

Whelmed by the Floods.

The Appalling Calamity that has Befallen a Hungarian City.

A calamity to which Hungary has long been considered peculiarly liable has overtaken Szegedin, the second commercial town of that country.

The River Theiss overflowed its banks, despite the precautions that had been taken from the moment the danger of such an occurrence was observed, and within three hours the town was inundated.

The scenes that ensued defy description, for, to add to the situation, the tremendous current undermined the foundations of the buildings in which the inhabitants lived or had sought shelter, and amid shrieks, cries, and frantic appeals for aid that it was impossible to render, the structures went crashing into the flood, carrying with them the inmates. Even the synagogue, to which many people had flown for refuge, was not spared by the waters, and fell in, burying hundreds in its ruins.

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Some years ago the Government received proposals from an English engineer to furnish a remedy for the inundation which the Theiss has threatened each spring, but the expense of the construction of the series of canals which he deemed essential to his scheme, was considered too great, and his proposition was dismissed on that account. Had it been accepted, the terrible disaster now reported might never have occurred. The Theiss—Thiza in Hungarian—has so many tributaries that it is invariably swollen at the time of year ice begins to melt, and it has long been looked upon as liable to cause great destruction to property, that which has submerged an entire city could scarcely have been contemplated at the moment the English engineer's scheme was discarded as entailing too heavy an expense. This rich river—it is a saying with the Hungarians that the Theiss has more fish than water—rises in the county of Marmaros, in the northeast, flows westward to Tokay, then southward to Solnoy, when it turns south, and enters the Danube south of Titei, near the southern boundary of Hungary. It is navigable throughout most of its entire length of 600 miles, and is bordered by marshy meadows, soda-lakes and swamps. For nearly 300 miles its lower course is parallel with the Danube, and from about the beginning of the present century it has been connected with that river by the Francis Canal, which shortens the route down its waters and up those of the larger river 100 miles. Its principal tributaries are the Bodrog, Hernad, Sajó, and Zagyva, on the right, and the Szamos, Koros, and Maros on the left. Besides Szegedin, it flows through such large towns as Ocsograd, Zeuz, and old Bona-Zagedin—called Szeged by the Hungarians—as situated on the right bank of the Theiss, and opposite the mouth of the Maros, ninety miles southwest of Pesth, and fifty-five miles west of Arad. Its population was between seventy and eighty thousand, and consisted chiefly of Magyars and Slavs. The city stood in a marshy plain, and was divided into a central town, or Palanka, in which the residences of the merchants were grouped around an old fortress built by the Turks in the sixteenth century, and containing extensive barracks, a house of correction, and a church of its own; an upper and a lower town, and new Szegedin, situated on the east bank of the Theiss, and reached by a bridge of boats. Besides the synagogue—the inhabitants comprised many Jews—there were six Roman Catholic churches, a Catholic gymnasium, a beautiful Greek church, and one or two convents. The market place was very large, and among the places of amusement was a Magyar theatre.

Reliance had been placed upon several large dykes which protected the back of the town, but these gradually succumbed to the force of the water, and the inhabitants perceived that their only safety lay in strengthening the embankment of the Alfold Railway. Desperate efforts were made throughout Tuesday night, but early yesterday morning a gale arose, and aided by this, the water broke through, carrying away part of the embankment and the rolling stock of the railway, and rushing in broad streams toward the town. This was at 3 o'clock. Many persons had remained up throughout the night, anticipating some such danger, and these fled at once. Others, aroused by the roar of the great body of water, sprang from their beds, and hurrying on some clothing, sought refuge on the rooftops. At daybreak the town was many feet deep in water, and the inhabitants had begun to realize the extent of their calamity. Here and there a house, less substantial than its neighbours, tottered and fell with a crash, and it frequently happened that at the moment a boat was near the window from which half-dressed people were appealing for aid, the whole edifice would tremble to the ground, amid the pitiful shrieks of the inmates. Such of the inhabitants as were so fortunate as to be able to do so fled to new Szegedin and more elevated parts of the town, hurriedly crossing the bridge of boats which separates the new city from the old. As the day wore on whole rows of houses fell, and the flood gained such headway that it submerged fully two-thirds of the town, including the citadel and the post and telegraph offices. Besides the synagogue, the orphanage succumbed, burying its inmates in the ruins, and two manufactories were discovered to be in flames. No excesses were observable, however, on the part of the inhabitants, precautionary measures having been taken for the protection of property. During the afternoon the dams were out in several places to allow the water to run off; the flood was still rushing with an awful roar over the city, and the practical destruction of the town was complete. Happily, however, while there was much excitement there was no disorder, and such of the inhabitants as could be removed were conveyed to a place of safety by men who seemed to retain their presence of mind to a greater degree than might have been expected.

