

MILDRED RUSSELL'S LETTER.

A TRIP UP THE THAMES.

London, June 25, 1885. We accepted an invitation to join a party of friends who were going to make a trip up the Thames in a steam-launch, and in that way had an opportunity of enjoying a holiday peculiarly and essentially a Londoner's. We started from Putney at 10 o'clock, and went as far as Taplow by train, then took a launch, and in a few minutes we were at Maidenhead, where the launch lay. We went on board at 10 o'clock, laden with umbrellas, waterproofs, and rugs, which the sky at our early start had deluded us into bringing. However, we consoled ourselves with thinking it might have rained deluges. A great many locks are necessary in the Thames because of the fall of the water and the fact of the river being so long. These locks are a great nuisance to pleasure-seekers under any circumstances, as they retard progress, and much time is wasted in passing through them. Though of ample size to accommodate ordinary demands, there is often tedious waiting on a holiday before all can enter, and it is not unusual to have a delay of an hour if it is fine. As we were bent on making the most of our trip, and not to be left at anchor, we determined to hurry forward so as not to be kept waiting longer than absolutely necessary at the beginning. All of our party had not yet arrived, but those who had, leaving word for the rest to drive along the bank, hastened on to the first lock, which is usually the most crowded, so as to pass through it before the remainder of the party claimed it. Another reason why we thought it better to do this was that the row-boats have a right of precedence, though they did not exercise it towards us, as we went in several times when many of them were left out to wait for the next turn. The river was already astir with boats of every description known to us. House-boats, steam-launches, rowing-boats, and six-oared boats, punts, dingies, were pressing ahead with the common object in view of squeezing into Boulter's lock.

THE REAL START. After we emerged from Boulter's we had leisure of mind to look at the lovely and peaceful scenery before the lags came up, and as soon as we were clear of the real start of our water excursion, which was most enjoyable from beginning to end. The weather was perfect—an item of no small good luck in English holiday-making—and the engine of our launch afforded us the negative gratification of not giving out greasy odors or constantly enveloping us in thick smoke. Cloudless heavens of a tint here called sky-blue induced an Englishman from our party to suggest that they were as bright as in America. But that was because he had never crossed the Atlantic and seen the pure blue of our skies, which is crisper and much more intense than in England, where the hazy atmosphere tones down everything to a sober hue. One of the greatest charms of the banks of the Thames lies in a variety of places possessing a calm, soothing character. Antiquity is here, but it is only in dim remembrance. It has been good enough to sweep away everything that could remind us of that past generation were at all imposing or more important than we, or that we are so much ahead of them that their very remains excite our pity.

THE SCENERY. As we steamed up the river we see a succession of meadow-lands, slopes covered with dense masses of trees or with single ones standing out in quiet beauty, villages with romantic and historical associations, villas varying from that of the country-house type to the tiny ones which seem to consist of nothing but a gable front, hidden away in masses of roses and honeysuckles. Many of the houses have lawns of the green turf that is such a boasted product of England, where ornamental forest trees tower up and display their beauty of outline or their majesty gained by age. Chiffen, a princely house belonging to the Duke of Westminster, is large enough to be a palace, and its full view of us as we proceed a couple of miles up to Cookham. The same scene of crowding into the lock goes on here as at the other one. The graceful, fragile rowing-boats look very small and send up contemptuous and antagonistic glances at the launches and lumbering house-boats, yet with practical condensation catch hold of them to steady themselves in the water.

A SOLITARY FISHERMAN. The reach between Cookham and Maidenhead is a fine one, and here we saw a fisherman so dexterous and so bold in his pursuit that he must have solaced the soul of Isak Walton if it still haunts these banks. The fisherman was dressed in loose dark-gray clothes and slouch hat, wore spectacles, and had a long beard, and looked like a regular devotee and as if he had slept in his clothes for the last three weeks. He was seen at a distance, and missing a nibble. He was as serious as if he had the weight of the world on his shoulders, and formed a curious contrast in dress and general appearance to the holiday-making boatmen. From another lock we emerged into a wider reach of the river, where both banks are bordered with level meadows. This is the best part for the sailing-boats, as the breeze rarely fails here. Then we come to the village of Marlow, a model of picturesque grouping of ivy-covered houses, gray church and tower. Two more locks are gone through while we are in the cabin for lunch, and then comes Medmenham. Here we disengage our step on to a smooth sloping turf, which is backed by a ruined abbey, patched up and divided into rooms where picnics can be improvised, or boaters going up or down stream can stay overnight, or fishermen make their headquarters.

THE FAILURE OF THE PARIS MONETARY CONFERENCE. The failure of the Paris Monetary Conference was widely announced by the cable yesterday. The Conference was called to prolong the duration of the so-called Latin Union, formed in 1865-7 between France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Greece, by which these countries mutually agreed to circulate one another's coins. As a condition of the prolongation, France insisted that each member of the Union should agree to redeem at par its own coins when the new term expired. To this, as was expected, Belgium would not consent, and Greece had withdrawn from the arrangement already. The consequence, probably, will be the formation of a new Union for three or five years between France, Italy, and Switzerland, on the terms required by France. What course Belgium will pursue in regard to her silver coin remains to be settled. This will, of course, be settled from the monetary Union, and if there is too much of it Belgium will become a monometallic silver country.

ALBEMARLE COURT.

A MEETING OF THE FARMERS.

