

CURRENT OPINION.

THE LESSON OF SOUTH BIRMINGHAM.

It is a great victory, and all the greater after the... The Liberal Party's success should have been a lesson to the Government...

Lord Morpeth has been returned for Birmingham by a majority reduced by nearly 500 votes. The last time that the voters in South Birmingham...

Lord Morpeth's election for South Birmingham by a swinging majority of over 5000 votes is a thoroughly satisfactory ending to a hard-fought contest...

South Birmingham is disappointing (confesses the "Daily Chronicle"). We have become accustomed to triumphs lately that the position of "as you were" seems almost like a defeat...

The result of the South Birmingham election is a doubt a proof of the great personal influence which Mr. Chamberlain exercises in his own locality (says the "Standard")...

While the American liner St. Paul, which arrived at Plymouth on Saturday, was steaming at full speed, John Printon, one of the stewards, leapt from the rail and was drowned...

At Leith on Saturday, Mr. Grant, Inspector of Street Cleansing, his son who acted as Assistant Inspector, and a pay clerk, were shot at by a scavenger named Patrick Quinn...

A verdict of "Suicide while temporarily insane" was returned at the inquest held at St. Heliers, Jersey, on Saturday concerning the death of Major A. J. Anson...

"RAGGING" A NURSE.

Some extraordinary circumstances are related by the "British Journal of Nursing" concerning the "ragging" of a nurse at Tooting Bec Asylum...

At Wolverhampton, on Saturday, William Worsey, a plasterer, was remanded on the charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm on George Thomas, a labourer...

The War Office Reconstruction Committee have issued the second part of their report. The third part is in working order in a month...

The first month's operations under the Irish Land Act were on quite a modest scale. A parliamentary paper shows that in November loans to the amount of £9,781 were applied for...

There was an unusual scene in almost every Nonconformist place of worship in England at Sunday night's services. The Free Churches feel strongly on the Chinese labour question...

A commission of clergy and laity is investigating a series of complaints made by the parishioners of Wickham Market, Suffolk, against the Vicar, the Rev. E. Griffith...

Some interesting evidence as to the sale of family Bibles by weekly instalments was given at Mold County Court, where a number of working people were summoned for arrears...

With the idea of revenging himself for the infidelity of his sweetheart, a well-known music hall singer in Paris, her young man wrote to her that he was about to commit suicide...

CRONJE'S GUN SET UP AT DEVONPORT.

In commemoration of the 14 members of the crew of H.M.S. Doris who were killed during the South African war a memorial was uncovered in Devonport park Saturday afternoon...

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Two remarkable instances of disaster revealed in dreams are reported. The mother of Winifred Blin, a painter, who lives in the town of London on Thursday, says that in a dream she heard someone calling for help...

Mr. St. John Brodrick, the Secretary for India, received at Manchester on Saturday a deputation representing the British Cotton-Growing Association in regard to the general possibilities of the Empire as a cotton-growing field...

A pathetic story of want and suffering has been brought to light through the arrest at Greenwich, London, last week of a half-starved man named Henry Bustard, 31 years of age, on a charge of begging...

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MR. BRODRICK ON UNIONIST LOYALTY.

Mr. St. John Brodrick, M.P., Secretary of State for India, was the guest of the Manchester Carlton Club to dinner on Saturday evening. In many parts of the country, he said, those who adhered to Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal views had imposed test questions on the men who were willing to accept a certain amount of tariff reform...

At the last General Election, and also at a by-election in 1895, Mr. Powell Williams was returned unopposed. There were contests at the Elections of 1892 and 1895, when the figures were—

Table with 2 columns: Candidate, Votes. Unionist majority 3,676. Powell Williams (L. U.) 5,193. W. J. Lancaster (G.) 2,270.

Lord Onslow, President of the Board of Agriculture, addressing a gathering of Cheshire agriculturists at Shrewsbury on Saturday afternoon said that the effect of the improved education now being given to the young men of the country...

The Bangor police are investigating a curious case of incendiarism at Llanfairbach. Somebody drenched the public house with paraffin, filled it with paper, and fired the lot. Fortunately, the explosion, which was caused by a number of costly bicycles and other vehicles, did not result in any serious damage...

The body of Mr. Charles Tootell, whose wife and two daughters were discovered murdered on Wednesday, was found on Thursday evening in the Medway. It is believed that the police discovered some documents in the house directing their search to the river, which is within three minutes' walk of the house where the tragedy was enacted...

A commission of clergy and laity is investigating a series of complaints made by the parishioners of Wickham Market, Suffolk, against the Vicar, the Rev. E. Griffith, whose High Church views did not fit in with those of his flock...

