

## JULES VERNE OF TO-DAY

THE AUTHOR OF "ROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS" AS HE IS.

The Great Author's Personal Appearance. His Modesty Regarding His Work—His Method of Working as Detailed by Himself to a Clever Interviewer.

The author of "Round the World in Eighty Days," "Five Weeks in a Balloon," and many other delightful stories which cannot but have endeared his personality to hundreds of thousands of readers in every part of the world, spends his happy, well-filled working life in Amiens, a quiet, French provincial town situated on the direct route from Calais and Boulogne to Paris. Jules Verne, in his personal appearance, does not fulfill the popular idea of a great author. Rather does he give one the impression of being a cultured country gentleman, and this despite the fact that he always dresses in the sombre black affected by most Frenchmen belonging to the professional classes. His coat is decorated with the tiny red button denoting that the wearer possesses the high distinction of being an officer of the Legion of Honor. As he sat talking he did not look his seventy-eight years, and indeed, appeared but little changed since the portrait, hanging opposite that of his wife, was painted some twenty odd years ago.

M. Verne is singularly modest about his work, and showed no desire to talk about either his books or himself. Had it not been for the kindly assistance of his wife, whose pride in her husband's genius is delightful to witness, I should have found it difficult to persuade him to give me any particulars about his literary career or his methods of work.

"I cannot remember the time," he observed, in answer to a question, "when I did not write, or intend to be an author; and as you will soon see, many things conspired to that end. You know, I am a Breton by birth—my native town being Nantes—but my father was a Parisian by education and taste, devoted to literature, and, although he was too modest to make any effort to popularize his work, a line poet. Perhaps this is why I myself began my literary career by writing poetry, which—for I followed the example of most budding French literateurs—took the form of a five-act tragedy," he concluded, with a half-smile—half snarl.

"My first real piece of work, however," he added after a pause, "was a little comedy written in collaboration with Dumas fils, who was, and has remained



one of my best friends. Our play was called 'Pailles Rompues' (Split Straws), and was acted at the Gymnase Theatre in Paris; but, although I much enjoyed light dramatic work, I did not find that it brought me anything in the way of substance or fortune.

I have often been asked what first gave me the idea of writing what, for the want of a better name, may be styled scientific romances.

"Well, I had always been devoted to the study of geography, much as some people delight in history and historical research. I really think that my love for maps and the great explorers of the world led to my composing the first of my long series of geographical stories."

"When writing my first book, 'Five Weeks in a Balloon,' I chose Africa as the scene of action, for the simple reason that less was, and is, known about that continent than any other; and it struck me that the most ingenious way in which this portion of the world's surface could be explored would be from a balloon. I thought, even more, I may add the researches which it made necessary; for then, as now, I always tried to make even the wildest of my romances as realistic and true to life as possible.

"Once the story was finished, I sent the manuscript to the well-known Paris publisher, M. Hetzel. He read the tale, was interested by it, and made me an offer, which I accepted. I may tell you that this excellent man and his son became, and have remained, my very good friends, and the firm are about to publish my seventeenth novel."

"And what, monsieur, are your methods of work?" I inquired. "I suppose you can have no objection to giving away your recipe?"

"I cannot see," he answered, good-humoredly, "what interest the public can find in such things; but I will initiate you into the secrets of my literary kitchen, though I do not know that I would recommend anybody else to proceed on the same plan; for I always think that each of us works in his or her own way, and instinctively knows what method is best. Well, I start by making a draught of what is going to be my new story. I never begin a book without knowing what the beginning, middle, and the end will be. Hithe I have always been fortunate enough to have not one, but half a dozen definite schemes floating in my mind. If I ever find myself hard up for a subject, I shall consider that it is time for me to give up work. After having completed my preliminary draught, I draw up a plan of the chapters, and then begin the actual writing of the first rough copy in pencil, leaving a half page margin for corrections and amendments; I then read the whole, and go over all I have already done in ink. I consider that my real labor begins with my first set of proofs, for I not only correct something in every sentence, but I rewrite whole chapters. I do not seem to have a grip of my subject till I see my work in print; fortunately, my kind publisher allows me every latitude as regards corrections, and I often have as many as eight or nine revisions. I envy, but do not attempt to emulate the example of those who from the time they write chapter I to the word Finis, never see reason to alter or add a single word."

