

THE FAVORITE

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"THE FAVORITE"

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"ARTISTIC FILTH."

One of the most prominent artists engaged on one of the vilest illustrated papers published in New York has given the above title to his own work, and it is an apt one. There are numbers of illustrated papers published in the States, the contents of which are nothing but filth, and one of their most dangerous characteristics is the fact that they are artistically got up and present an attractive appearance calculated to please the eye. These publications have been introduced very freely into Canada, and have, undoubtedly seriously injured the morals of the rising generation; it is, therefore, with great pleasure that we notice the action of Mr. E. J. RUSSELL, agent for the Lower Provinces for the *FAVORITE* and *Canadian Illustrated News*, who has induced the Collector of Customs at St. John, N. B., to seize a large number of *Police Gazettes*, *Days Doings*, and other kindred publications, on the ground that they were indecent and immoral. We hope that the action of the Collector at St. John, will be followed by a similar action by other Collectors and that the dissemination of artistic filth throughout Canada may be effectually stopped. A few spasmodic efforts will be of comparatively little avail, but we hope to see the action of Mr. Russell followed up by a persistent effort on the part of our agents and the Collectors of Customs to drive indecent literature out of Canada. There cannot happen to any country a worse curse than to be flooded with indecent and immoral books and papers, and there is little doubt that the moral laxity of Paris and New York is to a great extent due to the too great liberty with which artistic filth has been published in both places. It is a painful and pitiable sight to see boys and girls scarcely in their teens eagerly devouring the contents of publications especially intended to appeal to the lowest and most degrading passions; and it is high time that some vigorous measures were taken to sweep the vile stuff away. The record of crime is always sad to read, and where it is necessary to record it, it should be done seriously and for the purpose

of warning others by the example, not made attractive by fancy pictures and fine description so that the imagination is excited and all abhorrence at the crime is lost in the interest in the subject.

PLEADING INSANITY.

The growing tendency of lawyers to put in the plea of insanity on behalf of their clients in criminal cases, is beginning to attract considerable attention; and in Indiana a bill has been introduced in the Legislature to regulate pleas of this kind. The bill provides that whenever an indicted person is found not guilty by reason of his temporary insanity the Court shall send him to a lunatic asylum for a term of years proportionate to his crime. We really cannot see that the State of Indiana will benefit much by legislation of this kind; if the bill made any provision for sending the lawyer who defended the case to the lunatic asylum, it might do some good as it would tend to decrease the tendency to put in the plea. Very few of the men who commit a murder are at all likely to put in the plea of insanity of their own free will and accord; it is generally the lawyer who proposes the idea. No man likes to confess that he is, or was, insane; even lunatics are very well confirmed in the idea that they are sane and the rest of the world mad, and we do not see that sending sane men to lunatic asylums would be by any means an efficient check to the, generally, preposterous plea of temporary insanity. It has become the fashion to attempt, at every trial for murder, to prove that the murderer was temporarily insane, and there is very little doubt in our mind that many acquittals yearly take place on this plea—especially in the United States—which are manifestly unjust; but still it would be a dangerous thing to legislate on so delicate a point. No juror would like to condemn a madman to death for committing a crime when he was unconscious of what he was doing; and, on the other hand, we scarcely think many jurors would care to be called on to send a sane man to a lunatic asylum; the safest way, therefore, it seems to us, is to leave the matter, as it stands at present, in the hands of the Judge and jurors; if the plea of temporary insanity is attempted to be used as a subterfuge let them discover it, and disregard it; but it would not be well to refuse absolutely the admission of the plea, or to attach a penalty to it, so that innocent men might frequently be punished.

THE UNITED STATES CENSUS.

The forthcoming census of the United States gives the entire population at 38,558,371; of these 5,567,229—or about one-seventh—are of foreign birth. The following particulars of the nativity of the foreigners in the neighboring Republic will probably prove interesting to our readers:

Africa.....	2,657
Asia.....	864
Atlantic Islands.....	4,431
Australasia.....	3,118
Austria (proper).....	30,508
Belgium.....	12,553
Bohemia.....	40,289
British America:	
Canada.....	414,912
New Brunswick.....	26,737
Newfoundland.....	3,433
Nova Scotia.....	33,462
Prince Edward Island.....	1,363
British America, not specified.....	13,469
Central America.....	488,464
China.....	301
Cuba.....	65,042
Denmark.....	5,319
Europe, not specified.....	30,107
France.....	1,546
Germany:	
Baden.....	153,366
Bavaria.....	204,119
Brunswick.....	4,876
Hamburg.....	7,825
Hanover.....	104,365
Hessen.....	131,524
Lubeck.....	279
Mecklenburg.....	33,670
Nassau.....	8,462
Oldenburg.....	10,286
Prussia.....	5,067,282
Saxony.....	45,256
Weimar.....	1,628
Wurtemberg.....	127,959
Germany, not specified.....	253,632
Gibraltar.....	1,600,533

