

BEFORE THE FOOTLIGHTS.

The cultivation of music is a matter of vital importance in a young community like ours, and any encouragement given it deserves to be made as public as possible. Instead, therefore, of devoting this week's column, as usual, to diverse topics connected with music and the drama, I think I shall be doing a service by publishing full particulars of the Montreal Musical Jubilee, or competition opened to all the several corps or Bands of Music of the Dominion. As the ILLUSTRATED NEWS circulates through every part of the country, it may prove the medium of making this scheme more widely known than it would otherwise be.

The competition has been divided into two classes:

I.—The Class of the Regular Corps or Bands of Music formed and organized in Canada; that is, those which are composed of Regular Soldiers, and are under the control and authority of the Government.

II.—The Class of the Independent Corps or Bands of Music. The Class of the Independent Bands of Music has been sub-divided into *First Class* and *Second Class*.

The Regular Bands of Music shall have no right to compete in the classes of the Independent Bands of Music, but the bands of music competing in the first class of the Independent Bands of Music shall have the right, if they so desire, to compete in the class of the Regular Bands of Music.

The Bands of Music competing in the first class of the Independent Bands of Music shall have no right to compete in the second class, neither those competing in the second class shall have the right to compete in the first class.

Lastly, no Band of Music shall have the right to compete in other classes than those in which they shall have entered for competition.

The prizes are munificent.

Five Prizes in Gold Coin, forming altogether the sum of Two Thousand Dollars, and each prize, together with a Banner, has been granted to this competition.

I.—Class of the Regular Bands of Music: Prize, \$600, with Banner.

II.—First Class of the Independent Bands of Music: First Prize, \$600, with Banner. Second Prize, \$400.

III.—Second Class of the Independent Bands of Music: First Prize, \$300, with Banner. Second Prize, \$100.

These prizes shall be awarded by FIVE JUDGES chosen as well in the United States as in the Dominion of Canada.

The banners shall be presented by LADIES of different nationalities.

The rules and conditions of the tournament are that each band shall have

I.—Been formed and organized in the Dominion of Canada.

II.—Existed at least since the first of September last (1877). A musician being a member of any competing Band of Music cannot be replaced under any pretext whatever from the first of April next ensuing (1878), until the competition is ended and closed; and each Director of the several Bands of Music competing shall then be sworn to testify that each musician has been a member of his Band of Music at least three months before. Any executing member of a Band of Music competing shall not be allowed to play in any other Band of Music, unless he should be a teacher of other Bands competing.

III.—Dressed in uniform.

IV.—Paid the entrance-fee fixed for the class in which he is wishing to compete, to wit:

Class of the Regular Bands of Music, \$20.00.
First Class of the Independent Bands of Music, \$20.00.

Second Class of the Independent Bands of Music, \$10.00.

The entrance-fee is payable to the Secretary, as follows:—half with the application, and the other half before the opening of the competition, and on the reception of the half of the entrance-fee, the piece for competition will be sent *gratis*.

V.—To make application to the Secretary between the first and the twentieth days of March next ensuing (1878), (both days included), mentioning therein the name of the Band of Music, of the teacher, also the names of all members, and lastly the place where they come from.

VI.—To execute three pieces of music, one of their own choice, one the choice of the judges (which piece shall be sent *gratis* on reception of the half of the entrance-fee), and lastly, one at first sight, but very easy, and according to the classes of the competition.

VII.—To be present at Montreal, on the twentieth or on the twenty-first day of June next ensuing (1878), at 9 o'clock A.M., the latest, and also present at the *rendez-vous* which shall be appointed in the city of Montreal, to take part in a grand procession.

VIII.—This competition shall take place on the twenty-first and twenty-second days of June next (1878), in the city of Montreal.

The presentation of the prizes shall take place on the twenty-fourth day of June next (1878). I shall add in conclusion that this Jubilee is in honourable and responsible hands, it being sufficient to mention that Judge Couts is President, and Messrs. A. W. Ogilvie, M.P.P., and M. C. Mullarkey, Esq., are Vice-Presidents of the committee of organization.

Piccolo.

HOUSEHOLD CONFERENCES.

I.

SLEEP AND RISING.

