

THE LORD MAYOR ELECT.

ALDERMAN WILLIAM LAWRENCE, who has been chosen by his fellow-citizens to occupy the distinguished position of Chief Magistrate for the ensuing year, is the eldest son of the late Alderman Lawrence, so well known to the leaders of public opinion for the active part he took for nearly thirty years in every movement in the city of London tending to promote the political and social progress of the people. His active participation in public affairs did not, however, withdraw his attention from commercial pursuits, in which he was eminently successful, having founded the firm of William Lawrence and Sons, the well-known builders and contractors, and the owners of many of the valuable new buildings in Cannon-street and its vicinity.

At his death the present Lord Mayor Elect became the senior partner in the firm, the second partner being Alderman James Clarke Lawrence, who has just served the office of Sheriff of London and Middlesex.

The late Alderman Lawrence represented the ward of Bread-street from 1848 until his death, in 1855. He was also in the commission of the peace for the county of Middlesex, and served the office of Sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1849-50. The present Lord Mayor Elect was selected by the ward as his father's successor in the Court of Aldermen, and he has won the esteem of his constituents by the able manner in which he has discharged the various duties of Alderman and Sheriff. During his shrievalty, in 1857-8, he had the honour of being present at the marriage of the Prince of Prussia with the Princess Royal. He has been for many years a magistrate for the county of Middlesex, and was appointed by the Common Council to succeed the late Mr. Alderman Cubitt as their representative at the Metropolitan Board of Works.

Possessed of considerable political influence, the Lord Mayor Elect and his family have always supported the Liberal cause, from a conviction that that cause was identified with the progress of liberty in every part of the world. The history of the City affords no other instance of a father and two sons having filled the office of Alderman and having served the office of Sheriff of London and Middlesex, the eldest son being about to fill the high office of chief magistrate of the ancient Corporation of London. The Lord Mayor Elect is a bachelor, and his sister,



THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM LAWRENCE, THE NEW LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

Miss Lawrence, will be the Lady Mayoress. Remembering the way in which Alderman Lawrence has hitherto discharged his public and private duties, we have no doubt that he will so acquit himself of the duties of his new position as to retain and increase the esteem and regard of his fellow-citizens and uphold the privileges and hospitalities of this ancient Corporation.

Our portrait is taken from a photograph by the London Stereoscopic and Photographic Company.

THE DANUBE AND BLACK SEA RAILWAY.

THE harbour of Kustendjie, on the Black Sea, and the railway connecting it with the Danube—of which Illustrations are given on the preceding page—are examples of British enterprise, having been constructed by an English company for the purpose of opening up the trade of the Danube by giving it a safe access to the sea which should avoid the dangers of its notorious mouths.

For this purpose advantage has been taken of a bend in that river two hundred miles above its mouth, where it approaches within forty miles of the sea. Across the isthmus thus formed a railway has been constructed, and thus a safe and rapid transit of forty miles has been substituted for two hundred miles of tortuous and dangerous navigation through the Delta and seventy miles of sea passage. The line has now been open for about three years, and a considerable part of the Danube trade, besides all the passengers and the mails for Constantinople, pass over it, Constantinople being thus brought within a week's journey from London. That this railway will become the great channel of trade for the countries bordering on the Danube, and will develop the resources of these important districts, may be confidently predicted. Its position, indeed, is such as to render it the main link in a chain of steam communication connecting western and central Europe with the whole south-western part of Asia.

The port of Kustendjie now admits vessels of large size to load alongside quays. This port was, until the company commenced its improvement, little better than an open roadstead.

Kustendjie is highly interesting to the antiquarian. The name, which is a corruption of Constantia, indicates that it was a Roman colony of the time of the Byzantine Emperors. It was, in



CATASTROPHE AT A VILLAGE ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE LAKE OF COMO.—SEE NEXT PAGE.