Great Britain and Ireland:

England.....	550,924
Ireland.....	1,855,827
Scotland.....	140,835
Wales.....	74,533
Great Britain, not specified.....	4,122
Greece.....	2,626,241
Greenland.....	390
Holland.....	3
Hungary.....	46,802
India.....	3,737
Italy.....	690
Japan.....	17,157
Luxemburg.....	73
Malta.....	5,802
Mexico.....	55
Norway.....	42,435
Pacific Islands.....	114,246
Poland.....	326
Portugal.....	14,436
Russia.....	4,542
Sandwich Islands.....	4,644
South America.....	554
Spain.....	3,565
Sweden.....	3,764
Switzerland.....	97,332
Turkey.....	75,153
West Indies.....	302
At sea.....	6,251
Not stated.....	2,635
Total foreign-born population.....	5,567,229

LITERARY ITEMS.

SCRIBNER'S.—A more readable number of SCRIBNER'S than the February has, perhaps, never been issued. There is a strange story by Miss Phelps, "Since I died," in which the gates seem to have been set ajar, indeed; a puzzling account by Noah Brooks of what he calls "The San Rafael Phalanstery;" a curious discussion by Philip Gilbert Hamerton, the English art-critic, of "One Phase of the Marriage Question;" an interesting description by Albert Rhodes of "A Court Ball at the Hague;" a new story by Miss Trafton, entitled "Little Miss Frere;" some pleasant and pointed talk by Junius Henri Browne, on "Borrowing as a Social Science;" a trenchant and most timely paper on "Art at the Capitol;" a lively description by Lady Blanche Murphy, of that peculiar British Institution, "An Archaeological Breakfast;" a very valuable and entertaining article on "The Tehuantepec Ship-Canal;" a strikingly illustrated paper on Siam, "In and Around Bangkok;" and an illustrated piece of popular science "How Men Learned to Analyze the Sun." The most striking poems of the number are "A Vision of St. Eligius," by George MacDonald, as quaintly spiritual as a poem of Herbert's; "One Night," a weird thing by Amanda T. Jones; "Covert," by H. H.; and "For Thoughts," by Celia Thaxter. Dr. Holland's "Arthur Bonnicastle" contains the record of a remarkable voyage. In his Topics of the Time he has "Thoughts after Christmas," "The Neglect of the Rich," "Habits of Literary Labor," "To the Memory of George P. Putnam." The Old Cabinet has "Number One hundred and eleven," Home and Society contain, "The Hospitality we should like to See," "At the Front door," "On Skates," and "Furniture for the Sick-room." Culture and Progress discusses "Art in our Homes and Schools," "An Oracle of our Day," etc. Nature and Science is as interesting and practical as usual; and, by way of variety, there is a pretty little child-poem in the department of Etchings. The publishers advertise the November and December numbers sent free to all subscribers for 1878.

LIPPINCOTT'S.—The February number of *Lippincott's Magazine* contains a number of highly attractive articles. The concluding part of "Searching for the Quinine-Plant in Peru" forms the initial paper. The illustrations accompanying this interesting record of adventure have probably never been surpassed in accuracy of design or beauty of execution by any similar productions in this country. "A Glance of the Site and Antiquities of Athens," another well illustrated article, by J. L. T. Phillips, affords much valuable information concerning the present condition and appearance of the great monuments of the Grecian metropolis. It is written in a style which makes it eminently readable. "Country-House Life in England," by Reginald Wynford, abounds in curious and entertaining facts and pleasing anecdotes. It has all that freshness and sprightliness which invariably characterize its author's sketches of British life, manners, and customs. Will Wallace Harney's paper, entitled "Observations and Adventures in Submarine Diving," possesses a fascinating interest for every class of readers. Its revelations of subaqueous life and phenomena are not only distinguished for accuracy and vivid delineation, but offer so marked a contrast to everything to which ordinary mortals are accustomed that they arouse a feeling of excitement seldom produced by narratives of adventure upon the solid earth, in the air, or upon the surface of the sea. "Glimpses of John Chinaman," by Prentice Mulford, is at once amusing and instructive, and gives an insight into both the oddities and the capabilities of the Mongolian character as displayed upon American soil. The poetry contained in the present issue of *Lippincott's Magazine* is considerably above the ordinary level. One production, "Jack, the Regular," by Thomas Dunn English, is an interesting legend of the Revolutionary War, and is told with rare skill and power both of expression and of versification. In the department of fiction, the most conspicuous contributions are the continuation of "Probationer Leonhard," by Caroline Chesbro, and "The Forest of Arden," by Ita Auloi Prokop. "Our Monthly Gossip," as usual, is

full of attractive and instructive matter. In the number for March will be commenced a highly interesting serial story entitled "The Princess of Thule," by William Black, the author of "A Daughter of Heth."

