

NOBLE ORGAN GRINDER.

Will Probably Secure the Estate of Earl Poulett.

THERE ARE TWO CLAIMANTS.

The Eldest Son of the Earl, Who Has Just Died, Was Discarded by His Father Through No Fault of His Own—An Interesting Life Story.

London, Jan. 24.—William Henry, Earl Poulett, died in this city on Sunday in his 72d year. It is probable that the succession to the title and estates will be disputed.

The deceased earl was thrice married. According to gossip, he made a wager, when a harum scarum youth and traveling about, that he would marry the first woman he met on landing in England.

Accordingly, at Port Sea, in 1849, he married Miss Elizabeth Virginia Newman, daughter of a Landport pilot. Within a few months she gave birth to a son, whose paternity her husband denied. The couple from that time lived apart, the wife dying in August, 1851. The child, who now calls himself Viscount Hinton, and claims the succession, has long been living on the streets of London as an organ grinder, and his pretensions were always sternly repudiated by the deceased earl.

About six weeks after the death of his first wife Lord Poulett married Miss Sophia Johnson, who died in 1856, without issue living. In 1859 he married Miss Rosa De Melville, daughter of Alfred Hugh De Melville, and their son is generally recognized as the rightful heir.

The long standing quarrel between the late Earl Poulett and the organ grinder viscount has furnished the material for many a London sensation. Only a month ago the claimant to the succession issued an appeal to the public to take a philanthropic interest in the condition of the poor, among whom he has lived and earned his living. He prefaced it with a brief biographical statement, which is interesting just now, as likely to form the basis of important litigation between him and the son of the late earl by his third wife. In the course of the appeal "the noble organ grinder," as he is known in London, said:

"I am Viscount Hinton, William Turnour Thomas Poulett, eldest son of Earl Poulett, of Hinton St. George, Somerset; hence my title. On the death of the present earl, against whom I hold no enmity whatever, I expect to inherit Hinton St. George, still a magnificent domain of 20,000 acres. The estate is worth £12,000 per annum, which I shall some time enjoy.

"Through certain affairs, which must be nameless, my parents lived apart, my mother enjoying a good income, which she died with her. The earl shortly afterward took another wife, who lived for some time. After she left this world he took unto himself another. Certain affairs took place and I was thrown on my own resources. "Friends took care of me and kept me going for a time. I was advised by an old friend to try to win a living in the streets. An organ was procured for me, to which I am compelled to stick, not being able to turn my hand to anything else. The work is very hard, especially during the winter months. Some people think and say it is an idle life. Let them try it. I am earning an honest living with my piano organ.

"I am also learning a phase of life among the London populace which I believe few members of the nobility have had a chance to know. When I take my seat in the house of lords I think I shall come equipped with a better understanding of its duties toward the public than had I squandered a patrimony or idly wasted in inheritance. As one of the thousand or more organ grinders in London, I should say that the proper housing of the poor was more important just now than the multiplication of warships or the adoption of new races of men."

The late Earl Poulett conscientiously involved himself in debt, sold every family possession he could sell and mortgaged the remainder up to the limit, in order that "the noble organ grinder," in the event of ultimate succession to the title and entailed estates, might benefit as little as possible. At one time the courts refused him a certificate of discharge in bankruptcy on the ground of unjustifiable extravagance in living. He made no secret of the reason for his prodigality. The old earl's hatred for him whom he called "the impostor" was intense, and his animosity extended to the wife of the claimant, who has invariably accompanied him with the piano organ about the streets of London.

Lord Poulett died uncertain as to what would be the outcome of his life-long efforts to defeat the aspirations of Elizabeth Newman's son. The child was born in wedlock, and the claimant's legal advisers have all along assured him that his claims to the succession cannot be defeated.

AROUSING THE CUBANS.

A Captain Who Urged Disorder Is Placed Under Arrest.

Guantanamo, Cuba, Jan. 25.—Cuban Captain Zerafin Planch, who applied for and obtained work on the Santa Cecilia sugar plantation, near Guantanamo, harangued the workmen yesterday and ordered them to leave their work under penalty of arrest and trial by court martial of the Cuban army. The American troops who were guarding the plantation arrested Planch and brought him to Guantanamo. On the way he told them that he had acted under the orders of his own officers, though he refused to give names.

Twenty plantations in the Guantanamo district are now guarded by the United States troops, the work engaging the greater part of Lieutenant Colonel Ray's regiment, in addition to the troops whose headquarters are at Baracoa and Sagua de Tanamo.

The Delaware Deadlock.

Dover, Del., Jan. 25.—The 11th ballot for United States senator was taken by the general assembly yesterday and resulted as follows: George Gray (Dem.), 15; J. Edward Addicks (Rep.), 15; Henry A. Dupont (Rep.), 12; Francis G. Dupont (Rep.), 1; William S. Hilles (Rep.), 1; L. Irving Handy (Dem.), 5. The 12th ballot showed no change.

