

SIGNOR MARIO.

In publishing recently the announcement from Paris that Mario, the celebrated tenor, had become insane, we gave a brief sketch of his artistic career. Some additional details may prove of interest. He had entered the Military Academy of Turin when eleven years old; distinguished himself there and from 1829 to 1836 was on the staff, first of his father, the Marchese Stefano, General de Candia, who was Governor of Nice, and then of Gen. de Maistre, who wrote Un Voyage autour de ma Chambre. At this time Mario and a number of his brother officers were ardent members of the Young Italy party. One day he received a sudden intimation that he must start on the moment with despatches for Sardinia. This order led to his abandonment of his military career. He has himself given the details of the whole matter in the following words:

"My father being ordered to Genoa, where he also filled the post of Governor, I followed him thither, still in the same capacity. When at Genoa I was suspected of associating with those who were politically opposed to the Government, and was in consequence deputed to carry despatches to Sardinia. This being evidently a pretext to get rid of me, I protested, and was anxious to appeal to the King, Carlo Alberto, against what I considered an indignity put upon me. However, the Marchese Paolucci showed me the general order and the note affixed to it, according to which, if the lieutenant objected to the duty, he was to consider himself at the disposal of the general in command—which, in fact, was equivalent to my being placed under arrest.

"In spite of the advice of my good friend, the marquis, I sent in my papers to the authorities and decided to embark for Spain. It being some time before the preparations for my departure could be made, I had to conceal myself in Genoa, which, thanks to the assistance of a young lady to whom I was much attached, I successfully accomplished for a month. At the expiration of that time I took passage on board a boat bound for Marseilles, intending to proceed thence to Spain. On arriving at Marseilles and making myself known to the authorities I was received with the greatest hospitality and strongly advised not to continue my journey as I intended, but to make my way to Paris, which advice I followed. I remained in Paris but a short time and was persuaded to join a party going to London.

"Being well acquainted with Admiral Fielding's family, through them I was introduced to the Duke of Wellington. Still anxious to visit Spain I asked the Duke to give me some facility for so doing. He assured me it was a country in which I should make no progress—that the more energy I displayed the more enemies I should make, and that the only thing I could hope for there with any certainty was a coup de fusil. Time passed away, and with it all my money; until at last I found myself without any means of support. I then resolved to go to America, and secured a cabin on board a sailing vessel starting from the Thames, having with some difficulty managed to scrape together £40 to pay the passage. A week before the ship was to sail I fell ill. I had to abandon the idea of going to America, and what was worse, to forfeit the £40. During this illness I experienced the profusion of English hospitality, and was treated like a brother by those with whom I had the good luck to become acquainted. I was urged to go to Paris to consult the doctors, and was taken there by one of my English friends in his travelling carriage.

"In Paris I improved in health and made the acquaintance of the Marquis Aguado, then the director of the two theatres—the Opera and the Theatre des Italiens. I was also intimate with the Prince Belgiojoso, with whom I used to sing duets en amateur. My financial circumstances, however, became so serious that I made them known to the prince, who insisted on my turning my real abilities to account. This was at first very obnoxious to me. I had looked forward to a very different career from that of an artist, which I then thought unworthy and unsuited to my tastes. But the prince would not listen to my objections, assuring me that were it not for family considerations, he would, in spite of his social position, go himself upon the stage. He spoke to the Marquis Aguado on my behalf, and obtained an engagement for me for three years. For the first year, which was to be passed in study, I received 14,000 francs; for the second 32,000, and for the third 45,000 francs. For the first six months I was placed under the tuition of Meyerbeer, whom I daily visited. No composer that ever lived took such pains with his work as Meyerbeer, and of this I had frequent opportunities of judging while studying with him."

"In the spring of 1839 he came out in London in the part of Gennaro in "Lucrezia Borgia," the other characters being sustained by Crisp, Lablache, Tamburini, "and if I remember rightly," says Mario, "Marietta Brambilla. It was a great success, certainly; but then, you know, it was the first time Lucrezia was sung at Her Majesty's; then there was the romance about my past. I had known many of the best families in London when I was there a year before, and society had more to do in sustaining my first appearance in London than any merits of my own. You must remember that Rubini was still held in great esteem. No, I never sang in Germany. I had promised my brother, who became General de Candia, that I would never appear on the Italian stage."

