DRAWING FOR THE MELBOURNE CUP.

By an Australian.

In a good sized room in Melbourne are gathered together some forty or fifty people. The aspect of the room is peculiar. Perhaps in the whole world another could not be found quite like it. The first object that arrests the visitor's attention, after passing the jealous scrutiny of many stout limbed janitors, is a huge, octagonal-shaped barrel of polished cedar, mounted on brass bearings. Opposite to this, at the other end of the long table, stands a much smaller barrel or casket, also arranged so as to revolve easily and smoothly. Right along the table on both sides sit pressmen and prominent citizens, assembled to report and to see fair play. In a recess are two more huge barrels draped in cloths. These are used only in the larger drawings, and are kept charged each with its complement of numbered wooden marbles. Everything is very quiet. The chairs around the walls are filled by well-dressed, attentive men, invited guests of "Tattersall's." Those at the table have before them writing materials, lists of consultations, horses, &c. People hardly speak at all, and then only in hushed whispers. It might, but for the surrounding fixtures, be a meeting of the Synod, a Royal Commission, anything where decorum and dulness reign supreme; anything but the last of the big gambles on the Cup.

As we enter reverently, hat in hand, the Great Promoter himself is addressing the audience. He is an old, grizzled, Falstaffian man, of shrewd kindly face, though with a weary look upon it as of one who is somewhat tired of existence, even upon Tom Tiddler's Ground. He leans over the great cedar casket as he speaks, and but that he is in his shirt sleeves might well pass for a bishop. Bishops, even colonial ones, are nowadays never seen in their shirt sleeves. He is explaining that this is the fourth and last of the big drawings for the Melbourne Cup. Originally it was to consist of 50,000 subscribers. Money was flowing in from all parts of the world even as he spoke. But, unfortunately, the time was too short. The sweep must close at 22,000. "And now, gentlemen, we will if you please proceed to draw the cash prizes. The first lot will consist of 20 at £100 each." There is a slight stir and a rustle of papers. The solemnity of the thing is accentuated by the production of a sealed-up key, which has been deposited in one of the City banks ever since the marbles were, under the supervision of a special committee, early that morning counted into the barrel. The latter is ceremoniously unlocked, and a broad leathern strap drawn tightly over the square-lidded aperture which, cut in the side, forms the sole opening. Then the Great Promoter fits on to the spindle of the barrel a handle like that of a winch, and slowly at first, then more swiftly, revolves the mass of marbles within.

Now a volunteer assistant—a stranger preferred—is called for. A gentleman from the country steps forward and, taking off his coat, stands by the side of the Great Promoter. To the latter is handed a curious instrument. It is a long hollow rod of brass carrying a metal loop and grip at one end and a sliding spring and handle at the other, like a sort of gigantic butter-tester. Pushing aside the strap and opening the door, the Great Promoter rams his weapon straight down through the marbles and draws it back with one firmly clutched at its extremity. Simultaneously his assistant picks a marble off the top reads its number in a clear voice, and passes it on to a scrutineer at his right hand, who has already taken the one off the tip of the Promoter's instrument and also called out the figures thereon. The marbles are deposited in a specially prepared tray as they are drawn. Any number over 22,000 is handed to a scrutineer on the left, and is out of the running. But all the twenty numbers under 22,000 are prizetakers of £100. The thing is sweetly simple, and also rapid in its working. There are not many blanks this time. Eighteen thousand one hundred is the last prize. When that marble is dropped into its little compartment in the tray, which only holds the exact quantity in the sweep, the thing is over.

