

## MILLE ALBANI.

The *Illustrated London News* has the following respecting the Canadian cantatrice, Milie Lajeunesse, whose portrait appeared in our pages on the 27th January last:—

"This young lady, whose performances at the Royal Italian Opera have been noticed in our chronicle of musical entertainments, bears an Italian name in public, but is a French Canadian, and her proper name is Emma La Jeunesse. She belongs to the old Acadian family of that name immortalized in Longfellow's 'Evangeline.' She was trained in the study of music from early childhood by her father (himself a skilled musician), who recognized with delight the talents of his little daughter. Losing their mother while still of tender years, she and her sisters were sent to the convent of the Sacré Cœur, at Montreal, to complete their education. But in a few years her proficiency on the organ attracted such attention that, for the peace of the convent, the good sisters were obliged to bid their young guests a tender and sorrowful farewell. Her father then, by the urgent advice of friends, determined to send her to Europe for instructions not attainable elsewhere. Under the care of Baroness Laïtte, she was two years at Paris, where she studied under the famous Duprez. He then sent her on to the old maestro Lamperti, at Milan, who, when he heard her, exclaimed, with reference to her reluctance to go on the stage, 'Ah! there is a fortune in that little throat, but there is only one way to find it.' Several years of hard study followed, till at length, her scruples overcome, she made her debut at Messina, under her present name, in 1870, with entire success. At the end of the first act she was engaged for Malta. Her sojourn in that island was most gratifying. Both Maltese and English residents, with the many travellers, yachtsmen, and Indian officers who make the island a resting place en route from East to West, were delighted to hail the advent of the sweet Canadian nightingale—a rare avis whose feet had never before alighted on that classic yet sterile rock. The fame of her singing, as well as of the grace of her presence and manner, spread to England; and the director of the Royal Italian Opera, having satisfied himself of the truth, secured this new attraction for his establishment. Her debut in England was expected, and, indeed, announced in private circles, last July; but Mr Gye, as soon as he heard her in rehearsal, determined, rather than destroy its éclat, to postpone it to the commencement of a new season. Milie Albani therefore resumed her studies at Milan, and last winter sang in the theatre of La Pergola, at Florence, before the most critical audience in Italy, to whom she was heralded by a message from the old maestro that 'he was sending them the most accomplished musician and the most finished singer in style that ever left his studio.' How well she was to redeem his words the Florentines were soon convinced. The papers of Italy repeated her praises, and the *pulce scenico* of La Pergola was carpeted with wreaths and flowers each time she sang. Her crowning effort was in the 'Mignon' of Ambrose Thomas, already condemned in four theatres in Italy, but which in Milie Albani's hands obtained a complete success among the jealous Italians. The degree in which she has succeeded in satisfying a London audience is known to our readers."

## SEA SICKNESS.

The *Scientific American* publishes on this subject the following extracts from an article in the *British Medical Journal* by Sir James Alderson, M.D., F.R.S., consulting physician to St. Mary's Hospital:—

The cause of sea sickness and its possible amelioration is a subject particularly appropriate at the present time.

Referring to the experience of sufferers from sea sickness, it is admitted by all that they are most sensible of the miserable feeling at the moment of the descent of the ship. They are also conscious, at that particular time, of an instinctive effort to sigh or take a deep inspiration, the meaning of which is manifest. During deep inspiration, the chest is dilated for the reception of air, and its vessels become more open to admit blood, so that a return of blood from the head is then more free than at any other period of complete respiration; while on the contrary, by the act of expelling air from the lungs the ingress of blood is obstructed. This obstruction is proved by observation when the surface of the brain is exposed by the operation of trephining: a successive turgescence and subsidence of the brain is then seen in alternate motion with different states of the chest. A deep inspiration, therefore, at the time of the descent of the ship tends to counteract the turgescence of the brain.