NOTES FROM HAMILTON.

MONTHLY STATISTICS—MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

As a general thing, facts and figures are heartily left alone by yours truly. By some kind of curious process of reasoning he convinced himself that immense arrays of figures look remarkably well in the columns of trade journals and such, and has always been willing to allow those who like that sort of thing to investigate them to their heart's content. There are times, however, when conscience accuses us of having neglected a duty, and the writer confesses that he, to-day, has been afflicted in that manner. He feels that he has long neglected the interests of the fair city in which he has sojourned, and has now resolved to do something in the way of reparation. Imbued with that patriotic determination he sallied forth, and, in a short time, was astonished at the amount of data the month of March has added to the annals of this city's history. In the course of his perambulations, he visited almost every place where it is supposed that anything in the way of statistics could be obtained, and funny, indeed, were some of the places where he was occasionally obliged to find himself. Like the Rev. Mr. Talmage, he disguised himself and visited the gilded—but, pardon us, we have nothing to do with the sensational in this instance. He looked over the police annals—but, excuse us, we have no intention of speaking of the follies of our fellow-citizens. The quantity of information collected is surprisingly large, but we have deemed it advisable to leave out much that is interesting, such as the number of runaways, dog fights, etc., to make room for statistics of a more useful character, and commence with—

CUSTOM RETURNS.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Value. Total value dutiable goods imported—March: \$951,212.00. Ditto free: 79,276.00. Total: \$1,040,488.00.

Total duty collected for the month: \$64,152.06

EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

Table with 2 columns: Articles and Values. Animals: \$4,053.49. Flour: 2,400.00. Lumber: 3,723.99. Malt: 11,258.54. Sewing Machines: 4,150.00. Skins of Animals: 2,594.10. Wool: 14,911.57. Miscellaneous: 4,287.92. Total: \$47,289.52.

Besides the foregoing exports, Messrs. John Harvey & Co. have exported to the U.S. \$5,117.25 worth of wool, which was verified at other consulates.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

The following is a comparative statement of the number of registered letters received for delivery and mailed for despatch from the Hamilton Post Office during March, 1879:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Value. Received for delivery: 8,479. Mailed for despatch: 4,920. Total: 13,399. Same period last year: 19,768. Increase in March, 1879: 2,671.

MORTUARY.

The following is the record of interments in Burlington Cemetery for March, 1879: Adults, 24; children, 25; total, 49. For March, 1878: Adults, 15; children, 24; total, 39.

The Roman Catholic Cemetery is not included in the above.

TEMPERATURE.

Table with 4 columns: Date, 9 a.m., 12 noon, 4 p.m. April 2nd: 9 a.m. 35°, 12 noon 41°, 4 p.m. 29°.

Wind from N.W., with flurries of snow.

CELEBRITY.

A game was played to day in the covered rink. Very unusual thing in April.

THE MARKETS.

Skates, nominal, with probable active demand. Bread—4 lb. loaf—11c each. Board, per week, according to location. Drinks, from 5 to 10 cents each. Cigars, horrible—large quantity. Other staples about as usual.

Having thus satisfied our conscience in the matter of furnishing valuable figures, we are at liberty to mention the

G. W. RAILWAY PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held at the station, in this city, a few days ago, and the annual report shows it to be a most prosperous and useful institution. It embraces a membership of 2,418 employees. During the 14 months just past there were 21 deaths, 9 being the result of accident, but only 6 whilst in the performance of their duty.

The total amount of receipts was \$27,181.57. During the same time there was paid for sick allowance, \$6,241.06. For death levies, \$7,698. For medical attendance, \$2,675.62. For incurable members, \$400. The Society commences another year with a handsome balance in the treasury.

The election of office-bearers resulted as follows:

President, F. Broughton, Esq., General Manager; Vice-President, C. Still, Esq.; Secretary,

A. E. Davies, Esq.; Treasurer, W. S. Champ, Esq.; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ridley; Auditors, N. J. Power, T. Butters.

Patron—Right Hon. H. C. E. Childers. Trustees—S. Barker, C. K. Donville, and H. Temple.

