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HIS VISIT IN 1887 AND RECEPTION IN ENGLISH SOCIETY.

He Expected to Be Ignored, but Was Greeted Very Cordially and Would Have Been Lionized if He Had Permitted It.

When Mr. Blaine came to London, it was, think, with a well settled conviction that London would mean nothing to him socially. He imagined that he was disliked. He knew that if he did not himself dislike the English, the memories of the civil war in America and of England's part in those transactions were strong within him. He had expressed his views in speech and in print. Like many other Americans who had less reason for holding such a view than Mr. Blaine had, he conceived that his criticisms were likely to be remembered, and remembered against him. You must know the English well before you fully comprehend the spirit of tolerance which prevails here, and the spirit of indifference. is chronic, then it may Mr. Blaine knew them hardly at all, and

he misjudged them and their spirit and their feeling about himself. There was then, and there has been ever since, a notion that the great American hated England or at least was no friend to England. Often and often one heard the remark when he was seen in this London world, "Your friend does not like us," often to be followed by the very characteristic and very English comment, "We like him all the same." So little did he anticipate a welcome in London that he seemed to have planned his visit in the spirit of the traveler and tourist, and in no other. There were few if any houses he expected to enter, perhaps none he wished to enter. His idea of London was the British muse um and the Tower and the Jubilee show. He arrived on the Friday before the Queen's jubilee, and the series of social surprises in store for him began at once. An invitation was waiting for him to dine the next evening with the lord mayor, an-

other to a party the same night at the Duchess of St. Albans and a third to the ladies' night at the Gallery club, then one of the smartest functions of London. Mr. Blaine made what may be called a decisive appearance that evening. He saw in the course of a few hours much of what is best in London and made scores of acquaintances. There is in London, and among the best people here, a marked absence of anything like ceremony or stiffness in circumstances which in a society less sure of itself might be thought difficult. Ceremony is replaced by cordiality, and a distinguished stranger finds himself all at once on the footing of a friend.

Mr. Blaine, to tell the truth, had hesitated. If it was an agreeable surprise to him to discover that such a welcome was in store for him, it was none the less a surprise. What he accepted he accepted frankly, but he did not accept everything. He relinquished his preconceived notions rather gradually, but he could have been in no real doubt about the disposition of London toward him after the first half hour at the Duchess of St. Albans' party. Everybody wanted to know him. It rained

introductions. Such a face and figure and manner as his of course attracted attention. The ques-tion ran around the room, "Who is he?" It was put to a lady who was supposed to know every person worth knowing. "I don't know," was her answer, "but he is somebody, and I am going to find out." It does not take long for intelligence to circulate in a drawing room. There certainly were people in that brilliant company to whom Mr. Blaine's name meant nothing, for it was not by a knowledge of American politics or personalities that London soci-

ety even then was pre-eminently distin-

But if the name did not always interest them the owner of it did. The tall form, the singular charm of the face, the distinction of manner, the intellectual power of waiked across the street with the presenter the face and head, the refinement of both, the alert composure of the expression, the sedateness of feature with which the vivaeity of the eyes contrasted and that inde-finable air of being perfectly at home amid a throng of people whom he had never seen before—all this was remarked with that swiftness of perception which the woman of society has in its most miraculous de gree and commented on with a freedom characteristic of a world which has, to say the least, the courage of its opinions and little restraint in expressing them. If Mr. Blaine had wished to be lionized in London, which he certainly did not, he had chosen his moment ill. This was the last evening for a week or two when any private individual, no matter how eminent could expect to be the central figure in a London drawing room. The next week or two were given up to royalties, and so aristocratic, even in these democratic days, is still the society of any European capital that any royalty is sure of his place. Between the private person of no matter what rank and

any king or prince, etiquette still draws a line, which the king or prince may cross it he will—and he often does—but the private person never.

Mr. Blaine had, moreover, a keen, personal feeling and a sense of what was due night, it came out rather unexpectedly. Lord Hartington was there, and Mr. Blaine was asked if he would like to know him. He refused. Several motives for the refusal might be suggested, but I will leave them all to the ready imagination of those who like to speculate on the subject. He was asked to the foreign office party and refused, giving as a reason that he could not be the guest of a man whom he had attacked as he had attacked Lord Salisbury. It was pointed out to him that it was Lady Salisbury who gave the party, and that it was as wife of the foreign minister not as the wife of Lord Salisbury, that sh issued her invitations; that there was no politics on such an occasion; that Mr. Gladstone himself would probably be there, and so on. Nothing shook his resolve. 'After what I have said in my book I cannot see how it is possible to accept Lord Salisbury's hospitality." I looked up the passage afterward. There really is nothing in it which need have prevented Mr. Blaing from shaking hands with his old opponent or from going to Hatfield. But if the scruple was exaggerated, it was an honorable scruple. - London Cor. New York Tribune.

