

the *maestro* listening attentively and applauding when the performance came to the end ; but his delight was somewhat damped at hearing his judge's " Very good, very good indeed ! " supplemented with : " but it would have been better if it had been you who were dead, and the funeral-march had been your uncle's."

" Will you please to insert this obituary notice ? " wrote a country editor's correspondent. " I make bold to ask it, because I know the deceased had a great many friends who would be glad to hear of his death." Just as innocently did the negro propose " De Gubernor ob our State ! He come in wid much opposition ; he go out wid none at all ; " and the king of Portugal greet Landseer with : " Ah, Sir Edwin, I'm glad you have come ; I am so fond of beasts ! " There was more mischief in the *double-entendre* of the French dame who, upon a newly married friend exhibiting a monkey her husband had bought for her, exclaimed : " Dear little man, it's so like him ! " And there was no misunderstanding Macready's reply to the actor's " I had the honour of playing Iago to your Othello at Bath twelve months ago ; don't you remember me, sir ? " " Remember you, sir ? I shall never forget you ! "

Lord Palmerston once wrote to a friend: " Our new little gardener who has now been with us a year and a half, is a clever intelligent fellow ; and when we have taught him the management of fruits and flowers and how to plant trees, he will, I doubt not, prove an excellent gardener." A comical encomium truly ; and as much to the purpose as the Scotch drover's patronizing recognition of a certain clergyman : " Ye dinna ken me, but I ken you. I'm whiles in your parish. There's no better liked man anywhere, yer own folk jist adore ye. *Who cares about preachin' ?* "

An American editor travelling by steamer repaired to the ship's barber for a clean shave. Upon offering the barber payment, the dime was rejected with : " We nebber charge editors nuffin." The astonished man remonstrated, arguing that there were a good many editors travelling just then, and such liberality would prove ruinous to the razor-wielder. " Oh, nebber mind dat," said the barber. " We make it up off the gemmen." When a lady giving evidence in a Kansas court refused to answer a question on the plea it was not fit to tell decent people, her questioner blandly said : " Well then, step up and whisper it to the judge."

ST. BRIDGET'S VISION.

WHEN St. Patrick was preaching to a great concourse of people at a place called Fin nab-hair, or the " White Field," in the plain of Lemhuin, the spirit of God came upon her, and she fell into a deep trance. St. Patrick, to whom our saint's extraordinary sanctity was well known, requested her to manifest to the people the favor God had vouchsafed to her. " I had a vision," said St. Bridget humbly, in reply, " in which I beheld four ploughs ploughing the whole of Ireland, while sowers were scattering seed. This after immediately sprung up, and began to ripen, when rivulets of fresh milk filled the furrows, while the sowers themselves were clothed in white garments. After

this I saw others plough, and those who ploughed appeared black. They destroyed with their ploughshares the growing corn, and they sowed tares which filled the furrows." " O holy virgin," said St. Patrick, " you have beheld a true and wonderful vision. This is its interpretation. We are the good ploughers, who with the shares of the four gospels, cultivate human hearts and sow God's word, while those rivers containing the milk of christian charity proceed from our labors. But towards the end of the world, bad teachers shall preach to depraved generations who will receive them. They shall seduce nearly the whole human race."