

PIO NONO AT HOME.

Charles Warren Stoddard writes to the San Francisco *Chronicle* of a visit to the Vatican as follows: "There was a hum of voices, a few of the Pope's guards entered, followed by men in splendid dresses, the nature of which there was scarcely time to notice, for at once a figure clad in white, followed by a small army of attendants clad in various colours, entered, and we were on our knees in a moment, for this was none other than Pope Pius IX. There is something marvellously magnetic in the atmosphere of this wonderful Pope. I defy any man who is a man to stand in that audience chamber and not feel an instinctive desire to go down on his knees, and, of course, the very next minute down he goes. It is not necessary to be a Catholic; it is not necessary even to feel a particular reverence for the Pope as you would for any man the purity of whose life has never been attacked by his enemies. It is the indescribable something that possesses you the moment he enters the room and holds you fascinated so long as you are in his presence. And then it doesn't leave you at once; you remember him with a sense of uncommon pleasure. It is much like the spiritual elevation, the delicious calm a fellow feels after he has made a good confession, if you know what that is, and probably most of you don't. The Holy Father was not more than ten minutes in our room, for there were roomfuls of other folk anxiously waiting his approach. To one he gave his benediction and passed on; to another, a general of distinction, he spoke rapidly and with great spirit, and yet he spoke to this man of war as if he were speaking to a child—a son who had merited his father's love—and it was charming to witness the intercourse. Some of the gentlemen were introduced by the proper officer, who learned from their official documents their nationality and the few items relating to them which might interest His Holiness. Then came my turn. Before my presentation I was immediately recognized, and with a twinkle in his eye and a gracious familiarity, he leaned on my shoulder and said to my companion, whom he greeted cordially: 'Ah, this is an American!' I was never so flattered in all my life, for of late I have been taken for an Englishman in England, a Frenchman in France, and even an Italian in Italy; but it was wonderfully good to be classified at last. But then you see the Pope is infallible, and that accounts for it. We had some little conversation, as much as a man may recall easily; it was all in French, but I should have enjoyed it in any language under the sun. He was glad to hear that I came from California; spoke of Archbishop Alemany; told me to be good; and I shall enjoy trying, hereafter, though it is rather a bore sometimes. Then he passed his magnetic hand over my rosaries and little statuette of St. Peter—just like the big one which we all kiss—and then he left me for the next fellow, and the supreme moment was over."

DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

Five new dramas are said to have been brought to London by Boucicault from this continent.

A "North-West German Musical Festival" is announced to be held at Oldenburg in the course of the summer.

M. Faure contemplates an appearance as "Rigoletto" in London—a rôle which he has been studying for some time.

Miss Adelaide Phillips, the best of American contraltos, proposes to retire from the operatic stage at the close of the next season.

The Leeds Musical Festival has been definitely fixed to begin on October 5th, and will last four days. Sir Michael Costa will be the conductor.

The Ashantee War is the subject of a grand lyrical drama, to which M. Hervé is composing the music. It will shortly be produced in London.

A duet between an automaton and a musical-box is one of the features of "Cent Mille Francs et ma Fille," a new operetta at the Menus-Plaisirs, Paris.

The Parisians exclaim against the fastidious morality of the Americans, because they excised from and altered "Monsieur Alphonse," Alexander Dumas' piece.

A Paris journal states that during the theatrical campaign of 1873-4 the fees to theatrical authors have exceeded by 100,000fr. those of any previous seasons.

Joachim has sent a sum of 8,000 thalers (\$6,000) to the monument which is to be erected at Eisenach to Sebastian Bach. This is the amount of his recent concert receipts in England.

Liszt has written a letter declining an invitation to take part in the musical festival at Cincinnati next year on the ground that he is too old to undergo the fatigue of such a long journey.

Mlle. Albani has appeared in "Puritani," and the *Pall Mall Gazette* says: "In the *Vien diletto* her brilliant vocalization gained for her as great a triumph as she had ever achieved in the part of *Aminta* or of *Lucia*, with which Mlle. Albani's *Elvira* must now be classed."

A league has been formed in Paris for the purification of the stage, and has been joined by a large number of ladies of prominence who have promised to discountenance degrading and indecent plays. Similar leagues have been formed in several other European cities.