ITEMS OF STATE NEWS.

Harrisburg, Jan. 23.—The week opens with both Quay and anti-Quay men claiming that victory is nearly theirs. The Quay men insist that at the proper moment the additional votes needed to give him a majority will be forthcoming, while his opponents declare that he will not again come within 13 votes of election.

Corry, Pa., Jan. 25.—Ira Crandall, 70 years of age, a blind farmer, was pounded to death Monday night with an ax, wielded by Emmett Bouton, 69 years old, a crazy resident of this city. Bouton has been in the insane asylum for a year, but was discharged some time ago, pronounced cured. Bouton has been locked up.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 25.—One of the most destructive fires in the history of the city broke out in the Osterhout building, a large four story brick structure at the corner of Public Square and East Market street. The fire was not under control until the great building was in ruins. The total loss is placed at \$225,000. Joseph Moore, a detective, who occupied apartments in the burned building, perished in the flames.

Altoona, Pa., Jan. 25.—Monday evening Frank Patton, aged 21, of Frenchville, Clearfield county, was shot and probably fatally injured. Patton was warming himself in one of Taylor & McCoy's coke ovens at Gallitzin, when a negro tried to get in. An altercation followed, and the negro shot Patton through the left breast. Patton was brought to the Altoona hospital. The negro escaped, although pursued for a distance by the workmen at the coke ovens.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 24.—Anthony Rice, a Slav, was lodged in jail here last night charged with the murder of Peter Connell, of Pittston. Rice and a number of his countrymen, who were under the influence of liquor, got into a wrangle in front of Connell's house Sunday night. Connell's sister was very sick, and the brother came out to the door and told them to go away. This angered the foreigners, and one of them, Rice, it is alleged, pulled a revolver and shot Connell near the heart. He died 15 minutes later.

Lebanon, Pa., Jan. 23.—Three heavy explosions at short intervals occurred at the Bird Coleman furnace plant at Cornwall, five miles from here, Saturday night. Buildings were shaken and many window panes broken throughout the town. The twin furnaces were much damaged, and the loss is heavy. Of the many hundred workmen none was seriously hurt, although a number suffered slight injuries. The explosions were caused by molten metal eating its way out of the stack and entering the under pit, where it came into contact with water.

Harrisburg, Jan. 24.—Rev. David Eiter, German Baptist minister, of East Hanover township, aged 74 years, died Sunday in Manada creek, while baptizing his niece by immersion in the water. He preached at Hanoverdale in the forenoon, and immediately after the sermon accompanied the congregation to Cassell's mill, on the Manada creek. He had baptized nine people, and the tenth person was his niece. As he was in the act of immersing her the second time he fell into the water and was taken out a corpse. Heart trouble is said to be the cause of death.

Harrisburg, Jan. 25.—The representatives of the Pennsylvania Labor League, who have been in convention in this city, met in the hall of the house of representatives last evening, when speeches were made by Samuel Gompers, M. M. Garland, P. J. McGuire, Edwin Moore and Rev. Dr. Mutchler. Resolutions were adopted commending the members of the house for having elected John R. Farr, of Lackawanna, their speaker. George Chance, of Philadelphia, was re-elected president of the league; P. J. Moran, of Scranton, was chosen vice president, and Edwin Moore, of Philadelphia, secretary and treasurer.

Philadelphia, Jan. 23.—Charles Ruebinger, aged 19 years, yesterday afternoon accidentally shot and killed Edgar L. Wimpenny, aged 14 years. The former was shooting at a target on a lot in the northern part of the city, and fired just as Wimpenny was crossing the lot some distance in front. Last night Walter Hopper, aged 21 years, shot and seriously wounded Mrs. Jennie Boch, aged 24 years, in a lodging house on Callowhill street, and then attempted suicide by shooting himself. Hopper's wound is slight. The woman refused to accept his attention. C. P. Wolff, aged about 22 years, of Brooklyn, committed suicide yesterday in a hotel by inhaling illuminating gas.

Mahanoy City, Pa., Jan. 23.—Dennis McCarty, of Bowman's, a small mining village near here, last night shot and instantly killed his aged mother and then attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself. McCarty went home very much under the influence of liquor. He immediately began a quarrel with his sister, and struck her a blow in the face. The sister left the house in order to get a warrant for McCarty's arrest. She had gone but a few minutes when the intoxicated man began to abuse his mother, and in his drunken frenzy he pulled a revolver and fired twice. His mother dropped dead, and he then turned the weapon on himself. He was taken to a hospital to have his wound dressed and was then placed under arrest.

