

**ROSA BONHEUR.**—The celebrated animal painter was born at Bordeaux on the 28th of May, 1822, as the daughter of a poor drawing master. In 1829 her father removed to Paris, where he placed little Rosa in a boarding school, and afterwards apprenticed her to a seamstress. Pining under such ungenial occupation, Rosa Bonheur at last prevailed upon her father to take her home to teach her drawing. For four years she studied the works of the great masters at the Louvre; but when the time came to select a *specialité* of her art, Rosa's intuitive love of the animal world manifested itself, and forthwith she took to immortalising her pets on canvass. She has since become immortal, the Landseer of France.

### OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

#### THE PEEP SHOW.

The interest about the ballot is one which the people will not allow to die out. It is continually cropping up in the papers. Hence we illustrate it to-day in a comic cartoon. The Minister of Justice, who is the custodian of the sacredness of the ballot, is represented as an itinerant showman, going the rounds. A lot of street Arabs hang about him, as usual, and want to get a peep at the mysteries of his oblong box. Among the boys are such wild little Tories as Tommy White, Charley Davidson, Davy McCord, and others, while stalwart bobbies, who bear striking resemblance to Messrs. McLaren and Archambault of this city, stand as wardens of the showman's treasures. A boy on the other side of the fence looks like Freddy Mackenzie, and somehow he wears a more satisfied aspect than the other boys. The trouble with the lads is that the showman is hard-hearted, and will allow no peep into his box WITHOUT STAMPS.

#### INTERLAKEN.

This loveliest of towns in Switzerland is here represented in a winter view. The effect is less picturesque than in summer, when the verdure of the Lauterbrunnen Valley contrasts with the snow-clad tops of Mount Blanc, but the uniformity is no less striking.

#### VIEW ON ST. JAMES STREET.

There is no thoroughfare in America, certainly none in Canada, which is more picturesque than St. James Street, Montreal, in winter. The sleighs and equipages are of every variety, and the street is generally crammed with people. From two till five of an afternoon the scene is animated and altogether worthy of the sketch made of it by our artist.

Our other illustrations will be found described in separate articles.

#### VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.

We have great pleasure in presenting among our illustrations, a view of the Victoria Opera House now in course of erection on Victoria street, Montreal. There has long been felt the want of a commodious, comfortable and modern Opera House and Theatre situated in a pleasant and accessible part of the Town, which should afford every encouragement to the lovers of Opera and the Drama to patronize more liberally that class of amusement and education.

We are sure that the erection of the Victoria Opera House, fulfilling as it will all the desired conditions, will be hailed by a large and increasing class of our citizens with delight, and on its completion will meet with their most liberal support.

The building itself, situated on Victoria street one block from St. Catherine street, and just behind the Queen's Hall, and virtually in the line of the street railway is to have a handsome front in the Italian Gothic style, of Montreal lime stone, rock face with cut stone dressings. It is three stories high with pavilions at each end and is about eighteen feet by one hundred feet deep. The entrance to the House is at the S.W. angle of the building. A handsome and lofty vestibule in which is the Ticket-office for the stalls, boxes and dress circle, leads to a wide corridor from which are several doors to the ground of the House which, like that of the Academy of Music, New York, and most modern theatres, is arranged in orchestra stalls, and balcony circle, the latter slightly raised above the former and both containing seats for about six hundred people. At the end of the corridor a handsome flight of stairs leads to the dress circle and boxes which seat about four hundred and twenty-five people. On this floor will be one or more parlours or ante-rooms, and cloak-room. Above the dress circle is the gallery with a seating capacity of over eight hundred, the entrance to which is at the corner of the building on the lane between Victoria and University streets and at a convenient distance from the main entrance. In addition to the accommodation already described there is camp stool and standing room for several hundred more.

The general dimensions of the stage and house are almost exactly those of the New Fifth Avenue Theatre in New York, so well known for its presentations of high class scenes and other Dramas, the stage of the Victoria Opera House however, being somewhat larger.

On the Victoria street front, separated from the House itself by a fire wall, are a number of large apartments; those on the ground floor beginning at the St. Catherine street end, being a suite of large refreshment, lounging and smoking rooms, entered either from the street or vestibule, and affording an agreeable lounge between the acts, or indeed a small club for general resort. Beyond, there is the large and handsome green room with

its private entrance and stair. On the first floor there is a large suite of rooms suitable for dinners, suppers or dances and in the third story a Masonic Hall already leased to one of the leading lodges of the city.

The house is to be handsomely decorated, upholstered and finished with all the latest improvements in its seating requirements, heating and lighting apparatus, (it is intended to light the gas by electricity,) and the greatest precautions have been taken against fire; all the doors opening outwards and there being extra exit so arranged as to be available in case of need.

