

NOTES ON THE HIGHLANDS

PROPOSING THEMSELVES - SCOTTISH HOSPITALITY-BALMORAL AND THE QUEEN. FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE, London, October 27.

An intelligent foreigner—all foreigners are, by courtesy, intelligent—was once heard to express surprise that people should propose themselves as guests in Scotch country houses. And he commented with severity on the want of delicacy which alone could account, as he thought, for the singular custom by which guests and not hosts were invited to the hospitable of the latter. But, though intelligent, he was misled by a phrase, and by the English habit of making half a sentence do the work of the whole. What really happens is something quite different from what he supposed. The possessors and tenants of Scotch places are persons who live, most of them, a great part of the year in England, and during the season in London. Out of their long catalogue of friends and acquaintances they make up, mentally or otherwise, a list of those whom they wish to see in Scotland. And they say to these as they meet them toward the end of the summer, "If you come to Scotland this year, I hope you will propose yourself to us." This is the origin of the custom which so perplexed the newcomer.

It is a very general but not a universal custom. There are in Scotland, as in England, houses where guests are reckoned up as so many guns or so many rods. They are not counted, primarily, for their social qualities, but for their power of killing a great number of grouse or salmon within a given time; or for their expertness in deer-stalking. Skilled performers of this sort are in demand and are engaged, like tenors at the opera, for many weeks and months in advance, and at fixed rates. If a man has taken his moor in Scotland at a big price, he wishes his bag to be a good one both at the start, when the number of brace killed is likely to get into the papers, and down to the end of the driving, when the total for the whole season is likely to be made known to the public. Even in these cases, unless where the house that goes with the moor is a more shooting-box, the number of guests whom the house will hold is likely to be greater than the number of guns for which there is room on the moor. So it happens not infrequently that a man who does not shoot finds himself an item, and a very insignificant one, in a shooting party. Sport of one sort or another is, in fact, so important an element in the country life of Scotland that you cannot share in the one without seeing a great deal of the other. Few men would think of taking a place which did not include a moor or a deer forest or a slice of a salmon river. Some places have all three; many of them two out of the three. A shooting box with good sport may be worth in the market fifteen or twenty thousand dollars for two or three months' tenancy. A palace without the good sport would hardly fetch as many hundreds. It is only now and then that a visitor like our friend Mr. Carnegie wants a handsome house for the entertainment of friends to whom the great art and mystery of killing something are indifferent.

When every allowance has been made for these solemnities, it remains true that the hospitality of Scotch country houses is more easy and elastic than can be found elsewhere. The owners or tenants of them may often be English, but they do not always carry with them their English habits of precision and fixed dates and elaborately organized parties of guests specially invited long beforehand to meet each other. The invasion of the English is, indeed, more numerous than ever. I met the other day an English friend whose company is greatly sought for. He said: "This is the fifth house in succession I have staid at where the hosts were not the owners." And he named the other four; which is more than I shall do. That I will go so far as to say that four of his five hosts had made great fortunes by one form or another of commercial enterprise, while the fifth was a foreigner of high rank. The list might be extended indefinitely. The truth is that the Highland landed proprietor, like landed proprietors elsewhere, is hard up. Some of the great families have still great estates and live on them, or a considerable part of them, during part of the year. A greater number, I think, let their shootings by the year, or sometimes for a term of years. Even Americans are not unknown as tenants. Perhaps we may be excused from regarding as an American the two famous Mr. Winans who is the largest tenant of all, and who has done more than all other tenants and landlords together to make deer stalking and the clearing or keeping of deer forests odious. Beaufort Castle, which Mr. Vanderbilt at one time leased from Lord Lovat, has passed into the occupancy of Lord Wilmorine, brother-in-law to Lord Randolph Churchill. Balmuccia, one of the best deer forests in Scotland, belongs for the present to Mr. Bradley Martin of New-York, and there are many others. Nothing made more stir in the Highlands than the letting of Invercauld to Sir Algernon Borthwick. Invercauld was the estate of the late Colonel Farquharson and of his fathers before him for I know not how many hundreds of years. In extent the property is vast. A great forest which made part of it was sold some years ago to the Queen with whose Balmoral property it marches, but what remains rises more than 150 square miles, stretching from Balmoral to Mar. Said one of his friends: "I don't believe there was any title for which he would have given up the name which he and his ancestors bore—Farquharson of Invercauld." He is dead, and his heir is still a minor, so that it seems natural enough that the estate should be let till the boy comes of age, but the Highlands shook their heads over it. Presently they found that their new landlord was disposed to fall in with the customs of the country, and to treat even ancient prejudices with respect, and everybody with kindly and liberal good will. So the shaking of the old Highland heads seems to have come pretty much to an end.

