

State of the Nation

July 1825

London begins to rebuild. It is a city used to getting back on its feet and people knuckle down to the hard work. None the less there is depression on the streets especially in the Westminster area. Those who had worked so hard on the abbey mortified to see it smashed to nothing already.

People are drafted in from Peterloo where many have no jobs, in order to bolster the workforce. Brandy lays on extra trains to take them back and forth, they are provided free. Housing is an issue and most people have to return each night, the expense for Brandy must be huge.

A number of issues come to light:

The area known as the 'east end' of London, badly blighted by acid has become something of a no go area as gangs have swiftly taken over. For now the army and the yeomanry and the bow street runners are steering clear, after all at least whilst most of the attention of the criminal fraternity is focused there it is not causing trouble elsewhere.

The army's numbers are sorely damaged with many officers and troops dead. There needs to be a fairly major recruitment drive if the army is to rebuild to anything like its former glory.

The sewers are a disaster zone, there are still people trapped under half collapsed streets, a man named Castor Fellows from the Runners has been placed in charge of investigating them, and has called for volunteers to investigate any of the four 'areas' of sewer system.

In a grand philanthropic gesture Lord Danforth Mamalade (some say in an effort to win back some support that he has lost of late from the King) has thrown his weighty fortune behind the orphanages of London town, sure to be overwhelmed at a time like this. The gesture has raised his support in the court although there are still a number of unsavoury rumours flying around about the man and his connections to the French.

On the quiet (although obvious to those involved) the Royal Society have put out feelers to a number of members of the nobility that they are looking to try out a number of rites and rituals involving them and that volunteers would be welcome and rewarded. They guarantee discretion in the matter but demand secrecy also.

In the quiet hours of the night the Commissioner for the Lords passed away. Lady Bridget Isis Constance, Duchess of York passed without note at the darkest time for London, it was well known that her will asked for no pomp and ceremony and she indicated to her aides that especially at this terrible time she wanted only the best for London and for no fuss to be made of her own demise. She will be remembered for her dignity and good service. She will be buried by Grimm's undertaking services in the last week of July.

The church is of course in some turmoil ~ during the dark period any number of religious relics were stolen including a number of reliquaries were stolen in the looting. Westminster being decimated once more has led to choices needing to be made – is it worth starting again people ask. Meanwhile services are brimming over. People have turned as often they do, to the church for solace and respite and are looking to the church for answers. More than that there is mass mourning also with people grieving for those they lost in Canterbury and those killed in the assault on London. It is a sad time and even lay preachers have been asked to help giving services to deal with the numbers.

Of the court of Henry little is spoken, but it is confirmed that the land around Guildford is almost utterly obliterated. Reports tell of tiny clumps of people sheltering in night on destroyed buildings but even they are scarce.

Canterbury it is confirmed by Agrin three-fingers is completely gone. There are in the wastes many creatures made of sunlight, and shattered masonry. There is basically nothing left. Agrin, who is something of a scout into the Wasteland has been able to recover a few people and bring them back to London, and is pretty sure there are more out there. For now they have been housed in a makeshift hall (once a stable) at the Halls of the World, there being no space in hospitals at the moment. Talks continue about Richard Chains of God, but support for him grows in some areas hit hard by the attacks. He is a powerful speaker and really rather inspirational to men.

The Navy have suffered greatly when Canterbury was destroyed as it seems that this disrupted the shipping channels that were discovered recently. Any number of ships have been lost and there is something of a call to send out a number of boats to investigate the losses.

Aztecs, many of whom were absent from London at the time of the attacks are returning to London, some of them have offered services if required in the rebuilding of London or in other ways they may be able to assist. Nobody is quite sure of their motives.

The trade route to the Manchu province has remained intact and trade continues with these once far flung lands. The East India Company are doing well under the circumstances, supplying all manner of goods. Quite a number of Chinese delegates have arrived recently, although most have been put off by the state of London!

Rumour spreads of creatures previously hidden that now stalk the London streets at night. There is still no curfew, but the night life of London is significantly quieter, people are still scared.

Richard Nash – noted socialite - has been asked to organise a huge street party to celebrate London's survival. While some people see this as a waste of funds most accept that the populace could do with a boost to morale. He has appealed for any support, notably people who have featured heavily in the recent troubles. The party is to be held in the third week of August.

Naturally this doesn't cover everything going on in London, only some of the notable happenings.

Summer Holidays

Frail Lives recommences tomorrow (11th July), and until the End of August 2009 if your account is in positive balance you may put in one biography turn for free.

For Payment details please contact Chris on chrisinbirmingham@hotmail.com

Frail Lives turns to: frailives@frailrealities.net or fl@frailrealities.net

As ever, questions & queries are welcome to me at my address above.