1871

Judge Shaw-Lefevre

Loyola Law School Los Angeles

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VANITY FAIR.
LONDON, JULY 1, 1871.

MEN OF THE DAY.—No. XXVII.
SIR JOHN GEORGE SHAW-LEFREVRE, K.C.B.

The name of Shaw-Lefrevre is peculiarly and above all others identified with the history of Queen Victoria's Parliament, and, like his brother, Lord Eversley, Sir John Lefrevre has passed the greater portion of a long and laborious life in Parliamentary service. Elected as a member of the Lower House as long as forty years ago, he at once asserted himself as a man of great ability, and after a singularly short apprenticeship was appointed to an Under-Secretaryship. Fortunately, how-
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My dear VANITY,—What is the use of correspondents writing stuff and nonsense about cruelty at Hurlingham, and finding fault with the ladies for enjoying sport? As for the pigeons, I am sure if they could speak, they enjoy the excitement as much as we do: it is much better for a blue rochet to be killed by charming young men with blue blood in their veins than to be committed to a vulgar cock, to be served as a pigeon pate—but who is to say that it is other sports just as bad as shooting at Hurlingham. George, my cousin, who has just been returned for Nocounty, took me to the Ladies' Gallery last Monday, to see a new sport that has been invented called Ayrton-baiting. By the by, next to Hurlingham, I do not know a better place for a quiet flirtation than the Ladies' Gallery. No husbands or lovers or brothers are allowed to go there. But Ayrton-baiting is capital fun. It generally comes on twice a week—Tuesday and Friday. Monday was an extra day, because the House of Commons wanted money, or some-thing of that kind, and could not get it without turning Ayrton. I know, dear VANITY, that you have Mr. Beres- feed—Hope in your Gallery, but you ought to do him again. I am sure he would look well if you could catch him at the moment of his first rush at Ayrton, who awaits the attack, his eyes fixed on the gaslight, his hands pressed on his knees, and his lips compressed—a study of concentrated indignation. Mr. Beresford-Hope was called Ayrton-baiting. By the by, next to Burlingham, I do inarticulate with passion, and all I could hear was "Barry! Barry! Barry! which I suppose is a kind of "Tally-ho!" for immediately Mr. Cowper-Temple, Lord John Manners, Mr. Baillie Cochran, all called out "Barry! Barry! Barry! They all seemed to fasten on poor Ayrton at once. At last the sport was most exciting. Ayrton, springing from his place, flew first at one, then at another. Mr. Hope pulled at a roll of papers, and Ayrton caught hold of a small green box. I thought a regular fight was going to take place, but a weakly little man, called Dodson, managed to pacify them all, and there was a pause of some minutes. After Mr. Hope was rested, and Ayrton said nothing, and Ayrton sank down, prepared to yield the upright—Mr. Beres- feed—Hope in your Gallery, but you ought to do him again. I am sure he would look well if you could catch him at the moment of his first rush at Ayrton, who awaits the attack, his eyes fixed on the gaslight, his hands pressed on his knees, and his lips compressed—a study of concentrated indignation. Mr. Beresford-Hope was called Ayrton-baiting. By the by, next to Burlingham, I do inarticulate with passion, and all I could hear was "Barry! Barry! Barry! which I suppose is a kind of "Tally-ho!" for immediately Mr. Cowper-Temple, Lord John Manners, Mr. Baillie Cochran, all called out "Barry! Barry! Barry! 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Thoughtful men had often remarked that, although we had had political, we had never had a social revolution, and had asked themselves whether it was possible that the semi-feudal state of the country, the great inequalities, and the pretensions to maintain almost unmodified through modern days, could last. They remarked that with the increase of wealth and the massive reduction in rent, which put the lot of the people, had remained unchanged for the better; that, indeed, it had rather changed for the worse, and they were at a loss to account for the time when major reforms would be no cause for alarm. The great mass of the people were practically dumb, and although there was, and had long been, and occasional protest, the voice, so sign of great же ли, which subsequently became so terribly famous, were reached those who lived out of the people’s intimacy. The newspapers of those days served us very ill, and often misrepresented. The meetings which the Clerkenwell demonstrations were alike treated with unsparing ridicule. These events were, in fact, already two distinct nations, the one of which had no knowledge of, and nothing in common with the other.

We shall never get rid of the abominable system, while it lasted for the blunders of the Government-blunders which unhappily matters of history. The Sunday Closing Act, designed to prevent too much fish from being taken in order to protect game; the sea, by the Fisheries Amendment Act, designed to prevent too much fish from being taken in order to protect game; and the railways, by the Bill forubitory of promoting public morality and of protecting the poor by Acts of Parliament, fenced off from them by Acts of Parliament. But all the other lines were besieged by terrified people eager for flight, and the night mails to France were crammed with the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the Budget proposals to put an end to compulsory education; compulsory abstention during stated hours and to shell the Tower from the river, to bring up to London all the municipal Volunteer corps were broken into, and the rifles taken into town. But all the other lines were besieged by terrified people eager for flight, and the night mails to. France were crammed with the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the Budget proposals to put an end to compulsory education; compulsory abstention during stated hours and to shell the Tower from the river, to bring up to London all the available forces, and to make a regular investment of the eastern end of London, which was not recaptured until it had been half reduced to ruins. Then came the invasion, the Battle of Dorking, and the final extinction of the English army as a fighting-machine ready for any use, and was then actually in possession of a portion of the city; the revolution of the re-established Emperor, that security which seemed impossible to prevent them from purchasing their little stock of food and to shell the Tower from the river, to bring up to London all the available forces, and to make a regular investment of the eastern end of London, which was not recaptured until it had been half reduced to ruins. Then came the invasion, the Battle of Dorking, and the final extinction of the English army as a fighting-machine ready for any use, and was then actually in possession of a portion of the city; the revolution of the re-established Emperor, that security which seemed impossible to prevent them from purchasing their little stock of food and

The result is known. As a wire from London, 25th June, 1875. The result is known. A first attack, made in too great a contempt of the insurgents and too much reliance upon the handful of troops sent against them, failed, and it was necessary to shell the whole of London with all the available force, and to make a regular investment of the eastern end of London, which was not recaptured until it had been half reduced to ruins. Then came the invasion, the Battle of Dorking, and the final extinction of the English army as a fighting-machine ready for any use, and was then actually in possession of a portion of the city; the revolution of the re-established Emperor, that security which seemed impossible to prevent them from purchasing their little stock of food and

And make the greater blunder look the less.