Sickness is sometimes produced by waltzing. In this case, the same theory of pressure on the brain holds good; but during rapid gyration in waltzing, the blood is acted on differently; it is centrifugal force which causes the blood to rise in the vessels supplied to the brain. There is an additional cause of cerebral disturbance from the confusion of objects rapidly presented to the eye; from this comes giddiness.

In reference to sickness brought on by swinging, I cannot do better than quote Dr. Wollaston: "Sickness, by swinging, is evidently from the same cause as sea sickness, and that direction of the motion which occasions the most piercing sensation of uneasiness is conformable to the same explanation already given. It is in descending forward that this sensation is perceived, for then the blood has the greatest tendency to move from the feet towards the head, since the line joining them is in the direction of the motion; but when, in the descent backwards, the motion is transverse to the line of the body, it occasions but little inconvenience, because the tendency to propel the blood towards the head is then inconsiderable."

The last observation of Dr. Wollaston, quite accurate as to the result, plainly suggests the practical bearing of the subject. Knowing the mode in which the ship's movement acts on the brain, we are at once furnished with the only rational way of averting sea sickness.

The first point is wholly to avoid the upright posture. Every one knows that it is a common practice to lie down, and this is done almost instinctively, but it is also known that to do so, though frequently successful, is not invariably so. The way in which the motion in a swing affects the brain affords the proper explanation why lying down is not invariably successful, and shows that it is necessary not only to take a recumbent position, but to lie in the right direction. A person lying down with the feet towards the bows of the

ship is, while it descends in pitching, in the same position as a person in a swing descending forwards, in which case we have seen that sickness is produced by blood being forced upon the brain. On the contrary, a person lying down with his head towards the bows is, during the descent of a ship, in the position of one descending backwards in a swing, in which case the pressure by the blood will be towards the feet, and therefore, relief rather than inconvenience will be experienced, as the tendency will be to reduce the natural supply of blood to the brain. It is necessary, therefore, not only to lie down, but to do so with the head to the bows; and it is highly desirable that this position should be assumed before the ship begins to move. There is a secondary advantage to be gained by closing the eyes, and so shutting out the confusion arising from the movement of surrounding objects.

If the philosophical explanation here given be the correct one, which there is no reason to doubt, it adds one more to many unanswerable objections to the device of taking passengers in railway carriages on board gigantic vessels. No relief would be afforded by that plan to the miseries of sea sickness, since, except in a perfect calm, nothing can prevent the rising and falling of the ship and the consequent action of the blood upon the brain. The sitting posture would be equally unfavourable with the upright, and there would be, in addition, the common motion of a carriage, which alone, with some persons, produces sickness.

PIANO-FORTE RECITAL.—On the 28th inst. Madame Nina Pizzotti gives a Piano-forte recital at the Mechanics' Hall, on which occasion she will be assisted by a large number of talented musicians. This young lady, who has already made her name famous, is a native of Brussels, though her father was a Spaniard. The programme for Tuesday evening is an exceedingly attractive one, and will doubtless draw a large audience.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

THE Agricultural Society of France offers a prize of 2,000 francs and a medal for the best memoir "On the Theory and Practice of Irrigation." The papers are to be sent to the Secretary before the end of this year.

A NOVEL USE FOR COLMAN'S MUSTARD LABELS.—Rain Epeli, the Governor of Tai Levu, is getting his taxes in at a fine rate. Upwards of 2,000 dollars, gathered along a coast line of a few miles, explains the whereabouts of our silver currency. A few of Colman's fancy mustard labels have been paid to the native tax-gatherer for dollar notes. The white man who paid these things to the natives for money deserves to have a mustard plaster applied to him by the Government moral health officer.—*Court Journal*.

That science is not above giving its attention to little things, is shown in *Le Mondeur Scientifique* Queneville for March, in which Dr. Queneville desires to save our linen from the destructive effects of soda and other washing-powders, by recommending the following mixture: Two pounds of soap are dissolved in five and a half gallons of nearly boiling water, and to this is added three large tablespoonfuls of ammonia and one of spirits of turpentine. In this the linen is to be soaked for three hours, when it is readily cleansed, requiring but little rubbing. Ammonia does not affect linen or woollen fibres as soda does.

