

The Career of the Greatest of All Dancers.

There are a few old play-goers who remember the great night when she first came "floating on the stage" of the King's Theatre, on the 3rd of June, 1830. Her engagement was for three weeks only, and the house was "packed to suffocation." She took the part of *Flora* in the ballet of "Zephyr e Flora," and she had not been five minutes on the stage before her triumph was assured. It was the old story; they had seen no one like her for grace and purity of motion, for poetry of movement which was the perfection of art, because it seemed so wholly artless. "Signora Taglioni," wrote the *Edinburgh Review*, "is the most perfect specimen of grace and elegance as a dancer we ever beheld. Her movements are all a series of classical studies. * * * Every movement is accomplished with such extraordinary ease and with the airiness of thistle-down, that it would scarcely have increased our wonder had she ascended like a spirit." A writer in the *Athenaeum* said: "She is certainly angelical—almost Eve-angelical; 'grace is in her steps,' whether heaven be in her eye, or not. The manner in which she occasionally springs from this cold sphere leads us to think that by an extent of volition she might with perfect ease visit the lively inhabitants of Mercury; but her descent—her return—her feather-like snowfall resumption of the 'bread of earth' is beyond description. Her bound upward is graceful and natural; it is her coming back again that is supernatural." Chorley, in his "Recollections," thinks that in her first season in London she was not so highly appreciated as she deserved to be; but the critics, at any rate, seemed to have appreciated her at her proper worth. During her first and subsequent visits to London Taglioni danced a great deal, and often in company with three of the most famous ballerinas of that or any age—Carlotta Grisi, cousin of the renowned singer; Fauny Elslser, the siren "whose charms had equal power over a philosophic historian and the heir to a usurper's throne," and Cerito, surnamed the Fourth Grace. The immortal "Pas de Quatre," composed for these four

divinities, was perhaps the finest exhibition of dancing ever seen on any stage. But Taglioni then, as ever, was the star; the others were but the satellites revolving round her. It was, however, in Paris that she made her home during the halcyon period of her career. Her first appearance there, says Miss Mabel Collins, had been considered to mark an epoch in the history of dancing. In her later years "she became the object of a culte, and so high did the enthusiasm about her run, among the composers no less than among the general public in this and in other capitals, that Mayerbeer would not put his opera of "Robert le Diable" on the stage in Berlin until he was assured that Taglioni, for whom he had written the music, had been engaged to dance in the part of the nun in the third act.

Home.

You are to be pitied if you cannot find your first and greatest happiness at home. There is where you should find it. The independence that comes to a man when his day's work is over and he feels that he has run out of the storm into the quiet harbor of home, where he can rest in peace with his family, is something real. It does not make so much difference whether you own the house or whether you have one little room in that house; you can make that room a true home to you. You can people it with such sweet fancies that it will be fairly luminous with your presence, and it will be to you the very perfection of a home. Against this home none should ever transgress. It should be the place to find true love and courtesy.

The future of our country depends upon the youth of the land. While education, then in the usual sense of the word, should be highly valued, at the same time our people should not forget the most important education of home influence, and home discipline.

A sound reasoner—The inventor of the telephone.

OUR HYMNOLOGY.

The Churches Waiting For a New Hymn Writer.

"We are at low ebb tide in the art of hymn making," said the editor of one of the leading religious reviews recently, "and have been for many years. And the worst of it is there does not seem to be any indications of the tide setting the other way. The fire of the few writers of sacred songs that we have left is burning dimly, and there are no new lights appearing to take their places. Probably Bishop Cleveland Cox is at the head of living American hymn writers. He has four hymns in the Methodist Hymnal, of which or two are quite popular, as for instance the one beginning 'In the silent midnight watches.' In melody and in poetry, as well as in number, his works excel those of any living hymn writer. Bryant has eight in the hymnal, three of which were written expressly for it. 'Nearer my God to Thee,' one of the best and most popular hymns, was written by Sarah F. Adams, a Unitarian lady of Massachusetts. Bryant, too, was a Unitarian, and it is a rather curious fact that many of the best hymns in use in the evangelical churches were written by persons of that faith.