## IN CASE OF NOSE-BLEED.

What Causes It in Youth and Later, and What to Do.

Bleeding from the nose is caused by the congestion of the lining membrane of the nose.

This congestion may be the result of catarrh, or, more properly, of the diseased condition of the nasal membranes which is due to catarrh; or it may accompany congestion of some organ of the body, as the liver. It may also result from heart disease, or even from dyspepsia.

Nose bleed in children is commonly supposed to indicate nothing more than that the child tires easily, or is overactive. Yet even these terms express more than is obvious upon a casual reading of the words.

If a child tires easily, or, in other words, if he least overexertsion at play or at study results in a more or less severe attack of nose-bleed, the child must be in a weakened state; while, on the other hand, if he is accustomed to allow his play or his studies so to absorb his interest as to make him forget his fatigue, he is placing an injudicious strain upon his constitution.

In either case he will be benefited by a curtailment of work, and an increase in the amount of time allotted for rest, until his body is more fully developed. No child's mind can be developed faster than the body except at the expense of his health.

Nose-bleed occurring in middle life and old age is a more serious thing, as it indicates a graver condition of affairs. It is usually coincident with disease of the liver, heart or kidneys. Its cure is, of course, dependent upon the restoration of the organs to a normal condition. In elderly persons the disorder sometimes appears to result from weakness, which, in turn, it aggravates.

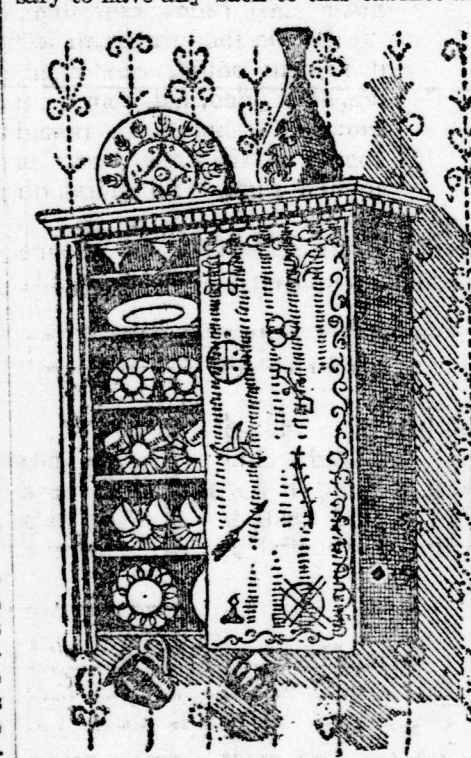
It is a common saying that, in full-blooded persons an occasional nose-bleed is beneficial; and this may in a certain sense be true, inasmuch as the nasal membranes are thus relieved of congestion. But it is safe to say that bleeding from the nose is never anything but a sign of weakness.

The treatment of an attack of nose-bleed consists in absolute rest and cool applications to the head. The extremities should be warmed. The head should not be held down over a basin, as this favors the flow of blood. One of the simplest and most effectual methods of stopping an ordinary attack is for the person to stand erect, with the head in the usual upright position, and the hands extended at length directly over the head.—Youth's Companion.

## FOR DAINTY CHINA.

Neat Cabinet for the Display of Odd Plates and Bric-a-brac.

A rack of shelves or a china rack makes a desirable piece of furniture for a dining-room. It may be used as a cabinet on which to display odd plates and pretty articles of china. A suggestion for a china rack is shown in the cut. It will be found a very simple and inexpensive affair to construct. It may be made of boards of good size and of thin boards. The framework of the rack should be thirty-six inches high, twenty-four inches wide and not more than five inches deep. Inside of this frame a number of shelves may be arranged sufficient distances apart to receive saucers and plates standing on edge. Cups of various sizes may be hung from hooks made fast to the underside of some of the shelves. It will not be necessary to have any back to this cabinet and



## FOR DAINTY CHINA.

the china may rest against the wall. A cornice molding should be arranged around the top and finished as the other pieces.

