

An Oak Fire.

My troubles vanish—out of sight,
And like the sparks expire,
When seated, on a rainy night,
Beside a big oak fire.

The wind that in the chimney sings,
But tempts the brave flames high;
And fancy paints a thousand things
Beside a big oak fire.

And dreams—rare dreams of lovelier days
Fall soft, and never tire,
While Memory's warming at the blaze
Beside a big oak fire.

Not this vain world, with joys sublime,
Could tempt my fond desire,
Could I but dream all winter time
Beside a big oak fire.

A MOTHER-IN-LAW'S REVENGE

Monsieur Gontran d'Heristol's engagement to Mlle. Carmen de la Vergara had just been announced. Some of his friends rather doubted the young couple's prospective happiness. She was all that could be desired by way of beauty, education, or birth. But Gontran's future mother-in-law was known in Paris for her dreadful temper. She was a rich Portuguese widow, and for the last ten years had lived at the French capital.

"You won't be married ten days before you will have to put the ocean between you and your mother-in-law, for she is a woman who would ruin herself to spite any one she disliked. Besides, she is still extremely handsome, and awfully young," said one of Gontran's friends.

"I shall see that she soon becomes a grandmother."

"Take care that she does not give you a little brother-in-law!"

"Bah! She has been a widow ten years. No, no! What worries me just now isn't Mme. de la Vergara. It is Corysandra. If she lets me get married without a fuss I shall be surprised—and still, I have been very generous to her!"

Corysandra was a circus-rider of easy virtue and a fendish disposition. She loved noise, scandal, quarrels. Her horse-ship duel with a colleague from the Hippodrome is still green in the memory of Parisians. She it was who one day pushed aside two guards, so as to hiss insults at poor Montrupert, who, with his bride, was just coming out of Madeleine Church to the tune of Mendelssohn's wedding march. Gontran, however, had better luck. Without molestation the wedding party returned to the Marquise de la Vergara's apartment. But the greatest trouble was still to come.

"Dear mamma," said the groom to his mother-in-law, after the wedding breakfast, "you must give me credit for the docility with which I have endured your whims and exigencies."

"I should have liked to see you do otherwise," said the Marquise, complacently admiring her daintily-shod foot. "Don't you intend to continue?"

"No, not exactly. My wife and I start this evening on a long journey."

"You! Leave! My daughter promised me that there would be no wedding trip. You remember, Carmen?"

"Dear Madame, since then your daughter has promised to obey her husband. Come, dear, kiss your mother. The carriage is waiting, and the shorter the adieux the better."

Mme. de la Vergara at once proceeded to faint, and Gontran quickly took advantage of it to lead away his weeping wife. "Gad!" said he to himself, throwing a last look at the Marquise, whose gown the maid was trying to unlace, "I must admit that my mother-in-law is wonderfully handsome."

A quarter of an hour later the young couple entered the Grand Hotel, where Carmen's maid, with her mistress's luggage, awaited them as previously arranged. Gontran's trunks were to go from his bachelor quarters direct to the station. He changed his clothes and was just going to his wife's rooms, for she also had donned her traveling gown, when some one knocked.

"She is sulking; but what do you care? We had to strike the blow for liberty. I haven't had any letters either from my friend d'Etigny. He was to do some important business for me, but he persists in withholding his account. Well, let us forget France, since France forgets us."

France, however, had not quite forgotten them. They had been married six weeks, when in Venice they received wedding-cards.

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"What!" exclaimed the astonished young Viscountess, "mamma married again? But who is M. d'Etigny? I never saw him at our house."

"Why," replied Gontran, "he is the fellow I was expecting a letter from about that important business. He has succeeded well, I fancy."

The d'Heristols are not on speaking terms with the d'Etignys, who are none the less happy. Not long since, Gontran had the pleasure of receiving a delicately tinted note.

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"How funny!" said Carmen, kissing her three-weeks-old baby; "mamma's son was an uncle from his birth!"

"You think that funny?" answered d'Heristol. "Well, the idea that the uncle's sweetmeats will cost the nephew an income of fifty thousand pounds does not seem quite so amusing to me. Oh! these mother-in-laws!"

Crushed Under Wagon Wheels.

A despatch from Hamilton says:—Dan Wray, of Brockton, was drawing in turnips, and his son Frank was with him in the field throwing turnips into the wagon. The little fellow had reached under the wagon for a turnip, and his father not noticing him, started the horses. One of the hind wheels passed over the boy's abdomen. He will die.

Monsieur le Vicomte. "Go," said she. "He is the very man I want to see!"