The subject which I have been called upon to treat, under this heading, is rather a wide one, ranging over many topics, and, in some respects, rather arbitrary so far as a proper selection goes, but there can be no great mistake in beginning with the very commencement of a working day, as that interests every body, and as on it depends much of the success which the waking hours are expected to bring with them. Hence I open with a few thoughts on sleep and rising.

I. As to the amount of sleep required. That is a question which is amenable to no set rules, and the sanitarians who would lay down a law only prove their ignorance of physiology. In general, however, it may be set forth that a healthy man requires from seven to eight hours of sleep. A healthy woman from eight to nine hours. Children should be allowed to take all they can get. At least, up to the age of ten, a child should not be subjected to any rule curtailing its sleep.

II. As to the hour of rising. The old rule is "up with the lark." A much better rule is, however, "up with the sun." That would make five o'clock in summer, and seven in winter. Nature and common sense seem to prescribe this, as, while it is shameful for a healthy man to stay in bed after daylight, so it seems unnatural that he should rise while it is yet dark, and begin his day's work by candle or gas-light. But the most sensible way is to rise only when you awaken of yourself, as, whether well or ill, you will sleep just so long as your body requires and no longer.

Valetudiniarians, and women especially, after waking normally in the morning, stretch out a little, roll over and fall to sleep again for a couple of hours. That is all right and proper, so long as it reposes them. But the experience of many—my own included—is that these two extra hours rather tire than freshen. One gets up after them with weary eyes and warm hands.

III. As to brisk rising. A general rule is not to lounge in bed after awakening. Jumping right up is not advisable, as it may prove a shock to the nerves. The effort may likewise produce weariness, which is very discouraging and a bad sign at the beginning of the day. Good sense demands that one shall awaken thoroughly before rising, and that means that his eyes must be allowed to open fully, his limbs to distend, and his whole consciousness to return. Then deliberate rising, dressing and washing complete the restoration. On the other hand, after these conditions are fulfilled, no one should lie idle in bed. This applies especially to the young, for obvious reasons not necessary to mention here.

IV. As to dressing. Altogether the best mode is to dress at once. This applies particularly to females who generally dawdle over that initial business of the day. In no case should the young folks be allowed to come down to breakfast unless thoroughly dressed, and the girls should be fully combed. Father and mother will, of course, set the example, though the former may be allowed slippers and dressing gown at his coffee, and the latter a morning robe and cap.

Thus, rising at a proper time, and in a proper manner, and dressing at once, one is in spirits to start out for the day.

O. C. C.

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

THE reason why the young ladies like naval officers is because they belong to the marry-time service.

Now let us sit down and consider why a woman invariably carries a bundle as though it was a baby.

In Spain at a dinner party the oldest lady is always seated first. He who would try the fashion here must expect a stale dinner.

Did you ever sit down before the grate and cross your legs and wonder how it comes that a dear little toddling youngster, too small to lift a dictionary, can ask questions that would send a college professor to the foot of the class?

THE Danbury Man's book, "They All Do It," says the most difficult thing to reach is a woman's pocket. If the author will drop into a fashionable milliner's establishment on a pleasant afternoon he will change his opinion. A woman's head enables her to find her pocket with wonderful alacrity.

THE landlady brushed back the boughen curl from her alabaster brow, as she asked her favorite boarder on Christmas if he would have some of the spring chicken; and true to its name the fowl sprung from the dull points of the carving fork like a rubber ball, into the lap of the young man with yellow pantaloons on. The spring chicken proved to be an infringement on the Goodyear patent.

THE wife of a New York banker distinguished herself the other night at a Washington party. Her dress was covered on a skirt, so as to make it appear one piece, with one hundred and five hundred dollar bills. The waist and sleeves were \$1,000 bonds sewed in, and her fingers and ears blazed with diamonds. The tiara was said to have been worth \$80,000, and the notes and diamonds were \$260,000. Two pages carried her train, and watched lest the jewels and greenbacks should fall to the floor.

THE FREE LANCE.

When you are in an exceedingly great hurry to get to your office or to return to your home, always make it a point to wait for the street car. This will teach you the useful philosophy of never being in too great a hurry.

It may turn out that the Dominion Board of Trade will not acknowledge the corn. That will happen if it declines to accept the withdrawal of the Montreal Corn Exchange, on the score of want of previous notice.

