The Young Widow.

She is modest, but not bashful,
Free and easy, but not wild!
Like an apple ripe and cool,
Not to young and not to old!
She's inviting, half repulsive,
Now advancing, and now shy—
There is mischief in her dimple,
There is danger in her eye!

She has studied human nature,
She is schooled in all the arts;
She knows how to display her charms
As the mistress of all hearts.
She can tell the very moment
When to sigh and when to smile;
Oh a maid is sometimes charming
But a widow—all the while.

Are you sad? How very serious
Will her handsome face become
Are you angry? She is wrecked,
Lonely, friendless, fearful dumb
Are you mirthful? How her laughter,
Ringing out clear, will ring out!
She can love and catch and play you,
As the angler does the trout.

Ye old bachelors of forty,
Who have grown so bald and wise
Young Americans of twenty,
With the love-locks in your eyes;
You may preach all the lessons
Taught by Cupid since the fall
But I know a little widow
Who could win and fool you all.

THE PRIMA DONNA.

CHAPTER I.

AN EARTHLY PARADISE.

Yes, I am totally blind. And it is no small loss to lose the blessed power of seeing that which is, or is supposed to be, in daily existence about one. If my blind eyes could see, to-night, for instance, they would rest upon something very different from that which occasionly haunts me, and I should not so often find myself in the gallery of the Past. It is not, however, without its pleasures, that gallery of memory, and it is not without very emphatic compensations.

There is there a little still-life study over which I love to linger, for it recalls the green banks of the Rhine and the little town of Boppard. There are hills, all terraced by vineyards warmed by the Southern sun, on one side, and ragged ledges, bare rocks creeping up into the sky on the other side. The rocks are garnished and crested with gray, castellated walls and battlements of an old fortress, grim and threatening; its watch towers clinging to the very edge of the cliff. A few narrow streets down below and between are full of all doubtful odors; a weather-stained tower or two, all ivy-grown and picturesque, bringing half forgotten ages into the present; a moss grown spire of solid stone work rising over an old church — half asleep; a puff of steam and a wreath of white smoke hanging just above a new railway station—wide awake. That is Boppard; silent, sombre Boppard; just a bit of centuries ago gone astray into to-day.

Haunting those old streets, once upon a time, there was a ragged little atom of humanity, more or less a nuisance to himself and to every one else, who had never known the luxury of a father or mother or even of the most distant relative, who had never possessed a farthing that he could call his own, who was innocent of the slightest knowledge of where he was born and could only guess when by making comparisons with other children who might, perhaps, be twice his own age. It was I.

All that I knew of myself, concerning my ancestory, was that Italian blood ran in my veins. This I learned from a good old soul in Boppard who took pity upon me through my boyhood, and played more or less the part of a guardian, telling me over and over again, all she knew of my mother; that she was an Italian woman, very beautiful, but unable to speak a word of German, who came one day upon Boppard from—no one knew where, bringing with her a boy just old enough to walk beside her, clinging to her hand. The next day she went away, alone, and still no one knew where, except as there her body was concerned, for they had laid that in the paupers' vault, down by the slumbering church. There was no estate to settle; she had absolutely nothing in the world to leave to me except my name and only one name at that; just "Carlo." She called me Carlo when she was dying, and so the good people of Boppard called me Carlo afterward. That and the clothes I had on were absolutely all that was left to me except an insatiable desire to make pictures of whatever pleased my fancy.

How I grew, even to boyhood has been a mystery to me; yet, while growing, I managed to gather from here and there a few random suggestions in art, even in Boppard. I watched and wondered while the stupid village painter created a sign or stained a door, with rapturous envy or unintelligible vexation as the design or shading harmonized or clashed with my incoherent ideas of unrecognized art; but the sunny and ambitious side of my only real, conscious ambition lay in one supreme, omnipresent desire to please a little maid of the Fatherland, named Mina.

