

Ancient Nobility.

Whenever there is any special interest in the House of Lords, articles appear in the papers in regard to the composition of this body, and much stress is always laid upon the extremely modern origin of the existing peerages, and it is stated that the ancient nobility are "a mere handful." It has been said that the number who can date their nobility back to the days of the later Tudors does not exceed a score. These statements are not true, and the error has probably arisen from ignoring the fact that many ancient baronies and earldoms are merged in recently created titles of a higher grade. For example, when the earldom of De La Warr was conferred upon the family of West, in 1761, three ancient baronies were merged, one of which had been enjoyed by the family in an unbroken male line since 1342, in the reign of Edward III. At the present time the House of Lords consists of 26 spiritual and 483 temporal peers, including 6 princes, 16 Scotch representative peers chosen for each Parliament, and 28 Irish representative peers elected for life. There are also 7 peers, 9 minors, and 91 Scotch and Irish peers who have no seat in the House. The total nobility of the United Kingdom numbers 580, of whom 39 strictly English peers are in possession of titles enjoyed by their ancestors prior to the death of Queen Elizabeth, in 1603; 15 Irish peers and 35 Scotch peers can date their honors back to the same period, some of them very ancient. All of the Scotch peers, 84 in number, were created prior to the union with England in 1707.

It may be stated here that with the exception of a few old baronies by writ, and a few special remainders, all of the English and Irish peers are to "him and the heirs male of his body," while the Scotch remainders are much more comprehensive, and thus a Scotch title rarely becomes extinct. During the reigns of the four Stuart kings of England—1603-1688—66 of the existing English peerages were created, and 24 of the Irish. Several of these were conferred upon scions of royalty and of the ancient nobility.

Of 389 peerages of Great Britain, Ireland and the United Kingdom conferred upon commoners since 1688, about a score have been given to scions of noble houses, a considerable number of "ancient gentlemen," and the vast majority to successful politicians, soldiers, merchants, etc., at least 150 of whom are sprung from families that were comparatively obscure 150 years ago. Many of the founders of "noble houses" (?) in Ireland were rascally English adventurers, and the peerage of Ireland is not particularly reputable.—*Boston Transcript*.

Plants as Air Purifiers.

Dr. Anders has just concluded some valuable experiments with house plants. He inclosed a dozen potted flowering plants in an air-tight glass case, and placed them in the bay-window of a sitting-room facing the east. Ozone test papers were hung in the case before it was closed. Observations were made for four hours daily during eighteen days, with results showing the presence of ozone in the air of the case. A second series of test was made with odorous flowering plants—carnations, heliotropes, etc.—with stronger indications of ozone. A third series included "foliage plants"—ferns, dracaenas, etc.—with less positive results. Further experiments with plants in flower were made with the case in the out-door air. In these it was found that negative results came on rainy days, thus indicating that bright sunshine is needed to develop ozone. The experiments showed that the floral organs are specially delegated to the important function of developing ozone. This peculiarly active form of oxygen is produced during the formation of the seed, in connection with the phosphorus compounds there accumulated. Flowers of various kinds have been known to exhibit phosphorescent light in warm evenings. Ozone is a most wholesome element in the atmosphere, keeping or tending to keep it from becoming polluted with disease germs. It oxidizes, or burns up, noxious accumulations. Plants in flower are therefore to be placed in the front rank as hygienic agents. Ozone is of special value in living rooms, when the air, according to the best authorities, is usually foul. A bay-window, filled with flowering plants, will doubtless furnish ozone enough to have a decidedly healthful effect upon the air of the room. It is gratifying to have further proof that the old-time prejudice against house-plants is ill-founded; instead of contaminating the air of the room and endangering the health of the inmates they render it purer.

The Birthplace of Liberty.

From Woburn I advanced on Lexington. It is a very pretty village, and externally contains but few evidences of poor folks. The historic green on which the battle was fought was a small triangular piece of ground, enclosed by a railing and shaded with elm and hickory trees. It contains a liberty pole, by which is a mounted iron cannon, and at a little distance is a plain granite shaft, erected in 1799 to the memory of the seven men of Lexington who fell there. I notice that one "John Brown" also died at Lexington. About the top or "lubber" of the liberty pole is a gilt inscription indicating this as "the birthplace of American liberty." It was a warm Indian summer October afternoon when I sat on the green. The quiet reigning over the village was such that the crow of a rooster could be heard through the entire place. A gang of Italians engaged on some public work were rolling and lunching on the grass; children talking and laughing were on their way to school; young ladies tripped along with music-rolls in their hands; people went in and out of houses with market-baskets; washing was going on; clothes were hung to dry in back yards; a grocer's wagon rattled along the street; a sand cart followed. And this was Lexington, and apparently not a soul thinking of the skirmish between a company of American farmers and a battalion of English troops, which has been so often told in story, history, and song.—*Cor. San Francisco Chronicle*.