Curtains or other desirable light goods may be used on this rack; if of plain material, odd designs may be embroidered on them, as shown in the illustration. A running design should be worked all around the outside edge, so that when the curtains are closed they will appear as one. Pretty curtains may be made from cheesecloth; it comes in almost all colors and makes an inexpensive and easily arranged drapery for either open bookcase or cabinet.

Instead of curtains for this rack of shelves, glass doors are used, they can be made at a small cost, and fastened to either side of the cabinet with hinges.

Two doors are preferable to one, as they are much easier to handle, and a lock or catch should be provided to keep them closed. Glass doors, of course, will keep a great deal of dust out of a china cabinet or rack, and for that reason are more desirable to inclose fine china that is not in everyday use, but for cups and saucers that are used constantly the curtains will prove the most convenient.—Ladies' Home Journal.

## The Young Bruiser.

A friend of mine has a little boy who has just reached the age where he is interesting. The other afternoon he was found sitting on the steps of the veranda looking very much downcast, and his mother asked him what the trouble was:

"We'll have to move away from here," he said.

"Why?" asked the mother.

"Oh, I've done up every kid in the block and there ain't any more fun here."—Buffalo Courier.

## Sarah Bernhardt's Curious Bed.

Everyone has heard of Sarah Bernhardt's curious bed, which is like no other one to be seen in France or elsewhere. It is nearly fifteen feet broad, and when the fascinating Sarah is indisposed and receives her intimate friends reclining on a couch she looks like a red-plumaged bird floating on a great sea of white satin.

## A NEW SEA SHIP CANAL.

ONE THAT WILL MAKE A SHORT CUT FROM THE BALTIC SEA.

And Save a Long Voyage Around the Promontory of Denmark—Of Strategic Value to Germany, It Will Save Many Marine Disasters.

The work on the big ship canal connecting the Baltic with the North Sea is nearly completed, and arrangements have been made to celebrate the opening of this important artificial waterway on the 30th of next June. Emperor William will be present with a number of Princes and prominent German officials, besides various dignitaries and men-of-war of other nations.

Hitherto all vessels sailing from the Baltic to any port in the North Sea south of Hull were obliged to pass clear around the northern promontory of Denmark. The distance from the point at which the canal begins in the Baltic to Hull is about 300 miles. Vessels bound for Bremen from the same point were obliged to traverse a distance of 323 miles, while those bound for Hamburg had to travel 424 miles.

Since the canal is only fifty-three miles in length, it will be seen that a considerable saving of time is made in passing from the Baltic to Hamburg, which is situated near the southern entrance. From Hamburg to the North Sea the rest of the trip for ships bound westward is by way of the Elbe, which is very wide near the mouth. This distance is about sixty-five miles, so that the entire length of the course from the Baltic to the North Sea is about 119 miles less than the old route. This port is regarded as one of the most dangerous in European waters, statistics showing that each year about 200 vessels are wrecked on the adjacent coasts.

The course of the canal lies in a direction south by east, extending from the town of Kiel, on the Baltic coast, to Brunsbüttel, a few miles below Hamburg, on the Elbe.

The entire route lies in the Prussian province of Holstein. The work of excavation was begun on June 3, 1887, and has been pushed with energy. The estimated total cost of \$37,440,000 will probably not be exceeded. The Manchester ship canal, completed about a year ago, far exceeded the estimates as to involve the entire population of the city in a heavy debt. All are familiar with the colossal sums expended on the Panama enterprise. The Nicaragua Canal is another instance where the actual cost far exceeded the estimates.

More than 8,000 men were employed on this new canal during the summer months; in winter the number was reduced to about 4,700. The equipment comprised 30 locomotives, 2,472 cars, 68 dredges, 133 lighters and 55 engines. The work was not impeded by any serious obstacles in the topography of the country, the land being generally flat and the soil consisting largely of sand and loam, which admitted of easy excavation.

