A HISTORICAL SKETCH.

THE TOWER AND ITS TENANTS.

Beyond all question, the most interesting building in Great Britain is the Tower of London. There are other places remarkable for this and that historical association; for deeds of high-handed oppression; for memories of lifelong persecution; but none of these possess a record equal in interest to that of any one of the score of dangeons in that grey, isolated oile, in which our kings have lived, and our nobles have perished for so many hundred years, Each one of its many towers is a long enapter of our history, full of violence and blood, and yet not without some noble incidents also; each stonewalled chamber is a page out of human life more romantic than novelist would dure to paint, What scenes have those walls witnessed! What groans have they heard! A royal palace; a state prison; a slaughter-house, where the noble and base have perished by the indiscriminate axe; a burial place of murdered queens! And yet how little we know about this wondrous spot that lies at the very door of so many of us. Who visits it save humble country-folk, who "do" it and the Thames Tunnel in the same afternoon. How few of us since our boyhood, when we visited with some benevolent uncle, who "gave himself up" to us for the day, and offered us the choice of the Tower or Madame Tuss and's-the very extremities of self-sacrifice, as he considered them—have ever cared to venture so far eastward as Tower Hill!

A cheerful nod, as we have passed it on our way down the river, in the whitebait season, and the remark, "That is Traitors' Gate," is all the attention we Londoners of the better class—as we consider ourselves—are accustomed to pay to the Tower of London. It it cost half a guinea apiece to see the place, perhaps we that are of the Upper Ten Thousand should go; but to be mixed up with a crowd of people at six-pence a head, and lectured by a professor of flistory in the shape of a bee feater, exactly as if we were at a waxwork, is what we are not likely to put up with, and don't. The meagre, wretched guide-books of the place, too, quite carry out the waxwork notion, and until lately, they have been the only accessible sources from which topographical information—the identification of locality with event—could be procured. This last objection, however, has now been removed by the publication of "Me-morials of the Tower," by Lord de Ros, its present Lieutenant-Governor, a book which all should read before they visit the place, and which few, let us hope, will read without the desire of visiting it. Then every stone will have, if not a sermon in it, at least an epitaph; and if we must still run with the beefeater, we need not read by the light of his intelligence.

The Tower, as every one knows, is situated on the Middlesex side of the Thames, a little below London Bridge, and the buildings which compose it present the appearance of a small fortified town of Germany or Flanders. Its wide, deep most, though kept dry for sanitary reasons, is capable of being flooted, and though reasons, is capable of being flooded, and though
of course as a fortress the place would be easily
reduced by the modern appliances of war, it is
still a formidable hold. The "Ballium," or
inner wall, is immensely thick, and varies from
thirty to forty feet in height. The only vestige
of the royal palace, finally demolished by Cromwell—is the buttress of an old archway adjoning the Salt Tower—to the southeast—but most
of the buildings have stubboruly resisted the
attacks of Time.