Poor as I was—no very much poorer than any other boy in Boppard—it was strange good fortune that, from my earliest recollection, Mina was a loyal companion, playmate and friend. She had flaxen hair and light blue eyes. She had laughing lips and a happy, generous heart. That was Mina. My Mina.

Together we played day after day upon the Rhine, in its muddy, midsummer guise, with many an eddy and whirl hurrying over the shallows, or its springtime freshets, as it roared and thundered between its banks, sometimes overflowing them; now a great, broad sheet of turbulent Switzerland; then a lower, deeper murmur of the Fatherland, chimmering over its shining sands. Many and many an autumn day we crossed the river, in the ungainly Rhine row-boats, to climb among the vineyards opposite, while the sun was touching the ruddy clusters with a tincture of wine, turning them purple. Ikwas quite against all the laws of the land for me to ramble about in the vineyards when the grapes were ripening, but there never was a keeper so bold as to shake his head at Mina when she presented her little self or at me when I followed her; though I very well knew what my reception would have been if by chance I had ventured there alone or with some one else than Mina.

To the right of Boppard are the ruined walls of the old castle where day after day we rambled, playing ourselves quite out of poverty and Boppard, and into great lords and ladies, knights and sweethearts, gallantly observing all the chivalrous decorum of those stately days of yore, and living, to the minutest detail, the legendary lore so fondly fostered in song and story by the true hearts on the Rhine.

Oh, I was all for my Mina then, and my Mina was all for me. Often there were other children with us, but that did not matter; for if my Mina were Lady of the Castle I was always the Lord, and if I were champion of some mystic battlefield, coming home from a great crusade, it was always Mina who was the sweetheart waiting for me at the moat. It was all real life to us—far more real than poverty and Boppard. We might have fancied that our actual existence, down in the valley, was a myth, but we never doubted the reality of those wondrous tales, or dreamed that they were but royal romances created by modern mythographers who, in marchen magic, illuminated the feudal transports of the Rhine.

When we were tired, for the time, of pretending, I would stealthfully extract a piece of slate from the old wall and upon it draw pictures of Mina, with bits of colored crayon which we had found from time to time and which we treasured as our lives. These pictures were not alway the same. Sometimes they represented the little angel of Boppard—a nut brown maid with berry stained fingers; sometimes they were the Lady of our Dreamland Castle; but ever and always they were Mina. And Mina alone of all Boppard praised my pictures; the rest, both old and young, either laughed at them or angrily bade me spend my time less foolishly. Mina alone liked them. She would smile and say that I made her prettier than she really was, but she would sit by me and help me with her sympathy and encouragement. I would often shake my head and, for an instant, catching a glimpse of the great world of possibility beyond me, would say, without its all understanding what I meant, "No, no, Mina, it is really not half so beautiful as you seem to me; but there is something the matter with the crayon, it never just does what I am thinking it will do"; and Mina would laugh and praise me still.

There was not a boy in Boppard but dressed better than I, was stronger than I, and had much more to boast of than I, yet all the boys envied me the friendship of my Mina. When I wondered how it came about that the friendship was mine, I unconsciously philosophized upon it that I could draw pictures and the other boys could not, therefore it must be the pictures.

It was only a thought of innocent and ignorant youth, but it became a long, long thought, stretching far away into the future and growing with time, till it formed the one controlling idea of my life and led me at last into a most serious blunder.

The stranger stood for a moment at my back, looking over my shoulder. I suppose he had been visiting the castle. Strangers very often went up and down from Boppard on that road, and very often, too, paused to look over my shoulder, if I chanced to be making a picture for Mina. Sometimes they would say something complimentary, sometimes they would ask a question, sometimes they would go away in silence. For all or neither I cared nothing, for Mina was beside me and it was for her that I was working. This time, however, after the stranger had watched for a moment, in a deep and peculiar voice, speaking very slowly, he observed:

"My boy, if you will pardon what may appear to you as an intrusive suggestion from an humble pedestrian, it is his opinion that, if you should study you would do better." Then, turning, he walked quietly away toward Boppard.