The stir which the letting of this well-known house occasioned was due to more causes than one. It brings in, I believe, the largest sum now received of any single place in the Highlands, £25,000. The house in its present form dates from 1874; the more ancient part of it is 303 years old, and in 1874 Mr. Gladstone was Colonel Farquharson's guest; an association which presumably did little to recommend it to Sir Algernon Borthwick. The scenery which surrounds it is among the most beautiful on Desdale or anywhere else in the Highlands. Standing at the front door of Invercauld you are in the very heart of the Highlands; at home among the mountains and on the easiest terms with them. They are all about you, and Lochnagar himself has an affable look, and so have the giants which frown on all sides of you. So near are they that you can hardly realize that their summits rise 4,000 feet skyward, while their slopes are to be measured by miles. Balmoral, too, is near; you pass it as you drive from Balmoral. The coach from Balmoral to a new view of the gray turrets and walls of the Queen's Highland home. Probably it strikes you as being curiously near the public highway for a royal residence. The grounds come down to the opposite bank of the Dee along which the road is carried; you can throw a stone into the Queen's grounds, if you think that a good way of signifying your Republican dislike to Royalty. Her Majesty will be the castle from the road and the road from the castle; its upper windows and outlying buildings, excepted. Of these latter you will see many; none with more curiosity than the house occupied during the later years of his life by John Brown, the Queen's gillie; the confidential servant who fills so much space in that journal of her life in the Highlands which Her Majesty has deigned to lay before her faithful subjects and the rest of the world. Curiously presently gives place to amazement. There is a statue of Brown, as well as a house. You may have heard of it, but not till you have seen it with your eyes can you conceive the effect of the captured enemy in this. A bronze statue, colossal in size; standing

ECHOES OF THE ELECTION

HEARD AMONG THE DEMOCRATS. "Great!" exclaimed the silvermouths of Ephesus, to whom the making of shirnes brought no small gain, when they heard Demetrius say that this Paul had persuaded and turned away much people, saying that there be no gods which are made with hands.

"Great is Diana of the Ephesians." Some cried "Great," exclaimed the silvermouths of New-York, to whom the selling of gin brought no small gain, when they heard the Democrats say that this Warner Miller had persuaded and turned away much people, saying that the liquor traffic was the most gigantic evil of the day—"Great is Dave Hill of Chemung!"

A big meeting was held in Ephesus. Some cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused and the more part knew not what they were doing. In New-York, the Democrats say that this Warner Miller had persuaded and turned away much people, saying that the liquor traffic was the most gigantic evil of the day—"Great is Dave Hill of Chemung!"

It is not known whether I may venture to repeat in the colloquial familiarities which are to be heard in the mouths of some of Her Majesty's lieges on Deside. You will easily recognize her when referred to as "Her Most Gracious," or you may, without at first quite understanding who is meant, hear her spoken of as "The Widow." This latter title is, so far as I know, confined to Deside, but I heard it there years ago and have heard it more recently. The tourist is said to explore this neighborhood more than most others partly for its singular and admirable beauty, partly also out of that enthusiasm of loyalty which is a characteristic of the tourist. He gazes with equal rapture on the majesty of the many mountains about him, and on the sham Gothic towers of Balmoral which living majesty inhabits. He has perhaps a faint hope that he may see the Queen. I doubt whether he ever does. The Queen drives daily, but never till 5 in the afternoon, and then for the most part in her own or her neighbor's forests, and not on the high-road. And the etiquette of Deside is peculiar. Whoever may by chance meet the Queen on the excursions will do well to bethink himself. He had best not wear a hat, nor let her see her face. He had best be behind her or to the side, or otherwise as best he may make himself invisible, and act as if he had neither eyes to see nor ears to hear. Such is Her Majesty's wish; perfectly understood of those who live in her vicinity, and studiously obeyed. You may be going to dine at the Castle that evening; reason the more why you should sink into the earth sooner than put Her Majesty under compulsion to recognize your existence when her soul longs for solitude.