Dining-Rooms of the Ancients.

The most elaborate rooms as regards furniture were the dining-rooms. As a matter of course, they greatly varied in shape, but the arrangement of them was essentially the same. In many of the wealthiest houses there were different dining-rooms for different seasons of the year—warm rooms for winter; cooler, with a northern aspect, for summer. Lucullus, who was famous for his luxurious banquets, had dining-rooms adapted to the rank of his guests and the costliness of the entertainments that he gave in them, and if he were to indicate the room in which he was to dine, everything was arranged accordingly. In the last days of the republic, when the Romans feasted hundreds of persons, the banquet was prepared in the peristyle of the house, or in immense halls built especially for the purpose, and adorned with rows of columns. Halls of this kind seemed almost indispensable in the palace of that time, but even here the tables were very numerous and independently arranged. The ordinary dining-room had but one table, and this was placed in the center, with a cushioned seat or couch running round on three sides, for the Greeks as well as the Romans never sat at meals, but ate in a reclining posture. The fourth side was always left open for the convenience of the servants who waited upon the table. Great stress was laid upon the costliness of these tables, both in material and artistic finish. They were lower than ours, to accommodate the recumbent guests, and their form was also influenced by the practice of reclining at meals. The ancients did not put their limbs under the tables as we do, the table-top not projecting as much as that of a modern dining-table. This rendered the feet and framework of antique tables a great deal more conspicuous, and could be much more richly ornamented. The feet and framework of tables were often carved in the shape of various kinds of figures. Sometimes the tops rested on the wings of two griffins placed back to back, on feet of lions, or other animals. Tables were often made, among the wealthier Romans, of precious metals, or of marble and bronze, or had legs of bronze, which supported a marble or wooden slab. Only nine persons could dine at one of these tables, for the ancients had a rule that the number of guests should not be greater than that of the Muses or less than the Graces.—*Mrs. G. Hall, in the New York Graphic*.

Debts and Standing Armies.

The following table of the debts and armies of the six leading governments of Europe is, to say the least, interesting and suggestive:

	Standing Army.	National Debt.
France	Peace Footing.	\$6,365,000,000
Germany	1,075,000,000	498,483
Austro-Hungary	2,095,000,000	445,274
Italy	2,025,000,000	268,20
Spain	2,750,000,000	733,712
Russia	3,470,000,000	188,742
Total		31,620,030,000

Time and money will be saved by keeping King-Wort in the house. It is an invaluable remedy for all disorders of the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, and for all diseases arising from the degeneration of these organs. It has cured many obstinate cases after hundreds of dollars had been paid to physicians without obtaining relief. It cures Constipation, Piles, Biliousness, and all kindred disorders. Keep it by you.

WAITING for a rise—the fisherman and the stockbroker.

Important:

When you visit or leave New York City, save Baggage Expressage and Carriage Hire, and stay at the Grand Union Hotel, opposite Grand Central Depot: 600 elegant rooms fitted up in the most modern style, reduced to \$1 and upwards per day. Excellent plan. Eat, Restaurant supplied with the best. Horse carriage, and elevated railroad to all depots. Families can live better for less money at the Grand Union than at any first-class hotel in the city.

THE "palmy" days evidently refer to childhood.

Horsford's Acid Phosphate,

FOR ALCOHOLISM.

Dr. J. S. Hullman, Philadelphia, Pa., says: "It is of good service in the troubles arising from alcoholism, and gives satisfaction in my practice."

ONE WAY of passing the time is to go by the clock.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.—No family Dyes were ever so popular as the Diamond Dyes. They never fail. The Black is far superior to logwood. The other colors are brilliant. Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt.

IN this office, when a man falls into the waste-basket, he drops into poetry.—*Philadelphia Call*.

LYDIA E. PINKHAM's Vegetable Compound strengthens the stomach and kidneys and aids digestion. Is equally good for both sexes.

A CORSET is supposed to have great staying qualities.—*Old City Blizzard*.

STAND YOUR GROUND.

A Physician's Advice to People Who Have Weak Lungs.

Dr. A. L. Scoville, who has for many years been known to the public as the inventor of remedies for the Lungs, recommends Allen's Lung Balsam as surpassing anything that has been offered for the cure of Throat and Lung Diseases. This Lung Balsam is for sale at all the drug stores and dealers in medicines. Caution: Call for Allen's Lung Balsam.

LOST FAITH in Physicians.