At Liverpool Assizes, on Saturday, Charles Fologuinos, cotton importer, claimed damages from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company for injuries sustained in the Waterloo accident...

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM ELECTION.

On Friday the poll was taken in South Birmingham for the election of a successor to the late Mr. Powell Williams (U), whose sudden death was greatly regretted. The Liberals brought forward as candidate for the vacancy Mr. J. Hirst Hollowell, an ex-Nonconformist minister of ability and vigour, and the Unionist part forward Viscount Morpeth...

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Mr. Asquith spoke to a crowded Liberal demonstration in the Kursaal, at Harrogate, on Friday evening. He said that after nine years of Tory Administration they found themselves with a depleted exchequer, reaping the fruits of the domestic and reactionary legislation which never approved by the country, and face to face with proposals of fiscal change which Liberals believed, if carried into effect, would be ruinous and detrimental to the interests of the Empire...

The coroner's inquiry concerning the death of Charles Pepper, George Clarke, and Bertie Masters, who died in injuries sustained in the explosion at the Faversham gunpowder works on the 2nd February, was concluded at Faversham, Friday. There was no conclusive evidence as to the cause of the explosion, but three probable theories were offered by Captain Lloyd, Inspector of Explosives...

Mr. Morley, speaking at Consett on Friday night, said Mr. Dalton's policy in effect was that if local Unionist Associations were to return a Chamberlain majority, then the Cabinet would adopt Mr. Chamberlain's policy; if constituents did not give Chamberlain a majority, then they were to elect a Conservative Government...

Judge Cadman, on Friday, at Todmorden County Court, delivered an important judgment affecting the liability of cricket clubs. A married woman, named Broadbent, claimed damages against the committee of the Todmorden Cricket Club in respect of personal injuries sustained through her being struck by a ball played by the club professional while practising on the club ground...

At the Brighton County Court on Friday the jury awarded Mrs. Caroline Emily Hoole, landlady of Shoreham, £14 17s. 6d. damages against Alfred Robertson, described as a gentleman, of Hove. The plaintiff claimed £30, and her case was that a monkey escaped from the defendant's yacht in Shoreham Harbour, and got into her house, where she found it on the bed. Being in a delicate state of health, she sustained a serious shock to the system...

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FIELD AND GARDEN.

BULBS IN GRASS.—The fine effects obtained in planting various bulbs in lawns or on grass slopes is now fully recognised. There is no time to plant the majority of the bulbs in favourable weather, but they should not be kept in the soil a day longer than is necessary...

WINTER ON THE FARM.—All cultivating land is in abeyance, but the wintry conditions ushered in at the beginning of the week, are not so much to be feared as they were in the past, for the roots were securely housed or clamped and of harm's way. The last month of the year is too late to make good the arrears of autumn work, and the prospects of early sowing are very slowly at this season all efforts to drill grass are at present abortive, and on retentive soils the operation will be postponed till more genial conditions prevail...

PLANTS FOR TOWN GARDENS.—Most, if not all, the hardy annuals which thrive in a town garden and shade are attended to, and among herbage perennials there is a large choice. Hollyhocks are especially to be avoided in town gardens, not only in this position, but there are many other tall plants which may be used, such as rockets, foxgloves, and phloxes, to name a few...

THE GARDEN.—Garlic, shallots, and other vegetables should be planted in the garden as early as possible. The soil should be well prepared, and the plants should be planted in rows, with a good spacing between them. It is also a good idea to plant a few hardy annuals in the garden, as they will give a splash of color to the garden in the early spring...

HIT BY A CRICKET BALL.—Judge Cadman, on Friday, at Todmorden County Court, delivered an important judgment affecting the liability of cricket clubs. A married woman, named Broadbent, claimed damages against the committee of the Todmorden Cricket Club in respect of personal injuries sustained through her being struck by a ball played by the club professional while practising on the club ground...

A MILLIONAIRE'S WILL.—The will of the late Mr. Edward Brook, of great wealth, was proved at the High Court, London, on Saturday. The testator, who was a manufacturer, died on January 29th last, and has now been proved. The estate has been sworn at £2,157,782 8s. 9d., exclusive of heritable property in Scotland and of several settlements. The amount paid for estate duty is £170,880 14s. 3d. It is mentioned that his wife is already provided for by marriage and post-nuptial settlements, and by her own property. A son of £100,000 is left to one daughter, and £20,000 to another daughter, in addition to her settlement, and the bulk of his property is divided between his two sons, Mr. Edward James Brook and Mr. Charles Brook, the older succeeding to the Holton Estate and the younger to the Kilmont Estate...

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