

Afraid to Love.

My Sade Aurelia, she drives every day
By the side of the sea where the bright billows
Play.
And uncommonly pretty she looks as she sits
In a tailor-made costume, the neatest of fits,
And handles the ribbons with sport-sunlike
zeal.
And her fingers are little, but firmer than
steel.
The turn-out is as neat as you'll find far and
wide.
And a trim little tiger sits perched by her side.

Ah, lovely is Sade, and happy am I
To be blessed with her bow as she passes me
by.
For she smiles upon me in her beauty and
style.
And sweet is her glance when she deigns to be-
gnice.
And you wonder, perchance, why I don't take
the cue.
So graciously given, and venture to woo,
And o'er the smooth road of love's future to
glide,
Displacing the tiger who sits by her side.

Well, yes, she is fair; she is lovely, in truth;
She has gold, she has grace, she has wit, she
has youth;
And I think she'd have me, if I asked her
enough,
And the road of the future's not like to be
rough.
But steel are her fingers, and steel is her
eye,
And just look at her touch as she flicks off
that fly!
Ah, how should I like it, to win such a bride,
And to be just the tiger who sits by her side?
—A. H. O., in Puck.

A NATIONAL CHRISTMAS.

Congress has never legislated to protect the mistletoe or the holly, though it is perfectly well known that these holiday plants, which are much more necessary to Christmas than egg-nog, find their way over here from England in considerable quantities, and take the place of our American varieties. This neglect is defended by the Congressmen who give so much time to the study of botany in our agricultural Department upon the ground that no amount of duties would change the character of our native plants. It is assumed that a moderate protection, not for revenue, but to satisfy the American sentiment, would not give to our holly (which is already a respectable plant in Virginia and elsewhere) the very glossy leaves and the very brilliant scarlet berries of the English growth. It is perfectly well known that the grape (wine being well protected) by long cultivation here becomes refined and purged of those gross, earthy, highly fruity quality which connoisseurs (when they have seen the label) so much detest in wine. But whatever effect legislation would have on the American holly, the plant as it grows is adequate to express the American Christmas sentiment. With the mistletoe the case is still stronger. It is of no consequence that this mystic parasite, which flourishes so abundantly along our Southern coast, is not the veritable *viscum album* that the Druids handled with so much solemn mummery. It is a perfectly respectable mistletoe, with a virgin white berry, and answers every purpose of the other. The young lady, when she inadvertently stands in the doorway under the mistletoe bough, is not thinking whether it is a *viscum album*, and the kiss which the young gentleman steals, by immemorial right, is just as sweet as if it were called by any other name. He is a thief, whose sins are forgiven by fore-ordination, although he does not know that the plant is a *horalendron*.

The Drawer would not escape, if it could, the sentiment attached to the English holly and mistletoe, and it would like very well at Christmas to mingle the American and English varieties in token of international kindness and the universality of the highest festival of the Christian year. But it is not sorry to see growing a strong American sentiment, not boastful or bumptious, but one of satisfaction in things American. And Christmas, with its overflowing goodwill, is a good season to indulge it. It happens that the holly flourishes with more beauty and vigor in the South than in the North, and that the mistletoe likes the flavoring air of the Gulf States. The South is thus able to contribute something essential, in our traditions, to the Christmas festivities; and the North, in taking it, is conscious that the great country is our country, having in its vast domain all that national pride or sentiment or necessity can wish. In the period of alienation the two sections, it seems, were in a kind of vegetable ignorance of each other's capacities to satisfy the finer sentiments of each. The North thought it must go to England for its annual romance of the holly and the mistletoe. Now, with a better understanding, it knows that the united country contains all that even poetry can demand for the great festival. The Drawer, which never has any concealed motive, frankly confesses that the object of this paper is to induce the North to send to the South for its Christmas decorations. It is the little things of life, the little acts of kindness, the little exchanges of courtesy and confidence, that most bind people together. And the day has come—has it not?—in the United States, when nothing is lacking to the perfect unity in sentiment and national pride on Christmas Day. See! As the morning dawns which means peace and goodwill among all Christian peoples, the South hangs up the mistletoe bough, and stands under it in the doorway, looking neither south, nor east, nor west, nor north, but just looking in maiden unconsciousness, Christmaslike; and the North—well, the North, if the Drawer knows it, just accepts the challenge like a gallant gentleman, glad to find a good enough *viscum album* at home.—Charles Dudley Warner, in Harper's Magazine for December.

This is the way in which milking is done on the Island of Jersey: Tall buckets, narrowed near the top, with widened mouths, are used. A linen cloth is tied over the top, then a smooth sea shell is pushed down in the depression to receive the milk. The shell prevents the wearing of the cloth by the streams of milk, and at the same time serves as a strainer.

