

(For the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.)

ELLA.

"Length of days in thy right hand; and in thy left hand riches and honour. May thy ways be the ways of pleasantness and all thy paths be peace."—Proverbs iii. 16, 17.

I.

Fair be this day
As the lilies of May,
And as sweet and as oft its returning;
For Summers fifteen
To-day Ella hath seen
Lending life's path a truer discerning.

II.

Morning of maiden-prime—
Sun-rise of woman-time!
Dawning serenely in blessings, to-day;
Down far thro' coming years
Thine the task in joy and tears
With the good to rejoice,—for the erring to pray.

III.

Gentle, like Autumn wind,
Calm, like the Saviour kind,
Flow fondly in gladness thy young days of pleasure.
No cloud chill thy heart,
Nought but joy hold a part,
So fair may thy life fill its measure!

IV.

Tempters the soul may smart,
Play well thy rugged part,
The wiles of the world put a frown on;
Round the graces of Beauty
Twine the garland of Duty
Over all laying Piety's Crown on.

J.-V. WRIGHT.

Montreal, January 1st 1875.

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ALSACE IN MOURNING.

A FRENCH REMINISCENCE OF CHRISTMAS.

I.

A few leagues from Strasburg, within a rifle shot of Saverne, is hidden, like a nest in moss, a house of simple appearance, but pleasant to the eye. As to its landscape, with its winding paths, its fertile fields, and its boundless horizon, it reminds one of Switzerland or the Tyrol. It is the Schlittenbach.

On the night of the 24th December, 1869, this landscape was covered with snow and the profile of the country house detached itself therefrom. This dwelling, the abode of a man of wealth, position and refinement was lighted up with fires of joy. Before the hearth sat the master and his young wife. Near them were three little children, the eldest of whom swung on his father's knee.

On the table, a gigantic cedar, illumined by a hundred little candles, and bearing on its branches all manner of sweets and playthings, displayed its ephemeral glories.

And the master breaking the silence, said to his young wife:

"Don't you find this pleasanter than at Paris?"

"We will come here every year," was the reply. "Alas!....."

"Father," asked the eldest boy, "who is this Hans Trapp that the servant has been speaking about?"

"An ugly old man with soiled beard and peaked hat who carries off naughty children."

"Ah! papa, don't let him come in. I will always be good," and the young one clung closer to his father.

"And what is this Christmas night?"

"It is the festival of little children."

"And have they all got a fine tree like this one, with toys and sweets?"

"No, my child," answered the mother, "but those who have share with those who have not. It is also the feast of charity."

Saying which, the mother rose, opened the door, and admitted a troop of village children.

II.

A year later, and at the same hour, a man sat in the low hall, in front of a widow's fire which was slowly going out. Dark thoughts chased each other on that man's brow.

Outside, as on the preceding year, the snow had fallen thickly, but it was trampled by hoofs, muddy, and in places, bloodstained. No lights anywhere, not even in the old church, which the enemy had converted into a stable.

Suddenly, children burst into the room and the eldest throwing himself into the man's arms, said:

"Father, will not Christmas come this year?"

"No, my child."

"Oh! what a pity, and shall we not have a cedar, as last year?"

"There are no more cedars. The enemy has cut them all down."

"And playthings, papa? Shall we not have playthings this year?"

"Playthings!" exclaimed the man, rising suddenly, and lightning flashed through his eyes.

At the same time, he plunged his hand into his pocket and drew it forth filled with cartridges and balls.

"Playthings! Yes, here are some."

Then he stretched out his arm, seized a gun that hung over the chimney piece and charged it.

"Ah! father, father," cried the child in terror, with eyes fixed and frightened air.

"What?"

"Look!"

And the child pointed with his finger to the window where a sinister head had just appeared, whose eyes plunged wildly into the interior.

"Father, it is Hans Trapp! why did you let him come. We have all been good and....."

The child had not finished speaking when a

formidable report was heard. The ball pierced the pane, and the strange head disappeared. The dull sound of a falling body was heard outside.

"I have killed Hans Trapp," said the father quietly. After which, he went out, picked up the corpse, dragged it to the well, and threw it in. When he returned to the room, he held in his hand a Prussian helmet.

"Hans Trapp's hat," cried the boy joyously.

"Yes.... and it is the seventh," muttered the father in a low voice.

And to this day, when the man is asked why, spite of his hatred of the conqueror, he persists in remaining in France, he answers:

"It is to restore her some day to France."

I AM KEEPING HER!

LITERATURE AND ART.

MME. ESSIOFF is about to give a series of concerts in St. Petersburg.

M. BERTRAND, has been elected perpetual secretary of the Paris Academy of Science.

MR. H. SAMPSON, who has been for nearly a year the acting editor of *Fun*, has been appointed to the editorial chair.

