

THINGS IN GENERAL.

PRINCESS STEPHANIE'S BRIDAL VEIL.

The Belgian capital has just produced a truly Royal veil, yet more precious than anything that has of late years been made with bobbin, pin, and pillow; and this exquisite work, the cost of which has exceeded 25,000*fr.*, or £1,000 sterling, is a bridal present from the city of Brussels to the Princess Stephanie. For some days it has been publicly exhibited at the Hotel de Ville, that noblest of Netherland Gothic buildings; and the association will suggest a bond of art that holds together in a common sentiment the most solidly enduring and the most delicately fragile work of human skill and patience. This superb veil, which has employed 125 workwomen for three months, measures about 3½ yards in length, by rather more than 3 yards in width. In the middle are the arms of Austria and Hungary, flanked on the right and left by the arms of the city of Brussels. The border contains the arms of the nine provinces of Belgium, those of Austria, and those also of the Belgian kingdom, connected together by a wreath of flowers; a narrower border runs all round; and the intervening spaces are filled with flowers and plants.—*Drafer.*

REFORM OF THE LAND LAWS.

There is nothing about the Land Laws of this country that gives any incentive or encouragement to thrift—yea, the reverse—for the obtaining possession of land is woven about with so many obstacles and difficulties that it becomes well-nigh impossible for any but the privileged classes to obtain it. Well might Mr. Cobden say that the land system divorces the people from the soil. Let us take a few figures illustrative to the point. One-fourth of Scotland has five owners. One duke owns 96,300 acres of land in Derbyshire, besides other vast estates in other parts of England and Ireland. Another, possessing estates in various parts of the kingdom, has 40,000 acres in Sussex, and 300,000 in Scotland. The high road does not divide the estates of another duke for twenty-three miles; whilst we have a marquis who is said to be able to ride 100 miles in a straight line upon his own land. One hundred and fifty persons own half England, seventy-five own half Scotland, thirty-five own half Ireland, and the entire lands of the United Kingdom are owned by less than 600,000 persons. The time has surely come when the people of England must free the land from the bonds that now bind and fetter it. We are at the same time of opinion, that the reform of the Land Laws must follow the reform of equalising the county and borough franchise. We must undoubtedly, have a large extension of the franchise before we can possibly expect a thorough reform of the Land Laws. Until our agricultural labourers are put in possession of a vote, the land question must not be forced, except for the purpose of educating the masses of the people in the details of the present iniquitous laws, and of arousing their sympathies on behalf of a free and untrammelled land system. We cannot doubt as to what their decision will be, and we look to the people to demand a thorough reform and abolition of the present evils; the results of which are not confined to the few, but which affect, more or less, every inhabitant of the United Kingdom.—*Liberal World.*

AN UNLUCKY JULIET.

The juvenile leading lady, a good actress and very pretty woman by the way, and a young mother, was cast to play Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Her baby had been placed in her dressing-room for security, and to be near the mother. But just before the balcony scene the young tyrant became unruly and impossible to control. What was to be done? A mother's tact hit upon the true soothing syrup. She nestled the infant to her breast, and from that moment the young villain became silent as a mouse. Being called, she hastily mounted the rostrum that supported the supposed balcony, throwing a lace scarf over her shoulders, which concealed the little suckling; and, leaning over the balcony, with the other arm pensively placed upon her cheek, she looked the picture of innocence and beauty. The scene opened and went glowingly. But, alas! Juliet has to appear and disappear three times; and in her effort to do so gracefully, and yet conceal the child, she stumbled against the iron brace that held up the frail structure. Down fell the balcony; and, lo! the love-lorn maiden was discovered with a baby at her breast—seated on a tub, that served for a stool, and at her foot accidentally placed there by the thirsty carpenter, was a quart pot. The said carpenter was discovered on all-fours steadying with his back the rickety structure above. Shrieks of laughter from all parts of the house greeted the *tableau*, and of the play no more was heard that night.—*From "Random Recollections of an old Actor," by Fred. Belton. (Tinsley Brothers).*

EXTRAORDINARY LENGTH OF HAIR.—In one of his recent lectures, Dr. Erasmus Wilson exhibited the photograph of a woman thirty-eight years old and 5 feet 6 inches high, whose tresses, when she stood erect, enveloped her entire form in a golden veil, and trailed several inches on the ground. The longest fibres measured 6 feet 3½ inches. Thirty inches is the mean length for females, and 3 feet is considered a very remarkable length. This instance is exceeded, however, by two American women—one whose hair measures 7 feet 6 inches, and another, the wife of a druggist in Philadelphia, whose luxuriant *chevelure* is almost as long, and so thick that when seated upon a chair she can completely cover herself with it.—*Cassell's Family Magazine.*

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