

darkness and the haze of rain and spray; while three or four luggers, manned by the fearless and expert boatmen of our coast, with sails and oars employed to the best advantage in this stern conflict against the fury of the elements, are making their way, slowly but stubbornly, to the side of the doomed ship, with a view to save the lives of her crew, and also to earn the due salvage reward for so much of her cargo as they may bring ashore. Two boats, with some of the sailors and passengers, have meantime left the wreck, and the pieces of timber floating past seem to tell of the destruction that has just overtaken another part, involving some loss of human life; for the object at which the men in the boat are so eagerly catching, in the wave that dashes against her gunwale, can be nothing of a less precious nature, or they would rather consult their own safety by letting it go.

Miscellaneous.

Kaiser Wilhelm is expected to attend the Czar's birthday party, at St. Petersburg, on the 29th of April.

The King of Italy has conferred on his son-in-law, Prince Napoleon, the title of Count de Moncalieri, a place near Turin.

The arrangements for importing Chinese miners from San Francisco have utterly broken down. They were intended for the coal department.

"An amorphous botch, out of which nothing enduring can ever be made," is said to have been Mr. Carlyle's definition of the ill-fated Dublin University Bill.

It is a sad sign of the moral state of the French bourgeoisie in 1872 that the number of one year's volunteers, which it was hoped would amount to 50,000, is only 3,900.

Another meeting of Caesars is to take place. The Emperor of Austria is expected to take part in the interview originally projected between the Emperors of Russia and Germany, in April next, in St. Petersburg.

Mr. Spurgeon, who hates the prefix of "Rev." has, they say, informed his friends that letters addressed to the "Rev." C. H. Spurgeon will be returned to the Dead Letter Office with "not known" written on them.

The marriage of the Archduchess Gisela of Austria with Prince Leopold of Bavaria, will take place four days earlier than the date originally fixed, in order not to interfere with the opening of the International Exhibition.

The oldest man now known to be living in the world is Joseph Martini Coutinho, a resident of Cape Frios, in the province of Rio Janeiro, Brazil. He was born May 20, 1691, and is therefore nearly one hundred and seventy-nine years old.

The fine woods of Scandinavia are likely to be turned into "broadsheets." A Dr. Silvester has been for some time in Sweden making experiments on the natural sawdust, and has succeeded in producing a pulp, of which excellent paper can be made.

The son of Baron Rothschild, the head of the Austrian branch, has not only married a Christian, but has abjured his faith for hers. He will succeed his father, and is, indeed, his only son and heir. His wife is a daughter of the Austrian Archduke Regner.

The "Great Eastern," lying in the Medway, almost abreast of the ancient town of Queenborough, has received on board the whole of the deep sea section of the new Atlantic cable. It is intended to lay it in the last days of May and the beginning of June, the great ship being appointed to leave her moorings on the 29th of May.

STRONGER AND YET STRONGER STILL.—Dr. Fucht, of Alt-Barm, in Silesia, is reported to have invented a new explosive which volatilises completely, leaving no residue, as nitro-glycerine does. One part of the new compound, which the inventor calls "fulminative," is stated to produce the effect of three parts dynamite.

Japan will be especially well represented at the Vienna Exhibition. The leather, paper, and porcelain manufactures are said to be far superior to any yet seen in Europe, while the raw products, including minerals, drugs, and fibres are most carefully classified. The collection was exhibited at Yedo for several days before its despatch to Europe.

The Paris Jardin des Plantes has just lost one of its veteran inhabitants. "Nono," a magnificent parrot, brought from the Marquesas in 1776 by Bougainville. Although "Nono" appeared to have passed the hundred years supposed to be the length of a parrot's life, the centenarian was as lively as ever, and his plumage just as gay, the only sign of age being the loss of his crest, his head being perfectly bald.

A letter from Es-sen says there will be sent to the Vienna Exhibition from the cannon foundry of Herr Krupp two specimens of his "big guns" that surpass anything of the kind the establishment has hitherto produced. The first is a gigantic brass cannon, the tube of which will be 6-70 metres in length, and 1-16 metres in diameter, and which will weigh 760 quintals, or 35,000 kilogrammes. The second is manufactured of one block of brass 1 metre long and 1-50 metre in diameter, of the weight of 1,000 quintals, or 50,000 kilogrammes.