attacks of Time. That portion of the place which is most familiar to our ears is, no doubt, the Bloody Tower, opposite the water-entrance, and so grimly associated with the murder of the two young princes by Richard III. As the fact of this atrocity has had some doubts lately cast upon it by some of those skeptles who busy them-selves in this age with whitewashing the vilselves in this age with whitewashing the villains of history, as well as with depreciating its heroes, Lord de Ros has gone into the matter at some length. The generally received tradition runs that Richard, after giving all necessary orders for his elder nephew's coronation (there is evidence that even his robes were prepared), suddenly sounded Sir Robert Brackenbury, the Lieutenant of the Tower, upon the subject of doing away with both lads. Brackenbury, who is said to have received this instruction while engaged in the singularly englagrance occupation of divine service in St. malapropos occupation of divine service in St. John's Chapel in the White Tower, declined the dreadful office. James Tyrrell was therefore appointed to temporarily supersede him in his prot. This being arranged, Tyrrell employed Dighton and Forest to do the deed; and the bodies of the children were buried in the Tower. and not a syllable said about them. There was not the slightest attempt to account for their disappearancelin any way. That every contemporary believed that the princes thus met their end seems certain, and hence the general disbelief in England of the authenticity of the claims of Perkin Warbeck. It was always a sequel of the tradition of the our-der, that "the priest of the Tower" had buried the bodies in some concealed place—Shake speare makes Tyrrelliconfess to the fact—"and surely it is not unreasonable to inter, when two children's bodies; corresponding in age and period of decay with the date of the murder, were discovered in Charles II's time, by some workmen at the foot of a staircase, about seventy yards from the Bloody Tower, that these were the bones of the princes. There were two consecrated burial grounds within the Tower, besides that of Barking Church on Tower Hill close by; and what likelihood was there, under these circumstances, of two boys being buried in this sequestered nock, under a staircase, unless with a view to secrecy and concealment? Charles II, a by no means credulous prince, had certainly no doubt of the matter, since he went to the trouble and expense of having the remains removed, with all due respect, to the vaults of Westminster. By his orders, as it is said, a mulberry tree was also planted upon the spot where the bones were found; and so late as 1853, a warder of the Tower was alive who re-membered seeing the stump still imbedded in the landing of the stairs. The extraordinary rewards paid to the assassins for value received (but not acknowledged) must also be taken into account. Tyrrell was made Governor of Guines, near Calais, and further received three rich stewardships from Richard in the marches of Wales. Dighton was made balliff of Ayton, with a pension. Forest's widow had a pension given her on his death, shortly after the murder; and 'ample general pardons were granted them, whatever villainies might be laid to their charge, all under the royal hand and seal, not naming what offense, but covering any and all." Surely qui excuse s'accuse is a remark that applies here. According to Miss Strickland, indeed, Tyrrell actually confessed to the murder, and Dighton also, the Atter with the addition, that "the old priest had buried the bodies first under the Wakefield had buried the bodies first under the Wakefield Tower, and a second time in some place of which he had no knowledge." That the Bloody Tower was the locality of old assigned to this crime, is certain; for in a complimentary oration to James I, with which the authorities of the Tower received him upon his first visit thereto, express mention is made of it as such. Indeed, it seems probable from the nature of the case, since the chamber credited with the wicked deed closely adjoined the Governor's house, where so many prisoners of

Governor's house, where so many prisoners of rank were confined, when security, rather than severity of imprisonment, was the object in With the exception of this stain, however, the Bloody Tower has by no means so had a reputa-tion as others of its brethren; such as the Beauchamp Tower, where many a brave man and gentle lady dragged out years of misery, from which they were only freed by the axes edge; or the White Tower, in the vaults of which still exist "tee Little Ease" and "Cold Harbor" —very significant chamber-titles—and in whose turret Matilda the Fair is said to have been powoned by the command of King John, whom she refused to receive as her wooer. She is said to have been slain by means of a pol-soned egg (which seems, for the Tower, to have been quite a humane attention), and out of that erg, according to one historian, was hatched the British Constitution, her murder, "completing the exasperation of the English

barons, who flew to arms for the purpose of avenums the honor of the most distinguished among their class, Lord Fitzwalter,"

The Wakefield Tower (adjoining the Bloody Tower) is, by comparison with the pre-ceding, quite an innocent place of resi-dence. Its large hall, however, has the reputation of bring the spot where Heary VI was murdered by Richard (then Duke of Gloucester), and certainly in the vault be-neath it sixty or sevents of the Scotch prisoners, neath it sixty or seventy of the scatch prisoners, in 1745, were confined, with so little attention to tresh air and food, that more than half of them perished. The Tower, indeed, seems to have been a stronghold of abuses, as well as to have enjoyed a oad reputation in respect to marders and the line, for the constables appointed from time to time only considered how money could be screwed out of those over whom they were set.

