

As to the moral worth of men and women I have two scales. Of women, I ask myself, how many degrees of love do they deserve? Of men, I inquire how much are they worth? This last trick I learned from an eccentric old Southerner who had been used to appraising negroes. His idea was that whites, as well as blacks, ought to be judged of by the money they would fetch in the market. Tested by this rule, comparatively few white men will be found worth a thousand dollars, while some cannot command fifty.

I make little or nothing of dress, beyond its tidiness. I have passed that time when a man is fascinated by gay colours, or deceived by eccentric fashions. No lady's plume shall lead me headlong into love's battle. As to veils, they are my abhorrence. I never condescend to look at a veiled woman, because I set her down either as rouged or pock-marked. The Osmanli may love his shrouded Odalisque, but the Frank prefers the open face divine. It is every woman's privilege to show her pretty countenance to the day and every man's right to gaze admiringly upon it. I except of course the mourning widow, whose black flowing veil is an object of reverence, banishing worldly thoughts.

But after nightfall, is the stroller's chief harvest time. The gaslight has a magic influence in transforming the prosy, familiar streets into a kind of Oriental bazaar. The shop-windows filled with fruits, jewellery or haberdashery, which in day-time passed unnoticed, arrest attention in the streaming radiance of the lamps. Then the people you meet are so peculiar. A woman in the evening is very different from the same woman in the day. A like remark may be made of men. There is more naturalness displayed in both. Conventionality is wholly or partially set aside. The Duenna is proverbially purblind and cannot peer into the half shadows where Donna Anna parleys amorously with Don Giovanni. However vigilant Mentor may be, he cannot prevent Telemachus from allowing his heart to be stolen away by Calypso under the silver lamps of her enchanted cavern by the sea.

I have said that strolling implies idleness. Let not the word be taken too strictly. He is not idle who is storing his mind with facts, colouring his imagination with life-pictures, schooling his heart in the multitudinous phases of social morality. The painter is not idle who saunters for days along the gorge, watching the kaleidoscopic changes of the landscape. The sculptor is not idle who sits for hours before his model in search of forms whereby he will give substance to his ideal. The musician is not idle who broods the night long over the keys, weaving the infinite combinations of sound, out of which he is to create a symphony. Neither is the *Adieu* idle, if he strolls day after day, in quest of those experiences of human nature which may enable him to write a poem, a moral or an essay and supply him material to instruct his fellowmen in the intimacy of conversation.

There is only one thing which I ask of the stroller—he must be pure-minded. His general disposition must be to interpret everything for good. This does not preclude wit or sarcasm. Indeed the habitual stroller will unconsciously become a satirist. *Idem forte Via Sacra*, says Horace, the prince of loafers, and Horace was the most genial of satirists. But he says, in the same place, that virtue should be the chief aim of every literary man.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

Monday, April 21.—Almost the entire session was taken up with a discussion of the Grand Trunk Amendment Bill on the motion for its second reading. Finally, after several members had given their views on the policy of the company, Mr. Cauchon pressed for a division, which was taken, resulting in the passage of the motion by a majority of 119, in a house of 133. Mr. Smith (Peel) moved for a select committee to enquire into the Sunday traffic on the Government railways, and stated that there are now 11,000 persons employed on our railways, one-half of whom are employed on Sunday. The resolution, amended so as to form an instruction to the Railway Committee, was carried. Mr. Chisholm brought up a motion for a select committee on the manufacturing interests of the Dominion, explaining that the object of the committee was to take into consideration the best means of further developing our manufacturing interests.

Very little business of importance was transacted on Tuesday, the time being mainly taken up with a charge made by the Hon. Mr. Dorian, accusing the Minister of Public Works of having threatened, during the last elections, to deprive the electors of the Counties of Charlevoix and Chicoutimi and Saguenay, of certain public works, unless they returned the Government candidates. Mr. Dorian's charge was supported by Mr. Tremblay, the sitting member for Charlevoix. Mr. Langevin totally denied the accusation, and produced documentary evidence in support of his denial. With which explanation he was perfectly willing to leave the matter in the hands of the House. Mr. Dorian insisted upon the appointment of a committee of investigation, but, at the suggestion of the Premier, allowed the matter to stand. The rest of the session was spent in Committee of Supply.