The tally is now checked by the figures being called out loudly and distinctly by the chief scrutineer, who is a well-known and respected citizen. There is no error; and a murmur of "Correct, sir," runs round the table from other prominent citizens and reporters of all the dailies, following the figures with pen and pencil—the latter for the morning's issue which will spread the winning numbers throughout Australasia. Then the tray, with its £2,000 worth of wooden spheres, already divided among persons unknown and as yet unknowing, is handed around for inspection. The left hand scrutineer now reads out his blanks, the trap-door is opened once more, a large wooden funnel is produced and placed therein, the marbles are poured carefully back again, the strap is drawn across, and the Great Promoter, shipping his handle, again revolves the wheel of fortune. "Gentlemen, we will now proceed to draw the next sweep of 20 at £50 each." And so the affair continues, expeditiously, and with a business-like matter-of-course aspect that is all the more pleasant and edifying, inasmuch as the whole thing is wildly illegal. But when we are morally sure that the Supreme Court judges and the Ministry, equally with A 215, whose steady tramp we hear on the pavement below, have each and all had "a chuck in for the Cup," we feel fairly secure in our capacity of law-breakers on this hot November night. From the Cabinet Minister down through every section of the community to the smallest sawaboy, from the squatter, free selector, bushman of every description, down to the hardest-up magman, all are at one in support of the Great Promoter and his lottery. And the unfortunate who cannot scrape together at least a pound for a yearly ticket feels himself a victim indeed. Women of all classes enter into the thing as eagerly as men. To young children the name of "Tattersall" is as a household word. Even for babies in arms a "lucky" chance is purchased. But, although for every large race throughout the year the marbles in the cedar casket are kept rolling, it is mainly on these four days carnival of each November on the great course at Flemington that the whole country makes a rush to share in some of the hundreds of thousands of pounds played for in that quiet room and paid at five minutes' notice to the lucky winner, less a ten per cent. commission withheld by the Great Promoter.

Now the cash prizes are finished, the last tray of marbles is returned, and the event of the evening, the drawing for the horses, 135 in number, begins. Another volunteer takes his stand at the small barrel fronting the large one. A key is handed to him, and, unlocking it, he draws forth a marble with a horse's name printed upon it. After a good churning the Great Promoter and his assistant also draw, as before, turn and turn about. As each number is called the man at the other and smaller barrel responds with a horse's name from his collection of 135 marbles, which he keeps in constant motion. As before, everything over 22,000 goes to the left and is worthless; everything under to the right, and is worth anything from thousands downward, accordingly as the number may prove to be that of a first, second, or third horse, a starter, non-starter, &c. There is a slight buzz as the name of the Derby winner of the preceding day is called out in response to a number. He is the favourite for to-morrow—"the Cup." Presently there is a pause, during which the Great Promoter heaves away at his cylinder, and wipes the perspiration from his brow. "All correct, sir," from the checkers, and the drawing proceeds. At the end of half an hour the last horse's name is announced. He was scratched months ago. But that is no matter. The holder of his ticket will receive cash, more or less. The last horse is called Glenloth. No one there recognises him. But before that time to-morrow his name and fame will be worldwide, and fortunes dependent on the rank outsider have been lost and won. The long list of horses with their accompanying numbers is now read aloud by the chief scrutineer, carefully checked by a score of others. There is no mistake, not the slightest slip. The last of the great Cup sweeps is over. People break up into groups, converse, and inspect the cylinders and plant—which, by the way, cost over £2,000—and take refreshments which are liberally handed round. The Great Promoter is naturally a centre of interest to the strangers present. He seems very tired, and heartily glad that his evening's work is over. Churning marbles in a big barrel is hard work for an elderly man of weight and abounding adipose tissue, even at the rate of £500 per hour or so remuneration.

However, after restoration by a bumper, the Great Promoter turns out genial and communicative, and tells us lots of interesting things. The other two barrels, it appears, containing respectively 50,000 and 100,000 marbles, are always kept securely sealed and locked and the keys banked. The biggest one requires two men to turn it, and has been recently used for the heaviest of the Cup Sweeps. Most of the money on this race, £211,000, up to date, has come from abroad. The United Kingdom, Europe, India, Africa, and especially China, have all sent offerings to the shrine of the big Horse Gamble. There are men in Kamschatka, Pekin, on the banks of the Obi and the shores of the Caspian Sea, as well in sequestered English villages, who have heard of the Great Promoter and put faith in him, and prospered according to their luck. Last year a syndicate of Javanese pearl divers, away up on the shores of Carpentina, took the big pool. This year, as we sit and talk, there is a station "rouseabout" in the hot Queensland interior worth what he stands up in, or little more, who, to-morrow, will receive the news that makes him wealthy for life.

