

BLIGHTED LOVE.

The following which appeared in the last number of the FIGARO-PROGRAMME is by our friend and contributor ISIDORE.

I met her once upon a stair,
And loved her dearer than myself;
For she was young, and slim, and fair,
Although her mother dealt in delf.
Within her shop I breathed my vow,
And in my frenzy broke a plate;
She hoarsely cried, "Don't make a row!"
I shrieked farewell, and cursed my fate.

I broke a plate; she broke my heart;
And yet I swore again I'd try.
"Oh, heal," I said, "this dreadful smart;
Oh, do not let me pine and die."
She laughed. "Oh, simoleon!" she cried.
"My fate is sealed; you're come too late."
I heard no more—I might have died;
But I preferred to live and wait.

The daily press disclosed the truth:
The girl loved had married him,
Companion of my wayward youth,
My only friend—his name was Jim.
At once I loathed my daily food;
I scorned my pipe; I hated beer;
I nursed revenge in solitude,
With many a groan and many a tear.

I let my beard grow wild and long;
I cursed the day that gave me birth;
Indited verses sad and strong,
And then indulged in hollow mirth.
I gazed upon the moon at night,
And acted like a maniac;
Until my landlord, in a fright,
Begged me to quit "his three-pair-back."

Oh, Perfidy, thy name was Jim!
Oh, cruel deceiver, christened Jane!
Why didst thou go to church with him?
To make me starve myself in vain?
But, as the years rolled on, at last
My grief did almost disappear:
In softer tones I cursed the past,
And did not always loathe my beer.

One day—'twas in a music hall—
I heard a voice that called my name:
And covered with a Paisley shawl,
I gazed upon an uncouth dame.
No longer beautiful and slim,
Her presence filled me with surprise,
As, leaning on the arm of Jim,
My sweetheart stood before my eyes.

"Oh, Jim," I said, "perfidious one,
Was it for this you took a wife?
To leave your only friend undone,
And blight his young and hopeful life?
Oh, Jim! you've cleft my heart in twain,
And robbed me of my peace and beer!
And then, for you, oh, callous Jane!
I've shed, oh, many a manly tear."

Then Jim replied, in whispered tones,
So that his wife no word might hear:
"Be yours the laughter, mine the groans,
For mine have found no listening ear.
Alas! for those unsparring blows,
Dealt by misfortune and my wife;
I can't recount the tragic woes,
That darkened my desponding life.

"My manly arms are black and blue;
My shoulders—never mind the rest;
I only know, she proved a shrew—
Of faults and vices both possessed.
I almost curse the horrid fate
That linked me to this dreadful Jane.
So leave me hopeful and elate
And thank your stars you've loved in vain."

[For the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.]

THE BLUE HANDKERCHIEF.

At the end of last October, I was returning on foot from Orleans to the Chateau of Bardsy. Before me, and on the same route marched a regiment. I had accelerated my pace in order to hear that military music which I love so much. But the music was mute. The tapping of drums, at intervals, alone marked the uniform step of the soldiers.

After half-an-hour's march, I saw the regiment enter a little plain, surrounded by small cedars. I asked of one of the captains whom I knew whether they were going through the exercise. "No," said he, "we are going to judge and probably shoot a soldier of my company, for having robbed the house where he was billeted."

"What?" I exclaimed. "You are going to judge, condemn and execute him all at once?" "Yes," was the answer. "Such are our capitulations."

That word admitted of no reply. I accepted the offer of the captain to advance and witness the scene.

The regiment was formed into a square. Behind the second line, and on the border of the wood, some soldiers were digging a grave. They were commanded by a sub-lieutenant, for, in the service, everything is done in order, and there is a certain discipline to be observed in digging the grave of a man.

In the centre of the square, eight officers were seated on drums. The ninth, on the right and a little in advance, was writing something on his knees, but with negligence, and simply that the man might not be killed without some formalities.

The accused is summoned. It was a young man of high stature, of noble and mild figure. With him advanced a woman, the only witness in the case. When the Colonel was about to question this woman, the soldier said:

"It is useless, I acknowledge I stole a handkerchief at this lady's."

COLONEL.—You, Peter! you passed for a good soldier.

PETER.—It is true, my Colonel; I always tried to satisfy my superiors, and it was not for me that I stole. It was for Marie.

COLONEL.—Who is this Marie?

