

and fellow citizens especially, who, I am sorry to say, do sometimes lay themselves open to misunderstanding on the part of those who judge by outward bearing. "I find the people here the worst mannered in Europe," he said, without apparent consciousness of offence. Except for the measure of politeness I still retained I was on the point of putting the query: "What, worse than the Dutch?" for I recollected how Mr. Augustus Hare once described that people to me in the very terms employed by Mr. Harte in reference to our Lowland Scotch—who in this connection may be distinguished from the Highlanders, of whom the Queen used to say, "Every one of them is a gentleman!" But I forbore the interruption, and he went on—"Why, it is marvellous. Here in this lodging of mine even the table-girl cannot hand me a plate except in the spirit of aggression!" Some other instances of similar aggressiveness were related that were simply ludicrous.

I came afterwards to see a good deal of him, for he used to have me to lunch with him when he had removed from the sphere of the aggressive table-girl to a civilised hotel, and many a pleasant chat I enjoyed with him while we smoked American "green" cigars, of which he had a frequent supply. It was in this kind of *tête-à-tête* that he was at his best, for there was undoubtedly a vein of Bohemianism in him which often made him appear at a disadvantage when he was a guest at some formal dinner-party, and would perhaps be guilty of the sin of aggressiveness which he condemned in others. But when he was alone he was a delightful talker and a polished gentleman.

He had another amusing quarrel with the Scotch. "When drunk they are like no other drunk people I ever saw. I have watched them over and over again in the street. There is no gaiety, no brilliancy, no sense of enjoyment visible, but a stern, stupid, aspect of business in it all, as if they were intoxicated from a sense of duty!"

We had at that time in Glasgow a series of science lectures, delivered by the most grave and learned representatives of the scientific world. They were intended to be educational, and the audiences which filled

our largest hall showed how much they were appreciated. But the committee in charge thought it would be a delightful variety to get Mr. Bret Harte to undertake a lecture. He did so, and of course steered at once away from anything which could possibly be mistaken for science, and launched out in a brilliant description of the "Trek" into California some decades previously. The lecture was full of characteristic humour, subtle and delicious, but the audience long remained absolutely grave and evidently puzzled as to where the expected science was to come in, till the loud laugh—well known to his friends—of a genial professor broke the spell, and the necessary surgical operation having been thus completed, the people perceiving the joke of it all joined heartily in the fun, and a delightful hour was passed. I afterwards walked home with Bret Harte, and on remarking, "It was some time before your hearers found your bearings," he replied, "Yes, it put me in mind of Wendel Holmes, who once went to lecture in a Wesleyan Chapel in some out-of-the-way place. He cracked his best jokes, but it was no use. Nothing could disturb the deep solemnity of his audience. Thoroughly depressed by his experience he was hurriedly passing through the crowd in the street to reach his hotel when he overheard one man say to another: 'Wa-al, do you know once or twice it was all I could do to keep from smiling!' The remark amply rewarded him." THE EDITOR.

London's Yearly Losses

As compared with the figures for 1899 the property lost in 1900 showed an increase of fifteen hundred articles; the said increase, however, is practically confined to the item "umbrellas," which more than hold their own as the most losable article ever invented, the number of other articles most frequently lost proving to be practically constant.

Of those items showing an increase we note that four more bags were garnered into the Yard in 1900 than in 1899, and instead of a paltry 2662 as in 1898 the total stood at 2813.

Whether cabs are freely utilised as dressing-

rooms is a moot point, but judging from the fact that over two thousand male and the same number of feminine garments are annually left in them, it is believed that for the purpose of saving time they must at times be resorted to for that purpose. Londoners, however, what with streets "up" for various reasons and the congested traffic, are more accustomed to lose time than gain it, but in one sense at least the amount of time lost in 1900 was considerably less than in 1899 and 1898, for, whereas 210 watches in the former and 192 in the latter year were left as mementoes in various vehicles by the thoughtless, the total in 1900 was but 180, which would provide material for one huge timepiece, the face of which would comprise 540 square inches and, having a diameter of $26\frac{1}{4}$ inches, would possess a circumference of 6 feet 4 inches.

Apart from miscellaneous commodities (taken in the aggregate) and, of course, the umbrella which is unrivalled in its possession of the fine art of losing itself, the purse is more frequently lost than any other portable article, and the number lost, moreover, shows a steady annual increase, doubtless attributable to the increasing difficulty experienced by ladies to find their pockets when desirous of replacing their purse after abstracting the necessary shilling or penny, according as to whether the traveller journeys by cab or 'bus.

That opera- and field-glasses have fallen off, so far as numbers lost are concerned, from 757 in 1898 and 763 in 1899 to 742 in 1900, is probably due to the fact that the

British public, since the commencement of the war, has not been so constant a theatre-goer as usual.

Rugs may be said to have fairly held their own, for the falling off in numbers lost is but eleven less than in 1899, whilst in comparison with the year before a gain of thirty-two is disclosed.

Thirty-nine less sticks were left in vehicles in 1900 than in 1899 and three less than in 1898.

Some few years ago when the moderate total of 17,113 deserted umbrellas were deposited at New Scotland Yard the decrease was attributed to the great falling off in American visitors during that year: this year it is expected that the great influx of coronation visitors will result in all previous records being broken, and that the figures given in the latest return (19,077) will be altogether eclipsed.

H. M.

The Lhasa Terrier

WHAT kind of dog is this? Ah, that is just the question. That it is a terrier of some kind is agreed, even though it does carry its tail curled over its back, but as its home is in Tibet, and beyond the frontiers of British India generally, the christening of it was rather a difficulty, and Bhutear, Tibetan, Kashmir, Lhasa, Leh, and Skardo terrier are half a dozen of the "show" names by which it is, or has been known. What the pedigree of the little animal may be does not much matter, for among well-known "breeds" of dogs there are many of very modern



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