Presently a prominent citizen gets on his feet, and in a neat speech proposes the health of the Great Promoter, who responds interestingly. Then there are more speeches, whose theme is mainly the absolute fairness and propriety of the proceedings. There will be other sweeps next week and the week after, and money will never be lacking to keep the marbles rolling in the big barrels over yonder. The one consolation in the whole matter is that the distant sender of P.O.O.s and cheques may make his mind perfectly easy that he will get a fair show for his money at the hands of the Great Promoter.

PARTIAL COLLAPSE OF A HOUSE.

THREE PERSONS INJURED.

About one yesterday afternoon, a dwelling-house in Tarling-street, St. George's-in-the-East, collapsed. There were several people in the tenement at the time, and three of them were so seriously injured that they were conveyed to the London Hospital.

A representative of *The Globe*, on making inquiries, ascertained that the house was 76, Tarling-street, which is at the back of Commercial-road, E. The building is small, there being only two floors. It was the back part of the roof that fell in. The front of the house was immediately shored up in order to avert any further collapse. About five or ten minutes before the accident happened Mrs. Luxom, who was upstairs, called to those who were having their dinner in the kitchen, and said she thought the house was falling. A few minutes after this the ceiling was heard to crack and before the occupants had time to leave they were completely covered with the falling *débris*. Plenty of assistance was quickly forthcoming, and all the inmates were removed from their suffocating position without delay. Mr. James Luxom, the occupier of the house, was rescued in a fearful condition. Mrs. Martha Barrett, who has only been out of the hospital a few days, was also found to have sustained serious injuries. They were at once removed to the London Hospital, and have been detained there. Mr. Phillips, the father of Mr. Luxom's wife, was also taken to the hospital, but as his injuries were rather slight, he was discharged. A little girl named Ellen Montague Luxom was also somewhat severely injured, but after being treated at the Shadwell Children's Hospital, she was brought away by her mother. The street is not a very crowded one, but the affair caused a good deal of excitement.

SPEECH DAY AT THE LEYS SCHOOL.

Many visitors journeyed from town yesterday to attend the functions connected with Speech Day at this Cambridge school, additional interest being afforded by the laying of the memorial stone of the new building devoted to science laboratories and a museum. During the 15 years of the existence of the school science has held a prominent place, and for a long time accommodation for this branch of work has been restricted. For 10 years Dr. Kimmins has presided over the science department and he has been mainly instrumental in the erection of the building, of which he laid the memorial stone. It is anticipated that the structure and appliances in the chemical (elementary and advanced), physical, and biological laboratories, natural history museums, lecture room, &c., will cost between £4,000 and £5,000.—Dr. Kimmins expressed the belief that when so equipped, this department (to be completed in October) would serve its purpose for many years to come.—Sir G. Hayter Chubb (vice-president and hon. treasurer) in congratulating the school on its acquisition expressed the hope that the pious donor of a much-needed new chapel was present to-day.—Professor Buell, Dean of the Theological faculty of Boston, also spoke, and the Master of Sidney College, dwelt upon the great increase in the wealth of intellectual life in Cambridge. They had at last shaken off the torpor of the 18th and the beginning of the present century.—Dr. Moulton, the head master (an ex-President of the Wesleyan Conference) said the success of the school during the year had been fairly good, and the reports of the examiners, to be published later, were generally very favourable. He paid a warm tribute to the kindly assistance the school had always received from the University. Recent honours won by the school include a scholarship in classics at St. John's, an exhibition in science at Trinity, and one in history at Caius College, while an intermediate B.A. and B.Sc. have just been secured at the London University.

COURT AND PERSONAL NEWS.

Special intimations for this column must be sent in before eleven o'clock, properly authenticated.

The Queen went out at Balmoral on Wednesday morning, accompanied by Princess Louise, and in the afternoon drove with Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and the Princess of Leiningen, attended by Miss M'Neill.

The Prince of Wales and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar visited Drury Lane Theatre last evening.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh have become the patrons of the Anglo-Russian Literary Society.

The Princesses Alexandra and Beatrice of Edinburgh visited the Exhibition of Old Paris and the Bal Italien yesterday.

The Grand Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburgh-Strelitz visited the Avenue Theatre last evening.

The King of Denmark and the Crown Prince will go to Esbjerg on the 21th inst., to attend a local celebration, and will then probably leave for London, to be present at the Duke of York's wedding.