A boy's heart swelled indignantly within me; a boy's pride in his only power rose in rebellion. A stranger had reproached me! Wonder of wonders, he had dared to do it right before my Mina! Why, there was not a man in Boppard bold enough to box my ears if Mina were in sight. The stranger might have done that, however, and even if Mina had not openly resented it (which was possible) it would not have hurt me very much; but he had aimed a blow directly at my citadel; he had struck at the only power that I possessed, so far as I knew, to hold to me the affection and the loyalty of my only friend. I did not dare to look into Mina's eyes, but angrily gathered up a handful of dust, from the road, and, when the stranger was too far away from me to notice it, I threw it after him with a muttered imprecation. It was not for him or his opinion that I cared, but for the danger in which he had placed me. Soon enough I saw the result of it; for, to my utter chagrin, Mina caught my uplifted hand, exclaiming, "For shame, Carlo!"

"What right had he to look at my picture?" I answered, angrily. "I was not making it for him, I was making it for you."

Very gently Mina replied:

"He did not mean to make you angry, he only told you just what you have so often said yourself, that you must study. Why how much better you draw now than when we were babies! and of course you will do, oh! so much better when you are a man and can study."

I stood there stunned. Did I hear that from Mina? Was it Mina who turned upon me and crushed the clay feet of my idol? Was it Mina who laughed and said I could do better?

If it takes two to make friends, as it does to make a quarrel, I am sure we were not the best of friends that night as we walked back to Boppard, and I could not by any possibility have understood it, had any one told me that Mina was never so much my friend before. I entirely forgot to be angry with the stranger, I was so much more angry with Mina. I could not speak to her. The words choked me when I tried to answer her questions; and at last she gave up talking and took refuge in that old, old philosophy—that music hath charms.

She began to sing.

Poor little Mina! She knew how I liked to hear her sing and she knew how, most of all, I liked the Lorelei. So she sang of the great rock over the river just above St. Goar; of the rapids and the shallows and the hidden ledges at the bend of the river; of the great cliff up above them and the golden-haired Lorelei seated upon it, singing her wondrous song; of the bewildered boatman sweeping down those rapids, heedless of oar and sail, listening to the fatal melody. And all the while, as my angry heart followed the story, I thought of myself as the boatman, of my little life as the rapids, of the stranger as the hidden ledge, at the bend of the river, and of Mina and her love as the Lorelei and her song.

She sang of the shock as the boat struck the rocks and the boatmen were swept away; closing the song with a little trill, all of her own composition, which I had always applauded most heartily, regardless, both of us I fancy, of the sad refrain preceding it, for it had never seemed sad to me before—

"Und das hat mit ihrem Singen
Die Lorelei gethan."

All my life, it seemed to me, I had been listening to the love-song of Lorelei, fondly dreaming that it was to me she was singing, because she was proud of me, only to awaken to a wreck upon the first reality that appeared; with the cruel verdict that I could do better; and, in all sincerity and earnestness I muttered savagely that last refrain, "And this is what, with her singing, my Lorelei has done."

Oh, the blindness and the folly of it! Deliberately and angrily I turned upon my little Mina, whose heart, doubtless, was sadder than mine could possible have been, but who was singing in spite of it because she was sorry for me that I was sad, and I, only intent to avenge a wrong which no one had ever done me, exclaimed:

"I am not the only doll! If you should study music, Mina, you could sing a great deal better than you do now."

"So, indeed, I should, Carlo," Mina replied, smiling through her tears. "And that is just what I am going to do when you are studying art, you know."

This only made me so much the more angry that, without even saying good-night to Mina, I turned abruptly into a narrow alley, from which wound upward a long staircase, leading to a little attic chamber—my home.