Address of Mr. Luman-Election of Commissioners and Delegates—Other Characteristics. CHARLOTTESVILLE, August 4. Yesterday was court-day, and there were a great many people in town. The farmers came together to consult upon matters of interest and importance, their calling, while those interested in politics were here in pretty good force. A FARMERS' MEETING. The farmers of the county met to select delegates to represent them in the Farmers' Assembly, which is to meet in the hall of the House of Delegates on the 11th of August. H. L. Lyman, Esq., presided, and made a brief address, in which he said that this movement to effect a compact organization and combination of the farmers of the State was well understood to involve seventy-eight out of every 100 of the population of the State and to concern the remainder of the State. More than 100,000 acres of the State are in farms, implements, and live stock than is invested in manufactures. For this reason he thought that this large class should not be satisfied with a stray pamphlet, an odd volume, or a handful of seeds. The farmers owed it to themselves to combine, for their voice would become a vast majority in behalf of any measure that they proposed. He said that he would do better than to develop experimental work in stock at Blacksburg, in cereals and fruits at Lexington, and in fruits at Charlottesville, and secure an appropriation of \$5,000 for each of these objects? If the congressional bill known as the Cullen bill is passed, appropriating annually \$15,000 to each State to be used in experimental work in connection with the State Agricultural colleges and the National Farmers' Assembly and the efficient Commissioner of Agriculture seem determined to secure its passage—it would add \$5,000 more to each of the above-mentioned stations, where skilled observers and men of thorough scientific training will have the expenditure of the fund. Can you do better than to all work shops in the same colleges, and thus develop departments of technology? Can you do better than to place the public highways of your State in the hands of competent county engineers under proper authority, so that all work done shall have the benefit of all that technical knowledge can do for this department of your work? And, finally, can you do better than to elect your own chairman, secretary, and treasurer, and that this organization should choose the delegates to attend the Farmers' Assembly.

THE CHOLERA IN SPAIN. (By telegraph to the Dispatch.) MADRID, August 4.—There were reported yesterday 3,718 new cases of cholera throughout Spain and 1,501 deaths. The cholera has for some time existed in the jail at Cartagena, but very few of them have been reported outside the knowledge of the fact. Yesterday it leaked out that no less than two hundred of the criminals imprisoned within the jail were down with the scourge. This discovery produced a fearful panic among the other convicts, and they rose in revolt and made most desperate efforts to break away from the prison. They were, however, finally overpowered by the soldiers, and compelled to resign their quarters. Several inmates of the jail at Granada are also ill with the cholera.

PHENIX DISTILLERY DESTROYED. (By telegraph to the Dispatch.) CHICAGO, August 4.—Phenix distillery, Clybourne Place and North Branch, was destroyed by fire this morning. Loss, \$75,000. The plant covered an acre and a half of ground, and consisted of a series of buildings from one to four stories in height. The distillery building, with its contents—malt and machinery—was a total loss. The bonded warehouse adjoining was unharmed.

A Chief of Police Suspended. (By telegraph to the Dispatch.) NEW ORLEANS, August 4.—Mayor Guillotte to-day suspended Chief-of-Police Zack Bachewin, charging him with insubordination and with using in connection with the Mayor expressions or expletives contrary to good discipline and tending to disorganize the force.

DYSPEPSIA IS A DANGEROUS AFFECTION. (By telegraph to the Dispatch.) NEW ORLEANS, August 4.—Major Guillotte to-day suspended Chief-of-Police Zack Bachewin, charging him with insubordination and with using in connection with the Mayor expressions or expletives contrary to good discipline and tending to disorganize the force.

THE FOLLOWING GENTLEMEN WERE ELECTED DELEGATES TO THE FARMERS' ASSEMBLY: Henry M. Magruder, W. Gordon Barrett, H. Clay Michie, and Bartlett Rolling.

WILLIE J. LESSOP, while on a tramping tour enjoying the sport of fishing and hunting, was accidentally shot in the calf of the leg. The ball was probed for, but not found. He was brought to his home in Charlottesville, and is doing well. The accident occurred in Warren county.

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS, who have been preaching in Waynesboro' during the past two weeks, are reported to have made more than a score of converts. They preach twice a day in a tent beside the river, and propose to establish a church there and have services at least twice a month. The Methodist minister replied to their doctrine, and the apostles replied in vigorous style. They did not take up collections.

THE REV. WILLIAM MEADE preached at the Episcopal church here last evening. Mr. Petrie being absent, there were no services in the Presbyterian church yesterday.

THERE WERE MEMORIAL SERVICES for General Grant in all of the colored churches here yesterday.

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JACK GORDON, of Norfolk county, who lived near Great Bridge, and had attained the age of one hundred years, died last Saturday night. His grandson (a young man) died the next morning in the same room.

RECENTLY IN CLARKVILLE, Pa., two daughters of Mr. Edward Pool, of that place, received a severe stroke of lightning. One was badly burned and the other shocked. A dog standing by was killed outright.

A FATAL LYNEBURG SHOOTING AFFAIR. (Special telegraph to the Dispatch.) LYNEBURG, Va., August 4.—Edgar Whitehead and George Edwards, two young colored men, quarrelled this evening about a woman with whom both were in love, and Whitehead shot the other. The shooting was accidental. Edwards is a son of Henry Edwards, the colored councilman from the Third ward.

ICHTHYOSIS.

A WILD BURNING WHICH THAT STRIKES THE RICHMOND ELECTRIC TRAIL. (By telegraph to the Dispatch.) RICHMOND, August 4.—A wild burning which that strikes the Richmond Electric Trail, near the intersection of the tracks with the main street, has been reported. The fire was caused by a short circuit in the wires, and it burned for some time before it was extinguished.

THE RICHMOND BAZAAR. (By telegraph to the Dispatch.) RICHMOND, August 4.—The Richmond Bazaar, held at the Mechanics' Hall, was a success. The proceeds of the sale were \$1,200.

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