THACKERAY'S LECTURES ON THE GEORGES. |

GEORGE THE FOURTH.

Montinued from the lest issue of THE EVENING

TELEGRAPH. You peruse volumes after volumes about our prince, and find some half dozen stock storiesindeed, not many more—common to all the his-tories. He was good-natured; an indolent, volupfavorable to him of all, perhaps, is that, as prince regent, he was eager to hear all that could be said in favor of prisoners condemned to death, and anxious, if possible, to remit the capital sentence. He was kind to his servants. There is a story common to all biographers, or Molly the housemaid, who, when his household was to be broken up, owing to some reforms which he tried absurdly to practise, was dis-covered crying as she dusted the chairs because she was to leave a muster who had a kind word for all his servants. Another tale is that of a groom of the prince's being discovered in corn and ont peculations, and dismissed by the per-sonage at the head of the stables; the prince had word of John's disgrace, remoustrated with him very kindly, generously reinstated him, and bade him promise to sin no more—a promise which John kept. Another story is very fondly told of the prince as a young man hearing of an officer's family in distress, and how he straightway borrowed six or eight hundred pounds, put his long fair hair under his hat, and, so disguised, carried the money to the starving family. He sent money, too, to Shen-dan, on his death-bed, and would have sent more had not death ended the career of that man of genius. Besides these, there are a few pretty speeches, kind and graceful, to persons with whom he was brought in contact. But he turned upon twenty friends. He was fond and familiar with them one day, and he passed them on the next without recognition. He used them, liked them, loved them perhaps in his way, and then separated from them. On Monday he ki-sed and fondled poor Perdits, and on Tuesday he met her and did not know her. On Wednesday he was very affection its with that wretched Exummell, and on Thursday forgot him; cheated him even out of a snuif-box which he owed the poor dandy; saw him years after-wards in his downfall and poverty, when the bankrupt Beau sent him another snuff-box, with some of the snuff he used to love, as a piteous token of remembrance and submission, and the King took the snuff and ordered his horses and drove on, and had not the grace to notice his old companion, favorite, rival, enemy, superior. In Wraxall there is some gossip about him. When the charming, beautiful, generous Duchess of Devonshire died—the lonely lady whom he used to call his dearest once, and pretend to admire as all English society admired her—he said, "Then we have lost the best bred woman in England," "Then we have lost the kindest heart in England," said noble Charles Fox. On another occasion, when three nonlemen were to receive the garter, says Wraxall, 'a great per-sonage observed that never did three men receive the order in so characteristic a manner, The Duke of A. advanced to the sovereign with a phlegmatic, cold, awkward air, like a clown. Lord B. came forward fawning and smiling like a ceurtier. Lord C. presented himself, easy, un-embarrassed, like a gentleman." These are the stories one has to recall about the Prince and King-kindness to a housemaid, generosity to a groom, critici-m on a bow. There are no better stories about him; they are mean and trivial, and they characterize him. The great war of empires and giants goes on. Day by day vic-tories are won and lost by the brave. Torn, smoky flags and battered eagles are wrenched from the heroic enemy and laid at his feet; and he sits there on his throne and smiles, and gives the guerdon of valor to the conqueror. Elliston the actor, when the Coronation was performed, in which he took the principal part, used to fancy himself the King, burst into tears, and hiccough a blessing on the people. I believe it is certain about George IV that he had heard so much of the war, knighted so many people, and worn such a prodigious quantity of marshal's uniforms, cocked hats, cock's feathers, scarlet and bullion in general, that he actually fancied he had been present in some campaigns and, under the name of General Brock, led a tremendous charge of the German Legion at

