

by compelling me to yield passively to their influence, I merely answered, "I don't know what you mean."

"Don't know what I mean!" he replied. "Have I then been blind? Have you not inspired me with hopefulness, so that I could look forward to this meeting with you, when my dearest hopes should receive their fulfilment? Speak to me, Agnes"—and his voice was filled with earnest and almost tremulous vehemence; "assure me that you will be mine"—and he strenuously grasped my hand and attempted to fold me to his heart.

I dragged away my hand by force from his; I turned from him to hide my emotion. I suppressed the sobs that would have choked me. I prayed to God for strength to face the bitter ordeal. "Frank, Frank, it can never, never be," I stammered; "don't ask me why, I beseech you."

"Don't say 'never,'" he said, piteously; "say 'may not be yet.' Surely you will not utterly cast off the love which I felt for you the first moment I beheld you, and which has so bound itself in my being that I cannot live without you. Agnes, Agnes, you do not mean what you say?" His voice was imploring, and the rapture of his words fell on my soul, to scorch my feelings to ashes.

But a little while ago these words would have made my heart leap with thrilling joy, and today they only made me shudder. I had heard my own words, "Never, never be," which seemed the death-knell of my own hopes. What could I say to his piteous pleading? How could I answer him, but with tears in my eyes. "Do not press me, Frank, I shall always feel for you more than a sister's affection—"

"But not love!" and he wildly interrupted me.

I would not allow him to exclaim these words. "Oh, Frank, Frank! don't speak so," I answered, "my feelings for your sake are deeper than even what you can imagine. I shall always cherish an undying remembrance of you; but I can never marry you."

Just then my sister returned and interrupted his answer; I was glad she came to put an end to the interview. Frank, however, naturally looked annoyed and distressed. Flora, her face pale with its subdued sadness, never heeded either of us. We all then tried to be agreeable to one another. But you cannot stir the depths of the sea without disturbing its surface, and so we could not busy our minds with the trifles of an ordinary conversation. By-and-by it was a positive relief to us when Mrs. Dufresne, armed with various wraps and shawls, slowly, and after a deal of hesitancy, glided near us. The disturbing influence of Frank's fidgety mother gave me an opportunity of leaving them all, for I longed for the repose of loneliness, and so I shut myself in my bedroom, and—yes, let me own it—I allowed my pent-up feelings to find an outlet, I allowed my tears to flow. It was weak and foolish to give way, I own, but all the resolution, unwavering in its tenacity, all the self-sacrifice, unending in its completeness, cannot change a woman's nature, or rob her of the luxury of a good cry.

I had crossed the dreadful Rubicon; I had faced the terrible ordeal; and now my lot was renunciation, and I had to steel my soul to bear and to clasp the cold future with fortitude. Thank God! I never faltered by the way. There is often more infirmity of purpose in men's acts than in women's duties. It may be sometimes grand to resolve, but it is nobler to submit. The holier light of my love for my darling sister would make passion's flame grow dim beside it, and in the end crown my life like an aureola.

(To be continued.)

ALGIERS.

BY HENRY LACROIX.

The following condensed extracts from a narrative written in French are furnished the *Canadian Illustrated News* to accompany the Algerian pictures published in former numbers.

On the 13th October (1878) I took the fine S. S. *Said*, of the *Messageries Maritimes*, bound for Algiers from Marseilles, and in 36 hours arrived at my destination. There are three lines of (mail) steamers running between Marseilles and Algiers. The fare is 80 francs on the best boats. The distance between Marseilles and Algiers is 850 kilometres or about 600 miles. (It takes 4 kilometres to make a *lieue*, league, or 3 miles.)

Algeria, a French colony, is bound on the North by the Mediterranean, on the west by the empire of Morocco, on the east by Tunis, and on the south by the great Desert of Sahara. The extreme length is 500 miles from east to west; the breadth 200 miles from North to South. The Atlas range of mountains divides the arable land of the sea-board from the desert. Algeria, before the Christian era, was conquered and successively occupied by many masters. The period of the Roman occupation was from 47 B. C. to 438—the Vandal, 438 to 534—the Grecian, 534 to 670—the Arabian, 670 to 1518—the Turkish, 1518 to 1830, when, on the 14th June 37,000 men commanded by General de Bourmont, landed at Sidi-Ferruch, fought the first battle at Staoueli, close by, and on 5th July following occupied Algiers, the former great nest of buccaneers who, for a long time, made Christian Europe their tributary, in one sense. At one time, Algeria contained no less than 30,000 Christian captives, who were subjected to slavery when not redeemed by heavy