The grand difficulty in talking to an Englishman about India to that lishman about India is that he always forms a picture of the place in his mind. It may be accurate or inaccurate, but it is always a picture. He thinks of it either as a green delta or a series of sunbaked plains or a wild region with jungle and river and farma all intermixed, or a vast park stretched out by nature for sportsmen and sloping somehow at the edges toward highly cultivated plains. It never occurs to him as regards external aspect there is no India; that the peninsula so called is as large as Europe west of the Vistula and presents as many variations of scenery. East Anglia is not so different from Italy as the northwest provinces from Bengal, nor are the Landes so unlike Normandy as the Punjab is unlike the hunting districts of Madras. There is every scene in India, from the eternal snow of the Himalayas, as much above Mont Blanc as Mont Blanc is above Geneva, to the rice swamps of Bengal, all buried in fruit trees; from the wonderful valleys of the Vindhya, where beauty and fertility seem to struggle consciously for the favor of man, to the God forgotten salt marshes by the Runn of Cutch,—London

THE GHOST IN "HAMLET." Professor Egan Says It Was a Spirit From

Purgatory Seeking Justice. Professor Maurice Francis Egan has been lecturing recently on the ghost in "Ham let." Ghosts are eeric things to handle even in print, and when one attempts to decide whether the ghost be a spirit of health or a "goblin damned" the under-taking is indeed a hazardous one. Mr. Egan, however, is a brave man and is not easily daunted. The spirit of Hamlet's father is a spirit from purgatory, he says, who seeks not revenge, but justice. He who even touched the garment of a king offentively was a traitor. He who did him in jury deserved to die. In those days there was no such things as trial by a jury. The state has been slain in the person of the king; therefore to counsel the killing of Claudius is not to consel murder, but jus-

quote from "Hamlet" seems a bit like quot ng from the Lord's Prayer: am thy father's spirit, Doom'd for a certain time to walk the night, And for the day confined to fast in fires, Fill the foul crimes done in my days of natur

tice. There is an answer to the argument

often brought forward to prove that the

ghost must be an evil spirit because he urged

Hamlet to crime. Mr. Egan proves all this

by the words of the ghost, although to

Are burnt and purged away. Cut off even in the blossoms of my sin. Unhousel'd, disappointed, unanel'd, No reckoning made, but sent to my account With all my imperfections on my head.

Again, "Taint not thy mind," says the ghost. These are the words of a good spirit and not of a devil. Mr. Egan's reading of "Hamlet" on this point is not indeed a new one, but it serves o throw a strong light on the question of Shakespeare's Catholicity. The religion of Shakespeare has been the subject of endless liscussion. "I do not claim he was a practical Catholic," says Mr. Egan. "I do not even claim that he would have been, but was deferred by the troublous and dangerous times in which he lived—times in which priests had their hiding places and mass vas said in barns and cellars. I do claim, though, that he was thoroughly versed in the doctrines and practices of the Catholic

church.' The words of the ghost prove this mere clearly. Shakespeare falls into many anchronisms on other subjects, such as send ing Hamlet to the University of Witter berg at a time when the university did no exist, but when he deals with the beliefs and customs of the Catholic church he is thoroughly at home. "I'll cross it, though t blast me," says Horatio, a speech which the majority of actors-Booth, Barrett and all the moderns-interpreted by walking across the path of the ghost on the stage. Feether interpreted the meaning correctly sign of the cross over the apparition.-Philadelphia Music and Drama.

A Great Stickler. Bank cashiers and tellers are invariably great sticklers for identification. Even when their judgment, aided by some peculiar circumstance, tells them that an absolute personal identification is unnecessary they insist upon going through the form. A gentleman of high character who lives in New York found himself obliged to get a draft cashed at a bank in a small New England town some time ago. The town was the place of the gentleman's early home, and he was known and respected by almost every resident. But the teller, after glancing at the signature on the draft, said briskly. "You will have to be identified." "Don't you know me?" asked the pre-

senter of the draft. "No, sir," replied the teller. "Well, I am acquainted with pretty nearly everybody in town," said the gentleman. "There is Mr. II—," mentioning the name of the leading merchant of the place, whose store was a few rods from the bank.
"All right," said the teller obligingly, "l will go over there with you," and locking the money drawer he put his hat on and of the draft. The merchant was sunning himself in the doorway of his store. "Say, do you know this man?" asked the teller. 'Yes, sir, I am proud to know him," was the quick reply. Without another word the teller returned to the bank and cashed the draft. The New York man, consider ably amused, asked as he pocketed the money: "Is that what you call an identifi cation? Why, you did not even ask Mr. II— what my name was."

genially, "I just wanted to find somebody who knew you."-New York Times. Trying Their Luck. It will be remembered that in ISS3 there was a great earthquake in Ischia, an island in the bay of Naples. Thousands of people were killed and hurt, some buried alive for days. Well, the Neapolitans were very generous in sending aid to Ischia. But they were also extremely brisk in referring to a little book of numbers with which they are a great deal more intimate than with anything else in the shape of literature. This little book is a curious nonsensica piece of work-a string of common and ab-

"Oh, that's all right," answered the teller

stract nouns, adjectives, etc., with num-bers attached to them, such words, for exsonal feeling and a sense of what was due to his political position at home, and both to his political position at home, and both "famine," "husband," "joy," "cat," "dog," When he went into the Gallery club that etc. It is the lottery mongers' vade mecum When therefore the calamity of Ischia was heard of, the Neapolitans immediately turned up the word "earthquake" in the precious little book. This was the founda tion number of the series of three, which constitutes a "terno." To complete the series some chose one word, some another, more or less apposite to the occasion—such as the day of the week and the day of the month, or the number corresponding to "death" and "island." The old thing was that when Saturday arrived a "terno" came out that actually brought a good deal of money into various Neapolitan homes.

1 have been told that "glad" or "joy" and "stone," with the addition of the number corresponding to our great statesman's age when he was staying in Naples two cr

three years ago, was a good investment for those who tried it.—All the Year Round. A sign in Waynesville, Ga., bears this inscription, "Ax handles, ink, pens and

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