BEPILO

AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

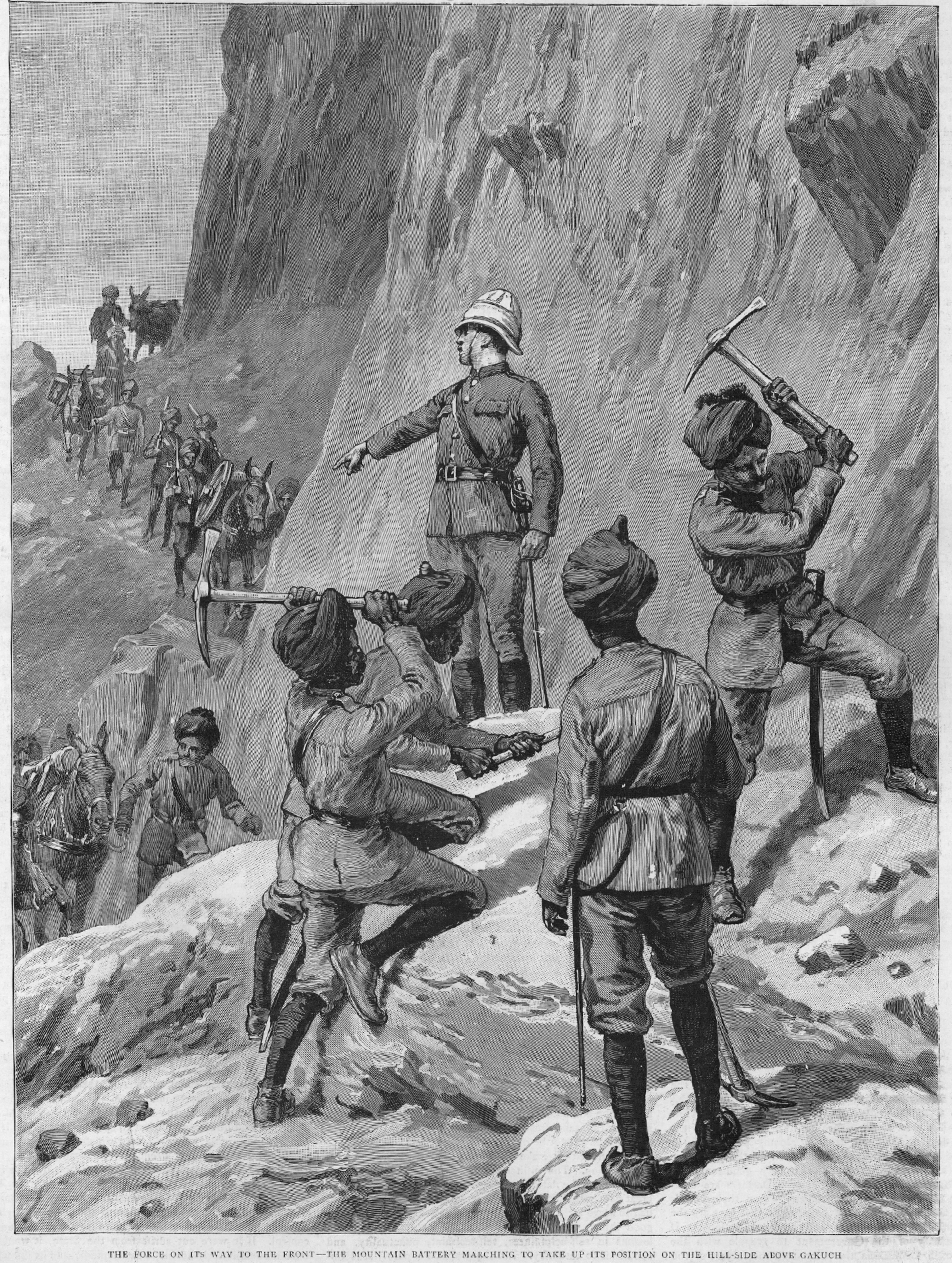
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THE FORCE ON ITS WAY TO THE FRONT—THE MOUNTAIN BATTERY MARCHING TO TAKE UP ITS POSITION ON THE HILL-SIDE ABOVE GARUCH