If, on the other hand, the passer be neither tourist nor of such position as may entitle him to be known, but a gillie, or groom, or laborer, the chances are that, upon a signal from the carriage, the positions will pull up their four smoking ponies, and the Queen will ask a kindly question or two of the man about himself and his family. Her Majesty has a strong liking for the masses. As for the classes, what is difference of rank or station, a little more or a little less, to one who deems himself immeasurably above the highest of her subjects? If all stories be true, she denotes her dislike of casual intercourse with them in a singular manner. If she drives over, as she sometimes does, to take tea with one of her neighbors, word is sent in advance. Then if the neighbor selected for this honor happens to have guests staying in the house, it is understood that the guests do not appear unless their presence, or the presence of some one or more among them, be commanded by Her Majesty. Whether they are put away in cupboards, or what happens to them I cannot guess; nor what would happen should one of them by chance appear unbidden. G. W. S.

ELEPHANTS AT WORK

MAKING USE OF THEIR STRENGTH AND INTELLIGENCE IN CENTRAL PARK. For a fortnight the employes about the Arsenal in Central Park have been occupied with the preparation of the elephants for the annual elephant show. The tank in the lion house has been enlarged, so that it will afford room for the hippopotamus, who begins to find his outdoor bath unpleasant of a keen, frosty morning. The people dogs are getting ready to retire for the winter, and the men are becoming sluggish. The Polar bears correspondingly active when a sharp, frosty wind blows and the sky and the air are wintry. The most active animals in the course of these preparations have been the elephants. Three young elephants which have been in the menagerie during the summer were brought to the Arsenal, to be trained for the property of Cole, the old circus proprietor, and were with Barnum's animals last year in Heidelberg, when the big bear destroyed so large a portion of the collection. These animals escaped unhurt, though badly scared by the conflagration. These elephants were taken about twenty years ago when they were only five years old, and have passed most of their lives in captivity. Their ages are about twenty-five years each, which in the elephant's career is the full period of youth. The two males, Tom and Billy, are the largest, but Jennie, the female, is the stoutest and most remarkable.

The keeper of the elephants says that she knows everything that is said to her; she will follow him about, if permitted, like an immense Newfoundland dog. The elephants average in weight nearly 5,000 pounds apiece, and their sides have been found and fat during the summer. The most interesting quantities of fresh Central Park grass. In the winter these animals would be kept in a large outdoor building in the menagerie, but during the summer they remain almost all the time in the open air, and have become acclimated and able to endure extremely severe weather without taking cold. The only way of making the elephants comfortable is to fasten a heavy chain around the ankle of one foot and attaching the end of the chain to a staple deeply imbedded in the ground. This answers all ordinary purposes, but by putting forth a small portion of their enormous strength, they can readily snap the massive links of iron.

The menagerie strength which these animals are capable of putting forth could not be realized until it is seen. The keeper says that any one of the elephants has the strength of a dozen horses. When they exert this power they suggest some enormous engine which has become endowed with life instead of moving mechanically by the force of steam. The most interesting incident which has been moved about the Arsenal, the elephants are employed. The keeper has a short hook which he uses like a spur, directing the animal by a touch on the trunk. A few days ago a heavy bear wagon was fastened in a rut in a street near the Arsenal. The stoutest team of Norman horses could not budge the wagon, and several other horses but their aid in vain. Director Conklin, who had stopped to look on, sent for one of the elephants. The keeper directed the animal to push the wagon from behind and when he placed his head against it with a slight effort the horses started and the vehicle rose out of its rut as if by magic. "Last week a frame building was to be removed to another part of the grounds. It was a small two-story structure partly filled with grain and implements, making a weight of twelve or fifteen tons. With some difficulty the men were able to get it up to the place where it was to be placed. The elephant was brought up to push. She would place her great head against the structure and brace herself; then the building would strain and creak and move on as rapidly as the rollers could be placed under it. She would push with a slight effort the building another push when the foreman shouted "Ready!" The crowd which collected to watch the spectacle cheered their admiration, and Jennie would reply with a trumpet-like snort of pleasure at their appreciation. "Don't be afraid," she would say, "I'm ready to do it." "Elephants don't forget very soon. They will always remember their fright at Barnum's fire. When I caught them afterward they shook all over and when they were taken to the Arsenal they were so nervous that they knew the meaning of the snort. They are so afraid of Mr. Conklin, who called his head in admiration. "Last summer we came near having some trouble. Some men were building out trenches in the Transverse Road, north of the Arsenal, to put water pipes. When the blast was ready one of them shot at a young lion and flag and shouting "Fire!" The elephants were fastened outside of their buildings, and at the first shot, they raised their heads in alarm, and at the second every one of them started and ran. They were so nervous that they and the way they went jumping in the opposite direction, as the blast was quick, started the people, who got out of their way as quickly as possible. I found them down in the trees very much frightened. After the men were taken to the Arsenal to show 'em' more where the elephants could be seen."

THE HORSE SHOW.