Philadelphia, Jan. 24.—George W. E. Ayres, aged 43 years, of 2733 North Fifteenth street, last night shot and instantly killed his wife, Mary E. Ayres, aged 38 years, of 2517 North Mervine street, seriously wounded John J. Wilson, aged 33, who boarded with Mrs. Ayres, and then committed suicide. In a letter left for the authorities Ayres gave as the reason for his crime the relations which he averred existed between Mrs. Ayres and Wilson. The letter continues with the statement that Ayres and his wife had lived happily until the summer of 1897, when Wilson came to board with them; that less than a year later Wilson and the wife decamped with nearly all the furniture and went to Gloucester, N. J., returning subsequently to the Mervine street house. Ayres was a partner by trade and bore a good reputation. His statements regarding Wilson are confirmed by neighbors.

EMPRESS OF CHINA.

CLEVER BUT UNSUBTLE WOMAN WHO RULES 400,000,000 PEOPLE.

Has Attracted the Attention of the Civilized World—The Most Brilliant Woman in the East—Was a Slave When the Emperor Saw and Loved Her.

The dowager empress of China (Tsun-Tsun-Hai) is now the absolute mistress of 400,000,000 people. She has deposed the "divine ruler," overturned a dynasty, made bargains with kings and emperors, laughed in the face of Great Britain's best statesmen and set herself up as the real and only mogul. Her sway extends from the rising sun to the summits of the mighty mountains overlooking India.

The eyes of the civilized world are turned upon her. Her will may precipitate the bloodiest war that man has known. Her whim or caprice may involve Christendom in the struggle of history. The dowager is now sixty-five years old, and probably the most brilliant woman in the East. She was a slave when the late emperor saw her and loved her. In the Orient the king is all powerful, and princes may marry beggar girls at their will. Tsun's beauty won her position and power, and her fine brain—scheming through all the years, the real power behind the throne—has at last made her the mistress of the Chinese empire.

Tsun is not the mother of the de-throned emperor. She is his stepmother, which accounts for the cruelty with which she has treated the sacred monarch. The situation in China today is this: The dowager is supreme mistress of the country. Kang Yu Mei,



DOWAGER EMPRESS OF CHINA.

who was going to reform the antique customs of the kingdom, has fled in precipitation. The emperor, who recently took from Li Hung Chang the yellow jacket—symbol of power—is a prisoner in his own palace. The crooked stick plow policy is in the ascendant. Russia is backing the dowager and Li will soon be placed on the throne of power once more. Peking is free, apparently, to-day from the impress of Western civilization than ever. Great Britain sees her glorious trade prospects vanishing, and with them the United States sees her own hope of commerce in China dwindling.

The Popular Girl.

The popular girl is not necessarily pretty. She has tact and good sense. She is self-possessed. She is modest. She is gentle. She has dignity and self-poise. She is never fussy or ill-tempered. She is not always thinking of herself. She is industrious. She is pure minded and sweet and wholesome. She is never loud or noisy or rude. She is considerate. She cultivates a soft low voice.

Smallest Queen in the World.

Probably the smallest monarch in the world reigns over the Hindoo vassal state of Bopal, and governs a people of more than a million souls. This dwarf is a woman, Dihan-Begum by name; but although she is about 50 years old, she does not appear larger than a child of ten. Her diminutive size does not prevent her, however, from holding the reins of government with a firm hand, and in her realm quiet and order are supreme.

Sunset Bell.

At the sunset hour, in Seoul, Korea, a town bell proclaims the fact when the sun has vanished beneath the horizon. No man is allowed in the street after that hour, under the penalty of a flogging; but, strange to say, the women were permitted to go around as usual, visiting their friends, or strolling for pleasure.

Queer Asiatic Custom.

It is a common Asiatic custom for the bridegroom to give chase to the bride either on foot, on horseback or in a canoe. If the bridegroom catches the fugitive he claims her as his wife; otherwise the match is broken off.

Observation.

Miss Chatter: "I knew you would be here to-day to see sister." Mr. Cudler (interrog.): "Intuition?" Miss Chatter: "No—observation. You always appear on the same day that Ethel refuses onions at dinner."

Asked Too Much of Him.

Cholly—My friends say that I have a very fine voice. Would you like to hear me sing, Miss Molly? Molly—Yes, provided you will accompany yourself on my brother's flute.

A Mint of Money.

It is said that Sarah Bernhardt, who was getting \$40 a month at the Odeon in 1872, has in the last twenty-five years since then received \$2,500,000.

ROSARIES OF THE ORIENT.

Favorite Beads of the Japanese, Chinese, and Buddhists.

The prevailing idea in regard to a rosary is that it belongs solely to followers of the Catholic religion. But take away the cross that is hanging to the beads and we find that one must turn to the dim, mysterious East for the origin of the rosary, for it is among the temples of India, China and Japan that the first sign of the practice is to be found. Ancient pictures of the Hindoo gods depict them with chaplets of beads in their hands, and it is believed that this method of keeping count of their many prayers was in use among the Hindoos before the era of Buddha, or at least B. C. 500.

