

W. K. ARCH, Architect, 106 d'Armes Hill, Montreal.

THE SINGERS' OFFERING.

Ville-Jossy is a large burgh of Touraine, which one sees lazily sleeping upon the river bank when going down the Loire, from Blois to Tours.

With all might upon his Bucephalus, and we will not even get the information we wish to obtain.

When they arrived at the parsonage, the priest's servant was standing in the door. The good natured Luigi called her attention to his guests by a glance of his eyes.

"What is that?" asked the priest. "It is that your horse will not be able to draw all three of us, if I get in."

When they were alone: "That priest is a capital fellow!" said the marquis taking off his coat, while Luigi puffed like a porpoise as he pulled and tugged at his boots.

"Well, I have an idea of my own." "Ah, if you have an idea of your own, it's a different thing," said Luigi, laughing and spreading himself before the fire.

"But I should like to know what for." The servant spoke of builder—this old priest has surely not had a chateau built—it must be for his church.

"Bah! what's the good of trying to find out? We know that he needs the money, and if I had the five thousand francs, that would be enough for me; but as I haven't, not you either, it seems to me that all your investigations or shrewd endeavors to find out a thing which does not concern you would be simply indiscreet—still we are better off here than on the road," added he in order to give a different turn to the conversation.

"But the marquis again said: 'I have an idea of my own; we shall see.' During the dinner the priest, notwithstanding his efforts to conceal it, was preoccupied, and Jane was sad in spite of her bustling about the guests.

"Why, yes—indeed—" stammered the priest, who grew very red and seemed quite taken aback by the bluntness of his guest.

"Do you need them very much?" continued the marquis. "Does he need them very much, Holy Mother?" cried Jane. "Why for the last two weeks the poor dear man has lost his sleep over it."

"Let us see how," said the priest, with a somewhat incredulous smile. "My friend," replied the marquis, "was once Maestro di Capella for the king of Naples; that means that he has a magnificent voice and is an excellent musician."

"Ah! the gentleman is a chanter!" exclaimed Jane. The two friends burst out laughing, and the priest cast a look of reproach at the servant, who did not at all understand the anger of her master, for nothing seemed to her more honorable than to sing the praises of the Lord in His Holy Temple.

"My friends pretend," continued the marquis, "that I myself have a pretty good tenor voice. I propose, then, Father, that we shall sing for you a musical Mass by one of the masters, and set the price of the reserved seats at two hundred francs." "Two hundred francs each!" exclaimed in unison, the old man and the servant.

"Yes," said the guest quietly, "we might ask three hundred, but since five hundred francs are enough—'But do you think,' faltered the priest, 'that however rich they may be, our neighbors of the chateaux—' 'I promise you the five thousand francs,' said the young man mirthfully, and turning to Jane: 'Get me some pens, ink, paper and envelopes.' The old maid rushed out, pressing against her heart the plate which she held in her hand, and returned five minutes later with the objects asked for.

"Then the marquis, sharing his paper with Luigi, they wrote half a score of very short letters, dictated by the marquis, and running as follows:—'Madam—The Marquis de Candia and his friend Luigi will tomorrow sing a High Mass in the parish church of Ville-Jossy. The price of reserved seats is two hundred francs. Please accept the assurance, etc., etc.'"

The next morning the sky had cleared; thirty handsome chairs were set in rows between the choir and the ordinary seats; a small table covered with a little cloth, carried a large platter, destined to receive the contributions imposed upon the privileged ones; the table was illuminated as on Whitsunday, and the choir was filled with flowers.

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shake hands with him and with Luigi. At the head of all the ladies, came the Baroness de Nangis, claiming her guests, many were the ladies who envied her when the two artists said that they would return with her, and asked a delay of five minutes only prior to their departure, to pay their respects to the good priest.

"Well, Father," joyfully cried the marquis, as he entered, "the idea was not a bad one, was it?" "Yes, my benefactors," said the priest going to them with open hands, "the idea was good and generous, and the receipts exceeded your pointing to the money, 'over ten thousand francs; but the money is yours.'"

"Ah, Father, we will get angry," said the marquis almost offended. "This money is neither yours nor ours; it belongs to your church and to the poor of your parish, and you have not the right to refuse it."

"Well, let it be so!" said the pastor, very much moved; "I accept it for them, but tell me who you are, in order that I may at least know for whom you should bless."

The two artists looked at each other; hesitated for a second; then the marquis, answering Luigi's inquiring look said: "Why not?"

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Society Directory.

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LADIES' AUXILIARY to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division No. 1—Meets in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander Street, on third Thursday, at 4 p.m., of each month. President, Sarah Allen; Vice-President, Stacia Mack; Financial Secretary, Mary McMahon; Treasurer, Mary O'Brien; Recording Secretary, Lizzie Howland, 383 Wellington street. Application forms can be had from members, or at the hall before meetings.

A.O.H.—DIVISION NO. 2—Meets in lower vestry of St. Gabriel New Church corner Centre and Laprairie streets, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, at 8 p.m. President, John Cavanaugh; 1st Vice, Catherine Lennon; 2nd Vice, Centre street, telephone Main 2239. Recording Secretary, Thomas Donohue, 312 Hibernian street. —to whom all communications should be addressed; Peter Doyle, financial secretary; E. J. Colfer, Treasurer. Delegates to St. Patrick's League: —J. J. Cavanaugh, D. S. McCarthy and J. Cavanaugh.

A.O.H.—DIVISION NO. 3—Meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month, at No. 1563 Notre Dame street, near McGill Officers: Ald. D. Gallery, president; T. McCarthy, vice-president; F. J. Devlin, recording secretary, 1635 Ontario street; John Hughes, financial secretary; J. Brophy, treasurer; M. Fennel, chairman of Standing Committee; marshal, M. Stafford.

A.O.H.—DIVISION NO. 9—President, Wm. J. Clarke, 208 St. Antoine street; Rec. Secretary, Jno. P. Hogan, 86 St. George street, (to whom all communications should be addressed); Fin. Secretary, M. J. Doyle, 12 Mount St. Mary Ave.; Treasurer, A. J. Hanley, 796 Palace street; Chairman of Standing Committee, R. Diamond; Sentinel, M. Clarke; Marshal, J. Flynn. Division meets in annual hall the first Tuesday of every month, at 8 p.m. Rev. Father McGrath, Rev. President; James J. Costigan, 1st Vice-President; Jno. P. Gunning, Secretary, 414 St. Antoine street.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY organized 1885. Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2:30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. E. Strube C.S.B.R.; President, D. J. O'Neill; Secretary, J. Murray; Delegates to St. Patrick's League: J. Whitty, D. J. O'Neill and M. Casey.

ST. PATRICK'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY Meets on the second Sunday of every month in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, immediately after Vespers. Committee of Management meets in annual hall the first Tuesday of every month, at 8 p.m. Rev. Father McGrath, Rev. President; James J. Costigan, 1st Vice-President; Jno. P. Gunning, Secretary, 414 St. Antoine street.

C.M.B.A. OF CANADA, BRANCH 26.—(Organized, 18th November, 1883.)—Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, on every Monday of each month. The regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 8 p.m. Applicants for membership or any one desirous of information regarding the Branch may communicate with the following officers:—Jas. J. Costigan, President; P. J. McDonagh, Recording Secretary; Robt. Warren, Financial Secretary; Jas. H. Maiden, Treasurer.

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