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WIT OF COMPOSERS.

ANECDOTES WHICH SHOW THE PE-CULIARITIES OF THE MASTERS.

of Each Other-Comments That Were Usually Caustic and Frequently Brutal. Rossini's Wittleisms.

Never surely was composer more witty and too elaborate a work to be judged after a single hearing, but so far as I am concerned, I shall not give it a second."

Upon amateurs he was especially severe. A few days after Meyerbeer's death a young admirer of his called upon the composer of "William Tell" with an elegy which he had written in honor of his idel. Well," said Rossini, after hearing the composition played over, "if you really want my honest opinion. I think it would have been better if you had died and Meyerbeer had written an elegy." Sometimes the amateurs would endeavor to bribe him into a compliment by sending him a little -in fact everything in the present. The ruse, however, was but selfine furniture line. It will dom effectual. A budding composer once accompanied his new composition with a Stilton, hoping, of course, to have a letter praising the work. The letter came, but all it said was: "Thanks. I like the cheese very much."

Rossini's witticisms indeed bubbled stances. On one occasion a gentleman iture and Low Prices. He was a drummer, and had taken the precaution to bring his instrument. Rosformed, the player remarked, "Now I have much better, and lasts longer. | skip." This was too good a chance to be lost. "Oh, no," said the composer; "by all means count the 78 bars. I particular-

Some of these anecdotes of Rossini re-

a composition he evidently did not care "What is that?" he asked. "It is a pity that the original manuscript did not to poetry." This of course enraged Wagner greatly, and some months later he was out with one of his celebrated brochures denouncing the Jews. It was a fine opportunity for revenge-Offenbach being an Israelite—and the brochure was in the hands

your brochure is rot; stick to music." Haydn was a great admirer of the fair sex, and some of his prettiest things were sald about women. One specimen must suffice. The celebrated Mrs. Billington was a great friend of his, and Sir Joshua Reynolds had painted her portrait. Haydn went to see the picture when it was finished. "Yes," he said to the artist, "it is very good. But you have made one mistake. You have painted Mrs. Billington listening to the angels, whereas the angels

Bach, and he used to call Handel "a big hog," a "musician of the stomach." For this he was paid out by Mendelssohn, who hero, and that hero was Beethoven. Touch Beethoven irreverently and his ire was kindled. There is a certain passage for the double basses in one of the master's scores which was at one time believed to be almost impossible of execution. Now For a short time the prices for STAMPS of all kinds | Habeneck conducted a performance of this work in Paris, and gave the passage in asked him when he meant to give the passage as Beethoven intended it to be given. "Never as long as I live," said Habeneck. Well, we'll wait," replied Berlioz.

"Don't let it be long. humor was rather of the grim kind, resembling more the satire of Carlyle than anything else. The composer's brother had a little property of his own, and was very proud of it. One day he called on Beethoven and left a card inscribed, "Jo-Next day he had it returned to him, written on the back, "L. Van Beethoven. brain proprietor."—Chambers' Journal.

Matriculate. der a mother. A college like the Newcomb or a university is called alma mater (propitious mother, soul mother). . The meaning of alumni is foster children. which students are to their college, being enrolled in a register after certain forms and examinations. Matricula is Latin for roll.-New Orieans Times-Democrat.

HER UMBRELLA.

What Her Handling of It Proclaimed to the Observing Man.

Two men who sat near the window of a down town hotel a few days ago whiled away the time by watching the women go by and commenting on their umbrellas. The storm had abated about an hour before and the sun had peered through a rift in the clouds, but for all that the first pedestrian went stalking past with her umbrella still held aloft.

"That woman," said one of the men, "is as patient as Job. She is not a student absentmindedly poring over book lore, but a housekeeper who is so taken up with thoughts of what she is going to get for supper that she doesn't know it has stopped raining. What is more, she is thoroughly unselfish. People who forget to lower their umbrellas when the sun begins to shine always are. That girl just behind her who has already taken time to fold her umbrella neatly, even though it is soaking wet, is going to be an old maid. She is narrow minded too. The next one has bound the folds down, but it looks uneven and bulging. That woman's children will always look dowdy, but she will nurse them successfully through innumerable attacks of croup and rash, and no family in town will have better things

"That short woman with her umbrella flopping this way and that will always be poor, because she will give away everything as soon as she gets it! Hers isn't altogether a commendable generosity, either, for it is caused more by lack of power to say 'no' than by an inherent desire to help her fellow creatures. That dark woman 45 degrees is malicious. I wouldn't trust her out of my sight. She'd say something mean about me the first chance she got. The one who carries her umbrella swung carelessly over her shoulder is a happy go lucky individual who will always have a good time, not because she earns it, but because the world owes it to her, and she is going to have her rights.