THE FIGHTING NEAR GILGIT ON THE NORTH-WESTERN FRONTIER OF INDIA



FUNERAL OF A PRIEST AT CAPRI

THE funeral arrangements here and in most parts of Italy are invariably conducted by the "Society of the Misericordia," generally spoken of in Capri as "I Fratelli," to which society most of the people belong, paying some small sum per month, which entitles them at death to be carried and accompanied by their brother members free of expense. It has a very weird and somewhat ghastly effect, especially at evening, when funerals are mostly performed, when one meets a procession of these white and hooded people silently advancing, recalling to one's mind the time of the Inquisition. The "Society of the Misericordia" originated, I believe, writes Mr. Horace Fisher, in Florence at the time of the plague, when the people of the highest and lowest classes joined together in one large fraternity to assist the sick and carry the dead, and the dress (which in Florence is black) was originally intended to disguise the person who wore it, so that the "Signore" and the "Borghese" could walk and work together without distinction and without recognition.

"A MATINÉE," AND "FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED"

This picture, by Herr Mayer Mainz, represents a matinée in the days of the old régime. The prima donna, a stout and gorgeouslyattired lady, is singing, with many airs and graces, to the accompaniment of a spinnet, which is played by a young musician, the composer most probably, to judge by his anxious looks. The different expressions on the faces of the audience are amusingly shown; some are watching the singer with rapt enthusiasm, some --of course incited by another woman—are making fun of her mature affectations, and others are frankly chuckling over some pleasant scandal in a corner, while in the foreground the Abbé hangs upon every note of the singer's voice, and beats time on the instrument in the fulness of his admiration.—Our engraving of this picture, as well as of the picture by L. Knaus of a girl feeding her geese, called "First Come, First Served," is published by permission of the Berlin Photographic Company, 43, New Bond Street.

ENTRANCE TO THE GREAT SHINTO TEMPLE AT KOBE, JAPAN

In Japan there are two national religions, the Shinto, or old belief, and Buddhism. The Shinto, or Kami religion, which was the faith of old Japan, is extremely simple. Its great aim is the discovery of happiness in this present world, and of a world beyond the grave it has only the vaguest and most obscure ideas. Consequently, its votaries endeavour to pacify and appease the Gods who have the ruling of this world in their hands, and, by daily ablutions to prove the purity of their souls. Even when polluted by death, or bloodshedding, or by eating the flesh of domestic animals, their penances are by no means severe or harsh. The Gods they worship are those who, according to the legends, created Japan, and still take an interest in the land they created. The heroes of primitive ages, who, like the knights-errant of the middle ages, went about redressing wrong and seeing justice done, occupy a sort of intermediary position. They are promoted to living in the land of the Gods, and are always ready to intercede with any deity on behalf of the land they laboured for during life. The structure of the Shinto temples is, as a rule, very simple, and the principal articles in the interior are a basin of water for ablutions, and a large chest, in which the offerings of the worshippers are placed. Across the front of the porch is a thick rope, made of straw, known as the Shime, which keeps off all harm from the sacred precincts.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. G. A. DURAND,

The British Political Agent at Gilgit, who was severely wounded in the late fighting in the Hunza Valley, entered the Army in 1872, and joined the 65th Regiment. He served in the Afghan War of 1878-80 with the Khyber field force, accompanied Sir Frederick Roberts in his march to Candahar, and was present at the Battle of Candahar. In these services he received a medal with clasp, and the Bronze Decoration. He passed into the Bengal Staff Corps, and having been appointed British Political Agent at the important post of Gilgit, on the North-Western frontier of India, was granted the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel on November 13th,

Special Articles, relating to the campaign in Gilgit, will be found on page 734; and to the Viceroy's Tour in Kashmir on page 738.

PASTIMES

THE racing of the past few days has not been of a particularly interesting character, but the fields have been good everywhere, and at Hurst Park on Saturday some close finishes occurred, as in the Coombe Handicap Hurdle Race, which Trevelyan won from Wrangler by only half a length, a head dividing Parsimonious from the second. At Hurst Park backers were in good form, only one outsider winning, but not so at Manchester, where the favourite was beaten systematically throughout the day, and at Leicester it was much the same.