I could pity and appreciate Mina quite enough now to make up for any lack of appreciation and pity then, if it were only then and not now, as she went slowly on her way to her mother's house, a little farther down the street, unconsciously singing still the same song of the Lorelei. I could hear every note of it.

Dear little Mina!

(To be continued)

A NAUGHTY PARSON

Who has Probably Added Murder to his Other Offences.

An Albany, N. Y., despatch says: The Rev. A. W. George is pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church at Leeds, three miles from Catskill, going there from New Jersey about three weeks ago. On Friday evening Coroner Kortz was notified that Lottie Townsend, of that place, desired to make an ante-mortem statement. Miss Townsend is a more than ordinarily handsome girl, with a plump and well-rounded figure. She was 20 years old last July. She stated that about the first of September she entered the George family, which consisted of the minister and his wife, as an adopted daughter. Her mother is dead, and her father lives at Fishkill. Shortly after Miss Townsend entered into the family Mrs. George went west to visit relatives, and has not returned. One Sunday night in September, and at various times after this, she consented to his propositions. Later she informed George of her condition, and he took her to Dr. Erway's office here on three different occasions. Operations were performed on her with instruments. Her condition became alarming, and the corner was notified and took her ante-mortem statement. To-day he visited Leeds, and George made a confession corroborating the girl's statement. Warrants have been issued for the arrest of both George and Dr. Erway.

AN AMBASSADOR'S SUICIDE.

The Turkish Envoy to Austria Tries to End an Unhappy Life.

A Vienna cable says: It was announced here yesterday that Saulidis Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador to Austria, was suffering from a fit. It now transpires that he attempted suicide in his bathroom. It is said he tried to strangle himself, and failing in this, attempted to end his life by stopping up all the apertures in the room and allowing the gas in the burners to escape. He was discovered before life was extinct, and doctors hastily summoned. They worked over him for a long time and at length succeeded in restoring respiration, but were unable to bring the patient back to consciousness, although every means known to science is being employed. It is thought the ambassador will probably die. The Ambassador's attempt to commit suicide is believed to be due to family troubles, as his wife is suffering from an incurable disease, and his favorite daughter has become insane.

THE IRISH DESTITUTE.

Poverty-Stricken People Refused Aid by the Board of Guardians.

A Dublin cable says: It is stated that the poor people of the Provinces of Ulster, Connaught and Munster have reached the extreme limit of destitution. A despatch from Mitchelstown states that a crowd of poverty stricken people called upon the Board of Guardians there, asking for relief. The board refused to do anything for the applicants, even refusing them assistance from the Zetland-Balfour fund.

A despatch from Castlebar, County Mayo, says the Government, as a measure of relief, has put a thousand more men about Westport in the construction of a railroad. The Board of Guardians of the same locality have given tenants in need of assistance 1,200 tons of seed potatoes. It is stated that Mr. Balfour's prompt action in relieving the poor in the west of Ireland has averted many deaths from starvation.

The Highest Wages.

In the building trades the six cities in which the highest wages are paid are New York, Brooklyn, Chicago, St. Louis, Galveston and San Francisco. St. Louis pays the highest wages for masonry, New York for carpentry, San Francisco for painting, Chicago for plumbing, Santa Fe for roofing and Galveston for common labor. The lowest wages are paid in the Southern cities. The relative rank of cities seldom pay exactly the same wages. Philadelphia and Boston rank below the five leading cities, and many smaller Western cities pay higher wages.

At the Police Station.

Jester: First reporter—You would never take that tall, distinguished-looking man in the dock to be a bunco swindler, would you?

Second reporter—Why not? He has an imposing appearance.

Mrs. Harrison never touches wine, punch or liquor of any description, and if her wishes were carried out the strongest beverage served at the White House would be dinners and banquets would be apollinaris water. On the President's private table wine is never served.

The Logic of Events.

Life: Customer—Not long ago I came in here and bought a plaster to help me get rid of the incubus.

