

VANITY FAIR - Volume XXVI

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Cartoons and selected excerpts

15. *Oct. 8, 1881*

STATESMEN—No. CCCLXXV

“The Lord Mayor” by Spy

Mr. William M'Arthur, M.P., Lord Mayor of London

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London is an Irish Methodist and a whilom Alderman of Derry. He was born some five-and-sixty years ago, traded in Londonderry, made money, and came to England to become a personage in the City and the Liberal Member for Lambeth. He professes himself a “Moderate Liberal,” but his moderation is not greatly appreciated by his political associates. On taking office as Lord Mayor he extolled the virtues of the House of Lords, and thereby much incensed his supporters. But while thus saying something that might conciliate the City Conservatives he supported Mr. Gladstone's coercion policy. It was supposed that he was a total abstainer, and that he would not keep up the usual hospitalities of the Mansion House ; but both suppositions have proved erroneous. He is a good-tempered creature, and he prefers the seclusion of Brixton Rise to the dangers of Ireland.

JEHU JUNIOR

VANITIES

That marvellously lovely place, Muckcross Abbey, Killarney, is, I hear, to be let. It is not only very beautiful, but it affords very excellent sport of all kinds. The Duke of Roxburghe, who has recently been there on a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert, shot six stags, averaging eighteen stone each, and Mr. Herbert himself shot one of twenty-seven stone. There is, too, salmon and trout fishing of the best kind.

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ASHDOWN FOREST

To the Editor of "Vanity Fair."

SIR,—My attention has been called to a note in your issue of August 27th on the subject of Ashdown Forest. I cannot but think that this note has been written under a misapprehension of the facts, and I may perhaps therefore be allowed to vindicate in a few lines the position of the Commons Preservation Society with reference to the pending controversy in the forest.

In the first place, you allude to the practice of cutting the fern, brake, and heather, which has formed the main subject of dispute between Earl Delawarr and the commoners, as one of recent institution. The fact is, however, that litter-cutting by the commoners has continued uninterruptedly for more than sixty years, that in the early part of the century the then owner of the soil of the forest, endeavoured to stop the practice, but, upon a full investigation, yielded to the commoners' view and gave up the attempt, and that his successors (including even the present Lord Delawarr for a short time) subsequently again and again admitted the right, and co-operated with the commoners in preventing depredations by outsiders.

Secondly, as to the beauty of the forest ; if the alternative were between mowing over the whole forest, and entirely suspending the right, even then the lover of nature would, on consideration, side with the commoners. For the effect of the suspension of litter-cutting would be in a short time to cover the forest with fir trees, thus destroying those extensive prospects which are its great charm at present, and possibly reducing it in time to a counterpart of the profitable but hideous plantations which the Crown was spreading over the new Forest until stopped by the action of the House of Commons. Grant that the litter-cutting retards the rise of trees (it does not altogether prevent it), still it would be better to have a treeless expanse of heather and fern, hill and dale, than a monotonous pine-wood. But this is not the true alternative. The commoners long ago proposed to Lord Delawarr, and they have always been most anxious, to place the forest under proper regulation, and one of the conditions of such regulation would undoubtedly be the limitation of the litter-cutting in such a manner as not to prevent the rise of timber in suitable places. But his Lordship repressed these overtures, and until the recent decision against him, seemed bent solely upon asserting his own power over the forest, careless of the rights and interests of others.

Once more ; you complain of the movements of the Society while the matter is *sub judice*. Upon the main question which Lord Delawarr raised, the possibility of the existence in law of any right of litter-cutting in the forest, the Court of Appeal has decided ; and Lord Delawarr has not at present announced his intention challenging their decision. It is true that there is another action pending. The object of this action is to obtain as general a declaration as possible of the commoners' rights, with the view of avoiding litigation in the future. It is admitted they have some rights, and the paragraph you quote from the Society's Report only expresses the hope that the commoners will persevere with the second action until the exact nature of their rights is defined by the Court or otherwise, and the forest placed under "proper regulation"—*i.e.*, not as you suggest, under the unrestrained dominion of the knives and pruning-hooks of the tenants, but under such rules with reference to the exercise of rights as may pay due regard to the interests of all

parties, and may result in the preservation of the forest as a wild, picturesque tract for the enjoyment, not only of the numerous gentlemen living around it and claiming rights over it, but of the general public. I venture to think that the expression of such a hope is not an improper comment under the circumstances.

