MR. HARRISON WEIR AT WEIRLEIGH.

CELEBRITIES AT HOME.—FROM "THE WORLD."

On leaving the train at Paddock Wood Station on the S.E.R., you alight in the midst of the garden of Kent, and, walking your way southward towards Matfield, you ascend the hill which leads to Mr Weir's residence. At a little farther on you catch sight of Weirleigh. The house abuts on the road. It is a quaint, half-Gothic and half-mediæval pile of red brick with stone dressings; from the midst rises a tower roofed in with red and white tiles arranged in rectilineal design, capped by a vane embodying the initials H. W., with a thistle stalk outwards, serving as a wind indicator, and suggestive of the Scotch descent which Mr Weir can trace to a certain Aubrey de Vere, the ancestor of a family which figures in the "Land o' Cakes" some centuries ago. The stone panels to the stained and mullioned windows are carved with features of marked character; the bright blue eyes, twinkling with *bonhomie*, denote powers of keen observation, while the firm, true mouth, and the clean-cut plate issued at Christmas. Among his best-known works are "The Poetry of Nature," "Funny Dogs with Funny Tales," and "The Adventures of a Bear." He has for some time relinquished exhibiting; but he still continues to paint, and his works are steadily rising in value, being more and more sought after as "little bits of Nature." Of late years he has devoted himself almost entirely to furnishing drawings for the *Animal World*, the *Sporting and Dramatic News*, the *Graphic*, the *British Workman*, the *Children's Friend*, and many others, and more especially to the illustrating of children's books. The "Drawing Instructor" adopted by the Educational Department was illustrated by him, and the prize offered for competition in the national schools are from his pencil. His love for the animal creation has been the *motif* of his life, and was the reason of his turning his artistic talent wholly to the portrayal of animal life. His respect for the society or for the prevention of cruelty to animals, but he thinks that they aim more at the conviction of cruelty than at its direct prevention, and believes that objects can be best attained by inculcating humane principles in the rising generation.

Entering his *atelier*, lying on the table may be seen the proofs of an illustrated work, entitled *Every dog in the Country*, which comprises a naturalist's calendar with a vade mecum for the use of all who live in or who may visit the country. On the desk is a wood block of a drawing on which Mr Weir was engaged. It represents a cow lying down, while over its back a brood of young ducks are swimming in pursuit of flies, which they are devouring with evident gusto, to the grateful relief of the four footed beast. This sketch is a type of Mr Weir's particular artistic bent; for he is not satisfied only with the portrayal of animals as such, but he invariably represents also facts in Nature and suggestions of animal emotion. His pictures always "point a moral and adorn a tale." Round the room are well filled bookcases containing the works of poets ancient and modern, books on horticulture, of present and by gone days, &c. In one cabinet may be found a goodly array of cups and medals gained at horticultural, pigeon, and poultry shows. That he thoroughly understands poultry, pigeons, fruit, and flowers is evidenced by his having been for more than twenty five years a poultry and pigeon judge, and he has for a long time officiated in a like capacity in deciding the awards for the Royal Horticultural Society; and his decisions, always given without fear or favour, have been honoured and valued in every competition where he has acted as judge. His mornings are usually spent in this room, writing for the many periodicals to which he contributes, or sketching and painting, or in reading the immense amount of correspondence which reaches him from all parts of the world. Among many interesting letters from some of the best-known men in art and literature, he may possibly show you a packet from Charles Darwin, which he values "more than his silver and gold," as he expresses himself. Here is a letter asking for correct data facts on the subject of variation in domestication; another, discussing instances of natural selection in the mating of animals and the like. "Yes, I feel high" he exclaimed, "when I will you, "in having possessed Darwin's friendship, and still more in having earned his appreciation. Hear this extract from one of his letters: "Your mother ought indeed to feel proud that she had two sons such true naturalists as you and your brother. I consider that, of all animals Mr Weir, the highest praise I know and, and it is always present to my mind." and Mr Weir is the least egotistical of men; indeed, there is nothing of self *en evidence* in his house beyond a few sketches of song-birds, in the simplest oak frames, in the drawing-room.