The Greek Royal Family left Athens yesterday for the Palace of Deceleia for the summer season.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury leave town to-morrow morning for Hatfield, where they remain over Sunday, returning to Arlington-street on Monday afternoon.

The Marchioness of Londonderry yesterday visited the Stockton Nursing Institute and Children's Shelter, and afterwards, accompanied by the Marquis of Londonderry, attended a bazaar in Durham in aid of the Friendless Girls' Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone dined last evening with Mr. Armitstead, at 4, Cleveland-square, a number of private and political friends being invited to meet them.

Lord Roberts, who is honorary colonel of the 2nd London Rifles, will attend a regimental dinner of the corps at Freemasons' Hall to-morrow evening.

Baron and Baroness de Brienan and family have left town for Klingendaal, The Hague.

Sir F. Clare Ford, the British Ambassador, left Constantinople yesterday for England on leave of absence.

Bishop Abraham, formerly Bishop of Wellington, New Zealand, yesterday laid the foundation-stone of the chapel at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Canon Ellerton, the well-known hymn writer, died at Torquay yesterday, aged 66.

It is arranged for the funeral of the late General Sir Frederick Edward Chapman, R.E., G.C.B., to be at Kingston Church, Somerset, on Saturday next, 17th inst., at two o'clock. Friends wishing to attend should travel by the 9 a.m. train, Great Western Railway, to Taunton; return train, 4.49.

PROVINCIAL LORD MAYORS.

The Mayor of Manchester yesterday received a letter from Mr. Gladstone announcing that the title of Lord Mayor has been granted to the Mayor of Manchester. Liverpool has been similarly honoured.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.

This handsome theatre was well attended last night, when the first performance was given of a "modern musical comedy in two acts," adapted by C. H. E. Brookfield, and furnished with lyrics by Mr. Harry Greenwood; set to music by Messrs. Millöcker and Albeniz. The opera is entitled "Poor Jonathan," the cognomen of Jonathan Tripp (Mr. Harry Monkhouse), a servant out of work, who loves and is beloved by Molly, a parlour-maid (Miss Jessie Bond). Respecting the plot, it must be said that it is absurd. Mr. Vandergold (Mr. Sidney Tower), a young and handsome millionaire, loves Marion (Miss Annie Schubert), who returns his love, but will not marry him because of the discrepancy between their resources. Vandergold places all his wealth in the hands of Tripp and Molly, in order that he may be in as humble circumstances as Tripp, who for some months lives in grand style, but gladly restores to Vandergold the bulk of his wealth when he wins the hand of Marion. The plot is not only incredible, but so absurd that it awakens no sympathy. The music suffers from the absurdity of the scenes with which it is associated. Mr. Albeniz is more successful than his coadjutor, Mr. Millöcker, who has nevertheless succeeded in setting effective music to Steinbach's song, "I am an impresario," and "The Belwood Big Degree," following a dance of students, set to music by Albeniz, and deservedly encored. The duet, "The Best of Pals," composed by Albeniz, is full of melody, well orchestrated, and worthy of the encore it elicited. The sextett with which Act I. ends also bears testimony to Mr. Albeniz's ability, and the second act opens with a brief but charming Intermezzo, entitled, "Hey! for a Sail!" The same composer has furnished what appears to us the best solo in the opera, a song entitled "The True Heart of a Friend." His "Interview Song," which follows, is admirably orchestrated. In addition to the artists already mentioned, Mr. W. H. Denny (Herr Steinbach, an impresario) and Mr. Arthur Wilkinson (Ruggles, a butler) merit favourable mention. Miss Annie Schubert (Marion) won considerable favour, but should be recommended to abstain from forcing her voice in high notes, with the infallible result of spoiling its fine quality. The most successful of the feminine artists was Miss Jessie Bond, whose voice is as sweet as ever, and her acting as charmingly piquant.

"THE BLOT IN THE 'SCUTCHEON."

