

OLD WORLD ECHOES.

THE DYING DIRGE OF THE GUILD-HALL GIANTS.

All About the Queen's Pipe—The Severed Head—An Ancient Assize—A City of Salt.

[Written for the RECORD-UNION.]

The new English County Councils have got their work out and no mistake, but it is in London more than in the provinces that the task of cleansing Augean stables will be the most formidable.

The metropolitan corporation falls heir to a host of responsibilities whose magnitude is commensurate with the five millions of people whom it will have to govern.

Control of police, fire, streets, street lighting, sanitary matters and the supply of water which formerly fell to the share of a number of independent bodies, will now have to be discharged by one.

The grotesque pageants that erstwhile filled down King street, the remembrances, the train-bearers, the man in armor, the civic pigeons themselves, will soon be things of the past, archaic and obsolete as the wooden giants in Guildhall.

A Lord Mayor and Aldermen there still will be, but how the office of the dignitaries is to be commanded respecting when shown of its outward magnificence, it is hard to say.

Henceforth "the nameless grace of beaudehood" will have to be sustained with none of those meretricious pomps which dazzled the eye of the intelligentsia.

It never was, I am bound to say; but I learned my lesson, just the same, and whenever I want a man dressed in a shuffly gown, or a window-shade adjusted, I do not wait for a carpenter.

My own pipe, I think, I could—with all the confidence I once began my churning—build a house after a fashion—Wide Awake.

Last year there was consumed in her Majesty's pipe over 16,000 pounds of smuggled tobacco, and probably double that quantity of such quality as was not worth the duty levied on it.

The Queen's tobacco pipe, or rather pipes, for she has more than one of them, is quite a institution. It sits on her lap, her subjects smoke and she puffs, and the fumes arising therefrom are destined to be enjoyed by nobody.

The pipe in shape and dimensions resembles a kiln, and is set up in some long, narrow, approach to which is carefully guarded by officers of the customs.

The spectacle of so much valuable merchandise going up in smoke is a sad sight, and one which the more rational alternative of devoting the proceeds which could be realized from its sale, to a reduction of the national debt.

The question of whether consciousness survives in the severed head has been mooted in these columns before, and while the recently published experiments of Dr. Paul Broca do not conclusively answer it, the burden of proof which they adduce is decidedly negative.

The various muscular movements of the decapitated heads of animals are not to be considered as implying sensation, but are the visible expressions of a shock, the consciousness of which is not lost.

Extraordinary Hands at Whist. A somewhat strange incident occurred in the recent journey of a Pittsburg woman returning home from California.

She was traveling alone, and the journey being a long one, she had a companion, who began to look for some one with whom she might fraternize.

The nicest looking person in the car was a young girl, who seemed to be traveling in the same way. It was easy to scrape an acquaintance with her.

The Pittsburg woman found, and the girl made herself very agreeable at once. An introduction to the girl's father followed.

By and by he proposed that they should play a game of whist, and that gentleman, a well-known railroad man, was invited to take the fourth hand.

They played and it fell out that the railroad man was a partner in a firm, at least, not merely engaged as a great number of female detectives permanently to devote their whole time to private inquiry business.

Dr. Anderson of Norfolk gives the following picturesque account of what a layman would call a "stoking" of a patient: "I received into my stomach, while empty, a small morsel of septic meat. In a short time a sickening, sinking sensation was experienced with copious vomiting of hot, frothy mucus, swimming in the head, and great nervous prostration.

Placed under circumstances which rendered it impossible to use emetics or any other remedial agent, I lay for fifteen hours in a state of torture. Procuring a draught of fine domestic wine, I was enabled to complete my ride, reaching home late at night after a most fatiguing and distressing journey.

Not having eaten anything since early morning, I ate supper and retired. My night was one of the most terrible, and I awoke in a frightful dream tormenting me through all its dreary hours. I arose next morning, weak, sick, tremulous, and with a violent headache. I took a light breakfast and hastened to visit some ill patients. I returned about midday, with a sense of sinking, which seemed to me to be the prelude to death. I drank a large quantity of water, and soon threw up a quantity of nauseating, foaming fluid, and felt as if every support were gone and I could survive but a few moments.

Seeing a mixture of salicylic acid and soda on the mantel, I called for it every fifteen minutes. I distinctly felt it pervade my system, and to my astonishment, I began clearing up the brain, throwing off the incrustations and affording the most delightful relief. It soon began to operate on my bowels, and in a very short time, I was followed. It is evident that the medicine neutralized the septic acid and caused its rapid discharge by the kidneys. Here was a single morsel of diseased meat, exceedingly minute, but which in 20 hours had so transformed and poisoned all the fluids as to place me in imminent peril.

Many of the most malignant diseases are caused by eating diseased meat. At Naples, in 1817, over 90,000 persons died from eating the meat of animals that had died of malignant murrain. The same murrain affects our cattle to this day in all tropical and semi-tropical climates.

Dr. Most cites the following cases: A man contracted a malignant fever and died after eating diseased meat. A woman died of hydrophobia who had been bitten by a mad dog.

While the liver is not a very large organ, it is a very important one, and its health is of the greatest importance. It is the seat of the bile, and its action is essential to the health of the system.