ransoms. The Berbers, or Kabyles, or Mazidh, are said to have been the aboriginal inhabitants. They are a fine race of men, devoting themselves principally to agricultural pursuits in the interior mountainous district. Of all the Mahomedans in the country the Kabyle women are the only ones who go unveiled. It is claimed by some that the Kabyles have somewhat of an admixture of French blood in their veins, dating back to the time of Peter the Hermit, or the Crusades, when the Christian enthusiasm prevailed and led so many from Europe to attack the Saracens in Jerusalem—committing there all kinds of horrible excesses, as the following will show.—To disappoint the cupidity of the Christians, &c., the Saracens would swallow their precious stones, and the first becoming aware of it would rip open the stomach and bowels of their fallen foes—even before death—tearing away with their teeth as well as fingers in so doing. At a great feast after the taking of Jerusalem one of the guests enquired of the legate of the Pope, who presided: if it were a sin to eat the Saracens? The answer was:—"Why no. It is simply continuing the war with the teeth!" Be it as it may, it is, nevertheless, a fact that the Kabyles were occasionally found, at the time of the French occupation, with French names, such as Bourbon and others. The other inhabitants are Arabs, Moors, Turks, Kouloughs, Jews and negroes. Algeria is divided into three provinces or departments: of Algiers, Oran and Constantine, Algiers being the capital. A Governor-General entrusted with excessive power in a military and civil way, governs the country by *décrets*, decrees. Four deputies are sent to Parliament at Paris, but their rôle seems as yet but a nominal one. The colonists *en masse* complain much of the system which has, they think, outlived its time of necessity formerly called for by the unsettled state of things; their grievances will no doubt be attended to now that a liberal government and policy rule France. The drawback of Algeria consists in severe droughts, which compel many agriculturists to have recourse to the tedious and expensive process of irrigation. A government project is, however, on foot to establish an interior sea or annex it to the Mediterranean, having its inlet in the neighboring country of Tunis, by removing the bars of sand accumulated there during many centuries. It has been proved by scientific explorations that a great portion of the desert of Sahara was in by-gone times a sea; an ancient ship was found by Captain Roudaire, the principal engineer engaged on the survey, deeply buried in the sand of the *chotts* or *sabkhas* (Arabic) which signifies shore. Besides that indication immense surface layers of pure salt are met with along the oasis, which serve to substantiate the foregoing hypothesis. The main obstruction to bar, called the isthmus of Gabès, in Tunis—only 16 kilometres in width being removed—at a cost variously estimated at 100, 150 and 200 million of francs—would make of the desert, a Baltic of the Mediterranean, change altogether the nature of the climate of Tunis and Algeria and open up a facile and productive highway into the interior of Africa, laying out a shorter passage to Timbuctou. While I was in Algeria the famous M. de Lesseps was giving his attention to the immense project and running over the ground with other government commissioners to make a final report.

The population of Algeria, according to official report, alluding to the year 1876, was 2,816,575, without counting the army of 51,051, of which: French, 155,727; Jews, 33,287; Spanish, 92,510; Italians, 25,759; Anglo-Maltese, 14,220; Germans, 5,722; other nationalities, 17,524; Mahomedans, 2,462,936. The business is represented by an importation of 192,358,426; exportation, 166,530,581 francs. There are about 500 kilometres of railway already established, with government security at 6%, running mainly between Algiers and Oran (456 kilom.) and from Philippeville to Constantine (87 kilom.) There are a good many valuable mines of iron, copper, lead and bismuth, principally owned and worked by English companies. Fine wheat and other cereals are raised. The vine is also now very extensively cultivated; last year's crop was so large that punchcoons ran short to hold its juice and much wine was, therefore, lost. The other products are, tobacco, cotton, olives, sugarcane, vegetables of all kinds, fruits (European and tropical) roses, geraniums, and *alfa*, a textile fibre, which is almost exclusively exported to England and woven into fine fabrics of curtains, table-cloths, coloured, &c. The mulberry tree is likewise one of the principal products. In the category of animals, the horse, dromedary and camel—the first able to run for three days, without food or drink, and the second, the running one, performing as much as 300 miles a day—figure well in the tableau. Asses and mules are numerous and the merino sheep is indigenous. Lions, panthers, leopards, antelopes, gazelles, jackals, hyenas, monkeys, ostriches are plentiful in the interior. The streams of Algeria are not navigable nor numerous. The climate, cold in the mountainous district in winter, hot on the sea shore, averages 60° Fah.; the light everywhere is gorgeous, resplendent and lends a curious charm to every object.

(To be continued.)

WHEN Paris hotel-keepers can't learn an American traveller's profession they record him as "the minutest historian."

