

A ROYAL RACKET.

Opening of the British Parliament Yesterday by the Queen in Person.

The House of Lords a Brilliant Scene—Irish Agitation Majesty's Speech—Irish Agitation Viewed With Deep Sorrow—Foreign Relations.

London, Jan. 21.—The weather to-day was unpropitious for the reappearance of the Queen in public. It was a dull, heavy day, and the streets were covered with snow and slush. Promptly at 1:30 the royal party left Buckingham Palace for the House of Lords. The route of the royal pageant had been covered with gravel. This prevented the horses from falling and enabled more rapid progress to be made. Her Majesty rode in an open carriage drawn by eight cream-colored horses. The Household Cavalry acted as the escort to the Queen. Large crowds lined the streets through which the royal procession passed, and her Majesty was greeted with hearty cheers all along the road. The scene in the House of Lords was very brilliant. Peers and peeresses, judges, ministers and bishops were present in large numbers in full court dress. Gaslight was used in the chamber owing to the disappearance of the sun. This enhanced the beauty of the scene as it showed more fully the brilliancy of the jewels and splendor of the dresses worn by those present. The Queen looked as if she were suffering from a cold.

Her Majesty, in her speech, said her relations with the other powers continue friendly. The differences with Russia regarding the Afghanistan boundary have been satisfactorily adjusted. She trusts that the work of the Russo-English frontier demarcation commission, already far advanced, may tend to secure the continuance of peace in Central Asia. Referring to rising in Eastern Roumelia, Her Majesty says her object in the negotiations which followed the outbreak had been to bring the inhabitants of that country, according to their wish, under the rule of Bulgaria, while maintaining unimpaired the essential rights of the Sultan. The Queen regrets that, she had been compelled to declare war against King Theobald of Burmah, owing to acts of hostility by himself and subjects. The gallantry of the forces under General Prendergast has been rewarded. She has thrown the Burmese forces, and she had decided that the most certain method of insuring peace was to be found in the permanent incorporation of Burmah with her Empire. The negotiations with the French on the coast of Newfoundland had been satisfactorily concluded. With Spain, also, an agreement had been reached, giving the British the same commercial rights as the Germans in their Caroline Islands. Parliament would be asked to adopt certain measures, rendered necessary in the convention, relative to the enforcement of the law to which the Queen has agreed. Turning to national affairs, the Queen said: "Gentlemen of the House of Commons, my Lords and Gentlemen—I regret to say that no material improvement can be noted in the condition of trade or agriculture. I feel the deepest sympathy for the great number of persons in many vocations of life who are suffering under a pressure which, I trust, will prove transitory. I have seen, with deep sorrow, the renewal, since I last addressed you, of the attempt to excite the people of Ireland to hostilities against the legislative union between that country and Great Britain. I am convinced that I shall be heartily supported by my Parliament and my people in the endeavor to maintain the material condition of that country engages my anxious attention. Although there has been during the last year no marked increase of serious crime, there is in many places a considerable increase in the commission of petty crimes, and I regret that the practice of organized intimidation continues to exist. I have caused every exertion to be used for the detection and punishment of these crimes and no effort will be spared on the part of my government to protect my subjects in the exercise of the legal rights and the enjoyment of individual liberty. It is my information leads me to apprehend, the existing provisions of the law should prove to be inadequate to cope with these growing evils. I shall look with confidence to your willingness to invest my government with all the necessary power. Bills will be submitted for transferring to representative councils in the counties of Great Britain local business which is now transacted by the Quarter Sessions, and other authoritative measures for the reform of county government in Ireland are also in preparation. These measures will involve the consideration of the present incidence of local burdens. A bill for facilitating the sale of globe lands in a manner adapted to the wants of the rural population will also be submitted to you, as will also a bill for removing the difficulties which prevent the easy and cheap transfer of land; for mitigating the distressed condition of the poorer classes in Western Highlands and the Islands of Scotland; for the more effectual prevention of accidents in mines; for extending the power of the railway commission in respect to the regulation of rates and for the codification of the criminal law. I trust that results beneficial to the cause of education may issue from a royal commission which I have appointed to inquire into the state of the educational system. The prompt and effective dispatch of the important business which, in an ever-growing proportion, falls to you to transact, will be my constant object of attention. In these, and all other matters pertaining to your high functions, I earnestly commend you to the keeping and guidance of Almighty God."

The House of Commons was carefully inspected before the arrival of the Queen at the House of Lords, as a preliminary measure against the perpetration of any riotous demonstration. The Princess of Wales was present.