The managers of the Independent Theatre have placed the intellectual playgoer under a debt of gratitude. Yesterday afternoon's representation at the Opera Comique of Browning's "Blot in the 'Scutcheon" brings before the world a play few opportunities of seeing which are afforded. It brings it forward, moreover, under creditable conditions, and the representation, though amateurish, is intelligent and full of promise. Miss May Harvey, the Mildred, has a face of great beauty and considerable power of expression. Her attitudes and gestures are good, and her voice, command of which she has not yet obtained, is sweet. Mr. Louis Calvert (Thorold), Mr. Lionel Dainer (Austin), and Mr. Harvey (Mertoun) looked picturesque and acted carefully, and Miss N. de Silva displayed some cleverness as Guendolen. That "The Blot in the 'Scutcheon" is a good acting play may not be said. It has, however, some admirable language, amid much that is not admirable, much genuine pathos, and one or two touching scenes. A manager bold enough to mount it for a series of afternoon representations would probably find the venture remunerative.

The Bruges Town Council has decided to subsidise to the extent of 2,000,000fr. the company formed to convert the city into a port by constructing a canal to the sea large enough to be available for the use of ocean-going vessels.

Toilet Lanoline softens, clears, and preserves the skin, and should be used in every household. "Toilet Lanoline" protects the skin from the effects of exposure, and adds to the natural beauty. In collapsible tubes, 6d.; in small boxes, 3d. From all Chemists and Druggists. Whitehall Depot, 67, Holborn-viaduct. The genuine bears the trade-mark "Lanoline."—(Advt.)

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

IN THE LORDS.

A conversational discussion, sustained by Lord Lamington and Lord Rosebery, arose concerning the relations between France and Siam. The former in putting a question on the subject excited more hilarity than is usual in the Upper House by quoting some descriptions of himself in the French Press. One "serious" journal, commenting on his travels in that distant region, stated that the Siamese Government was employing British peers as spies on its Eastern frontier, and described him as spying about "disguised in a parasol." Another paper spoke of him as a member of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet. Lord Rosebery stated that the Foreign Office was imperfectly informed as to the dispute between Siam and France. He, for his part, had no wish to merit the reputation which had been accorded to him by some of the French papers of meddling in the controversy. The House rose shortly before five o'clock.

IN THE COMMONS.

The Ministerial replies to the 42 questions on the paper contained little information of moment. Answering Mr. Channing, Mr. Gladstone said that the Government did not see any opportunity for taking action at present to give effect to the resolution passed by the House last Friday in favour of amending the law with respect to agricultural holdings. He hoped, however, that no long time might elapse before such an opportunity was found. Subsequently, Mr. Channing gave notice that he would himself introduce a Bill dealing with the subject. Mr. Chaplin and Sir William Houldsworth interrogated Sir William Harcourt regarding his dispatch to the Indian Government on the currency question, but without eliciting anything fresh. Mr. Balfour having inquired whether arrangements would be made for the representation of the House at the Royal wedding, Mr. Gladstone asked for notice of the question.