The best of jokes is that of a lawyer sending his curt and menacing collection letters right and left, and sneering for debt, while he himself is head over heels in debt, and receives bushels of "lawyer's letters" to his own address.

I am assured that there are many advocates in this town, young, middle-aged, and old, whose only source of revenue consists in sending "lawyer's letters," and pocketing the one dollar fee before a cent goes to the creditor.

Life is full of contrasts.

Yesterday a friend of mine received a polite note from a leading lawyer inviting him to dine with him.

To-day he received a note from the same lawyer asking for a collection from a creditor, and threatening all sorts of things in case of delay.

Two gentlemen were reviewing their experiences on New Year's Day. One of them said: "I have been a lucky fellow. I have gone the rounds of all pleasurable sensations in life, with a solitary exception."

"What is that?"

"I never enjoyed the delicious luxury of having a street car catch up with me."

At a New Year's reception in this city, among many untasteful costumes, there was one of a lady, fair, fat, and forty, who was sleeveless from the arm-pit to the wrist. Her complexion was really fine, except that the appearance was rather too spotty, or, as the French say, *cirée*. A friend, noticing a little scar on her left arm, said: "She is vaccinated."

"Vaccinated, you mean," was another friend's reply.

Blondin, the celebrated rope-walker, is now back in his native country, and the Parisians are making a great deal of him. Recently, during one of his vertiginous exploits, he invited Cham, the imitable caricaturist of the *Charivari*, to accompany him.

"How will I go?"

"I will carry you on my back."

Cham made a very face.

"Are you afraid of falling?"

"Yes—into ridicule."

THE City Passenger Railway is making a sad exhibition of its conductors. They are not allowed to handle a five cent piece, under penalty of instant dismissal. The passenger must drop his fare himself into the silver slit of a box which the conductor carries in front of him, while he looks meekly on and presses a sounding spring. What is the plain English of this Yankee patent mode of procedure? That the conductor is not to be trusted. That is a very rough thing to put before the public, and quite conducive to the general morality.

I have been asked to give my views about the weather. I am told that I ought to know as much about it as Vennor or anybody else, and I incline to that belief myself. In delivering my prognostics, however, I do not wish to be under the suspicion of subterfuge or ambiguous language such as allows Vennor and the other fellows to sneak out of the failures which befall them. My forecastings are built upon science only. Here they be:

I. Spite of all croakings to the contrary, the present winter will last the full hiemal term.

II. The river will "take" as soon as the glacial period is determined, and not before.

III. The quantity of snow that is to fall is in direct ratio with the niveous condition of the atmosphere.

LACLEDE.

THE GLEANER.

CASTELLAR thinks he will live to see a Spanish Republic.

RENTING dress coats for parties is a lucrative New York idea.

LORD BEACONSFIELD has just celebrated his seventy-second birthday.

It is estimated that the English budget will show a deficit of one million pounds sterling.

THE Marchioness of Lorne, unlike the rest of Queen Victoria's married daughters, is childless.

SOTHERN says the stories of the Prince of Wales' fondness of green rooms are all untrue. He is a devoted husband, and enormously and deservedly popular in England.

The *Saturday Review* says that the present age is an age of printers and manuals, in which the intellectual pabulum of former ages is condensed into essences to suit all tastes.

J. W. MACKAY, the California millionaire, who has lately bewildered the Parisians by the extravagance of his living, is said to be about to buy a Papal earldom and become *Il Conte di Mackay*.

THE students of Pesth are subscribing for a silver crown to be presented to Osman Pasha, inscribed "The homage of the true Hungarians to the hero of Plevna."

THE latest explanation of Mme. MacMahon's surrender to the Republicans, which resulted in the formation of the present Ministry, is that under the pressure of his vexations the Marshal had become peevish and irritable, and occasionally talked as if he had lost his wits. His brother and a nephew had both died insane, and she feared the same result to her husband. To save him, she gave up.

A DOUBLE ARTIST. —Mlle Sarah Bernhardt, in Paris, is occupied modelling the statue of a child playing on a flute, beside the bust of Félicien David, for Versailles. Her sculpture is carried on without prejudice to her other artistic occupations. As many as seventeen parts in different plays have been submitted to her since her successful personification of *Joan Sot*; and she is also busy studying the character of *Blanche* in "Le Roi S'amuse." At the banquet given by Victor Hugo to Sarah Bernhardt, the latter wore a light dress of *crêpe de chine*, literally embellished with ornaments in pearl. It hung upon her—for her figure lacks fullness—and its tint heightened to strong contrast her dark Jewish face.