He is dead but thirty years, and one asks how a great society could have tolerated him. Would we bear him now? In this quarter of a century what a silent revolution has been working how it has separated us from old times and manners! how it has changed men themselves! can see old gentlemen now among us, of perfect good breeding, and quiet lives, with venerable gre y heads, fonding their grandchildren; and look at them, and wonder at what they were That gentleman of the grand old school, when he was in the 10th Hussars, and dined at the prince's table, would fail under it night after night. Night after night that gentleman sat at Brookes' or Raggett's over the dice. If, in the petulance of play or drink, that gentleman spoke a sharp word to his neighbor, he and the other would infallibly go out and try to shoot each other the next morning. That gentleman would drive his friend Rienmond the black boxer down to Moulsey, and hold his coat, and shout, and swear, and hurran with delight while the black man was beating Dutch Sam the Jew. That gentleman would take a manly pleasure in pulling his own coat off and thrashing a bargeman in a street row. That gentleman has been in a watch-house. That gentleman so exquisitely polite with ladies in a drawing-room, so lottly courteous, if he talked now as he used among men in his youth, would swear so as to make your hair stand on end. I met lately an old German gentleman who had served in our army at the beginning of the century. Since then he has fived on his own estate, but rarely meeting with an Englishman, whose languagethe language of fifty years ago, that is—ne pos-sesses perfectly. When this highbred old man began to speak English to me, almost every other word he uttered was an oath, as they used it (they swore dreacfully in Flanders) with the Duke of York before Valenciennes, or at Carlton House over the supper and cards. Read Byron's letters. So accustomed is the young man to oaths, that he employs them even in writing to his friends, and swears by the post. Read this account of the doings of young men at Cam-bridge, of the ribald professors, one of whom "could pour out Greek like a drunken Helot, and whose excesses surpassed even those of the young men. Read Matthews' description of the boyish lordling's housekeeping at Newstead, the skull-cop passed round, the monks' dresses from the masquerade warehouse, in which the young scapegraces used to sit until daylight chanting appropriate songs round their wine. "We come to breakfast at two or three o'clock," Matthews "There are gloves and folls for those who like to amuse themselves, or we are pistols at a mark in the hall, or we worry the wolf." A jolly life, truly! The noble young owner of the mansion writes about such affairs himself in letters to his friend Mr. John Jackson, pugilist,

All the prince's time tells a similar strange story of of menners and pleasure. In Wraxhall we find the prime minister himself, the redoubted William Pitt, engaged in high jinks with personages of no less importance than Lord Thurlow, the lord chancellor, and Mr. Dundas, the treasurer of the navy. Wraxhall relates how these three statesmen, returning after dinner from Addiscombe, found a turnpike open, and galloped through it without paying the toll, The turnpike man, fancying they were high way-men, fired a blunderbuss after them, but missed them; and the poet sang-

"How as Pitt wandered darkling o'er the plain His reason drown'd in Jenkinson's champague, A rustic's hand, but righteous fate withstood, Had shed a premier's for a robber's blood,"

Here we have the treasurer of the navy, the lord high chancelior, and the prime minister, all en-Memoirs, about the very same time, I read that the bar loved wine as well as the woolsack. Not John Scott himself; he was a good boy always; and, though he loved port wine, loved his business, and his duty, and his fees a great

He has a northern circuit story of those days deal better. about a party at the house of a certain Lawyer Paweeit, who gave a dinner every year to the "On one occasion," related Lord Eldon, "I

heard Lee ray, 'I cannot leave Fawgett's wine, Mind, Davenport, you will go home imme-ciately after dinner to read the brief in that cause we have to conduct to-morrow.'
"'Not I,'said Davenport. 'Leave my dinner and my wine to read a brief! No. no, Lee; that

wen't do.'
"Then,' said Lee, 'what is to be done? who

else is employed?'
"Datenport—'Oh! young Scott.'
"Lee—'Oh! he must go. Mr. Scott, you must go home immediately, and make yourself acquainted with that cause before our consulta-

ion this evening. "This was very hard upon me; but I did not go, and there was an attorney from Cumberland, and one from Northumberland, and I do not know how many other persons. Pretty late, in came Jack Lee, as drunk as he could be.
"'I cannot consult to-night; I must go to bed," he exclaimed, and away he went. Then came

Sir Thomas Davenport, "'We cannot have a consultation to-night, Mr. Wordsworth' (Wordsworth, I think, was the name), shouted Davenport. 'Don't you see how drunk Mr. Scott is? It is impossible to consult. Poor me! who had scarce any dinner, and lost all my wipe-I was so drunk that I could not consult! Well, a verdict was given against us, and it was all owing to Lawyer Fawcett's dinner. We moved for a new trial; and I must say for the honor of the bar, that these two gentlemen Jack Lee and Sir Thomas Davenport, paid al the expenses between them of the first trial. is the only instance I ever knew, but they did, We moved for a new trial (on the ground, I sup-

pose, of the counsel not being in their senses), and it was granted. When it came on the following year, the judge rose and said:—
"Gentlemen, did any of you dine with Lawyer Fawcett yesterday? for if you did, I will not hear this cause till next year.