The will of Napoleon the Third has been proved in England, as one of our foreign correspondents informs us. His personal property is sworn at under £120,000, and this he leaves to the Empress without reserve. To the Prince Imperial there is only one bequest, we are told—the Imperial Crown. If this be true, we have here a certain violation of the *ville Napoleonienne*, according to which any Bonaparte may govern who is called by the voice of the people. And the Emperor's will is in this respect an important manifesto to the Imperialists. It is a message to the friends of Prince Napoleon.

Mr. William Wright, of Sheffield, has patented an invention which promises to revolutionise our system of warming and lighting; he proposes in short, to use air for fuel. Atmospheric air is passed through a battery charged in such a manner that it carbonises the air which issues at the other end, combustible gas burning with a flame brighter than that of coal gas, and when mixed with atmospheric air having a heating power capable of melting copper wire. Mr. Wright calculates that gas may be made on this plan at a cost of 6d. per 1,000 feet, but the consumption will be one-half faster than that of coal gas, so that the price will be practically 9d. per 1,000 feet against the present rate.

Tobacco has been undergoing an investigation in France. The "weed" has often been subjected to analysis both by itself and in connection with its effects upon individuals. The result is that very few change their opinion: if an individual smokes or chews tobacco, he seldom thinks it is injurious to himself; if he does not use it all, he believes it to be universally harmful. One of the professors of the Polytechnic School in Paris recently made investigation into the habits and scholarship of the one hundred and sixty students. He found that one hundred and two were smokers, and fifty-eight never used tobacco. Further inquiry showed that in each grade the students who did not smoke outranked those who did smoke, and that the scholarship of the smokers steadily deteriorated as the smoking continued. Influenced by several reports of a similar nature, the Minister of Public Instruction in France has issued a circular to the directors of colleges and schools forbidding tobacco to students as injurious to physical and intellectual development.

Dramatic Notes.

Kate Reynolds is starring in New England.

Mr. Farjeon is dramatizing one of his stories.

"Divorce" has been revived at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York.

Mdme. Lucca has made \$10,000 since her arrival in the States.

The Beggar's Opera is being played at the Adelphi Theatre, London.

Winkle Collins has dramatized his last novel, "The New Magdalen."

The artists of the Comédie Française are expected in London next month.

M. Melhac and Halevy are writing an American play which they call "Jonathan."

Charlotte Thompson commenced an engagement at Savannah, Ga., on Tuesday.

A new comedy by M. Sardou, entitled "Andron," is under rehearsal at the Gymnase.

The Chicago Academy of Music is to be remodelled this summer at a cost of \$35,000.

Wagner's "Tannhauser" has made a great success at the Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels.

Dramatizations of "David Copperfield" and "The Old Curiosity Shop" have been running at the Adelphi, London.

"David Garrick" is still running at Wallack's Theatre, and to all appearances will be continued till the end of the season.

The Lydia Thomson troupe have been playing at Cleveland during the past week. Next week they appear at Pittsburgh.

Charlotte Cushman played last week at the Grand Opera House, Baltimore. It is said that she will leave shortly for England.

Mr. Tom Taylor has resigned his position as Secretary of the London Board of Public Health. He retires with a pension of \$3,250 a year.

Adalida Neilson was playing last week at McVicker's Theatre, Chicago, where the week before Edwina Booth was appearing in "Richard III."

Mdme. Lucca, on the occasion of her benefit at the New York Academy of Music on Monday week, was recalled six times after the end of the opera—"La Figlia del Reggimento." The receipts amounted to \$6,000.

It is expected that the new National Theatre at Bayreuth (Bavaria) will be completed in October next, when the rehearsals by Herr Wagner of his "Ring des Nibelungen" will be commenced, to be ready for performance in 1874.

The Imperial Chinese Theatrical Company will leave San Francisco about the middle of May for an Eastern tour. The company includes a celestial prince and princess, and will give entertainments embracing drama, opera, ballet and other scenes, and acrobatic and gymnastic feats. The stage wardrobe is said to be very rich and gorgeous.

A recent number of the *Court Journal* says:—At Charing Cross Theatre, which that admirable comedian, Mr. John S. Clarke, opened last November, Sheridan's comedy of "The Rivals" was represented on Wednesday evening for the one hundredth consecutive time—a feat absolutely without precedent or rival, and deserving a very honourable place in the records of the theatrical chronicler.

Mr. Mapleson has engaged for his opera season, at Drury Lane, Mlle. Ostara Torriani, a young Scandinavian soprano, and Signor Del Puente, an Italian baritone. Sir Michael Costa is conductor. One of the prominent attractions of the season will be the production of the posthumous opera by Michael Balfe, the libretto founded on Sir Walter Scott's "Talisman," the principal part to be sustained by Mme. Nilsson, for whom the "Mignon" of Ambroise Thomas will be revived.