There are innumerable instances where cures have been effected by Scoville's Sarsaparilla, or Blood and Liver Syrup, for all diseases of the blood, when they had been given over by their physicians. It is one of the best remedies ever offered to the public, and as it is prepared with the greatest care, as a sure remedy for all diseases, it is no wonder that it should be more effectual than hastily written and carelessly prepared prescriptions. Take this medicine for all disorders arising from impure blood. It is indorsed by leading professional men.

WHY SUFFER PAIN?

When by using the Compound Oxygen Treatment of Drs. Starkey & Paley, 1109 Girard st., Philadelphia, the chances are all in favor of your getting relief; especially if the pain has its origin in nervous derangement. Neuralgia, sick headache, and the various aches and pains of the body are among the most distressing, this new treatment acts with remarkable promptness. Write for pamphlet giving information about this Treatment.

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION.

A RICH man was approached on the street and asked to contribute to a charitable purpose. He declined on the plea of hard times. Just then a third party appeared. He was a newspaper reporter. "Are you meeting with much success?" he inquired of the collector. "I am doing splendidly," was the reply; "just look at that list of names." "May I make a copy for publication?" "Certainly." "I guess you may put me down for, say, \$50," whispered the rich man.

A NEW method of fastening the strings of upright pianos has been invented by the Mason & Hamlin Organ and Piano Company, which is considered one of the most important improvements ever made in making the instrument more richly musical in its tones, as well as more durable, and less liable to get out of order.—*Boston Journal*.

A WOMAN'S influence is very great for good or evil. A kind word from a wife or a mother may stay a man from unfold evil, and one sharp, bitter, thoughtless word may drive him to desperation.

Institute a Change.

In the condition of a disordered liver with the finest of hepatic regulators and aperients, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. Thus will be prevented the grievous, and sometimes disastrous, disturbance pervading the whole system, when the offending organ is neglected or only half regulated. Don't turn your stomach and bowels topsy-turvy with calomel, blue pill, salts and senna, and such like trash. If you persist in doing so, expect to suffer the consequence—chronic ill-health. No man or woman ever yet, with impunity, converted his gastric organ into a drug shop. The secretion of bile is promoted and costiveness overcome by the Bitters without the pain and weakening effects of stretching purgatives. There is a fertile of decisive and speedy relief to persons troubled with malaria, rheumatism, kidney ailments and debility.

A Cat and a Sparrow.

A cat caught a sparrow, and, after breaking one of its wings, commenced playing with it preparatory to devouring it. But the bird sent its bill into the cat's nose to such purpose as to demoralize the animal, and he retreated. The two then became close friends. They ate, drank, and slept together; the bird rode around the house on the cat's back, and the latter would not even touch its food until the sparrow had satisfied its appetite. One morning the bird found the window open, and, feeling strong of wing, took unceremonious leave. The cat neither missed nor lost its appetite, a circumstance which is regarded as most astonishing in view of the current sentimental anecdotes.

NEARLY 30,000 square miles of United States territory are now owned by foreign syndicates and capitalists.

YOUNG men, suffering from nervous debility or kindred affections, should address, with three letter stamp for large treatise, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

ALWAYS give the devil his adieu.—*Philadelphia Chronicle*.

LOW PRICES for Butter.

The New York Tribune in its market report explained why some butter is sold for less price. Speaks of butter.

It said: "Light-colored goods are very hard to dispose of, and several lots were thought sold at \$10 to 15 cents." If butter makers would get the top price, they should use the Improved Butter Color, made by Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt. It gives a pure dandelion color, and never turns red or rancid, but tends to improve and preserve the butter.

A CERIAL STORY—the grain report.—*Boston Post*.

TIME IS MONEY.

Time and money will be saved by keeping King-Wort in the house. It is an invaluable remedy for all disorders of the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, and for all diseases arising from the degeneration of these organs. It has cured many obstinate cases after hundreds of dollars had been paid to physicians without obtaining relief. It cures Constipation, Piles, Biliousness, and all kindred disorders. Keep it by you.

DELIGHT for the HOLIDAYS and ALL Days

"IDEAL AMERICAN MAGAZINES."

1. **W. E. AWARE**, for older folks, \$1 a year.

2. **W. E. AWARE**, for younger folks, \$1 a year.

3. **OUR LITTLE MEN and WOMEN**, \$1 a year.

4. **CHAUTAUQUA YOUNG FOLKS JOURNAL**, \$1 a year.

5. **BABYLAND**, for baby and its mamma, 50¢ a year.

6. **LOTHROP & CO.**, Boston

Christmas Nos. of these beautifully illustrated Magazines sent on receipt of 30¢. It will be a great treat.

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