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The Singapore free Press.

Monday, Jan. 5, 1913.

Here shall the Press the People's right maintain. Unawed by influence and unbribed by gain ! Here patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw. Pledged to Religion. Loyalty and Law.

It may have been noted that on Satur. day morning, in the collation of the three telegrams that we invited our rea ders to make, our theory was, although Mr CHURCHILL was not mentioned, that it was, for the present, less a squabble amongst the Liberal party over a policy of armaments than it was the outbreak of a long latent feud between Mr GEORGE and Mr CHURCHILL, personal in its character, and severely so, because underneath that lay the duel for the hegemony of the Liberal party. That view is corroborated by what appears to day where, in the press in England, the real magnitude of the divisions in the Liberal party over the cost of national armaments is beginning to be fully ap prehended. It is naturally the Unionist Press that will be the first to understand that this great schism, really sprung into its present importance by the rush of Mr GEORGE to the front as standardbearer, is, although that will not fully appear till after Parliament meets. the rending asunder of the Liberal party. But at present it is the individual character of the contest that will fascinate





the attention of the country. The two protagonists are fighting for their political careers. Like all political perverts Mr CHURCHILL has never quite escaped the occasional imputations that make him, often to some, sometimes to many, of his new party, a suspect. He has at times been led into attempts to justify his loyalty to the party to which he deserted originally by exhibiting platform manners and language resembling those of the chief demagogue of the party. But there was no chance of his out-Georging GEORGE at the Limehouse game in which the latter had established a supremacy that was unassailable. Abandoning that vain hope of staining pitch a deeper black, Mr CHURCHILL turned to another role altogether, that of respectability and attention to the common affairs of national defence, that would commend his schemes and policies to the better type of other people, independent of party. In the main Mr CHURCHILL has succeeded although occasional platform aberrations show that he is well aware that he must not forget to display now and then a partisanship sufficiently loud in tone and colour to dispel all suspicions of his party orthodoxy. Mr GEORGE, for all his pseudo-philanthropic ecstasies, and his rhetorical tirades against persons whose grandfathers and grandmothers did not hail from the gutter, has to his bitter disappointment discovered that Mr CHURC. HILL was generally looked upon as something of a serious statesman, while he himself was being more and more looked upon as a sufferer from odd fits of epileptic buffoonery. Can it be wondered at that Mr GEORGE would take every chance he could of belittling Mr CHURCHILL'S work at the Admiralty,









the one great fault of which has been that his subsequent deeds have never borne out his previous promises? The revolt of the Radical Little Navyites has given Mr GEORGE his one great chance, the very first, of measuring his strength against Mr CHURCHILL. Poor Mr GEORGE has had little luck with his grandiose projects. They either irritated people, like the Insurance Act. Or they amused them and made him ridiculous, as in his tearful wail about the Land, over the face of which the voracious pheasant worked such widespread havoc in the destruction of the harmless mangel. wurzel. And, again, as in his turning the heathery wastes and granite precipices

of deer forests, which he had heard of but never seen, into smiling farms for the rush of townsmen to repopulate the Highlands and Islands of the grey and inhospitable North. Or, alternatively, into golf courses which were to maintain 20,000 caddies and other employees. But the Duke of SUTHERLAND with his swift offer of

200,000 acres at a price simply extinguished Mr GEORGE'S pretexts. And the "Land bursting campaign" has morally come to an end with the practical collapse of its author and his propaganda. It is at such a conjuncture that the creator of the wildest schemes for lavish social extravagance places himself in the forefront of what he thinks he discerns to be, if not a great movement in the country, yet a substantial secession in the House. It is not so much in effect, although it is primarily, a challenge to Mr CHURCHILL, as it is a revolt from Mr ASQUITH. And that, in regard to the strength of the anti-Liberal current now flowing in the constituencies, is an event of the first

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importance as regards the prospect of the survival of the party through the course of critical divisions that will attend the debates after the House as sembles next month. At first, however, this fission in the Liberal party may not show itself fully, until, perhaps by a resolution moved by Mr George, the question of the nature and extent of the Naval Estimates is precipitated before the House. If however Mr George meditates any Parliamentary tactics of that kind it becomes difficult to see how he can reconcile that with his continu-

ing to be a member of the Government. His defection, and the methods by which he could work that to his advantage from the public platform, would be a blow to the ASQUITH administration of which Mr GEORGE has been so combatant a member. The fact is that before the Recess has closed, the nation is in the presence of a strong crisis that bodes nothing but mischief to the Government. Mr GEORGE appears to be bent on a design to constitute Mr CHURCHILL the Jonah of the Liberal party, and to get rid of him, so that his own chance of reigning in the party in the future may be the more assured. How far the Prime Minister's chief principle of "Wait and see" will help him to deal with Mr GEORGE'S stampede remains to be seen. All this is better than a circus for the Unionists. who, now that the Radicals are falling out, may presently come by their own.

Mr J. Dunford Wood, of Ipoh, is leaving for Home next week. (M.M.)

A Chinaman while at work on the Sungei Rasa Estate on the 31st fell from a height of about thirty feet. He died soon after entering Klang hospital.

The Rev. Preston L. Peach, the newly appointed principal of the Methodist Boys'

School, Kuala Lumpur, will take up his duties at the re opening of the school on January 19th. (M.M.)