Miss Kate Field is leaving the platform for the stage. She made her *début* in Philadelphia June 4. Her father was an actor, and a good one too, and Miss Kate has cleverness enough to fill any rôle. Her friends will wish her a brilliant success, and she has no enemies.

A venerable actress took her leave of the Brussels public lately at the Théâtre des Galeries—viz., Madame Achille, aged 70 years, and having been on the stage for 51 years, 23 of which were passed on the Brussels stage. She retires with a yearly pension of 500 francs.

A proposal is on foot to erect a bust or statue in Dublin of the late Michael Balfe, the musical composer, who was born in that city. If a sufficient sum be obtained it is also proposed to establish Balfe Scholarships in connection with the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

The Duchess de Castries is such an accomplished amateur actress that a Russian manager, seeing her play at a private

entertainment in Paris, hastened behind the scenes to engage her at an enormous salary. Madame laughingly explained that the only contract she had ever made or expected to make was her marriage one.

The New York stage will receive a great accession next season in the person of the widely-celebrated Shakespearean reader, Mr. George Vandenhoff, who is to play *Macbeth* and *Cardinal Wolsey* at Booth's Theatre. Mr. Vandenhoff, it is understood, will not abandon his public readings entirely, but will accept engagements in that and neighbouring States.

The project of a theatrical performance in Paris to raise funds for the erection of a tomb to Aimée Desclée has been abandoned, Parisian susceptibilities having been shocked at the idea of so frivolous a representation for so solemn a subject. The tomb will therefore be raised by gifts of MM. Alexander Dumas, Meilhac, Halévy, and Montigny, the manager of the Gymnase Theatre.

Parisian ballet girls will shortly be celebrating the bi-centenary of their first appearance on the stage of the capital. Up to 1681 the women's parts in ballets were invariably filled by men with masks, with the exception of court ballets, where the princesses danced themselves. On the 11th May in that year, however, the first professional danseuses made their appearance at the opera in a ballet called "Le Triomphe de l'Amour."

The Paris *Figaro* contains a sensational mention of Mlle. Croizette, who is performing in the "Sphinx" at the Théâtre Français. In the enactment of her character in the play she assumes to poison herself, and dies upon the stage—a personation which she is said to perform with such truthfulness to nature as to call forth long comments in the daily press. One physician comes out in a card, and declares over his own signature that she does virtually poison herself nightly, and that such reality will sooner or later prove fatal if persisted in.

The *Gaulois* publishes an interesting letter of M. Gounod, addressed to M. Oscar Comtant, in which the author of "Faust" blames somewhat severely the "outré-cuidance," as he calls it, of Wagner, to have dared to rescure Beethoven's great symphony and chorus. As to the difficulties of the score, he avers they do not exist for Germans, although English musicians are wont to cry *non possumus*; and concludes with: "It is better to leave to a great master his imperfections, if he has any, than to try to impose our own on him."

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

HON. ANTOINE AIME DORION is the son of the late P. A. Dorion, and was born at St. Anne de la Pérade, on the 17th of January, 1818. In 1842 he was admitted to the Lower Canada Bar, and in 1848 created Queen's Counsel. He was first returned for Montreal in 1854, and sat for that constituency until 1861. In 1862 he was returned for Hochelaga, and again in 1867, being elected by the small majority of 23 out of 2,600 votes. M. Dorion was the Lower Canada leader of the Brown-Dorion Cabinet of August 1858, and entered office in May, 1862, as Provincial Secretary in the Macdonald-Sicotte Government. This position he resigned in the following January, being dissatisfied with his colleagues regarding the Intercolonial Railway, the construction of which they were then supposed to favour. When that government was remodelled, in May, 1863, Mr. Dorion succeeded Mr. Sicotte as Attorney-General and Lower Canada leader, which position he held until the defeat of the Cabinet in March of the following year. His gentlemanly manner and fluent and elegant diction soon marked him out as the foremost man of the party whose sympathies he shared, and he was for years the acknowledged leader of the Lower Canada Liberals. In 1872 he announced his intention of retiring from public life and was tendered a complimentary banquet, along with Mr. Holton, by his friends in Montreal, but in the general elections of that year he was induced to stand for Napierville, where he was successful. He then resumed his old position at the head of his party, till the 5th November 1873, when he was called to the Mackenzie Administration, as Minister of Justice. His appointment to the Chief Justiceship of Quebec bears date the 30th May 1874.

