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THE HOUSE OF LORDS

CHECKS IT HAS RECEIVED AT THE HANDS OF THE COMMONS.

The Long Parliament Put the Peers Out of Business Altogether For a Number of Years—Bolingbroke's Way With the Noble Lords.

There is an idea in the minds of very many persons that the British house of lords is supreme and can do pretty well what it pleases. This, however, is a mistake. On several notable occasions their noble lordships have been paralyzed and have got very much the worst of it in stormy arguments with the gentlemen of the house of commons.

The first occasion on which this happened was when the peers ventured to differ with the long parliament, which was at the time engaged in a life and death struggle with Charles I. The commons on this occasion wasted no valuable time in talking, but promptly abolished the lords altogether and turned them, archbishops, dukes, belted ears and all the rest of the gorgeous coroneted crowd, into the street. The gilded chamber was vacant.

For half a dozen years or so the country got on without any house of lords.

All the checks the house of lords have received have not been of such a drastic nature as this, of course.

Various ministries, finding that the peers were unwilling to pass their proposed bills, have resorted to the threat to create enough new peers to swamp the house of lords. These new peers would, of course, have been pledged beforehand to vote for the ministry creating them.

In 1711 the prime minister of the day, the daring and unscrupulous Viscount Bolingbroke, was anxious to terminate the desolating and ruinous war with France, which had been raging on and off for twenty years.

To effect this purpose he had drawn up the treaty of Utrecht. It was necessary at that time that lords and commons should agree to a treaty before it would become valid. The commons assented to the treaty, but the lords declared that they would have none of it and that the war must go on, whereupon Bolingbroke coolly but firmly informed them that, rather than see himself defied by them, he would create a whole army of new peers to vote for the treaty.

The story goes that he had a regiment of the Life guards paraded under the windows of the house of lords and threatened to make every trooper into a noble lord if driven to it. He did make twelve new peers, and then the lords gave in.

The Liberal government of 1832, with Earl Grey as prime minister, used the same threat. They wished to pass the first reform bill. The lords hated this bill bitterly.

Until then they had been practically

an oligarchy, with all the real power in their hands. The franchise had been so limited that only rich men, and generally only the nominee of some great nobleman, could get into parliament.

The reform bill altered that. It gave the smaller men a chance. The lords expressed their deliberate intention of wrecking the bill.

Earl Grey retorted by extorting from King William IV.—who didn't like reform bills, but dared not oppose the wish of the nation for fear of a revolution—permission to call up to the house of lords as many new peers as should be necessary to carry his bill.

The mere threat was enough for the lords. They had no wish to see their order made cheap and ridiculous, as would have been the case had peers become as plentiful as blackberries.

It used to be the custom in the British army for all officers' commissions to be purchased. That is, an officer, instead of getting into the army by means of a competitive examination and rising by merit, came straight from school, without knowing anything of the new duties he was about to assume, and had a commission bought for him. After that, instead of being promoted as a reward for his services, he used to buy each promotion.

If he had no money his chances of being promoted were about a thousand to one. The result was that officers who had grown gray in the service and fought in many battles remained subordinates all their lives, while the sons of wealthy families who had not seen a quarter of their service jumped over their heads by having their way purchased up for them to be colonels and generals.

Mr. Gladstone decided to do away with this purchase system. The lords did not wish it to be abolished. Consequently, when Mr. Gladstone introduced a bill to abolish purchase in the army the house of lords was not disposed to give it a kind reception.

They threw out the bill and imagined that they had won a glorious victory. But Mr. Gladstone found that Queen Victoria had the power to abolish purchase in the army by her own act if she pleased. He induced the queen to do this by means of a royal warrant.

And the house of lords could no more interfere with a royal warrant than they could knock the dome off St. Paul's by throwing their coronets at it.—Pearson's London Weekly.

Man and Woman.
"Man, composed of clay, is silent and ponderous," preached Jean Raulin in the fifteenth century, "but woman gives evidence of her osseous origin by the rattle she keeps up. Move a sack of earth and it makes no noise; touch a bag of bones and you are deafened with the clitter clatter."—London Chronicle.