They soid the warderships, allowed public houses to be built all over the place, and filled every corner with paying tenants. No prisoner was too low or too high but that they put their screw on—even if the thumbscrew was omitted in the treatment prescribed. When the Princess Elizabeth was in queted, here the constable Elizabeth was in custody here, the constable, Sir John Gage, actually took toll of the provisions supplied to her, until the Lords of Coun-cil forced him to admit her own servants to su-perintend her commissariat. Her imprisonment was sufficiently harsh, without Sir John's pil-ferings. Mass was constantly obtraded upon her. For a whole month she never passed the thresholdfof her chamber; and even when she obtained permission to take the air, she was always attended by the constable, the heuten-ont, and a guard. Even a little boy of cour sant, and a guard. Even a little boy of our prisoners as well as herself, and bring them flowers, was suspected of being a messenger between her and the unhappy Earl of Devonshire, an inmate of the Tower from twelve years of age, "lest he chould avenge his father's wrongs"—the reason for his committal absoluted as the chould avenge his father's wrongs." lutely assigned—and who only enjoyed two sub-sequent years of liberty. The child aforesaid was actually bribed, with promises of figs and apples, to furnish ground for accusation against the Frincess and the harl.

In reading Lord de Ros! little volume, indeed, no one can fail to be struck not only with the injustice and crucky of those old times, which certain foolish persons persist in calling "good," but with the baseness and cowardice of "the authorities," from the king or queen downwards. Base and brutal as was Queen Mary's conduct, that of Elizabeth was even viler, masmuch as she was more causelessly vindictive. We do not she was more causelessly vindictive. We do not know at what precise period chivalry is supposed to have been at its best and palmiest, but certainly modern times offer no parallel in the way of downright meanness to the conduct pursued by such a gallant knight, for instance, as Henry V. We have all heard of the respect paid by that noble prince to his prisoners after Agincourt; but it is not so generally known that he afterwards not so generally known that he afterwards behaved to them exactly as our Italian and Chinese brigands conduct themselves towards their captives. If the ransom—always an ex-travagantly enormous one—was not very soon paid, his noble prisoners in the Tower began to feel it in restrictions and privations. The Dukes of Bourbon and Bouckault died there, since their urgent appeals could not extract from the fenants of their exhausted lands the requisite sum set upon their release; and Charles of Orleans languished in those alien walls for a quarter of a century.

With whatever high-flown courtesy, too, women were treated as "queens of tourney," and on great public occasions, in private and in prison, their sex was no protection; the cowardice and cruelty of their jailors and of those who ruled their jailors, were beyond anything that is heard of now, except among the most brutalized of our peasantry, and towards some wretched lunatic half ignorant of her wrongs. Think of Askew, for instance, so late as the days of "bluff King Hal," bullied by Bishop Bonner, worried even by the Lord Mayor about her religious opinions, next committed to Newgate, and then sent to the Tower, to be racked by the Chancellor himself, "so that her limbs were so stretched and her joints so injured that she was never again able to walk without support!" Lastly, she is taken to Smithfield to be burned alive in the presence of the Duke of Noriolk and the Earl of Bedford, one of whom, learning that there was some thing that is heard of now, except among the one of whom, learning that there was some gunpowder about the fagots (placed by some good soul to shorten her agonies), "became trightened lest any accident should happen to himself." Anne Boleyn, by a strange refinement of criefty, was placed as a prisoner in the same lodging she had occupied previous to her coronation; and when Smeton had been induced to accuse her falsely, by promise of his life being spared (in despite of which promise they hung spared (in despite of which promise they hung him), she was taken out, and beheaded in the courtyard, and her body thrown into an arrow chest. For the execution of Lady Jane Grey—whose autograph may be read on the walls of the Beauchamp Tower—there was, perhaps, in those turbulent times, enough of excuse; but nothing can palliate the behaviour of Elizabeth towards Lady Catherine Grey, Jane's sister—Elizabeth, a woman herself, but twenty-five at the time in question, and who knew from experience the question, and who knew from experience the bitterness of captivity. For the crime (?) of marrying Lord Hertford, this young lady, with her husband, was committed to the Tower; by no means, however, in his company; she bore her first child in solutude, and heard it pro-nounced illegitimate, and her marriage to be null and void. "This monstrous decision was not, of course, likely to affect the sentiments of the parties concerned. After a time, by persua-sion or corruption of their keepers, the doors of their prison were no longer secured against each other, and the birth of a second child rekindled the anger of Elizabeth." A double fine was imposed upon Lord Hertrord, and they never met again, notwithstanding petitions to her Majesty, setting forth "how unmeet it was that this young couple should thus wax old in prison." This heartless queen seems to have been

