

town that stood in most imminent danger, as being of great strategical importance, and also as one of the richest towns in France. As soon, therefore, as the fall of Strasburg became known, the Lyonnais set to work to repair and extend the fortifications of the city, to store in provisions and to make every preparative for a siege. The illustration shows the inhabitants at work upon their fortifications.

THE OCTROI GATE, AVENUE DE PARIS, VERSAILLES.

Since the occupation of Versailles by the Germans, the whole of the municipal duties have been undertaken by a Prussian corps specially selected for the purpose, who have acquitted themselves of their trust with such fairness and moderation as to have entirely quelled the fears at first entertained by the French population, not only for the safety of their goods and chattels, but even of their own persons. The various officers appointed to fill positions in the government of the town are strictly held to account for their actions, and the result has been a state of order and tranquillity, the more welcome in that it was the least expected. In and around Versailles the inhabitants and peasants have resumed their ordinary avocations, and pursue their daily labours as free from molestation under the Prussian régime as they were under their own government. The peasant women are still to be seen carrying their vegetables and eggs to the village market in the accustomed manner, but it is a queer sight to see them, at the *barrière*, or toll-house, gravely stopping to have their baskets searched by the German picket, and paying the ordinary octroi, or customs fee, at the entrance of the town to the Prussian collector of dues. Such a scene at the Avenue de Paris at Versailles is illustrated on another page.

MILLE CHRISTINE NILSSON.

Mdlle. Nilsson is now in her 37th year, having been born in 1833. Her father was a small farmer on the estate of Count Hamilton, near the little village of Hussaby, situated among the lakes and forests of Smaland, in Sweden. She inherited from her father a great taste for music, and one day was found by him playing on his violin, upon which she had secretly taught herself to perform. The father, who was passionately fond of music, determined to utilize such extraordinary talent, and he accordingly took her round to the fairs or public entertainments which he was in the habit of frequenting. At one of these, the fair of Ljungby, a Swedish magistrate, named Jhemerhjem, was so struck with her splendid voice that after making enquiries he offered her parents to educate her at his own expense. At the house of this gentleman she was so fortunate as to meet with the Baroness de Lenhusen, then Mdlle. Valerius, who, admiring her voice, volunteered to give her singing lessons. These lessons developed to a wonderful degree the vocal powers of the uncultivated little peasant girl. She was afterwards sent to school for a couple of years, and then placed under the tuition of M. Hans Berwald, a talented composer at Stockholm. From this time her course was onward and upward. A sister of the Baroness de Lenhusen, a portrait painter of considerable reputation, being about to visit Paris, invited Mdlle. Nilsson to accompany her, and this invitation the juvenile *cantatrice* eagerly accepted. In Paris she obtained quarters with an English family, and became the pupil of M. Wartel, under whose guidance she remained for three years, when after much consideration she decided, by the advice of her friends, to go upon the stage. She hesitated, from the natural timidity of her character, to enter upon this course, but finally she accepted an engagement at the *Théâtre Lyrique* for three years, at the modest salary of 2,000 francs for the first year, 2,500 for the second, and 3,000 for the third. We may be sure that the shrewd manager felt he had drawn a prize, otherwise he would hardly have sought so long an engagement. In Oct., 1864, Mdlle. Nilsson, being then just twenty-one, made her *début* as Violetta in *La Traviata*, and though her success was hardly what her friends anticipated, it was such as to prove her a most accomplished *artiste*. In the following February she created a perfect *furor* by her impersonation of Astarte in the *Plauto Magico*, and was afterwards most enthusiastically received in *Marta*, *Sardanapalus*, and *Les Bluets*. In 1867 she made her first appearance in London at Her Majesty's Theatre, and made her *début*, as in Paris, in *La Traviata*, having long and carefully studied the part under M. Delle Sedie, a professor of the French Conservatoire. During the same year she sang in *Judas Maccabeus* at the Birmingham Festival, where her great success obtained for her an engagement for the Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace the following year. Since that time her fame as a *prima donna* has been firmly established. Wherever she has appeared she has excited the greatest enthusiasm, and her American triumphs promise to equal, if they do not excel, those she achieved in the capitals of France and England. Her concert at Toronto, on the 14th of December, was very numerously attended, and we need not say, created great enthusiasm. It is hoped M. Strakosch will find it convenient to bring Mdlle. Nilsson and the talented *troupe* by which she is supported to Montreal before the season is over.

