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PARLIAMENT.

DEATH has produced another deplorable gap in the Unionist Party in the House of Commons. Deprived, a few weeks ago, of the bright presence of Mr. George Wyndham, it now mourns the sudden snatching away of Mr. Lyttelton. The Unionist Party was proud of the lieutenant likened by Mr. Asquith to the happy warrior "whom every man in arms should wish to be," and the whole House sympathises with its sorrow at his death, for he was esteemed by every party and had no enemies anywhere. Seldom is such deep feeling shown by opposing leaders as was expresssed by the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law in their references to the friend whom they had loved and lost. Only for a few moments, however, was the sound of party conflict hushed by a common sorrow. The climax of the Session has been reached this week with the third readings of the Parliament Act Bills. At the final stage of the Home Rule Bill, in "the last Session in which it will be calmly considered," Mr. Bonar Law appealed to the Government to beware of the calamitous consequences of the course they were pursuing with respect to Ulster. Mr. Asquith was conciliatory in tone, but refused to believe that it would be necessary to apply coercion; and although Mr. J. H. Campbell, in a solemn tone, emphasised the determination of his Ulster friends to resist Home Rule at any cost or sacrifice, the Government supporters went resolutely to a division. By a majority of 109, which was greatly cheered by the Nationalists, the Commons decided on Monday to send the Irish measure once more to the Lords; and on Tuesday the Welsh Disestablishment Bill in turn passed a similar stage in the second session of its history. To these the Government have added a Bill for the abolition of plural voting, in the hope that they may live till 1915 to carry it into law under the Parliament Act. An all-night sitting and the operation of the "kangaroo," by which the Chairman selects the amendments for discussion, were resorted to in order to speed the Plural Voting Bill through Committee. Earnest efforts were made by Unionists, but in vain, to exempt from its provisions University representation and the City of London. Mr. Balfour charmed the House with a speech on the former subject, and acted as a teller for the amendment relating to his own constituency. In the midst of these controversies, the death of Mr. Lyttelton, following so soon the loss of Mr. Wyndham, is felt with special sorrow by Mr. Balfour, for he was closely attached to both, and they were among his most loyal and devoted friends.

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TITLEPAGE AND INDEX.

The Titlepage and Index to Engravings of Volume One Hundred and Forty-Two (from January 4 to June 28, 1913) of THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS *can be had, Gratis, through any Newsagent, or direct from the Publishing Office, 172, Strand, London, W.C.*

"THE RENAISSANCE AND ITS MAKERS."

IT is not uncommon, even among people of average education, to hear some such inquiry as "What was the Renaissance exactly, and when did it take place?" The reply that "it was the Revival of Learning" would probably represent the sum-total of the vague and limited knowledge of the subject possessed by all but a cultured few. So narrow are the limits of our modern academic humanism that even many who have enjoyed a public-school and university training might not be able to answer a paper on the Renaissance with any completeness. In the scholastic curriculum of the last generation, at any rate, there was usually a great gulf fixed in history between Augustus and William the Conqueror—a gulf filled with dark and abysmal ignorance—and thereafter little was learned of the Continent except battles in which the English fought. Consequently, there is without doubt room for a concise account of Europe's great intellectual reawakening, presented in a manner at once scholarly and picturesque, for the benefit of the general reader. The work has been done admirably by Messrs. J. D. Symon and S. L. Bensusan, the joint authors of "The Renaissance and Its Makers" (T. C. and E. C. Jack). The book, which is at once a historical narrative and a critical exposition, deserves to be widely read. The authors point out that not only our classical culture, which to-day is regarded with so much disfavour, but modern science also, owes its inception to the scholarship of the Renaissance. "A fuller understanding of its intellectual ancestors," it is suggested, "might perhaps make this generation less hasty to deny them and the forces that went to their making." Very wisely, the authors have laid stress on the personal and biographical side of their story, and have not assumed in their readers an existing knowledge of facts which, to the expert, may be matters of commonplace. There is nothing which the general reader dislikes so much as an excess of abstractions, or unexplained allusions which are beyond his range. Speaking as one of that class for whom the volume is intended, the present writer can commend it as a remarkably lucid and readable account of an intensely interesting period. It covers the whole ground from the time of such precursors of the Renaissance as the Emperor Frederick II., St. Francis of Assisi, and Dante—"the last great figure of the Middle Ages"—to the days of Luther and Christopher Columbus, tracing the results of the movement not only in Italy, the land of its birth and chief development, but also in France, Germany, England, and Spain. Thus the Renaissance is focussed and shown in its proper setting by history, as a natural and gradual growth—though with a sudden flowering—in the evolution of the human spirit. One specially interesting chapter—in view of modern feminism—is that devoted to the women of the Renaissance. The illustrations, many in colour, from works of Italian and Spanish art, are well reproduced, and add largely to the interest. The respective contributions of the two collaborators are not indicated, and can only be guessed by those familiar with their style.

OUR LADIES' SUPPLEMENT.

AGAIN this week we present, for the special behoof and entertainment of our lady readers, a Supplement which, in the main, follows closely on the lines of that found so attractive in our issues of June 14 and of May 24 and April 19. As with the previous Supplements, there is a double-page in colour, the subject this time being that of rockeries made beautiful by means of mountain flowers, which offer fairyland glimpses of Alpine gardens at home on English soil. That topic, too, forms the subject of Mrs. C. W. Earle's pleasant article, "Concerning Gardens." Two pages likely to be universally popular are "Seaside Dresses for Girls," and "Tulle as the Basis of the Latest Designs in Hats." At the height of the tennis tournament as we are, there can be no need to do more than mention the page of "Queens of the Tournament," which presents the portraits of ladies who did notably at the Wimbledon Championship Meeting, including one of Mrs. Lambert Chambers, the Lady Champion of 1913. The Dog of this Supplement is the West Highland white terrier, forming No. 4 of our series. Lady Hardinge, the wife of the Viceroy, as the leader of Society in India, has her place here, appropriately enough at the time when the Simla season is in full swing.

"OFFICER 666." AT THE NEW THEATRE.

MELODRAMATIC farce is the description which has been given to "Officer 666," and, of course, it is an American variety of drama. We liked the blend before; we like it still. It has gusto, it has excitement, it has fun, and though there are all styles in turn, there is never too much of any particular one. Nor does the mixture depend for its effectiveness on its being interpreted by American actors; it loses none of its swing and pace under an English rendering such as is supplied in the present New Theatre revival. Mr. Percy Hutchinson keeps the ball rolling as the millionaire art-connoisseur who comes across himself appropriating his own pictures, and acts as breezily as could be desired. Mr. Ben Webster is gloriously sedate and genial as the burglar; Mr. Sam Sothern, in his old part, still makes love in handcuffs as piquantly as ever; and the Officer 666 of Mr. F. G. Thurstan does not fail to be comic.

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