

BEAUTY SPOTS IN OLD WORLD.

Chief Towns of Europe Devote Much Space to Parks.

HISTORIC QUARTERS KEPT IN REPAIR--MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS ARE HANDSOME.

Hamburg, July 11.—A town or city in Europe planned without regard for open spaces or gardens is almost impossible to find. So it is also difficult to find one that fails to make the most of its natural advantages and certainly none makes ugly what can be beautiful, unless, perhaps, Glasgow, which has given up the banks of the Clyde River to business, so that the banks offer no attractive views.

HAVE TIME FOR AMUSEMENT.

European life, too, gives the people time to amuse themselves, and they want pretty places where they can walk and meet their friends. In England they find time to take a cup of tea during the afternoon, the men as well as the women. It is strange to see young men, children, and all in America who are fond of soda waters and sundae taking this warm drink, but it is taken with as much regularity as the noonday or evening meal. On the continent less pleasure is found in tea; here reigns supreme the mug of beer and the bottle of wine. So that these half hours and hours of leisure may be enjoyed, pretty gardens and restaurants are kept all over the town, and help to make the cities look genial and inviting to strangers.

The demand for good restaurants is also largely increased by the general prevalence of the custom of living in flats. Back porches are not agreeable for entertaining and sitting rooms are too warm in the summer, hence the lively demand for gardens, where in Germany and France people spend whole evenings with their friends and enjoy themselves.

PROMENADES OF EUROPE.

Europeans are exceedingly fond of walking and they have fine streets and promenades. A portion of the banks of the Thames has been beautifully laid out; a prettier sight than the Victoria Embankment lighted up, and viewed from a height cannot be imagined. Hamburg has made the most of its location; it has beautiful promenades and gardens all along the small rivers that run through it, and the famous Jungfernstieg on the Binnen Alster is a most attractive place. Frankfurt's banks along the Main are so beautiful that they have been called Nizza or Nice, so remarkable is their resemblance to the walks along the shore at the famous resort.

Wherever large monuments have been erected there has large spaces been left for benches, fountains or gardens. What more imposing sight can one imagine than Trafalgar Square with the hero Nelson at the summit of a huge pillar in the centre? And where in the whole world can a place be found so full of people and carriages, and yet so orderly? The Place de la Concorde at Paris and the Wilhelmplatz at Berlin are specimens of these broad places which adorn all European cities.

Another opportunity for making a town attractive is the open space before the railway stations. The newer stations in European cities are spacious and conveniently arranged, and look very pretty from the streets. The one at Frankfurt is probably the best example of pride taken in fine stations. In front of it the space has numerous patches of grass and flowers, which, together with the view down the entire length of the main street, makes a splendid impression.

CITIES HAVE FINE PARKS.

Almost all large cities have botanical gardens and frequently also zoological. At Edinburgh the former is planted on a hilly part and from the high points one obtains beautiful views of the entire city and the neighboring hills. One span of the great bridge of the Firth of Forth is also visible. Edinburgh, by the way, although one of the most beautifully situated cities in Europe, with many delightful parks and wooded

hills, is very sadly lacking in places of amusement and restaurants, and what few of the latter there are are closed at seven o'clock in the evening and all day Sunday. This has a bad influence on the young people; the evenings are very long and the only thing for them to do is to walk on the main street. Young girls and boys spend entire evenings thus, going back and forth on Princes Street. Hotels, railway station and post office are there, and that the crowd is not a pleasant one in which to spend evening after evening can be easily understood.

However, the people of Edinburgh are waking up to their backwardness every day the newspapers bring forth an article on the subject, and it is the hope that before long some enterprising citizen or stranger, perhaps, will come to the city's rescue. But I believe that Edinburgh is unique in having this complaint.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS ATTRACT.

Many cities have advantageously used the spaces left by their medieval walls, either by rebuilding the walls, growing vines on them and planting trees on either side, as Chester and York have done, or they have used the entire spacing for continuous parks along the central part of the city, as we find in Frankfurt and Hamburg and many other cities. Ruined castles and stately abbey towers offer another opportunity for making cities attractive; the government generally owns and cares well for them; they are overgrown with vines and add much of interest and beauty to the city. Edinburgh points with pride to its imposing castle; the town of Warwick continues to prosper because it has a castle so well preserved that it can be inhabited.

Canterbury rejoices in its glorious Cathedral with the broken-down, picturesque walls at the back; and Heidelberg is famous because of its stately old castle. And what were Rome without her ruins? But has nothing been done to these old buildings? Have they been left as they were found? By no means—repairs are continuously being made, and every possible thing done to make them as beautiful as they were when newly built.

INDIVIDUAL EFFORT HELPS.

Now remains still to be mentioned what the individual citizens themselves do in Europe to beautify their towns. English people do a great deal more in this respect than any other nationality. In small towns and in the country every house has its garden and almost every window its flower-box; Oxford is a perfect bower of blossoming trees and creeping vines, but if other places have succeeded less well it is not because of a lack of patience, but because they are probably less advantageously situated.

London has many squares, each of which is a small park in the centre of a group of dwellings; in the wealthier districts the beauty of the square is enhanced by beautiful window boxes, as, for instance, Portman square; in poor districts such as Nelson square, we find only the trees and shrubbery in the square.

CITY BUILDINGS ARE FINE.

