

WAKEMAN'S WANDERINGS.

The Poet Traveler Once More in Merry England.

Griff, the Farm Home of Literature's Foremost Woman—The Region of "George Eliot Land" as Well as Shakespeare's Country—Extraordinary Relatives and Many Childhood Friends Still Living.

[Special Correspondence of the RECORD-UNION. Copyright, 1892.]

BEDFORD, England, April 23, 1892.

It is not long ago that one of the noblest of American women said to me: "If there is any earthly influence that might repress the present influence and immensity of that rapidly-increasing class of my countrywomen who seem possessed of a mad crazy to unsex themselves for the pitiable reward of temporary public recognition or notoriety, it would be a genuine study of the genius of George Eliot, coupled with a pilgrimage to the localities upon which her everyday life as maid and a woman left the grand impress of her personal worth."

"This much of an object-lesson would be learned—if such women are capable of receiving grave and serious instruction—as would also result from a life study of the genius of Harriet Martineau, the Cary sisters, Miss Barrett, Elizabeth Craik, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Charlotte Bronte, and all other women who are to remain among the immortals. That where genius has been the original gift of woman, in the precise degree that has been eventually achieved and accorded, has that genius been derived from offensive exhibitions of her own personality and importance. Another as impressive truth would have logical result. Where any woman charges upon the public with demands for its attention and homage, in the same degree of her insistent clamor it will, in time, be withheld and never her door to merit oblation."

However this may be, remembering George Eliot's work which, in its boldness upon the intellect and heart of all English-speaking people, is instinctively grouped with that of Scott and Shakespeare, and her grand, noble, and true genius with something akin to the same indefinable feeling of dreamlike unreality, touched with awe and reverence and almost hushed with awe when you stand in the quiet streets of old Stratford, close to the shrine of the immortal Bard of Avon.

Indeed the Shakespeare country is truly George Eliot's land. Stratford, Warwick, Leamington, Coventry and Nuneaton all lie in a direct line from the southwest to the northeast, in the direction of Warwickshire. One of the finest highways in England, elm-shaded for more than half its length, connects them all. Eliot's Warwickshire was the Arden of Shakespeare. The same Avon smiled back from its murmuring waters upon them both. The same hillside valleys, gentle slopes and sunny valleys gave to both inspiration and imagery. Their hearts warmed to the same peasantry. In the subtle delineation of these Eliot was to the early Victorian age, at least in a degree, what Shakespeare was to the early Elizabethan. And Shakespeare's birthplace and grave are only thirty miles distant from George Eliot's girlhood home.

It lies on the olden highway between Coventry and Nuneaton. These two are but nine miles apart. Bedford, a sleepy old pit village, is midway between the two. It is a town of some 10,000 people, near Arbury Hall, the seat of the Newdigates, is Griff, a fine old English farm home and staid, belonging to the great Aubrey family, near George Eliot's (Mary Ann Evans) baby eyes first looked upon the great firs, cedars, elms and limes which shade this old and ancient stone structure. In this house, in the room which was her father's study, she was born on the 22d of December, 1819, when she was a month old. Her father, Robert Evans, was a tenant of Francis Newdigate, at Kirk Hallen, Derbyshire. On the death of old Sir Roger Newdigate, the house was given to Warwickshire came to Francis Newdigate for life, and Robert Evans accompanied him to the house. He was a man of letters, a first wife there had been and children. Their mother died in 1809. Their father married Christiana Pearson in 1815. Three years later, in 1818, the union—Christiania in 1814, Isaac in 1816, and Mary Ann (George Eliot) in 1819, at the "south Elm," Arbury, which had been given the father, George Eliot, in his biography of George Eliot, transcribes from an old diary of the father where it had been penned in his own handwriting.

"Nov. 22, 1819.—Mary Ann Evans was born at Arbury Farm (this was "South Elm," Arbury) at 5 o'clock this morning."