Two locks have been established, one at Kiel and the other on the Elbe. The former will be open all the year except during twenty-five days. The latter will remain open from three to four hours during every flood tide. The exact length of the canal is 53½ miles, and the depth on the average is 29½ feet; the width at the bottom is 72 feet, and at the water level 212 feet. These dimensions will admit of the passage of large ocean steamships and men-of-war.

Vessels in the canal will not be allowed to move faster than at the rate of 5.3 miles an hour, which will enable them to make the journey in about thirteen hours. The toll will be 75 pfennigs, or 18 cents, per net register ton (loading capacity). A reasonable profit on the undertaking is expected. Of the 35,000 vessels which now pass every year around the Denmark promontory it is calculated that at least half, or 7,000,000 tons net register, will use the canal.

At Brunsbüttel, on the Elbe, the southern extremity of the canal, there is an outer harbor 1,313 feet long by 328 feet wide. Next to this comes the lock, 492 by 82 feet and 22 4-5 feet deep, and then an inner harbor 1,640 by 555 feet.

In order that railroad traffic shall not be interfered with, two suspension bridges have been built across the canal, nearly 135 feet above water level. Vessels with lofty masts can therefore pass beneath them.

## The Largest Snake.

The largest snake that was ever killed on the American continent was that mentioned by Dr. Gardner in his book, "Travels in Mexico." The snake was dead when Dr. Gardner found it, and was lying in the forks of a tree with its body full of arrows, just as it had been left by the Indians who dispatched it. The snake was dragged into an opening by the aid of four horses, and was found to measure thirty-seven feet in length.

## RUSSIA'S CHANCELLOR.

Baron de Staal, the Amiable Successor of M. de Giers.

Baron de Staal, who has just been designated by the new Czar to succeed the late M. de Giers as chancellor of the Muscovite empire, is the beau ideal of a foreign diplomat, with his long, flowing white whiskers and his dignified but suave manner, which conveys the impression that if he is as hard and tenacious as his name implies, in his case the steel is sheathed in velvet. No man has more friends, and the fact that, although the representative of Russia at the court of St. James for the last ten years, he should have succeeded in winning not only confidence but also amity of the English, who are always so suspicious with regard to Russia, speaks volumes for his amiability. That is one of the chief ingredients of diplomacy. Diplomatic amiability is not so much the art of giving one's interlocutor an agreeable impression of one's self as to give him a higher idea of himself and to convey to him the conviction that you hold him in very high estimation. Then, from sheer gratitude, he will have a higher idea of you, try to do all you want, and be the best of you.

Born in 1822 at Reval, he is a scion of one of the old German noble families settled since the time of Peter the Great in the Baltic provinces of Russia. He began his diplomatic career at an early age under Prince Gortschakoff, who was first ambassador at Constantinople and the viceroy of Poland. Like the good apprentice in the fairy tale, the baron wedded his chief's daughter, and is by marriage therefore a nephew of Prince Alexander Gortschakoff, who for so many years controlled the foreign relations of Russia as chancellor.

The baron is also expected to prove of great value from a strategic point of view, as German war vessels will in the future be enabled to pass from sea to sea with expedition and safety, and to avoid the passage through foreign waters. It will be possible to reach Germany by sea in a matter of short notice, a considerable fleet on the north and west coasts, a fact adding materially to the defensive resources of the empire.

Another advantage lies in the fact that the passage around Denmark is an extremely dangerous one, and in avoiding the strip of water lying between the Scandinavian peninsula and Jutland there is sure to be a great saving of life and property. This port is regarded as one of the most dangerous in European waters, statistics showing that each year about 200 vessels are wrecked on the adjacent coasts.

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Sketch of an Extremely Interesting and Attractive Personality.

