

Reflections on the big fight

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genial tastes, and not a few old intimates. His geniality and kindness won him wide popularity in England, as well as abroad, and his comprehensive knowledge of artistic and archaeological subjects, as well as of European politics and personalities, made his conversation as interesting as it was instructive. Sir Henry Angst married an English lady, who died before him, leaving no children."

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SWISS LEGATION

HOSPITALS OF LONDON COMBINED APPEAL.

The Swiss Legation inform us that the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E. the Spanish Ambassador, has addressed a circular note to the foreign Missions accredited to the Court of St. James's, suggesting a special subscription amongst the foreign colonies in the United Kingdom in favour of the London Hospitals. Attached to his note was a copy of the "Hospitals of London Combined Appeal," organized by King Edward's Hospital Fund, under the patronage of H.M. the King.

His Excellency pointed out that in view of the very difficult financial position of these charitable institutions an effort made by the foreign residents would be highly recommendable.

At the meeting of the Presidents of the Swiss Societies in London, held at the Legation on May 16th, this proposition has been discussed. It was agreed that in view of the fact that the majority of the Swiss residents in London have already received individually the said appeal and sent in contributions to some extent; that, on the other hand, a special collection is made every year in the Swiss Church in favour of the London Hospitals; and that the Legation have, owing to the present state of things, been obliged to appeal repeatedly to the charity of their countrymen, a subscription to the said purpose hardly seems justified.

However, the desire was expressed at the meeting that the matter should be reported in *The Swiss Observer*, with the view of drawing once more the attention of the Swiss Colony to the difficulties experienced by the London Hospitals, and of reminding Swiss residents that donations may be forwarded to the Treasurers and Trustees, Hospitals of London Combined Appeal, 19, Berkeley Street, W.1.

To the Editor *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—Some time ago members of the Swiss Colony have drawn my attention to two articles published in the Swiss papers "L'Impérial" and "La Tribune de Lausanne," insinuating that a Swiss firm established in London had made a "report" to the Foreign Office suggesting that the British visa for Swiss citizens should be maintained. It was added that this extraordinary step had been taken by "one of the most influential members of the Swiss Colony in England."

I have not failed to make the necessary enquiry on the subject, and I am glad to be able to inform you that, according to a note received from the Foreign Office, no trace of such correspondence can be found in any Department of His Majesty's Government.

I should feel obliged if you would kindly publish a communication to that effect in *The Swiss Observer*.

Yours, etc.,
C R. PARAVICINI.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE BIG FIGHT.

By a Spectator.

Urgent business had kept me late at the office on Thursday, May 11th. It was past ten when, walking up Fleet Street, homeward bound, my thoughts on the day's affairs were suddenly interrupted by the shrill voices of the newspaper boys announcing the "Result of the Big Fight."

Everybody knows now what happened: how Carpentier struck the much discussed knock-out blow within 150 seconds.

I drew a mental picture of the large crowds assembled at Olympia to witness the contest of the two champions. I could hear the shouts of triumph in favour of the successful winner and the groans of disappointment and despair of those who backed the loser.

And being a business man, I was envious of the large amount of free publicity given by the Press in favour of two gentlemen who in return had nothing to offer which would benefit mankind, although I realised that the anticipation of this free publicity was a large factor in the minds and calculations of the promoters in fixing up the respective purses for the prize fighters.

Net Result of the Big Fight:—

A third-rate pugilistic display lasting 150 seconds
Disappointed spectators 20,000

But

Hard cash for Carpentier* £7,500

do. for Kid Lewis £2,500

do. for the Promoters £ x

Educational, humanitarian, benevolent
or scientific contribution NIL.

* * *

And then my mind turned to another Big Fight, a

struggle equally absorbing, but fraught with much bigger issues than £ s. d.—a struggle for "To Be" or "Not to Be"—namely, the Armstrong case.

Again, as a business man, my envy got the better of me at the thought of the columns and columns of free publicity given to a cause which benefits nobody—not even the prisoner—because whatever the newspapers may report it has no influence on the jury's final decision.

But all the same, the thought of the Armstrong case touched me infinitely more than the Carpentier-Lewis or any other fight between boxing champions. Why? Because it is not a question of a count of ten, but a count of Eternity. Certainly, everybody has to meet the final count sooner or later, but there is all the difference between a natural death and the hangman's rope.

The Big Fight! What a difference! The Carpentier-Lewis championship was decided in 150 seconds. Armstrong fought for dear life at Hereford for a week, but despite all his knowledge of the legal game and all his clever fencing and sparring, the long arm and heavy hand of Justice delivered at last the knock-out blow.

True, his able and devoted second, Sir Henry Curtis-Bennett, lodged an appeal on technical grounds. In reality, I think, this last desperate battle was fought to save the poor children from a terrible stigma.

But after more days of acute suspense for Armstrong the appeal was dismissed.

* * *

And now the stage of human life is set with another scene, equally dramatic and of supreme importance to the parties concerned. However, being an every-day occurrence, it does not come into the limelight of publicity to anywhere near the same extent. A simple two-line notice in the daily Press in small type is all.

Somebody from the large army of industrial workers has met with an accident. The ambulance has carried the unfortunate victim to the nearest hospital—and there the official newspaper story ends.

But what about the other side of the picture? The little cottage in the suburbs, the wife and the children waiting for the return of "daddy" with his weekly earnings to provide for rent, food and clothing and some little comforts besides.

Alas! Daddy, beloved by his wife and adored by his children, will never more return.

Instead, a friend of the deceased will break the news with that tact, austere simplicity and helpful sympathy which can only be found amongst working people.

There is no broadcasting of the news by the daily Press. Only the silent moon, looking down from the eternal heavens, is witness of the heartrending drama of a distracted mother, whose soul is rent with grief and sorrow trying to comfort her weeping children.

And should anybody fail to see the connection between this pen picture and the Big Fight, let them realise—that all the Big Fights of the world's gladiators and champions are as Nothing compared to the gigantic struggle of a distracted soul fighting its way from the stormy seas of misery and despair into the haven of tranquillity and hope.

* * *

Whilst the Big Fight between the two boxing champions was fought out and 'decided' in 150 seconds at Olympia, another and immeasurably bigger "Big Fight" was drawing to its final stages at Genoa.

From a personal point of view, no doubt, Olympia meant much to Carpentier and Kid Lewis. But to Mankind it meant NOTHING.

On the other hand: Genoa means much—perhaps everything—because "The Peace of Europe" is the issue.

But unlike the Boxing Contest at Olympia, Genoa is not a fight to a finish, but only the first round in a titanic struggle between two powerful opponents, namely:—

(a) the united democracies fighting for the forces of Peace everywhere

versus

(b) militarism, armaments and the whole massed effort of reaction.

Without wishing to enter into politics or with the least desire to praise or criticize the actions of either Mr. Lloyd George or M. Poincaré, it is my personal view that in this Big Fight they should not be regarded as the principals, but merely as the seconds in the ring—liable to be replaced by other seconds.

But the fight between the opposing groups of Ideas and Ideals must eventually be fought to a finish. I, as an interested spectator, feel inclined to back (a) because "a great idea once born can never die," and I place my full confidence in the sound judgment of the greatest and most impartial of all referees, namely:—

"THE CONSCIENCE OF MANKIND."



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