Poetry.

OH! PLEDGE ME NOT WITH WINE.

Oh! pledge me not with wine, dear love!
I shrink from its ruddy glow;
And white and cold a deadly fear
Drops into my heart like snow.

Oh! pledge me not with wine, dear love!
Through its midst of rosy foam
I count the beats of a broken heart—
I see a desolate home.

Oh! pledge me not with wine, dear love!
I shiver with icy dread;
Each drop to me is a tear of blood
That sorrowful eyes have shed.

I have a picture laid away
Under the dust of years,
Come look on it and your heart will burst
Like a summer cloud in tears.

Night and a storm of autumn sleet—
A hearth without fire or light—
A woman—an angry man—a door
That opens into the night.

Hot hands that cling to the crazy latch,
Lips rigid and white with pain—
A curse—a blow—and a wailing babe
Borne out in the wind and rain.

A woman dead, with her long, loose hair
Soaked wet in the weeping storm,
And her pallid arms half fallen back
From a babe's waxen form.

A woman dead in the pitiless rain;
And sparkling on the sand,
Dear God!—a golden marriage ring,
Dropped loose from her wasted hand

A white moon striving through broken clouds
A horrified man at prayer—
The cry of a passionate heart's remorse
And a passionate heart's despair.

This is the picture laid away
Under the dust of years,
For thus does the red wine look to me,
The flowing of bloody tears.

Oh pledge me not though the wine is bright
As the rarest light that flows
Through the sunset's cloudy gates of fire,
Or the morning's vein of rose.

Put down the cup! It is brimmed with blood
Crushed throbbing from hearts like mine!
For hope, for peace, and for love's sake,
Oh! pledge me not with wine.

Random Readings.

HOW TO PUNCH A MAN.—"Judge, you say if I punch a man in fun, he can take me up for assault and battery?"

'Yes, sir, I said that, and what I say I repeat. If you punch a man you are guilty of a breach of the peace, and can be arrested for it.'

'Ain't there no exceptions?'

'No, sir, no exceptions whatever.'

'Now, Judge, I guess you are mistaken—suppose, for instance, I should brandy punch him, what then?'

'No levity in court, sir; Sheriff, expose this man to the atmosphere. Call the next case."

EVERYTHING IN A NAME.—A gentleman that loved everything that was foreign, and was extremely fond of hard names, dining at a friends house, asked him what the name of the wine was, of which he had just drank a glass at table? His friend knowing that it was but indifferent, and recollecting that he had bought it at Stocks Market, told him it was true Stocko Marketto; upon which he found it excellent, and gave it great encomiums

A man and his wife were striving about who should wear the breeches; in the mean time one knocked at the door.—The good man stepped out to see who was there, and asked him whom he wished to speak with. The person answered, he wished to speak to the master of the house. 'Wait,' said he, 'a little time and I will answer you, for as yet the case is doubtful.' So stepping in, his wife and he went to it again, and she at last yielded him the victory. 'Now, friend, thou mayest speak with me. I am the master of the house; but I could not tell thee so before, because my wife and I had not decided the controversy.'

An Irish gentleman perceiving that one of the great branches of an apple tree in his garden had been by some accident entirely blasted, was determined to lop it off. To effectuate his purpose, the shrewd son of St. Patrick mounted the tree, and got across the *withered* branch, and began very deliberately to saw off betwixt himself and the main trunk. The withered branch being nearly cut through, gave way, and down tumbled the gallant Hibernian, not a little stunned by the fall, and considerably bruised by the weight of the incumbent branches, but still more *astonished* at the *mystery of this inexplicable accident!*

During the memorable engagement in which Lord Nelson achieved his immortal victory over the French fleet, upon the coast of Egypt, an officer, on board his vessel, had his right arm shot off, and lost an eye by a splinter. His illustrious commander, whose vigilance was unremitting, for he had *an eye out* upon such occasions, on hearing of the officer's accident, visited him in his cabin, though wounded himself, as soon as the battle was over, and expressed his concern for the misfortune. The officer with equal gallantry and politeness then said,—'Admiral you *lead the fashions* here, and he must indeed be destitute of taste who is not proud on this day to be like you in any thing.'

'My advice to you, Miss,' said a very plain spoken gentleman to a pretty girl whom he found coloring her cheeks, 'is that you don't undertake to change yourself from what nature made you.' 'My advice to you, sir,' said she, pettishly, 'is that you change yourself as much as possible.'