"Do you see that woman who holds her umbrella at right angles to her body and sticks the sharp point ahead like a bayonet? She's one of the kind that sets the world afire. She has more energy in a minute than most people have in a year. A woman who swings her umbrella as she walks is prone to dillydally; she never knows her mind, and, no difference how well she may pretend to like a person, if another speaks ill of him in his absence, she will generally side in with the caluminator; at any rate she will say nothing in his defense. She who trails her umbrella along in her wake is untidy and inclined toward low principles. The one that holds the stick upright and keeps tapping it on the pavement every little while is a good person to tie to; she has strength and honesty. There comes a woman carrying her umbrella under her arm. She's my wife and I won't say anything about

His companion looked at the little man' wrinkled, perplexed face and smiled. He fancied he knew what the verdict would have been had the woman only been somebody else. - Chicago Tribune.

ONIONS AS CURRENCY.

Some of the Modes of Dickering and Liquidation In Montana.

Boys in the cast sometimes think money a scarce enough article, but they really know very little about it compared wit what some of their cousins in the far west could tell them. There one often goes for days without sight of even so much as a nickel, and then the people resort to all sorts of queer devices to "make change."

An eastern man who had occasion to spend many months in Mentana tells of having seen a man buy a box of matches with a watermelon and receive as change two muskmelons. Another paid for suspenders in turnips and got a carrot or two back with his purchase.

"But of ail the queer financial transac tions I have ever known," said he, "the oddest came under the head of 'paying the fiddler.' It had been noised abroad that a dance was to be given a little way up the mountain, and I agreed to go along with one of the boys to see the fun. After going through the elaborate preparations of blacking his boots and putting on a collar I saw my companion go to the potato bin and carefully select a dozen nice po-

tatoes and put them in his pocket. "No sooner had we arrived at the 'music hall' than he gracefully surrendered his vegetables for an entrance ticket. But what puzzled me most was that, upon coming out after dancing all night, he was given two onions as 'change.'

"I have been trying to make up my mind ever since just what that dance was worth in the 'currency of the realm.' "-

Luminous Photographs.

Several ways have been discovered for making luminous photographs. Luminous paint is spread on a sheet of cardboard, which is exposed to light under a glass positive. When the cardboard is taken to a dark room, a brilliant phosphorescent image is seen. The effect can be produced by arranging glass tubes containing phosphorescent substance behind a thir glass positive. The luminosity of the tubes will shine through the positive on exposure to light. When viewed in the dark, a glowing image results. Again, spread a thin coating of starch paste evenly over a sheet of cardboard; dust over an even layer of powdered calcium or barium sudphide, rubbing with a brush t make it adhere to every part. Then saturate a print with a mixture of castor oi and turpentine, taking off the excess with a clean rag. Paste the print upon the cardboard and dry before the fire. The will be luminous in the dark after having been well exposed to the light.

How to Advertise. Fond Wife-What are you so busy at? Young Physician—I am writing a letter to the papers abusing Dr. Blank, the great

scientist. "But Dr. Blank has never done you any harm, and you always agree with his the-

"True. But it's against the rule for physicians to advertise, and I must get myself before the public somehow."—Pick

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red dye is obtained.

WAS AT BALAKLAVA.

THE FAMOUS CHARGE.

this charge," said he, "were divided into Lucan asked what guns to attack, and Captain Nolan replied:

" 'There, my lord, is your enemy, and there are your guns,' pointing with his hand to the left and toward the end of North valley, and not toward the Causeway heights.

"Lord Lucan then rode over to Lord Cardigan to give orders for the charge. I was near by on foot, holding my horse's bridle rein, and heard the conversation between Lord Lucan and Lord Cardigan. They did not seem to interpret the order of Lord Raglan in the same way. Lord Cardigan explained to Lord Lucan that there were Luns in the valley ahead as well as on both sides of us, and he thought that there must be some mistake, but Lord Lucan replied that that was the order of Lord Raglan, and there was no choice but to

shouted, 'Trumpeter, sound the trot!' and I blew the call.

sound the charge!' I blew the blast and was swept like a whirlwind down the val

fired that exploded some distance in front of Lord Cardigan, and a piece of that shell struck Capte in Nolan, tearing a great hole in his left side. His horse, at once missing the guiding hand, turned to form with our advancing platoons. Captain Nolan still held his sword aloft, and he uttered a shrick that made us shudder. Then he wavered in his seat and fell to the ground

The smoke was so thick that objects were

"I was trying to find Lord Cardigan, heard his voice shouting to his men to fall and scarcely realized what was passing. tain Nolan's body lay the animal fell dead. ver Cor. New York Sun.