The 21st sitting in committee on the Home Rule Bill was occupied with the discussion of further amendments to clause 4, which enumerates a list of restrictions on the legislative capacity of the proposed Irish Legislature. The early part of the proceedings was watched by an unusually large number of peers, among the occupants of the gallery reserved for members of the Upper House being Lords Zetland, Hardwicke, Ashbourne, Stanhope, and Archbishop of Dublin—the last named a very constant attendant of late. An amendment, moved by Sir Thomas Lea, to prohibit legislation in the direction of increasing the use of the Irish language in national schools, courts of law, &c., was characterised by Mr. Morley as "trivial" and by Mr. Sexton as "frivolous," while Mr. Balfour invoked a vote upon it. In the end, after further discussion, it was withdrawn. Next Mr. Bartley moved to omit sub-section 5 of the clause, which forbids enactments by the Legislature "whereby any person may be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law or may be denied the equal protection of the laws, or whereby private property may be taken without just compensation." Mr. Gladstone, in the course of his speech against the proposed omission, said, "I am sick of repeating that our object in framing this Bill has not been to limit ourselves to the insertion of bulwarks or guarantees such as we believe to be necessary. We have again and again inserted in the measure language which was demanded by the apprehensions and jealousies of others, rather than our own." Lord Randolph Churchill urged that the sub-section, instead of being struck out, should be strengthened by the introduction of the words in the American Constitution prohibiting *ex post facto* legislation. The discussion was terminated by the application of the closure (Government majority 83), and the amendment was negatived without a division. Several succeeding amendments bore more or less directly on the same subject, and Mr. Bryce was pressed by Mr. Carson, Mr. Chamberlain and others to say whether it was on his initiative that the words in the clause taken from the United States Constitutional amendment were inserted. At length the Chancellor of the Exchequer was induced to rise. He disclaimed personal responsibility, stating that it was equally shared by all the members of the Cabinet, and observing, amid considerable ironical cheering from the Opposition, that the paragraph in the American Constitution with regard to "equal protection" had been framed solely as a safeguard for the negroes of the South. Later on, Mr. Charles Russell attempted a definition. "Due process of law," in his opinion, was where the process of law followed settled principles of judicial proceeding—in other words, where such process followed sound precedents applicable to and affecting the subject-matter. But the Opposition lawyers were far from satisfied, and the discussion went on. One personal honour, Mr. Dunbar Barton, in particular, was remarkably vigorous and effective in his criticisms, and quoted, with telling effect, several passages from Mr. Bryce's book on "The American Commonwealth," as well as from a volume written by Mr. Robertson, the Civil Lord of the Admiralty, on "American Home Rule," where "due process of law" was said to mean "compliance with certain principles of justice which have not been very precisely defined." He strenuously objected to words "pitchforked from the American Constitution" being held as a substitute for all the liberties at present possessed by the Irish minority; and, speaking as an Ulster member, asserted that if Lord Cranborne—and a speech from the layman's standpoint was contributed by Mr. Chamberlain. On a division, the amendment was negatived by a majority of only 32, a result which was hailed by the Opposition with cheers. The House adjourned at 12.10.

THE FIRE TOURNAMENT.

The improvement in the attendance, which was very marked on Wednesday, was maintained in the displays of yesterday, when the historical procession was repeated with additional links in the chain of fire-fighting corps from the time of the Plantagenet Kings of England down to 1893. On the programme of yesterday was an international tug of war, and one between a Margate brigade and Wimbledon, but on account of the departure this morning of a considerable number of the Sapeurs-Pompiers to Boulogne, and the disinclination of the Americans and other foreigners to compete, the first event had to be given up. The other will take place on the arrival of the Margate team during the afternoon. In the morning a large number of provincial brigades had time competitions in manual drill with hose, suction pipes, and dam, with one, two, four, and six men, and in ambulance work, the best results being credited to the Wimbledon, Wimbledon Railway, Ruthin, and Chester brigades. In the ambulance competition, Exeter scored 14 points, Chester 13, and Denbigh 12 points. In the competition for a six-man turn-out, a tie between the Aldershot and Wimbledon brigades for first and second prizes was settled this afternoon, but the announcement of the result was considerably delayed. A fresh exhibition of the remarkable feats with the American trained horses was given by Chief Hale, of Kansas. The Chief Constable of York and the chief officers of Birmingham, Glasgow, Belfast, Edinburgh, and Liverpool were present.

OPINIONS OF THE MORNING PAPERS.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

The *Times* says that yesterday's debate on the Home Rule Bill was almost entirely devoted to an attempt, which the Government defeated by persistent vagueness and obscurity of treatment, to attach a definite and intelligible meaning to the fifth sub-section of the fourth clause. That sub-section provides that the powers of the Irish Legislature shall not extend to the making of any law whereby any person may be deprived of life, liberty, or property "without due process of law." No one could tell, and least of all the law officers of the Crown, what is the precise meaning of "due process of law." Mr. Bartley, being one of these punctilious persons who like to know what they are doing, and being quite in the dark as to the exact effect of the sub-section, began the work of elucidation by moving the omission from the Bill. His amendment, however, was not meant to be pressed, but rather to serve as a means, first, of eliciting explanation from the Government, and, second, of opening the way to a full discussion of the whole subject in the event of such explanation not being offered. Lord R. Churchill struck the keynote of the debate by pointing out how exceedingly desirable it is that a matter of admitted importance should be clearly explained to the House, and defined in a manner excluding misconception. The ground being thus cleared it was not surprising that, after a few sarcastic observations from Mr. Balfour upon the way in which the Government alternately revere and spurn the precedents of the American Constitution, Mr. Gladstone moved the closure of the debate on the amendment. He did not however, get rid of the distasteful allusions to his treatment of American authorities.

