderry and Lady Stewart were at the Heath House, though Lord Londonderry and Lady Helen were obliged to hurry off to London on Wednesday evening, and Lord and Lady Cadogan, Lord and Lady Lurgan and Sophia Scott were at Rutland Cottage. Lord Ellesmere had a few friends at Stechworth, and Mr. Harry M'Calmont was generally congratulated on his approaching marriage.

The other day I was told such a pretty story about Queen Margherita. Some months ago Queen Margherita asked a little girl to knit her a pair of silk stockings as a birthday gift, and gave her twenty lire to buy the material. The Queen forgot the circumstance till her birthday came, when she was reminded of it by the arrival of a packet at the Quirinal, containing a pair of beautifully knitted silk stockings, to which where joined the maker's best wishes for a happy birthday. Not to be undone, Queen Margherita, who was always kind and thoughtful, sent a pair of very beautifully-knit stockings to her young friend as a return gift, the one being filled with lire pieces and the other with bonbons. They were accompanied by a little note: 'Tell me, my dear, which you like best.' A reply reached the palace next day: 'Dearest Queen—Both the stockings have made me shed many bitter tears. Papa took the one with the money and my brother the other!'

In London.

The following advertisement lately appeared in the London Truth:

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MAY 3, 1897.
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