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FEMALE DETECTIVES.

CASES IN WHICH THEY CAN EXCEL MEN.

Authorities Differ as to the General Fitness of Women for the Secret Service.

Although for a long time detectives of the fair sex—and some of them of good social status—have been employed for the discovery of crime and grave political offenses, and also for making private inquiries where delicacy and tact is requisite, female detectives have but occasionally been employed in the United Kingdom for public purposes, and even then with merely insignificant results.

In a recent Government report upon the Scotch police by Captain Monro, her Majesty's inspector for constabulary for Scotland, he says that the employment of a few women on the detective staff in large and populous places might possibly be of valuable service.

Owing to this statement, and the important fact that the employment of women as private detectives in London has made great progress, a writer in the London Queen has carefully investigated the subject of this article on which he has received many suggestions and criticisms from those who are the most competent to speak with authority on the question.

As regards the engagement of women for the detection of crime in this country, it is not only a limited, but a very restricted, and extends to few offenses, the most important of which appear to be shoplifting and pocket-picking cases and other thefts. In other instances, they generally act under the guidance and supervision of regular members of the detective staff.

Some years ago a large firm of omnibus proprietors, always engaged women to find the drivers who were the conductors of these vehicles in robbing their masters of a portion of their fares, and it is stated that women are even now employed in this manner.

As competent and trustworthy women are difficult to secure for secret service in police forces, and as no effectual means exist for training them in this delicate and somewhat repulsive work, it is not for their work, there is a general feeling among police officers of all ranks that under present regulations it would be unwise to permanently employ women as detective staffs or as agents or assistants to the members of such connection with criminal and political investigations.

On the other hand, in Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg and other large centers of population on the continent, the detective service rendered by women to the police in these cases is very valuable. The social position of ladies employed in this superior order, while their general knowledge is very advanced. The diplomatic corps of some continental nations engage ladies as detectives out of their own country. It is stated that a few of the fair sex are employed in London on behalf of the French and German embassies, and render very efficient help to those to whom they are responsible as such.

STRONG ON DIVORCE CASES. Now, for private detective work in England—as that required in divorce cases, tracing missing friends and other secret inquiries—a great number of women are engaged, and their number has increased immensely during the last ten years or thereabouts, when female detection as a system is said to have commenced by firms of private inquiry agents in the metropolis. The writer has been informed by the principals of two important private inquiry offices in London—in both of which large numbers of women are employed—that the latter are far more efficient for their duties than men would be. Great care is taken in their selection, and they are better paid for their services than the men who are employed in their stead. Some of the very best of these women are long labored to replace by a more intelligent and spiritual worship. Many of these women are long labored to replace by a more intelligent and spiritual worship.

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THE RUSSIAN CHURCH.

Its Chief Dignitary—How It is Governed—The "Most Holy Synod."

A remarkable letter has been written a few weeks ago to one of the London papers by the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg, the chief dignitary of the Russian Church. This letter was an appeal to Englishmen to aid in supporting the missionaries who have been sent out by the Russian Church to Japan.

It is very unusual and noteworthy that a Russian prelate should address to the religious Englishmen of England in such a case, and the letter attracted a great deal of comment; but the writer of the letter, aside from his high ecclesiastical office, is no ordinary man.

Isidore, the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg, is over 90 years of age, and has for a very long time been a conspicuous and much respected personage. He has spent a long life in doing good and benefiting work. The son of a peasant, he rose, at an early age, by reason of his ability and industry, to the rank of a member of the Church, and finally was placed in his highest dignity.

From the first he has worked with untiring energy for the extension of the Russian Church, and to infuse a more ardent and spirit into the body of the Church. It is sometimes said that the Czar is the Pope of the Russian Greek Church, but he will call the "Most Holy Synod," by no means occupies the same position in that the Pope does in the Roman Catholic Church, for the Roman Pontiff exercises the supremacy of the Russian Church, which the Czar does not. The Czar is called the "supreme defender of the faith," he protects the faith, but can no longer exercise the supremacy.

On the other hand, the Czar does have supreme power in the administration of the Russian Church. He appoints all its chief dignitaries, and he also dismisses them. He exercises the right of patronage, and he appoints and dismisses the members of the Holy Synod, which the Czar does not. The Czar is called the "supreme defender of the faith," he protects the faith, but can no longer exercise the supremacy.

Formerly the chief dignitary of the Russian Church was the Patriarch of Moscow, and he was the supreme authority in the Russian Church. The Russian Church differs in doctrine from that of Rome mainly on three points. It does not recognize the supremacy of the Pope; it not only does not forbid but compels its priests to marry, and it permits all its members to read the Bible in their native languages.

A Russian priest is only allowed to perform the duties of his office while married. If his wife dies, he must cease to officiate. He is not allowed to marry again, and he is not allowed to marry a second time.

The Russian priesthood is divided into two orders—parish priests, who are called the "White Clergy," and monks, who are known as the "Black Clergy." The monks hold a higher rank in the Church than the parish priests. It is from the monks that the Russian Church has derived its chief dignitaries, and they are the most respected members of the clergy.

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