It was St. Cecilia's day. It is also of record that the child was baptized in the ancient church of St. Andrew, which stands in its crumbling Norman tower over a landscape that will strongly remind you of the moors of Yorkshire. Her two sisters Bronte struggled nearly all their lives in pathetic isolation. This quaint old pile, midway between the Griff farm house and Nuneaton, with its half-dozen houses under its eaves, is the Shepperton of "Amos Barton."

The three Evans children, then, most and longest apart, were born in the three born upon the Arbury estates. Christiana married a surgeon named Clark of Meriden, Warwickshire, and died in 1830. George Eliot, the eldest of Isaac, as I learned after arrival here, who had remained at Griff and succeeded the novelist's father as tenant and the Newdigates' agent, suddenly died in 1830, on returning from service at Chilvers Coton Church, in October, 1830.

His children, nephews and nieces of George Eliot, are four in number. It is an unpleasant but truthful statement that while they command a certain deference which they command in their own right, which their own small affairs would never have reached the confines of their little parish, they are unlovable and unloved by the few of quality and the thousands of lowly around them. They are stern, cold, miserly money-grabbers, all of them, and their unlovable and unloved reputation is due to the fact that they are miserly and unlovable and unloved by the few of quality and the thousands of lowly around them. They are stern, cold, miserly money-grabbers, all of them, and their unlovable and unloved reputation is due to the fact that they are miserly and unlovable and unloved by the few of quality and the thousands of lowly around them.

One daughter, a maiden lady of severe and awful aspect, who has now resided at Bedford, and the lovely of the place dread her austere visage and her cruel plaudits, they freely confound to me, when her purse, hand and gentle words might relieve great suffering. A brother, the Rev. Frederic Evans, is the present Rector of Bedford, who performs his canonical offices with mechanical accuracy and metallic solemnity; enjoys his fat "living" as though the Almighty had arranged the parish and its population of England with special reference to the vicious relations of the Evans family to his affairs, and has no heart or eyes for the poverty and suffering about him.

For Bedford is a pit village, with a few insignificant and struggling manufacturing factories. Wages are at a low point as at any place in England. There is not half enough for half the year for half the folk to do. These clutches at life-sustaining labor with positive ferocity, and

I could take the Rev. Frederic Evans into not only a dozen but a hundred pitiful homes in Bedford where attention, sympathy, consolation and even now and then a few copper pence would make the name and the religion of a Bedford rector stand for much that is seemingly in any minister of Christ.

Another sister is the wife of a clergyman named Griffith. The other brother is Walter Evans, the present tenant of the present owner of the Arbury estate. In all England I have not found any man who has seemed so capable of justly in the present owner of the Arbury estate. In all England I have not found any man who has seemed so capable of justly in the present owner of the Arbury estate.

All this family who remain are rich through miserliness. The hard, stern nature was not in Robert Evans. It began with Isaac, the novelist's brother, who dropped dead in his chair after all his miserly gain. The peasant folk revere him as a saint. In the bedges left by his laborers might have been a large figure of a man in the highway; how a poor old servant named Crabstock was a miser's lack-keep a turnip that had fallen from his cart; and how another old servant named Jackson hung himself in the town of Bedford, and how another old servant named Jackson hung himself in the town of Bedford, and how another old servant named Jackson hung himself in the town of Bedford.

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To the literary pilgrim there are many charming surprises in the neighborhood of Griff during a quest of identification of places and persons with individuality of the novelist. It is a little more than fifty years since George Eliot left Griff forever, quite forty years since she bade farewell to the lovely home at "Birds Grove," Foleshill, Coventry.

Yet there are scores of folk remaining, high and lowly, who knew her intimately as maid and woman. Some of her playmates still survive. A few of those who she gathered into the cottage of old Dame Moore, just opposite the gates of Griff, and taught the way of hope, are still here to bless her with quivering voice and tear-dimmed eyes.

