

(For the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.)

THE BELLS OF NOTRE DAME.

'Tis morn,—I waken, for the air is shaken
By a thrilling sound like a joyous psalm,
That sinks and swells, as the echo dwells,
Of the pealing Bells of Notre Dame.

And the joyous ringing is slowly bringing
A Sabbath vision before my eyes;
And for one short hour, some magic power
Gives me a gleam of Paradise.

I move along in the motly throng,
And meekly enter the portal wide:
While the sunlight streams, in golden beams,
Thro' the giant windows on either side.

I bend the knee to the sacred tree,
And fix my eyes, with a fervent gaze,
On that face of Love; while from above,
There bursts upon me a hymn of praise.

And my tongue is mute as a broken lute,
But my soul takes up the glad refrain;
And I feel the birth of a heaven on earth,
As I drink the sound of the joyous strain.

The vision changes; and twilight ranges
Where the golden sunbeams fell before,
'Tis the vesper hour, and the massive tower
Speaks out with its brazen tongues once more.

The pillars loom thro' the silent gloom,
And the tapers glimmer faint and dim;
And I faintly hear, from voices near,
The sacred sound of the vesper hymn.

Though the vision dies, with my waking eyes,
My soul is filled with a holy calm;
While upon my ear, once more I hear
The sound of the Bells of Notre Dame.

BARRY DANE.

HOW TO FURNISH MY BEDROOM

Of late years doctors have had much to say upon the subject of bedrooms and their contents; amongst other matters, it appears their unanimous opinion that the old four-post bedstead, with its many valances and attendant curtains, ought to be discarded. Indeed, I know several physicians who go so far as to disapprove of bed-hangings of any description whatever, their approbation resting only on the simple bedstead which has a board at the head similar to that at the foot.

Custom, habit, and association have such strong hold upon us all that those of us who have spent the nights of our youth under the canopy of a four-poster will most probably cling to it, and steadfastly uphold its superiority in the matter of coyness, warmth, and seclusion over Tudor, French, or Arabian bedsteads.

It can readily be imagined, however, that the exclusion of fresh air must be as injurious to health when we are asleep as when we are awake; and, this being conceded, what can be said in favor of the four-post? On the other hand, it must be allowed that a bedstead does look bare and comfortless when quite denuded of all drapery.

We must therefore make a compromise, and buy those which require only a valance and a couple of curtains. Even this small allowance of drapery will give an air of comfortable repose; and then, if the hangings are made of a washing material, I think we shall surely escape any censure from those high in authority.

The next point of discussion is whether the bedstead shall be of iron or wood. What sets off a bedroom so much as a handsome wooden bedstead, with twisted pillars and brightly polished, beautifully grained foot-board? Ornament an iron one as you will, illuminate it gayly, decorate it with shining brass, and at the best it will never equal the beauty of the wooden one, although it may exceed it in price. With these sentiments I quite agree; but what say the doctors? Why, their idea is that infectious fevers are more likely to linger and lurk about a wooden bedstead than about an iron one. There is a further reason in favor of the latter, adduced more especially by the dwellers in towns. (Let me whisper it in private.) Unwelcome visitors cannot secrete themselves in iron. I am aware that old housekeepers are dreadfully shocked at the bare mention of these intruders, and condemn the management of the households in which they appear; but really in these modern days trunks and boxes which make frequent journeys in railway vans or holds of ships, and people who continually travel to and fro by steamer, rail, or omnibus are apt to introduce into the very cleanest of our bedrooms these nocturnal disturbers of peace; then woe to the housekeeper if they once find a hiding-place in a wooden bedstead!

Having thrown out these hints I will leave the final decision. To my mind a wooden bedstead looks much more comfortable than an iron one. The question arises, is it wise to allow the eye to decide the matter?

Feather bed or mattress? Once more the medical faculty step forward and declare that a "downy couch" is an unhealthy one, and that a horse-hair mattress is the proper substitute.

We have not time to discuss the question, nor indeed does it lie within our province; suffice it to say that mattresses are much more generally used than feather beds.

The most luxurious arrangement is to have a horse-hair mattress on the top of a spring mattress. The latter is costly in comparison to a palisade and more expensive than a wool mattress. The purchase of good mattresses involves a considerable outlay, but it is clearly false economy to buy poor ones. The tufts come out, the wool forms itself in lumps (have I not felt them?), the ticking cover—which should be of linen, but of course in cheap ones is of cotton—quickly soils, and our beds soon look untidy and feel wretched. It should be remembered that

they are in constant use, and yet should last a lifetime.

