DARWIN'S HOME.

The announcement that Mr. Darwin is to be buried in Westminster Abbey will be received with universal approval. No other place could so fittingly receive the mortal remains of the greatest scientific discoverer of his age and country. But though public honour will thus be done to his memory, the private dwelling-place of so eminent a man will always remain an object of interest to the educated world. It would not be easy to find within an equally short distance of London so retired, not to say inaccessible, a spot as the little Kentish village, which is thus destined to be for ever famous as the home of Charles Darwin. It stands out of reach of the railway whistle, far off the high roads to Limpsfield, Westerham, and Sevenoaks, upon a small stretch of table land, whence two straggling lanes, which cross each other in the centre of the village, descend to rise again with a steepness that a tired pedestrian would hardly care to encounter on a sunny day. It is in a country of chalk, as is manifest to the eye in the curved and grounded outlines of the hills, but unlike most chalk districts is in many parts well wooded, and this not merely with casual patches of copse or rings of firs, but also with many trees of noble growth. Fine beeches, rather backward at this high level, and only just beginning to put forth their long brown pointed buds, find hereabouts many a hollow and crevice of marly clay, whence their claw-like roots draw abundant nourishment. The famous beeches of Knockholt indeed stand but a short distance to the south, upon the hill-top, backed by the picturesque timber trees of Earl Stanhope's park at Chevening. The other way, across the narrow valley, are the shady slopes of Holwood, so closely associated with the names of Chatham, Pitt, and Wilberforce. By far the pleasantest route to Downe is over Keston Common, around the moss-grown oak fence of Holwood, or by the ladder-style on the summit of Keston Hill, across the park to the corresponding style opposite to the lane that leads, as a finger-post indicates, direct to the visitor's destination. Rising hence by a steep winding hollow way cut deep into the chalk rock, the stranger finds himself at length in the midst of rich and almost level pastures. Across these as the lane winds about, the ride-pointed spire of Downe Church, coated with slates, is seen from time to time rising from amongst the horse chestnuts, and the red-tiled roofs of the few shops and dwellings of an English village. Some large walnut trees, though now almost bare, cast in the summer time a pleasant shade upon the roadway from near the entrance to the village up to the low fence of the church, which is in the angle of the cross way in the centre of the place. Strange faces are not often to be seen in this part. In the winter time, when snow lies heavily in the deep hollow lanes, it is no uncommon thing for Downe to be practically limited to its own resources, and almost entirely cut off for days and even for weeks from communication with the outer world. That the village suffers in some degree from that common misfortune of the chalk downs, a scarcity of water, is to be inferred from the circumstance that the village pump, which bears the inscription, "Erected by public subscription for the use of the poor of this parish, 1845," is now locked to prevent extravagant consumption. A notice dated last year is, however, affixed to it, whereby, after a warning that it is "under the entire direction of the churchwarden and overseers," application for a supply of water "to any parishioner" is directed to be made "to Mr. John Palmer, who has charge of the pump." Perhaps a more striking illustration of the isolation of Downe could not be given than the fact that, although Mr. Darwin here breathed his last at four o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, the news which has since been received with profound sorrow in every part of the civilized world was not known in London until noon of the following day.

In this secluded and beautiful district, at some two or three hundred yards only on the further side of the village, the illustrious author of "The Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection," passed the last forty years of his laborious life. Having finally given up his residence in town in 1840, soon after his marriage, he found the retirement essential to his habits of systematic study and of patient investigation of the laws of nature; here in the old house which is soon to know him no more, he conducted those physical and other experiments and observations of which the results are recorded in that long list of works wherein the doctrine of [illegible] be said to be a retired spot, being fully rounded on three sides by the village street, from which it is separated only by a low wall; but it lies under the shade of tall elms, while near the porch a venerable yew, with a trunk measuring, it is said, nearly 23 feet in girth, adds to the solemn associations of the place. The church itself is small, consisting only of a nave and chancel, with a dwarf square tower and tall spire at the western end. Within are numerous brasses and other monuments of interest. The modern common plaster ceiling of the nave having been removed in recent years has revealed to sight a fine old timber roof, and greatly added to the picturesque though plain appearance of the interior. In the churchyard, near the south door, lie buried, as shown by the inscriptions on a flat tablet over the graves, the two infant children of Mr. Darwin, Mary Eleanor, who died in 1842, and Charles Waring Darwin, who died in 1858, being thus only two years old. Near them, under the melancholy boughs of the great yew tree, sleep two members of the Wedgwood family, to which, as is well known, Mr. Darwin was related by the side of his mother, as well as by his own marriage with his cousin, Miss Wedgwood. One of these is Miss Sarah Wedgwood, granddaughter of the celebrated manufacturer of art pottery—a venerable lady who had resided for many years in an oddly built old house with a lofty tower in the village, and who here went to her rest in November, 1880, at the ripe age of 86.