The royal procession was returning to Buckingham Palace a horse ridden by a man picked a boy standing at the side of the carriage. The Queen, who was an eye-witness of the accident, immediately stopped the procession and inquired as to the extent of the boy's injuries. On being told they were not serious, Her Majesty resumed her journey.

The Government's Policy Outlined.

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he said it would be better to await the arrival of papers from Lord Dufferin before making any statement. The Government was using its influence to prevent any important breach of international law. On this point, he said, he felt strongly, because it had been reported that he had given encouragement to Greece. This statement he denounced as untrue and declared that England, above all, desired peace in the East. Referring to Ireland, the Prime Minister said the Government has refrained from renewing the crimes act, because there had been a prospect of returning order in that country. The experiment, however, had failed, although every chance had been given to make it succeed. Nothing, he said, could exceed the patience of the Earl of Carnarvon in carrying out his mission of peace. The disease, said he, existed in Westminster, and not in Ireland, and the Government must try to stamp it out here. The words of Mr. Gladstone, he declared, were answerable for many Irish evils. Mr. Gladstone had not spoken, he said, with sufficient firmness concerning the integrity of the Empire. The Prime Minister's speech was received with cheers.

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REMEMBER, BOYS MAKE MEN.

When you see a ragged urchin, Standing wistful in the street, With torn hat and tattered trousers, And a look of misery on his face, Pass not by the child unheeding; Salute him kindly. Mark me, when I tell you, that boy may be a man, For remember, boys make men.

When the boy's youthful spirit Overflows in boyish frolic, Bring to mind some act of kindness, Do not in your anger speak. You must sow in youthful bosoms Seeds of tender mercies, then Plants will grow and bear good fruitage. When the erring boys are men.

Have you never seen a grand old man, With his eyes aglow with joy, Bring to mind some act of kindness, Something said to him a boy? Or relate some slight or coldness, With a boy that he had once known? He said they were too thoughtless To remember boys make men?

Let us try to add some pleasures To the life of every boy, For each child needs tender interest, In his sorrow and his joy; Call your boys home by his brightness; Let him avoid a gloomy day, And seek for comfort elsewhere; And remember, boys make men.

THE TRUE STORY OF TAM O'SHANTER.

Tam O'Shanter, without doubt, one of the finest productions of Burns. It abounds in passages of great beauty and elegance. Though unequal, like many other works of real merit, it has in it here and there lines of real merit, too coarse and crude for the magnificent context in which they are found. The homeliness of the incidents described, the common-place character of the hero of the piece and his associates, only serve to show the brightness of that genius which has thrown around such ordinary events and personages the charm of its attractions.

An Ayrshire farmer of very convivial habits, but blessed with a canny wife and trusty mare, finds himself belated at the county town on the winter evening of a market day. He is at the inn where he has often been before. A warm fire is blazing on the ample hearth. The potatoes are abundant and cheering. An old acquaintance, an excellent bean-companion and story-teller, hobnobs with him. The landlord and his spouse soon join these jovial comrades and readily lend their aid in adding to the merriment and the merriment. Under such genial auspices it was no wonder that the worthy ploughman forgot the long Scotch miles between him and his home, his anxious wife watching for his return, and even his gray mare Meg, hitched, no doubt, to a post hard by in the street, awaiting in mute patience the pleasure of her thoughtless master. The fun inside, however, became in time rather loud. The noise had attracted the attention of all the idle lads in the neighborhood, who noticed the farmer lapped in the careless revels of the tap-room, and in pure mischief were minded to give him a dolorous lesson. They slipped slyly in the dark upon faithful Meg, and with a single word, "Gude gray tail," they had her "gude gray tail." Doubtless the faithful animal complained loudly of the robbery at the time, but her "eldritch" dance, their anger at being interrupted, and the merriment of the good cheer within. The mirth ran on until the time came, that black hour, "the keystone of the night," when Tam must ride.

We feel sure that the landlord and his ancient cronies, Souter Johnny, accompanied Mr. O'Shanter to his beast and assisted him to mount; not to have done so would have been a sin against good-fellowship, in those days, when the Scotchman was so ready upon it that the inn-keeper carried his lantern with him, and that all three became soon well aware of poor Meg's misfortune. But neither the landlord nor the Souter, interested as they were about the disaster at the time it was noticed—the poet, because he cared not to impair the picturesque tradition of such an "owrie" tale, nor the Souter, because he was a landlord, because he did not wish to mar the good fame of his house by the news that such a calamity had happened to one of his tenants, nor the Souter, because he was a landlord, because he did not wish to mar the good fame of his house by the news that such a calamity had happened to one of his tenants.

When the "gude gray tail," took the road at midnight, it is said he held fast his blue bonnet and hummed to himself the words of some old Scotch ballad for company by the way. These words were of such a wasail, unknown to the Souter, unnoticed by the host.

