

Municipal Government in the Metropolis of Great Britain.

What the Citizens Pay for Street-Cleaning and Sanitary Purposes.

THE PENALTY FOR JOBBERY.

Public Schools, the Fire Brigade and Fires.

GOSSIP OF THE GREAT CITY.

LONDON, Dec. 25, 1874.

In previous letters on this subject we showed that all local government in this country has been of the parochial type... The Metropolitan Board of Works is simply a development of the parochial system to the largest proportions it has yet reached even in England.

STREET CLEANING.

As we have mentioned in our letter we may as well at once point out that, while the ordinary work of keeping the metropolitan streets in good state of repair and cleanly is performed as economically as could well be expected, the great arterial improvements are effected at a very unnecessarily large cost.

TAXATION.

The amount of rates which one has to contribute in this metropolis depends very much on the particular parish in which one may have his premises. Of course, the valuation of the particular premises is a cardinal element in the calculation on this head, because the ratepayer pays so much on each pound of value.

The Metropolitan Board of Works and at the cost of those operations to the public of the British Empire. The Board has been in existence for sixteen years, and the total of its actual debt is at this moment more than ten millions sterling.

The white heifer, bred by the Prince, which, as I told you, won the gold medal at the Agricultural Exhibition, was presented to the Prince of Wales by the Duke of Devonshire in 1870, and was yesterday roasted whole and distributed to the poor.

On Christmas Eve occurred, near Woodstock, in Oxfordshire, one of the most fearful accidents that has occurred since railways have been brought among us.

On Thursday, a large black marble tombstone was laid over the grave of Mrs. L. Livingstone, in Westminster Abbey. The stone bore a lengthy inscription in good letters as follows:—

On the right-hand side of the stone were the following lines:—

The London theatres have entered upon their usual season, and the winter season is not yet fully opened, but the complaints are not yet held to hold good this season, there having been already considerable ice and skating on the ponds.

ICE IN THE RIVERS.

Though there was considerable ice in the East and North rivers yesterday there was not the slightest interruption in the trips of the several boats that ply between Manhattan Island and the adjacent shores. The ice was soft and pulpy.

GREAT WORKS.

So much for the governments of London, by the corporation of the Metropolitan Board of Works and the vestries. The great works of the Honourable Viaduct, the dead-end market, the completion of the Victoria Park, and the widening of several of the city thoroughfares have been executed by the corporation, all of them being undertaken by the Metropolitan Board of Works.

Thank God the winter season called Christmas is over! It is all really anything but pleasant. This year it seemed as though we were going to have what every one has spoken of as an old-fashioned Christmas, for there was ice on the ornamental waters in the various parks, frost over its lovely tints, and the snow about just now.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

JUDGE DAVIS APPROVES THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION—PRACTICAL WORKINGS OF THE LAW.

It will be remembered that the Compulsory Education act, which went nominally into effect on January 1, makes it the duty of the Board of Education to adopt a set of rules for the enforcement of the law, which shall be approved by the Justice of the Supreme Court.

The rules that have been adopted to carry out this law in New York city provide for the taking of a census of all children between eight and fourteen, and for the appointment of an agent of truancy for each school district, who shall see that his attend school, and enforce the law.

The first step taken to carry out the law was to request every school agent to send a list of all children of school age of whom he has a record. Mr. John McInnis was entrusted with the compilation of the list, and he has already secured twelve clerks to assist him in this enormous task.

It is a significant fact that the leading educators of this State have not received the law favorably. The great majority of the teachers and principals, who are altogether opposed to compulsory education, are being foreign to the genius of the law.

THE SKATING SEASON.

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FRENCH PLAYS.

Les Deux Contesses—Les Maniaques.

Mile. Sarah Bernhardt in "Les Plaideurs."

THE IMMORTAL Mlle. DEJAZET.

The Pieces That Have Long Run in Paris.

"LES DEUX COMTESSES" (EUGENE DECAS). The leading idea of this piece is taken from Balzac's noble story of "Colonel Chabert." It is the dramatic history of a young girl who is married to Count Louis de Trevenec, who disappears during the first French Revolution, and is officially reported as dead.

"LES MANIAQUES" (MM. LEBLANC AND VANLOO) is an amusing piece which has been brought out at the same house, and it is a careful study of manners. It represents the vagaries of three eccentric persons, M. Lavardin, a rich, old collector of curiosities, who has a daughter to marry; M. Isidore, the intended husband of the young lady, and an elderly music master, named Crispin.

"LA FILLE DE MADAME ANTOINE" appears to have become an institution in Paris, and is still playing to crowded houses at the Folies Dramatiques.

OUR EMBASSY IN PARIS.

COLONEL HOFFMAN'S DIPLOMATIC PROMOTION. PARIS, Dec. 31, 1874. The promotion of Colonel Hoffman to the Secretaryship of the United States Legation in London is a gratifying event to the American people.

Mlle. SARAH BERNHARDT.

has appeared in the part of Phedre in Racine's piece of "Les Plaideurs," which was selected for representation on the two hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary of the poet's birth.

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is engaged to give a series of performances at the Vaudeville, but only to play on alternate evenings, lest her strength should fail her. She is to commence with the "DOULAINE DE BRIONNE," and all who wish to get a foretaste glimpse of the great actress before she passes away forever should hasten to see her.

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