PETER.—It is Marie who lives beyond . . . at home . . . at Areneberg . . . where there is the big apple tree.

COLONEL.—I don't understand you, Peter, explain yourself.

PETER.—Well Colonel, read this letter. And he handed the following epistle to the officer.

My good friend Peter.

I send this letter by Arnold, a recruit in your regiment, along with a silk purse which I made for you. I hid myself from father to do it, because he always scolds me for loving you so, and says that you will not come back. Now, won't you come back? But even if you never came back, I will love you any how. I promised myself to you the day that you picked up my blue handkerchief at the dance at Areneberg, and gave it to me. When will I see you again? What pleases me is that they tell me you are esteemed by your superiors and loved by the others. But you have two years more to serve. Finish them quick, because then we will get married. Good-by, good friend Peter.

Your dear Marie.

P. S.—Try and send me something from France, not because I might forget you, but that I may carry it about me. You will kiss what you send, and I am sure I will find at once the place that you kissed.

When the reading was done, Peter said:

Arnold gave me this letter last night, when I got my billet ticket. All night I could not sleep. I thought of home and of Marie. She had asked me for something from France. I had no money; I had given all I had to my brother and my cousin who returned home a few days ago. This morning, when I got up to start, I opened my window and saw a blue handkerchief hanging on a line. It looked like Marie's. It had the same color and the same white stripes. I had the weakness to take it and put into my knapsack. I then went into the street. I repented of what I had done, and was returning to the house, when this lady ran after me. "The handkerchief was found. This is the truth. The capitulation requires that I be shot. Shoot me, but do not despise me."

The judges could not hide their emotion; however, on the vote being taken, the man was unanimously condemned to death. He heard the sentence with calm and, approaching his Captain, he begged him to lend him four francs. The Captain gave them to him.

He then advanced to the woman to whom the blue handkerchief had been restored, and I heard these words:

"Madame, here are four francs. I don't know whether your handkerchief is worth more, but even if it were, I pay it so dear that you will acquit me of the rest."

Taking the handkerchief, he kissed it and gave it to the Captain:

"My Captain," said he, "in two years you will return to our mountains. If you go in the direction of Areneberg, ask for Marie, give her this handkerchief, but do not tell her how I bought it."

Then he knelt down, prayed to God, arose and marched with a firm step to the place of execution.

I walked away, and entered the wood, so as not to witness the close of this cruel tragedy. A few rifle shots soon informed me that all was over.

I returned an hour after. The regiment had gone and all was calm, but on following the border of the wood, I perceived a few traces of blood, and a mound of earth freshly stirred. I took a branch of cedar. With it I made a kind of cross and placed it on the grave of poor Peter, already forgotten by all the world, except me and perhaps Marie.

J. L.

YOUNG ENGLISHWOMEN IN PARIS

A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes: Owing to the unfortunate fact that female labor is superabundant in England while there is a lack of it in France, a great number of English girls make their way to Paris, believing, and with much reason, that there, if they have no other knowledge, that of their own language will secure them employment in shops which depend for custom upon English visitors. They arrive, however, unprotected, ignorant of the habits of the country, and utterly unable to cope with fraud and dishonesty. It is while they are seeking for work that they are inveigled into wretched hotels where exorbitant prices are asked, and where they get into debt, leading to worse perplexities. If the workers in Miss Leigh's home did no more than meet our poor young countrywomen at the railway stations to help them in their first difficulties the establishment would be deserving of support. A trifling fact will sometimes give a clearer idea of a certain state of things than the most appalling surmises as to their probable consequences, and I confess that an account Miss Leigh herself gives of the first arrival in Paris of one of her young charges leaves the impression that few could have witnessed it without wishing her God speed. She found the young woman standing on the platform crying bitterly, "What is the matter?" she inquired. "Oh," said the girl, "they take me for a thief; they have opened my boxes and looked them through and through." "But don't you see that they have done the same by the other passengers?" "Yes; no doubt there has been a great robbery, but they looked through my box most carefully. They think I am one of the worst." The law of the land being explained to this poor innocent, all went well, but her mistake proved she was hardly a heroine fitted to cope with low lodging-house keepers and other harpies of that sort.

FOOT NOTES.

By a law of Switzerland the signatures of 30,000 citizens suffice for subjecting an Act passed by the Federal Legislature to the ordeal of an appeal to the people.