THE DRESS PARADE—THOROUGHBREDS FROM THE CLUBS—GOSSIP. The horse show was more than a horse show. For six days an exhibition of the finest of the breed, a real parade of fashion, and the dress gardens without the tan bark ring have been quite as attractive as the exhibitions of horses within. Women in charming toilettes went to see the horses; men in evening dress went to see the women in charming toilettes. I shall not presume to describe the charming toilettes nor the fine features that adorned and were admired by them. The variety of color, texture and design was infinite. With the evening dresses, which were of all colors and styles, there was one exception all tried to look alike—regulation striae. The exception was T. Louis Onativia, who did not look alike. (This expression may not be syntactically correct, but it states a fact.) A description of Mr. Onativia's elaborate and elegant attire would require more space than I have been permitted to occupy on this occasion. Suffice it to say that during the Grand Prix Regatta E. Robert Wall, Frederick Graham, R. Porter Ashe and Henry Hilliard did not enter his dominions. Aside from Mr. Onativia the noticeable feature of the dress parade, so far as the club-men were concerned, was the reign of the silk hat. A man in a Derby was like a minnow in a trout pond-out of the swim. But there are always a few fearless minnows who can afford to laugh at style and ignore it. Among these I could not help noticing James C. Keene, whose po' hat might not help the centre of space. Mr. Keene is a man of small stature, considerably smaller than his son Foxhall, who returned to college on Wednesday after taking a prize with his bay mare Duessa.

FRANKS OF THE COAST LINE.

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OFFICERS HAVE TO DEAL WITH. The old yacht Mohawk, now the Coast Survey schooner Eager, dropped anchor off East Twenty-eighth-st. on Friday after an eventful homeward-bound cruise and a sea-sickness which was an unpleasant feature of the navigation of Nantucket Sound. When it is considered that the entire appropriation for the Coast Survey does not exceed one-third of the invested capital which every day passes over Nantucket Sound, and that the skippers of the merchant vessels who report the data of which are drawn entirely from the results of the hydrographic coast survey, some idea may be gained of the importance of the work done by the Eager and her steam consort the Daisy. This summer's survey has developed the fact that the bay between the Nantucket and the Cape Cod points is the least startling. The swirling tides, which the full force of the tidal waves sends up into Nantucket Sound, play the strangest pranks with the shoals and the sandy shores of the coast. An example of this is Skiff's Island, off the eastern coast of Martha's Vineyard Island. Late in the afternoon of the 27th inst. the schooner Eager, sent Ensign Swift in the Daisy to assist Lieutenant Moser, of the steamer Blake, who was wrestling with that particularly hard nut to crack the Nantucket Channel.

Skiff's Island two years ago had made its appearance after a southeast storm. The tides had so changed it particularly desirable place for residence, and fifteen acres of coarse sea-grass waved in the sea breezes. A year ago it was proposed to build a summer hotel of large proportions on it when the Daisy went out to assist in the survey of the Nantucket Channel. The plan was to build a hotel on the island, and the next day was a day of wind and storm, and when the day after that Ensign Swift got his steamer under way and, having rounded the point of Cape Jage, cast his eye over the waters of the south, not a vestige of Skiff's Island could be seen. The next day came another storm, which lasted for two days, and when on the third day the ensign took his little steamer, tossing and pitching, out to the working ground, the island was again visible, and the sun shone as if it had been there all the time. These trifling incidents of the shore are sources of much sorrow to the Coast Survey officer. Over at Nantucket there is a pretty little lawsuit on hand, which arose in the following way: It is a custom which has been in law there for a long time, that the owner of the property from which the tide "makes out" becomes the owner of the new land so formed. Now there were two adjacent farmers, and from the lands of each there began to form long points, each in extent, which grew every day. Early in the morning the farmer who owned the land on the west side of the point and the one whose point had grown more during the night would put on airs and exalt himself grandly over his rival. Finally one day there came a great storm and when, after a tempestuous night, which seemed to rock the island to its foundations, the two rival farmers came to the beach, the point which had been made out from the land of A was found to have been cut off completely by a deep channel and joined at its outer end to the rival point of X. Then there was war, for Farmer A swore that Farmer X had no right to his errant point, and Farmer X said that as the whole thing now made out to the beach, the point which had been made out from the land of A was found to have been cut off completely by a deep channel and joined at its outer end to the rival point of X. Then there was war, for Farmer A swore that Farmer X had no right to his errant point, and Farmer X said that as the whole thing now made out to the beach, the point which had been made out from the land of A was found to have been cut off completely by a deep channel and joined at its outer end to the rival point of X. 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