The marriage took place on 9th inst., at St. Martin's in the Fields, of Sir Henry Bak-Ironside, British Minister at Sofia, to Mrs F. A. Jardine, widow of Mr James Jardine, K.C., and daughter of Lieut. General Michael Willoughby, C.S.I.

Lady Swettenham, wife of the late Governor of the Straits Settlements, has returned from her tour in Europe, Japan, Straits Settlements, and Malay States, and will reside at the Beau-Site Hotel, Cannes, until the end of April.

Mr C. J. Fox, of the District Office, Dindings, who had been on a fortnight's vacation leave to Singapore after a period of 10 years' continued service at the Dindings, returned to Penang on Wednesday, and left for the Dindings to resume his duties. (M.M.)

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Enid, youngest daughter of Sir William and Lady Teacher, of 50, Hans mansions, S.W., and Samuel Edward Hibbert, youngest son of the late Colonel Francies G. Hibbert, 91st Regiment and Canadian Rifles.

By the s.s. Lama this morning, the members of the Star Opera Coy. arrived. They will appear to night at the Theatre Royal, when "Ali Baba and the 40 Robbers," the well known play, will be staged by the request of the Coy's proprietors, Messrs Cheong Koon Seng and Koon Hong, in honour of their mother's birthday. Malay playgoers are requested to secure their seats early, as there will be only a limited number available.

Mr C. J. Arnold, late of Ulu Bulch Estate, is taking over the management of Edinburgh Estate, replacing the late Mr H. T. Webb.

The marriage was solemnised, by the Rev. W. Kelly, at St. Mary's Church, Kuala Lumpur, on January 1st, of Mr Charles Gordon Oliver, of Braemar Estate, Kajang, and Miss Sybil Violet Mainwaring, of Exmouth, Devon. Following the ceremony a reception was held at the Empire Holel.

Mr J. Kennedy, of the Malakoff Rubber













Co., Ltd., returned to Penang from leave by the P. & O. Egypt. He was accompanied by Mrs Kennedy. Mr G. Stables, Assistant Manager, Bagan Serai Co., Ltd., and Mrs Stables also returned by the same vessel.

Sir Aurel Stein, who left Srinagar in August to resume his explorations in Central Asia, has successfully carried out the first part of his programme. According to information received by the Pioneer, he was within easy reach of Kashgar a few weeks ago, and proposed to stay there a short time before starting for the deserts of Western China.

An illustrated handbook, published by the Salvation Army, depicts some phases and developments of the Army's social work in Great Britain, and throughout the World. The work among the lepers in the Dutch Indies is said to be so successful that the Sultan of Medan recently handed over to the Salvation Army an island for establishment of a leper colony off the coast of Sumatra.

A carriage owned by a Chinese towkay was being driven along Bukit Timah Road when the horse suddenly took fright and galloped along in the direction of Singa pore at break neck pace. The driver was thrown from his seat and sustained injuries which necessitated his removel to hospital. Fortunately the animal was brought to a standstill before any further harm was done.

The Imperial Merchant Service Guild have been officially informed by Messrs Houlder Brothers and Co., Ltd., who own a large fleet of steamers sailling out of the principal ports in the United Kingdom, that substantial increases have been made in the pay of the Chief, Second, and Third Officers throughout their fleet as well as other improvements such as the provision of bedding and travelling expenses.

The Times" obituary announces the death of Mr Ludwig Huttenbach, who desired that the notice should only be published after his cremation, "as friends might be inconvenienced by attending my funeral, while their doing so would not do me any good." Not many men are so considerate; but Dr Harvard Turner, of Clifton, who died some half-dozen years ago, was even more dissuasive. He stipu-











lated that no person mentioned in his will should attend his funeral, "under pain of forfeiture of his interest."—Obs.

It is reported that Messrs Vickers, of Barrow, have, in conjunction with the leading banks of St. Petersburg, been granted by the Russian Government a concession to establish extensive gunworks in Russia, and that a Company called the Russian Artillery Works Company, registered in St. Petersburg, has been formed with a capital of £1,500,000 to carry on the business. The new gunworks will be at Tsaritsyn, on the Volga, and orders for about £1,000,000 have already been received.

Mr C. P. Sandberg, M. Inst. C.E., died on 4th inst. at Sydenham after a short illness. Mr Sandberg was born in Sweden on Oct. 8, 1832, and went to England on behalf of the Swedish Government in 1860. For 40 years he had been well known as consulting and inspecting engineer to the Swedish, Chinese, and Siamese Governments, and to many other railways, especially in matters relating to permanent way. He introduced many improvements in the design and manufacture of rails. For his services to railways he received decorations from Sweden, Belgium, Russia, and China.

According to present arrangements, the 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel G. B. McAndrew commanding, now at Gibraltar, will leave "The Rock" in the troopship "Somali" on January 7 for Bermuda. where in all probability they will put in a couple of years' service before leaving for another station. The battalion will be strongly reinforced by a draft from the home battalion before proceeding to its new station.

(Lieut. G. B. McAndrew was garrison adjutant in Singapore, when his battalion, then commanded by Col. Huntly—afterwards by Lieut Col. Lowth—was stationed here.)













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