The prospects for the next opera season in New York are, according to the *Dramatic World*, rather more promising than usual. Mr. Marczek has re-engaged Lucca and probably most of the other members of his present troupe. It is also reported that he is negotiating with Irma di Mursia. Mr. Strakosch is organizing a very strong troupe for the campaign, and has already engaged Madame Nilsson-Rouzeau, Mlle. Lorrand, Miss Annie Louise Cary, M. Capoul, Signori Campanini and Berfratelli, Signor Maurel, the favourite baritone of La Scala, Signor Del Puente, and Signor Naretti, basso. Signor Arditi will be the conductor, and Mr. Strakosch has secured the exclusive right of representing Verdi's "Aida" in America.

For the coming London season, Covent Garden will retain Mesdames Adelfina Patti, Pauline Lucca, Mombelli, Sinico, Albani, Smeroschi, Saar, and Scacchi; Signori Nicolini, Bettini, Erio, Marino, Graziani, Cotozoli, Ciampi, Capponi, Tagliacozzo, Baggiolo, and M. Faure. The engagements of twelve new artists are recorded in the prospectus—namely, Mesdames d'Angeri, Sassi, Pezzotta, Fossa, Loda, and Trisolini; Signori Montanaro, Nannetti, Edardi, Masini, Pavan, and M. Maurel. Of these names not one, except the French baritone, M. Maurel, has any great name in Italy. Mdme. Patti will appear in three new characters—Caterina, in an Italian version of Auber's "Les Diamans de la Couronne;" Elvira, in Verdi's "Ernani;" and Luisa Miller, in the same composer's opera of that name.

The *Dramatic World*, the best publication of its class in America, says that Wartel has under his tuition, in Paris, at present, two American lasses. One is a Baltimore girl, only twenty years old, who, the professor boasts, will be able after two more years of study, to sing in the original key, the part of the *Queen of Night*, in Mozart's "Magic Flute." The other is a lady who has been compelled by reverses to fit herself for the musical profession. She is expected to make her *début* in the English Concert world next season, under the name of Madame Clarina. A correspondent writing of her from Berlin says: "Her voice is of remarkable extent and purity, and so deeply sympathetic that she cannot fail of securing the highest success. She is a true and noble woman, whose heart and soul go up in her song, and whose earnestness in her study gives promise that she will not be unappreciated. I feel proud of her achievements already; but she is, like all the rest, greatly prejudiced against an operatic career. For my part, I would wish her not to disregard the opera. To me she appeared the ideal of Wagner's beautiful *Elsa of Brabant*, in "Lohengrin," the most charming and lovable creation in the German Music-Drama." We are assured, on good authority, that the writer does not speak too warmly of the merits and charms of Madame Clarina.

At the New Royal Lyceum, Toronto, Mr. John Jack and Annie Firmin concluded on Saturday their second engagement of the season. They have added greatly to the laurels they had previously won, and have ensured themselves a hearty welcome whenever they return to the city. "John Garth" was produced during the first half of the week, with Mr. Jack in the title role. In this character he has made such improvement as leaves little to be desired. The proud determination of the man, smarting under a sense of unjust wrong attributed to him, which

at last succumbs to the daughter's love, &c., were all rendered in a faithful and careful manner that showed a true conception and study of the character. Miss Firmin as "Hester Deerham," whose appearance is greatly in her favour, played her part in a very ladylike pleasing manner, and both parties were frequently interrupted with rounds of applause. During the last three days of the week "Surf" was placed on the boards, and obtained a certain measure of success, due in main part to the excellent acting of Mr. Jack and Miss Firmin. The latter's graceful rendering of "Mrs. General Noble," and the former's "Simon Schweinfelsch" had an immense effect upon the audience and compensated for the somewhat tame character of the piece. The stars were well supported by the other members of the company, Mr. Saphore as "Smasher," and Mr. Banks as the "Nigger" deserving a word of praise. During the week the talented young artiste, Miss Lillie Eldridge, has been playing in "Elsie; or, The Cherry Tree Inn," &c. Next week Mr. Tom Riggs appears in "Cbin Fane." The whole of the seats are taken for the entire course of the opera, commencing on the 23rd inst., and the management are to be congratulated on the success which have attended their efforts to cater for the public. The expense is heavy, as it is understood they have to pay the company \$500 per night.