THE BONSECOURS MARKET.

Our artist has produced an animated picture of the interior of the Bonsecours Market as it appeared on Christmas Eve. It would have delighted the eyes of many an old country butcher if he could have seen the splendid bullocks, sheep, lambs and pigs exposed here. The meat afforded evidence of the excellence of the cattle of this country. There was one peculiar feature wanting, and we hope soon to see it introduced, and that is the decorating of prize beef with gay rosettes and the red berried holly. Then besides the markets in the old world are gay with flags and evergreens, arranged in every conceivable fashion. The fruit stalls are full of every luxury of the season, and made gay with artificial flowers carved out of the potato, the turnip and the carrot, and so exquisitely are they executed that it is difficult to detect the sham. All made dishes and all cold joints are brought on the table ornamented with these vegetable flowers. We sincerely hope a suggestion thus thrown out may arouse a desire on the part of some of the market people to equal in gaiety the Christmas loving people on the other side of the Atlantic. Still, without this the market was an interesting sight to witness the crowds pouring through the interior the other day—the faces all seemed to glow with joyousness and contentment. There you would see a couple far advanced in years consulting

each other in reference to the wants of home, in another group you would perceive a middle-aged couple selecting a large turkey, while their boys and girls with animated countenances that seemed to gleam with satisfaction were devouring with their eyes all the *goodies* around. There were aristocratic and parvenu purchasers commingling. All engaged in relieving the stands of their accumulated loads. Everybody seemed good natured—the *patois* of the French Canadian, the rich brogue of Erin, the broad language of the bonny Scotch woman and the jovial shouting of the jolly English woman sounded in chorus. Turkeys, geese, ducks, fowls, partridges, prairie hens, and birds in general hung singly and in bundles. Sirloin of beef streaked twixt lean and fat so nicely that the epicure smacked his lips as he passed, legs of mutton as plump as the celebrated Cotswold, hams and pork in general prodigiously fat; there was one pig, a veritable Daniel Lambert; this gentlemanly fellow weighed 800 lbs., he died of *fatigue* after having his throat manipulated on; then there were sausages equal to the Epping so famous in London. Of fruit and vegetables there were tons upon tons. We thought of Paris as we gazed at this splendid show and wished we could cart a thousand times as much into that besieged city to give the heroic defenders a good honest dinner. But night is coming on, the crowd is thinning, people swarm past with baskets loaded down and purchases complete, the stalls have been thinned out, the country market people are packing up, counting their money and reckoning up their profits, so we will depart, and conclude this notice by the toast of Rip Van Winkle, which we give to all our readers: "Here's to you and your families, and may you all live long and prosper."

TAKING COLD.

The human frame is intended for activity. If we sit still in a close, warm room, we take cold much more readily than when we stir about in the open air. Men seldom take cold who work out of doors; colds among miners are much less frequent than among such mechanics as work most of the time in-doors. A writer in the *Technologist* compares the human body to a locomotive which is intended for activity—to be kept in motion—to run fast or slow as desired; but it must be "managed." "A locomotive can run very fast, but if stopped instantaneously when going at a high rate of speed, it is unjointed as if it had had inflammatory rheumatism for seven years." A skilful engineer tones down his speed gradually; and in this lies the whole secret of not taking cold. It is exposure, or carelessness, after exercise that brings on colds. After walking, or running, or dancing, or any exercise that quickens the circulation, a little current of air from a window, a crevice, from an open door, for a few minutes, just to cause a chill, is sure to produce a cold. Merely stopping on the street in a current of air—as at a corner where the wind breaks or makes an angle—will do the job. Any sudden subsidence of active forces of the body in a temperature that chills will produce cold. The little common sense that is needed, and for the lack of exercise of which so much money is paid to doctors, is to preserve an equable temperature, or, having exercised freely, to recover the proper state gradually and without a chill. This is attained in a most simple and easy manner. After exercise, always seek rest in a sheltered place, where you will be warm, never being hasty to remove hat, gloves, or cape. Let perspiration subside before disrobing, if indoors; and if outdoors, always keep gently moving until the usual condition is attained.—*Scientific Press*.