At Pesth active measures were taken to send assistance to the afflicted city; the

municipal authorities directed that relief trains be prepared without delay, and accommodations for fugitives were provided in the barracks and public buildings of the capital.

The Government has sent 40,000 florins for the relief of the inhabitants. This generosity does not save it, however, from being violently attacked by the radicals in the Diet for having neglected to take precautions against the calamity. Every hour brings intelligence of fresh disaster. It appears that 100 square miles in the vicinity of Szegedin are flooded and the crops in that district totally ruined.

At latest accounts the water had risen five feet more, and the situation was becoming more and more critical.

Sixty thousand persons were without a roof to cover them. The upper floors of all high houses were crammed with spectators in momentary fear of death.

The Tyrolese.

(From Harper's Magazine.)

It is not easy to see how, in a country so broken as this, and where so many farms and even whole villages have no access to market except over mountain foot-paths, any system could be introduced which would lighten the labour of the people. On not one farm in fifty in the mountain valleys could the mowing-machine be used, and from at least one-half of the hay and grain fields the whole crop has to be carried away on the hands and shoulders of the people. Something might be gained by the introduction of a better race of cattle, but it is a question whether these too would not deteriorate under the constant exercise needed to pick up a living on these broken pastures. The conditions of living are very much modified by the modern propensity which is so common among the Tyrolese. As musicians, as peddlers, as cattle-dealers, and as mechanics, they wander over the wide world, bringing home a comfortable profit and a quickened intelligence.

The mental and moral characteristics of any people can of course be only very imperfectly measured by the casual traveller. The Tyrolese are represented as being extremely superstitious and priest-ridden, but no evidence of this was obvious to me. They are unquestionably honest and faithful, and universally temperate. Probably every man, woman, and child in Tyrol drinks beer and wine as constantly and as freely as we drink water; but during all of my journeyings in all parts of the country I have not seen a single person either drunk or under any considerable influence of drink. There are, too, very slight evidences of poverty, and beggars are rare. Among themselves, especially at the Gasthaus in the evening, the younger men are noisy and uproarious, and much given to bad music and harsh play. Some of their games are rough to brutality, and it is not long since the use of the knife was a constant accompaniment of their quarrels.

Wrestling and "finger-hacking" (hooking the middle fingers and twisting for the mastery, even at the risk of the joint) are still common, and are watched by comrades with the same interest that attaches to a cock-fight or a dog-fight in England. Among a people whose life makes physical endurance a cardinal virtue, these trials of strength and of the ability to endure pain are regarded as tests of manliness, and even the women who witness them applaud their most brutal manifestations.

Fou Hi's Musical Invention.

(From Harper's Magazine.)

The history of music plainly shows that the elements of musical art were in a manner systematized from the very earliest ages of mankind. The Chinese have records of one of their emperors who fixed the twelve degrees of the chromatic scale at the wake-and-call-me-early period of 3468 B.C. The potentate in question was named Fou Hi the First. He invented several instruments, improvements upon which have made the fortune of many an unscrupulous invader of Chinese patents in these our times. Among his instruments were of course the bones, which, when rattled by Fou Hi, gave forth celestial harmony. His bones were a peculiarly prime order of article, better than those in use in these degenerate days. The lowness of the standard of national taste in America to-day was never more distinctly shown than in the utter indifference of the average auditor as to what a minstrel's bones are made of, so that he rattles as lustily as any smoking dove will roar. Fou Hi, with that nobility of taste invariably observable in the fabrication of choice articles by the Oriental peoples, always insisted upon having his bones made of the right shank of infants of good ancestry, specially measured in the right way for the purpose of manufacture. The bones were the first instrument Fou Hi invented, but his genius soon took a wider flight, and he dropped them for another, namely, the lyre, in drawing the long bow upon which he was unequalled even by his biographers.

Pictures Which Have Been Burned.

(From the Athenaeum.)