Uncooked Rice For the Complexion. The wholesale eating of uncooked rice, which is supposed to insure a good complexion, appears to be the last idea among fashionable women. These unfortunate individuals, however, would do well to bear in mind the fact that the result of eating raw rice is an anæmic condition, and that the ghastly whiteness of a person suffering from anamia is far from being fasoinating or desirable to gaze upon .-London Figaro.

Are You Going . .

While pale December with gaunt finger tips To Build . . Proffers the sup of doom to nature's lips And, frowning, mocks her bitter mean of pain,

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If you are going to build a house I would like to sive you a pointer. You want dry material and work well done. I can give you both, having a dry kiln to dry lumber and also good workmen to put it together. You can rely on getting good work. I am machinery a Band Re-sawing Machine so as to re-saw lumber any thickness. As for prices you w II find I am as cheap as others; and with regard to Quality, this shop is also noted for doing good Planing and Matching both in hard and soft wood. All kinds Sash, Doors. Mouldings, Etc., in stock.

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niles, from Pontypool 9 miles. There will be a reserved bid. The vendors will bound to produce any abstracts or title deeds or opies of deeds or abstracts not in their possession. TERMS:-One-tenth of the purchase money cash at he time of sale, and the balance in one month thereafter without interest. For furthur particulars apply to

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They Were Not Generally Amiable Critics

than the master who gave us an immortal setting of "William Tell." Rossini's To pay high prices for whimsicality extended even to his birthday. Having been born in leap year, on Feb. 29, he had, of course, a birthday only once in four years, and when he was 72 he facethously invited his friends to celebrate his eighteenth birthday. Some of the best specimens of his wit were shown in connection with brother composers. "You know," he said one day, speaking to a friend-"you know what pretty dance tunes Auber has always written"-Auber being as likely to write dance tunes as Rossini was to write a sermon. The maestro seldom went to the opera or to any place of amusement, but he could not resist the temptation of hearing one of Wagner's works. It was "Tannhauser." Afterward, when asked to give his opinion of the opera, he said: "It is too important

forth at all times and under all circumcalled upon him to enlist his aid in procuring for him an engagement at the opera. sini said he would hear him "play," and it was decided that he should show off in the overture to "Semiramide." The very WOU MIGHT as well have first bar of the overture contains a tremolo the best—costs no more formed the drum, and when this had been perthan cheap stuff, but looks so a rest of 78 bars; these, of course, I will

ly wish to hear those.' Framing ..... mind us that composers, as a rule, have not figured amiably as critics of each not figured amiably as critics of each other. Handel swore that Gluck knew no "Undertaking ITS BRANCHES Weber pronounced Beethoven a madman, and Haydn said of a brother musician that "he played the fiddle like a hog." Liszt was particularly severe upon fellow artsts. Some one was once playing to him Bennett's 'Maid of Orleans' sonata," was the reply. "Ah," said the virtuoso, "what

meet with the same fate as Joan!" In this connection a good story is told of the late Victor Masse. He was informed one day that a rival composer took every opportunity of declaring that his (Masse's) music was execrable. "He maintains I have no talent," said Masse; "I always declare he has plenty. We both know we lie." But perhaps better than this was the opinion of Wagner expressed by Offenbach. Wagner had just published his "Rienzi," and off went a copy to Offenbach, with a request that he would say what he thought of it. Now Offenbach had previously read some of Wagner's poems and had made fun of them, a circumstance well known to Wagner. After some three weeks the score of "Rienzi" was returned to its composer with a slip on which was written, "Dear Wagner, your music is trash; stick

of Offenbach in no time. Two days elapsed, and Wagner had the pamphlet back. When he opened it, this is what he found written on the front page, "Dear Wagner,

hould be listening to her." Berlioz, the eminent French composer, ad a caustic wit. He could not endure declared that after touching a score of Berlioz soap and hot water were necesary. Berlioz, however, had his musical question to the celles. Berlioz, who was present, met Habeneck soon after, and

Speaking of Beethoven, that master's hann Van Beethoven, land proprietor."