A SKATING FETE IN PARIS.

SOUVENIR OF THE EMPIRE.

Long before the hour announced for the opening of the fête, crowds were wending their way towards the Bois de Boulogne, while from the windows of the carriages, which filled the Avenue de l'Impératrice, a glance could be had now and then of some fair one, whose pretty anxious face denoted impatience to get on, for fear some pleasure, some fun, might be lost.

On entering the Bois the road leading to the Skater's Club house was marked out by innumerable colored lights, which threw a brilliant reflection around. At the gates of the enclosure circling the lake, the crowd was dense, and an entrance could not be obtained without much difficulty. At last, however, the invited guests were fortunate enough to squeeze through, and were soon looking upon a scene dazzling and most fairy-like in appearance.

The lake—on which the fête was held—was illuminated with electric lights, while around the banks and in among the trees were countless rows of different colored Venetian lanterns. Soon the whole surface of the ice was covered with skaters, and the timid were glad enough to withdraw from their midst to gaze upon the scene at a convenient distance. Here and there some handsomely dressed lady might be noticed gliding along, leaning on the arm of a gay cavalier, or else moving gracefully by his side. More than one pleased spectator was heard to exclaim: "What beautiful women!" "What handsome men!" The lady skaters were mostly Russians, Germans and Americans. The French ladies seemed averse to trusting themselves on the ice, but a great many did venture in chairs on runners, pushed over the glittering surface surrounded by a body-guard of devoted admirers. Thus were noticed fair and titled ones, guided and escorted by the rank and wealth of Europe. Pretty pictures they made, too, as each passed along in their light sledges, with merry tinkling bells and lighted by tiny lanterns' bright reflections in many hues.

The costumes worn by the ladies were the richest and most elaborate that fashion could design, and silks, satins and velvets were tastefully trimmed with expensive borderings of fur; while costly sable jackets or cloaks completed the attire, with just the "love of a bonnet" to crown all. These costumes were generally short enough to express a laudable desire on the part of the wearer, to show as much, as to us proper, of a pretty foot encased in a neat bottine. Slender waists and sylph-like forms glided over and around the silver lake, where Venus seemed to have descended and varied her beauty in countless ways. Happy the mortal considered himself, could he but get a smile from one of those enchantresses. All the beau monde were present, comprising charming representatives from all nations, and right merrily did they seem to enjoy themselves. Majesty, in the persons of the Emperor and his lovely Empress, had promised to honor the fête, but sickness prevented the Empress and deterred the Emperor from coming alone.

At midnight the fireworks were let off, producing a grand spectacle. As the rockets burst in the air the heavens were lit up with sparkling fire, and the night being unusually dark, the display was seen to the best advantage. In fact, the spectators on leaving shortly afterwards, could not but have been delighted with all they had seen, and the privileged ones favored with invitations from the "Cercle des Patineurs," will not easily forget the brilliant fête gotten up in their honor.

R. C. B.

GLEANER.

EMIGRATION is taking place on a large scale from Sweden.

MR. MILLAIS is painting a portrait of Mr. John Bright.

THE Wimbledon rifle meeting this year commences on 12th July.

THE Viceroy of India has been created an Earl, with the title of Earl of Lytton.

THE Rev. Canon Ryle has been appointed Bishop of the new diocese of Liverpool.

LORD MORLEY is spoken of as Lord Lytton's possible successor in the Vice-royalty of India.

THE Geneva Municipality has voted 50,000 lire for the erection of a statue of Victor Emmanuel in that town.

THE most carefully prepared statistics show that there are not less than three hundred thousand drunkards in the United States.

IN France "April fools" are called "April fish," because in April the sun leaves the zodiacal sign of "the fish."

MR. JOSEPH ARCH, the leader of the English farm labourers, has failed at Wilton, his Tory opponent defeating him by a majority of 421 votes.

MR. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, of Boston, has presented to President Hayes the desk upon which Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

THE Queen's Own, of Toronto, has organized a glee company to march at the head of the regiment and sing while the band is not playing.

THE Rev. T. D. Phillips, of Ottawa, goes to England shortly as a member of the Canadian team of cricketers, who are to play there this summer.

THE price of beef has advanced very materially in Nova Scotia within the past few weeks, largely owing to the large export of cattle to Great Britain.

It is reported that the Bank of British North America and the Merchants' Bank of Canada will shortly open branches in Chicago.

ABOUT 20,000 gallons of beer were very appropriately and usefully employed in extinguishing a fire in a German brewery in Monte Video a short time ago.

UNLIKE many other great engineering works, the actual cost of constructing the St. Gothard tunnel has proved to be no less than 11 million francs under the estimate.