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logical and other experiments and observations, of which the results are recorded in that long list of works wherein the doctrine of evolution has found inexhaustible illustration. "Downe Court" is one of the old square-built red-brick mansions of the last century, to which has been added in more recent times a gable-fronted wing, with another square-built wing and pillared portico on the corresponding side. Shut in, and almost hidden from the roadway by a high wall, and a belt of trees, it seems the very ideal of a place for philosophical seclusion. On the southern side the walled garden opens into a paddock or meadow equally retired, and bounded by a tract of underwood through which there is a lovely view of the narrow valley descending towards Tatsfield and Westerham. In these extensive additions to the grounds of Downe Court which Mr. Darwin had rented of his intimate friend and neighbour Sir John Lubbock, he had of late years been accustomed for the most part to take his daily exercise with the regularity which distinguished most of his habits. Up to ten or twelve years ago his tall figure, seated upon a favourite old black cob, was a familiar object in the lanes round about; but the unfortunate animal, seized with a fit one day, fell, and died by the roadside, after which it was observed that Mr. Darwin was never seen to ride again. His invariable hours for walking every day were seven in the morning, noon-day, and four o'clock in the afternoon, sometimes accompanied by his sons, one of whom, Mr. Francis Darwin, has long been established as a surgeon in the village, but more often alone. Rising always at the early hour of six to take his cold bath—into which he was accustomed to plunge both morning and evening—he breakfasted alone; and after his first morning walk was in his library as a rule at eight. At nine, when the post-boy arrived from Farnborough, he would spend a little time in the dining room opening letters, and skimming the papers, and in the evening would linger an hour or so in the society of his family, or of some of those friends distinguished in the world of science, who occasionally found their way to Downe-court; but the greater part of his time was spent in his library, his gardens, and the outlying parts of his little domain. When he extended his walks into the country round about, it was observed that he was rarely seen in the village or met on the roads, preferring, as he did, to take his way generally southward by the footpaths through the woods and meadows. Little children, who have a quick instinct for a kind and gentle nature, would run to open a gate when they saw Mr. Darwin coming, encouraged thereto by a smile and a kind word. Downe folk, by whom he was much beloved, like now to dwell upon these trifles, and to speak of his considerate kindness to all about him. They point with a sort of pride to the fact that the domestics at Downe Court are mostly old servants; that his maid Margaret Evans, who assisted in nursing him in his last illness, entered his service when a girl, at Shrewsbury, nearly forty years ago, her aunt and uncle being butler and housekeeper to Mr. Darwin's father, Dr. Robert Waring Darwin, in that city. The intelligence of his death came upon the place with a painful suddenness. It was known that he had been poorly for a few weeks; that it had been deemed advisable about a month ago to send a servant to London to fetch a chair, constructed for carrying an invalid, the weakness of the action of the heart rendering even the slight exertion of ascending the single flight of stairs to his bedroom perilous in the opinion of his medical advisers. But, with care, sufferers from heart disease often live long, and he was in the main still able to pursue his customary habits. On Tuesday morning his devoted friend and comrade in the field of science Sir John Lubbock called to see him on his way to his Parliamentary duties in London, and found him, as it seemed, pretty much as usual. That matters had taken a grave turn became known for the first time when, on Wednesday afternoon, his groom arrived galloping through the village upon a horse sprinkled with foam, and carrying under his arm a wet and dripping bag of ice. He had been despatched on a ride to Bromley, the nearest point at which such an article could be obtained, and had accomplished the ride of about twelve miles in something less than an hour; but unhappily the relief arrived far too late to be of service. The sufferer had already sunk to his rest, surrounded by his family, including Mrs. Darwin, several of his sons, and a married daughter.

The churchyard of Downe, in which some of Mr. Darwin's children are buried, was hardly

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Daily News

ROYAL COMEDY THEATRE.

[illegible], at 8, BOCCACCIO. Messrs. J. G. Taylor, Louis Kelleher, C. Hunt, W. S. Rising, [illegible], Brook, Percy, and Lionel Brough; Mesdames Kate Munroe, Alice Burville, Carlingford, Emily Maxwell, and Violet Cameron.

GAIETY THEATRE, STRAND.

Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. John Hollingshead.

To-NIGHT, at 7.45, [illegible]. Messrs. Dallas and [illegible]; Miss Gilchrist, &c.—At 8.30, THE FORTY THIEVES. Misses [illegible], Vaughan, Gilchrist, Broughton, Howard, &c.; Messrs. Terry, Royce, Dallas, Squire, Warde, Wood [illegible], &c.

