

A GREAT COMPOSER'S RUSE.

Auber's last opera was *Le Premier Jour de Bonheur*—*The first day of happiness*. He wrote it for Madame Cabel, one of the three renowned vocalists of Paris who had been music-hall singers—that is, Cabel, Ugalde, and Marie Sass, who had one of the most superb voices ever heard at the Grand Opera. A young singer, transparent with a pink-and-white complexion, made her *debut* there—Marie Roze. She has developed her talent since then. On February 15, 1868, the "young" octogenarian produced this last opera at the Theatre de l'Opera Comique, which had seen so many of his successes. As usual, says a writer in *Temple Bar*, he would not stay in the house to see it; but during the last act he came upon the stage, and every one of the performers was sure, when the opera was over, he had but just seen him. Yet, when public clamour called him before the curtain, as if by magic he had disappeared; they sought him everywhere, but found no Auber. When at last there was no chance of bringing him before the footlights, and the public began to leave the house, Monsieur Auber knocked at the door of Madame Cabel, who had played the chief part in the opera, and of Mlle. Marie Roze, who, though intrusted with a much smaller part, had really made the hit of the evening, and, apologising for his disappearance, invited them both, and, in fact, all the principals, to a supper at the Café Anglais. Auber, although well advanced in years, never felt tired; and at that supper the young singers were enlivened by his *verve* and his lively stories. But they began to feel a reaction after the excitement of the *premiere*, and Auber saw that he could not keep them much longer; so he called the *garçon* to pay his *addition*, which was quickly brought. But, oh, horror, what did he find? He had no money. He told the *garçon*, "I am Monsieur Auber; I will pay to-morrow." "You may be Monsieur Auber, but you must pay to-night." A short conversation arose: the master of the establishment was not to be found. What was to be done? "I cannot help it," said Auber. "I must send to my *notaire*. He always has gold in his safe. It is a cruel thing to wake the poor man, who has been asleep probably for two hours; but what can I do?" He sent a few words, pencilled, by a cabman, with orders to insist on seeing the old gentleman, who, poor victim, half an hour later made his appearance in terror. What could old Monsieur Auber have done—what scrape could he have got into—that at two o'clock in the morning he wanted his notary to help him out? You may imagine how surprised he was when he heard that it was nothing but a few hundred francs Auber wanted to pay for his supper. But barely had he appeased the anxious waiter, when Auber struck his forehead with his open hand, and said, "Ah, how stupid I am! I have my purse in my overcoat, now I think of it: I will pay you back at once. And there is a gold piece for you," he said to the waiter. "You have played your part well." What was the explanation? He had the money in his pocket, and had played this farce with the waiter in order to keep the company an hour longer together.

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**Notice to Contractors.**

**SEALED TENDERS**

Addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for completion of Custom House, London," will be received at this office until

**THURSDAY, 20th MAY NEXT,**

For the several works required in the completion of an addition to the  
**CUSTOM HOUSE, AT LONDON, ONTARIO.**

Plans and specifications can be seen at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, and at the office of Messrs. Durand & Moore, Architects, London, Ont., on and after Friday, the 24th April inst.

At the plans and specifications provide for the whole of above works, and a portion of same having been executed, intending contractors are required to personally visit the site and make themselves fully cognizant of the work remaining to be done, according to the said plans and specifications, before putting in their tenders.

Persons tendering are further notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an *irrevocable* bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.  
By order,

A. GOREIL,  
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,  
Ottawa, 27th April, 1886.