Committee of Management—F. Broughton, President; C. Still, Vice-President; C. K. Donville, H. Childs, N. J. Power, J. Hobson, G. Bazzard, W. Marshall, T. Butters, W. Chambers, J. Stewart, J. Peckham, W. Nicoll, P. Murray, P. Temple, J. Law, W. Reid, F. Armstrong, J. Collis, J. S. Laing, W. Brown.

YORK PIONEERS

of Toronto intend to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the birth of their society by a dinner, to be held at the Walker House, Toronto, on the 17th inst. As yours truly has once again been favoured with an invitation, you may possibly hear a word or two in regard to the banquet.

W. F. McMAHON.

BRELOQUES POUR LAMES.

A YOUNG lady being asked what her favourite beverages were, replied: "Lemonade and masquerade."

AMERICA has her peculiarity in this respect, too. It is wonderful how a rich papa improves a girl's looks.

A LITTLE Hackensack boy, who was looking up at the stars the other evening, exclaimed: "Oh! mamma, mamma, who's a pinched them stars?"

THOUGH the average small boy may steal away and eat a watermelon all by himself, he never refuses to divide his medicine with a little sister.

A woman's love, who knows its strength! But there's one thing stronger still; Now don't tell who told you— It is a woman's will.

ELDER sister: "Well, dear, did you have a pleasant time at the theatre to-night?" Younger ditto: "Oh, it was just lovely! I cried all the time." Elder sister: "Did you? Oh, how I wish I'd been there!"

THERE'S one thing, boys, that you must shun, If you would win your suit; We know, for we've been there ourselves— It is the old man's boot.

If the town of Weston, Conn., resides unquestionably the oldest married couple in New England, and probably the oldest in this country. Mr. Zalmon Sturges, aged nearly ninety-eight, and Ann, his wife, in her 94th year.

A YOUNG lady distinguished herself by stopping a runaway horse on West Main street yesterday afternoon. That is, the horse had not started, but he would in a moment more had she not heroically grasped the bit and screamed "Whoa!"

WHEN Tommy and his little brother Johnny went home with their clothes all torn and soiled, Tommy was awarded with a box on the ear, and as he drew his chair up to the supper-table, he whispered, "Now, mamma, slap-jacks." He got 'em.

AGRICULTURAL hint to ladies: Now is the time to do your spring sewing; but first prepare a rich top-dressing of straw, ribbon and feathers, in which it is not too early to set out flowers and vines. This dressing is imperative, as it will make even the cabbage heads look well.

THE pleasure of going shopping with your wife is not enhanced when you are obliged to stand like a graven image for three mortal hours till she comes "right back," meanwhile every clerk in the store looks at you as suspiciously as if you were a shop-lifter waiting for a chance to operate.

A CERTAIN young man of our acquaintance, who, by the way, is a great talker, has been struggling feebly of late trying to raise a moustache. His girl said to him the other evening, "J—, do you know why you cannot raise a moustache?" "No," he answered, "because you don't give your mouth enough rest." And now they don't speak.

THE days are fast coming along when a man will go home to dinner and find that a paper-hanger has monopolized the dining-room with his boards and paste, and the entire female section of the house in a terrible state of excitement as to whether the figure of the paper runs up or down. He takes a cold potato in one hand and a soda cracker in the other, and sitting on the back doorstep, eats his dinner in peace.

A LADY with more money than erudition called at Tiffany's recently and asked to see their solitaire diamond rings. A tray of single-stone rings was shown her. She looked them over carefully, and at last selected one worth about \$500. "That is a very pretty stone," said she, "and if you will assure me that it is a solitaire, I will take it." It is unnecessary to say that the salesman felt that he was running no risk in giving her the desired assurance.

"There is no place like home," exclaimed a married man with a sigh of relief, as he threw down his hat, pulled off his coat and boots, slipped his feet into his slippers, and flung himself down on the sofa. As soon as he was comfortably settled, his loving wife ordered him to go out and get a pail of water, bring in a scuttle of coal, lock up the hen-house, feed the pigs, and split some wood for morning. Then he angrily gathered himself together, spitefully kicked off his slippers, savagely drew on his boots, hastily

climbed into his ulster, jammed his hat down over his eyes, and, as he went out of the back-door, he muttered, "There is no place like home."

FASHION NOTES.

THE newest fans are wire, delicately painted by hand.

TRAINS and demi-trains are no longer seen in the streets.

HANDSOME evening silk may be bought for 85 cents a yard.