Passing through the corridors, panelled with yellow pine and dark cedar, up the broad staircase, you are impressed with the air of comfort which pervades the house. On entering the spacious dining-room, one's first impulse is to approach the great bay window, which occupies one entire side of the room, and, reclining on the lounging seat fitted to the embrasure, to feast one's eyes on the really magnificent panoramic view of the Weald of Kent, which lies like a chequered map before one. Miles on miles of hop-gardens and orchards, cornfields and copses, dotted here and there with oast-houses and villages, while far down in the valley the thin trail of steam of a passing train may be described. Turning inwards, you remark the artistic taste displayed in the furnishing; especially two carved oak cabinets of ancient workmanship, only surpassed by another, which stands in the morning-room, the counterpart of one in Cologne Cathedral. Over the fireplace rises a mantelpiece after Mr Weir's own design, early English in style, and made of Sequoia wood inlaid with ebony, having curious shelves, niches, and cabinets introduced, fit receptacles for the beautiful specimens of Spode and Wedgewood china, some *cloisonné* enamelled plates, and some exquisitely modelled cats in terra-cotta by Miss Alice Chaplin, who has executed similar work for the Queen. An old English strap-bottle, an antique three-handled jug of Lambeth ware, a lustrous jar of Sussex which has served as a model for the painter J. F. Herring, esq., and several examples of Crown Derby, makes good points of colour against the dark oak. Almost everything in Mr Weir's house is old and quaint, having come into his possession either as heir-loons or as gifts, or picked up "for a song" in some odd corner of the country. Each object has a history of its own; here, a splendid sofa, an honourable from Brock the pyrotechnist for designs for the Handel Festival; there, on the wall, two old daggers, often wielded by Creswick in the murder of Duncan; on the sideboard, a handsome flagon given by the Directors of the Crystal Palace as a tribute of appreciation of Mr Weir's services in originating the Cat Show.

On the suggestion of a stroll before luncheon, your host will probably take you round his garden. And here, and in the paddocks, you perceive the thorough naturalist's side of his character. You will look in vain for the usual carpet-gardening, and for the smooth lawns where close as billiard-tables. There is neatness and order, but above all there is Nature. When you have traversed the shady path, up hill and down dale, constantly doubling on itself, which is skirted by flower-beds containing rare and choice perennials, and which is a mile in extent; when you have admired the fertile background of shrub and tree of every known order; when the constant experiments in the fattening, feeding and rearing the occupants of garden, vinery, and orchard have been explained, you need not be told that scientific botany is one of Mr Weir's chief hobbies. After passing through the long arched avenue of pear and apples trees, whose interlaced boughs canopy your path, while other apples, grown *à la cordon*, skirt the way, you gladly avail yourself of one of the many seats placed at different points of vantage, and all bearing some humorous name, such as the "Cosy Chat," the "Paradise," and so on. Here your host will entertain you with anecdotes of the hundred and one curious habits and instincts of furred and feathered creation which have been learnt by daily and hourly observation. He will amuse you with great little tales of the remarkable men he has met in the Strand, and old scenes and clubs, including the "Savage," to which he belongs. He will dilate on the culture of fruit, especially on the subject of single and double stalking, to the value of which he is singularly alive. He will point out an apple, obtained by grafting the early Strawberry Pippin on to the Crab, then grafted on the Gooseberry, and lastly on the Strawberry, which, for size, colour, and bloom, is unsurpassable, and which looks for all the world the counterpart of a peach.

Strolling on once more, you reach the poultry-yards; here you will perceive that Mr Weir affects only two breeds, the white-legged Game and the white-legged Dorking. A cross between these, he avers, for plumpness and quality of flesh, for flavour and quantity of bone, makes the best of table-birds; and his statements received ample confirmation by subsequent experience at his table. But he does not breed the modern so-called coloured Dorking with dark legs, but that of cinnamon hue with pure white legs, which is vastly superior as a table-bird to the "exhibition Dorking," as he terms it. As you proceed you will notice a run of fine young cockerels, the offspring of a cross between a game cock and a flock of huge Embden geese is nibbling the grass, headed by a gigantic gander not five months old, which turns the scale at 22lb. 7. A lot of ducklings are divided by "selection" are paddling in the pool—but the gong summons you to luncheon, and you must hasten your steps.

Mr Weir makes an excellent host. By him the almost lost art of conversation is maintained; he excels in light badinage, and is quick at repartee, while a bout at politics is dear to him—he is a thorough Conservative—but he always fights with a buttoned foil, which leaves no wound behind. Indeed, he is the soul of good-nature, and is always ready to aid a friend with purse or pen, and the latter he wields with considerable power.

It will be seen by an advertisement in another column, that this charming estate will be submitted to public competition, at the Mart, London, by Messrs. Walker and Kuntz, on the 14th May next.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS PETTY SESSIONS.

SATURDAY.—Before W. F. Boswell, Esq. (in the chair), and J. Stone Wigg, Esq.