A MARVELLOUS CONJUROR.

The Russians have long exhibited a remarkable taste for juggling and all that smacks of the marvellous. Conjurors, professors of natural magic, ventriloquists, and the entire race of mountebanks, who in France and England astonish the gaping crowds at races and country fairs, ever find a ready welcome and liberal encouragement among the higher classes in the Russian cities. About the beginning of the present century a species of Cagliostro, or rather a superior kind of Wizard of the North, made his appearance at St. Petersburgh, and astonished the natives by his marvellous performances. His name was Pirnetti, and his fame is yet retained in the memory of those who witnessed his unrivalled talents.

The Czar Alexander, having heard Pirnetti much spoken of, was desirous of seeing him, and one day it was announced to the conjuror that he would have the honor of giving a representation of his magical powers at court, the hour fixed for him to make his appearance being seven o'clock. A brilliant and numerous assembly of ladies and courtiers, presided over by the Czar, had met, but the conjuror was absent. Surprised and displeased, the Czar pulled out his watch which indicated five minutes after seven.—Pirnetti had not only failed in being in waiting, but had caused the court to wait, and Alexander was not more patient than Louis XIV. A quarter of an hour passed, half an hour, and no Pirnetti! Messengers who had been sent to seach for him, returned unsuccessful. The anger of the Czar, with difficulty restrained, displayed itself in threatening exclamations. At length, after the lapse of an hour, the door of the saloon opened, and the gentleman of the chamber announced Pirnetti, who presented himself with a calm front, and the serenity of one who had nothing to reproach himself with. The Czar, however, was highly displeased; but Pirnetti assumed an air of astonishment, and replied with the greatest coolness, 'Did not your majesty command my presence at seven o'clock precisely?'

'Just so!' exclaimed the Czar, at the height of exasperation.

'Well, then,' said Pirnetti, 'let your majesty deign to look at your watch, you will perceive that I am exact, and that it is just seven o'clock.'

The Czar, pulling out his watch violently, in order to confound what he considered a piece of downright insolence, was completely amazed. The watch marked 7 o'clock. In turn the courtiers drew out their watches, which were found as usual exactly regulated by that of sovereign. Seven o'clock! indicated with a common accord all the watches and clocks of the palace. The art of the magician was at once manifest in this strange retrogression in the march of time. To anger succeeded astonishment and admiration. Perceiving that the Czar smiled, Pirnetti thus addressed him:

'Your majesty will pardon me. It was by the performance of this trick that I was desirous of making my first appearance before you. But I know how precious TRUTH is at Court; it is at least necessary that your watch should tell it to you sire. If you consult it now you will find it marks the real time.'

The Czar once more drew forth his watch—it pointed to a few minutes past eight. The same rectification had taken place in all the watches of those present, and in all the clocks of the palace. This exploit was followed by others equally amusing and surprising. At the close of the performance the Czar, after having complimented Pirnetti, brought back to his remembrance, that in the course of the evening amusement, he had declared that such was the power of his art that he could penetrate everywhere.

'Yes, sire, everywhere,' replied the conjuror, with modest assurance.

'What!' exclaimed the Czar, 'could you penetrate even into this palace, were I to order all the doors to be closed and guarded?'

'Into this palace, sire, and even into the apartment of your majesty, quite as easily as I should enter my own house,' said Pirnetti.

'Well, then,' said the Czar, 'at mid-day to-morrow I shall have ready in my closet the price of this evening's amusement—one thousand roubles. Come and fetch them. But I forewarn you that the doors shall be closed and carefully guarded.'

'To-morrow, at mid-day, I shall have the honor of presenting myself before your majesty,' replied Pirnetti, who bowed and withdrew.

Two gentlemen of the household followed the conjuror to make sure that he quitted the palace; they accompanied him to his lodgings, and a number of the police surrounded the dwelling from the moment he entered it. The palace was instantly closed, with positive orders not to suffer, under any pretext whatever, any one to enter, were he prince or valet, until the Czar himself should command the doors to be opened. These orders were strictly enforced, confidential persons having watched their execution. The exterior openings to the palace were guarded by the soldiery. All the approaches to the imperial apartments were protected by big dignitaries, whom a simple professor of the art of legerdemain possessed no means of bribing. In short, for greater security, all the keys had been carried to the imperial cabinet. A few minutes previous to the hour fixed for Pirnetti's interview with the Czar, the chamberlain on service brought to his majesty a dispatch which a messenger had handed through an opening in the door. It was a report from the minister of police that Pirnetti had not left home.