[Written for the Canadian Illustrated News.]

TOUCHSTONE PAPERS.

NO. III.—ROCCO.

Paul and Pauline were going to get married. When once that supreme decision was come to, the question of their love became a secondary one, and all their thoughts were bent on a single point—that of equipment. In settling it, their own likes or dislikes were not to be consulted; their own private standards of taste were to be discarded; their ease or convenience were matters unworthy a moment of attention. Their sole criterion was to be Fashion.

Now there are two kinds of fashion, as there are two sorts of diamonds, the true and the false. The true fashion, at best, is only a show, but that show is kept up by genuine luxury, real brilliants, silks, satins, velvets and laces, which exactly answer to their names. The false fashion, on the other hand, is only an appearance kept up by appearances. It is a double sham. It wears paste jewellery, its silks and satins are mock articles, its velvets are cotton, and its laces are imitation. But true or false, Fashion rules the world, and however men may pretend to rise superior to it, they are as much its slaves as their pretty, silly helpmeets.

Paul and Pauline, on getting married, had first to furnish their house. A little nest for their loves is what they really wanted, deep in some shady recess, far from the glare of the sun, and screened from the gaze of hawks. But no. They must choose a house on a fashionable street. Their means will not allow them to take a two-storied dwelling, and the cottage offered them is dwarfed by the surrounding palaces, but they secured it nevertheless because of the genteel neighbourhood. If they had only the wit to see it, that same cottage in a side street would make them aristocrats; on Beaver Hall, or St. Hubert, it reduces them to the rank of plebeians.

One would think that the first care in furnishing a house would be the family chamber. That is a sanctuary. It ought to be curtained in. The noise of its floor should be smothered in velvet carpet. It should have deep receding easy chairs, a cosy rocker for the days when the wife blossoms into the mother. Every thing in it and about it should be of the best, and comfort alone should preside over its arrangement. Instead of that, the young couple exercise themselves almost exclusively about the drawing-room. They go to the upholsterer. They get the regulation number of chairs—six; the regulation sofa; the regulation centre table; the regulation what-not. They cannot afford rosewood or black walnut, but they take an imitation of the latter, scolding at a genuine sett of white wood, beautifully varnished, offered them at reasonable rates. Then the carpet—an expensive article, lying heavy on the conscience of housekeepers. Brussels and Kidderminster is beyond them, but they must make up for the sacrifice in the flash of the colours and the extravagance of the design. The same tastes are pursued in relation to the window curtains.

That parlour, thus furnished, might still be made gay, if kept according to the rules of common sense. But no; it must be kept according to the tyrannical cast-iron rules of fashion. Modern drawing-rooms are not meant for the family. They are reserved for strangers. Children may not go near them, for there are ghosts or bluebeards lurking behind the curtain folds. The room is kept dark and chill as a tomb. It smells of fresh varnish, or of chemical dyes exhaled from the carpets. The flowers, placed in mockery on the centre table, wither of etiolation. The little trinkets arrayed on the *étagère* are corroded with verdigris, clammy from exudation. The whole of that room is not worth a hundred dollars, yet it is guarded as closely as the temple of Isis, filled with Caucasian gold and stones from the estuaries of the Indus.

It is no use declaiming against the worship of tinsel. Where we cannot get true gold, we fall on our knees before its reflection. Not one of us need laugh at Paul and Pauline, for every one of us has done as they have, or will do so, when occasion offers. Of course, every one has his idiosyncracies in this, as in all else. I have known a man who never wears a ring on his finger, but insists on having brass buttons to his coat. A lady of my acquaintance, on the plea of simplicity in dress, steadily refuses to wear ear-rings, and yet she carries on her ample bosom, an immense chain of washed gold, attached to an apocryphal watch.

Shall the poor girl, earning only five dollars a month, not dress? Of course, she shall. There are plenty of light stuffs in the shops within the reach of her money, and it costs no more to have a gown well cut, than it does to have it spoiled. Shall she not wear jewellery? Most certainly she shall. Molly, with all her freckles, has as much right to set herself off to be ogled at in the streets, as the banker's pale-faced daughter, or the buxom bride of the millionaire pork merchant. Science and art have joined hands in making brocades, lustrous, illusions, jewellery, and all manner of finery for her especial behoof. With her five dollars wages, she can go into a store as denuded as Audrey and come forth as gaudily tricked out as Dolly Varden. And men will look out for her the more, for it is tinsel that blinds their eyes.