There are other remarks in your note on which I should like to have said a word, but I fear to be encroaching on your space, and I will only add, as you allude in a somewhat ambiguous sense to the politics of the Society, that the Society numbers eminent representatives of both sides of the House of Commons (*e.g.*, amongst the Conservatives, Mr. Beresford Hope, Lord Randolph Churchill, and Mr. Edward Clarke), and has no connection amongst its members whatever with Party.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Secretary

EDWARD W. FITHIAN,

Commons Preservation Society,
1, Great College-street, Westminster, S.W.,
Oct. 3rd, 1881.

HARD CASES.

Hard Case No. 276.

A is driving his mother-in-law in a gig. He crosses the lower part of Waterloo-place, going through Charles-street from west to east. As he is more than half-way across Waterloo-place, and within a few yards of the Junior Club-House, a little child runs from the pavement to cross Charles-street immediately in front of him, and stops with its head turned away from him, just in front of his horse's head. As he is about to pull up sharp to save the child, he suddenly sees a fully-laden omnibus coming fast down the hill and close to him. In the instant he has for decision he sees that he must either run over the child or be run into by the omnibus.

What should A do ?

Answers received adjudged correct:—

- a.* Jump out to back the horse—mother-in-law smashed—very sorry. —“*Winkle.*”
- b.* Shout to his mother-in-law to keep her seat, pull up his horse sharp, and jump out to save the child and himself. —“*An afflicted son-in-law,*” “*Seepee.*”
- c.* A, if he be a man worthy of even an apocryphal case in *Vanity Fair*, should, in the instant allowed him for decision, permit the omnibus to run into him, as such a chance of disposing of his mother-in-law might never occur again. —“*Professor.*”
- d.* A should not sacrifice an innocent child whom he had never seen before, when a fair chance offered itself of translating his mother-in-law to another and (perhaps) a better world. —“*Thumbo.*”

Answers received not adjudged correct:—

- e.* Looking to the prospect of being relieved of a mother-in-law, A should certainly pull up. —“*Son-in-law.*”

- f. Jump out and leave his mother-in-law to her fate. —“*R Salmon.*”
- g. Collide with the ‘bus, and sacrifice his mother-in-law. —“*La Favorita.*”
- h. Pull sharp round to the right, and run a winning race with the omnibus down Waterloo-place. —“*Abracadabra,*” “*Fujiyama.*”
- i. Pull up and await the collision from the ‘bus, but with an opening on the off side, and of course turn off his horse sharp to the right down Waterloo-place, thus breaking the force of the collision. —“*Chimney Sweep.*”
- j. Back his horse, if possible, and turn to the right. —“*Henry George.*”
- k. By inclining to his left, get clear of the child, and be out of reach of omnibus in Charles-street. —“*Scobell.*”
- l. Shout out warningly to the ‘bus-driver, and at the same time swerve the gig sideways. If the omnibus is unable to stop, the horses will only run up against the gig back, and no great harm will ensue. —“*J.C.S.*”
- m. Immediately halt, and risk the omnibus coming on in the rear. It might be very awkward—for the ‘bus. —“*Don Quixote de la Mancha.*”
- n. Pull up, and take his chance of escaping from the ‘bus. —“*Manchu.*”
- o. If possible, endeavour to stop the omnibus, and save the child. —“*A Tinker.*”
- p. Certainly decline to run over the child, and trust to the omnibus getting out of his way. —“*Nosrednehtrebreh.*”
- q. Be run into by the omnibus. —“*Ponee.*”
- r. Pull up, and save the child. —“*E.O.W.*”
- s. Smartly whip his horse ; by chance it might jump over or away from the child. Anyhow, two lives must be more valuable than one. —“*Fillingham.*”
- t. Interpose his precious freight (to say nothing of himself) between the omnibus and the little child, and receive the shock. A ‘bus-driver can pull up very short when he likes. —“*Bremeniensis.*”



Vincent Brooks, Day & Son, Lith.

"The Lord Mayor"