M. DARJOU, well known formerly as a caricaturist, and of late years as a charming landscape painter, has just died in Paris, at the age of 42.

LORD LYTTON is engaged upon an important work in the nature of a romance in verse, or lengthy love-poem.

BRET HARTE is indefatigable. He has a volume of poems in the press, a novel nearly ready, and a volume of fugitive pieces.

MR. GLADSTONE is reported to be preparing a Homeric Dictionary, which he believes will take him two hard years to complete.

LIEUT.-COL. PAGET has compiled a history of the Punjab frontier force, which will shortly be published.

MR. ALEXANDER AGASSIZ has started on an expedition of several months' duration to South America, with the object of exploring and investigating the natural history of Lake Titicaca.

MME. JERICHAU, the celebrated Danish artist, has been making a professional tour in the East. At Smyrna she was engaged in painting some of the Smyrniote Jewesses in their rich costumes.

VICTOR HUGO has completed the second part of his novel "Quatre-vingt-treize." It will be entitled "La Guerre Etrangere." The first volume will appear early in January.

MR. JACQUOT, statuary, recently died at Paris, aged 80. He was the senior of the Professors in the Schools of Design, had obtained the Prix de Rome, and resided for some time at the Villa Medici.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND has opened his large and important collection of family papers, preserved at Sion House Isleworth, to the inspection of the Historical MSS. Commissioners.

DR. PAUL GOLDSCHMIDT, a graduate of Göttingen University, and a pupil of Benfey and A. Weber, has been appointed by the Ceylon Government to collect and edit rock inscriptions, and to report upon the ruined cities of Ceylon.

DR. DETHIER, director of the Art Museum at Constantinople, has recently delivered an interesting lecture on the inscription discovered by Mr. Calvert at Hissarlik after Professor Schliemann left the scene of his Trojan excavations.

ELIHU BURRITT, now in his 63rd year, is about to visit London, whither he has sent forward the manuscript of a "Sanskrit Grammar and Reading Lessons" which will shortly be published.

M. C. FELU, the armless painter of Antwerp, is now copying some pictures in the South Kensington Museum. The facility with which he manages his brush with the right foot, while holding his palette with his left, is marvellous.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR has conferred on Mr. Samuel Birch, of the British Museum, the Order of the Crown, second class, in recognition of Dr. Birch's presidency of the late International Congress of Orientalists.

M. F. REISSET, Director of the National Museums of France, writes to the *Times* of Dec. 3, to contradict the statements of Mr. Hodgson to the effect that Veronese's famous picture of the "Marriage of Cana," in the Louvre had been ruined by the restorer.

DR. BOYD, preaching on behalf of the hospitals of Devonshire, in Exeter recently, calculated that the loss to the workpeople engaged in the woollen manufactures, the cotton trade, and the bricklaying trade alone by "Idle Monday," amounted to £7,300,000 per annum.

LADY FRANKLIN still holds to her offer of a reward of £2000 for the recovery of the official records of her husband's expedition, and she is also prepared to remunerate anyone who may succeed in recovering them for any outlay to which his research may subject him.

MR. M'KIE, of Kilmarnock, intends to issue a Concordance to the works of Robert Burns. The same publisher has in preparation a second edition of his "Kilmarnock Popular Edition of Burns," revised and added to by the editor, William Scott Douglas.

M. CLERMONT GANNEAU has returned from Palestine, the year of leave granted him by the French Foreign Office having expired. He brings with him a cast of the "Head of Hadrian," with a quantity of notes, sketches, and inscriptions,

which will be published by the Palestine Exploration Fund.

THE LATE M. GUIZOT commenced an action against the Empress Eugenie to force her to receive back a sum of money which the late Emperor had advanced to his son Guillaume. The austere Orleanist died before the case could be tried; and now, according to a *Daily News* telegram, the family, repudiating his chivalric scruples, have dropped the action.

M. JULES SIMON presided recently over a preliminary meeting of the Elementary Education Society to deliberate on a course of studies for female teachers. The society dates its operations from the year 1815, and has ever since advocated the training of women teachers. After the speech of M. Simon no less than 1200 ladies had their names inscribed on the books of the society's institution.

MESSRS APPLETON and Co. have received a superb gold medal from the Pope, as a token of his admiration for their great publication "Picturesque America," a copy of which work has been sent to his Holiness. The Pontiff ordered Cardinal Antonelli to send these gentlemen this magnificent gift in his name. It represents on the one side the portrait of the Pontiff, and on the other the interior of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, and is pronounced by connoisseurs to be a masterpiece of its kind.