It is also intended that all the arrangements for the actors and actresses will be on the most liberal scale and the scenery and stage machineries the best of their kind. The house is built after the designs of Mr. Taft, of Montreal, with whom is associated Mr. A. E. Hutchison as supervising architect. The works will proceed as soon as possible in the Spring, and it is hoped that the house will be opened to the public early in the autumn.

### MUSICAL CRITICISM.

#### THE BOSTON PHILHARMONIC CLUB.

This musical combination has made a most favourable impression on Montreal. The two concerts of the 7th and 8th inst., in the Mechanics' Hall, were well attended, and the appreciative audience testified to their pleasure by most hearty applause. The club is composed of six artists, each of whom has a claim to be considered a good soloist. Indeed, some of the solo performances were very remarkable. We instance the violin playing of Mr. Bernard Listemann, and the Fantasias on the flute by Mr. Eugene Weiner. Mr. Hartdegen is a sweet and correct violoncellist. We have seldom heard anything on the cello more delicately played than "Sounds from the Alps," or more dashing than "Danse Hollandaise." But Mr. Weiner's fingering and *embouchure* on the flute are simply perfection; and while that instrument possesses no difficulties he has not overcome, no secret powers he has not evoked, this finished artist does not allow the brilliancy of his execution to interfere with the pathos and sweetness of his theme. On the other hand, Mr. Bernard Listemann, a most correct and rapid violinist, does not belong to the sympathetic and soul-stirring school of players. His art is ideal, appealing to the mind and waking the imagination, but not impinging on the heart-strings. His play is nervous, dry, at times violent. He infuses into the concerted pieces played by the club a weird and vigorous tone which contributes much to the general effect. The first five bars of the "Rhapsodie Hongroise" had not been played before the audience felt a thrill as of electricity, betokening the intense pleasure conferred by the rich harmony. They felt that each instrument was handled by an artist, and that while no one of the six lost his individuality in the performance of his part, each contributed to produce a perfect *ensemble* possessing an originality and intensity not exhibited by any other club that has visited us. Miss May Bryant is a contralto whose voice is rich and full of feeling, and her songs were a pleasing feature of the evening. Mr. De Zouche deserves the thanks of the citizens of Montreal for affording them this fine musical treat, and we hope the success of this visit of the Philharmonics will induce them to favour us again.

#### DE MURSKA CONCERTS.

There is always something suggestive of failure when an artist is announced as stepping down from the operatic stage in order to mount the concert platform. In the case of Ilma de Murska we have not to inquire into the causes which have led her to retire from the former and assume the latter branch of her profession, as the change has resulted in the pleasure which her entertainments have furnished us. On Monday and Tuesday, of this week, she and her company gave successful concerts in Montreal, after meeting with much favour in different cities of Ontario. Ilma de Murska is so well known in England and the United States that it is useless to enter upon any analysis of her vocalism. Suffice it to say that, in range and versatility, her voice is unsurpassed, and that any one who wishes to convince himself that the human voice, especially the female voice, surpasses every other instrument, has only to listen to the wonderful effects of de Murska's singing. She was ably supported by Teresa Carreno, the charming pianist, M. Sauret, a graceful violinist, M. Braga, a master of the violoncello, and Signor Ferranti, a fair baritone singer.

### SELECTA.

A GERMAN correspondent states that much offence has been given at Berlin by designating the Centre (Ultramontane) party of the German Parliament as "the Kullmann fraction."

THE Queen, desiring that all who are interested should have an opportunity of seeing the books containing the addresses of thanks from the French people, has directed that the volumes shall be sent to the British Museum for that purpose.

Two weeks ago, at a Parliamentary reception at Prince Bismark's, two of the guests wandered into the Princess's library, where they found a pistol lying upon the writing-table. While they were handling it the dangerous toy discharged, fortunately without doing any harm.

It was Kullman's pistol loaded with ball cartridge.

THE new Paris Opera House will have a peal of ten bells, not embracing the whole scale, but giving those notes required in the most popular operas, such as the *Huguenots*, *Robert the Devil*, *Der Freischütz*, &c. The diameter of the bells will equal their height: they will be cast of 78 parts of red copper and 22 of tin, and will bear no inscription except the name of the founder and the note they give forth.

PRINCE George of Prussia is engaged in writing a drama, the subject of which is taken from the Old Testament; with a view of preparing himself for the careful working out of the plan, he has called in the aid of a distinguished Semitic scholar to direct him in regard to the correct exposition of the accessories of the piece.