Clerk—Yes, sir; what can I do for you now?

Customer—I want something to help me get rid of the porous plaster.

A Lucky Postponement.

Rochester *Herald:* Wiggins, the weather and earthquake prophet, has graciously postponed the next great earthquake for Canada until August 17th, 1906. If Canada doesn't have an earthquake before that, then some of her statesmen are indulging in unnecessary apprehensions.

Yes, He Met Them.

New York *Herald:* Daggett—Hello, Cutting, did you meet any glorious "turnouts" in the Park this afternoon?

Cutting—Oh, yes, a sleigh full of pretty girls capsized.

Some New Words.

A "bibliocamon" is a book fiend; a "bibliopolyan," a book destroyer; a "bibliokleps," a book robber; and a "biblioripsos," one who throws books around.—*The Story of a Home.*

A Justifiable Case.

New York *Herald:* "I am going to turn over a new leaf," said the stranger, "and am going to leaf off——."

Then they rang for an ambulance and carried him off.

Among the prominent men who have passed to their reward during the present year may be mentioned Cardinal Newman, Cardinal Pecchi (brother of the Pope), Dr. Doellinger, Canon Liddon and Rev. Robert Laird Collier, all ecclesiastics of world-wide celebrity. Of military men Lord Napier of Magdala, and Major-Gen. Terry are perhaps the most famous who have died. Other names to be mentioned are those of August Belmont, the New York banker and politician; William III., King of Holland; the Duke of Aosta, ex-King of Spain; Adam Forepaugh, the famous showman; Captain Sir Richard Francis Burton, the African traveller and explorer; Sitting Bull, the Sioux chief, who was largely responsible for the Custer massacre; the Sultan of Zanzibar; General Salamanca, Captain-General of Cuba, and Dr. C. H. Peters, the eminent astronomer.

In a joint caucus of the Republicans of the Oregon House and Senate John H. Mitchell was nominated by acclamation United States Senator to succeed himself.

Chancellor Von Caprivi states that proposals for the abolition of corn dues made in the Reichstag will probably be shelved by being referred to the Budget Committee.

A crowd of about 600 Russian Hebrews, men, women and children, have landed at Dover with the intention of emigrating to the United States.

Dr. H. M. Lott, of London, Eng., has been appointed Professor of music in Trinity University.

It is reported that the Czar has ordered a postponement of the application of the anti-Semitic laws for three years, owing to the representations of financiers.

ATTENDING FUNERALS.

It is a Good and Wholesome Exercise—The Agnostic Editor.

It does a man good to attend a funeral. Solemn thoughts arouse the better natures of man. The peal of the church organ thrills the human frame and plunges its hearers into deeper thought. The presence of death unlocks the inner chamber of the heart, and the mantle of worldly charity to self is lifted. Self-inspection under a moral light follows, with a tinge of repentant feeling. Death teaches the duty of man to man and fosters soulful friendship between the living.

One night the news editor of a daily paper sat in his office telling stories with a friend. He had just finished relating a story of a young man who slept in a jewelry store in Kansas City, and awakening one night and finding a robber in the room managed to kill him with a rusty old sword. Then, placing one of the corpse's feet under each arm, he dragged his victim to the police station.

"What do you think of that, Bob?" said the friend, "that a man could do such a thing?"

"Oh, pshaw!" said the editor, "I presume he was like me. I have no horror of death. I would experience no different feeling, if a dead man were in this room, than I do with you here. I believe that if there was but one bed at my disposal and a corpse lay on that, I should make the corpse my partner and sleep with it. When a man is dead he is *non est*. I don't believe in a hereafter, and all this fine feeling over death is but the result of thousands of years of superstition."

When the editor finished his bold assertion, not a little braggingly, he went to bed again, and the friend departed. But a few nights afterwards the latter returned to pay another visit. As he entered the door he noticed a marked change in the usual bold, careless manner of the editor. The latter rose from his chair, and pressed his friend's hand tightly, and tears almost welled from his reddened eyes.