Matriculate means to enroll oneself un-

A BUGLER'S STORY OF HIS PART IN

The Man Who Claims the Honor of Blowing the Call For the Charge Living In Denver-Another Added to the Many Accounts of That Awful Blunder.

Though Alexander Sutherland, who is living in retirement in Denver, is 87 years pld, his memory is still keen, and he delights in relating again and again the part he took in the famous charge of the Light brigade. There may be other survivors of that desperate race down the valley between hills bristling with guns, but Alexander Sutherland insists upon being credited with the honor of blowing the bugle that started the Light brigade upon its iil "The 600 men who were selected for

three platoons, two companies to each plateon. Each company had its own bugler, making six in all. As I was with Lord Cardigan in the first platoon, I was the first bugler to receive his orders. I sounded the charge of that eventful day, and, following my bugle, the others repeated the call. We had been idle spectators of the general engagement that day and were waiting for orders from Lord Raglan. The order came after a time. It was to Lord Lucan to order up about 600 light cavalry and hold them in readiness to take the guns which the Turks had lost on Causeway heights. Lord Lucan awaitwith the tip of her umbrella trailing | ed support from the infantry before addownward and backward at an angle of | vancing. A second order came from Lord Raglan, brought by Captain Nolan, directing the cavalry to charge to prevent the Turks carrying away their guns. Lord

"Lord Cardigan assented. I was about eight or ten feet distant from him, and. turning, he gave me the first order. I blew 'attention' and then 'mount.' The first, second and third plateons were formed, and then, facing his men, Lord Cardigan briefly addressed them, telling them of the dangers of the charge and the probability of death to all. The men cheered him vigorously. Turning to me he said, 'Trumpeter, sound the forward!' and we set off at a fast walk. A little later, turning his head, Lord Cardigan

"We swept directly down the valley with the Causeway heights on the right and the Fedioukine hills on the left, and for a distance of 11/4 miles we had guns on three sides of us. While we were still on the trot Captain Nolan was seen riding at furious speed across our front and bearing his course to the right. He was waving his sword and shouting to our command. His words we could not hear distinctly, but we afterward knew that he was trying to correct the blunder. Lord Cardigan shouted out, 'In God's name, what is that man doing there?' Some one in the middle platoon shouted back, 'Your lordship, I think he wants you to charge toward the Causeway heights.' 'It is too late to change now,' said Lord Cardigan, 'for we are too near the enemy.' Then turning in the saddle he shouted to me, 'Trumpeter,

"It was the first shell, I think, that was

near our charging column. "It was no time to think. I followed close to Lora Cardigan, who rode ahead turning often to urge his men forward. When we finally reached the enemy, so that we could return some of the blows, the men were lost to any sense of fear. The smoke became so thick that I lost sight of Lord Cardigan, but I could hear his voice shouting encouragment to his men. Running against a Russian artilleryman I struck him with my saber, but the stroke was short, and he came at me with a rammer. My horse was plunging ahead, and before we could fight out our duel I was carried beyond the battery and among the Cossacks. A cavalryman made a lunge at me, but I parried the thrust.

so as to be near to receive his orders. For a time this was impossible. Finally I back, and at the same time I saw the white hind leg of the horse he rode. I lifted the bugle to my lips and tried to sound the retreat, but my horse was plunging madly about and I could scarcely play the notes. I was slightly wounded in each leg and was weak from loss of blood, and my horse was suffering more than I. The blast from my bugle indicated to the Russians my position, and as I again attempted to sound the call a shot tore away the bell of my instrument. At the same time I received a lance thrust on my head. Dazed by the blow, I fell forward, clasped my horse about the neck, My horse followed the troopers moving away in small squads through the dense smoke, and somewhere near where Cap-I hobbled back to our place of starting. At the roll call, out of 678 men only 195 were left alive, and many were wounded so badly that they died afterward."-Den-

breadwinner. The term scarlet is a modification of the Persian word for a bright red, sakarlat, applied to the garmaz, or cochineal, from whose dried body a vivid Today amid the sobbing of the rain,

I cannot mark the strife 'twixt life and der h For joy of one fair thought that dwells with

A summer hillside, rising by the sea, Made glad with bloom and song bird's voiceful

Fair as a dream that fills a stormy night With peace and love in these my waking With hum of brown bees, deep in chaliced

With blue waves dancing in the golden light,

Blown like a cloud across the shining sky.