HUMOROUS.

BREVITY of costume is the soul of burlesque opera wit.

PEOPLE who make their living by falling on slippery walks, breaking their legs and suing the corporation, are not getting a fair show this year.

THE world may never know what unutterable things a hotel waiter thinks when he folds his arms and leans against the wall to gaze down upon you in mournful silence with dreamy eyes.

BEECHER'S idea that there is no hell is bad for newspaper publishers, as so many subscribers may now utterly refuse to pay up, if they have the remotest suspicion that Beecher knows what he is talking about.

WISE people who love to dive into apparently unathomable mysteries are requested to explain why a pencil lead always breaks just when you have finished laboriously constructing a point with a dull knife.

"Ah, my dear," said Dan to his wife, "it's all right, and I'm sure I'm much obliged to you, you know, but if you hadn't given me that box of elegant cigars, I was talking of wearing off on New Year's Day."

THERE may be no such word as fall in the bright lexicon of youth, but when a young man, wandering home at one a.m., tries to put out a street lamp by stepping on it with his foot, he very soon learns that there are some things that even youth can't do.

A MAN down in Bradford, Pennsylvania, cured himself of the dyspepsia by chasing a chronograph over a mountain nine miles high. We look to see this remedy more generally adopted. The only trouble with it is that there may not be enough mountains to go around.

THE ambitious warbler who is trying to climb to glory by dooting his waste basket with sonnets written in pale red ink, will have to get there by some other route. Brick coloured manuscript has about the same effect on a near-sighted editor that a crimson shawl has on a male cow.

THE voice of the starlit cat never sounds to better advantage than in these frosty, clear, and silent winter nights. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish a prolonged note on the upper register from the closing wail of a trumpet solo. The cat lasts longer and has a trifle more power, and will stop quicker for a brick than the trumpet will.

ROUND THE WORLD.

GERMANY.—Thirteen persons have been arrested in connection with the charge of treason against Bishop, who is said to have endeavoured to obtain plans of the fortifications of Metz.

ORITARY.—Vittorio Emmanuel II., King of Italy, died on Wednesday, 14th inst., aged 57.—Francis Vincent Raspail, the French chemist and politician, after a stormy life of seventy-four years.—General Montanaro, Count de Palikao, who took his title from the Anglo-French victory at Palikao in the Chinese war of 1860, Bulgaria, the old-time Greek politician.—The Italian General and statesman La Marmora.

FRANCE.—M. Grevy and the Duke d'Audiffert Pasquier were elected Presidents of the French Chamber of Deputies and Senate respectively.—The former by 335 votes out of 336, and the latter by 122 against 61 blanks. In a speech recently delivered at Marsaglia Gambetta advised a halt in the Republican advance until 1880, in order to fortify the positions already won by the party, and to support the Ministry until after the Senatorial elections next year.

ITALY.—Immediately upon the death of his father, King Humbert of Italy issued an address to the Italian people, in which he assured them of his attachment to the liberal principles advocated by his father. The news of the late King's death has created much anxiety in France and Germany.—In the latter country as likely to affect the stability of the Triple Alliance, and in the former as causing the loss of a staunch friend of France. The Italian Parliament is to be summoned immediately, and the new King took the oath on Wednesday last. Expressions of sympathy from all the Sovereigns of Europe and from Marshal MacMahon were received at Rome.

THE EASTERN WAR.—The two principal points this week are the Russian victory in the Balkans, and the armistice. At Shipka Pass the Russians captured 28,000 men, 1,000 horses, 12 mortars, 12 siege guns and 80 field guns. Two Russian columns from Kozanlik have arrived, one near Yenik Saghis and the other near Tatar Bazarjik. The Tyndol railway is threatened. The civil population has been ordered to quit Adrianople, and 4,000 persons have already gone. The partition of Nisch surrendered to the Serbians numbering 2,000, with 99 cannon, 12,000 rifles and a number of flags. The armistice is not yet fully concluded. The Prince of Montenegro, having applied to Russian headquarters for instructions relative to armistice, has been informed that he need not send an envoy, as the Grand Duke would take charge of his interests.