Within the last few years prodigious losses have been incurred by fire. Chief among these were nearly a hundred pictures burned at Holker Hall. The famous "Strolling Actresses in a Barn," one of Hogarth's best pictures, was consumed at Littleton not long since, thus following the fate of all but one of the series of "A Harlot's Progress," which ended in smoke at Fonthill. Fire has wrecked more Hogarth than these: his "Garrick as Richard III." had a narrow escape the other day at Ducombe Park. Workshop was burned, with much of its contents, Jan. 22, 1770, being only one of numerous unfortunate cases. Titian's "Peter, Martyr," was lost by this means a few years ago.

This hospitable Jones—"Yes, we're in the same old place where you dined with us last year. By the by, old man, I wish you and your wife would come up and take pot-luck with us again on the—"
The impulsive Brown (in the eagerness of his determination never again to take pot-luck with the Joneses)—"My dear fellow! So sorry I but we're engaged on the—
"Well, old man, you might have given me time just to name the day!"

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

SPRING BONNETS.

The large bonnets to be introduced with the first warm days of spring are not the daring coronet shapes lately worn to frame the face and surround it as with a halo. The new wide brims extend forward as well as upward, and begin to widen at the point where they first leave the crown, just as the old-time scoops and poke-bonnets did. This widened brim is faced inside with shirred satin or with smooth dark velvet, or else with the daintiest India mullin; this facing begins an inch or less from the edge of the fine braid, which is left bare and has no wire in it, and the extreme edge of the facing is often visible from the front. The wholesale houses have imported these large bonnets in the various stylish braids, straws and chips, and the milliner indents the brim according to her fancy, or to suit the face of the wearer. Ladies who trim their own bonnets will find the trimming very simple in appearance, yet not very easy to adjust. The shirred facings are easiest for the inexperienced trimmer; they are cut bias, and are drawn into the shape of the brim by the many rows of drawing-strings that constitute the shirring. These shirring are usually of light-colored satin, especially cream and tea shades, the latter being the delicate tint of the tea-rose. The dark velvet facings are, however, more becoming, especially in the dark garnet and Prince of Wales red shades that are most used in conjunction with tea or cream colour; next these, gendarme blue, sapphire, bottle green and black velvet are preferred. The velvet facing also leaves a bare edge of the unwired brim, and this edge is sometimes double of the braid. With the red, green, or black velvet facing the outside of the bonnet will have some cream-colored satin laid in irregular folds or loops down the right side of the crown, while on the left is a single long, thickly-curved ostrich plume of the same shade; this may begin below the crown, and curl up the left side to the satin on the top, or else it may begin at the top and hang straight downward. Still other hats with garnet velvet facing have simply too long cream yellow plumes beginning below the crown and curling up to the top, thus surrounding it. To dispose these plumes gracefully, to prevent the satin folds and loops from looking stiffly regular, and to have the facing smooth, are necessary items that are not as easily done as would seem at a glance. The large long-looped bows are now worn further back on the bonnet, behind a wreath of branch of large flowers thickly clustered, or else they are put quite in the middle of the crown. The white bonnets are made especially dressy by the doubled strings of Breton lace. In smaller cottage bonnets the brim is faced like those described, and the crown is surrounded by a close wreath of large flowers, or of moss or foliage, or else the three feathers of the Prince of Wales are used with some loosely-knotted satin ribbon.

Among the new ornaments are straw beads strung in fringes or in patterns as galloon. The tinzel galloons are also shown in colours dusted with silver or with gold. Brazilian beetles are mounted on brooches or in sprays with gilt setting to ornament the brooches of green-blue shades, and also the white chip or braid bonnets. The white crystals are brilliant in silvered settings in buckles, brooches, ornaments, and beads. The jet ornaments for black lace bonnets are the handsomest yet imported, and will be largely used again. For the inside of a close oyster-shaped black lace bonnet is a row of graduated jet balls, growing larger toward the middle, that would answer very well for a necklace, yet make a very pretty coronet. To bind the edge of other brims are black net galloons embroidered with jet beads, while for the outside of the crown are large butterflies of jet, crescents, leaves and rings. The ornaments made of feathers have been described.

Broadened ribbons are shown in Japanese designs delicately tinted, and so artistically done that they look like water-colour paintings. These are beautiful on the Tuscan hats for the watering-places. Rustic straw bonnets to be worn with morning or travelling suits, show two or three bright colours mingled with the black or brown braid that forms the greater part of the bonnet. For country use are yellow straws with satin like lustre, trimmed with broadened red and yellow gauze ribbon, forming an Alsatian bow behind a bunch of scarlet poppies.