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MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

Miss Agnes Huntington in the New Opera of "Paul Jones."

An Opinion Upon the "Power of the Press"—What the People of the Stage Are Doing in All Parts of the World.

The performance of Miss Agnes Huntington at the Metropolitan Theater will have a two-fold interest in presenting this celebrated star and introducing a new opera—Plaquette's latest—"Paul Jones." Miss Huntington is no stranger here, but as she returns after a long absence with the prestige of an undoubted London success her re-entry naturally gives rise to pleasant expectations. In the meantime it may be well to outline the story of "Paul Jones," the motive of which is a fanciful episode in the career of this famous hero. In the first act Paul is an apprentice to a St. Malo ship chandler, Biouquet, by name, and as Biouquet has a pretty niece, Yvonne, of course the two are in love. But Paul has a rival in the person of Rufino, a nephew of Don Trocadero, whose suit Biouquet favors, and the natural result follows. Paul is dismissed by his master, with a promise, however, that if he returns in three years with a fortune he shall marry Yvonne. Hoping to gain the fortune, he, with an old smuggler to whom he has become attached, volunteers on board of an American privateer. Three years later the audience finds Biouquet married to Rufino's sister, Malaguena. Yvonne is being betrothed to marry Rufino, when in obedience to the laws of comic opera, Paul turns up and challenges Rufino, who by a stratagem makes Paul a prisoner and carries him off in iron to the Spanish main. As Paul Jones' squadron is hammering the coast, Trocadero is warned to find Paul in his nephew's hands, but Paul escapes, is mistaken for Biouquet, and aided by Malaguena and the ladies succeeds in making his way to the coast. He is mistaken for Biouquet, and aided by Malaguena and the ladies succeeds in making his way to the coast.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS. The New York Herald critic says: "The Power of the Press" is one of the most interesting works of its kind I know. In fact, I am tempted to say more and more so, as I read the exception of "Beau Brummel," the best play of any kind produced by Americans since "Shenandoah." It is not the newness of the theme which has been treated by the authors, Augustus Pitou and George H. Jessop, that is striking, but the way in which they handle it, the way in which they adapt it to the taste of New Yorkers.

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REMARKS ON THE FICKLENESS OF THE METEOROLOGY OF APRIL. Lieutenant Finley Says the Temperature Was Below the Normal All Over the Pacific Coast.

UNUSUAL CLIMATIC FEATURES. Lieutenant John P. Finley, of the Pacific Coast Division of the Weather Bureau, in his review of the weather during April, says: "The weather of the Pacific Slope has exhibited abnormal conditions of both temperature and precipitation, owing to the unusual number of areas of low barometric pressure from the North Pacific Ocean. These areas have also shown a marked tendency to move southward over the North Pacific and Northern Plateau regions, thereby carrying the area of heavy cloudiness and rain to extreme southern points. This was notably the case during the storm of the 24th to 25th, when the area of heavy rain covered the whole territory from British Columbia to Mexico, and the storm of the 14th to the 17th carried the rain area into the northern portion of Southern California."

LOCAL STORMS. Heavy sandstorms occurred in Southern California, Southern Nevada and Northern Arizona on the 31st. Hailstorms occurred at several points in Southwest California, Oregon, and generally throughout Washington. The excess has varied from 0.75 inches at Spokane to 1.35 inches at Eugene, and 0.54 inches at Astoria. The region of deficiency embraces California south of the 40th parallel and the whole of Arizona and Nevada. The deficiency varies from 0.12 inches at Yuma, 0.06 at Winnemucca, 0.77 at Sacramento to 1.22 at Los Angeles. The heaviest rainfall in twenty-four hours were: Red Bluff, 2.25; Astoria, 2.25; Yuma, 1.42, 4th and 5th; Portland 1.16, 24th and 25th.

