

A Story of Chopin.

At the little town of Zullichau, Chopin and his friend, finding that they had an hour to wait for horses, Professor Jarocki proposed a walk through the place. This did not take long, and as the horses were not ready when they returned, the Professor sat down to a meal. The post-house being also a restaurant. But Frederic, as if drawn by a magnet, went into the next room, and saw—oh, wonder of wonders!—a grand piano. Professor Jarocki, who could see through the open door, laughed to himself when his young friend opened the instrument, which had a very unpromising exterior. Chopin also looked at it with some misgivings; but when he had struck a few chords he exclaimed, in joyful surprise, "O Santa Cecilia, the piano is in tune." Only the impassioned musician knows what it is, after sitting for several days in a diligence, suddenly and quite unexpectedly to have an opportunity of playing on a good instrument. Regardless of his surroundings our artist began to improvise con amore. Attracted by the music, one of the travellers got up and stood behind the player's chair. Chopin called out to Professor Jarocki, in Polish, "Now we shall see whether my listener be a connoisseur or not." Frederic began his Fantasia on Polish songs (op. 13) the traveller, a German, stood like one petrified, captivated by this music, so now and bowitching; his eyes mechanically followed every movement of the pianist's delicate hand; he had forgotten everything, even his beloved pipe, which went out unheeded. The other travellers stepped in softly, and at the same time the tall postmaster and his buxom wife appeared at the side door, with their two pretty daughters behind them. Frederic, unmindful of his audience, and absorbed in converse with his muse, had lost all thought of where he was, and that he must soon be on his way. More and more tender and graceful became his playing; the fairies seemed to be singing their moonlight melodies; everyone was listening in rapt attention to the elegant arabesques sparkling from his fingers, when a stentorian voice, which made the windows rattle, called out, "The horses are ready, gentlemen."—"Confounded disturber," roared the postmaster, while the triplet of ladies cast angry glances at the position. Chopin sprang from his seat, but was immediately surrounded by his audience, who exclaimed with one voice: "Go on, dear Sir, finish that glorious piece, which we should have heard through but for that tiresome man."—"But," replied Chopin, consulting his watch, "we have already been here some hours, and are due in Posen shortly."—"Stay and play, noble young artist," cried the postmaster, "I will give you courriers' horses if you will only remain a little longer."—"Do be persuaded," began the postmaster's wife, almost threatening him with an embrace. What could Frederick do but sit down again to the instrument! When he paused the servant appeared with wine and glasses, the daughters of the host served the artist first, then the other travellers, while the postmaster gave a cheer for the "darling Polymynias," as he expressed it, in which all united. One of the company (probably the town cantor) went close up to Chopin and said, in a voice trembling with emotion, "Sir, I am an old and thoroughly trained musician; I, too, play the piano, and so know how to appreciate your masterly performance; if Mozart had heard it he would have grasped your hand and cried "Bravo." An insignificant old man like myself cannot dare to do so." The woman, in their gratitude, filled the pockets of the carriage with the best eatables that the house contained, not forgetting some good wine. The postmaster exclaimed, with tears of joy, "As long as I live I shall think with enthusiasm of Frederic Chopin." When, after playing one more mazurka Frederic prepared to go, his gigantic host seized him in his arms, and carried him to the carriage. Surely music has a strange power and fascination, when even a tobacco loving German could allow his pipe to go out; and so indeed thought Chopin, when relating the incident to his friends in after years.

Among the royal people Forbes met were four kings up an opponent's sleeve at a card table. An extravaganza company advertised in Pittsburg that they would pay a reward to anybody who could find the shadow of a plot in "The Flock of Geese," the play which they performed. So few persons went to the theatre to search that the company disbanded, and the manager pawned a diamond pin to pay their fares to this city.

Garibaldi at Genoa.

(London News.)

Garibaldi's formal request for permission to visit his son-in-law was promptly and courteously answered. The arrangements were left entirely to his own convenience, and he chose to go down shortly after 11 o'clock this morning. As soon as the open carriage in which he reclined appeared in the streets a crowd, momentarily growing in numbers, and increasing in enthusiasm, surrounded it. The people, even in moments of wildest excitement seem full of tender pity for the maimed hero, and no desire to touch the hem of his garment will induce them to run the slightest risk of injuring him in a crush. This morning about a score of volunteers from the crowd linked arms and marched at the back and by the sides of the carriage to keep off the pressure. Within this cordon walked one of the Garibaldians, an old grizzled soldier, who had supplied himself with an undersized alpaca umbrella. When the carriage, occasionally passing out of the shadow of the high houses, came into the sunlight up went the alpaca umbrella trembling in every rib from an undue expenditure of strength in the effort of opening it, and Garibaldi's head was sheltered from the sun's rays. As yesterday, all the house fronts were thronged, and once, as the carriage passed along the Via Roma, a shower of bright flowers rained from an upper window half filling the carriage, and casting undesigned largesse among the crowd.

The return journey was marked by similar manifestations of enthusiasm, always, as it seems to me, tempered by tenderest pity. There is, perhaps, no parallel in the world to the peculiar regard of a people for a man such as is displayed in Genoa to-day, toward Garibaldi. He has been so strong in their behalf and is now so weak in his own, that tears start in the eyes of strong men, as they look upon him carried helplessly through their streets, bent, to-day, as ever, upon doing what he holds to be right, though the heavens fall. As the carriage neared the prison to-day I saw a well-dressed middle-aged man force his way through the crowd till he was as close to Garibaldi as the girations of the alpaca umbrella made it safe to be. He uncovered his head, and with passionate gestures kissed his hand to the old man, who did not even observe his approach. This done, he quietly walked back to his shop and resumed business. If the people could only take up Garibaldi in their strong arms and nurse him back to health and strength, they would abandon all other occupations to perform this task of love and duty. They will do anything for him except work themselves up into a condition of dangerous excitement, because a not very wise man who chances to be his son-in-law has done a silly thing, and the civil authorities, inoculated with the prevalent folly, have thought it worth while to take him *au sereno*.

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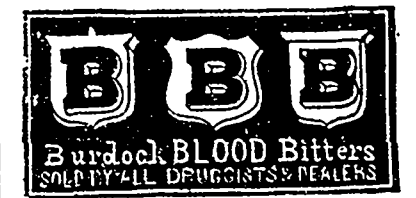
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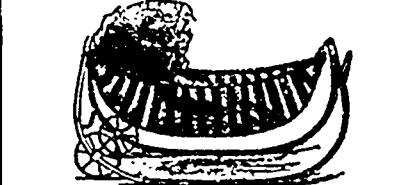
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