LONG BRANCH real estate agents report that they are unable to supply the demand for cottages, and it is believed that the hotel accommodation will be found inadequate next summer.

IN the early days of Polish Christianity a person convicted of having eaten meat during Lent had to undergo the somewhat appropriate but altogether cruel punishment of having his teeth drawn.

GERMANY leads in the number of her periodical publications, having 3,778; England has 2,507; France, 2,600; Italy, 1,226; Austria, 1,200; Russia, 500; Asia, 387; Africa, 50; Australia, 100. The total number in America is 9,129.

The excavations of Athens have been resumed, and have already resulted in the discovery of some further important relics, including a nude marble torso of heroic size, belonging to the Roman period; and a very ancient head of Hera, of life-size, and in terra-cotta.

THE Princess Vicovaro Cenci, daughter of Lorillard Spencer, of New York, has, according to late advices from Rome, been appointed Lady of Honour to Queen Margherita, and she is the first American woman, it is said, who has enjoyed distinction at the Italian Court.

LITERARY.

"HUGH HERRON, CH. CH." is the title of a new Oxford novel.

"JEZEBEL'S DAUGHTER," Wilkie Collins' new novel, is in the press.

THE *Athenaeum* calls Alexandre Dumas "a moral and intellectual curiosity."

PROFESSOR C. VON PILOTY's new historical picture, "The Arrival of the Girondists upon the Scaffold," is being exhibited in the clock room of the Academy of Arts, at Berlin.

M. MICHEL DUMAS has been elected a corresponding member of the French Academy of Fine Arts, in the section of painting, in the place of the deceased M. Swerts.

A PETITION has been circulated among the Parisian artists for signature, praying that the Luxembourg collections be kept intact until a suitable building is found to house them in.

AN oaken chest, containing upward of a thousand original documents, some of which date back to the thirteenth century, has been found at the alms house at Wells, England.

"THE complete works of Rembrandt," with a description and notes by Charles Blanc, has three hundred and fifty-six plates, reproducing in fac-simile the whole of his etchings.

SWINBURNE's new volume of poems will shortly be published. The entire collection is new. The longest of these poems has "Sappho" for its subject. Those who have seen the manuscript of this poem describe it as one of the strongest efforts of Mr. Swinburne's muse. The poet, who is suffering from ill-health, is now in the south of France.

THE young people of the Parisian schools are preparing a grand fête in honour of the memory of their favourite poet, Alfred de Musset. Théodore de Banville is composing a piece of verse for the occasion. The pupils of Taibot have already commenced to repeat: "A quoi rêvent les jeunes filles."

THERE are several Turkish youths studying in Paris at present. At a recent examination a professor, wanting to make matters easy for one of the young fellows, asked, "Can you mention any of the Greek authors?" No answer. "For instance, you must know something about Homer?" "Oh, yes!" answered the student. "Omar Pasha—everybody knows about him."

THE first volume of Kossuth's Memoirs, to appear simultaneously in English, German, and Magyar, will show, it is said, that Napoleon III., on summoning him to Paris in 1859, offered him naturalization and a Senatorship. While refusing these Kossuth agreed to use his influence in favour of France and Sardinia in the impending war, whereby he offended Mazzini, Victor Hugo, and the French Republicans.

MANAGER BERTRAND, of Paris, sometimes allows an aspiring young dramatist to read him a new play, and during the ordeal asks if the reader is cold. The young dramatist assenting, Manager Bertrand rings for the servant. "Madelaine," he says, "put three manuscripts on the fire," and the reading is usually discontinued.

THE *Voltaire* publishes a very curious series of articles on the non-authorized religious congregations, in which it endeavours to connect the growth during late years of these bodies with the decline of population in France. Its arguments is that men and women among the French peasantry are attracted towards monastic vows by the immunity from worldly cares afforded to the inmates of religious houses. Hence celibacy is encouraged, and matrimony discouraged.

AN English lady, a proficient French scholar, waited on Alexandre Dumas on the appearance of his work on divorce, proposing to bring out a translation of it in England. To her surprise she met with anything but a courteous reception and a trenchant refusal of her offer. Alexandre Dumas frankly told her he disliked both England and the English, and had no desire to attract either applause or criticism *outré Manche*.

It is well known that Victor Hugo and Emile Augier are warm friends although holding such widely differing opinions. One day, in a conversation on potatoes, Victor Hugo said laughingly to his friend: "Confess now that you are a frightful *réactionnaire*, and that if ever you came into power you would be capable of demanding my head." "It is true," said Augier, "only I would take it for myself."