THE COUNTESS DU BARRY, in imitation of Mme. de Pompadour, had, the *Athenaeum* says, formed a library of books, neatly bound in morocco, with her arms gilt on the sides. At her death, by the guillotine, her books were confiscated, and about 400 of them are still in the Municipal Library of Versailles. The rest were lost or stolen. A complete list of them has been found in the Arsenal Library, and is now printed, with Introduction and Notes, by M. Paul Lacroix.

It has been stated that the artists of the opera at Vienna were lately forbidden to interrupt the action of the performance by coming forward to salute the public when recalled or loudly applauded. The interdiction is no idle word. The first infraction of the official ordinance was committed the other night by the singer Müller, who in his exultation at the success which he obtained in an air of *Fra Diavolo*, stepped forward to make his obeissance at the front of the stage. On his return to the green-room he underwent a rigorous recall to the regulations in the shape of a fine of three per cent. on his monthly salary, or 45 florins.

MR. DEZOUCHÉ, our enterprising musical publisher and patron of art, announces that he has made arrangements with the Boston Philharmonic Club, without exception the finest combination of Solo talent in America, and recently leading Solo performers in the celebrated Theodore Thomas Orchestra, for two Grand Concerts, in Mechanics' Hall, on Thursday and Friday, January 7th and 8th. The personnel of the Club consists of Messrs. Bernard Listemann, Fritz Listemann, and Emill Gramm, all violin soloists and late members of the Thomas Orchestra; Adolf Belz, French Horn Soloist; Adolf Hartdegen, Violoncello Soloist; Eugene Weiner, Flute Soloist. They will be assisted by Miss May A. Bryant, Contralto, who has already won golden opinions.

PAULINE LUCCA'S MOUTH.

Being "admitted to view" a new picture is a sufficiently ordinary experience, but it is rather singular to read of Dr. Friedrich Fieber, of Vienna, obtaining a view of the interior of Mme. Pauline Lucca's mouth while she was singing. Prepared for the inspection with his laryngoscope in hand, mirror strapped to his forehead, and the whole elegant paraphernalia of the modern instrument, Dr. Fieber was "struck with the spaciousness and symmetry of the hollow" of her mouth, as well as with the vigour with which every tone produced raised the "sail" of the palate. He found that one of the tonsils has been removed, but this loss seems to have entailed no consequences as regards her voice, the sound waves of which are superlatively strong in so favourable a space. It also appears that the strings of her larynx are remarkable, being "pure snow white," and possessing none of the blueish tinge which is common among women. They are shorter than among other vocalists, but stronger in proportion, and "amply provided with muscle." For the future, perhaps, it will be highly desirable for parents, before investing time and money in singing lessons for their daughters, to obtain the services of some eminent laryngoscopists, to tell them frankly whether the organs to be employed in that sweet art are sufficiently perfect, the mouth spacious enough, and the larynx strings so white and strong as to give promise of "sound waves" which may afford pleasure to mankind, and not cause, as too often happens, the wretchedness of every unhappy listener compelled to hear and applaud the little feeble squeaks raised in our drawing-rooms of an evening by the Misses Mewling and Squeals kindly accompanied on the pianoforte by the well-known artiste, Miss Shockingstrum.

VARIETIES.

MARSHAL MACMAHON has decided that the military medal should be taken away from those of the sailors or naval officers who give themselves up to drunkenness.

THE PAPAL money was to have been called in after the first of January; it was called out to do duty pending the great scarcity of the precious metals, when France was making up her milliards.

LADY WENTWORTH, wife of the son of Lady Lovelace, Byron's Ada, is a fair woman with brown hair and a girlish contour of face. She was a very *Psyche* of girls, and she is yet so beautiful that her appearance in public is the signal for a rush.

MISS BRADDON looks like the principal of a girl's school or a spinster aunt. She is tall and rather angular, past forty, wears her dark and gray-streaked hair cut short, and has coarse lines about the mouth and a deep furrow between the eyes.

MR. CUNLIFFE OWEN, who will probably be the Superintendent of the English Department at the Centennial Exhibition, says it has always been his experience that opposition to such an exposition comes from the people of the country by whom it is held.

MR. CUNLIFFE OWEN, director of South Kensington will be selected as Superintendent of the English division of the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. Mr. Owen was happy in the same class of work at the Vienna Exhibition.

THE statement that the picture of the "Marriage of Cana," by Paul Veronese, in the Louvre, has been entirely ruined by a "restoring" process is denied by the Director of the National Museums, who says that the work is in a "surprising state of preservation."

LYONS is to be fortified by the erection of forts at intervals of about six miles from the walls of the city, in such a manner as to command the surrounding country, while the heights of Bron are to be surmounted with ramparts. A citadel is to be erected on the summit called the Mont d'Or.

MISS DE MONTFORD, who has been doing mesmerizing extraordinary in Massachusetts, is "exposed" by a quartet of indignant young men of Westfield who were hired to do what she told them at a public performance. Miss de Montford neglected to pay them.