"The Rev. Ray Palmer of Newark, writes no more, as he is very aged; but a number of his hymns are popular, and several of them will live. 'My soul looks up to Thee' is perhaps the best known of his works. The Rev. William Hunter, recently deceased, wrote a great number of beautiful hymns in his younger days. He was in latter years editor of the *Pittsburgh Christian Advocate*. 'My Heavenly home is bright and fair,' and 'Who shall forbid our chastened woe,' are by him, and are destined to stay. We have one hymn from N. P. Willis, which he wrote by request, that is popular, 'The perfect world by Adam trod,' and we have one by George P. Morris. Fæbe Cary wrote one beautiful hymn, beginning, 'Oae sweetly solemn thought,' though we have none from her sister Alice. Dr. Muhlenberg, formerly Chaplain of St. Luke's Hospital, this city, and author of 'I would not live always,' wrote 'King of Kings, and wilt Thou reign,' and other vigorous hymns that are popular and will remain so. Robert Hastings, a musician of this city who died in 1872, wrote the great Methodist revival hymn, 'Delay not, delay not, Oh, Sinner, draw near,' as well as other hymns remarkable for their grace and easy metric flow. R. A. West, of Brooklyn, is the author of the very popular hymn, 'Oh, let us tune our loftiest song.'

"We use one of the songs in Tennyson's poem, 'The Princess,' beginning 'Late, Late, So Late, as a hymn, and likewise one or two culled from Whittier's and Longfellow's poems.

"The fact is that we are still principally dependent for our hymns upon the writers of the latter part of the last and the early part of the present century. Prior to the time of Watts the hymns were, for the most part, the veriest doggerel. But Watts awakened the slumbering soul of sacred song, and we soon had Doddridge, Cowper, and Newton, to say nothing of Heber, with his immortal 'Greenland's Icy Mountains,' and 'Brightest and best of the Sons of the Morning.' The well-known 'Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,' is Doddridge. Following the Watts era came the Wesleyan, of which the style may be characterized as the Watts style set on fire. Charles Wesley is, of course, the central figure of this epoch, with his 'Just as I am without one plea,' 'Jesus, lover of my soul,' and many other masterpieces of hymnal poetry. John Wesley translated, at this time, many hymns from the German, some of which still firmly hold their ground. Of the three great hymns of this era, however, Charles Wesley wrote the two above named, and the third, though perhaps the first in rank, 'Rock of Ages,' was by Toplady, who had caught the Wesleyan fire.

Of the modern English hymn writers two, Faber and Cardinal Newman, are Protestant converts to Catholicism. Faber is best known by his hymn beginning, 'There is a wideness in God's mercy,' and Newman by 'Lead, Kindly Light.' Dr. Raffles, a Presbyterian clergyman of London, who died about ten years ago, wrote a number of hymns that have found a permanent place in the hymnals. There was a Welsh school of hymn writers that cannot be overlooked. William Williams was of this group, and also Thomas Olivers. Their songs had a flavor of the wild mountain chant which caught the imagination with their weirdness. Olivers wrote the remarkable 'God of Abraham Praise,' which was set to Gregorian music and had a run of several years in the cathedrals. 'Oh, Thou God of my salvation' was also written by him. Nearly all the Welsh hymns have great power and vivacity.

"But the day of hymn writing seems to be over, as far as may be judged from present appearances. We get barrels of so-called sacred songs sent to us, but 95 per cent. of it is twaddle, and of the scant 5 per cent. that gets into print next to none will survive five years. The few passable good hymns that we get now-a-days come to us through the Sunday schools. 'Fannie Cressie' has written a number of songs of this class which have been promoted to the hymn book. I don't know that there is any special cause for this dearth of hymnal inspiration, any more than there is cause for the occasional intervals that occur in the production of a high order of poetry or of fiction. I do not think that a falling off of religious zeal has anything to do with it."—*N. Y. Sun*.

A Costly Manœuvre.

A story is related of a recent occurrence, the characters in which were an oldish lady of fortune, a middle-aged gentleman, and the lady's maid, young and pretty. The gentleman was pressing his suit warmly and called every evening. But once, when arriving to pay his customary devoirs, the door was opened by the pretty maid, and she received ardent vicarious attentions from the visitor. The elder lady, however, was on the stairs, and observing "that little manœuvre," calmly observed, "Annette, how often must I tell you that I insist upon your receiving your friends in the kitchen?" That ended it.