But the place of these lines in the poem, the Souter, who was a landlord, because he did not wish to mar the good fame of his house by the news that such a calamity had happened to one of his tenants, nor the Souter, because he was a landlord, because he did not wish to mar the good fame of his house by the news that such a calamity had happened to one of his tenants.

The distance so aptly alluded to was only a few miles, but the Souter, who was a landlord, because he did not wish to mar the good fame of his house by the news that such a calamity had happened to one of his tenants, nor the Souter, because he was a landlord, because he did not wish to mar the good fame of his house by the news that such a calamity had happened to one of his tenants.

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will outlive that of Paul Revere, or Sheridan, or the namesake courier who carried the good news from Ghent to Aix. Their exploits belong to a particular country, time and occasion. But this hero of Burns is one of the world's poor pilgrims, the unit of a great multitude, in all ages, whom no man can number. Whoever has tarried too long in the arms of a woman, or who has been wounded, without a cause; whoever has felt the shadow of remorse in the morning from last night's flowing bowl—this is Tam O'Shanter.

Moreover, there is hardly anything in the text of the author inconsistent with the account of the actual occurrence. The reader, we confess, like Kate herself, is left with the impression that the goblins of Kirk Alloway caused Meg's grief and loss. Closely scanned, it will be seen that this is only an impression. The story is told that before the night was reached, there had been a "faint a shake," but it is not said how long before. And when the very moment of the catastrophe is spoken of, it is said: "The carriage clattered her by the rump." Without doubt the demon clutched at the tail—it was not there; it had been left at Ayr—miles behind, hours before.

We would tell that it had been the goblin-chase had been a reality, and the good gray tail had not been missing, neither Meg nor her master might have come off so fortunately.

It is not at all likely then that O'Shanter really beheld any of the weird and frightful objects which he is described as seeing in the old Kirk Alloway. But the poet saw them, the reader truly will ever see them. These amazing visions of the Ayrshire ploughman are recounted in such terms—in words so vivid, truth-like and natural—that it may be hardly lawful to question their reality. It is a pity that the poet did not give the detail of horrors so stupendous. It is much more pleasant at least to dwell upon the many other excellencies of this famous idyll.

Care has been bestowed in all languages upon the subject of the devil, both in prose and verse, but the clearest and boldest account of its utter annihilation is that of Burns:

"Care, mad to see a man so happy, 'E'en drownd his sin in a glass of ale," that is, in the foam of the ale they were quaffing. Those who take part in such scenes of revelry as are here spoken of have noticed that before the merriment becomes fast and furious, there is an interval of almost sullen quiet—of rather easy indifference and of slow, hesitating utterance. Was there ever a better description of this than in the closing lines concerning Souter Johnny?

"Tam loved him like a vera brother, They had been for weeks together."

One must almost think his tongue to properly read the words of this couplet, and the whole passage, even in its sound, enables us very distinctly to realize the precise condition of the two cronies at this time. Then the stately movement of that renowned distich:

"Kings may be best, but Tam was glorious, O'er a' the lads of the victorious!" shows us in grand terms, and full of glory, the high tide of the idyll. One of the best parts of the story is that in which the conduct of Meg is contrasted with that of her master, when the two first catch a glimpse of the nocturnal revels going on in the old chapel aglow with its wizard torches blazing in the surrounding darkness. Though Tam himself was inspired with the fearless valor of bold John Barleycorn, Meg, with a single word, "Gude gray tail," had her "gude gray tail."

She was in the sober certainty of all her senses. The reader is perforce brought to observe this, and all the more to note the rash and reckless bearing of her husband, who had hardly have paused had Vesuvius flamed in his path. The mare, however, started at these extraordinary sights and sounds, slackened her pace, and took step slowly, at last would go no further.

"Till Meggie stood, right aye astonished, 'Till he the heel and hand adjoined, She sturged forward on the night."

Such an antithesis of the mare is a master stroke of most delicate fancy, wonderfully in sympathy with the time and of absolute truth to nature. The imagination that neither the poet nor the poet's mention of an incident, which, to say nothing of the felicity of its expression—an inferior hand would have wholly missed.

Among the four personages of the little idyll, the most interesting is the mare, and she is one of the most perfect of the whole. We not only hear the ready chorus of the laughing landlord, but the poet has contrived also to give us just a glimpse of the mare's spirit in a delightful piece of by-play between herself and the hero. In this way we come into supposed confidences between these two, the Souter and the mare, who, it is said, have been even suspected by their companions.

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"Till Meggie stood, right aye astonished, 'Till he the heel and hand adjoined, She sturged forward on the night."

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