"Cursed Corysandra!" muttered Gontran "to come to my rooms now, when I never permitted such a thing during my bachelor days."

From the other room Carmen's voice asked: "Whom are you talking to, dear?"

"It is nothing, pet,—only the janitor from the rue de Marignan, who has come for a mislaid key. I shall have to go home but will return immediately."

"Take me with you."

"No, dearest, the rooms are all upset. I shall not stay more than ten minutes."

On the street poor Gontran was deliberating whether to employ force or strategy with Corysandra, when suddenly he spied his handsome friend d'Etigny, as distinguished looking as ever, perhaps even more so, with his fine face bronzed by the sun of the Orient.

"When did you return from Aden?" he joyfully asked.

"The day before yesterday. At breakfast, I read the announcement of your marriage, and am rather surprised to see you looking so worried at five o'clock in the evening."

"I am sure Heaven itself has sent you to help me."

After a quarter of an hour's explanation, d'Etigny left Gontran.

"Don't worry," were his parting words. "At seven o'clock your trunks will be at the train, or my name isn't d'Etigny. I have killed so many panthers that I don't fear a circus-rider."

"Thanks! But keep out of the reach of Corysandra's nails. Good-bye. I am your eternal debtor. Call on me if ever you are in similar straits."

On entering Gontran's apartment d'Etigny found a very handsome woman stretched on the chaise-longue, smoking cigarettes and keeping her eyes on the trunks.

"Gad!" thought he, "she must require a pretty solid horse." And approaching carefully: "Madame," said he, "I know your trouble. That fellow d'Heristol is a wretch, and having seen you, I may add, a wretch without taste. To encumber oneself with a stupid little thing when one has—"

"That will teach you to talk more respectfully about my daughter!" said the unknown, springing to her feet and striking the ambassador's cheek with a violence worthy of a Portuguese rage which has been simmering for three hours.

"—when one has the happiness to possess a treasure like this!" continued d'Etigny rather sheepishly.

"And here is another to teach you to whom you are speaking," emphasized the touchy person, on the other cheek.

"You are not Corysandra?" asked d'Etigny, rubbing his jaw.

"No, sir. I am the Marquise de la Vergara."

At seven o'clock sharp Prosper and the luggage were at the station.

"Well?" asked Gontran, taking his man aside, "was there much difficulty?"

"None at all, M. le Vicomte, Monsieur's friend was closeted a good hour with the person. Then he sent me for a carriage and they left together."

"Truly," thought d'Heristol, with a mile, d'Etigny is cleverer than I thought. He isn't so much to be pitied, after all, for having to console Corysandra."

Fifteen days later, at Florence, Carmen said to her husband:

"Do you know that mamma's silence is beginning to alarm me? I have written her five letters since we came here. Not the least reply."

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THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

A night school for girls is to be established in London, Ont.

All the post-office employes of Victoria, B. C., are on strike.

Thomas Harris died at Salem, Ont., recently, aged 104 years.

The costs in the Hartley murder trial at Brantford amount to over \$5,000.

The coal dealers of London, Ont., have put up the price from \$5.89 to \$6.

The immediate construction of the Hudson's Bay railway is said to be assured.

MacWherrell is reported to be quite happy in the stone shed at Kingston penitentiary.

Lieutenant-Governor Schultz, of Manitoba, is again so ill as to be confined to his room.

The Sultana gold mine at Rat Portage has been sold to an English syndicate for \$250,000.

Angus Macdonald, a ten-year convict, escaped from the Kingston penitentiary on Friday.

The convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union next year will be held at Hamilton, Ont.

The North-West is having its first cold snap of this season. At Prince Albert there were 20 degrees of frost.

Garson, Parcer & Co., will at once rebuild at Brockville the planing mill and factory recently destroyed by fire.

Mr. John Mitchell, of Dorchester township, Middlesex, Ont., celebrated his 101st birthday the other day. He was born in Scotland.

Jacob Bouchard, a mail carrier for the Saguenay steamer, fell off the pier at Base St. Paul, Quebec, on Wednesday night, and was drowned.

Neal, the MacLeod, N. W. T., Customs Collector, who stole \$7,000 and fled to England, has been sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary at Stony Mountain.

Arthur Tarnadge, a fitter in the Grand Trunk shops at Bellevue, while out shooting on Thursday, lost a thumb and was cut in the face by the bursting of his gun at the breech.

Mr. W. E. Hiscott has resigned the leadership of the band of the Seventh Fusiliers, in London, a position which he had held for many years.