MISSING LINKS.

A writer in the New York *Christian Advocate* urges that Protestant churches, like the Roman Catholic, should be open every day of the week.

The English Government may be said to be supported by drink, for its chief sources of revenue are the duties upon wines and spirits and the taxes upon beer.—*Atsburg Commercial Gazette*.

It is of much less consequence how men vote than to have them vote some way. It is meant to shirk the simplest but most important duty of citizenship. Vote as you please, but vote.—*Boston Herald*.

The Maine lumbermen estimate the cut of this winter at 150,000,000 feet—considerably more than last year's. Food and labor are cheap. About 2,500 men and 1,000 horses will be employed on the Penobscot alone.

A coarse, brawling newspaper, which has made a practice of misrepresentation and slander for years, may be fairly set down as without influence, no matter what it says or on which side of a question it may be found.—*Chicago Herald*.

For boldness in adulteration the Russians take the palm. The new government inspectors of provisions lately found packages of tea adulterated with 40 per cent. of pea shells. A tea-packing factory has been shut up for repacking exhausted tea leaves.

As the House of Representatives now stands it consists of 182 Democrats and 140 Republicans. In this classification Weaver, of Iowa, Greenback-Democrat, is counted with the Democrats, and Brumm, of Pennsylvania, Greenback-Republican, with the Republicans.

The Emperor of Russia intends to pass several weeks of every autumn in Denmark, and he has bought a large villa, with extensive grounds, adjoining the royal park of Fredensborg. Considerable additions are to be made to the house during the next six months, and the demesne is to be altered and improved.

The Queen of Sweden is waited on by footmen who wear a very quaint uniform, consisting of a tunic, petticoat and breeches edged with gold lace. Their attire includes a wonderful head-dress, consisting of a kind of embroidered skull cap from which rise three ostrich feathers, none of which is less than three feet high.

Louis Morris of Athens, Ga., has a most remarkable memory. He will buy a \$10,000 stock of goods, and without a single mark can tell exactly what each article cost. He will sell a bill of goods, and a year afterward, if the same customer comes into his store, can tell just what articles he bought and the prices paid.

Lieut.-Col. James Fyhmore of the marines is the sole survivor of the battle of Trafalgar, fought Oct. 21, 1805. The *London Graphic* says of him: "He is 92 years of age, yet he is in excellent health, and is possessed of wonderful sight. He still amuses himself with sketching and painting. He has served seventy-five years at sea."

The Bureau of Statistics reports an excess of imports over exports of merchandise in September amounting to \$2,627,176. In 1884 there was an excess of exports in September which amounted to \$3,870,327. For the first nine months of 1885 the excess of exports was \$42,896,737, against \$145,347,411 in the corresponding period of 1884.

It appears that in six years the gold in this country has been increased by importation \$182,462,107, while the stock of silver has been reduced \$53,413,500. Along with the steady increase of gold in this country there is an unvarying shipment of silver abroad, and a persistent and increasing use of silver in international trade.—*Chicago Tribune*.

Mrs. Jennie June Croly, the founder of Sorosis, is writing a history of that women's club, and will show that it has been a useful as well as a pleasant institution. It started in the action of Mrs. Croly and Mrs. Parton ("Fanny Fern") in demanding the right of buying tickets to the dinner to Charles Dickens on his last visit to this country.

Female car conductors are common objects in the towns of Chili. During the war with Peru, when most of the able-bodied men were drafted into the army, women were employed in this capacity, and proved themselves so successful that they have been continued in this employment. They are usually girls from twenty to twenty-five, dressed in natty uniforms and jaunty Panama hats and white pinafores.

In 1880 the cotton mills in the South numbered only 161; now there are 304, an increase of 143. In the same half decade the number of Southern spindles has increased by 619,328. In 1880 the South had only 6.7 per cent. of the looms of the country, and it is something to be able to show an increase of that percentage realized during the darkest period ever known in the history of cotton-spinning in America. The figures now give us 10.7 per cent. of all the spindles.—*N. O. Times*.

The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics reports that the total number of immigrants who arrived at the ports of the United States from the principal foreign countries during the month ended September 30, 1885, and the nine months ended the same, as compared with the same periods of the preceding year, were as follows: For the month of September, 27,801, against 33,395 in September, 1884; for the nine months ended with September, 268,836, against 336,449 in the same period of 1884.

The strength of Mr. Gladstone as a leader has never been more clearly shown than in his refusal to be diverted from the consideration of the vital issues of reform which are pressing for settlement and which the Liberal party under his leadership can carry forward to completion before the new year shall expire.

