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 the homage due a queen. There is small wonder that the world of fashion, or for that 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 unspoiled by flattery? Increase the num-ber of admirers until they embrace the con-tinents 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 (fer-ster (farding the charming prime donna of true-hearted throughout it all. Etelka Ger-ster Gardini, the charming prima donna of Mr. Mapleson's opera company, has been courted and applauded by the most distin-guished persons in the old world and the new, and is untained 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 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 out heap her herse furing, while she

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

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. trials, and triumphs at her home in Bologna, Italy. Mme. Gerster is a vigorous and an in-dependent 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 de-portment. She despises deceit and hyporrisy, 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 lux-uriant grown 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 here horr a great at all times. Had she not been born a great singer, she would still have been a remarkable woman.

experienced housewife to one of our conexperienced housewife to one of our con-temporaries, how much she may change the aspect of things about the house by using a little varnish. On a sunshiny 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 sur-prised to see how much good you have done. A finnel cloth, with a very little linseed oil, is good to rub furniture with, but the great-est care must be exercised to prevent any est 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.

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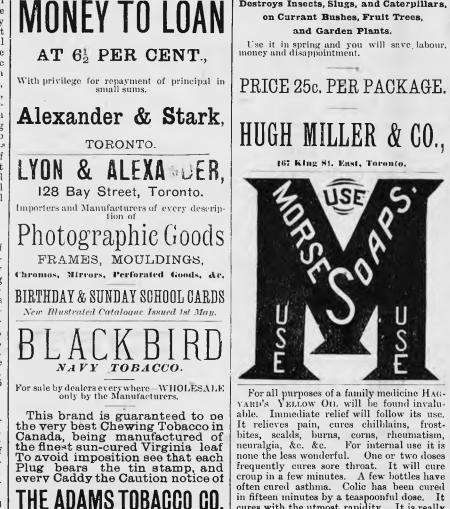
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