It is reported from Halifax that the warship *Tourmaline* has been ordered to St. John's Nfld., to maintain order between the political factions.

Messrs. Wilson and Henderson, of Brantford, lately patented a bicycle chain rivet. They have sold the patent in the United States for \$17,000.

Mullins & Wilson, Toronto cattle dealers, are, according to a Winnipeg despatch, making large shipments of North-west live stock to France.

The first break in the trolley wires that now overhang all the main streets of Toronto occurred at Wellington and Yonge streets on Tuesday night. No one was injured.

A lady of London, Ont., who wished her name suppressed, gave \$600 on Wednesday to Commandant Booth, of the Salvation Army, in aid of the Workingman's Castle.

Miss Nina Phillips, a graduate of the Training school of the Kingston General hospital, has been appointed superintendent of nurses in the General hospital at Lowell, Mass.

Mr. E. J. Barbeau, director and general manager of the Credit Foncier, has left Montreal for France to complete the arrangement for the new Province of Quebec loan.

Messrs. Mc'Connell and Russell, of the Geological Survey, have returned from the Western Kootenay district of British Columbia. They report the country very rich in both gold and silver.

Postmaster J. H. Dolmage, of Lacombe, N. W. T., swallowed poison the other day because the post-office inspector happened along and found him short in his accounts. It is thought he will die.

As a result of a conference held in Toronto, between lumbermen and officials of the Grand Trunk railway, the contemplated increase in rates for lumber will not take place until spring, and then only after another conference shall have been held.

Five canal boats, loaded with lumber, broke loose at the mouth of the Nicolet river, Quebec, in Wednesday night's gale. Two are aground opposite Three Rivers, and the other three are supposed to have shrunk. Lumber is strewn all over the river.

H. M. S. Champion and the flag-ship Royal Arthur, of the Pacific squadron, left Vancouver on Friday for Callao, where it is rumoured the British Consulate had been attacked by revolutionists, and that members of the Consul's family had been murdered.

The letter-carriers and clerks in the Post-Office Department at Victoria, B. C., struck work on Thursday, because a grant of \$10 addition per month, on account of the extra cost of living in the West, was withdrawn. On the advice of the Board of Trade of Vancouver, the strikers went back to work, declaring the strike off for a month on the understanding that the Board of Trade would press for payment of the allowance.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Finance Minister Foster will leave England for Canada by the Campana, of the Cunard line on Saturday.

The tenders for the two million and a half sterling Canadian loan amounted to more than eleven million pounds.

The London Times announces the death of the Right Hon. Sir Patrick Joseph Keenan at Glenties, Ireland.

Typewriters in the British War Office receive only from \$3.50 to \$6 per week, and an agitation for higher wages is in progress.

The steamer *Tormes* struck Crow Rock, near Milford Haven, on Tuesday night. Twenty-one men, including the captain and officers, were drowned.

The Marquis of Lansdown, formerly Governor-General of Canada, and more recently Viceroy of India, has been created a Knight of the Order of the Garter.

James Mullig, the Montreal man charged with embezzlement, was before the Bow street Police Court, in London, on Friday.

He was discharged on a technical objection but was immediately re-arrested.

Municipal elections were held throughout England on Thursday. The returns from 143 boroughs show that the Conservatives secured 39 seats, the Unionists 8, the Ministers 23, Labor 15, Independents 6, and Socialists 3.

The London Financial Times says that the September statement of the Canadian Pacific railway is disappointing. The increase in the expenditure, as compared with the previous month, is by no means a favorable sign.

At a conference of the Scottish Conservative Associations, held in Edinburgh the other night, Lord Salisbury made a vigorous defence of the House of Lords, contending that a second Chamber was a constitutional necessity, and if the Lords were at present overwhelmingly Conservative, it was the result of Mr. Gladstone's radical and dangerous legislation.

UNITED STATES.

William McTaggart, a notorious opium smuggler, has been captured in Detroit.

Two thousand hogs have died of cholera in the vicinity of Champagne, Ill.

Thursday, November 29, has been proclaimed Thanksgiving day in the United States.

The Commercial Life Insurance Company, of New York, has been placed in the hands of a receiver.

The directors of the Pennsylvania railroad have declared a semi-annual dividend of 2 1/2 per cent. cash.

Gallus Miller, chief clerk of the Joliet prison, who introduced the Bertillon system into the United States, committed suicide on Thursday.

The strike of the Fall River, Mass., weavers, which terminated on Wednesday, resulted in a loss of wages to the operatives amounting to about one million and a half of dollars.