THE MOGUL AND THE MASTIFFS.—Sir Thomas Roe took out some English mastiffs to India, as a present to the Great Mogul; they were of marvellous courage. One of them leaped overboard to attack a shoal of porpoises, and was lost. Only two of them lived to reach India. They travelled each in a little coach to Agra; one broke loose by the way, fell upon a large elephant, and fastened on his trunk; the elephant at last succeeded in hurling him off. This story delighted the Mogul, and these dogs, in consequence, came to as extraordinary a fortune as Whittington's cat. Each had a palanquin to take the air in, with two attendants to bear him, and two more to walk on each side and fan off the flies. The Mogul had a pair of silver tongs made, that he might, when he pleased, feed them with his own hand.—*Cassell's Natural History*.

The German correspondent of the London *Guardian* says a curious phenomenon is to be seen in the northwest and east of Prussia. An emigration mania is in full progress. In Schleswig-Holstein it assumes extraordinary dimensions; whole villages are being emptied; the people are selling houses and land at ruinous prices,—there is a wholesale exodus. Emigration agents are busy shipping off the people, the greater and superior part to America, and the lesser part to Queensland. Another correspondent writes: "A village with good land in my district has only three families left in it, and they go in a week or two." This mania is fast spreading to Posen and East Prussia. Hundreds camp out at the railway stations, waiting for the trains to convey them away.

It is curious to note the prices paid for wild animals. Sales of the kind are rare, and there are so few persons who have any use for a lion or a tiger that the amounts paid are seldom remunerative to the party disposing of this sort of stock. Wombwell's menagerie, which has been in existence since 1805, was sold by auction at Edinburgh on the 9th ultimo. The performing elephant was purchased for the Manchester Zoological Gardens for about \$3,000. Pelicans were knocked down at \$35 each, a price which would hardly make their exportation from Louisiana remunerative. Wolves brought \$5.50 each, a price at which our English cousins can have all the coyotes on the prairies. A lion was sold for \$450, and a royal Bengal tigress for \$775. A male dromedary brought \$150. The sale realized about \$15,000. These figures are even surpassed in the case of a rhinoceros lately added to a menagerie now in Cincinnati. It was imported directly from Sumatra. The price paid for the animal was \$10,000 in gold, on board of the vessel, the purchaser assuming all risks of landing and transportation. Taking 12 per cent. as the average value of gold, it would bring the cost of the animal to \$11,200 in New York.

M. Francisque Sarcy, writing in the *XXVme Siècle*, mentions an almost incredible rumour. The Lyons Communists, being fully convinced that money is the sinews of insurrec-

tion as well as of war, are said to have hit upon a plan for filling their coffers with little trouble to themselves and at the expense of their enemies the middle classes. They offer to the members of some of the most important houses of business in Lyons to ensure their property against all damage of destruction by fire in case of a successful Red rising, in return for a stipulated monthly payment. Not only have many of the Lyons merchants submitted to this novel system of blackmail, but some of them pay as much as £200 a year for this newly invented insurance against petroleum. The ingenuity of the Rue Grôlée Communists, however, did not stop at obtaining blackmail from their enemies, the rich bourgeois. They have now made it a condition that all who were under their protection shall vote at the municipal elections as the famous committee shall direct. To prevent mistakes, the unfortunate bourgeois are required to show their voting papers to a Communist agent just before dropping them into the urn, and to carry them openly displayed, so that there may be no possibility of their voting for other than the "Red" candidates.