RIGHT AND LEFT STOCKINGS.—There is a stocking made in England called the "Right and Left Stocking." These stockings are made to fit each foot just as a boot does, thus affording more freedom to the toes than can be obtained from stockings of the ordinary make and shape. They are also more durable, because their exact fit to the foot does not permit of any considerable rubbing or chafing. For these reasons they are much easier to the feet, and are especially desirable by those who have to walk much. The most of the stockings made in this country are abominable things, especially those made by machinery.

A northern bellman once announced that there would be "no Lord's Day next Sunday, as the minister's wife had a big washing, and required kirk to dry the blankets." In like manner the *Hindu Patriot* of October 3, announces that it will not publish its next number. The thing looks difficult, but here is how the Indian editor gets out of the difficulty:—"This is the third or last day of the great national festival—Durgu-Puja. The whole nation is engaged in worshipping, praying, fasting, charity-giving, and other spiritual pleasures of the season. We are also in the full swing of the engagements, the duties, and the innocent amusements of the season, and have no time to philosophise or moralise. We therefore give notice that the next number of the *Patriot* will not appear in pursuance of a time-honoured custom. We, as well as our establishment, claim the annual holiday." The accomplished journalist appears to be quite as cute as the celebrated Edinburgh magistrate, who in a trial which arose out of the escape of a squirrel from a box, inquired of the defendant "why he didn't clip the beast's wings?" "But, your honour, a squirrel is a quadruped," contended the man. "Quadruped here or quadruped there," said the bailie, "if you had clipped the beast's wings, it couldna hae got awa."

A New York paper says:—"A capital joke, and all the more palatable because it is true and can be vouched for, took place a few Sundays since at one of the prominent Fourth street churches. It seems that a worthy deacon had been very industrious in selling a new church book, costing seventy-five cents. At the service in question the minister, just before dismissing the congregation, rose and said:—"All you who have children to baptize will please present them next Sabbath." The deacon, who by the way was a little deaf, and having an eye to selling the books, and supposing his pastor was referring to them, immediately jumped up and shouted,—"All you who haven't any can get as many as you want by calling on me, at seventy-five cents each." The preacher looked cross-eyed at the brothers, the brothers looked at the clergyman, the audience punched the audience in the side, the bubble grew larger, until it burst in a loud guffaw. Ladies coloured up, crimsoned, blushed, and thanked the Lord for the low price of peopling the earth. There was no benediction that morning worth speaking of. The deacon, after he had found out his mistake, changed his pew from the front of the church to the third from the rear; and though he cannot hear the sermon, he is consoled with the thought that the young ladies can't snicker at him."

VARIETIES.

Senator Nye thinks that Brette Harte meant him in his "Bill Nye" of the heathen Chinese.

The latest style of bonnets has a reef in the main, and the flying jib is well trimmed down.

Type founding and electrotyping have now, for the first time, been introduced into Japan.

LOOK TO YOUR GINGER.—A Boston chemist says that burnt sole leather enters largely into the composition of the ginger put up in packages.

IS IT ANY WONDER?—The average weight of a lady's dress which is supported from the waist is about 15 pounds. Is it any wonder that weak backs are so numerous? Put on suspenders, girls!

On the 17th ult. the final operation in the construction of the Fraser gun was performed at Woolwich. It weighs 35 tons 7 cwt., and will throw a 700lb shot so as to pierce iron armour 15 inches in thickness. The ordinary charge of powder is calculated at 120lb.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.—A meeting has been held in Edinburgh for the purpose of making arrangements for celebrating, in August 1871, the centenary of the celebrated novelist's birth. Lord Jerviswoode presided. A committee was appointed to carry out the details of the celebration.