TOOLE'S THEATRE (LATE FOLLY).

THIS EVENING, at 7.30, OUT AT ELBOWS.—At 8.30, AUNTIE. Mr. J. L. Toole, Messrs. Billington, Ward, Shelton, and Garden; Misses Winifred Emery, Liston, Douglas, Johnson, Wallace, and Emily Thorne.—Conclude with BARDELL v. PICKWICK.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.

THIS EVENING, at 7.45, BABIL AND BIJOU. Misses Constance Loseby, Fanny Heywood, Rose Bershel, Matilda [illegible], Jessie Maryland, Florence [illegible], Kate Sullivan, &c.; Messrs. Harry Paulton, W. Hogarth, H. Monkhouse, E. Thomson, Tom Lovell, J. Stoll, & H. Walsham. Danseuses, Mdlles. Pertoldi and Palladino.

OPERA COMIQUE THEATRE.

THIS EVENING, at 7.30, MOTHER-IN-LAW.—At 10, VULCAN. Messrs. Vernon, Brough, Moore, G. Temple, Ettinson, and A. Bishop; Mesdames D'Aguilar, Hodgson, Maitland, Nellie Cheesmond, Marville, Kate Lovell, Yokins, Robe, Lottie Harcourt, and Miss Chippendale. And the Æsthetic Quadrille.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

THIS EVENING, at 8, TAKEN FROM LIFE. Mr. Charles Warner; Messrs. J. D. Beveridge, E. H. Brooke, F. Thomas, E. Price, H. Proctor, C. Cowington; Mesdames F. Chalgrove, E. Bruce, J. Rogers, and Miss Gerard.—At 7.15, MY TURN NEXT. Messrs. Proctor, Goodrich, and Miss Clara Jecks.

ROYAL STRAND THEATRE.

Sole Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Swanborough.

To-NIGHT, at 8.15, the new comic opera, MANOLA. Messrs. H. Ashley, H. Charles, H. Stephens, Mons. Desmonts, and W. J. Hill; Mesdames Clara Merivale, Irene Verona, Maud Branscombe, M. Turner, V. Carew, &c.—Preceded, at 7.30, by PARADISE VILLA.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

THIS EVENING, at 8.30, THE SQUIRE. Mrs. Kendal, Miss Ada Murray, Miss [illegible]; Mr. Kendal, Mr. [illegible], Mr. [illegible]

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Daily News. Apr 24 2

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THIS EVENING, at 8.30, THE SQUIRE. Mrs. Kendal, Miss Ada Murray, Miss Brereton; Mr. Kendal, Mr. Wenman, Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. T. W. Robertson, Mr. C. Steyne, Mr. Brandon,

International Steeplechase by Mr. J. B. Leigh's Scot.

The business of the Spring Assizes at Lewes was commenced on Saturday, before Mr. Baron Pollock. The case which excited the greatest interest was that of Esther Pay, committed for the wilful murder of Georgina Moore, aged 7½, who was missed from her home, in Pimlico, on the 20th December last, and whose dead body was found in the Medway, near Yalding, on the 30th January. The consideration of this case occupied the largest share of his Lordship's charge to the grand jury, who eventually returned a true bill against the prisoner. In the course of the afternoon the Judge on the application of Mr. Biron, fixed Wednesday next for the trial of the accused.

Mr. Justice Lopes had before him on Saturday a case in which a saddler in business in Piccadilly sought to recover from a gentleman, who had lately come of age, 603*l.* for goods supplied in his minority. The defendant pleaded that the prices charged were unreasonable, that the articles sold were not necessaries, and that they were supplied during infancy. After it had occupied the attention of the court some time a consultation between the counsel on both sides took place, and a juror was withdrawn on terms of settlement which had been arranged.

George Smith, Henry Lister, and Samuel Tyler appeared to their recognisances at Bow-street on Saturday, further to answer the charge of having been concerned in violently assaulting Lieutenant Fraser, of the 78th Highlanders, on the Thames Embankment on the 12th March. The hearing had been adjourned for the attendance of the prosecutor; but it was now stated on his behalf that he could give no evidence which would strengthen the case against the defendants, who were discharged.

At the annual meeting of the shareholders in the National Bank of India on Saturday an amendment to the adoption of the report was moved, proposing the appointment of a Committee of Investigation. This was, however, generally disapproved, and having been brought forward without notice was not put. The motion for the adoption of the report was carried.