PASSING EVENTS.

THE rinderpest has appeared at Shanghai.
DR. PUSEY is lying dangerously ill at Genoa.
THE Grand Duchess Helene of Russia is dead.
THE Empress Dowager of Brazil died in Lisbon.
OSCAR XI, successor to the throne of Sweden, will be crowned in May.
A BILL to render military service compulsory in Spain is before the Cortes.
THE remains of Lord Lytton have been interred in Westminster Abbey.
PRINCE ARTHUR has visited the Sovereign Pontiff and Cardinal Antonelli.
It was reported that the new ten million Erie loan had been taken in Europe.
THE French Assembly has enacted a law imposing severe penalties on drunkards.
THE Hon. Joseph Howe is spoken of as the next Lieut.-Governor for Nova Scotia.
THE report that Persia had ceded territory to the Czar is officially contradicted in London.
A MEETING was held at Nottingham to denounce the imprisonments of the stokers on strike as tyrannical.
At a meeting of New York Internationalists it was decided not to render aid and comfort to the Cuban revolutionists.
STOKES' counsel has submitted affidavits in support of his bill of exceptions, and the case will come up again on Friday.
THE opening of a Mexican Railroad just completed, from the Capital to the sea, had been celebrated with a week's festivities.
THE champion sculler Brown, of Halifax, will be backed for \$2,500 against Sadler, or the world,—the race to come off next summer.
THE committee on the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico recommends that the indemnity to slave owners be fixed at \$250 for each.
A SLIGHT eruption of Vesuvius had taken place, but beyond scaring the inhabitants who dwell at the foot of the mountain, no damage had been done.
MR. ONSLOW, M.P., who was fined £100 for traducing Sir John Duke Coleridge, having repeated the offence, will be imprisoned for contempt of court.
THE latest about the Central Asia difficulty is that Russia has proposed to define a neutral zone of territory and to recognize the independence of Afghanistan.
A RESOLUTION has been adopted in the House of Representatives at Washington calling on President Grant for information respecting land owners in San Juan who are British subjects.
At a conference held at Chislehurst, it was decided that the Prince Imperial shall be known by one of his lesser titles, and not by the empty one of Napoléon IV. The ex-Empress and Prince Jerome were appointed his political guardians.
In a neat and appropriate little speech to the Chamber of Deputies, Bismarck has explained that he has resigned the Premiership for the benefit of his health, and to be relieved of some of the burthens of state. His reception was enthusiastic.
A MEETING of the Trustees of the fund raised for the relief of the operatives during the cotton famine was held at Manchester last night. The amount on hand was reported at \$20,000. Earl Derby offered a resolution that the fund be applied to the foundation of a hospital for convalescents. Resolution adopted.
LAURA D. FAIR delivered a lecture on the subject of "Wolves in the Fold," at Sacramento, in a larger hall, having been unable to obtain a public hall. On finding that nobody paid for admission into the hall, she ordered the doors to be thrown open for free admittance, and the consequence was the place was immediately filled.
A Marseilles bric-a-brac dealer has discovered two curious sets of tapestries formerly belonging to Madame de Sevigné's Château de Grignon. One represents the loves of Anthony and Cleopatra—two large compositions in the style of Paul Veronese, bordered with garlands and figures, while *Æneas* and *Dido* form the subject of the others.
THE question of emigration having come up in the Prussian Chamber of Deputies, the Minister of the Interior stated that the right of change of domicile having been conceded, the Government was powerless to arrest the present movement. He suggested an amelioration of the condition of the people as the best remedy to be applied.
THE details of the recent terrible hurricane in Minnesota, which continued for fifty hours, and was accompanied by rain and snow, represent over two hundred, possibly three hundred, lives lost, mostly heads of families. Missing men continue to be found frozen every day. Thousands of horses, cattle and other stock perished. The snow banks were higher than the houses in many places, and many trains of cars were blocked up for days.