The vintage on the Rhine for 1870 is a failure. German superstition avers that every year written with a cipher at the end is a fatal one for the vintage. The wine of 1860 was anathematized under the epithet of "Garibaldi," and that of 1870 will doubtless be cursed in the name of "Napoleon."

Said a distinguished politician to his son:—"Look at me! I began an Alderman, and here I am at the top of the tree; and what is my reward? Why, when I die my son will be the greatest rascal in the United States." To this the young hopeful replied:—"Yes, dad, when you die, but not till then."

At a dividend meeting held under the bankruptcy of Mr. Dion Boucicault, it was announced that a sum remained in hand adequate to the payment of a further dividend of 1s. in the pound, and the usual resolutions were passed. The failure of Mr. Boucicault occurred many years since. A dividend of 3s. 4d. in the pound has already been declared.

The Chinese in San Francisco are making preparations for the celebration of the most important festival that has occurred in their calendar for ten centuries. Next February will be, according to Chinese testimony, the commencement of another thousand years, and the rejoicings will surpass everything of the kind ever witnessed in celestial life in this country.

During the operations for draining off a farm at Ekenside, near Egremont, Cumberland, the remains of an ancient British settlement have been discovered. Stone and flint implements, such as axes, knives and chisels have been found in large numbers. Some pieces of oak are cut in lengths, evidently from massive full grown trees, such as have not grown in that locality for many ages.

VENERING EXTRAORDINARY.—A curious swindling project is reported from Australia. A deposit of gold and quartz recently supposed to have been discovered in Victoria, Australia, created much excitement. A company was formed, and the shares were rapidly taken and paid for. Further investigations, however, showed that the mine had been veneered with gold leaf, laid on with size and varnish. The projectors of the company have been arrested.

An American Telegraph Company, the Western Union, has supplied a long felt want by inaugurating a new system of telegraphic money orders, extending this to every office on the Pacific Coast, thereby doing the community a great service. The money orders are limited to sums up to \$50. The company is crowded with orders, although they commenced on this system only on the 1st ult.

SWEET ANSWER.—A little boy and girl, each probably five years old, were by the roadside. As we came up, the boy became angry at something, and struck his playmate a sharp blow on the cheek, whereupon she sat down and began to cry piteously. The boy stood looking on sullenly for a minute, and then said:—"I didn't mean to hurt you, Kate; I am sorry." The little rosy face brightened instantly. The sobs were hushed, and she said:—"Well, if you are sorry, it didn't hurt me."

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ACTION OF CHLORAL AND OPIUM AND CHLOROFORM.—It is said that the action of chloral differs from that of opium and chloroform in the following respect: From the sleep produced by chloral one may be awakened at any time, with instantaneous command of all his faculties, and may then drop off into unconsciousness again. This is not the case with opium. Chloral does not affect the secretions, and is always certain and safe, when the dose is not excessive, even for children. This cannot be said of either opium or chloroform.

Dandruff is caused by wearing close and heavy hats or caps, by the application of oils or dyes to the hair, by excessive brain labour, or uncleanliness, or by all these causes combined. To effect a cure, wear the hair short, let the head-covering be as light and well ventilated as possible, avoid all applications of grease or dyes, exercise the brain less and the body more, and wash the head thoroughly two or three times a day in cold water, and follow each washing with a vigorous rubbing with the balls of the fingers. The better the general health is and the stronger the digestion, the less tendency there will be to this disease, as well as others.

General Paladine is a disputed case of personal identity. The *Echo* says:—"It is said that there exists proof positive at the Prussian head-quarters that Gen. D'Aurelles de Paladine is one and the same person with the Duc de Nemours, the second son of Louis Philippe, and uncle of the Comte de Paris, who has chosen this *nom de guerre* under which to fight for his country. Another report asserts that Gen. Paladine is an Irishman, with a much less euphonious name than that which plays a conspicuous part in the telegrams of the day."