The use of the rosary seems especially suited to an Eastern clime and to the repose of an Oriental mind. The Buddhists are fond of using very smooth beads of glass, polished jade or coral, and it has been thought that the smooth, cool beads gliding through their fingers as they murmur the holy name for thousands of times help them to arrive at that state of holy abstraction from earthly things which is so much prized among the followers of Buddha.

The favorite Japanese rosaries are made of polished wood, crystal, onyx and chased silver, and the Japanese Buddhists repeat in endless devotion "Namu Amida Butsu" ("Save us, Buddha"), while their Chinese brothers have the blessed name "O-Mi-to-fu" forever on their lips. A rosary of very great size was recently brought from a temple in Kioto, Japan. The largest bead is about six inches in diameter, and the rosary entire is about twenty-four feet long. The huge beads are of dark brown polished wood. They are hollow and have each a figure of a god inside the little shrine, which can be seen through a lattice of brasswork.

Ant Baths for Rheumatism.

The taking of ant baths for rheumatism by Russian peasants has been long and successfully practiced, especially by those in the vicinity of Moscow. An ant hill being found, a sack is filled with ants and their eggs, and, if it be considered necessary, a certain quantity of the earth which composes the hill. The sack is then closed hermetically and carried to the home of the sufferer, where a warm bath being already prepared, the sack is plunged bodily into the hot water. In a short time there begins to be given off a peculiar pungent odor characteristic of formic acid, and the bath is now ready for the patient's immersion. The action of the bath on the patient's skin is described as one of intense irritation, the result seeming to be a drawing out of the evil and the consequent disappearance of the rheumatic pains. Care is necessary in resorting to this remedy to avoid remaining too long in the bath, as the consequences might be a total discolorization of the skin, which would peel off, owing to the violent action of the acid.—London Post.

Education in Finland.

Consul Smith at Moscow has made a report to the State Department in regard to the education of children in Finland. "About 38 per cent. of the population in Finland," he says, "can read and write. There are 1,400 schools, supported in part by the Government; 21 of these are intermediate schools. Each of the 466 districts has an inspector, besides a board of directors. Children commence school at the age of 10; from 7 to 10 they receive instruction at home from the parish priest. Co-education has been most successful in these schools. In Finland women share in all industries, and are especially capable as teachers. Both men and women teachers receive careful instruction and preparation. They are treated with the greatest deference, nor are their duties confined to the schoolroom; they exercise a supervision over the selection of books for home reading, and during the summer vacations they accompany the children on excursions, giving them lessons from nature."

Causes of Death.

An Austrian professor estimates that only 900 persons out of 1,500,000 die from old age, while 1,200 succumb to gout, 18,400 to measles, 2,700 to apoplexy, 7,000 to erysipelas, 7,500 to consumption, 48,000 to scarlet fever, 25,000 to whooping-cough, 30,000 to typhoid and typhus, and 7,000 to rheumatism. These averages, of course, vary according to locality. Small-pox does not even get a place in the list. Was this Austrian professor an anti-vaccinator?

To Induce Sleep.

With the best will in the world to take sleep it is often impossible to lose consciousness. Sleep attained by the use of drugs is of little value, but a drowsy state may often be induced by drinking a cup of hot chocolate, milk broth or gruel immediately upon going to bed at night. A hot bath before retiring also has a sedative effect, as it draws the blood from the brain.

Power of Gun cotton.

A train of gun cotton reaching from Edinburgh to London could be fired in two minutes, so rapid is the transmission of detonation from one part to another.

Discoveries in Greece.

A bronze column, inscribed with a treaty between two cities, made in the third century before Christ, has been found in a Doric temple in Greece.

What Animals Eat.

A horse will eat in a year nine times his own weight, a cow nine times, an ox six times, and a sheep six times.

Scrofula to Consumption.

Any one predisposed to Scrofula can never be healthy and vigorous. This taint in the blood naturally drifts into Consumption. Being such a deep-seated blood disease, Swift's Specific is the only known cure for Scrofula, because it is the only remedy which can reach the disease.

Scrofula appeared on the head of my little grandchild when only 18 months old. Shortly after breaking out it spread rapidly all over her body. The scales on the sores would peel off on the slightest touch, and the odor that would arise made the atmosphere of the room sickening and unbearable. The disease next attacked the eyes, and we feared she would lose her sight. Eminent physicians from the surrounding country were consulted, but could do nothing to relieve the little innocent, and gave it as their opinion that the case was hopeless and impossible to save the child's eyesight. It was then that we decided to try Swift's Specific. That medicine at once made a speedy and complete cure. She is now a young lady, and has never had a sign of the disease to return. Mrs. RUTH BECKLEY, Salina, Kan.



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