The laws of conscience which we pretend are derived from nature proceed from nature.—Montaigne.

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STREET CAR MEN PREPARING.

San Francisco Traction Employees To Make New Demand May 1st.

SAN FRANCISCO, Apr. 16.—Though both sides to the controversy refuse, through their official heads, to discuss it, there is definite information that the street car men of San Francisco have for some time, been formulating a renewed demand for an eight hour day with \$3 pay, to be submitted sometime before the first of next month and that the United Railroads is preparing to resist a serious strike if that should be the outcome. The award made by the arbitration committee expires May 1. It was unsatisfactory to the men. The statement is made that it was as much to anticipate the industrial trouble as to meet the immediate results of the graft investigation that brought President Calhoun of the United Railroads from New York last week.

CUBAN POLITICS.

HAVANA, April 16.—It now appears that the proposal to permit foreigners to vote in the municipal elections will not be adopted. Some of the Spanish element declare that they do not want to take part in politics. The proposition is before the advisory commission but the chances for its adoption seem to be small.

CASTORIA

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STOCKMAN ARRESTED.

CHEYENNE, Wyoming, April 16.—Through the arrest at Buffalo, Wyo., yesterday of Henry W. Davis, a prominent stockman, it became known that the federal grand jury which sat in this city recently had returned an indictment against Davis on the charge of perjury in connection with the acquisition of title to public lands in Johnson County. Davis gave bond before a United States commissioner for his appearance at the May term of the Federal Court.

How Clark Received the Gift.

Broken by ill health and bowed down by disappointment, Clark retired to private life in bitterness of soul and passed his remaining twenty-three years of craggy existence in obscurity and poverty. Friends called attention to Clark's sad condition a few years before he died, and the legislature of Virginia grandiloquently acknowledged his great services and sent him a jeweled sword. The old hero's anger was aroused. "When Virginia needed a sword I gave her one," he exclaimed to the messenger. "She now sends me this toy. I want bread." And he thrust the blade of the costly gift into the ground and broke it at the hilt. —Lyman Tew Sprague, in "George Roberts Clark and His Conquest of the Middle West," in Outing Magazine.

The Joke Maker.

"The way I learned my trade," said the man who makes jokes for a living, "was to take advantage of every little thing that happened to come along. Whatever it might be, sad or gay, serious or merry, I squeezed a joke out of it. At first they were very poor, but after a great deal of labor I found my brand of humor improving. True, I often made my best friends my deadly enemies and turned every man's hand against me on more than one occasion, but at last I triumphed. I won't tell you what my salary is—you may not believe me. But you can take my word for it, young man, that there's money in making jokes."—New York Post.

TOURIST ACCOMPANY PEARY.

About Fifty Tourists Will Make A Dash For Pole With Peary.

NEW YORK, April 16.—Commodore Robert E. Peary's next expedition to the polar regions will consist of an auxiliary ship, carrying tourists in addition to the steamer Roosevelt under the explorers' command, says the World today. It is proposed to charter a vessel and load her with provisions to be cached at Etah.

It is known that several members of the Peary Arctic Club, including some of the best known scientists and geographers of the country desire to take passage on the relief ship. Others also have indicated a desire to go, so that there is a possibility of making up a party of fifty tourists. Peary is confident of reaching the goal this time. The severity of this winter must have extended to the Arctic zone, he told a friend the other day, and as usually cold winters runs in groups up north there will be comparatively little chance of "leads" or open water to retard his progress when he makes his next dash.

BAPTISM OF SPANISH HEIR.

MADRID, April 16.—The Herald says the baptism of the expected heir to the Spanish throne will take place on the third day after birth and that it will be a public ceremony.

THREE CENT FARE.

Cleveland Street Car Company Reports Low Fare A Losing Proposition.

CLEVELAND, April 16.—The Cleveland Electric Railway Company reported to the city council last night that the operation of cars at three cent fare in accordance with the city's ad-

ministration policy is a losing venture. These lines have been operated at the low rate following the expiration of the company's franchise, according to the ruling of the district and supreme courts of the United States. The report declares the cost of carrying passengers on the line indicated was in excess of three cents, and that the expense would not warrant a continuance of the test.

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