ELECTIONS BRITISH

Peculiarities of Canvassing in London and the Provinces.

CURIOUS METROPOLITAN CUSTOMS.

Contrasts With the Campaign Methods in the United States.

BATTLE CRIES THAT ARE SOUNDED NOW

LONDON, July 10 .- A stranger to London landing at Charing Cross and walking eastward to the bank by the way of the Strand and Fleet street, or from Hyde Park to the bank along Oxford street, Holborn and Cheapside, would see little or nothing on either route to remind him that just now Great Britain is without a Parliament, and that the general election is in progress. On these main arteries of traffic there are few outward indications of the contest. Here and there on a boarding in front of a building in course of construction or alteration there may be a candidate's electioneering placard, but that is all.

There are no portraits of the leaders of the political parties strung on network acreens across the streets, as is the case in American cities when a Presidental election is in progress. There are no people on the streets wearing campaign badges or campaign uniforms, and no brass bands heading political demonstrations on their way to a rendezvous. The ballot act of 20 years ago and the corrupt practices act of 1885 have tended to rob elections of much that was picturesque and noisy, and have brought the proceedings at a general election down to a much more sober and matter of fact level. And nowhere has all this change

Londoners Display Little Interest The metropolis is the last place in the country in which to look for much life and stir at an election. There is still a good deal of excitement in connection with contested Parliamentary elections, but this is to be seen to much better advantage in the compact manufacturing towns of the second rank in the provinces and in some of the country towns, where the old spirit still lingers, than in London, in and immedi-ately around which between 60 and 70 members of Parliament have to be elected.

Very tew of the London candidates live

in the constituencies which they contest, and in most of the divisions of London there is no local spirit nor local pride worth speaking about. In London a contested election is soon over and soon forgotten. In provincial constituencies like those mentioned, the election itself does not take much longer than it does in London; but the work of prejaring for it occupies a much longer time than in the metropolis. When the candidates are local men, they are longer in the field than is the case in the London constitnencies; the excitement is always more in-tense and more widely shared in the pro-vincial than in the London constituencies, and the feelings of exultation which follow and the receings of exuitation which follow triumph at the polls or those of depression and sullenness following defeat last very much longer in a small and self-contained constituency than they do in a metropolitan division, where as a rule people have no neighbors in the ordinary sense of the word, and where on the day following the election everybody goes about his business in the usual way as though nothing had happened.

Too Many Foregone Conc. usions. One has to get away from the down-town centers and strike north or south to the nearer suburbs to get an idea of how a gencral election outwardly affects the metro-polis. The esentially business parts of London—the City, the Strand, Holborn, Oxford street, and Piccadilly—are very lit-tle disturbed by it, mainly for the reason

that London business people are so largely conservative that in the Parliamentary divisions which embrace the thoroughfares named, there are nowadays seldom any contested elections. The sitting members are usually returned without opposition. When there is a fight its result is so much a foregone conclusion that no one but the candidates and their active friends take any serious interest in the matter.

An American visitor staying just now in any of the great hotels near Charing Cross

ward to St. Paneras or Islington, where some of the best fought contests in the whole of the 60 metropolitan divisions are being waged. If he chose St. Paneras or Islington, he would begin to note signs of the contest as soon as he got north of Holborn. In a journey on the top of a street car from Gray's Inn Road to Hampstead or Highgate he would pass the committee rooms of half a dozen Parliamentary candidates.

How to Locate the Headquarters.

There is no mistaking these places. There There is no mistaking these places. There are no large-sized portraits dangling across the streets, but the part of the house used as the candidates' headquarters is usually covered from sidewalk to roof with election-eering literature in colored ink or on colored paper. The job and color printer still gets in a large amount of work, but not nearly so much as he did before Sir Henry James, when Attorney General in Mr. Gladstone's 1880-1885 government, passed the corrupt practices at elections act. This measure strictly limits the amount of money which a candidate may spend upon a con-tested election. It is regulated on a rigidly fixed scale according to the number of voters on the electoral roll, and under the provisions of the act every penny which a cau-didate spends while he is in the constitu-ency contesting an election has to be sched-uled and submitted in a sworn statement to the returning officer within a few days after the election takes place.

Before this act was passed, the candidate with a long purse had immense advantage over the candidate who was not equally wealthy, even though the richer candidate did not resort to bribery. There was no limit to a candidate's printing bill, and print to 1885 the proprietors of newspapers. prior to 1885 the proprietors of newspapers and of job printing establishments made small fortunes out of a contested election. Nowadays a candidate has to apportion at the outset of his contest the amount he can expend in printer's ink, and having once made that apportionment, he has to adhere to it. And the amount a candidate may thus expend Joes not go so far as it did three years ago, for at the present time street advertising in London has been dethat there hardly exists a boarding or a blank wall anywhere upon which a Parliamentury candidate can post a placard without having to pay heavy toll for the privilege.