A missionary to Japan, who is at present in Chicago on his way to England, sees nothing to prevent the Japanese continuing their operations against the Chinese during the winter.

Two men entered the jewellery store of Brethauer & Co. in the heart of Chicago on Monday, threw the son of the proprietor into the vault, and locked him in, then cooped about \$6,000 worth of watches and other valuables into sacks and escaped. The senior member of the firm arrived in time to save his son from suffocation.

GENERAL.

Yellow fever is said to be raging at Porto Rico.

The insurgents in Peru are said to be gaining ground.

The prohibition against American live cattle has been extended to every port in Germany.

The district of Casablanca, Morocco, is said to be in a state of anarchy, and rival tribes are killing each other.

An official examination shows that the Parthenon in Athens was seriously damaged by the earthquakes of last spring.

Tank cars are being used on French railroads for the transportation of wine in bulk.

Six foreign torpedoes were engaged in the bull fights at Nimes have been expelled from France.

The Pope has decided to refuse M. Emile Zola, the French novelist, an audience under any consideration.

New dockyards at Sebastopol are being pushed rapidly to completion to accommodate the increased naval force of Russia in the Black Sea.

According to the International Tariffs Bureau, which has its seat in Brussels, 48 tariffs and 64 supplements were issued by the various countries of the world.

The Jardin des Plantes has the only white panther in captivity in Western Europe. It was trapped in the Pamirs and sent to France by the Governor of Turkestan.

A despatch to the New York World from Tokio says that Great Britain has secretly asked the King of Corea to cede Port Hamilton in exchange for the assistance of the British Government.

A conspiracy against the life of the Czar-witch has been discovered in St. Petersburg, and many arrests, including a number of students, have been made.

Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, of the French army, has been arrested, charged with selling plans of fortifications and other military secrets to the Italian Government.

M. Favette, a high French official, who nearly wrecked the Cabinet by charging six hundred and forty diners and six cab fares against the Government, has been removed from office.

A special from Shanghai confirms the report of the death of the young consort of the Emperor of China. She was rebuked by the Emperor, who slapped her face, and she took poison.

Emperor William has conferred upon Gen. von Caprivi the Order of the Black Eagle set with brilliants, and upon Count zu Eulenburg the Cross and Star of the Grand Commander of the Hohenzollern Order.

On Wednesday Jacques Elisee Reclus, the French Anarchist, during his absence, was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment. Reclus is a renowned scientist, a celebrated geographer, and an uncompromising enemy of all existing Governments.

Odd Properties of Nitro-Benzine.

At a chemical factory at Mulhouse, in Alsace, an accident occurred the other day which would be too gruesome to relate had it not some scientific interest. An explosion of nitro-benzine took place in a building in which a workman was known to have been. A fire ensued, and when it had been got under it was found that three feet of boiling liquid was on the floor of the building. When it had cooled a search was made for the man's remains, but no trace whatever was found of them. It was then thought he might after all have left the place before the explosion. To put the matter to the test carcasses of animals were put into the liquid, and it was found they disappeared in about two hours. Twenty-four hours had elapsed between the explosion and the first search.

ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

Old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly—Interesting Happenings of Recent Date.

Sir William Harcourt is going to Wiesbaden in October to consult a distinguished oculist in regard to cataract of the eye.

A prisoner in India recently, on being released, revenged himself on the assistant commissioner who had sentenced him, by cutting off one-half of his moustache while he was sleeping out of doors on a hot night.

Lady Randolph Churchill has written a friend in England that her husband shows no signs of improvement; that his physical weakness is serious and frequently alarming, and that it is improbable that he will be able to fulfil the engagements which he made in anticipation of his recovery.

The Duke of York, who is an enthusiastic stampcollector, recently applied to the agents-general of the colonies for specimens of the issues of their countries. In reply stamps have been sent to him by the sheet, and in some cases issues withdrawn have been reprinted for him.

A revolving wheel is being constructed in London, England, which when completed, will exceed in dimensions that of the great Ferris wheel which proved such an attraction at the Chicago world's fair. It will be three hundred feet in diameter with forty cars or carriages, capable of seating in all 1,600 people.

Claude Lorraine's "Book of Truth" is said to be one of the rarest and most valuable books in Europe. It is in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire, who is said to have refused £20,000 for it. It is worth about six times as much as the famous "Mazarin" Bible, the most costly book in the British Museum.

The Duke of Somerset, who died lately, devoted his whole life practically to driving. At one time he used to drive a stage coach from London to Oxford, dine at the mitre, and then drive the night mail back to London, which left only two hours out of the 24 for sleep. Of late years he kept the horse bazaar at Plymouth, letting out teams to officers and teaching them how to drive.