PIUS IX. has a god-daughter and two god-sons. The first is the Queen of Portugal and the second are the Prince Imperial and Alfonso, King of Spain.

THERE are complaints that the Harvard oarsmen approach too nearly to nudity in their rowing costume, and the *Crimson*, the college paper, admits that there is need of a reform.

GERMAN pilgrims are flocking to Rome, and some of them are said to be very queer looking birds, such as even the Eternal City has rarely seen the like of before. They are from the rural nooks and out-of-the-way corners of the Fatherland.

A MAN in France who had his foot amputated, refused to pay the fee charged by the surgeon, and commenced an action against the latter for damages, because the foot, instead of having been buried, had been dissected in the interests of science.

HORSE is eaten openly and without reserve in Sweden, generally in September, or after the summer heats are over. Various preparations of colt and filly may be seen entered without disguise upon all bills of fare about the fall of the year.

THE Chinese salutation consists of clasping the left hand with the right and waving it up and down, at the same time bowing deeply; or, if unusual respect is wished to be evinced, the Chinaman bows as low as is possible, swinging his clasped hands between his legs backwards and forwards.

THE immunity from snake-bite enjoyed by Europeans in India is largely attributable to their dress. A snake in striking at the trousered leg of a European mistakes the folds of the cloth for the offending substance, and strikes accordingly, while the man rarely gives the reptile an opportunity of repeating the experiment.

"I WANT it nice, and strong, and snug like," said the widow, exhuming a fresh pocket handkerchief, and controlling her sobs with difficulty. "Oh! that's all right, ma'm, that's all right," returned the undertaker, tapping the coffin merrily; "he could n't get out of it, ma'm, if he had a mind to."

THE excavations undertaken by Sir George Alexander for the purpose of recovering the obelisk which is known to be buried close to Cleopatra's Needle, in Egypt, have been commenced, the Khedive having authorized the explorer to convey the monolith to England should he succeed in unearthing it and in finding means to carry it away.

THE lovers of pure olive oil will be glad to hear that the product of the olive groves in Tunis and the Barbary States during the past year has been so great as to cause a decided fall in prices. Since the manufacture of lard in England and Italy by mixing the lard oil with the husks of the olive to give it the right tint and flavor. This is put up in foreign shaped bottles and flasks, and labelled in a foreign language, and so skillfully is the operation performed that experts are often puzzled to decide between the real oil and its imitation.

THE following figures represent the annual death-rates in various parts of the United States. They show remarkable differences, ranging from a minimum of 10-97 to a maximum of 39-79:—New York, 29-33; Philadelphia, 24-90; Brooklyn, 24-70; St. Louis, 13-55; Chicago, 14-04; Boston, 23-15; Baltimore, 24-55; Cincinnati, 22-00; New Orleans, 26-31; San Francisco, 19-94; Washington, 31-25; Pittsburgh, 20-74; Milwaukee, 14-04; Providence, 22-44; Richmond, 19-60; Charleston, 39-79; Toledo, 11-76; Memphis, 26-50; Paterson, 27-30; Dayton, 10-37; Nashville, 35-50; Wheeling, 21-77; Elmira, 13-16; Knoxville, 12-56. How about Montreal?

DR. DESPINE, in his *Psychologie Naturelle*, gives a striking analysis of the mental status of the criminal classes. Attracted by the singular want of emotion displayed by most criminals, Dr. Despine was led to a thorough examination of court records and other sources of information. He arrives at a belief in the entire absence of moral sense in this class. He says that free-will, which in the normal man is only controlled by the sense of duty, in the criminal has no such counter-balance, this sense being wanting. His acts are therefore mentally automatic, the result of the strongest instinct, appetite, or passion prevailing at the time. Most criminals are therefore morally irresponsible, no matter how great the crime is against society. Like brutes, savages, and idiots, they yield to natural appetites and passions, unrestrained and unapproached by any feeling of impropriety, although intellectually cognizant of the moral standards of society. Hence their remarkable *sang froid*, and the superficial character of any apparent reformation or conversion.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The Prince-Bishop of Breslau has been fined 200 marks or 133 days' imprisonment for illegally excommunicating a priest.

Bills for the amendment of the labor law in England were introduced by the Home Secretary in the Imperial House of Commons.

At Ascot races lately the gold cup was won by Doncaster. Bay of Naples and Craig Miller ran a dead heat for the St. James' Palace Stakes.