Professor John Stuart Blackie, who died in Edinburgh in his 80th year on the 2d March, 1895, was, in many respects, one of the most remarkable and attractive characters of his time. A Greek scholar of rare accomplishments, an admirable writer and a keen, original thinker, it was chiefly his strong and unconventional personal attributes which secured him the recognition and esteem of his entire generation. As is the case with Mr. Gladstone, there was in the late Professor's temperament an exquisite blending of both conservative and radical convictions, without a trace of the pessimism that not infrequently accompanies old age. Buoyant and vivacious in spirit, he preserved long after he had passed the allotted share of human existence that fresh and untrammelled outlook upon life which rendered him so interesting and so attractive a personality.

He was the son of a banker, and was born at Glasgow in 1809. His education was pursued at Göttingen, Berlin and Rome, and at 25 he was called to the bar. His legal career, however, was brief. He decided to devote himself to scholastic duties, and in 1832 he was appointed to the newly formed chair of Latin literature at Marischal College, Aberdeen. In 1831 he became Professor of Greek in the University of Edinburgh, a post which he held until his retirement from professional duties in 1882.

Such are the bare facts of Professor Blackie's career. But, in themselves, they give little indication of his unusual and valuable record of achievement. He was not only a university professor; he was one of the great teachers of men. A very educated man, who had been a student in Edinburgh, said that he had learned more wisdom from Professor Blackie than from an entire faculty and any number of books.

Professor Blackie remained young even at 85. He might have been seen almost any day in Edinburgh, striding along from Douglas-crescent to Prince street, or back again, hale as an eagle, hearty as a young hunter, his blond of white hair, tossing about his head and flapping up against his big brimmed soft black hat; his cheeks rosy with the air, and his kind eyes dancing with the delight he took in his favorite walking exercise.

A recent interviewer gave the world an interesting description of the Professor at home. He was described as a "tall, old man, with a great, strong, clear-cut, smooth shaven face, like one of the traditional gods of his favorite lore, yet in no other respect resembling the mythological at that instant. His head was crowned with one of the last efforts of modernity, a huge straw hat, and his body was lost somewhere in the embraces of a blue dressing gown, which came to his heels, and his waist was wound about with yards of red silk sash, the ends of which sprang to the floor. He is not what the anecdote mongers call a 'conversationalist.' He does not converse; he explodes. His talk is volcanic. There comes an eruption of short sentences, blazing with the philosophy of life. There is a kindly glow in it all, and the eruption subsides quickly, with a gentle roll of tongue."

Professor Blackie was an ardent Grecian; he was in love with Greek for more than sixty years; "Greek," he used to say, "is the great language." He taught it for three decades, he knew it as he knew English, he was a constant reader of Greek newspapers and he possessed the best Greek library in the United Kingdom. He wrote a good deal on a variety of subjects, and the titles of his works would make a long list. The best known among them are his "Self Culture," which ran through thirty editions, and was widely read in this country, as in England; his "Lay Sermons," "Wisdom of Goethe," "Life of Burns," and a volume on his favorite theme, "Scottish Song," with biographical notices and the music. He was a devoted student of Gaelic, and the foundation of a Celtic chair in the University of Edinburgh, for which he collected a sum of \$30,000, was mainly due to his exertions.

These are the features of the Prince of French Comedians, whose "Tartuffe," which he may be said to have made his own, convulses every audience which has the delight of seeing the master portray the arch hypocrite. Respecting "Vin Mariani," he says: "Strange to say that 'Vin Mariani,' so exquisite a wine, should also be a remedy, and a delicious one at that, so pleasant to the taste and so beneficial to the entire system." And Coquelin merely states a truth which is attested by the most famous men and women of the age, by the foremost medical men, and the managers of all the great hospitals: "Vin Mariani" is indeed beneficial to the system. The weakest can digest it; the most debilitated are benefited by it; the most hopelessly are revived by it; and as has been often said regarding it, "It gives new life and hope." "Vin Mariani" is the great tonic-stimulant of the age, used by the great brain-workers of the world, who find that, exhausted by overwork, it refreshes, strengthens, and builds up the whole system. An album of portraits of many celebrities who have spoken highly of "Vin Mariani" will be sent to those who send their address to Lawrence A. Wilson & Co., Montreal, the Canadian Agents.

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