All of this leaves out of account the beauty which is added to a city by splendid municipal buildings of which there are great numbers in these foreign cities. But aside from these, do Europeans love beauty and nature so much more than Americans do that they surround themselves more with it? None would consent to such a statement. Why, then, are not American cities as beautiful as the European? Is it that we do not have time enough to think about such things? If this be it, let us hope that the near future will give us time, so that sky-scrapers will be no longer the chief sights of our cities.

H. R. FRENCH.

CAUSES GRAVE FEARS.

Government Defeat May Derange Foreign Relations.

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ISOLATE GERMANS UNPOPULAR WITH LIBERALS.

London, July 22.—There is no theme for Englishmen this morning but the prospects of a dissolution of Parliament. The fact that Mr. Balfour conferred with the King yesterday shows that a grave view is taken of the situation in the highest quarters. The King's especial concern affects England's relations with France and Japan.

It is an open secret that some Liberal leaders question the wisdom of the form given to the Anglo-French entente, especially the impression given to Germany that the entente is designed to isolate her in Europe. It is equally well known that serious Liberal objections have been raised to a proposal to enlarge the Anglo-Japanese alliance into something like

an offensive and defensive compact. The Unionist journals point to the delicacy of the negotiations now passing between Tokyo and London as a reason why it is imperative that Mr. Balfour should not resign at the present moment. It is quite conceivable that the King may invite the Liberal leaders, to say, what their attitude would be towards Japan in the event of their accession to office. Mr. Balfour himself explains to his friends that he has not the smallest personal desire to cling to office, but would gladly walk out if he could be assured that the Liberals would not make havoc with the Anglo-French entente and the Anglo-Japanese alliance.

The Radicals smile cynically. For-

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sign affairs, they allege, would be as safe in Liberal as in Tory hands. The Tory record in South Africa and elsewhere is not such as to justify these superior airs. If, moreover, Mr. Balfour is to be defeated, he would wish nothing better than to be defeated by the Irish, for he has all along been persuaded that his best chance with the British electorate is in opposition to the old Irish demands, including Home Rule. He believes that Mr. Redmond as victor will make such demands upon a Liberal Ministry as will prove disquieting to the Roseberys and the Unionist anti-Chamberlainites.

Looking at the situation all round, the prospects are that Mr. Balfour now will recognize that it would be impossible to go through another session, and therefore will wind up the present session speedily with non-contentious business and dissolve in October.

The Spectator, anxious to disabuse the public mind as to the truth of Professor Schiemann's allegations of the British thirst for German blood, says:

There is no hatred here for the Germans as a people, but rather admiration and respect. There is no desire to prevent the Germans from creating for themselves either a navy on a colonial empire, or a worldwide trade. The British people never could consent to attack any power on the ground that she is growing too strong and ought to have her strength reduced. But the British people are becoming more vigilant than they hitherto have been in regard to the possibility of an attack by Germany.

They know that the German people would not attack Great Britain, but the Emperor, the bureaucracy, and the governing classes of the German Empire makes little secret of their hatred for whatever is liberal and popular in Europe.

They regard the self-governing communities of Great Britain and France as offences against the dynastic principle, and bad examples to monarchical states. Hence we and also the French, are coming to see that the free and liberal states must stand together or else their dearest will suffer.

Especially sceptical is the Spectator of the German professor's hope that Germany will succeed in alienating America from sympathy with England, and induce her to join a coalition to destroy the British Empire as a mad dog should be destroyed.

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CRUOKED BUSINESS METHODS.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society Scandal.

In the conduct of certain Equitable Life Association officials there was a hardening of conscience, an ooing away of moral sense, a disappearance of scruple and at last an apparent conviction that what they were doing was legitimate "business."

Was this process of deadening the moral nature going on in the Equitable Company alone, or was he greed for gain producing a similar effect elsewhere? There were other life insurance companies under whose management vast assets had been accumulated to present a like temptation. Were there no underwriting syndicates there for making personal profit by taking securities to be sold as "investments" to the companies, no collusive commissions upon sales or loans, no retainers for service that would not bear the light, no making of individual fortunes in handling funds which were held in trust? Disclosures upon this aspect of what appears to be a demoralized state of the business mind are not yet complete, but it is not alone in life insurance that this degraded standard of financial conduct has been exhibited. There may not be such a direct betrayal of trust in those promotions, exploitations, speculations and stock waterings that have characterized so many business undertakings in recent years, but there is the same exhibition of greed and lack of honest dealing on men, the same craft in using opportunity to acquire what belongs

to others, which in small affairs is called cheating or stealing. The same spirit is shown in making and selling articles that are adulterated, cheapened, disguised or fraudulently made up, for the purpose of getting value for what is worthless or value in excess of worth. It is all in the nature of that "graft" which consists in getting without earning it some part of what has been earned by others. In plain terms, it is vulgar dishonesty.

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MEN AND CHURCHES.

The Canadian Baptist, discussing the question, "Why don't men go to church?" says: "Business and pleasure are the gods that are robbing very many men, and too many women, of delightful and necessary attendance upon the means of grace that public worship alone furnishes. Some men are so engrossed in seeking material possessions, that they will not devote a few hours of the Lord's Day to the word and worship of Him who has crowned them with His goodness, while others are satisfied only to eat, drink and be merry on Sunday in particular because the day is free from ordinary toil and care. And so some men don't go to church because that is not the place for business and pleasure."

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