On Wednesday, Mr. Charlton moved a resolution asking for a geographical and geological survey of the fertile belt of the North-west, and the publication and dissemination of reports respecting that part of the country through England, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. He condemned the system upon which lands are laid out on the Pacific Railway, and said that the high prices which have been placed on our public lands are calculated to deter emigrants from settling with us. Several members spoke strongly in favour of the motion. After recess the House was for some time occupied with private bills, after which the bill for the better protection of navigable streams and rivers being brought up, Mr. Bellefleur moved the three months' hoist, but withdrew his motion on the suggestion of Mr. Langevin.

The opera season at Covent Garden commenced on the 1st of April, while Drury Lane, under the management of Mr. Mapleson, with more regard for the proprietors, will not open until after Easter Monday. At Covent Garden there are no new operas promised, but a number of the best of the old ones are to be produced by an admirable company of artists. Adeline Patti, Mlle. Albani, Mesdames Stieglitz, Seidel, Moubelli, Sarr, and Corsi, are among the singers, and these are to be reinforced by six new lady artists. The list of tenors is a very strong one, comprising, Pettini, Manfredi, Urie, Rossi, Marino, and Nicheolini; while for basses and baritones we are to have Graglia, Cologni, Cappant, Faure, Champ, Bagdadly and Wagner.

Revivals appear to have been the order of the day in London lately. At the Princess's "Narcisse" has been reproduced; at the Standard "Rebecca," and at the Holborn "The Ticket-of-Leave Man."

NOSTRADAMUS, THE PROPHET.

Michael Nostradamus, prophet and astrologer, was born in 1503, at Remy, in Provence. He was of Jewish origin, of the tribe of Issachar, renowned for their prophetic gifts. He studied at Avignon, and afterwards at Montpellier, for the profession of medicine. In 1525 a pestilence ravaged the southern provinces, and Nostradamus not only attended to the sick, but invented new methods for their cure. His prescriptions were eagerly sought after; but his principal cures were effected by a powder of which he alone had the recipe. He married a woman of good family, and had a son and daughter, both of whom died young. On the death of his first wife he married again, and had six children, one of whom, Charles, endeavoured to rival his father's fame, but in vain. In 1546 a terrible plague broke out at Aix called "le Charbon Provençal," because those attacked by the disease turned perfectly black. Both there and at Lyons Nostradamus practised as a physician with such success that Charles VIII. paid a special visit to Provence to see this celebrated man. The King was so charmed with Nostradamus that he presented him with two hundred crowns in gold and made him a counsellor. He was often summoned to Court after this, and drew the horoscopes of many famous personages, amongst others that of Cardinal de Bourbon, uncle of Henry IV. He received the title of Physician to Charles IX. Nostradamus always surrounded himself with such mystery that he was all but invisible to the world at large. He carried on his studies in an underground apartment by the light of an ever-burning lamp, and there he received the visits of several distinguished persons, even of Henry IV. himself, when still a child, and the Duke and Duchess of Savoy, the father and mother of Charles Emmanuel the Great. His prophetic utterances were couched in such mysterious language that they might be easily interpreted in any desired way. He died in 1566, and was buried in the Church of the Cordeliers at Salon, where his portrait, with a most pompous epitaph under it, commemorates his fame. He published many prophetic almanacks, the model of those of our day, but his chief work was his far-famed "Centuries." They first appeared at Lyons in 1555, and obtained great celebrity. Each century contains a hundred quatrains, or verses of four lines each. In all, they amount to a thousand, and are written in old French. The prediction embraces a space of time from the year 1555 to 1797. Upwards of 300 years therefore have elapsed since it was first promulgated, and we can see in how much or how little the foretold events of those 300 years came to pass. One of the best-known quatrains runs as following:

"Le lion jeune le vieux surmontera
En champ bellique, par singulier duelle;
Dans cage d'or les yeux lui crevera.
Deux classes, une, puis mourira mort cruelle."

That is, literally,—

"The young lion shall surmount the old one,
In a warlike field, by a singular duel;
Shall put out his eyes in a golden cage.
Two classes as one, then die a cruel death."