In another column will be found an account of the loss of the steamship "Vicksburg," with the statement of one of the five survivors who were picked up by the "Georgia."

The report of the epidemic among the Fiji Islanders is stated by Lord Carnarvon, Colonial Secretary of State, to be confirmed by official despatches received from the Islands.

Moorshawk, a Russian town of 20,000 inhabitants, has been utterly destroyed by fire.

At the Ascot races, last week, Organist, won the Ascot stakes, Marie Stuart, the gold vase, and Earl of Dartrey, the Prince of Wales stakes.

Messrs. Jewett, Vanderbilt and Scott, respectively of the Erie, New York Central and Pennsylvania Central Railways, held a long consultation, lately, with a view to mutually benefiting their lines, but no understanding was arrived at.

The British Government have instructed their envoy to Burmah to demand immediate explanations of the King of the friendly reception accorded by that monarch to the Chinese General implicated in the late murder of an English explorer. The Burmese are cutting the telegraph wires.

Doncaster won the Alexandra Plate at Ascot races.

Egypt is to be represented at the Philadelphia International Exhibition.

A crisis is imminent at Athens, which may result in the abdication of the King.

Sixteen thousand lives are reported to have been lost by an earthquake in New Grenada.

An iron safe, supposed to contain upwards of \$100,000 in gold, has been recovered by a diver from the wreck of the Cumberland, sunk in Hampton Roads in 1862.

The establishment of a neutral zone has been suggested as the means of arriving at a friendly understanding on the Central Asian question between England and Russia.

Fifty thousand natives are reported to have died of epidemic measles in the Fiji Islands.

A London despatch announces the death of the celebrated English architect, Mr. Edward Welby Pugin.

The Federal Union of Agricultural Laborers is sending out two delegates to prospect the Mississippi Valley as a field for emigration.

In the Jefferson Borden mutiny case, the Magistrate has ruled that there is sufficient ground for sending the prisoners to the United States.

All land lying contiguous to the Mississippi, within 12 miles of the river, has been reserved by the United States Government for military purposes.

Twenty-two Chicago Aldermen have been fined \$100 each for contempt of Court in violating an injunction issued by Judge Williams restraining them from counting the votes of the last municipal elections.

A duel was fought at Havana, a few days since, between a Spaniard and an American, arising out of a misunderstanding regarding the former's wife. Five shots were fired, when the American fell, though not mortally wounded; but the aggrieved one, thinking he had killed his adversary, reloaded and blew out his brains.

VARIETIES.

To Archbishop Whately is ascribed this paradox: "The larger the income the harder it is to live within it."

A GAME of chess between a player of Pforzheim in Baden, and another in New York, begun in 1859, has just ended after sixteen years playing, the New Yorker winning. The moves were conducted by letter.

It is still uncertain whether Garibaldi will accept the 50,000 francs annuity for life and 50,000 francs additional, with remainder to his heirs in perpetuity, to which the Italian Senate has just given its consent.

A JAPANESE prince, a near relative of the Mikado, is about to enter a Prussian regiment in order to acquaint himself with the discipline of the Prussian service.

If you want to see a man struggle to do several things at once, just watch him trying to put on his overcoat and rubbers with his head bowed down while the minister is pronouncing the benediction.

Six thousand, five hundred and fifty-three students frequented the universities of Italy during the session of 1874-75. Naples and Turin numbered the most.

THE Duke of Edinburgh is the only one of Queen Victoria's sons who is not a member of the Masonic order, and his father-in-law, the Emperor of Russia, is one of the few sovereigns of Europe who oppose Masonry.

THE conductors of one of the grammar schools in Nashua, N. H., has discovered a useful method of teaching grammar and rhetoric. The pupils are awarded two marks for every error found in a local newspaper.

THE bust of the Republic, in the shape of a Greek head, has been voted for the municipal offices in Paris, and the principal city halls in the provinces are to be decorated, by order of the Minister of the Interior, with engraved portraits of MacMahon. Some of the severer critics maintain that as a republic represents the faces of all citizens, it needs no bust.

THE cows of Alderney, according to a recent visitor to that island, are milked three times a day, and the milk is churned without skimming. They are fed on grass and vicia, the latter being a seaweed, and are kept much of the time in the shade. A pound of butter a day is not an uncommon yield for a good cow. The breed is defended against admixture by stringent laws, and no cattle are allowed to be taken into the island except to be slaughtered.