"Why, what is the matter?" asked his friend.

"My father died last night," answered the editor. "Sit down"; and when his friend was seated he continued: "I want to take back what I said the other night about death. I witnessed the most touching scene of life last night, and it made me cry like a child. My father and mother were both past 60 years of age. For months my father had been gradually sinking, but we did not expect the end so soon. The paper had just gone to press last night when I received word to come home immediately. When I reached home the end was very near. My mother sat at the head of the bed, bending over the emaciated form of my father, with tears streaming down her dear old face. I had been there but a moment when, with the last bit of strength left, he raised his arms and his lips moved as if he would speak. Tenderly she placed her arms around him and said: 'I understand you, Ben, but I can go no farther with you. We must part now, and you must go on alone, but I'll not be long coming, and we will meet again in heaven. Good bye, Ben.'

"The old man's lips moved faintly again, and he fell back on his pillow with a happy, resigned expression on his face. I can't believe those two old people will never meet again," concluded the editor with tears in his eyes.

This was but a stronger incident of the effect of death on the living. Few men, if any, have the worldly strength to make themselves believe that death cannot arouse a religious feeling within them. The funeral impresses the greatest truth of life—that it has an end, and thought of death suggests the question, whither?

A SEWER GAS EXPLOSION.

A Woman's Brains Dashed Out on the Street and Other Persons Hurt.

A Chicago despatch says: With a crash heard for a mile, and smashing plate glass windows for a radius of three blocks, a sewer man-hole exploded last evening at the intersection of Jackson street and Wabash avenue, when both thoroughfares were crowded with people. Dozens of persons were thrown from their feet by the force of the explosion, and a wild panic ensued. A number were injured by falling glass. In the crowd were many women. Mrs. C. R. Cross (colored) was killed outright. She was stepping nearly upon the man-hole when the cover flew up and she was slammed backwards against the curbing. Her skull was split open and her brains were scattered about in a circle. Those injured by glass were F. H. Mack, C. H. Stout, T. Sheldon, J. Karpiere, K. W. Waddell. None were dangerously hurt except Stoot, one of whose hands was nearly severed from the arm. An officer who is stationed at that corner had been standing on the man-hole cover almost continuously for hours. A night of way dispatch between teamsters caused him to change his position in the nick of time. Some attribute the explosion to sewer gas. Others think illuminating gas pipes sprang a leak, and the electric light wires caused the gas to ignite. A similar explosion with hardly less disastrous results occurred a year ago in almost the same locality.

Ladies' Footgear.

The newest embroidery for shoes is in gold thread like a spider's web, with a red and gold spider and a blue and white-headed fly.

Very fine floral embroidery is introduced on black shoes in pink and green beads.

Bands across the instep are new, and so are the suede shoes, covered with narrow stitched bands of a lighter shade. Tiny buckles are principally worn, with no bows at all.—*London Letter in Chicago News.*

Few and Far Between.

Chicago *Inter Ocean:* Now and then you come across men and women who remark, "I hate children." It is always safe to run a black line through the centre of their names and it is every relation in life give them a "wide berth." A man or woman who "hates" innocent childhood treads the riskiest path of any man or woman in all this universe.

Frightful Scandal.

"Dreadful scandal about Dr. Pulz."

"So?"

"He claims to be a bachelor, but I heard yesterday he'd buried 19 wives."

"Horrible!"

"Yes, isn't it? Other men's wives, I mean, of course."

That's So.

Ottawa *Journal:* If Mr. Plimsoll's charges have not been substantiated with regard to inhuman treatment of cattle in the Canadian export trade, they have certainly developed a great deal of useful information regarding inhumanity to human beings.

"For Sale by Druggists."

A Berlin cable says: It is officially announced that the public sale of the Koch lymph will soon be entrusted to druggists throughout this country.