'There was great laughter. We gained the cause that time." On another occasion, at Lancaster, where poor Bozzy must needs be going the northern circuit, "we found bim," says Mr. Scott, "lying upon the pavement mebriated. We subscribed a guines at supper for him, and a half crown for his clerk" (no doubt there was a large bar, and that Scott's joke did not cost him much). sent him, when he waked next morning, a brief. with instructions to move for what he denominated the writ of quare adhesit pavimento? with observations duly calculated to Induce him to think that it required great learning to express the necessity of granting it to the judge before whom he was to move." Boswell sentall round the town to attorneys for books that might en-able himself to discinguish himself, but in vain. He moved, however, for the writ, making the best use he could of the observations in the brief, The judge was perfectly astonished and the audience amazed. The judge said, "I never heard of such a writ: what can it be that adheres pacimento? Are any of you gentlemen at the bar able to explain this

The bar laughed. At last one of them said, "My lord, Mr. Boswell last night adhæsit pavi-There was no moving him for some time. At last he was carried to bed, and he has been dreaming about homself and the pavement."

The canny oid gentleman relishes these jokes. When the Bishop of Lincoln was moving from the deanery of St. Paul's he says he asked a learned friend of his, by name Will Hay, how he should move some especially fine claret, about which he was anxious. "Pray, my lord bishop," says Hay, "How much of the wine have you?"

The bishop said six dozen. "If that is all," Hay answered, "you have but to ask me atx times to dinner, and I will carry it

all away myself." There were giants in those days; but this joke about wine is not so fearful as one perpetrated by Olator Thelwall, in the heat of the French

Revolution, ten years later, over a frothing pot of porter. He blew the head off and said, "This is the way I would serve all kings." Now we come to yet higher personages, and find their loings recorded in the biushing pages of timid Miss Burney's Memoirs. She represents prince of the blood in quite a royal condition. The loudness, the bigness, the boisterousness creaking boots, and rattling caths of the young

princes appeared to have frightened the prim household of Windsor, and set all the teacups twittering on the tray. On the night of a ball and birthday, when one of the pretty, kind princesses was to come out, it was agreed that her brother, Prince William Henry, should dance the opening minuet with her, and he came 'At dinner Mrs. Schwellenberg presided, at-

tired magnificently; Miss Goldsworthy, Mrs. Stanforth, Messrs. Du Lac and Stanhope, dined with us; and while we were still eating fruit, the Duke of Clarence entered. "He was just risen from the king's table, and

waiting for his equipage to go home and prepare for the ball. To give you an idea of the energy of his royal highness language, I ought to set spart an objection to writing, or rather inti-mating certain forcible words, and beg leave to show you in genuine colors a royal sailor.

"We all rose, of course, upon his entrance, and the two gentlemen placed themselves behind their chairs, while the rootmen left the But he ordered us all to sit down, and called the men back to hand about some wine. He was in exceeding high spirits and in the utmost good humor. He placed himself at the head of the table next Mrs. Schwellenberg, and looked remarkably well, gay, and full of sport and mischief; yet clever withal, as well as

"Well, this is the first day I have ever dived with the king at St. James' on his birthday. Pray, have you all drunk his majesty's health?'
"No, your royal highness; your royal high-ness might make dem do dat," said Mrs. Schwel-

lenberg.

"'Oh, by —, I will! Here, you (to the footmen), bring champagne; I'll drink the king's health again, if I die for it. Yes, I have done it pretty well already; so has the king. I promise I believe his majesty was never taken such good care of before; we have kept his spirits up, I promise you; we have enabled him to go through his fatigues; and I should have done more still but for the ball and Mary; I have promised to dance with Mary. I must keep ober for Mary.

