

LONDON BY NIGHT.

A LECTURE

BY JOHN B. GOUGH,

LAST EVENING.

At the Academy of Music.

Last evening the Academy of Music was filled from an enthusiastic audience, the occasion being a lecture by John B. Gough, Esq., under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Ladies and Gentlemen—Five years since I prepared a lecture entitled "London by Night," principally for the purpose of enlisting the sympathies of the people in behalf of the poor, the destitute, and the outcast.

To see London, you should visit it in the height of the season, for it is probably its most beautiful and its most interesting time.

The law courts are closed at the time the members of Parliament are rusticated in the country; the parks are desolate, and London is dull.

It is astonishing in what masses the Londoners congregate. About two million one hundred thousand persons visited the Crystal Palace in 1860.

Another one, on the Lord's Prayer being repeated to him, coming to the part, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us," he said—"A coxter cannot do that."

But here, at this corner, is the "gin palace"—there are some called more respectable than others; we see a light within. We enter, and we find the room filled with people of all sorts.

At the back of the bar you see various placards with names on them, such as "The Balmoral Mixture, patronized by his Royal Highness."

When "Jack" is asked he seems to have but one idea, and that is to spend just as much money he can in as short a time as possible.

Several were taken, but none were satisfactory. Looking at a number of pictures hanging on the wall, he said, "Slipmate, sell me one of them."

Some of the places in London are so low to be described, but they are regularly licensed by acts of Parliament. We get into the cab again and drive as rapidly as we can to the Victoria Theatre, on the other side of the water.

They have their own theatre and alle-houses, and they are true to each other. If one is ill he is visited by scores of his fellows.

To show the feeling that exists among them, I will give an illustration. I was once going along in one of the by-ways of the city, when I saw a large crowd at the corner of a street.

Some of the coxsters keep a donkey, and they are very kind to them sometimes. There was once a man endeavoring to get a donkey to load up a hill, but the donkey refused.

Another one said, "I never heard about Christianity." Another said, "I know God Almighty made the world, but you know, sir, bricklayers made the houses."

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But here we are at the Victoria Theatre. We go into the gallery, and we have a good sight of it. It is one of the largest in London.

Comic songs are very popular, and when one is being sung they all join in the chorus. They have their own way in everything at the theatre.

During the recital of the audience were convulsed with laughter, occasioned by the way in which the speaker related it.

A missionary was once in one of the tenements in one of the dark places of London, endeavoring to find somebody to whom he could afford relief.

He received no reply but, "What is his name?" "What are you doing?" repeated the gentleman.

He said, "I am bidding." "What are you bidding for?" "Don't tell anybody I am bidding."

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and embracing all the parishes, are visited constantly, day and night, by the police. Each policeman walks twenty miles a day, without attending Court, which is five miles more.

The speaker then gave an account of how the prisoners are tried before the superior magistrates, and said some comical replies are made by the guilty one.

At the great Exhibition in London it was supposed that there would be such a great influx of pickpockets from all parts of the world, and they had inspectors and detectives from all parts of the world.

Contrasting Mr. Gladstone's oratory with that of some men, the speaker said, "I remember a gentleman who made a speech for the purpose of proposing a vote of thanks to me."

The speaker continued at some length, and closed by relating an account of a supper given to some of the abandoned women of London.

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