

JAIL FOR STUDENTS.

Queer Phase of Life at Heidelberg University.

In England the student's body is committed to prison only by the civil authority. In Oxford, it is true, the vice chancellor deals with undergraduate naughtiness, principally in the form of debt and insubordination, for which he may impose a momentary penalty, but he does not deprive the defaulter of liberty. There is, or was, a legend that a certain apartment under the old Clarendon building was really the university "quod," but for its authenticity it is impossible to vouch.

Cambridge has its spinning house for female offenders—not lady students, but ladies who might prove a delusion and a snare to the mere male undergrad. There, if we except the irksome penalty of "gating" (confinement to college or lodgings after a stated hour), our academic efforts at incarceration may be said to end.

In Germany, however, the academic fustian is a very stern fact. The Heidelberg "carcer" is famous. Every reader of Mark Twain will recall his entertaining description of the place and how he contrived to visit it, even unwittingly enlisting as his guide a "Herr Professor." His pretext was to see a young friend who had "got" 24 hours and had conveniently arranged the day to suit Mark—for the German student convict goes to prison on the first suitable day after conviction and sentence. If Thursday is not convenient, he tells the officer sent to hale him to jail that he will come on Friday or Saturday or Sunday, as the case may be. The officer never doubts his word, and it is never broken.

The prison is up three flights of stairs, and is approached by a "zugang" as richly decorated with the art work of convicts as the cell itself. The apartment is not roomy, but bigger than an ordinary prison cell. It has an iron grated window, a small stove, two wooden chairs, two old oak tables and a narrow wooden bedstead.

The furniture is profusely ornamented with carving, the work of languishing captives, who have placed on record their names, armorial bearings, their crimes and the dates of their imprisonment, together with quaint warnings and denunciations. Walls and ceilings are covered with portraits and legends executed in colored chalk and in soot, the prison candle forming a handy pencil. Some of the inscriptions are pathetic. One runs, "E. Glinicke, four days for being too eager a spectator of a row." If four days were meted out to a mere spectator, what, one wonders, had been the sentence of the participants? It must have been a moving spectacle.

Another record (also quoted by Mr. Clemens) has the savor of a great name to it. Of course it is the son that is meant, not the father. The legend is, "F. Graf Bismarck, 27-29. II. '74." This Mark Twain interprets as a record of two days' duration vile for Count Bismarck in 1874. Had 1874 been leap year one might have been inclined to interpret the numeral "II" as February. But the "29" makes this difficult. So perhaps the humorist is right.

A third specimen is too tragic for comment. It simply says, "R. Diergant—four love—four days." Ungenerous successors to that sad chamber have dealt harshly with their forerunners' reputations by ingenious substitution of heinous crimes, so that certain prisoners go down to posterity as having been punished for theft and murder.

The prisoner must supply his own bedding and is subject to various charges. On entering he pays about tenpence, and on leaving a similar sum. Every day in prison costs sixpence; five and light sixpence extra. The jailer supplies coffee for a trifle. Meals may be ordered from outside. Every prisoner leaves his carte de visite, which is fixed with a multitude of others on the door of the cell. This queer album is glazed to protect the photographs.

Academic criminal procedure in Heidelberg is curious. If the city police apprehend a student, the captive shows his matriculation card. He is then asked for his address and set free, but will hear more of the matter, for the civil authority reports him to the university. The Oxford regulation, by the way, is in certain cases almost identical. In Heidelberg the university court try and pass sentence, the civil power taking no further concern with the offense. The trial is very often conducted in the prisoner's absence, and he, poor wight, may have forgotten all about his peccadillo until the university constable appears to conduct him to prison. But thither, seeing he may choose his day, he always repairs cheerfully.—London Sketch.

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PROMISE VS. PERFORMANCE. Great Increase of Public Expenditures by the Liberals.

A CAPITAL SPEECH BY HON. SENATOR FERGUSON.

[From the Senate Hansard.] (Concluded.)

Hon. Mr. Scott—How much capital account?