Indefatigable Miss Burney continues for a dozen pages reporting H. R. H.'s conversation, and indicating, with a humor not unworthy of the clever little author of "Evelina," the increas ing state of excitement of the young sailor prince, who drank more and more champagne, stopped old Mrs. Schwellenberg's remonstrances by giving the old slady a kiss, and telling her to hold her potato-trap, and who did not "keep sober for Mary." Mary had to find another partner that night, for the royal William Henry could not keep his legs.

Will you have a picture of the amusements of another royal prince? It is the Duke of York, the blundering general, the beloved commanderin-chief of the army, the brother with whom George IV had had many a midnight carouse, and who continued his habits of pleasure almost

till death seized his stout body. In "Puckler-Muskau's Letters," the German prince describes a bout with H. a. H., who in his best time was such a powerful toper that "six bottles of claret after dinner scarce made a

perceptible change in his countenance."
"I remember," snys Puckler, "that one evening—indeed, it was past midnight—he took some of his guesta, among whom were the Austrian ambassador, Count Meervelt, Count Beroldingen, and myself, into his beautiful armory. We trued to swing several Turkish sabres, but none of us had a very firm grasp, whence it happened that the duke and Meervelt both scraiched themselves with a sort of straight Indian sword as to draw blood. Meervelt then wished to try of the sword cut as well as a Damascus, and attempted to cut through one of the wax candles that stood on the table. The experiment answered so ill that both the candles, candlesticks and all, fell to the ground and were extinguished. While we were groping in the dark, and trying to find the door, the duke's aid-de-camp stammered out in great agitation, 'By G—, sir, I remember the sword is poisoned!'

"You may conceive the agreeable feelings of the wounded at this intelligence. Happily, on further examination, it appeared that claret, and not poison, was at the bottom of the colonel's exclamation."

And now I have one more story of the bacchsnalian sort, in which Clarence and York, and

the very highest personage of the realm, the the very highest personage of the realm, the great prince regent, all play parts. The feast took place at the Pavilion at Brighton, and described to me by a gentleman who was present at the scene. In Gilray's caricatures, and among Fox's joily associates, there figures a great nobleman, the Dake of Noriolk, called Jockey of Noriolk in his time, and celebrated for his table exploits. He had quarrelied with the prince like the He had quarrelled with the prince, like the rest of the Whigs; but a sort or reconclustion had taken place; and now, being a very old man, the prince invited him to dide and sleep at the Pavilion, and the old dake drove over from his castle of Arundel with his famous equipage of grey horses, still remembered in

The Prince of Wales had concected with his royal brother a notable scheme for making the old man drunk. Every person at table was enjoined to drink wine with the duke-a challenge which the old toper did not refuse. He soon began to see that there was a conspiracy against him; he drank glass for glass; he overthrew many of the brave. At last the first gen-threm many of the brave. At last the first gen-tleman of Europe proposed bumpers of brandy. One of the royal brothers filled a great glass for the duke. He stood up and tossed off the drink. "Now," says he, "I will have my carriage, and go home." The prince urged upon him his previous promise to sleep under the roof where he had been so generously entertained, "No," he said; he had had enough of such hospitality. A trap had been set for him; he would leave the place at once, and never enter its doors more.

The carriage was called, and came; but in the half-hour's interval the liquor had proved too potent for the old man; his host's generous purpose was answered, and the duke's old grey head lay stupefied on the table. Nevertheless, his postchalse was announced, he stag gered to it as well as he could, and, stumpling in, bade the postilions drive to Arundel. They drove bim for half an hour round and round the Pavilion lawn; the peor old man fancted he was going home. When he awake that morning he was in bed at the prince's hideous house at Brighton. You may see the place now for sixpence: they have findlers there every day; and sometimes bulloons and mountebanks hire the Riding House, and do their tricks and tumbling there. The frees are still there, and the gravel-walks round which the poor old sinner was trotted. I can fancy the flushed faces of the royal princes as they support themselves at the portico pillars, and look on at old Norfolk's disgrace; but I can't fancy how the man who perpetuated it continued to be called a gentlement.