"No MEN NOWADAYS."—"Ah! and had ye a goot funeral?" asked the old man in Glen- elg, when his sons returned from the ceremony. "And had ye plenty to eat and drink?" "Yes, plenty." "And had ye a goot fight?" "No, no, there was no fighting." "Ah," sighed the veteran, "there are no men nowadays."

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.

Liquid oxygen is estimated to have a density of between 0.84 and 0.865, but the former figures is thought perhaps to be a little too low.

All the vessels of the British Navy which carry divers are to be supplied with telephones, for the purpose of submarine communication.

When the electric lighting of the Paris Opera is completed there will be no fewer than 4,000 glow (incandescent) lamps distributed throughout the house.

Mr. J. A. Pond, of the New Zealand Institute, has given an account of the rare discovery of platinum in a vein. It has been found in octahedrons in a quartz vein in the Thames gold district.

What ought to be a very durable paint has been made or very finely powdered zinc, mixed with oil and siccativ. A varnish is thus produced which may be applied with a brush in the ordinary way.

Trichinae, if the experimental results of the work of MM. Mignon and Tonard, of Paris, are to be relied upon, are said to be rendered innocuous after the meat containing these parasites has been subjected to a temperature so low as 20° Centigrade.

A stalactite cavern is said to have been discovered in the neighborhood of Cordon, in the Department of Ain, France, near the road connecting Lyons with Geneva. Only a few country people are alleged to have entered it for any considerable distance.

A resin obtained from *Xanthorrhoea hastilis*, a tree indigenous in New-South Wales, is used in the manufacture of picric acid, of varnishes suitable for well seasoned wood in dry, warm climates, of sealing wax, of brass lacquer, and of japan gold size. It is worth in Sidney \$120 a ton.

The authorities of Berlin are trying tile pavements for the streets. The tiles are molded into blocks 7.8 inches square and 3.0 inches thick, and impregnated with bituminous products up to 20 per cent. of their volume. They are laid on concrete 6 inches

thick, and the spaces between are filled with hot tar.

M. Durand has published an important paper on spontaneous combustion in collieries. As the engineer of the Doyet collieries, in the Department of Alier, France, he has had great opportunities of examining all the conditions under which subterranean fires occur. He refers spontaneous combustion to three causes—the oxidation of iron pyrites in the coal, friction from slipping, and heat of air current.

Vaccination performed once does not act as a preventive of smallpox after a certain length of time has elapsed. An examination of the statistics of this disease shows that of those who had taken it and had been vaccinated in infancy, 90 per cent. are over 10 years of age, while only 10 per cent. are under 10 years of age. Re-vaccination at intervals, say, of seven years, is the only known effective measure for protection.

Experiments have been conducted at the Bavarian Museum of arts on a new method of bleaching bones. After digesting the bones with ether or benzine to remove the fat they are they are thoroughly dried and immersed in a solution of phosphoric acid in water containing 1 per cent. of phosphoric anhydride. After a few hours they are removed from the solution, washed in water, and dried. Bones thus treated have almost the same appearance as Ivory.

The manager of the gasworks at Deventer, Holland, has had recourse to this plan for preventing stoppages in his ascension pipes: He inserts in the mouth-piece end of the retort, immediately after charging, a sheet of iron which fits the retort as closely as possible, and has in the middle a hole equal in area to the ascension pipe. The tarry vapors, heavy oils, and carbon dust are for the greater part arrested by this plate, and are thereby prevented from rising a few feet higher and condensing on the interior surface of the ascension pipe.

A barber says—barbers are forever saying something—that it is the rich and not the poor man who becomes bald the soonest. The barber is probably right. A poor man's blessing, you know. The less there is to inherit, the more abundant the hairs.

EATON'S GREAT SEMI-ANNUAL SALE GOING ON.

New Goods just opened, direct from the manufacturers, selling retail at clearing prices. Odd lines in each department marked down.

These goods are not old shelf-worn goods, but brand new, never saw daylight until opened by us this week, and selling at clearing prices.

Big Sale of Dress Goods. Eaton's Semi-Annual Sale

Comprising some of the newest goods in the market, and many of them at not half ordinary prices.

New Washing Summer Silks, 22 inches wide, all seasonable colors, at 25c. a yard. Regular price, 40c.

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Extra Quality Black Silk, 40, 50, 60c. a yard up.

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Bargains in Fine Colored Silk.

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New American Colored Muslins to be sold at 5c. a yard, regular price being 10c.

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