Well, we have talked much about the bed, and yet have not finished it. The question of sheets I shall leave for a future discussion on "Household Linen," in which blankets will be included. With regard to the bolster and pillows, again let me advise good ones being bought. Good feathers are not to be bought for a trifle; and if they have not been well stoved, the odor which will nightly greet your nose will be neither sweet nor pleasant.

The next great comfort, apart from a good bed, is a well-made chest of drawers or wardrobe. Have you ever been aggravated by badly made furniture? I have; and I know of nothing more vexatious and tormenting (in a small way) than to pull at drawers that will not open, or which come out all askew—to push at those which will not shut—whose handles comes off—chests which creak and shriek and totter on three legs because the fourth is rather too short. Don't buy chests of drawers which are badly put together, even though they have a tempting appearance—may be inlaid or with superior handles, but are in reality manufactured simply with a view to catch the eye, and afterwards displease the owner in a dozen respects.

And now about the wash-hand-stand. Gentlemen like an immense basin and jug, and for that reason prefer those round stands one sees which possess those qualifications. Ladies require a little more space for display of pretty earthenware. A narrow shelf at the back is most useful, as tooth-powder and other requisites are apt to get wet or overturned if they are on the stand itself. Tiles of marble seem to be the most suitable for the top of the stand. Paint soon wears off, and looks shabby; a white cover quickly soils, and looks untidy; veneer cracks and splits with the heat of hot water cans; but marble and tiles are durable, and can be washed and dried every morning. The only objection to a marble top is that one is apt to make a clatter, and perhaps to crack delicate earthenware when putting jug or basin hastily down on it. The basin rests more steadily and is more quickly emptied when there is no hole in the top of the stand made for it.

The dressing table is one of the prettiest objects in a bedroom, if it and its appointments are nice and natty. If you do not wish to expend money upon this piece of furniture, order a white wooden table or a large box, in which you can stow away evening dresses and the like. This can be made at the cost of a few shillings, and then you can cover it with colored calico or white linen.

Some people object to these clothed and skirted tables. Well, then, they are plenty of other kinds. One of the most useful has drawers down each side and a cupboard in the centre. Please have a toilet-cover on the top. I know that marble or handsomely polished wood is supposed to look well, partly because it betokens costliness and also saves the trouble of covers, but to my mind such a dressing-table looks desolate, even if it has a number of small mats—tiresome little things, on which you are expected to place anything you may lay down.

All the pieces of furniture in a bedroom—including the looking-glass, chairs, and towel-rail—should be made of the same kind of wood. Light-colored woods, such as maple and birch, are more in favor than mahogany. These are sometimes inlaid with darker woods. Painted furniture always looks suitable, provided all the pieces match in color. Plain white, with a narrow gold border, or a relief of pale pink, blue or green, according to the prevailing color of the room, has a very good effect, and its freshness can at any time be renewed.

To quote the doctors for the last time: "The less carpet the better about a bedroom. We English people think much of our carpet, and take it into every nook and corner. The gloom and damp of our climate oblige us to clothe our rooms warmly, as well as our bodies. If it can be so contrived, a bedroom carpet should not be put under any heavy pieces of furniture, and then it can be the oftener taken up; nor should it go entirely under the bed, for that portion of the floor should be washed over every week. With regard to the kind of carpet and its pattern, here at last we are entirely free to please ourselves. A Brussels will wear the longest, but Kidderminster is the most general. Dutch is cheap and pretty; tapestry is not to be despised. The Scotch carpets are not very refined in appearance, but they are strong, inexpensive, and very durable. Small patterns always look the best in a bedroom, even when the room is a large one. Correct taste chooses what are termed diaper and "mingley per"—either a stiff, set design, or a pattern which seems to have no design at all. These remarks apply also to the wall-paper.

The window curtains should match those of the bed. Again I speak in favor of chintz, and of a small pattern on a white ground. Cretonne is also used; and, for a simply furnished room, what drapery can look better than plain white dimity or French dimity which has stripes of color on the white at broad intervals? Some people use the Japanese paper curtains for their bedroom windows. They can be bought for five shillings per pair, and therefore if there happen to be several windows in the room these serve the purpose at a much less cost, for the curtains are not often drawn in a bedroom, so that this kind of curtain can be introduced, as appearance and not use is all that is wanted.