This was fulfilled in the death of Henry II. of France who died from the effect of a lance thrust in the eye, which struck him through the golden bars of his helmet during a tournament. The event occurred in 1559, thirty years after the death of Nostradamus. Some of the quatrains allude to the death of our Charles the First:

"Gand et Bruxelles marcheront contre Anvers,
Sénat de Londres mettra à mort leur roi."
Cent. ix. Quatrain 49.

It is singular that except Charles I. no King was ever condemned to death by a legalized senate, and at the time he was led to the scaffold Ghent and Brussels did march against Antwerp.—*St. James's Magazine*.

THE JOURNAL OF LOUIS XVI.

At this moment, when in France the Republic and the monarchy are being weighed in the balance, it seems hardly fair to dip into the private life even of a monarch so estimable and unfortunate as Louis XVI., who has come down to us as something between a locksmith and a martyr—a good-natured family man with few vices and a large appetite. However, M. Louis Nicolardot has published his Majesty's journal, which reveals the King in a new light, one that is far different from that shed upon him by history. The journal extends over a period of sixteen years—from 1776 to 1792—and in it his Majesty has jotted down the most private details of his life, but not a single idea. We know that on many trying occasions the King spoke with sense and feeling, and it is hard to imagine why he should have kept such a journal as that before us, which exhibits him in the light of a childish country-gentleman. Alexandre Dumas some years ago published a volume entitled "Les Grands Hommes en Robe de Chambre," which played havoc with a good many historical heroes. What the novelist did for Richelieu and other great people, Louis XVI. has done for himself. M. Nicolardot has divided the King's voluminous diary into chapters. The first chapter treats of his Majesty's health, informing us when he had the toothache, the mumps, or indigestion; when he was inoculated, bled, or when he took medicine. It appears that sometimes the King put his pills and powders into the fire, and felt none the worse for it. He also recorded the accidents that jeopardized his life or his limbs, and, according to his own account, he tumbled off his horse when out hunting five times. Baths appear to have been ordered, says the author, more as a means of health than for cleanliness.

The diary is dry and uninteresting, but then we know how the story finished. Louis XVI., when quietly noting down the facts of his life, never dreamed that they were leading up to a great tragedy. This is the way in which he chronicled political events:—Departure of the Abbé Terray. Bed of justice at Paris; dined at La Muette; slept at Versailles. March 20, 1778, presentation of deputies from America." In April, 1781, "Comedy, retreat of M. Necker," and so on. A good deal is said about the weather, which was often so bad as to prevent the King from going out to hunt or shoot, though even when it was fine his Majesty now and then had what would certainly be reckoned nowadays poor sport. On the 3rd of October, 1791, we find that he slaughtered three pheasants. In November, 1784, a squirrel; another day, 3

"Journal de Louis XVI." (London: Hachette. Paris: Dentu. 1873.)

squirrels, another 1 fox; and on the 20th March, 1783, a dog. His Majesty also shot swallows, and on the 28th of June, 1784, he is credited with having killed 200 of these birds; but this is probably a misprint, as on no other day does he seem to have killed more than a dozen. The word "rien" often occurs in the diary, and in the most ridiculous manner. Thus, the King writes:—"Nothing; remonstrances of Parliament." "Nothing; oaths of M. de Malesherbes." "Nothing; illness of my youngest daughter, which prevented me from hunting." "Nothing; death of M. de Maurepas." "Nothing; death of my mother-in-law, the Empress Marie Theresa." "Nothing; sermon," &c. The explanation is that "rien" meant simply that there was no hunting or shooting, and when this was the case his Majesty felt grieved.

In July, 1790, when, as Carlyle would say, things were growing shrill, the King wrote:—"19th. Reviewed federals and troops of the line at l'Etoile; dined at four; hunted the deer at the Cross of Montmorin. 29th. Nothing; my aunts came to dinner; had a face-ache. August 1st. Mass at home. 2nd and 3rd. Idem. 4th. Medicine; hunted at the Cross of Montmorin. 6th. Nothing; Vichy waters. 23th. Medicine; end of Vichy waters; mass as usual." March began badly. "4th. Nothing; began to get fever. 5th. Nothing. 6th. Took an emetic; mass in my bed; got up afterwards."

We should have mentioned that on the 14th of July, 1789, the King entered the simple word "Nothing," though it was upon that date that the Bastille fell, and that old De Launay and its defenders were massacred. The affair, however, did not make much noise in Paris at the time, and the people who were sipping coffee on the Boulevards heard naught of the matter till next day.