THE ENTRANCE INTO BILBAO closed one important episode of the Carlist war. The town presented an animated appearance; the balconies were covered with draperies of a variety of colours, some of which blended well with each other, and others made everything about them look hideous. Curtains, tablecloths, bed-quilts, carpets, lace shawls, &c., were brought into requisition, and even the poorest inhabitants hung out whatever rags seemed to them best suited to astonish, if not charm, the eye. At about five P. M. Marshal Concha, attended by a numerous staff, rode in and took up his position with the Ayuntamiento to see the troops march past, receiving as he did so a shower of rose-leaves, bouquets, and garlands. General Martinez Campos came at the head of the troops smiling and bowing to all around, especially to the ladies, who were never wearied of waving their handkerchiefs and shouting their vivas. The flowers and garlands were all very well for young bachelor generals, but private soldiers might not have been so much impressed with such favours, so to them, in addition to flowers—for they had their fair share of flowers also—cigars and cigarettes were thrown in abundance, causing a confusion in the ranks that even a Carlist charge might not have produced. The men, as they marched past, looked dusty and travel-stained; their marching, too, although light and springy, was not at all good according to our ideas of good marching, but they all had a very fine appearance. When we consider what forced marches, harassing fights, and bad food these men have had, it was a pleasure to see them so cheerful, so hearty, and so ready for further work.

DORREGARAY AND CARLIST OFFICERS.—This sketch represents a number of republican officers made prisoners taken into the presence of Dorregaray, one of the principal generals of the Carlist army. Judging from the attitude of that Commander, as he sits upon his charger, with drawn sword, the parley does not appear of the most cordial nature.

LOUIS XVI AT THE INVASION OF THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES.—Our double page represents an historical incident of the French revolution which is replete with pathos. The utter misery and helplessness displayed in the whole attitude of the unfortunate Monarch are true to life and explain the singular rôle which Louis played throughout all those terrible scenes. The women of his Court, notably the Queen, Marie Antoinette, were far more resolute than he.

THE PUERTA DEL SOL.—OF Gate of the Sun—is the principal open place in Madrid. It is situated in the centre of the city, and from it radiate, much in the same way as the spokes of a wheel from the axle, the main streets.

THE BOUQUETIERS.—This admirable picture—from this year's Paris Salon—represents one of the many flower stalls that cluster around the Madeleine. The Paris flower markets are a regular and flourishing institution, being largely patronized by all classes. A visit to such a market is well worth the trouble. A

writer thus describes the varying scene:—"Let us watch the scene for a moment, and see who they are that form the purchasers and appreciators of these delightful products of nature. Here is a vehicle fit for a princess, with its liveried servants and richly caparisoned horses. The lady occupant descends lightly, and wandering among the long paths between the tables, selects first a rich and dainty bouquet, and then several pots of blooming flowers, which are duly despatched in accordance with her orders. Here is another customer (let us go from one extreme to another), a pale-faced but sweet-featured grisette; it is easy to understand her situation. She carefully counts the few sous in her purse; she must perhaps, forego her dinner, but she resolves, and the sweet little pot of mignonette in hers! Here is a burly, plethoric individual, who looks as though he must inevitably be a butcher; surely he does not seek for flowers! Ah, but he does, and with a degree of appreciation which might well surprise us. He, too, selects his bouquet and takes away with him a full-blown pot of pansies; thereby hangs, perhaps, some pleasant domestic tale. Here is a sad-faced woman, in widow's weeds; the wreath of immortelles which she pays for tells its own story; it will to-night decorate a tomb in Père la Chaise. This giddy and nervous fellow, full of smiles and ready to pay any price, takes away a wedding wreath, delicately packed in a box, under his arm—he is only too happy! But stay; this party, who is also paying for white flowers, with a few blue bellotropes intermixed, sighs heavily as he receives the sad emblem, to be devoted to the last ceremony over a loved child, perhaps, or maybe a wife from whom he parts forever. And so we stood for an hour by the banks of the Seine, watching the comers and goers of the flower market, and thinking of the bridal, the cradle, and the tomb."

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE DOMINION.—Hon. Mr. Dorion has been appointed Chief Justice of Quebec. Their Excellencies the Governor General and the Countess of Dufferin, with their family, arrived at Quebec last Saturday. They purpose spending four or five days there, and then proceeding to their summer villa at Tadoussac.