'Aha! he has found out that the undertaking is impracticable, and he has abandoned it,' observed the Czar, with a smile.

Twelve o'clock sounded. While the last stroke yet reverberated, the door which communicated from the bedroom of the Czar to the cabinet opened, and Pirnetti appeared! The Czar drew back a couple of paces, his brow darkened, and after a momentary silence, while fixing a suspicious look on Pirnetti, he says:

'Are you aware that you may become a very dangerous individual.'

'Yes, sire,' he replied, 'but I am only a humble conjuror, with no other ambition than that of amusing your majesty.'

'Here,' said the Czar, 'are the thousand roubles for last night, and a thousand more for this day's visit.'

Pirnetti, in offering his thanks, was interrupted by the Czar, who, with a thoughtful air enquired of him—

'Do you count on yet remaining some time in St. Petersburgh?'

'Sire,' he replied, 'I intend setting off this week, unless your majesty orders a prolongation of my sojourn.'

'No,' hastily observed the Czar, 'it is not my intention to detain you; and, moreover,' continued he with a smile, 'I should vainly endeavor to keep you against your will. You know how to leave St. Petersburg as easily as you have found your way into this palace.'

'I could do so, sire,' said Pirnetti; 'but far from wishing to quit St. Petersburg stealthily or mysteriously, I am desirous of quitting it in the most public manner possible, by giving to the inhabitants of your capital a striking example of my magical powers'

Pirnetti could not leave like an ordinary mortal. It was necessary that he should crown his success in the Russian capital by something surpassing his previous effort—therefore, on the evening preceding the day fixed for his departure, he announced that he should leave St. Petersburg the following day at ten o'clock in the morning, and that he should quit by all the city gates at the same moment! Public curiosity was excited to the highest degree by this announcement. St. Petersburg at this time had fifteen gates, which were encompassed by a multitude eager to witness this marvellous departure.

The spectators at these various gates all declared that at ten o'clock precisely Pirnetti, whom they all perfectly recognized, passed through. 'He walked at a slow pace and with head erect, in order to be better seen,' they said; 'and bade us adieu in a clear and audible voice.' These unanimous testimonies were confirmed by the written declaration of the officers placed at every gate to inspect the passports of travellers. The inspection of Pirnetti's passport was inscribed in the fifteen registers. Where is the wizard, whether coming from the north or south, who could in these degenerate days perform so astonishing an exploit?

ALWAYS BE POLITE.

An elderly lady passing down a busy street in New Haven, was overtaken by a sudden shower of rain. She was some distance from any acquaintance, and had no umbrella. She was deliberating what to do, when a pleasant voice beside her said,—

'Will you take my umbrella, madam?'

The speaker was a boy, perhaps ten years of age.

'Thank you,' said the lady, 'I am afraid you will get wet.'

'Never mind me, ma'am, I'm a boy and you are a lady.'

'But perhaps you will accompany me to a friend's not far off, and then I should not find it necessary to rob you.'

The boy did so, received the thanks of the lady and departed.

Two years rolled by, the lady often related the circumstance, as often wondering what had become of her gentlemanly little friend, but little thinking ever to see him again. In the dull season last winter this boy was out of employment, and the circumstance coming to the knowledge of this lady, she gave him a good home till March, when she introduced him to a good situation—Verily, kindness seldom goes unrequitted.

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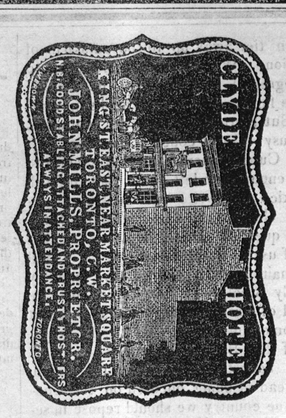

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THOS. J. GURNIN & Co.
St. Therese Street
Montreal, May 18th, 1857 g3

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TORONTO, June 8th, 1857. g13-1y

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FOR 1858.

Fourth Volumn.

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