In the stock markets on Saturday, the principal features were the sales of Egyptian and Turkish stocks, which improved at the close, and left off above the lowest points. Excepting Great Northern A and North British, home railways, particularly Metropolitan District, declined fractionally for the day. American railways mostly advanced from ½ to 1½ per cent. Consols receded to 101⅝, ⅝ for money, and 101⅝, ¾ for the account.

THERE are several reasons why Mr. GLADSTONE'S Budget, which he is to unfold in the House of Commons this evening, cannot be expected to rival in importance the greatest of his financial achievements. We pointed out on Saturday some of the obstacles to relieving the taxpayer at the present moment. There is reason to believe that, so far from taking off taxation, it w[illegible] the duty of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER to propose some slight additional impost. In a statement which he made on the 24th of February last, respecting a motion of Mr. HARCOURT, the member for Oxfordshire, Mr. GLADSTONE distinctly promised that he would deal with the relief of local taxation this year, and the motion was on that understanding withdrawn. The highway rate was the particular object of Mr. HARCOURT'S solicitude, as it has been the cause of incessant grumbling ever since the abolition of turnpikes. But the complaints of ratepayers open up a large question, and will, it is to be feared, affect the interests of the whole taxpaying community. Prudence and the necessities of the occasion thus forbid the introduction of a great and startling Budget. The pressure of the spending departments upon the revenue has been very great, and the decrease in the returns during the last quarter was not inconsiderable. Without a surplus, there can be no remission of taxes, and it is to be feared that Mr. GLADSTONE will not be able to show a surplus worthy of the name. There is no reason to apprehend a positive deficit, such as Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE had year after year to acknowledge, but success in making both ends meet is insufficient to justify a speculative abandonment of any of the sources which feed the Treasury. The reduction and remodification of the duties upon French wines were proposed in 1880 as conditional upon the conclusion of a commercial treaty with France, and as there is

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no immediate prospect of any such arrangement the suggested alteration may have to be indefinitely postponed. Of course there is no reason why we should not at any time lower our own import duties for our own convenience, but there is unhappily at the present time the strongest of all possible objections to a decrease of any duty whatever. We could not afford a loss for which the French Government is unwilling to offer us any compensating advantage. Spanish wines might possibly be admitted into this country at a smaller cost if there was any likelihood of Señor SAGASTA'S Administration revising the Spanish tariff for our benefit. But this sort of bargain, which may be justified in particular instances, though it rests on a doubtful principle, is absolutely precluded by the present state of feeling in Spain. The discontent with the French treaty, which culminated in the recent and serious riots at Barcelona, will not encourage King ALFONSO'S Ministers to make any nearer approximation to Free Trade.

There is another subject, of scarcely inferior moment to the Budget, which is likely to occupy the attention of the House of Commons this afternoon. Before the House is moved into Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. FORSTER may be expected to make an important statement about the notorious circular signed by Inspector SMITH. We trust that the CHIEF SECRETARY will see his way to making a full and satisfactory announcement. That the circular itself will be cancelled may, we presume, be taken for granted. It would be impossible for any English Minister to avow a policy of promiscuous shooting by way of precaution against future crime. Mr. FORSTER did indeed express himself as became him on this subject last Thursday, and did not appear to share that jocular view of the incident which some critics think it clever and decorous to take. But in our opinion the mere withdrawal of these marvellous instructions, though necessary, would not be sufficient. Their author may be what is called "an active and intelligent "officer." But after what has happened he can scarcely continue with advantage to act as Inspector of the County Clare. Removal to another sphere, if not to different duties, is the best thing that can be done with Inspector SMITH. But the reckless indiscretion of this functionary opens up a question far larger than is comprised in his own conduct. As we have already stated, the facts that this circular was dated the 4th of March, and that on the 20th of April Mr. FORSTER knew nothing about it, are the strongest practical condemnation of the system under which Ireland is governed. To the defects of Irish administration we have called attention more than once of late. The bureaucracy at the Castle, the Resident Magistrates and Inspectors of Police in the counties, the police force itself throughout the country, require to be thoroughly overhauled and completely remodelled. No one can say how many circulars, more or less similar to Inspector SMITH'S, have been recently issued in Ireland, or what instructions of the same or a more stringent kind have been given by word of mouth. One of the principal vices of a military or semi-military organization for administrative purposes is that a soldier will always conceal as much as possible from a civilian superior. Magistrates, like Major TRAILL, or the exceedingly zealous Major BOND, are nothing if not despotic. They do not shrink from responsibility, but they cannot endure control. The same remark applies to the officers of the Irish constabulary, and herein is a great danger. Anything more likely to promote rebellion than the unrestricted operations of such persons as Inspector SMITH can scarcely be conceived.

We understand that the Budget was com-

DARWIN'S HOME