The black net bonnets are most often all black, with jet ornaments, jet feathers, and black Breton lace for trimmings; the material of the bonnet is Brussels net of very small meshes, without dots, laid smoothly over the frame. When colours are used on them, they are the new tea shades, old gold embroidery, white, or Prince of Wales red. For black chip bonnets a pretty model from Turen's has the facing brim lined with black satin, on which is laid quite smoothly black lace embroidered with old gold silk to represent leaves. Outside are folds of black satin laid carefully around the left side of the crown, while at the top of the right is a group of four very small black tips, from which hangs a long black plume down to the shoulder.

The combination of colours most seen is that of dark red with cream-colour; this arrangement is as popular for brooches as for the brunettes by whom it was originally used. The pale Sevré blue is used with tea-colour, and to these is sometimes added Jacquinet red in the way of roses or buds not quite blown. The gendarme blue looks well with red or with cream-colour in brooches. A graceful round hat of white chip turned up on the right side has the brim faced with gendarme blue velvet, while around the crown is a scarf of blue and red broadened twined in with the blue velvet; one long blue plume is on the right side, and a red bird is perched in front.

Panama tweeds are now loosely woven wool goods of light weight for spring and summer dresses. They are woven in small checks of three or four threads each way, suggesting the Panama canvas used for umbrellas. They come in tan, beige, and gray checks with white. The new Cheviot striped wools are narrow stripes of two green shades, with the lighter stripe marked by broad Cheviot twills; this will make useful and pretty travelling dresses. The new argente are like crapa stuffs that are lightly draped. Various other light woollens are shown in striped and quadrille designs, and the pur-

chaser can scarcely fail to make a stylish selection, provided she confine herself to the tan, olive, and gray shades. The gendarme blue is shown in many of these fabrics, especially in the more striped woollens, but this colour will be more useful for dresses; comes than the useful dark shades just mentioned. Morning dresses and the long sequies called matinees are being made of the more striped cashmere trimmed with white Breton lace pleatings. Chintz satens and foulards will be used for summer matinees.

Short scantily gored shirts of gray mohair are made up for Balmoral petticoats. They are either plain or striped, have but one side gored, and are trimmed with one or two pleated flounces. The pleatings are in clusters, or else plain box-pleatings. They begin as low as 75 cents, but the nicest have rows of black velvet heading the flounces, and cost \$2.50. For nicer Balmorals black alpaca is used. Now white muslin skirts are trimmed with two or three pleated frills of Hamburg embroidery. They still continue to be made with deep yokes at the top, and the longer skirts have fan trains. New French chemises are made with closely fitted bands that button on each shoulder, instead of in front. The band around the neck is formed of fine small tufts done by hand, and there are clusters of tufts six or seven inches deep, separated by spaces extending lengthwise down the front; such chemises, made of nice French percale, are \$1.75. Others are simply scalloped on the bands and sleeves; these are sold for \$1 and neatly made, but of very sheer muslin; soque chemises similarly trimmed begin also as low as \$1, but when ornamented with French needle-work done on the garment, and in the new Greek designs, they cost from \$2.50 to \$3.50.

ALL SORTS.

To Be or Not to Be.

"To keep house or board, That is the question, Whether 'tis better for a pair To try the trials of a hired girl, Or to take up the croonatick And 'scrape dry out To board, to pay your board In advance, say, There's the rub, for when the Friday comes, 'ten to one There isn't a shot in the locker."

Never. "What, never? No, never! What, never? Well, hardly ever."

Never refer to a gift you have made or a favour you have rendered. Never clean the nails or pick the teeth in company. Never fail to give a polite answer to a civil question. Never call a new acquaintance by the Christian name, unless requested to do so. Never accept of favours or hospitalities without rendering an exchange of civilities when opportunity offers. Never write to another asking for information, or a favour of any kind, without enclosing a postage stamp for a reply. Never refuse to receive an apology. You may not receive friendship, but courtesy will require, when an apology is offered, that you accept it. Never insult another by harsh words when applied to for a favour. Kind words do not cost much, and yet they carry untold happiness to the one to whom they are spoken. Never, when walking arm and arm with a young lady, be continually changing and going to the other side, because of a change of corners. It shows too much attention to form. Never should a lady accept of expensive gifts at the hands of a gentleman not related or engaged to her. Gifts of flowers, music, or confectionary may be accepted.