A VERY remarkable character died in Paris last month, Sophie, to whom the late Dr. Vernon was indebted for his reputation as the first dinner-giver in Paris for something like half a century. Sophie generally used to come in after dinner and be complimented, and, in her humble way, became acquainted with almost every man and woman of note in Paris. The late Emperor, while plain Citizen Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, partook of the good things elaborated by this woman of genius.

THE marriage of the Princess Louise (daughter of the King of the Belgians) with Prince Philip, Duke of Saxony, is finally fixed for Thursday, the 4th of February. Prince Philip has ordered a considerable amount of jewellery. The dowry of the Princess is to be 1,800,000fr. (£72,000). The Prince will have a considerable fortune of his own. Three court balls are to be given at Brussels, the dates of which have not yet been fixed, but all the Princesses invited to the marriage are expected to be present.

THE Roman law courts are likely to be called upon to decide upon a somewhat peculiar case. Pope Leo XII., finding himself hard pressed for money, induced several families to make him advances, and by way of compensation freed them and their estates from liability to taxation during the present century. The tax-gatherers of the new Italian kingdom, however, refuse to acknowledge the dispensation, and have demanded payment of four years' taxes from the representatives of the families in question. The latter have therefore determined to contest their liability before the legal tribunals.

THE new *Almanach de Gotha*, which appeared last month, contains an amusing misprint. The Vice-President of the Council of India appears as "Sir Bartle, frere."

SIR Richard Wallace has bought a piece of ground from the city of Paris. It is situated at the corner of the Rue de Morney and François Ier. The new Anglican Chapel is to be built upon it, and a beautiful square is to ornament the front, in which there are to be fountains, flower beds, statuary, and so forth.

THE Archduchess Marie Antoinette is expected in Paris. Her Imperial Highness intends to make a long stay in the French capital, and rooms have been prepared for her in the hotel of the Countess de Trapani, the aunt of King Francis II. of Naples.

THE managers of all the German theatres have received a four-act comedy, named *Recept gegen Hausfreunde* by an author with a long Spanish name, a pseudonym—the real name of the author is Ludwig II., King of Bavaria.

THE latest introduction is "Mind Reading." It is understood to be based upon a theory of unconscious muscular action, and is played in this manner:—A member of the party goes out of the room, and during his absence an object is hidden. On his return two others of the party stand up beside him in the middle of the room, placing both their hands upon his body, one hand on his chest and the other on his back, in the meantime keeping their mind intensely concentrated on the locality where the object is hidden. In a few moments the party operated upon will move in the direction of the hidden object, and in nine cases out of ten finds it. An expert by means of placing the back of the hand of the person operated on against the back of his own head, "holding it there permanently," the other hand of the operator being touched lightly against the tips of the fingers of the hand of the person operated on, has been known to tell what the latter was thinking about.

SOME surprise has been expressed at the fixing of the opening of Parliament for a Friday. No one in the present and in the last generation recollects such a circumstance. Of course there is banter about opening on an unlucky day; but the present Premier M. Disraeli is just the man to "defy augury."

MR. JOHN Bright proposes attending the meeting of his constituents on the 25th January, at which the other borough members will also be present. Mr. Bright says that his health is now much better. He has had a reminder that his place is wanted.

PRINCE Orloff has delivered to the Marshall President of the French Republic the numerous insignia of the Order of St. Andrew, which include the grand cordons of all the other Russian Orders, with the exception of the Military Order of St. George. The Ambassador at the same time handed to Vicomte d'Harcourt the Order of St. Stanislas and that of St. Ladislav with a star in diamonds to the Marquis d'Abzac, the Chief Secretary and the second aide-de-camp of the Marshal.

A BOOKSELLER of Paris has managed to get hold of a treasure of antiquity, and souvenir of the great French Revolution, which many persons would gladly possess. This is none other than the famous Prayer Book, called the "Office of the Holy Spirit," written by Gilbert, in the year 1703, for the Dauphin, son of Louis XIV., and which was the only book left to the unfortunate Louis XVI. in his captivity in the Temple. It will be remembered that the king's gaoler, Vincent, had shown his Royal prisoner all the marks of attention, humanity, and respect which he dared. On the morning when Louis mounted the scaffold, he took off his cravat and handed it, with the Prayer Book, to Vincent as a souvenir, and to show his gratitude to the gaoler. Shortly after the king's execution, he, too, was guillotined as a suspect. His widow, unwilling to part with the souvenir, yet fearing to keep it, tore out the two fly-leaves containing the Royal donor's signature, and affirming the origin and presentation to Vincent of the missal. These pages have unfortunately been destroyed, or lost. The signature, however, of Gilbert remains, and proves the book to have been written by him, and not, as some people suppose, by Jarry, calligrapher to Louis XIV. Cléry, in his *Journal du Temple*, mentions this book as being the only one in the possession of Louis XVI. during his imprisonment. It is doubly bound in morocco—the outside being black and very plain—the inside red and ornamented with crowned dauphins and *fleurs de lys*.

