



DINNER TO MR. THOMAS CUBITT'S WORKMEN, AT THE NEW RESIDENCE OF THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY, CHESHAM-PLACE

THE NEW RESIDENCE OF THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY. CHRISTMAS is usually the scene of those pleasant festivities which unite the higher and lower classes in one common enjoyment. A remarkable instance of this occurred on Monday the 27th instant, on the completion of the new residence of the Russian Embassy in Chesham-place; when the kindness and hospitality of the Baron Brunnow were displayed in an entertainment given by his Excellency to about 200 of the workmen employed in Mr. Thomas Cubitt's establishment, who have been occupied during the past ten months in the necessary alterations.

To form Chesham-house, as the future residence of the Imperial Embassy is designated, two of the largest mansions in Chesham-place have been thrown into one—a task of no ordinary difficulty, and requiring the most skillful arrangement. The whole of the ordinary fronts of the two houses have been thrown into one handsome facade, the doors removed, and the entrance to the embassy made through two ornamental lodges, opening into a spacious court-yard from Lyall-street.

On the occasion referred to, the walls were decorated with garlands of evergreens, expressive of a hearty Christmas welcome to the guests. The good taste of the *maitre d'hôtel* had also introduced from the temporary residence of the Baron Brunnow two portraits of the Queen and Prince Albert, which formed the most conspicuous ornaments of the vast range of apartments. A medallion transparency of her Majesty, with the motto "Vivat Regina" over the staircase, and a colossal representation of the Imperial Russian arms between the entrances to the principal saloons, completed the interior decorations. The tables were spread along the length of the drawing-rooms, extending between 200 and 300 feet, and a liberal feast crowned the board.

Mr. Pearce, the *maitre d'hôtel* of the Baron Brunnow, occupied the

chair, supported by the principal employes of Mr. Cubitt, whose son, Mr. George Cubitt, was also present.

Shortly after the guests had taken their seats, his Excellency the Baron Brunnow, accompanied by the Baroness and their daughter, and a few private friends, entered the room. His Excellency went round the tables, spoke to the guests and the chairman, and altogether evinced great interest in the scene.

After dinner the chairman proposed "The health of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen," which was drunk with enthusiasm, and followed by a few bars of the National Anthem.

The next toast was that of his "Royal Highness Prince Albert," with which was coupled the rest of the Royal Family.

Mr. Robert Waller proposed "The health of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia." He was sure it would require no recommendation from him to secure for this toast a worthy reception. He should not attempt to compliment, by any feeble words of his own, the exalted individual whose name he had been permitted to introduce, but would content himself with the simple expression of an earnest hope that the good feeling and friendship which had so long existed between our gracious Sovereign and the Emperor of Russia might never be interrupted (Loud cheers). When the applause with which this toast was received had subsided, the band played the "Russian National Hymn." After which

The chairman said he was sure the tribute of respect which had been so cordially paid to his Imperial Majesty must be truly gratifying to his Excellency Baron de Brunnow, the Baroness, and the family.

Mr. John Waller, in a neatly eulogistic speech, proposed "The Health of his Excellency Baron de Brunnow," and thanks to him for the kind entertainment they had that day enjoyed.

His Excellency Baron de Brunnow presented himself, and begged permission, in his own name as well as that of his family, to express the pleasure they felt at seeing so large a company assembled on the occasion. It had been considered that the first entertainment to be given in their new residence was due to those who had assisted in completing it, and he returned to those present his sincerest acknowledgments for the kind manner

in which his health had been proposed and drunk. He regretted very much the poor accommodation at present afforded for their entertainment, and could only hope that their meeting was as satisfactory to them as their presence was gratifying to himself and family (Cheers).

The chairman felt sure he should be pardoned if he added a few words to what had fallen from the lips of his Excellency, whose last expression, before entering the splendid mansion in which they had assembled, was, that he thanked God, up to the present time, those employed upon the works had been protected from all serious accident (Cheers).

Mr. Scurry proposed "The health of the Baroness Brunnow," to whose excellent taste and judgment, as one of the draftsmen employed on the works, he had on many occasions been greatly indebted (Cheers).

This toast was received with marked enthusiasm, and followed by a duet, sung by the Misses Brougham.

His Excellency Baron Brunnow thanked the company for their kind reception of the toast—the health of the Baroness Brunnow. "Of course (added his Excellency), I have often been the witness of the suggestions she has made during the progress of these works, and I am bound to admit that her suggestions have been invariably carried out where it was possible. But there is one important thing she would have desired—she would have desired better accommodation for your entertainment this day (Cries of "No, no"). But your forbearance and your good temper have rendered our task easy indeed. I cannot thank you enough for this good temper, which is the peculiar characteristic of Englishmen (Cheers). There is another peculiarity of Englishmen also, and that is, they never fail in gratitude for kindness shown to them. I therefore appeal to your good feeling to join me in drinking to the good health of Mr. Thomas Cubitt" (Cheers).

Mr. George Cubitt returned thanks for the honour that had been paid to his father's name.

The Baron and Baroness here left the room, and the remainder of the evening was devoted to the most perfect social enjoyment, the hospitalities of the day being prolonged until a late hour.

## TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. S. F. RAMSEY.

THIS very handsome silver-gilt Snuff-box, made by Williams and Clapham, of the Strand, has been forwarded to Canada West, for presentation to the Rev. Septimus F. Ramsey, M.A. (late incumbent of St. Michael's, Burlingame-street), by the members of his respective congrega-



SILVER-GILT SNUFF-BOX PRESENTED TO THE REV. S. F. RAMSEY, M.A.

tions in the townships of Whitechurch and East Gwillimbury, in token of the high sense they entertain of his public services and private worth. The Bishop of Toronto has been pleased to express his satisfaction at the state of the churches in Mr. Ramsey's mission; and has highly approved of the testimonial which he so well deserved.

## GOURA VICTORIA PIGEONS.

THESE handsome birds—*Goura Steursii* (M. Temminck)—are found in the large islands of the Indian Archipelago and New Guinea. They live in the dense forests, and feed upon berries, seeds, grains, &c., which they seek for on the ground. The nest is formed upon a tree; and, like most of the species of pigeons, they lay but two eggs. The specimens here figured will be exhibited at the Poultry Show, to be held next week, at the Bazaar, Baker-street, Portman-square—originally announced to take place at the Oval, Kennington; the change being made in consequence of an objection by the Duchy of Cornwall to the Exhibition being held at the Oval, which is their property. The Show will commence on Tuesday, the 11th instant, to be continued the three following days. We intend to illustrate some of the most remarkable Prizes next week.



GOURA VICTORIA PIGEONS, TO BE EXHIBITED AT THE POULTRY SHOW, BAZAAR, BAKER-STREET.