THE SIZE OF LONDON.—Some curious statistics of the size of London have lately been published, taken from the census of 1871. London has a population of 2,853,992. This is more than the combined population of New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Chicago, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Boston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Bango and Alleghany City, Pa. To lodge this vast multitude, 770,000 dwellings are required, and the people can consume annually about 4,480,000 barrels of flour, 420,000 bullocks, 2,075,000 sheep, 49,000 calves, 61,250 hogs, and one market alone supplies annually 7,043,750 head of game. This, together with 7,200,000 salmon, besides other fish and flesh, is washed down by 75-760,000 gallons of ale and porter, 4,500,000 gallons of spirits, and 113,750 pipes of wine. 22,497 cows are required to supply the daily consumption of milk. The streets of London are 2,900 in number, and if put together would extend about 4,000 miles. They are lighted by 620,000 lamps, consuming in 24 hours 22,370,000 cubic feet of gas. The water system supplies 77,670,828 gallons daily, while the sewer system carries off 16,629,770 cubic feet of refuse matter. A fleet of 1,800 sail is employed irrespective of railroads, in bringing annually 5,240,000 tons of coal. Bituminous coal is exclusively used, and the smoke arising from this immense quantity is said to be so dense that it can be seen thirty-five miles from the city. To clothe the inhabitants requires 7,150 tailors, 50,400 boot and shoe makers, and nearly 70,000 dress makers and milliners. Berlin, according to the recent census, has a population of 828,913; Paris, in 1867, the year of the Exposition Universelle, 1,889,462; and Constantinople, 1864, 1,070,000.

A CENSOR OF LADIES IN 1550.—The moralizers of all ages, Pagan, Jewish and Christian, have agreed in their violent abuse of what they call the "weaker sex," and they have not disagreed as to the principal topics of complaint, which have been those associated with the love of dress and personal ornament. A reverend satirist, whose poems have just been discovered by the Early English Text Society, shows how severely the clergy could scold the ladies in the reign of King Edward VI. Archdeacon Crowley, to whom we refer, uses language so outrageous that we cannot repeat it here. After denouncing "the cap on their head," and "the fine gear on the forehead," our gentle shepherd proceeds to say:

If their hair will not take colour,  
Then must they buy new,  
And lay it out in tussocks....  
At each side a tussock,  
As big as a ball....

He then animadverts upon painted faces, bare bosoms, small waists, and hooped skirts, winding up with censures upon shoes and rings. Of course we must believe he exaggerates, but we are bound to believe that the eccentricities of fashion in 1550 bore some resemblance to those of the last twenty years. He supplies us with one feature, however, which can scarcely be said to find a parallel in the attire of our day. We mean the "tussocks" of hair, as he calls them, on each side of the head. Of course he alludes to the custom of wearing the hair in large masses, which rose on each side of the head, as we see represented in ancient portraits and monuments. In another poem the writer says:

Let thine hair bear the same colour  
That nature gave it to endure;

and

Paint not thy face in any wise,  
But make thy manners for to shine.

One of his rules, by no means objectionable, is this:

Let thine apparel be honest;  
Be not decked past thy degree;  
Neither let thou thine head be drest  
Otherwise than becometh thee.

There is a sentence in one of Crowley's prose compositions, with which we will conclude. It is addressed to the married clergy: "Let your wives, therefore, put off their fine frocks and French hoods, and furnish themselves with all points of honest housewifery, and so let them be an help to your study, and not a let."

An Iowa man recently died from swallowing a pocket-knife and injudicious medical treatment combined. He got along very nicely as long as the knife was closed; but when the doctor gave him opening medicine it killed him.

A new toy has just appeared in Paris. It is a tetrotum with four sides, on which are inscribed the words Legitimacy, Orleansism, Bonapartism, and Republic. The game consists in betting on the side which may turn up when the instrument has been spun.

"GIVE YOUR ORDERS, GENTLEMEN."—The late Mr. Gillott heard of Mr. Danby, saw his works, and appreciated them. He asked the price of a certain size of canvas, the reply was the picture would be £100. With a flowing style the connoisseur immediately said he would take a dozen.—*Court Journal*.

The *Ellsworth American* publishes the following independent announcement under the marriage head:—Bluehill.—By the Rev. H. P. Guilford, Capt. J. C. Bunker, C. Ellsworth, and Miss Lillie A. Allen, of Bluehill. No cards, no cake, and nobody's business.