And one swift flight of swallows drifting by,

-Mary E. Blake in Woman's Journal. CUSTOMS OF THE MIKADO.

His Majesty's Methods of Dealing With Ministers and People. The mikado's daily customs are very regular. He always goes to his study at 9 a. m. and remains at work there until 4

tary laws and decrees. When a cabinet minister addresses his majesty about any public matter, he inquires about the subject, the purpose and condition, and decides it. He is firm and not changeable. When he decides a matter once, he cannot after that be moved. At the beginning of Matsukata's cabinct, parliament decided to reduce the salaries of the cabinet ministers and other government officers. The prime minister, Count Matsukata, addressed his majesty about it. His majesty did not consent, and he said: "Many officers cannot live upon a fixed salary. Some cabinet ministers have been obliged to borrow money, and I have advanced money from my treasury to support them. If the present cabinet ministers retain their positions by

therefore can do so. Therefore I cannot consent to the reduction of salaries." Count Matsukata retired from his majesty. However, the cabinet once more debated the question with the count, and Matsukata went again to consult the em-

borrowing money, all cabinet ministers

him: "I have already commanded about the reduction of salaries. I cannot see you any more."

The salaries were therefore not reduced. His majesty understands the condition of the lower classes, and familiarizes himself with the private conduct of the cabinet ministers. When he reads newspaper articles relating to the private misconduct

of any cabinet ministers and attacking him, his majesty sometimes smiles. His majesty is fond of reading books and newsparers. He is especially fond of German books. He likes to compose Japanese poems, which he can do very read ily. His ability in that respect is much admired by his attendants.

hypocrisy. When it has been reported to his majesty that some of his subjects have given their lives in time of flood or earthquake to preserve his majesty's picture, he has been much touched, but he is anxious to discourage his subjects from such Quixotism, and to preserve them from any but neces-Withal, the emperor's life is a very

happy and peaceful one, blessed by the

love and respect of grateful subjects, and

in Japan without his guards he is in no

danger, but is received everywhere with reverence and joy.-Japanese American

The Sense of Touch. The question has been asked, "Which of our senses is most capable of improvement?" An English scientist says prob-

ably the sense of touch. Strictly speaking the senses are capable rather of alteration and specialization than of improvement. For instance, those who have much to do in the open air become immensely long sighted, but this is abnormal, and the increased superiority in one direction is lost by inferiority in an-

But there are many trades which afford

abundant evidence that the sense of touch.

at any rate in certain directions, can be

largely developed. For instance, the connoisseur of china relies much more on an almost imperceptible difference of feeling in the texture than on his eyes to discover the genuineness of any piece. The blind beggar can very soon discern between different metals merely by the sense of touch, and, in fact, the education of the blind affords a remarkable instance of the development of this sense. In certain manufactures the skilled workman knows entirely by this sense when a mixture has reached the proper degree of solid-

ity or a material is of the right texture, and he receives very high wages by virtue of this sense alone. On the other hand, the sense of smell and the sense of taste are each of them blunted and lose their finer perception if the same object is frequently presented to them. In every case, however, it is not the general sense of touch that is improved, but a special excellence of the

sense.—New York Ledger.

this paper there is a record of 87 marriage licenses issued yesterday. "Well, what of it?" said his partner, the pessimist of the firm, who was leaning back in a chair with his hat pulled down over his eyes. "What of it?" echoed the other. "Can't you see? Those 87 marriage licenses mean 87 marriages. The 87 marriages will lead to 87 inquiries for houses, flats, or at least

eligible apartments. It's bound to stimu-

late business in our line, and we'll get our

Some Truth In That.

real estate and house repting optimist. "In

"Look at this, will you?" exclaimed the

"That doesn't follow at all. Those 87 licenses represent 174 persons, don't they?" 'Probably all adults?" "Undoubtedly. What of it?" "Nothing," growled the pessimist, "except that 174 persons who have hitherto

occupied 174 apartments will hereafter oc-

cupy 87. You give me a pain. Go away."

Asbestus Plates.

An asbestus plate is most useful as a part of the kitchen plenishing. Oftentimes it is not convenient to remove a stove lid, and thus deaden the fire, in order to make toast, but the slices may be browned and laid on the asbestus plate on top of the range, although they will require as constant attention to prevent ourning as if held over the odals on a toasting fork.

-Pearson's Weekly.

Doctor—Are you troubled with insomnia all the time? Patient-No. Not when I'm asleep. Yale Record.

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