### VARIETIES.

THE announcement is now made that, in addition to the improved postal arrangements with the United States, a portion of which have already gone into effect, the Canadian postal authorities contemplate the creation of a system by which newspapers directed from the office of publication will, in cities where the free delivery system is in force, be distributed to regular subscribers without charge. A portion of the scheme is to establish a rate of newspaper postage which will be merely nominal, to be charged at so much per pound, prepaid by the publisher, so that a small light newspaper will be at no disadvantage as compared with the large and heavy ones, and that this privilege will extend to newspapers going to the United States.

SOME of the more intimate of the Masonic friend of the Marquis of Ripon, several of whom are members of the Grand Lodge, although pained at his Lordship's secession from the order, intend presenting him with a costly artistic gift, and as a mark of their continued esteem and friendship for him. The *souvenir*, the presentation of which was decided upon very shortly after the noble Marquis had resigned the Grand Mastership, has just been received from the hands of the artist. It consists of a jewelled casket of pure gold, six inches in length by four in depth. The corners of the lid on the outside are enriched with carvings of beautiful and appropriate designs, while raised in the centre is the monogram of the Marquis worked in jewels. Attached to the inside of the lid is a trowel, the surface being filled in and ornamented with the symbolism of Masonry. An illuminated address accompanies the casket.

THE fourteenth of December being the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort, the Queen and her family, as is usual, visited the Royal Mausoleum, where a special service was held. It is looked upon as suggestive that while the Duchess of Edinburgh was with the Queen that day, the Princess of Wales was not, and that the Princess of Wales arriving the next day, the Duchess left the Queen's circle some hours before, so that the two did not meet. This may have been accidental, but "they say"—who know almost everything—that the old question of precedence is still unsettled, the Princess claiming to be first, because she is the wife of the heir to the throne, and the Duchess claiming it because, as the daughter of Russia, she should rank above her of Denmark. Ladies quarrel in royal circles, as well as in lowly ones, and may, perhaps, be indulging in it at Windsor.

A MINISTER of a parish in the north of Scotland had been entertaining at dinner a clerical from some distance. The evening was unpropitious, and the friend was invited by the minister to remain during the night, and had accepted the invitation. They walked together for some time in the manse garden. At dusk the minister asked his visitor to step into the manse, while he would give directions to his man servant in regard to his friend's conveyance being got ready in the morning. As the stranger entered the manse the minister's wife mistook him for her husband, in the twilight; she raised the pulpit bible which chanced to be on the lobby table, and bringing the full weight across the stranger's shoulders exclaimed emphatically:—"Take that for asking that ugly wretch to stay all night!" How the lady looked on discerning her mistake is not related; but the visitor is understood to have relinquished his intention of tarrying for the night.

### DOMESTIC.

**ROAST TURKEY.**—Remove the outer skin from a quantity of chestnuts; set them to boil in salted water, with a handful of coriander seeds and a couple of bay leaves. When nearly done drain off the water, and remove the inner skin of the chestnuts. Cut up half a pound of butter into small pieces, mix it with the chestnuts, when cold, together with a small onion finely chopped. Sprinkle the mixture with pepper, salt, and powdered spice to taste, and stuff the turkey with it. Cut some thin slices of fat bacon, tie them with thread over the body and breast of the bird, and set it to roast at a moderate fire, basting frequently with butter. A quarter of an hour before the turkey is done remove the bacon, and just before serving sprinkle the bird freely with fine salt. Serve with sausages.

**TO BOIL A TURKEY.**—The turkey should be well washed in tepid water, then rubbed all over with lemon juice, and placed in a saucepan, with just enough water boiling hot to cover him well. A large piece of butter, a couple of onions, a head of celery, some carrots, sliced, whole pepper, mace, cloves, a bundle of sweet herbs, and parsley, with salt to taste, should be added. The boiling should be carried on slowly, the pot should be skimmed, and in a couple of hours or less, according to the size of the victim, the sacrifice will be accomplished. Some people stuff a boiled turkey with oysters, and serve oyster-sauce with it. That is a matter of taste. A purée of celery, or of chestnuts, or of onions, even oyster sauce (not oysters floating in paste) properly made, will go very well with boiled turkey. But the best of all sauces is tomato sauce, or a purée of endives, or of any other green meat meat, if the proper degree of piquancy were given to it by the admixture of lemon juice.