REFUSING TO BE SWORN.—*George* and *William Langridge*, rag and bone collectors, were charged on remand from Friday, with standing on the 14th from a beerhouse in Varney-street, a copper tea kettle, and a brass candlestick, value 6s., the property of Mrs J. J. Chapman.—The evidence of Mr Ellis, marine store dealer, to whom the prisoners had sold the articles, was repeated as reported in our second edition of Wednesday.—The complaint was next called, and on stepping into the witness box a New Testament was placed in her hand, and the clerk proceeded to administer the oath in the usual form. Witness on looking at the book stepped out of the box, and waving her hands as if in horror, said "Not that book, not that book."—The Clerk: But this is a copy of the Scriptures.—Mr Boswell: Why does she decline to be sworn?—Witness: I have asked if there is any evidence if the woman declined to take the oath.—Supt. Embery said that he understood that she would not take the oath because on the Bible.—Mr Boswell: If that is all we can easily send for one.—A constable brought a copy of the Bible, and Supt. Embery showed the title page to witness, with which she was apparently satisfied. Witness was then sworn, but instead of kissing the book she kept reverted out of the witness-box, shaking her head, and holding up her hands, and saying "I have never done this, the distance she explained "I cannot do that, I cannot do that, I'll throw the book down if you do that." Witness could not give any further explanation of her singular conduct, and Supt. Embery said he could call the sergeant, who accompanied prisoners.—Sergt. Mallon deposed that from information he received he went to No. 4, Berkshire Cottages, Tunbridge Wells, and there found the two prisoners. He told them he should charge them both with stealing a copper kettle last evening, from Mrs Chapman's beerhouse in Goldenstreet. Prisoners both said they knew nothing about it, and he brought them into the station where he showed them the kettle produced, stating "This is the kettle you are charged with stealing, which you sold to Mrs Ellis." The prisoner George said he went to Mr Ellis' shop last night to sell some stuff, and in the lot amongst other things they found a kettle. He asked them how they accounted for it getting into the shop. He said "Jack put it there," meaning the other prisoner, who, however, said he knew nothing about it. Prisoners being asked whether they would prefer the case being dealt with summarily or sent for trial, preferred the former course and pleaded guilty.—The prisoner George said he did not know the things were in the bag, which he went with his brother to sell. Prisoners fined 10s. or seven days' in default.—Supt. Embery said that Mr Ellis had attended very well in the matter, and he therefore allowed him to retain the kettle as the prosecutor had refused to give evidence.

SMASHING THE RELIEVING OFFICER'S WINDOWS.—A youth named *Joseph Cook*, who appeared in court with his right hand plastered up and covered with blood, pleaded guilty to wilfully breaking a pane of glass at Mr Wiseman's office in Calverley-street, the same morning.—Mr Wiseman stated that the prisoner came in his office and asked for an order for the Union, he was out of work. When he told him he could not have one he deliberately snatched a pane of glass with his hand. He had been instructed to refuse the prisoner an order for the Union as he was in the habit of going in and then discharging himself immediately by saying he could get work. He was in the habit of doing that, and had become a great nuisance. He was told he could not do what he could get it. He broke the window in a fit of temper.—Mr Wigg: He appears to have changed his mind considerably.—Prisoner, who had nothing to say, was fined 10s., 4s. costs, and 2s. 6d. damage, or 14 days' in default.—Prisoner: I'll do the 14 days, sir.

Before W. F. Boswell, Esq. (in the chair) J. Stone Wigg, Esq., R. H. Collins, Esq., Major C. R. F. Lutwidge.

RATE SUMMONSES.—Several rate summonses were heard by the Bench.

LICENSING.—An extension of one hour was granted to Mr H. Schroder of the Duke of York, on the evening of Monday next.

P.C. FRANKS' MOST VIOLENT PRISONER.—*Alfred Standing*, labourer, of Southborough, was charged with begging at the Upper Grosvenor-road, on the 19th inst., and to having been convicted of a similar offence in October, 1881.—Supt. Embery stated that prisoner was a man who would never do any work, and lived by begging and thieving. He was a great terror to the police, on one occasion he had been convicted of stealing a cash box and £14, and sentenced to six months.—P.C. Franks deposed to seeing prisoner come from Mr Blanch's house on Sunday night, and learning from young Mr Blanch that he had been begging there and had received sixpence, he arrested prisoner, whereupon he became very violent, and he had to call upon several gentlemen to help to bring him to the station by the frogs' march. He had never had such a violent prisoner before.—One of the South-borough police stated that the prisoner was well known at Southborough. He could get plenty of work if he would only abandon his drunken and thieving habits.—Prisoner excused his violence on the ground that he was constable, and he too tight by the arms.—The Chairman told prisoner he had a bad character, and would be sent to Maidstone for two months.