The Newmarket December Sales commenced on Tuesday, but no sensational prices were then given, the highest being 910 gs., given by Count Schudorff, for the brood mare Violetta. Mavourneen and Eider went for 700 gs. and 800 gs. respectively, their purchasers being Mr. Easton and Mr. W. Clowes. Loyalist (the brother of Paradox) was sold at Lexington, U.S.A., a few days ago, and after a great deal of competition he was knocked down to General Jackson's bid of two thousand four hundred pounds.

The National Hunt Committee met on Monday to consider the proposed alteration of Rule 45. The alteration was agreed to, and the gist of the Rule as it now stands is this: that at every meeting under National Hunt Rules there must be at least two steeplechases, and that one half the money guaranteed for prizes must be given to steeplechases. The Kempton Park authorities have abandoned the Champion Hurdle Race of 1,000 sovs., which they had arranged for their Easter meeting, the conditions of it not falling in with the requirements of the New Rule.

The English Cricket Team in Australia have followed up their last victory by defeating Twenty-two of Camden. The proceedings seem to have been very tame, the Englishmen winning by an innings and 43 runs. The scores were: Camden, 54 and 87, and Lord Sheffield's Team, 184. A great deal of discussion is still going on anent the proposed railway through Lord's Cricket Ground.

FOOTBALL

The Rugby County Championship was continued on Saturday, when Somerset met Devon at Bladderly. Nothing very startling took place, and Somerset won by two goals and two tries to one try. Blackheath was visited by Cardiff on Saturday; the visitors played very smartly in the first half, but in the second they seemed to break down completely, and Blackheath won by one goal and

four tries to nothing. An interesting match was also played between the Dublin Wanderers and Richmond. The game was wonderfully even and scoring very slow, the Irishmen being eventually defeated by one try to nothing. The London Caledonians and Old Westminsters met in the final round of the Qualifying Competition for the Association Cup on Saturday; some three or four thousand people assembled at the Oval, and in spite of the wretched state of the weather they were treated to a very interesting game, but so even was the play that at the close of the regulation ninety minutes neither side had scored, and though the referee allowed ten minutes extra time no result followed, and a fresh meeting has had to be arranged on Saturday. The Royal Engineers had all the best of their match with the Old Harrovians, who, however, were playing four substitutes, with the result that they were beaten by four goals to none. The Clapham Rovers played the Casuals in a friendly match at Wandsworth, but the visitors were easily defeated, the Rovers scoring four goals to none. Leicester played Burton at Burton, and the match was looked upon with great interest. The visitors were unfortunately minus three men, and the game anything but fulfilled the public expectations, Burton winning by one try to nothing.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE LATE W. G. WILLS