son, born since his imprisonment. She offered to release him altogether upon one condition and in this she was baser than in her cruelty—that he should change his faith. The Lady Arabella Stoart was another involun-tary tenant of the Tower, whose only taulis were her rojal birth, and having wedded the man she loved. Her cousin, King James, for-cibly separated the happy pair, and they formed a plan to escape to France, and there be rennited. In this they committed a crime. The husband sugreeded in his design, but Arabella falled, and was committed to the Tower, where, after some years she died, as well she might, after some years she died, as well she might, distracted with her miseries. This daughter of a line of kings—but far too much ont of the direct succession to create reasonable alarm—was buried by night, and without any ceremony, in Westminster Abbey, "because, to have a great funeral for one dying out of the king's havor, would have reflected upon the king's honor," The hing's honor, of whom his own son said, that 'he was the unity man who would have shut up such a bird as Raleigh in a cage;" and such a cage! A ceil in the White Tower, now shown to every visitor, was the limit allowed to the greatest navigator of the globe for eight long years. The story of his subsequent release, expedition, and legal of his subsequent release, expedition, and legal murder-perhaps the most andactous ever com-mitted under the shield of law-is well known; ut not so well James answer to Lady Haleigh, when she complained to him that he had given her husband's estate away (on pretense of a flaw in the title-deed) to his favorite Robert Carr, and becought him not thus to make their child

This heartless queen seems to have been beyond the reach of nature, and the contemplation of the domestic love denied to herself appears to have excited in her a virulent hate

of its possessor. She refused to the Earl of Arundel, captive until death in the Beauchamp

Tower, for the crime of being a Roman Catho-lic, permission to see his newly married wife, or even to be allowed the sight of his lufant

a beggar. He received her harshly, and merely repeated:—"I mann have the land—I mann have it for Carr." have it for Carr."

The only tensure of the Tower who seems to have been able to move the heart of king or queen in his favor, was one of the greatest scoundreis it ever contained, namely, Colonel Blood, who stole the Regalia. Nobody knows why Charles II pardoned him, or rather released both him and his accomplices without

trial. The enterprising Colonel even became a hanger on upon the court at Wintsball, where he does not seem to have been beld a greater rogue than the rest, for he had eventually a penrogue than the rest, for he had eventually a pension given to him, as wall as some configurated fand in Ireland. Edwards, on the other hand, the keeper of the jewels, who had almost lost his like in their detense, died unrecompensed. From the Conqueror's time, indeed, until that of James II, the annals of the tenants of the Tower form one long history of injustice. The single gleam of sunshine that strikes through these dark records is the narrative of the escape of Lord Nithschile from the governor's house in February, 1716, the the governor's house in February, 1716, the evening before the day in which he had been doomed to die, and it is exceedingly well told by our author. The devoted resolution of his countess, overcoming the apprehensions of the timid, and stirring the phlegmatic into action; her admirable address at the moment of her husband's flight; her presence of mind when he had got clear off, in imitating her lord's voice, that his guards might imagine be was still within his chamber; and, finally, her return to Scotland, at the forfeit of her life. to fetch the buried family title-deeds, for her child's sake, make up a spirited portrait of a noble woman.

We have not spoken of the Tower as a for-tress, though more than one king and queen were be-leged within its massive walls; Bichard Il twice, who, on the latter occasion, had the mertification, after parley with the rebel leader in the council-room, of being compelled to surrender his old friend and tutor. Simon Burley, to the vengeauce of his enemies. It was from the Tower stairs, ten years before, that Richard took boat, and addressed his angry people with vain words of peace; and from its gate that he rode forth to meet Wat Tyler. No sooner had he passed the drawbridge than the mob rushed in, and, besides treating his mother, wildow of the Black Prince, with great brutality, fore the Archb shop of Canterbury, and others, from the very star of St. Peter, and beleaded them in the courtyard, so often the scene of scarcely less lawless executions.