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I will deal with capital account by itself. I will make a distinct comparison and keep capital account by itself. I am dealing with the expenditure on consolidated revenue and the expenditure for the year 1895-96 was \$36,949,143, and I find that the expenditure on consolidated account as contained in the estimates already brought down by my hon. friend for the incoming year is about \$41,000,000 an increase from a few thousand less than \$37,000,000 in 1895-6, the last year of the Conservative administration, to about \$41,000,000 for the year for which we are now making provision, and with the certainty before us that, as in all other years, there will be supplementary estimates brought down during the next session of parliament providing for other expenditures in connection with that year. It may be that not quite all of this \$41,000,000 that is now being brought down will be expended. It is possible there may be small sums that will not be expended, but I think I am perfectly safe in assuming that the estimates which in all certainty will be brought down during next session of parliament for this particular year with which we are dealing will be greater than any saving which can be effected upon the main and supplementary estimates that are already before us. So that it is now certain that as far as consolidated revenue account is concerned this government is laying out for the expenditure of certainly not less—it may be more than \$41,000,000 for the year 1898-99, and then when we compare that with the expenditure of the Liberal-Conservative government during the year 1895-96 of \$36,949,000 we find that there is an increase of over \$4,000,000 in consolidated revenue account alone. Here let me point out to my hon. friend the Minister of Justice the position in which he stands at this moment before his former constituents in Bothwell. He promised them, so the premier said, in 1894, that if the Liberal party got into power he would reduce the expenditure on consolidated revenue by \$4,000,000 a year—that they would make that reduction. Here we find my hon. friend for the first year in which he is in a position to make estimates, preparing, not only preparing but committing this parliament and the country, to an expenditure of over \$4,000,000 greater than what occurred under the Liberal-Conservative government. So that my hon. friend is starting out in his career as a member of the administration by spending, on consolidated revenue account alone, for the first year over \$8,000,000 more than he promised his constituents of Bothwell, he would spend if he were placed in the government of the country. That is the position in which my hon. friend stands. My hon. friend said something about capital accounts. I have not these figures in detail. I do not intend to go very largely into them, and I notice that the figure that I have based upon the estimates that were submitted to the House of Commons, and I pursue that as the estimates were going through the House some little changes were made, and I notice that the figure that my hon. friend has read, which I have no doubt are based upon the supply bill as it finally went through the House, differ only in some very small particulars from the figures I have in my hand, and I account for it for the reason that some items may have been dropped in the House of Commons. But altogether the difference is so very slight that it is not worth talking about. It only amounts to a few thousand in the whole. Now, we find that in this year there are already estimates brought down for capital expenditure of about \$7,000,000. They vary a little for the reason I have already explained. My figures are \$6,900,000, and adding these to the figures, as I have them it makes a total expenditure of \$48,000,000 provided for in the estimates we have now before us, including capital account and consolidated revenue expenditures for the year 1898-9. I wish to place these figures on record, and I wish to call the attention of hon. gentlemen to the position in which they are now placed before the people of this country in regard to this matter of expenditure. Let us look at the matter of the debt. If I were to refer to the resolution of the Quebec conference hon. gentlemen would see that it was particularly emphatic on the point that the debt had been alarmingly increased. The resolution I read made that declaration. Here we have had the debt going up by leaps and bounds since these hon. gentlemen came into power. We have the expenditure increased on consolidated revenue in two years to the amount of \$4,000,000. If that rate is maintained for 18 years, in place of the increase, which occurred under the Conservative administration of \$12,000,000 or from \$24,000,000 to \$36,000,000 it would add to the expenditure of the country on consolidated revenue account, something like \$30,000,000, that is if they keep on as they

have been during those two years; so that when they complained of the alleged extraordinary acceleration in the increase of the expenditure of the country during the time the Conservative government were in power, it was a mere trifle compared with the extravagant increase which is now going on under their own management. I find the debt on the 30th June, 1896, was \$325,717,536.

