# THE LONDON FREE PRESS CHRISTMAS NUMBER, 1886.

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lady, with its taper fingers sparkling with gems, yet still so kindly that never a beggar stretches out his grimy hand but to receive a dole from hers; and I see her pretty feet, which step so lightly in the dance, walking slowly to keep pace with the lin my heart. gems, yet still so kindly that never a beggar stretches ont his windly

lovingly of, are the poor, weary, mishapen hands and feet of the aged, shrivelled up old hands, tired out old feet that have borne hands and feet of the aged, shrivelled up old hands, tired out old feet that have borne the burden and hext of the day, and are now in the shades of evening, standing on the threshold patiently waiting to be taken to that bright land where great and small, lame and halt, rich and poor, rest alike from their labor. I could go on and on, my dears, but I should only tire you; but I will just add that I hope every little hand that rests upon this page will find some trifling labor of love to show their good will to men thisbeau-tiful Christmas time, and when you hear the merry joy bells ringing in the Christmas morn-ing, I trust many little feet will follow the sweet sound and go to join in the praises of Jesus Christ, who was once a child like you and born upon that day.

## How the Vienna Claqueurs Extort Money.

# From the Vienna Fremdenblatt.

There is an organized club of claqueurs, in whose hands the failure or fortune of a new singer or dancer often rests, and whose favor is eagerly sought and readily paid for by the older members of the opera and the batet. Fifteen ladies of the Court opera, eichteen male singers and ten of the princieighteen male singers and ten of the princi-pal members of the ballet, have owned that they have regularly paid to the chief of the claque a percentage upon their monthly re-ceipts, averaging from 5 to 50 gulden apiece. The monthly income of that monther monthly The monthly income of that gentleman can-not be less than 800 gulden, or 10 000 gulden a year. He has, of course, to pay his sub-ordinates, but their wages are small How but their wages are small. How profitable his own calling is may be judged from the fact that he has just bought out of eds of his office a country estate in

It is an open secret that an opera singer

the single time in the interests of are, as well as of the independence of the artist, that all artists should combine together and unanimously refare to pay the smallest coin to this intrusive guild of extortioners. It could not exist for a day if there were not artists who, for their own individual profit, lower their profession by paying, or rather bribing, the chief of the claque.

## Handsome Xmas Presents.

A large selection of plush goods, odor cases, jewel cases and dressing cases, whisk holders, mirrors of all styles, and an endless variety of other goods, are selling very cheap at Barkwell's drug store. All readers of the FARE Pruss should see his fine selection before prained bich prices for fine selection before paying high prices for

Since we put the noted Highland Lassa igar on the market, it has steadily come to the front, until now it has trice the con-sumption of any other cigar manufactured in the Province. We guarance each and every one to be strikent Havens filler and smokers, the manufactures A McKay & Co. Lon-don, Canada, the baset cigar manufacturers in the Province wish to impress on their rustomers the necessity of seeing that each igar of this orand have a small lithographed licker stached with the name of the cigar, and the initials H. McK & Co. thereon, and take no other.

ty feet, which step so hgaty in the ce, walking slowly to keep pace with the r old father who leans so heavily upon . But of all I ever saw and think most ngly of, are the poor, weary, mishapen ds and feet of the aged, shrivelled up

It is an open secret that an opera singer who retired last year into private life, and who has been for over twenty years one of the great favorites of the Vienna public, was under the excommunication of the chaque. It is almostimpossible for any singer to maintain his place if he rebels agains the powerful monopoly. It is high time in the interests of art, as well as of the independence of the artist, that all artists should combine together and manimously refare to pay the smallest coin to this intrusive guild of extortioners. It

It that my cousin was not disposed to treat not me with the gravity and the decorum that roft, I deemed belonged of a right to me as mis-ther tress of a house. For he kissed me on the cheek (which salute is, I believe, seemly

清月 公務

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