BY BRAM STOKER W. G. WILLS was essentially a man of artistic temperament. The habit of a Bohemian life, during which he had manifested several different gifts, and had made his mark in several quite different ways, had rendered him almost a child of circumstance. His nature was a most affectionate one. I suppose that in the whole multitude of his friends and acquaintances—and they were many—there was not one who did not love him. He was, perhaps, as little of a self-seeker as any man of his time; and it is a rare thing to find any one who has arrived at anything approaching his eminence who has retained so much simplicity as he had. This very simplicity, although it stood as a rock in the way of his material prosperity, and prevented him from accumulating any fair proportion of his earnings, was to him a sort of armour, and protected him from dangers which would have destroyed a perhaps stronger man. It enabled him to hold his place everywhere with the utmost good nature, and tended to the strictest preservation of his native independence. His bearing even before Royalty, was the bearing of his daily life; and he was one of the few who knew how to put down, with a well-bred selfpossession and an easy toleration, the arrogant pseudo-patronage of a certain Court functionary. He chuckled over the remembrance of the incident, as one day, during a summer stay at Etretât, he told me of his encounter with that functionary. Etretât is that pleasant watering place on the Norman coast, which Wills was one of the first to appreciate, and whither he turned the footsteps of many of his friends. It was on this holiday, where we spent the days idly together, that I saw most of poor Wills; and it was then that I learned to see the true sweetness and depth of his character through that veil of weakness which was all his own. He had an indecision which became a positive quality. Many a morning, when we had started for a ramble together, he would change his mind twenty times as to what form our excursion would take, or whither it would tend, whilst we were crossing the terrace of the Casino. But there was always one end which suited us both, and when in doubt I would play this trump. Then a short while would find us swimming out in the blue waters of the little bay, he wearing a battered old straw hat which seemed to have a special charm for him. He would stay for a long time in the water, lazily floating whilst he enjoyed the picturesque outlines of the flanking cliffs and the views of the distant headlands caught through the bold caverns in the stormpierced rocks. He was a man full of bright and sweet imaginings, and on some of our Etretât days, as we strolled through the leafy woods or along the summits of the cliffs, he would reveal perfect glimpses of a fairyland of a mind full of tender thoughts and delicate fancy. In his method of work he was open to, and appreciative of, advice. He had, however, at times an almost unconquerable aversion to finish or even to proceed with his work. He would linger over it as long as he possibly could; but then when time, and those for whom time would not stand still, became inexorable, he would start into full swing, and would in a short time accomplish wonders. Sometimes the delays thus caused were embarrassing. I was present, some fifteen years ago, at a rehearsal of one of his plays, Sappho, produced in Dublin. The rehearsal was on Saturday, and the play was to be produced—and was produced -on Monday; but up to the time of its close the manuscript of the last act had not arrived. The company, though they may have guessed it, were officially ignorant of the cause of the postponement of the rehearsal of the last act, and despite their anxiety accepted the assurance of the management that on Monday all would be well. All did go well at the rehearsal on the Monday forenoon and at the performance on the Monday night. His beautiful play of Olivia, though taken from Goldsmith's charming story, has all the qualities of an original work. Indeed, it is one of the finest plays of the century, and is likely to hold the stage for many a year to come. It had, of course, its perfect opportunity, inasmuch as it had the good fortune to have Miss Ellen Terry to play the heroine; but the play is a truly fine one, and will surely last. Wills was a master of diction, and some of his poetry is of the finest quality, though the general merit is now and again marred by carelessness. There are lines of his writing which might have been Shakespeare's, so perfect are they in lofty measure and in compactness of thought. As, for instance, that splendid line in Charles I.:-