It is this fact, coupled with the limited printer's bill allowed under the corrupt practices act, which accounts for the great profusion of electioneering literature in the candidate's committee rooms and the thin-ness of the display up and down the constit-

English people are little disposed toward the wearing of election badges; the mem-of the Primrose League are the only people who donned them so far in this came London; but Londoners show their loyalty to party and to their political candidates by means equally noticeable with the wearing of badges, and in a way which must have impressed itselt on visiting Americans. Although a Londoner does not care to wear a political badge when he is about on b ness or pleasure, he will stick a placard half the size of THE DISPATCH in the front windows of his house, in order that the neighbors and passers-by may know with which political party he is associated.

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An American visitor staying just now in any of the great hotels near Charing Cross and desiring to see what an English contested election is like, and to note the mode of procedure at an English political meeting in order to compare it with that of an American meeting, would have to go a good distance afield. He would have to cross the Thames at Westminster Bridge and get into Southwark, where there are several contests in the constituencies largely occupied by the poorer class of voters; or go westward to Chelsea or northward to St. Pancras or Islington, where some of the best fought contests in the

A Tory placard is frequently to be seen in one window and a Home Rule placard in the window immediately above. On some of the streets in the nearer suburbs, where a house renting for £70 per annum is occupied by two families, it frequently happens that one family displays the Tory colors in its room windows while the second family exhibits those of the Liberals.

exhibits those of the Liberals. There is another noteworthy feature about the electioneering literature now on the walls and boardings of London. The placards and addresses emanating from the Conservatives and Unionists show how completely the Conservatives have adopted not only the planks of former Liberal platonly the planks of former Liberal plat-forms, but also the battle-cries of the Lib-eral party of ten years ago. One of the divi-sions of St. Paneras is placarded with Tory bills calling upon the electors to vote for "R. G. Webster and Peace, Retrenchment and Reform."

and Reform."

Less than ten years ago "peace, retrenchment and reform" was the battle cry of the old school of Radicals—of the party which was represented in the House of Commons by the late Mr. John Bright and the late Mr. Peter Rylands, and which was represented in the Parliament which expired yesterday by men like Mr. Illingworth, of Bradford, the late Mr. Dillwyn, of Swansea, and Mr. J. A. Pictou, of Leicester. When this party was a power in English politics and its standard was a rallying point for the electors of towns like Manchester, Birmingham, Bradford, Leicester and Rochdale, a ham, Bradford, Leicester and Rochdale, Conservative candidate at a Parliamentar election would as soon have thought of stealing his opponent's watch or of forging his name as of stealing the Radical battle cry of "peace, retrenchment and reform."

Meetings at the Street Corners. Yet this has been done quite openly in other places besides St. Pancras during the present election, and has occasioned no outcry. A midsummer general election has one advantage for Londoners. It admits of a large number of electioneering meetings being held in the open air. This circumstance in itself tells somewhat to the advantage of the Gladstonians. It saves money which would otherwise go in the rent of halls and allows a candidate a promoney which would otherwise go in the rent of halls, and allows a candidate a proportionately larger fund for postal expenses, for the distribution of campaign literature, and also for advertising.

In the long summer evenings, when it is light until 9 o'clock, it also enables the candidate in the candidate of the candidate of

didate to attend in one evening two or three meetings convened at street corners and other open spaces most convenient to the electors he desires to reach. London electors do not turn out in great numbers for political meetings of any kind. During the present election no massmeeting has been held anywhere in the metropolis at which more than 10,000 people were pres-ent. The biggest electioneering crowds were seen in Fleet street on the nights when the bulletins were being received at

the newspaper offices.

There is much less machinery and organiration about an English political meeting than there is about a political massmeet-ing in America. The organization is sim-ple in the extreme.

Dr Wirr's Little Early Risers. Best pill for billouspess sick headache majaris.

OCCULTATION OF MARS

The Moon Will Hide the Planet for the Space of an Hour To-Night.

DISCOVERIES MAY BE MADE

Because of the Increase in Power of Optical Instruments.

THE LEADING PEATURES OF THE EVENT

To-night the moon will pass between us and the planet Mars, when both objects will be above the horizon of most of the dwellers of the Mississippi valley and of all those in the Eastern States. The phenomenon is called an occultation, and it will be unusually interesting from the fact that both are prominent in the evening sky. The moon will be about two days past the full, and Mars only 40,000,000 miles distant from the earth, his disk then being 24 seconds of an are in apparent diameter. The moon will be in the northeastern quarter of the heavens.

At 11h. 51/m. P. M., Chicago time, Mars will be on the left or eastern side of the moon, and the two will seem to be in contact, as in the illustration. During the next 70 seconds the planet will creep further and further towards obscurity, and at the end of that time will be completely behind the moon. At 11h. 2m. P. M. he will peep out from behind the dark limb of the moon, and in about 70 seconds more will have com-pletely passed from behind her, resuming his proper appearance except in so far as his light will be paled by the lunar bright-

Details of the Event. As referred to the astronomically north point on the moon's disk the position at immersion will be 34° eastward, and at emergence 69° westward from the north point. The difference between the two sets of positions may be understood by reference to the fact that the parallactic angle will be nearly 40° at the time of beginning; a line from north to south drawn through the moon being that much inclined from a perpendicular to the horizon at the time of occultation, while it coincides with a perpendicular when the moon is on the meridan, or due south.