Hon. Sir MacKenzie Bowell—that's gross.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Yes, that is gross; of course the comparison is fair enough—while on the 30th of April, 1898, the gross debt was about \$336,702,000, showing that an enormous increase in the debt has also gone on, and of course will have to go on when we are voting this year, as I have just shown, about seven millions of capital expenditure. That means nothing else than that an enormous increase will be effected in the debt during the year that is now coming as has been done during the past year. But my hon. friend the Secretary of State imagines he finds an excuse for a part of this excessive expenditure in the Yukon estimates and in the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal and in the provision that is now made for the plebiscite and some other things which he mentioned. It is true that these casual expenditures are being provided for in the estimates of the next year, but it is equally true that in almost every year the government is confronted with casual expenditures of one kind or another, and the year 1898-9 is not peculiar in the fact that there are peculiar expenditures of this kind provided for within it. If there is to be a plebiscite in that year there will be no general election as we have had in many other years, and if a large expenditure has to be provided for the Yukon there is no Northwest rebellion to deal with or any difficulty of that kind; and it is quite easy to show that no deduction ought to be made on account of these expenditures to which the hon. gentleman referred, unless, for the purpose of comparison, you go back to former years when the Conservative government was in power and eliminate from their expenditure equally abnormal expenditure that occurred in a most every one of those years. Therefore, for purposes of comparison there is no use in presenting the statements of the hon. gentleman to the house unless you are willing to go back and reshuffle, revamp, as it were, the expenditure during the Conservative administration. Making credit for expenditures which would be fairly compared with these. But while my hon. friend is ready to snatch at Yukon expenditure as a first-rate argument with which to justify himself and his friends before the country for a small part of the expenditure for next year, have we forgotten that during the long time they were in opposition they refused sulkily to give the Conservative government credit or allowance for the vast expenditures which it had to incur in connection with the acquisition and with the development of the great North-west Territories. When they came into power this great heritage was placed under their care, the Pacific Railway had to be built, the postal system had to be developed and an expensive system of Mounted Police had to be maintained; provision had to be made for the surveys of the land, and provision had to be made for bringing that vast territory from a lone land, such as it was then, and converting it step by step until it was prepared to take its place along the line of the provinces of the Dominion of Canada. That was the responsibility that devolved upon the Liberal Conservative government during all those years, which accounted for much of the increase in the debt which had to be incurred in building the great Canadian Pacific Railway that was the foundation of the increased expenditure and increased capital expenditure and increased debt during the time the Conservative government were in power. But the hon. gentlemen opposite who now stand pleading that we should exonerate them before the people of this country from their broken pledge, because they had an expenditure of half a million dollars in connection with the Yukon territory; the gentlemen who refused during all those years to give their predecessors the slightest credit for the enormous expenditures they had to incur in development of the great Northwest and Manitoba, now come and ask the House and the country to forgive them for their broken promises, for their extravagant expenditures and for their swollen estimates, simply because they had to spend half a million dollars in connection with the Yukon territory. Hon. gentlemen, I do not propose to follow these observations any further. I desire however, to place on record my protest against these expenditures, not only because they are large as compared with the expenditures incurred during the Conservative administration, but because I believe these expenditures are extravagant in themselves. I believe that as time goes on we shall see that our friends in the government have deviated widely from the policy they pursued in opposition and the platform they then laid down. There must be some influences at work, in which I would be very sorry to include either of the hon. gentlemen who sit in this House, for I believe neither of them would be capable of being a party to what is corrupt. But I cannot help believing that for some of these extraordinary expenditures, which this country has now incurred and which will weigh us down with a heavy debt in the future, there are, in many cases, reasons other than those drawn from the consideration of the public interest. I know my hon. friend is anxious to profess his own honesty and the honesty of the government in reply to these observations. However, I only make this observation in some way to find in my mind an explanation of the extraordinary expenditures that are being incurred. I cannot understand why this government should vote such extravagant sums of money as

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they are voting, why they should go back on all their solemn promises, why they should do all this, and do it in the very early days of their administration, when they cannot have forgotten the promises they made to the people and the warnings they received. I cannot believe they would have done so unless there was in the administration some evil influence that consulted other interests than the best interests of the people of this country.

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