LORD WOLVERTON'S RESIGNATION.

The *Standard* points out that the resignation of Lord Wolverton means his secession, for all practical purposes, from the Gladstonite Nationalist Party. It illustrates not only the fundamentality of that extraordinary combination, but the untrustworthy character of the assurances that are constantly given by those who claim to know its secrets, and to be inspired by zeal for its advantage. Lord Wolverton is one of a very limited number of Peers who had permitted their regard for Mr. Gladstone, and perhaps a certain intellectual sympathy with the romantic side of his political conceptions, to keep them faithful to the old name of Liberalism, after the substance of Liberalism had been overlaid with novel growth. To none of his supporters can the Prime Minister be under greater obligations. Although this is the first secession from the Government, it has been preceded by the determination of several members of the House of Commons to assert their independence of the party Whips. The Home Rule Bill, everyone now sees, does not move. It is not blocked by obstruction, but halts by its own dead weight; and the worst has still to come. At present only the Unionists criticise. But when the sections regarding finance and the retention of the Irish members at Westminster, are reached, there will be all-round protest and scrutiny from Nationalists of every hue and Radicals of all shades.

GOVERNMENT AND ITS SUPPORTERS.

The *Morning Post* observes that last night the debate on the Home Rule Bill was decidedly tedious in character despite the undeniable importance of more than one point raised in the course of the sitting. The Government is so evidently afraid of offending its supporters that Ministers are compelled to adopt an attitude of uneasy suspicion even over amendments which practically seek nothing beyond the enforcement of views to which they themselves are theoretically committed. The net result is to invest debate with a trivial and unreal air which is peculiarly inadmissible in a matter as serious as the formation of a new Constitution for Ireland. Moreover, as Ministers grow more deprecatory in their attitude towards their Irish allies the Nationalist members themselves become more flippant and more patronising.

THE NEW LORD MAYORS.

The *Telegraph* remarks that there will be a large amount of quiet rejoicing in the two cities to which Her Majesty has just been pleased to distinguish by granting the honorific title of "Lord Mayor" to their Chief Magistrate from this time forward. From an early period there have been in England the two Lord Mayors of London and York, and now the same dignity has been conferred on the most prominent representatives of the two municipal life of Manchester and Liverpool. The enormous population of these great centres certainly entitles them to such an honour, especially when we consider that Scotland has seven Lord Provosts, and Ireland a Lord Mayor of Belfast as well as a Lord Mayor of Dublin. Had the style and title of Lord Mayor or Lord Provost been strictly confined to the capital cities of the three kingdoms, then there would have been some excuse for objecting to an extension of the dignity to provincial cities. But there is no more reason why Belfast should have a Lord Mayor than Manchester, or why Dundee should boast a Lord Provost and Liverpool have to put up with a simple Mayor and Corporation. The fact is that these large towns of the North have grown so immensely that they really rank as capitals to a very large district surrounding them.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

The *Daily News*, referring to the German elections, states that the results in Berlin, which may now be stated with tolerable certainty, show that the Social Democrats are in the running for the second ballot in four of the six districts, and that they have won by immense majorities in two. In fact the only seats carried at the first ballot have fallen to them. Even Professor Virchow, though a good sound Radical, has to meet his Social Democratic antagonist in a second trial of strength. The vote of Berlin is not necessarily a forecast of the vote of the Empire, if only because there are at least twenty parties struggling for the mastery—counting the larger ones and their cleavages. The interest in the elections is intense, and there is every reason to believe that there will be a much heavier poll than in 1890.

In the new ballet, "Fidelia," at the Alhambra, Mr. Walter Stanton will give a "Giant Rooster Impersonation and Cockfight with trained bantam."

At Bristol Police-court, yesterday, William Whitefield, miners' agent, and member of Bristol School Board, was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment with hard labour on a charge of drunkenness and assaulting the police.

Over 70 claims for compensation for broken windows and theft of whisky and other liquors during the riots in Belfast in April last have been lodged with the town clerk. The total amount claimed reaches nearly £1,000.

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