Holywell, in North Wales, may soon become an English Lourdes. The well of St. Winefride, which gave the place its name, has recently begun again to perform miracles. The latest cure is that of a little girl, who recovered her voice on entering the water. A blind woman got back her sight, and a deaf and dumb boy his hearing and speech, and pilgrims are beginning to flock to the place.

Dr. William Moon, the famous blind philanthropist, who has just died at Brighton, Eng., lost his sight when he was 21. He at once set about learning the systems of reading for the blind then in vogue, but finding them all imperfect, he invented a new system, which is now widely used in institutions for the blind. The alphabet in his system, consists of only nine characters placed in various positions.

In some of the wine districts of France frost bells are tolled when there is likely to be a severe frost, and immediately on hearing the warning the inhabitants hurry out of their houses and place quantities of tar between the rows of vines. Then a signal is given to light the tar, and in a few minutes a dense cloud of smoke arises, and thus the vines are said to be completely protected from the severity of the weather.

M. Dupuy, Minister of the Interior, has just forbidden bull fights in France at which either bulls or horses may be killed. At Nimes, where preparations had been made for a series of fights on a large scale, the prohibition caused great excitement. Crowds paraded the streets demanding the fights, and a public meeting was called to protest. The Court of Cassation will be called upon to decide on the validity of the prohibition.

Prince Waldburg, eldest son of the reigning prince of that ilk, who a year ago renounced all his rights of succession in favor of his younger brother, Maximilian, on entering upon his novitiate as a member of the order of Jesuits, has now completed his term of probation and has just been admitted to the full membership of that powerful order, which counts among its ranks more princes and great nobles than any other religious fraternity.

Five battalions of the Tyrol rifle regiment, the Kaiserjager, lately performed a wonderful march from the Pusterthal to the valley of the lower Inn. They had to cross the Killertal Alps by passes 8,300 feet above the sea. Rain fell in torrents all the day long and on the mountain top they met a blinding snowstorm. One battalion accomplished the feat in thirteen hours, while another had to pass sixty-three mountain torrents through water often waist high.

The Rev. Dr. Arbuthnot, vicar of Stratford-on-Avon, says that his old church is in much the same state as it was in Shakespeare's time. Of the few genuine relics of the dramatist preserved in his native town, the most interesting are his signet ring, with the initials "W.S." on it and the desk at which he sat in the grammar school of Stratford. The average number of visitors to the poet's home and church is 23,000 a year, of whom about 6,000 are Americans.

Pope Leo's getting ready his narrow house betimes; the sculptor Marassi is at work upon his sepulchre, which is of white Carrara marble. On its lid there is a lion, with a paw resting upon the pontifical tiara; on the right is a statue of Faith bearing a candle and the Holy Scriptures; on the left statue of Truth, with the Pope's arms in one hand; on the side beneath the lion the inscription:—"Hic Leo XIII., P. M. Pulvis est"—Here lies Leo XIII., Sovereign Pontiff (Pontifex Maximus). He is dust.

Four of the most eminent men in Europe are at the present time suffering from partial blindness. In all cases the nature of the ailment is the same, namely, cataract. Mr. Gladstone has had several operations performed upon one of his eyes. The other eye is still sound enough to enable him to read and write. Sir Wm. Harcourt's eyes are both much obscured, and must soon have melted altogether darkened. M. Jules Simon is in like plight and Signor Crispi in whose case the ailment has not proceeded quite so far as in the others, has already sought the services of a skilled oculist.



"Who is there?" he prudently asked, before opening, for he dreaded a visit either from Portugal or the Hippodrome.

"It is I, Monsieur le Vicomte—Prosper, your man," said a familiar voice.

Gontran opened the door rather uneasily. The presence of this man, at this hour, boded no good.

"Anything wrong?" asked Gontran.

"Yes," answered Prosper, cautiously looking around. "Monsieur ordered me to look out for a certain lady."

"Well?"

"Well, Monsieur le Vicomte, she has arrived. I was busy about your boxes, when all at once, without knocking or ringing a lady entered, dropped into an armchair, and asked if M. d'Heristol was in. I answered that he was not, that he was married this morning, and that his luggage was just being sent to the station.

"We will see about that," said she, shaking her fist at me. I tried to reason with her, but she only shrugged her shoulders. I told her that I should be obliged to put her out. She pounced upon an old horse-ship of yours and put herself on the defensive. I told her that I would go and get

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