On the 20th of June, 1791, occurs "Nothing," though his Majesty must have been very busy making preparations to fly in the direction of Metz, and his army, where Bouillé was waiting for him. His attempted escape is thus briefly jotted down:—

June 21.—Started at midnight from Paris. Arrived and arrested at Varennes in the Argonne at 11 p.m.

June 22.—Departure from Varennes at five or six in the morning; breakfasted at Sainte-Ménéhould; arrived at Châlons at ten; supped and slept there.

June 23.—The mass was interrupted in order to hasten the departure; breakfasted at Châlons, dined at Epernay; found the Commissioners from the Assembly at the Binson gate. Arrived at eleven at Dormans; supped there and slept for three hours in an armchair.

June 24.—Left Dormans at half-past seven; dined at La Ferté-sous-Jouarre; reached Meaux at eleven; supped and slept at the bishop's palace.

June 25.—Quitted Meaux; arrived at Paris without stopping at eight o'clock.

June 26.—Nothing at all. Conference with the Commissioners of the Assembly. I took some whey.

The King noted down with great minuteness his personal expenditure, and all his gains and losses at play are carefully recorded. On one occasion he appears to have lost with his associates 36,000 livres at lansquenet at Marli, and on the whole his Majesty was not a winner; probably he did not cheat at cards as Napoleon did after him. His household expenditure is chronicled in a way which would have made Frederick the Great jealous. We find 12 sous for a watch-glass, 7 sous for sending a watch to Paris, 2 livres 14 sous for greasing a post-chaise, 1 livre 16 sous for a corkscrew. The most prominent item for the table is pork, and there are days when his Majesty must have devoured black-pudding wholesale. If Louis XVI. was careful, however, in registering unimportant items, that did not hinder money from being spent at Versailles with a prodigality that baffled the resources of even De Calonne's fertile mind. The King's civil list was considerably larger than that of the English monarch, and his Majesty's brothers were always dipping their fingers into the Treasury. The Comte de Provence, afterwards Louis XVIII., one day received 200,000 livres, on another 450,000; and 5,000,000 was invested to furnish him with an income of 500,000 livres, which appears to have been insufficient, as he afterwards received 1,800,000 more. The Comte d'Artois, afterwards Charles X., was even more prodigal than his brother, and the King's aunts received considerable sums out of the Treasury.

There are a few items in the King's private expenditure worth noticing; for instance, various sums of money given to Beaumarchais, whose "Mariage de Figaro" hurried on the Revolution and was disapproved by the King. The name of Gamaun, the King's locksmith, who afterwards betrayed where the iron chest was concealed, often occurs, and his Majesty gave the son 3,000 livres to set him up in business. Louis XVI. also seems to have paid large sums for diamonds for the Queen to Bohmer, who parted with the celebrated diamond necklace to the Cardinal de Rohan. Another curious entry not explained is 12,000 livres to Madame de Cavaignac for her son!

This diary was in all probability simply meant as a book of reference for private use; but though that circumstance may be remembered, the publication of his diary will not fail to lower the unfortunate King in popular esteem.—*P. H. Mail Gazette*.

The Emperor William has sanctioned the proposal for arming the Prussian cavalry with Chassepot carbines adapted from the rifles captured from the French army. The manufacture of needle carbine cartridges has been discontinued in the arsenals.

PRIMITIVE METHOD OF LOCOMOTION IN WALES.—Aberystwith is a celebrated watering-place on the Welsh coast, where many improvements have been introduced, but it seems that there is still some difficulty in getting from that place to Aberayron, which is in some respects the chief town of the county. There the county business is transacted, and the quarter sessions are held; but, notwithstanding the progress of railways in the principality, the only conveyance between Aberystwith and Aberayron is a two-horse waggonette. First, second, and third class fares are booked by this primitive conveyance, and the following curious distinction is made between the passengers: First-class passengers are allowed to retain their seats throughout the journey; second-class have to get out and walk up the hills, which are both numerous and steep, after the fashion of Welsh hills; third-class have not only to get out at the steep places, but have to assist in pushing the vehicle up them. This arrangement works very well, but the pace is not great, and when magistrates have business at Aberayron they are almost as uncertain when they will arrive at their destination as if there was a railway between the two towns.