THE CIRCUS COMPANY CLOSED AT LOUISVILLE, KY., APRIL 22d. Lilla Van has joined the grand army of Charles Frohman. R. B. Mantel has sent a bronze statue for the Actors' Fund Fair. George Cayvan is to enjoy her summer vacation this year in Japan. The Aug. Fion Stock Company will close its season on Friday next. Lee Harrison has become a member of the Isle of Champagne Company. Barney Fagan, it is said, will play Scantlan's part in "Mavourneen" next season. Pauline, the new opera is called "Paritana; or, the Earl and the Maid of Salem."

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"OLD GRANKS" REMINISCENCES.

Some Incidents of Early Life Among the Miners.

A Christian Heart More Efficacious Than Vaccination—A Typical Trial Before a Miners' Court.

In the early mining days of California I was located in a camp not thirty miles from Sacramento. The Yankee store, for furnishing miners supplies, was a building constructed of poles set in the ground and covered with canvas. Adjoining the store was a large building (or tent) of similar construction, with three tiers of rough boards covered with cloth, with long benches on each side, extending through the center, with a little wing adjunct for a cook-house. This was a boarding-house run in connection with the store.

UNUSUAL CLIMATIC FEATURES. Lieutenant John P. Finley, of the Pacific Coast Division of the Weather Bureau, in his review of the weather during April, says: "The weather of the Pacific Slope has exhibited abnormal conditions of both temperature and precipitation, owing to the unusual number of areas of low barometric pressure from the North Pacific Ocean. These areas have also shown a marked tendency to move southward over the North Pacific and Northern Plateau regions, thereby carrying the area of heavy cloudiness and rain to extreme southern points. This was notably the case during the storm of the 24th to 25th, when the area of heavy rain covered the whole territory from British Columbia to Mexico, and the storm of the 14th to the 17th carried the rain area into the northern portion of Southern California."

LOCAL STORMS. Heavy sandstorms occurred in Southern California, Southern Nevada and Northern Arizona on the 31st. Hailstorms occurred at several points in Southwest California, Oregon, and generally throughout Washington. The excess has varied from 0.75 inches at Spokane to 1.35 inches at Eugene, and 0.54 inches at Astoria. The region of deficiency embraces California south of the 40th parallel and the whole of Arizona and Nevada. The deficiency varies from 0.12 inches at Yuma, 0.06 at Winnemucca, 0.77 at Sacramento to 1.22 at Los Angeles. The heaviest rainfall in twenty-four hours were: Red Bluff, 2.25; Astoria, 2.25; Yuma, 1.42, 4th and 5th; Portland 1.16, 24th and 25th.

THE CIRCUS COMPANY CLOSED AT LOUISVILLE, KY., APRIL 22d. Lilla Van has joined the grand army of Charles Frohman. R. B. Mantel has sent a bronze statue for the Actors' Fund Fair. George Cayvan is to enjoy her summer vacation this year in Japan. The Aug. Fion Stock Company will close its season on Friday next. Lee Harrison has become a member of the Isle of Champagne Company. Barney Fagan, it is said, will play Scantlan's part in "Mavourneen" next season. Pauline, the new opera is called "Paritana; or, the Earl and the Maid of Salem."

THE STARRING BEAT IS BUZZING IN MARIO JANSEN'S BONNET. Duncan Harrison is ill at Cincinnati with pneumonia. Manager Charles Frohman sailed for Europe on the 21st. The Circus company closed at Louisville, Ky., April 22d. Lilla Van has joined the grand army of Charles Frohman. R. B. Mantel has sent a bronze statue for the Actors' Fund Fair. George Cayvan is to enjoy her summer vacation this year in Japan. The Aug. Fion Stock Company will close its season on Friday next. Lee Harrison has become a member of the Isle of Champagne Company. Barney Fagan, it is said, will play Scantlan's part in "Mavourneen" next season. Pauline, the new opera is called "Paritana; or, the Earl and the Maid of Salem."

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