From drinking the pleased muse now turns was a great practitioner. Hell was a famous pige on for the playmen; they lived upon him. Egaine Orleans, it was believed, punished him severely. Anoble lord, whom we shall call the Marquis of Steyne, is said to have mulcied him in immense sums. He frequented the clubs, where play was then almost universal; and, as it was known his debts of honor were sacred, while he was gambling Jews waited outside to purchase his notes of hand. His transactions on the turf were unlucky as well as discreditable, though I believe he and his jockey and his borse Escape were all innocent in that affair which created so much scandal.

Arthur's, Almack's, Bootle's, and White's were the chief clubs of the young men of fashion. There was play at all, and decayed noblemen and broken-down senators fleeced the unwary there. In "Selwyn's Letters" we find Carlisle, Devonshire, Coventry, Queensbury, all undergoing the probation. Charles Fox, a dreadful gambler, who cheated in very late times, lost £200,000 at play. Gibbon tells of his playing for twenty-two hours at a sitting, and osing £500 an hour. That indomitable punter said that the greatest pleasure in life, after said that the greatest pleasure in life, after winning, was losing. What hours, what nights, what health did he waste over the devil's books! I was going to say what peace of mind, but he took his losses very philosophically. After an awful night's play, and enjoyment of the greatest pleasure but one in tie, he was found on a sofa, tranquilly reading an ecloque of Virgil.

Play survived long after the wild prince and Fox had given up the dice-box. The dandles continued it. Byron, Brummell—how many names could I mention of men of the world who have suffered by it! In 1837 occurred a fame trial, which pretty nigh put an end to gambling in England. A peer of the realm was found cheating at whist, and repeatedly seen to practise the game called sauter la coupe. His friends at the clubs saw him cheat, and went on playing with him. One greenhorn, who had discovered his foul play, asked an old hand what he should do. "Do?" said the Mammon of Unrighteous-ness, "back him, you foot!" The best efforts were made to screen him. People wrote him anchymous letters and warned him; but he would cheat, and they were obliged to find him out. Since that day, when my lord's shame was made public, the gaming-table has lost all its splendor. Shabby Jews and blacklegs prowl about race-courses and tavern parlors, and now and then inveigle silly yokels with greasy packs of cards in railroad cars; but Play is a de

So is another famous British institution gone of decay—the Ring: the noble practice of British boxing, which in my youth was still

goodess, her worshippers bankrupt, and her

almost flourishing. The prince, in his early days, was a great patron of this national sport, as his grand-uncle, Culloden Cumberland, had been before him; but, being present at a fight at Brighton, where one of the combatants was killed, the prince ensioned the boxer's widow, and declared be never would attend another battle, "But, nevertheless"-I read in the noble language of Pierce Egan (whose smaller work on Pugilism I have the honor to possess)—"he thought it a manly and decided English feature, which ought not to be destroyed. His majesty had a drawing of the sporting characters in the Fives' Court placed in his boudotr, to remind him of his former attachment and support of true courage; and when any fight of note occurred after he was king accounts of it were read to him by his That gives one a fine image of a king taking his recreation-at ease in a royal dress ing-pown—too majestic to read himself, order-ing the prime minister to read him accounts of battles, how Cribb punched Molyneux's eyes, or Jack Eanoall threshed the Game Chicken.

Where my prince did actually distinguish himsely was in driving. He drove once in four hours and a half from Brighton to Carltonfifty-six miles. All the young men of that day were fond of that sport. But the fashion of rapid driving deserted England, and, I believe, trotted over to America. Where are the amuse-ments of our youth? I hear of no gambling now but among the lowest rabble. One solitary four-in-hand still drove round the parks in London last year; but that character must soon disappear. He was very old; he was attired after the fashion of the year 1825. He must drive to the banks of Styx ere long, where the ferry-boat waits to carry him over to the defunct revellers who boxed, and gambled, and drank, and drove with King George. [Conclusion in our next issue.]

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