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USEFUL AND MOST DESIRABLE NEW YEAR GIFTS

ance, "Signor M." was very jealous. "Adelina continued her career of triumph; but, while the public performed almost impossible things in its enthusiasm, Adelina's betrothed sat in his chair as if on coals. His eyes flashed flames and daggers in all directions; and whenever he saw the face of a notorious Patti admirer in a box, flushed with enthusiasm, he would have gladly murdered its owner off-hand if the bon-ton had but given him half-permission. But it was not the public alone whose enthusiasm enraged the young Othello. The lava of his jealousy poured also over the artists who supported her. When old Ronconi, who, as a compliment, had assumed the role of Massetto in 'Don Giovanni,' and who wanted to hear nothing of love either on the stage or in real life, placed his arm around Zerlina's waist, the would-be bridegroom was driven almost into a frenzy."

End of an Idyll.

"But when the great Mario, as Romeo, kissed his Juliet, it seemed as if the jealous one hunted in his pockets for a bomb with which to destroy his supposed rival."

"More and more consumed by jealousy, the young man declared to Adelina's father that he would wait no longer, and must instantly marry his love. The two men quarrelled, and the result was that Signor M. seized his hat in a rage and rushed from the house, never to return. Adelina was beside herself and wept bitterly when she heard of the rapid conclusion of her love idyll. Her feminine pride was deeply pained that the man whom she had made happy by the bestowal of her love should renounce her. She began to doubt the sincerity of his love, and his name nevermore passed her lips."

Patti spoke of many thrilling moments in her career:

"On the very night of my operatic debut . . . I sang the title part in Donizetti's 'Lucia,' with Brignoli as Edgardo. A man had hung his coat carelessly over the front of the gallery, and a pistol in the pocket went off in the middle of the performance. For an instant everyone stopped still on the stage; then we went ahead again, and the audience was reassured."

"Another time in Vienna, I was again singing in 'Lucia' and had just begun the cadenza with the flute, in the Mad Scene, when my long filmy sleeve caught fire in the gas. Without stopping I tore it off and finished the aria. But that time, after I got behind the scenes and everything was over, I fainted."

"On another occasion, in San Francisco, a man threw a bomb, which exploded on the stage. The audience rose in terror, and, fearing a panic might ensue, I stepped to the front of the stage and began singing 'Home, Sweet Home.' The audience resumed their seats and after a few bars quiet was restored."

Tale of a Gramophone.

Patti had a dislike for the gramophone, and for some time could not be persuaded to sing for it.

"Her feelings changed from the moment when she first heard her own records. This was two or three days after she had finished making them. The Baroness was coming down to déjeuner, and descending the main staircase to the hall (where the instrument had cunningly been placed), when the tones of her own voice fell for the first time upon her ear. One who was present, relates that she stopped, turned visibly pale, clutched at the banisters, and remained where she was standing until the piece was finished. Then she ran quickly down the stairs to the hall, and exclaiming, 'Oh, you darling!' threw her arms round the horn of the gramophone. Her aversion had been conquered by her own voice."

And Then She Sang.

Patti made more money than any other singer before her time or since. On one American tour she made £100,000. She was once paid £800 for singing 'Home, Sweet Home,' who agreed to pay the singer's fees in advance, was short one evening by £200 of the £1,000 required. She agreed to accept the balance when the doors opened and the money came in from the outside public, but she must have the money before she dressed."

"By this time an extra sum of £160 had come in," said Mapleson. "I handed it to my benevolent friend, and begged him to carry it without delay to the obliging prima donna, who, having received £260, might, I thought, be induced to complete her tour, pending the arrival of the £40 balance. Nor was I altogether wrong in my hopeful anticipations. With a beaming face, Signor-Franchi came back and communicated to me the joyful intelligence that Mme. Patti had got one shoe on. 'Send her the £40,' he added, 'and she will put on the other.' Ultimately the other shoe was got on, but not until the last £40 had been paid."

Patti, however, could be generous on occasions, as witness her philanthropy at her Welsh home at Craig-y-Nos.

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Forty-One Years in the Public Service—The Evening Telegram.

Amazing Monsters of the Deep.

At almost regular intervals, accounts come to hand of thrilling encounters with gigantic sea-monsters. The sea-serpent is an old favorite, which, in spite of its frequent appearance, can always be counted on to draw an audience.

Indeed, the more often the tale is told the stronger becomes the conviction of a certain type of reader that there must be something in it.

The stories are so consistent and circumstantial, and many of the narrators are so respectable and intelligent—not ignorant whalers but captains of men-of-war, and such like—that the usual explanation that the alleged reptile is a floating mass of seaweed seen in a fading light, seems totally inadequate.

To account for the fact that these monstrous creatures are so seldom seen by ocean-going vessels, the theory has been advanced that they are normally denizens of the lower depths of the ocean and have been forced to the surface by submarine convulsions of one kind or another. For, it is pointed out, the ocean extends over six miles up in that great watery belt all sorts of queer customers may exist which never normally come to the surface.

Although it is a fact, that the sunless depths of the ocean do support an incredibly strange population, yet there is one fatal objection to their ever appearing on the surface as living forms. Let us suppose, for example, that some species of sea-serpent normally occupied a region only one mile below the surface; such a creature would support a pressure of 13,312 lbs. on every square inch of its surface.