GOLD and gilt trimmings are as vulgarly fashionable as ever.

ELBOW sleeves are seen on ball and evening reception dresses.

GLOVES are long, reaching to the elbow for full evening toilet.

WAISTCOATS are as often made to wear over the basque as under it.

PARASOL linings are sometimes of gay Scotch plaids or bandana goods.

FLAT crowns with very little tapering are seen in English round hats.

FIGHT collarettes and jabot collarettes give a dressy effect to a plain toilet.

A FLOUNDER is now an indispensable feature of every young lady's attire.

THE turban is the fashionable cap for young ladies and young married women.

PANTIE scarfs and draperies appear on all Paris dresses brought over this spring.

BANDANA and gay plaid handkerchiefs are made up into dresses for misses and little girls.

THE Alsatian bonnet is the name given to the opera-decoration which consists of one large bow and strings.

CELLO designs have been introduced by the English embroideresses. The patterns are taken from Irish manuscripts.

THE black net bonnets are to have jet ornaments and black feathers this summer, and be relieved with Breton lace.

HANDSOME new wraps are of drab cloth in circular or oldman shapes, and can be worn with dresses of any colour.

PRETTY new bows for the throat have a jabot of Breton lace on one side and loops of hand-painted ribbons on the other.

ALL back and side drapery is full again, and the fashionable dress is no more to be seen. Evening dresses are girdled on the hips.

THE most stylish hat worn at the present time is the small turban or toque. The new bonnets are profusely trimmed with flowers.

IT is a sort of shawl-green worsted on the hat-band. On this put a vase containing a variety of ferns and trailing vines. The effect is beautiful.

THE striped cashmeres that imitate moire antique are made up into morning dresses and dressing-saquos, and are trimmed with Breton lace platings.

ALL the varied forms of plaiting are still in vogue for dress skirts, both of thin or thicker goods. Ruffles and flounces, finished with narrow bindings, are used.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Solutions to Problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Many thanks for letter containing score of Tourney game, &c.

M. J. M., Quebec.—Letter received. Will answer by post. Shall be glad to have promised problem.

G. A. R., Ottawa.—We will examine Problem No. 257. From a hasty inspection of it we are led to conclude that it has, as you say, two solutions.

J. H., Montreal.—Correct solution received of Problem for Young Players No. 215.

H. K. J., Montreal.—Correct solution received of Problem for Young Players No. 214.

R. P. M., Sherbrooke, P. Q.—Correct solutions received of Problem for Young Players, Nos. 214 and 215.

The announcement of Master W. A. Bower, aged twelve years, who is a big league tournament player at Hamilton, Australia, became the holder of a twenty-five guinea cup for the ensuing six months, will astonish many persons, of whose names we are unqualifiedly ignorant. In his contest it appears that he succeeded in securing all his games except one. Independent of his skill over the board, Master Bower is a good problem composer, and his productions in this line have been published in many chess journals.

We do not meet this notice of the young combatant to except the way of our juvenile correspondents, neither do we say that we should like to see many of our young players able to do astonishing things, either in chess play or problem composition. We relate the circumstance because it is unparalleled in the annals of chess all the world over.

On Tuesday last Mr. Blackburn, although not in his usual health, played six brilliant games at the Ladies Chess Club. Little Queen street, Holborn. The players were: Miss Down, Miss North, Miss Down, Miss Rymer, Miss Jamieson, and Miss Burdon. The first of the three ladies Mr. Blackburn thought would have been down upon him, and the latter slightly handicapped him, but he succeeded after three hours in winning the last five games and drawing with Miss Down.—Argus and Express.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL CARD TOURNEY.

Mr. Bameyn, one of the players of the American Team, is, we are sorry to say, so unwell that he is obliged to abandon his games (two). They have been submitted and declared drawn. The score now is: Great Britain 14; United States 16; drawn 5.—Hartford (Conn.) Tourist.

We learn that Mr. Max Judd has been playing a series of eight matches of three games each, at the odds of a Kt. against eight of the strongest amateurs of St. Louis, U.S. We insert one of the games of this interesting contest.

TRENTON CHESS CLUB.

We are glad to notice the energy which animates this club, and to record their victories over Belleville and Pictou lately. Shall try to place one of the games before our readers soon.—Toronto Globe.