TONBRIDGE PETTY SESSIONS.

TUESDAY.—Before H. A. Darbishire, Esq. (in the chair), C. Powell, Esq., Major W. I. Hutchinson-Mann, and J. Stone Wigg, Esq.

A MASTER AND SERVANT DISPUTE.—*Robert Hunter*, public house keeper of Deptford, was summoned to show cause why an order should not be made on him to contribute towards the support of his father, who is chargeable to the Common Fund of the Tonbridge Union at Brenchley.—Mr H. Lawrence, relieving officer for the Brenchley district, said that when he was appointed in June, 1878, he found the defendant's father receiving outdoor relief, and he had been doing so ever since. The defendant, who lived at the New King-street, had hired two houses at £30 per year. The place was just outside the Foreign Cattle Market, in a good situation. He had written to the defendant there twice on the subject, and when he appeared before the Guardians he stated that he receipts were £6 to £7 per week. The defendant thought that his other brothers ought to contribute. One had not been heard of for years, and the other had been heard of he had seven children. The other brother was an agricultural labourer earning 14s. per week, but he had six and three young children to support, and the Guardians did not think he was in a position to contribute.—Mr Hunter contended that the defendant ought to repay them the 2s. 7½d. they allowed the father.—[illegible] said that the stoppage of the foreign cattle had also ruined his trade. His brother at Manchester was a steady man with a precious wife, and his brother at Brighton had a good opportunity of getting on. He had five children to support, and it was a hard matter for him to pay.—It was his brothers and sisters who had brought his father down, and now he was called upon to pay for them.—He had not seen his father a few shillings when he could afford it, but he did not see why he should do it all.—The Bench adjourned the case for defendant to pay 1s. 6d. per week, and the costs of the application, which amounted to 10s., but half were remitted by the Board.

A FORGIVING WIFE, HEAVEN.—*William Bryant* was summoned for assaulting and beating his wife Elizabeth Bryant, at Hever, on the 6th April.—The defendant said that he had never hit his wife or threaten her with a basin.—Mrs Bryant now stated that she was in a muddle, and this course had been adopted to save the costs of the case, which amounted to 10s., but half were remitted by the Bench.

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DRUNKENNESS AT TONBRIDGE.—*George Clark*, a labourer, pleaded guilty to being drunk at Tonbridge, on the 8th April.—P.C. Randall said that at midnight on the date named, he found the defendant lying helpless in the road across the pavement. With Supt. Barnes he was half-an-hour before he could make any sense of the defendant, but at length they found out who he was and went him away home to Shipbourne.—The defendant, who had not been up before, was fined 2s., 4s. 6d. costs, or one month's hard labour in default.

NOT PAYING UP, TONBRIDGE.—*David Hobbs*, labourer of Tonbridge, was charged on remand with neglecting to pay £2 1s. 6d. bastardy arrears due on March 25th, 1882, at the place.—William Martin, a farm labourer, was bound in the sum of £5 to see the defendant pay the arrears at the rate of 1s. per week in addition to the sum of 2s. 6d. per week, which he was ordered to pay by the Bench.

MARK CROSS PETTY SESSIONS.

TUESDAY.—Before H. B. Goldfinch, Esq., and R. W. Smythe, Esq.

LICENSING.—The following temporary licences were granted: The license of the Carpenter's Arms, Mayfield, from Mr E. Stokes to Mr S. Mulhurst; of the Marlborough Head, Rotherfield, from Mr Mulhurst to Mr W. Playford.

FRACAS AT THE WADHURST STATION.—*Fredk. Attwood* was summoned for being in a state of intoxication and using obscene and abusive language at Wadhurst, on April 6th.—Mr W. C. Cripps, solicitor, of Tunbridge Wells, appeared to prosecute on behalf of the South Eastern Railway Company.—Defendant pleaded not guilty.—Thomas Chapman, station master at Wadhurst, deposed that a little after 9 o'clock defendant was at the station, and he saw him at his (witness) office, and asked for a basket he had left the day previous. He told him that Sunday was not the proper time for the presentation of that sort, but if he saw the man he would see to it. Defendant went, but came back to the office and said the man refused to look. He went with defendant to the man, who said he knew the baskets were not there. He told defendant if he left particulars the matter should be seen to. Defendant followed him on the platform, and became very abusive, remarking "If you are a——station master you need not be——independent." He told defendant that if he could had language on the company's premises he should make an example of him. Defendant took hold of him but he shook him off, and then defendant took off his coat, rushed at him, and struck him. Defendant was drunk at the time.—Cross-examined: He admitted striking at defendant, but did not hit him.—Albert Wells corroborated.—Samuel Baldwin, landlord of the Railway Hotel, deposed that on Sunday evening defendant came into his house the worse for drink and used bad language. He ordered him out.—Defendant alleged that the station master struck him first.—Defendant was fined 20s., 16s. 6d. costs, or one month in default.—Defendant was also ordered to pay the expenses to the station master at the same time and place and was fined 1s. and 16s. costs.—Allowed a fortnight to pay it.