The grand old man is not down yet. If his life be spared he will be the central figure in the new Parliament and the recognized advocate of the great reforms, the completion of which will probably signalize his retirement from public life.—*Chicago Tribune*.

The project for the establishment of a line of fast ocean steamers between Fort Pond Bay, L. I., and a point on the west coast of Ireland is being actively pushed by President Corbin and the directors of the Long Island Railroad. Plans are being prepared for a number of steamers of 7,000 tons, to cost \$1,500,000 each. A petition has already been prepared which is intended to be presented to Congress during the coming session, asking for a subsidy for carrying the mails. It is proposed to have the line a strictly American one in every respect, the vessels to be constructed in American yards.

It is estimated by a well-informed correspondent that the arrears of rent in Skye now amount to about £15,000. The "factor" visited Glendale recently, but, after waiting a couple of days, departed as he came, no Crofter having paid a single farthing. However questionable may be the holding back of the whole rent where payment of some portion can be made, it seems the surest way of drawing attention to grievances that otherwise would pass unheeded. If the Crofters remain firm they will undoubtedly cause the landlords to be as eager for reform as they are themselves. In the meantime the Crofters, like people in higher "society," have discovered the easy mode of adding to their income by increasing their debts.—*Scottish Ez.*

"What is the most favorable time to see a woman in order to compose a character synopsis? Decidedly, I think, at breakfast, and during the forenoon. As a general rule, if she looks well then, she is in good health; if she dresses neatly, she is tidy; if she is full of projects for a morning's work, and executes a reasonable number, she possesses mental activity and bodily energy. Beware of the young woman who complains of being cold in the morning, who looks sickly, who comes down late, who appears to have dressed hastily, who languishes a whole forenoon over a couple of letters to an absent sister or schoolfellow. No matter how bright and animated she may appear further on, avoid her. Lead her not to your suburban villa; engage no matrimonial apartments. She will not make a good wife. She will be a bore and a slattern."—*At. Anti Gazette*.

The Lemnino Stage F. Int.

Some years ago Sarah Bernhardt, a woman of genius, created an original fall when she fainted in "Fedora." From the year 1800 down to Sarah Bernhardt's time emotional actresses had invariably fainted by staggering up to the middle of the stage, scowling fiercely, yelling "My Gawd! this is t'much," turning half-way round, and falling with the palms of their hands flat on the floor. In "Fedora" Bernhardt gasped, fell half way against a sofa, and tumbled headlong to the floor. The audience caught its breath, sprang to its feet and shouted. Something new had been accomplished on the stage.

Mrs. Bernard-Beere, a woman of enterprise, went over to Paris, saw Bernhardt fall, returned to London, played "Fedora," fell to the sofa at full length, and rolled over with her head toward the audience, and flopped flat on her back on the floor.

"Gad," said the English audience the following morning, "Fedora" is a great play. You ought to see Bernard-Beere fall. 'Pon my soul, it's great!"

Fanny Davenport, a woman of avoirdupois, went to Paris, returned to America via London, played "Fedora" in America, fell across the sofa, rolled over, and made \$60,000 the first year. All America talked of Davenport's fainting scene in "Fedora."

Mrs. Langtry, a woman of beauty, fainted away in "A Wife's Peril" by falling sideways on a sofa, hanging there for a moment, and then slowly falling to the stage. Her courage was low. Her bust superb. "A Wife's Peril" was a success.

Recently Margaret Mather appeared as Juliet at a New York theater, fainted away in the balcony scene, and rolled down three steps like an acrobat, and fell on the stage with a resounding thump. There were five calls, loud cries of "Bravo!" modest cries of "Bravo!" a waving of handkerchiefs, and then the first-nighters rushed out into an adjoining cafe, slapped each other on the shoulders, and said: "She's the most wonderful Juliet since Adelaide Neilson."

But a long man with a red nose who stood by said that the next woman who came forward would achieve fame and fortune at a single plunge by falling off a step-ladder. Isn't it fair to conclude that Sarah Bernhardt is about the only woman of brains and originality on the world's stage to-day?

The total revenue and expenditures of the Dominion of Canada during the year shows a deficit of \$2,357,490. The revenue during the year was \$32,970,000, or \$1,101,000 more than last year, while the expenditures increased from \$30,445,000 to \$35,327,000.

It was mentioned a few days ago that the umbrella of a passenger affected the compass of a steamer while crossing the Irish Channel. Since then Sir William Thompson has examined the umbrella and found it powerfully magnetized. He says, in reporting upon the incident, that in these days, when electric lighting is becoming so common, and when any one, without knowing it, may get the steel ribs of his umbrella magnetized by going near to dynamo machines, it is of great importance that steps should be taken to prevent passengers on vessels with umbrellas going near the compass in use.

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