In placing the furniture contrive if possible that the bedstead should not be placed opposite a window, for the light falling upon the eyes,

especially in the early summer mornings, is often injurious to sight. If this can be avoided, and also when the room is exposed to a hot sun at any time of the day, a most excellent device, because it is at the same time effectual and inexpensive, is to pin green glazed calico over the white blinds. This does not show at all outside the house, neither does it look untidy inside the room; and it softens the glare in a delightful manner.

MADAME BONAPARTE.

A writer in *Scribner's* says: Mme. Bonaparte is still living in Baltimore, at the age of ninety years. She says she has no intention of dying until she is a hundred. She has been to Europe sixteen times, and contemplates another trip this summer. This old lady has more vivacity and certainly more intelligence than many of the leading women of fashion of the present day. She expresses her opinion upon all subjects with great freedom, and sometimes with bitterness. She has little or no confidence in men, and a very poor opinion of women; the young ladies of the present day, she says, all have the "homo mania." All sentiment she thinks a weakness. She professes that her ambition has always been—not the throne, but near the throne. Mr. Patterson, her father, died in 1836, at an advanced age, in possession of a large fortune. In his will, which is one of the most remarkable documents that has ever been deposited in the Orphan's Court of Baltimore, he says: "The conduct of my daughter Betsy has, through life, been so disobedient, that in no instance has she ever consulted my opinion or feelings; indeed, she has caused me more anxiety and trouble than all my other children put together; her folly and misconduct have occasioned me a train of experience that, first to last, has cost me much money"—in this he means the marriage of his daughter to Jerome Bonaparte. The old gentleman left her, out of his great wealth, only three or four small houses and the wines in his cellar worth in all about ten thousand dollars. Mme. Bonaparte is very rich; she has made her money by successful speculations and by her life-long habit of saving. For years she has lived at a boarding-house in Baltimore, seeing very little company. Her costume is ancient, and there is nothing about her appearance that suggests the marvellous beauty that led captive the heart of Jerome Bonaparte. Her eyes alone retain some of the brightness of former days. For forty years Mme. Bonaparte kept a diary in which she recorded her views and observations of European and American society. Some of her remarks are severely sarcastic. A well-known Boston publishing house, it is said, recently offered \$10,000 for the manuscript volumes, but Madame refused to sell them at any price, and has committed them to the custody of her young grandson, Charles Joseph, recently a law student of Harvard, now a rising member of the Baltimore bar. They will probably be published after the writer's death.

THE VIRGIN QUEEN.

Dr. Lord, in a recent lecture in Boston on Queen Elizabeth, said: I love to dwell on her courage, her wisdom, her enlightened views, her executive talents, her magnanimity, her services to civilization. These invest her name with a halo of glory, even as the great men who surrounded her throne have made her age illustrious. The Elizabethan era is still regarded as one of the brightest in English history. We still point with pride to the accomplishments of Raleigh and Walsingham, the bravery of Drake, the vast attainments of Bacon, the immortal genius of Shakespeare, towering above all the poets of ancient and modern times, as fresh to-day as he was three hundred years ago, the greatest miracle of genius which has ever appeared on earth. By all these illustrious men Elizabeth was honored and beloved; all received no small share of their renown from her glorious appreciation; all were proud to revolve around her as a central sun, giving warmth and growth to every great enterprise in her day, and shedding a light that shall reach through all the ages. Her reign is a perpetual testimony that a woman may earn the loftiest fame in a sphere which has been supposed to belong to man alone. And if man, in his assumed superiority, shall here and there be found to decay her greatness, not so much from envy as from partisan animosities, let no woman be found who shall seek to dethrone such a woman from her lofty pedestal. She would be a traitor to her sex, unwittingly perhaps, but still a detractor from that greatness in which she should rejoice. For my part, I honor this great sovereign, and I am proud that such a woman has lived and reigned and died in honor.

THE OLD GUARD

The New York correspondent of the Boston *Journal* says: The Old Guard has voted to visit Boston and join in the celebration of the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Old Guard was formed out of the old New York Tigers, a soldiery well known in your city; and out of the Old City Guard, as famous in its day as the Seventh now is. Boston had a share in the formation of this company. The military of the city was little above the old-fashioned militia of the Bay State. Their uniform was detestable; their marching a

burlesque; their movements called out a rabble and excited general derision. The Boston Light Infantry made a visit to New York. Our citizens were so mortified at the contrast between the Boston and New York Corps that before the sun went down on the day of the arrival measures were taken to organize a superb volunteer military. The impulse of that hour has never waned to the present time. The Old Guard inherit all that is elegant, gentlemanly, and soldierly of that famous organization. Taking the civic and military together, the Old Guard comprise about two hundred men. The uniform and trappings are not surpassed by any organization in New York. The coat and pants—blue and white, trimmed with gold—are of the Austrian Field Marshal style. The bearskin caps set off the whole to advantage. The most prominent men in the city belong to the Old Guard. The richest brokers, most prominent lawyers, merchants of repute, captains, colonels, and generals who have served in the war. The corps will leave on the evening of the 16th, by the Fall River route.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

APRIL 26.—Despatches from Bolivia give details of a disturbance at La Paz, followed by a good deal of bloodshed before the rebels were finally subdued.