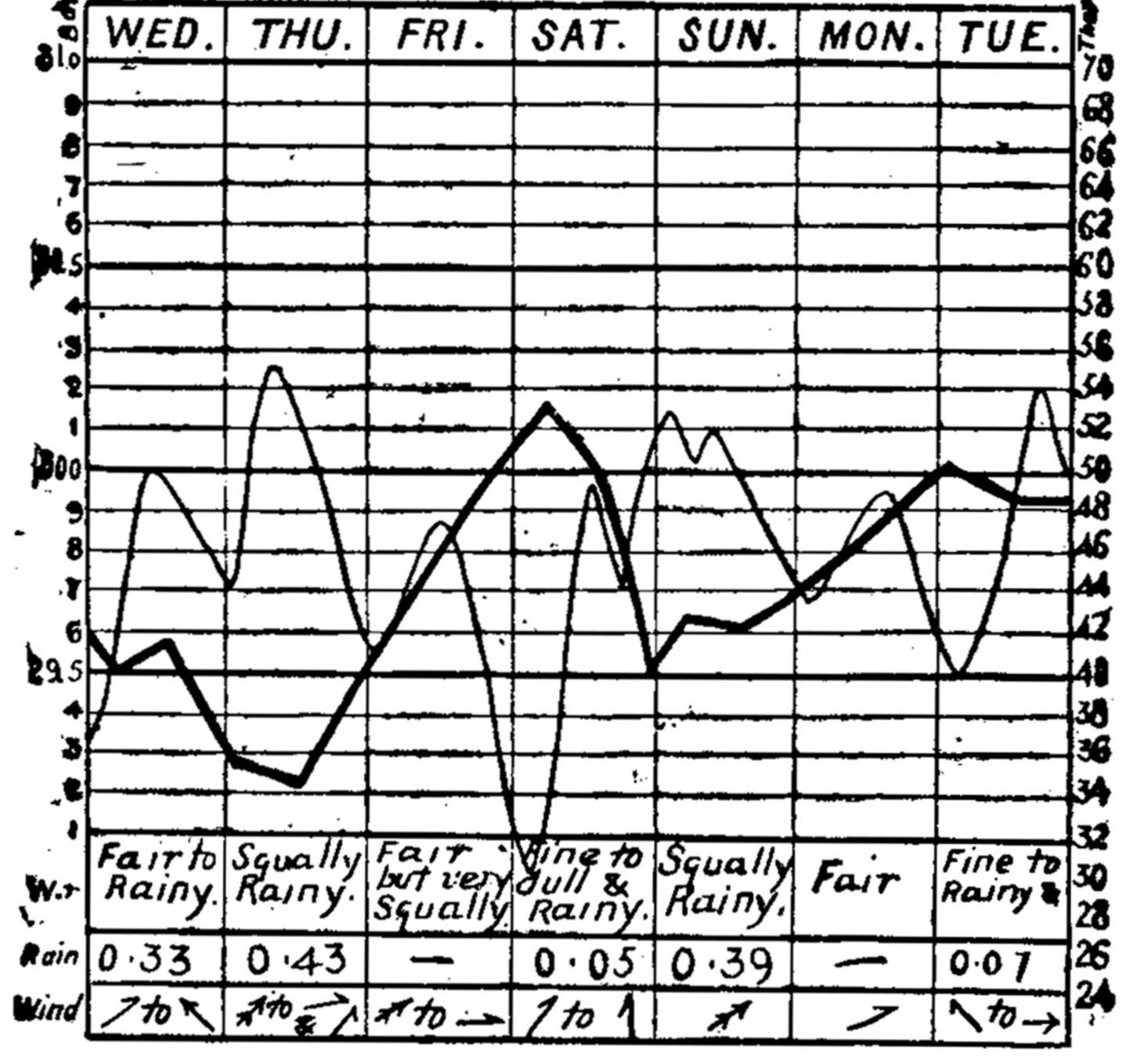
Time is the tardy advocate of kings.

I think that of all his plays he had the most affection for Charles I. Between him and Henry Irving an abiding friendship existed, and he loved to talk of Irving to his friends. It was a shock to all his friends—for there were but few who knew at all of his illness—to hear that he died in a hospital; but it is a comfort to them to know that he was there simply by his own wish, and with the consent of these immediately around him. His circumstances were never better than at the time of his death. Though he had made his fame chiefly as a dramatist, he himself considered that his forte lay in painting. In his early days he loved subjects with a story, and specially those of a sad or tragic character—as, for instance, a dead woman floating in the river by night, or some such sombre subject, which would tell its own story.

For years he lived in Paris, and he kept on his atelier there, even after the other work on which he was engaged had practically necessitated his living in London. In his artistic life he appeared to have picked up most easily and retained most tenaciously those traits of Bohemianism of all countries which were most to his own financial detriment, and most to the benefit of his friends. He earned a considerable amount of money, and as his own life was of the simplest, and his own needs were of the fewest, his friends were compelled to spend for him the major part of his earnings. He was a good and loving son and brother—affectionate in all his domestic relations, and a friend beloved by all who knew him. Light lie the earth over his honest loving heart.

WEATHER CHART

FOR THE WEEK ENDING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1891



EXPLANATION. —The thick line shows the variations in the height of the barometer during the week ending Tuesday midnight (15th inst.). The fine line shows the shade temperature for the same interval, and gives the maximum and minimum readings for each day, with the (approximate) time at which they eccurred. The information is furnished to us by the Meteorological Office.