THE first person singular—Adam. A COLD snap—the bite of a turtle. MUSIC of the future—Premissory notes. ICK cream—When a lady skater gets a fall. A THERMOMETER gains notoriety by degrees. A CARRULOUS servant is the friend of the burglar. How can ignorance be regarded as deplorable? Why should a layman care for a sitting in a church? THERE must be a nerve center somewhere in the nose. CHORUS of the cider apple: "Just as we go to press."

SPEAKING of Lent, it rains forty days and forty nights. THE moustache of a very young man has a downcast look about it. THE hotel cook ought to be well known. It is in everybody's mouth. MANY men whistle from want of thought, but few from thought of waste. "WHEN I was a child I speak as a child," and often got spanked for doing it. Who steals a ham, however much in need. By social law is deemed a thief, indeed. But he who steals his million from a bank, is deemed a business man of foremost rank. Learn, then, this lesson from each thieving ring. A little thieving is a dangerous thing. "Isn't it funny?" he exclaimed, as he leaned back in his seat at theatre, and wiped away the tears that the laughter-provoking comedian had produced. "Yes, I should say so," responded his fair companion; "it's one of her sister's old ones made over. His jaw dropped into his lap, as he to see his gaze upon the young lady in front, whose person he had been studying."

THE agents of two rival iron safe manufacturers were recently presenting the claims of their respective articles. One was a Yankee—the other wasn't. The one that wasn't told his story. A game-cock had been shut up in one of his safes, and then it was exposed to the most intense heat. When the door was opened, the cock stalked out, flapped his wings, and crowed loudly, as if nothing had happened. It was now the Yankee's turn. A cock had also been shut up in one of his safes, with a pound of fresh butter, and the safe was submitted to the trial of a tremendous heat for more than a week. The legs of the safe were melted off, and the door itself so far fused as to require the use of a cold-chisel to get it open. When it was opened the cock was found frozen dead, and the butter so solid that a man who knocked off a piece of it with his hammer had his eye put out by a frozen butter splinter.

A BIRD that Would not Sing. (From the Theatre.) There was in Berlin a prima donna who, whenever anything or anybody displeased her, invariably became too hoarse to sing. One day an opera in her repertory was to be performed. At the appointed hour the manager came forward, and announced that owing to a sore throat she was unable to appear. The audience prepared to leave, but the King rose and commanded them to keep their places, which they wonderingly did. A few minutes afterward an officer and four dragons entered the capricious lady's room. "Mademoiselle," quoth the officer, "the King enquires after your health." "The King is very good; I have a sore throat." "His Majesty knows it, and has charged me to take you at once to the military hospital to be cured." "Mademoiselle, turning very pale, suggested that they were jesting, but was told that Prussian officers never indulged in such a thing. Before long she found herself in the coach with the four men. "I am a little better now," she faltered out. "I will try to sing." "Back to the theatre," said the officer to the coachman. Mademoiselle thought she had recovered too easily. "I shall not be able to sing my best," she said. "I think not." "And why?" "Because two dragons in attendance behind the scenes have orders to carry you off to the military hospital at the least cause." Never did the lady sing better.

How Her Sight Was Improved. (From Ferny's Progress.) Mme. C, dressmaker, has a great deal of trouble with her sewing-girls. The other day one of them came to her to say, "Madame, I fear that I will not be able to work much longer. I think I am getting blind." "Why, how is that? You seem to get along pretty well with your work." "Yes, but I can no longer see any meat on my plate at dinner. Mme. C understood, and the next day the young ladies were served with very large but very thin slices of meat. "What happiness!" exclaimed our Miss. "My sight has come back. I can now see better than ever." "How is that, Mademoiselle?" "Why, at this moment I can see the plate through the meat."

Milk as a Soporific. According to the Pharmacopoeia, it is a frequent practice in the New York asylum for incurables to administer to the patients at bedtime a glass of milk to produce sleep, and the result is often found satisfactory, without the use of medicine. Medicine is then sometimes prescribed in milk. It has been recently stated in medical journals that lactic acid has the effect of promoting sleep by acting as a sedative, and this acid may be produced in the alimentary canal after the ingestion of milk. Can this, then, be the explanation of the notion of milk on the nervous system after a long continued, excessive use of alcoholic drink? Sugar, also, is capable of being converted in the stomach, in certain morbid conditions, into lactic acid; and a lump of sugar allowed to dissolve in the mouth on going to bed will frequently soothe a restless body to quiet and repose.