The Paris *Univers* publishes letters of sympathy from the Roman Catholic Bishops of Great Britain to their Episcopal brethren in Germany and Switzerland.

A despatch from Dubuque, Iowa, says the Mississippi river at that point has risen about 9 inches daily for the past fortnight, and though river roads are all in running order, the trains are on the water's edge.

Secretary Delano declares that the reports in circulation as to his resignation are a conspiracy to oust him from the Cabinet, but in justice to himself and the Republican party he has indefinitely postponed his resignation.

APRIL 27.—The Government bill providing for railway extension to Louisburg, passed its second reading in the Nova Scotia Legislature last night.

The New York State Assembly have ordered to third reading the bill providing for the new work and extraordinary improvements on the canals.

A regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard, under command of Colonel Benson, returned to Philadelphia from the mining districts of Pennsylvania yesterday.

A despatch from St. Catharines, Ont., says it is the intention of the Superintendent, if all repairs are completed by that date, to open the Welland Canal for navigation on the 3rd May.

Mr. Paul Boynton is to make another attempt to cross the English Channel on his life-saving apparatus on the 27th proximo. His course will be from Gris Nez, on the French coast, to Dover.

APRIL 28.—The Two Thousand Guineas, run at Newmarket, was won by Camballo, Pic-nic, second; Breach-loader, third.

The Prussian Government have instituted proceedings for the removal of the Prince-Bishop of Breslau, for violation of the Ecclesiastical Laws.

The billiard match played in New York last night between Garrier and Vignaux, for \$1,000, resulted in a victory for the former by 342 points out of 600.

Speaking in reference to free trade at Birmingham, Mr. John Bright said it was ridiculous for the United States to invite foreign manufacturers to compete at an exhibition when American markets were closed to them by a protective tariff.

APRIL 29.—A meeting for the adoption of a constitution and the perfecting of the organization of a cheap transportation society, will be held in Boston on the 5th proximo.

Nearly the whole of the village of Keenansville, Ont., was destroyed by fire early yesterday morning; three women perishing in the flames. The loss amounts to some \$15,000.

A heavy gale of wind, accompanied by rain, prevailed up West last night, and a thunder storm passed over the city of Hamilton, several buildings being set on fire by the lightning.

The New York Oil Refiners' Combination aver that they control 90 per cent of the refiners of the country, and that the arrangements for gaining over the remaining 10 per cent of the trade will be consummated before the end of May.

APRIL 30.—An explosion in a North Staffordshire Colliery to-night resulted in the death of 35 of the miners.

The thousand guineas run at Newmarket to-day was won easily by Lord Falmouth's Spinnaway.

A despatch from Winnipeg says Lepine has been liberated, with instructions to leave the country at once.

A despatch from Paris announces the death of Count Waldeck, at the age of 111 years.

In the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to-night, Mr. Woodworth moved that the Speaker resign, on the ground of incompetency, the motion being carried by 20 to 12.

The Speaker had given his casting vote, on a division of 14 to 14, against a motion to recommit the Bill for the extension of the Eastern Railway.

MAY, 1.—The Michigan Legislature have passed a bill repealing the prohibitory liquor law in that State.

The Carlist troops in the Province of Navarre have revolted, and declared for peace and Alfonso.

Forty-one dead bodies have been recovered from the Bunker's Hill Colliery, North Staffordshire, England.

There is a likelihood that Russia's International Code Conference project will be ultimately abandoned.

A bill has been introduced in the Lower House of the German Diet, for the suppression of religious orders in Prussia.

The new Alexandra Palace, on the site of a similar structure that was destroyed by fire some time ago, was opened in London to-day.

At the meeting of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, the Speaker tendered his resignation, and a new Speaker will be appointed at once.

The English and French Governments, according to a despatch from London, are about to send men-of-war out to prevent disturbance between the Englishmen and Frenchmen engaged in the Newfoundland fisheries.

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