St. Peter's Chapel is, in one sense, the chief focus of interest among all the Tower buildings; for, in whatever portion of the place the prisoners languished, they were most of them laid there at last, generally shorter by a head than when in life. Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy of Ireland, is one of the few who is interred there undecapitated -he only died of a broken heart, upon hear ing that his son, Lord Thomas Fitzgerald (commonly called Silken Thomas), had inherited the family disease of rebellion, and declared war against the king, Henry VII. His foreboding was a just one, for Thomas soon came to be a prisoner like himself—in the Beauchamp Tower—and was hanged, one fine morn-ing, with no less than five of his uncles, upon Tyburn Tree. The father of this old Lord Kildare was a chronic rebel; he could not possibly help having a band in whatever rising hap pened to be taking place; and yet he kept his head on his shoulders to the last, and, simply because he was such an un paralleled scoundrel pecture he was such an un paralleled scoundred, received the highest honors. When accused before the king in council of burning the Cathedral of Cashel, he admitted the soit impeachment, but defended himself upon the ground "that he was positively assured that the archbishop was inside of it." This reply was considered a very excellent one; and, "since it seemed all ireland could not govern this earl, Henry said, "this earl shall govern all Ireland; and accordingly made him its lord lieutenant. Besides the great historical characters who bave been involuntary tenants of the Tower,

there have been a few others who have had temporary locgment there previous to execution; among these, notably, Lord Stourton, whose determined murder of the Hartgills, father and son, forms a very curious chapter in this history. He was the first peer who ever 'took siik"—claimed the privilege of being bung with a rope of that material, and he richly deserved it. Our author takes occahe richly deserved it. Our author takes occa-sion to remark that this was not altogether an empty distinction, since such rope being stronger than vulgar hempen cord, is slenderer, slips more easily upon the windpipe, and so shortens matters. His Lordship's servants were of course supplied with the usual article, and subsequently "hung in chains"—an expression, by the by, which only meant that after hang-ing in the ordinary way, "a stout canvass dress, well saturated with tar, was put upon the body, and then a light frame of hoop-iron fitted to the frame with the object of causing the reto the frame, with the object of causing the remains to hang together as long as possible. At the top of this framework was an iron loop cured the chain by which the corpse was finally suspended to a lofty gibbet made of oak, and studded with tenter-hooks, to prevent any one climbing up to remove the body.

climbing up to remove the body.

The last criminals received within the Tower walls were the Cato street gang in 1820. Thistle-wood was a tenant of the Bloody Tower; Ings and Davidson (a negro) of St. Thomas Tower; Harrison, Brunt, Tidd, Monument, and Wison, in the Bynard and Middle Towers; and Hooper in the Salt Tower. The flist five were all hung; there was not the slightest sympathy from the speciators upon their appearance on the scaffold, but "when each head was cut off and held up, a loud and deep groun of horror burst from all loud and deep groan of horror burst from all sides, which was not soon forgotten by those who heard it?—so distasteful to our people has the sight of blood become, which was at one time shed in such torrents upon that most his

toric eminence in Britain, Tower Hill. Interesting as these memorials are, and advantageous as must be the position of their author for investigating hidden matters of great mement, we do not envy Lord de Ros the abitation to which his office articles him. In abitation to which his office entitles him. the daytime, the governor's house is doubtless comfertable enough: but at night, if one were the least inclined to be nervous—yet his Lordship is a soldier, and doubtless not afraid. "More than one sentry, however," he admits, "has deposed to hearing horrible groans proceeding from the apartment called the Council Chamber," where (among similar cheerin events) Guido Fawkes underwent the applica tion of the rack in its severest form. say it was "only tancy," but-only fancy!-Chambers' Journal.

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