

A Sweet Singer.

Mme Gerster is a great favorite in society, and on the stage as well. Her invitations, says an exchange, are numerous, and when she consents to sing at a musicale she is paid the homage due a queen. There is small wonder that the world of fashion, or for that matter, graver persons, seek her society. What could be more lovely than a gifted woman who is petted and admired by all, and is unspiced by flattery? Increase the number of admirers until they embrace the continents of Europe and America, and then measure, if you can, the praise due a woman who remains simple, unaffected, kind and true-hearted throughout it all. Etelka Gerster Gardini, the charming prima donna of Mr. Mapleson's opera company, has been courted and applauded by the most distinguished persons in the old world and the new, and is unspiced by a breath of scandal, and remains a gentle woman, a loving faithful wife, and a proud, devoted mother. In the morning after singing the previous evening, Gerster rises at 11 o'clock having taken her coffee and rolls in bed. Then she will read such letters as her husband, Dr. Gardini, may deem interesting to her; receive any friends who may call; give an hour to study, and then take a brisk walk. Come home to lunch about 2 o'clock, then write, read, or talk to friends for an hour. In the afternoon some more fresh air is taken, and the rest of the time is occupied with knitting, sewing, or practising until dinner at 5 o'clock. If Gerster is not going out in the evening she will settle herself in a little rocking-chair and keep her busy fingers flying, while she talks with the friends who may be admitted until 11 o'clock when she retires. Rehearsals, matinees, and performances fill up a great part of the singer's time, but I am now sketching a day after a performance, for a great prima donna like Gerster sings but three times a week under ordinary circumstances. Gerster's dress is usually simple, but when occasion requires she dresses superbly. All her dresses are made by Worth, in Paris, and she spares no expense in pleasing herself. In her home life she dresses herself and arranges her hair with charming simplicity. At her table she presides with much dignity and grace, carves like an Englishwoman, and makes the best sort of a salad dressing. She is decidedly practical, and it is delightful to hear her tell of her domestic arrangements, trials, and triumphs at her home in Bologna, Italy. Mme. Gerster is a vigorous and an independent thinker, and an excellent debater, and has a relish for fun. She loves to laugh, and is able to be witty as well as wise. She is a woman of the sternest principles, and living up to them herself she requires of those who would enjoy her confidence and friendship a strict interpretation of duty and deportment. She despises deceit and hypocrisy, and does not conceal her contempt for those vices in her presence. She sings like an angel, and can easily clear \$50,000 a year. In personal appearance she is rather above the medium height, has a well-rounded figure, and a good-shaped head, crowned by a luxuriant growth of light-brown hair. She has dark gray eyes, and her features are decided. She has not what you would call a pretty face. It is rather marked by an expression of intelligence, and there is a deep power of fascination about it that is spoken of by all who meet her. She is vivacious in manner, and has a pleasant word for those about her at all times. Had she not been born a great singer, she would still have been a remarkable woman.

A GOOD SUGGESTION TO HOUSEKEEPERS.—No one knows until she has tried it, says an experienced housewife to one of our contemporaries, how much she may change the aspect of things about the house by using a little varnish. On a sunny day take the old chairs and tables out on the porch or by an open door, and, after thoroughly dusting and wiping off with a damp cloth, apply a thin coat of varnish, and so cover up scratches and marred spots of all kinds. It will dry in a very short time, and you will be surprised to see how much good you have done. A flannel cloth, with a very little linseed oil, is good to rub furniture with, but the greatest care must be exercised to prevent any oil being left on the wood to attract dust. It must be rubbed until you would not know, except by the improved appearance, that any oil had been used.

By Universal Accord

AYER'S CATHARTIC PILLS are the best of all purgatives for family use. They are the product of long, laborious, and successful chemical investigation, and their extensive use, by physicians in their practice, and by all civilized nations, proves them the best and most effectual purgative Pill that medical science can devise. Being purely vegetable no harm can arise from their use. In intrinsic value and curative powers no other Pills can be compared with them, and every person, knowing their virtues, will employ them, when needed. They keep the system in perfect order, and maintain in healthy action the whole machinery of life. Mild, searching and effectual, they are especially adapted to the needs of the digestive apparatus, derangements of which they prevent and cure, if timely taken. They are the best and safest physic to employ for children and weakened constitutions, where a mild but effectual cathartic is required. For sale by all dealers.

August Flower.

The immense sale and great popularity of Green's August Flower in all towns and villages in the civilized world has caused many imitators to adopt similar names, expecting to reap a harvest for themselves at the expense of the afflicted. This medicine was introduced in 1868, and for the cure of Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint, with their effects, such as Sour Stomach, Costiveness, Sick Stomach, Sick Headache, Indigestion, Palpitation of the Heart, vertigo, etc., etc. it has never failed to our knowledge. Three doses will relieve any case of Dyspepsia. Two million bottles sold last year. Price 75 cents. Samples 10 cents.

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Manufacturers of Reapers, Mowers and Threshing Machines prefer "Castorine" Machine Oil to any other. It will outwear Lard Seal or Elephant, and is warranted not to gum. For sale by all dealers.

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1879.	68,557.46	183,330.11	146,534.18
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Excess of Premiums over losses... \$127,695.60

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