Now imagine that through the agency of a submarine volcano the reptile were suddenly thrust to the surface, the pressure on the exterior of its body would be immediately reduced to 15 lbs. on each square inch, while the internal pressure would continue at 13,312 lbs. The result of such an equal distribution would be that the wretched creature would be turned inside out like a glove.

Swells to Enormous Size.

As a matter of fact, this sort of thing does actually take place when deep-sea fish are hauled to the surface by means of a deep-sea trawl. The body swells to an incredible extent, the stomach and interior organs are forced out of the mouth, and the fish is so mangled that its anatomical study becomes very difficult.

In spite of these difficulties, however, many of the denizens of the abyssal ocean depths have been reconstructed and their extraordinary organization made clear. Though nothing in the shape of the veritable sea-serpent has so far been discovered, yet the dredge of the ocean has a strange tale to tell, and some of the creatures he has brought to light are little less fantastic than the creations of a nightmare.

Take, for example, the deep-sea fish discovered by the Prince of Monaco, who has devoted his life to this department of natural history. It is a creature with a body fifteen feet long shaped somewhat like a gigantic cuttlefish and furnished with a leathery coat of armor plate. It has eight octopus-like arms radiating from a sort of hood which surrounds the head. The head is chiefly mouth, into which is lured the fish's prey by means of an amazing pair of eyes.

These eyes are telescopic and may be extended to almost a foot. They are surrounded by light-giving organs resembling a series of small electric lamps, so that a beam of light shines out into the intense darkness, dazzling the smaller creatures which approach and attracting them as a moth is attracted by a candle. Once they pass into the region of the searchlight the capacious mouth closes on them and they are absorbed into the creature's stomach.

The intense darkness of the ocean

depths has given rise to extraordinary adaptations in the organisms normally inhabiting them. Luminous organs are common, either the searchlight variety mentioned above or a general phosphorescence, the entire body glimmering with a silvery glow. The organs of vision have also adapted themselves to take advantage of the faint illumination, the eyes in many fish occupying the greater part of the head and having the appearance of enormous goggles.

Lose Eyesight Altogether.

On the other hand, some fish appear to have given up the struggle and instead of developing monstrous eyes, have lost the visual organs altogether, the skin and scales of the body having grown over the place where the eyes should be. In these cases enormous antennae-like feelers have developed in the form of modified fins, so that the fish are able to feel their way through the waters very much as bats feel their way through the air.

One creature is known as the camera-eyed fish from the resemblance of its eyes to a photographic camera. There are lenses and reflectors which magnify the visual image and enable the fish to search out the darkest depths in its efforts to secure food. But the visual organ is so large and takes up so much space in the short head that the creature must needs content itself with small fry for food, the space left for the mouth being insufficient to allow the formation of the gigantic maw most deep-sea fish possess.

A strange monster which inhabits the depths of the Pacific is known as the trapfish from its enormous mouth, which extends nearly half the length of the body. It has two sets of teeth, the outer set are long with large hinges, like hooks, capable of being swung backwards and forwards. When a small fish ventures unwisely into the vat mouth it is immediately seized by the hook-like front teeth, which swing back and pass the victim to the back teeth. To act as a lure the roof of the mouth has a luminous organ, resembling an electric light bulb.

From Cape Race.

Special to Evening Telegram
CAPE RACE, To-day:
Wind N.W. strong, weather fine; the schooner C. and R. passed in at 3.30 and the steamer Sable I. west at 3.30 a.m. Bar. 29.32; Ther. 25.

Tweedie Boot Tops at 25 p.c. off at Smallwood's.—dec13,tf

Stories for All Moods.

Stories About Patti, "The Queen of Song."

I suppose nobody had a better claim to the title of the world's greatest prima donna than Adelina Patti, who died last year at the age of seventy-six. Her biographer, Mr. Herman Klein ("The Reign of Patti," Fisher Unwin, 21s.), says that she was the last of the race of truly great women singers. The memory of her singing of "Home Sweet Home" is one of the cherished possessions of the older generation of music lovers. Her life work was spread over the last part of the Victorian age. She had blossomed before the American Civil War and lived to see the end of the Great War. Mr. Klein, who was a friend of the singer, has written a book of great interest, containing many lively anecdotes.

The Baron's Revenge.

Patti was married three times. Before her first marriage she had many suitors. One of them, a "Baron de V." having been forbidden the house, perpetrated an extraordinary practical joke in revenge. Having no personal quarrel with Adelina, he thought him how he could best annoy her guardians, who had, so to speak, "warned him off." He therefore hit upon a plan that constituted them defendants in a Chancery action, with Miss Patti herself fictitiously put forward as plaintiff by a dummy "next friend" in the person of an obscure Scotsman—probably some obliging and available lawyer's clerk. The charge against the defendants, Patti's father and Strakosch, was that they had "treated her with cruelty, interfered with her liberty, appropriated her jewellery, and kept her short of money."

"Thanks to the blindness (or stupidity) of the Chancery officials, the trick succeeded perfectly. The affidavits were assumed to be truthful, and the case had perforce to come to a hearing. The Press was naturally anxious to accord it all possible publicity, thereby playing still more effectively into the hands of the conspirators." The Court of Chancery, however, decided that, as the plaintiff was under age, the case should be heard in camera.

After the affidavit of Miss Patti had been read the suit was "removed from the file." The plotters were allowed to get off scot-free.

The Jealous Lover.

Another lover, who became her

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