THE UNITED KINGDOM.—The House of Commons, by a vote of 161 against 126 adopted the proposition of Government that public-houses in London shall be kept open on week days from 7 o'clock in the morning until 12:30 at night. The House also, by a vote of 382 against 42, approved of the Government's proposal that such houses shall be open on the same days in towns having over 2,500 population, from 7 a.m., to 11 p.m., and in towns with a less number of people from 6 a.m., to 10 p.m. Mr. Disraeli said he would take occasion to correct the misapprehension that this would be a short session. Bills of extra importance were to be presented to Parliament. They would be introduced at an early day, and if members frittered away time, the session, instead of being short, would be unusually long.

Communists in London will tender a complimentary banquet to Rochefort on his arrival in England. A letter from Levuka, Fiji Islands, states that on the 22nd March the King abdicated his throne and ceded the Islands to Great Britain and that a British Commission were then arranging a form of Government for the new acquisition to the English throne.

THE UNITED STATES.—Henri Rochefort lectured at the N.Y. Academy of Music on the 4th, on the "History of France since the fall of the late Empire." The audience was slim and consisted almost entirely of French of the Communistic element, the representation of the more wealthy class of the French residents of New York being very small. Physicians pronounce diphtheria epidemic in New York, and attribute it to long continued humidity of the atmosphere. The deaths from this disease since January are 608, or three times more than during the same time in the previous year. Soon after the adjournment of Congress, the President will visit his family relations on the Kanawha, West Virginia, then return to Washington and resume his summer residence at Long Branch about July 4. The House of Representatives passed a bill appointing a Commission to report on the occupation, ownership and disposition of lands awarded to the United States by the Emperor of Germany under the Treaty of Washington.

FRANCE.—The Council of War has pronounced a verdict of "guilty" against Melvil Blancourt, the Deputy for Guadaloupe, for participating in the acts of the Commune, and has condemned him to death *in contumaciam*. *Le Pays* newspaper says the friends of the Prince Imperial strongly oppose the nomination of Prince Jerome Napoleon for the Assembly. The Left Centre has adopted a platform which calls for proclamation of a definitive republic or the dissolution of the Assembly; one hundred and ten Deputies have given in their adhesion to this programme; there is no longer any hope of an alliance between Left and Right Centres. The American Pilgrims on the 5th went in procession to the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. At the close of the ceremonies the pilgrims proceeded to Marseilles to take the steamer for Civita Vecchia. The Left have organized a pamphlet campaign against Bonapartists. Documents warning the people against their designs, exposing their sophistries and recounting the fatal history of the Imperialist party will be thoroughly circulated in Paris and the Provinces.

SPAIN.—It is rumoured that the Carlists have been routed at Ganges with a loss of 150 killed and wounded. Senor Vaga Armigo has accepted the Appointment of Spanish Ambassador to France. Five hundred convicts engaged in the Intransigente rebellion at Cathagena have been embarked on a Spanish steamer at Duran to be taken back to Spain. Over \$200,000 worth of plunder was found in their possession—General Concha has entered Logrono.

ITALY.—The Italian Senate has given its approval of the treaty of commerce with Mexico and a postal convention with Brazil. The Pope was able to celebrate Mass on Monday and subsequently walked to his library. He is very feeble, but the fever has left him.

The "personal" announcements in very Western papers combine conciseness with a pleasant vagueness, as, for example, a Nevada journal says: "There was no regular trial in the case of John Flanders yesterday. He had an interview in the woods with a few friends, however, and it is perfectly certain that John will never burgle any more."

A lady from the South has enjoyed an interview with Emerson, and writes to the Memphis *Avant-courier* that she was delighted with "the fluting and frilling of his inviolated words." The Detroit *Post* is surprised to hear this, as only last year the philosopher had his words "cut biasing, but with plain borders, tastefully folded back, and secured with a blue ribbon."

As Foote, in the early part of his life, was one night walking down a street in the neighbourhood of Oxford Road, he was accosted, with great civility, by a shabby fellow, who asked the way to Tyburn. To which Foote replied, "My good fellow, you have only to rob the first person you meet, and you'll find your way easily." The fellow very heartily thanked him for his advice, and presenting a pistol, ordered him to deliver his money on pain of having his brains blown out. With this injunction he was obliged to comply, though to his great mortification, as he lost his money and his jest, and was punished for his unkind reply when asked "the way."