MRS. MINNIE MYRTLE MILLER, wife of Joaquin, is going to write a play and act in it. She says: "The climax of the first act will be my marriage to Joaquin; the second will end with a tableau showing his departure, and myself standing on that lonely rock watching the receding ship."

MISS THOMPSON, the painter of the "Roll Call," is at present engaged upon a very elaborate picture of a military character, entitled "The 23th at Quatre Bras," which is expected to be ready for the forthcoming exhibition at the Royal Academy. A younger sister of the artist has completed a volume of poems which will shortly be published.

A METHOD of producing an exact imitation of marble has been discovered. The most intricate veining and gradations of colour can be produced, the veins not being merely on the surface, but running through the material. It can be manufactured cheaply, and its plasticity enables the manufacturer to mould it into intricate designs, and the polished surface can easily be kept clean. The invention bids fair to make its way to general acceptance in the many objects for which it is fitted.

A GOOD judge of beauty advocates the adoption of the old Greek tunic as the morning dress at home for ladies. He is eloquent in dilating on the resultant effects both on health and beauty. The Spartan virgin's tunic, though it was open at the side from belt to hem (thus, in truth, "strutted the proud Hermione," whose modesty none dared impugn); or the tunic of Diana, girdled both at waist and loins in unimpeding folds, the tunic of her who was—

chaste of spirit utterly
Untaught, yet so even from her infancy—
any of these would be a perfect morning costume for girls. And if they could wear sandals, too, so that their feet might have the same action as their hands, their steps would be agile enough.

IN ENGLAND, recently, Prof. White, a champion swimmer, consented to drown himself in order that his theory of resuscitation might be tested for the benefit of the London Humane Society, who were present to witness the experiment. After laying down certain rules for holding a drowning man in the water he plunged into the river and remained long enough under water to be partially drowned. His son dived after him and brought him to the surface in an apparently lifeless condition, adhering strictly to the principles laid down by his parent. The breathless body was then turned over to the Humane Society's officers and put through the course of treatment recommended. The Society had the satisfaction of seeing Mr. White revive, and in a short time return to the water without apparent unpleasant consequences, thus proving the theory by the illustration at the risk of death.

DOMESTIC.

FRIED COD FISH.—Cut the middle of the tail of the fish into slices about an inch thick, season with pepper and salt, flour them well, and fry on both sides; drain them on a sieve before the fire, and serve with crisped parsley round them. This is a better way of dressing the thin part of the fish than boiling it; and as it is cheap, it makes thus an economical as well as a good dish.

TO STEW OYSTERS.—After carefully opening them, lay them in a stewpan, and pour their own liquor (strained) on them, and heat slowly. When just commencing to simmer, lift them out with a slice and take off the beads; add to the liquor some good cream, a seasoning of pounded mace and cayenne, and a little salt, and when it boils, stir in some butter mixed with flour. Continue to stir the sauce until these last are blended with it, then put in the oysters, and let them remain by the side of the fire until they are very hot. Serve them garnished with pale fried sippets. A little lemon-juice may be stirred quickly into the stew just as it is taken from the fire.

THE PROPER METHOD.—The Turks make coffee as we do chocolate. The coffee, finely powdered, is drunk with the infusion. In this way all the stimulating qualities of the infusion are secured, with the full aroma and all the nutritious elements of the berry. To those unaccustomed to use Oriental Coffee, the limpid infusion may seem to be preferred. As a stimulating drink it is undoubtedly preferable; but the good qualities of coffee are not exhausted with the infusion; and, as a matter of economy, it may be worth while to sacrifice limpidity for nutrition. Besides, as one becomes accustomed to thick chocolate and learns to like it more than the clear infusion of the cocoa-bean, so, it is claimed, the taste for thick coffee may be acquired, with a corresponding improvement in the beverage.

HOW TO CHOOSE MUTTON.—Good mutton is always finely-grained, short-legged and plump; the lean of a dark hue, and the fat white. Mutton, to be good, should be five years old; but it is very seldom kept till that age, on account of the expense it would entail. The loin and legs are the best joints. The haunch consists of the leg and the part of the loin adjoining it; the saddle is the two loins together, it is the undivided back of the sheep; these two last are always roasted. The shoulder can be either roasted or boiled. But for a dinner-party it should be boned, rolled, and filled with forcemeat. The best end of the neck is very good boiled or roasted; the scrag end is only fit for making broth. You can have outlets from the loin, or the best end of the neck. Mutton kidneys are dressed in several ways. The heads are boiled like calf's head, but they require a good deal of care to be taken in the cleaning and washing of them. The trotters make a most excellent dish stewed with rich melted butter; they require a deal of cooking. The leg and loin can be cured like a ham. Onion sauce should be served with the shoulder when roasted.