DRUNKENNESS AT FIVE ASHES.—*Edward Head* pleaded guilty to a charge of being drunk and refusing to quit, at Five Ashes, on April 11th, and was fined 1s. and 8s. costs, or seven days' in default. The money was paid.—P.C. Tribe proved the case.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.*—Sold only in packets, labelled—"James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also Makers of Epps's Chocolate Essence.

HOW MANY PEOPLE SUFFER.—It is often remarked how many more people than formerly complain of feeling unwell. It is not that there is a greater amount of contagious disease afloat for there is proof that the extent and strength of such are far less than of yore, because of better sanitary arrangements and the more attention to cleanliness and other matters. The enormous increase must be due to the fact of people living fast and being enervated and languid feelings; loss of energy; distress and fulness of the stomach, with oft-times a dull dull fastness at the pit, which eating does not stay; sick headache, so-called bilious-ness; unpleasant breath; a sense of weariness when rising in the morning, with an unpleasant taste in the mouth, and loss of appetite or non-enjoyment of food. These are but the mildest effects of "feeling unwell," and yet how great is the distress and suffering, with hindrance to business and pleasure, they give rise to. The cause is not far to seek; it lies in the stomach and digestive organs, which have become impaired, to the distress of nearly all the other functions of the body. Assuredly could the stomach always be kept in well-regulated condition through life, it would tend to far greater longevity than is now the case. The stomach is a wheel within wheels; and just as an erratic tendency on the part of a small trifling wheel or wheel of a clock leads to the disarrangement of its whole function as a time-keeper, so does the failure of an apparently small thing lead as the sequence in the mechanism of the human frame throw, by their impaired vigour or inaction, all the parts depending on them—and they are legion—out of gear. Just as the wheel of the clock will require to be put in motion, and accurate time may be kept, so must the impaired organs of the stomach be restored to their original vigour. Digestion must be promoted by increasing the flow and strength of the gastric juice, and this "Sequ's Curative Syrup" will effectually do. It will impart strength to the stomach, regulate the liver, and impart tone to the bowels, to the greater enjoyment of life and health of all who use it; and that it is so may be tested by a perusal of the Testimonials in an Almanac, which will be furnished free of charge to any applicant by the Proprietors, A. White (Limited), 17, Farringdon Road, London, E.C. The syrup can be obtained from any chemist or medicine vendor.

LADIES' BEAUTIFIERS.—Ladies, you cannot make fair skin, rosy cheeks, and sparkling eyes, with all the cosmetics of France, or beautifiers of the world, without good health, and nothing will give you such rich blood, good health, strength, and beauty as Hop Bitters. A trial is certain proof. See advt.

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FOR SALE, small FREEHOLD ESTATE, suitable for a Mansion. South Park, Crowborough Hill, about half a mile from the station. Containing about 12 acres of park-like land, beautifully laid out and planted with all kinds of ornamental trees, pines, &c., of many years' growth: lies high, and commands lovely views of Sedge Park, and embracing many miles of the Sussex hills.—For particulars, apply to Mr. BRACKETT, Estate Agent, Tunbridge Wells.

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HAVING Purchased the HEARSES, MOURNING COACHES, etc., of MR. WM. POWELL, and made many additions to the same, MESSRS. HOADLEY AND CO. are in a position to Execute all Orders entrusted to them in a manner which is bound to give the greatest satisfaction.

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IN returning Thanks to the Nobility, Gentry, and Inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells and its Vicinity for their past favours, begs to announce he has just added to his LARGE STOCK a CHOICE SELECTION of MARBLE and ORMOLU CLOCKS, also a GREAT VARIETY of BRONZES, and at a price which cannot fail to give great satisfaction.

A carefully selected assortment in newest patterns of FINE GOLD JEWELLERY, consisting of DIAMOND CUTTES, GEM RINGS, PINS, LOCKETS, NECKLETS, CHAINS, &c.

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Repairs of every description, both in English and Foreign Watches. Clocks, Jewellery, &c. repaired on the Premises at the shortest notice by skilful Workmen and moderate charges.

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THE MANAGER begs to assure the Gentry and general Public that he is in a position to supply

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TRUCK LOADS AT REDUCED PRICES.

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