The chances are a little against the pas sage of Mars behind the moon being visible from Chicago, owing to the fact that the moon will then be only a few degrees above the horizon. There is more likelihood of being able to see the emergence of the

planet from behind the moon, and the sight will be a more imposing one than the immersion, as the planet will come out from behind the dark edge of our satellite, seeming to burst into view out of darkness instead of light.

The effect of parallax is a lowering of the

The effect of parallax is a lowering of the place of the object as seen from a point on the earth's surface, compared with what would be the position if seen from the earth's center. The nearer the object the greater the parallax, for which reason the displacement of the moon is much greater than that of a planet. At the time of this occultation Mars is so tar south of the moon that an observer in 21° of south latitude, that nearly corresponding to the declination of the planet, would see him below the moon at the date of nearest approach.

It may interest some readers to know that

moon at the date of nearest approach.

It may interest some readers to know that at the time of beginning at Pittsburg the difference of parallaxes of the two objects will be 2,303" of arc in right ascension and 2,656" in declination. At the close the differences will be 1,883 and 2,820. If the parallax in right ascension be multiplied into the cosine of the declination the result will be a small are of a great circle of the will be a small are of a great circle of the sphere, the arc being so small that it may be treated as a right line. Then the sum of the squares of this reduced quantity, and of the difference in parallax in declination, will be the square of the relative displacement in a line that is perpendicular to the horizon of the observer.

The 40,000,000 miles separating us from Mars at the time of his occupation by the moon is not far from being his least possible distance from the earth. It will decrease to 35,100,000 the first Saturday in August, when the planet will be in opposition to the sun and in about equally favorable position for study through the telescope as he was 15 years ago. Since then the planet has made eight circuits of the sun while the earth has eight circuits of the sun while the earth has eaught up with the planet seven times, or rather will have completed the seventh synodical lap a few days hence. At the opposition of August, 1877, the two moons of Mars were first seen by mortal eye, though they had been talked of 150 years earlier by Dean Swift in his "Gulliver's Travels." Of course they will be seen again this month and their positions measured, possibly with the result of a small correction to the distances and periods of motion as complete as Prof. Asaph Hall, their discoverer. their discoverer.

Greater Optical Pewer Now. It can hardly be hoped that one or more additional moons will be seen circling around the planet, though that is not impossible, as the largest optical power at command now is nearly double the best available only 15 years ago. The planet himself will be studied with renewed interest under the rarely attained condition of nearness to the earth. He will be examined for those mysterious markings on his surface, which are attempted to be described in some of the later published text books, and the doubling of his equatorial canals will be mapped out with probably

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greater accuracy than possible in less than 15 years from date, or well along into the twentieth bentury. Some of the more enthusiastic observers through the telescope will study the planet for possible signs that its inhabitants are endeavoring to communicate with us by means of signals, and if they find anything of the sort our world may be agitated with a completely new problem for more than a single generation—namely, how to so return the compliment that our response will be understood and lead up to a systematic conversation with the people of our relatively near neighbor in space.

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About four weeks have yet to elapse before the planet is at his best point for observation, but the instruments will be turned on him long ere that. In fact just as soon as the moon is out of the way, less than a week hence, the astronomers will begin to peer at him, each one hoping to be the first to discover something new the announcement of which will start the name of the fortunate watcher on a career of fame, or crown him with additional glory in case he already occupies a place on the list of "distinguished" ones in the hunt among the stars. So the curious reader may prepare to see during the next few weeks plenty of real or alleged news about the planet Mars, and may experience some difficulty in telling which of it is true, and what simply belongs to the domain of guess work. For it is true in astronomy, as in some other department of research, that many things are claimed to be discovered by ambitious workers which subsequent observation fails to verify.

July cases of cholera infantum, which have been increasing rapidly the last few days. "This fearful cause of infantile mortality," said a prominent physician yesterday, "can be prevented easier on lactated food, and none of them show any signs families where this food is not used."

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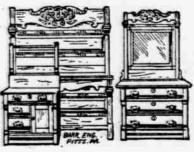
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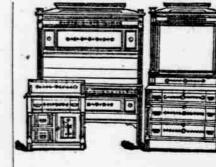


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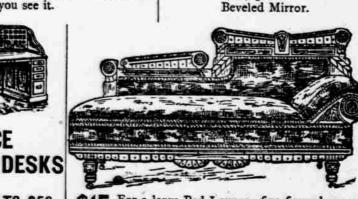
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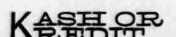
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