REMARKS.—The weather of the past week was exceedingly stormy and rainy in nearly all parts of the United Kingdom, with snow and hail squalls at many Northern Stations. Barometrical pressure was highest throughout the time to the extreme Southward of our area, while depressions, both large and deep, either passed right across the country from the Westward, or skirted our Western and Northern Coasts in a North-Easterly direction. The first of these cyclonic disturbances, with readings below 28 inches within its centre, was formed on the morning of Thursday last (noth inst.) near the Shetland Isles, and gradients for strong winds to fierce gales from the South-Westward or Westward spread all over the Country, and reached as far South as the Coast of France. As this depression moved away to the Coast of Norway it was followed by a well marked and important secondary to the North-West Coast of Ireland, and during the progress of this fresh system to the Eastward rough stormy weather again prevailed in most places, and was accompanied (as was the primary) with a very general fall of rain, and some hail and snow in the North. In the rear of these low pressure areas a decided rise in the mercury occurred over Western Europe and a temporary lull in the stormy conditions was experienced over Great Britain, but by the morning of Saturday (12 inst.) a fresh fall of the burometer had taken place in the West of Ireland, to which locality another depression had advanced from the Westward. This system, which rapidly increased in intensity, moved quickly in an East-North-Easterly course across the country, and caused an early renewal of violent squally gales from the Westward over the South of England and in the Channel, and was attended by heavy rainfall on the Welsh Coasts and on the South and South-West Coasts of Ireland. Snow and hail were again experienced in several places. In the course of Monday (14th inst.) the mercury recovered very generally, and the wind moderated and drew into the North-West, but as the day advanced another disturbance approached our North-West Coasts from the Westward. This depression, however, was neither large nor deep, but was accompanied by rather heavy rain at some of the Irish Stations. At the close of the week dull rainy weather was experienced in most parts of the United Kingdom. Temperature was slightly below the average in the extreme North, but in all other places it was a few degrees above the mean.

The barometer was highest (30'16 inches) on Saturday (12th inst.); lowest (29'20 inches) on Thursday (10th inst.); range 0'96 inch. The thermometer was highest (55°) on Thursday (10th inst.); lowest (30°) on Saturday (12th inst.); range 25°. Rain fell on five days. Total fall 1'27 inch. Greatest fall on any one day o'43 inch on Thursday (10th inst.)



MR. GLADSTONE, with his wife, daughter, and Mr. John Morley, left London on Tuesday night for Biarritz, where they are to be the guests of Mr. Armitstead, formerly M.P. for Dundee, who, with Mrs. Armitstead, accompanied them on the journey.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AT EDINBURGH

Mr. Chamberlain addressed on Tuesday, at Edinburgh, a great gathering of Scottish Unionists. His speech—as usual, a very able one-was noticeably cheerful and hopeful. Ireland, he said, was peaceful, orderly, and prosperous, and in the way of preserving tranquillity the authorities had nothing left them to do except to protect Mr. Dillon and Mr. O'Brien from the violence of their former colleagues, and to preserve Mr. Timothy Healy from second horse-whipping. As to the results of the recent by-elections, they were not a test of public opinion on the main issue, which will have to be decided at the General Election. Home Rule had been evaded and kept in the background; in fact, nobody knew what it precisely meant. Mr. Chamberlain wittily compared the professed zeal of Gladstonian candidates for Home Rule to the contemporary Neapolitan nobleman who earned a great reputation as an admirer of Dante by fighting fourteen duels to support his assertion that Dante was a greater poet than Ariosto, but on his death-bed, the other day, confessed to his sorrowing relatives that he had never read a line either of Dante or Ariosto. Very happy, too, was Mr. Chamberlain's comparison of Sir William Harcourt and his friends dividing the spoil by anticipation, and preparing instruments of torture for their vanquished foes, to the premature exultation of the Spaniards in the Great Armada. Peals of laughter iollowed the speaker's witty sketch of Mr. Gladstone's triumphant march through the country, with Mr. Dillon and Mr. O'Brien on either side, followed by Sir William Harcourt, with Dr. Tanner and Mr. Labouchere, while Mr. John Morley brought up the procession, walking demurely between Archbishop Croke and a leading Nonconformist. Mr. Chamberlain once more impaled Mr. Gladstone on the horns of a terrible dilemma. He quoted Mr. Gladstone's solemn declaration that whatever measure of Home Rule was granted, nothing ought to be done "to weaken or compromise the authority of the Imperial Parliament, because the Imperial Parliament must be supreme within the three kingdoms." This quotation was followed by extracts from recent speeches, in which anti-Parnellite Irish leaders asserted that they would be satisfied with nothing less