He Was Sceptical.

New York *Sun:* Old Robinson (reading)—The average height of the Wellesley College girl is 119½ pounds.

Young Robinson—H'm! I'd like to go up to Wellesley and test that statement.

He'd Never Get It.

Life "Drop me a line," yelled the drowning man.

"Will you pay the rates?" said the humorist on the dock. "There's no post office where you are going."

As an example how the heritage of the people was bestowed upon favorites in ye olden times, we publish a clipping from the Dundee *People's Journal* which has been sent us:

"I, Malcolm Kanmore, King, the first of my reign, gives to thee, Barron Hunter, upper and nether Powmade, with all the lands within the flood, with the stack and the Haskions, and all the bounds up and down, above the earth to Heaven, and all below the earth to hell, free to thee and thine as ever God gave to me and mine, and that for a bow and a brod arrow when I come to shoot upon Yarrow, and for the mate with I bite the white wax with my teeth before Margret my wife, and Moll my nurse.

"His subscribtur,
"1097. MALCOLM KANMORE, King.
"MARGARET, Witness.
"MOLL, Witness."

Miss Hulda Friederichsen, who expects to come across the water soon to write up the Irish question in America for a London newspaper, is well known as a writer for British journals. She is a German girl, still under 30, and is master of several languages.

The United States Senate had a continuous session of 30 hours on Friday and Saturday, caused by the Republicans trying to push through the "Force" Bill. Tonight the Republican Senators intend having a caucus to consider the question of introducing closure, so as to be able to choke off Democratic discussion.

FROZEN TO DEATH.

Indian Pupils Desert School and Perish in the Snowdrifts.

A Kingfisher, O. T., despatch says: There is trouble at the Kiowa Indian school at Anadarko, Wichita agency. On the 9th inst. the principal of the school punished a girl [illegible] persuaded two other Indian pupils to run away from school with him. Their absence was noticed that evening, but the principal supposed the boys had merely gone to the camp of their parents, two miles away. On Saturday the teacher went in pursuit of the truants, but they were not found. Their parents were notified, and their Indian friends started in search of them. The lads were found on Sunday all frozen to death, one, 10 years of age, being twenty miles from school. The others, three or four years older, were found within the next ten miles. It is supposed the boys lost their way in a heavy snow storm. When the principal learned of the boys' fate, fearing the vengeance of the Indians, he fled, and has not since been heard from. A report was brought here to-day that 400 or 500 angry Indians are camped near the agency, and threaten to burn the school building and to kill the principal if he can be found. An application has been made to the commanding officer at Fort Sill for troops to prevent any outbreak.

LAMP-POSTS OF PARIS.

They are Artistic and Kept in Perfect Order.

Paris has about 1300 miles of gas mains and pipes, and consumes in the manufacture of gas over 1,000,000 tons of coal yearly. There are over 50,000 gas lamps, consuming different quantities of gas, according to the importance of the locality. With a population of about 2,225,000, the city consumed in 1889 312,258,070 cubic metres of gas. The lanterns are mostly circular, that form being preferred as casting the least shadow, and of glass beautifully white and clear. Reflectors are commonly used, as it is estimated that they increase the light 30 per cent. The lamp posts are of bronzed iron, and great attention is paid to artistic form and solidity of posts. They taper gracefully upward from a conical base to the lantern, which is itself handsomely ornamented and surmounted usually by a castellated design. They are from eight to about ten feet in height, and the gas company is required to keep them, as well as the lanterns, in perfect order.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Grace Before Meat.

BY WILLIAM MURRAY, HAMILTON.

Thanks, O God! to Thee for these
Tokens of Thy care;
And for what our souls can seize
Of the joys above.

Bless these earthly mercies, Lord,
For our health and strength,
And to us and Council accord
Heaven itself at length.

Our unholy spirits cleanse
In Thy living lake,
And forgive us all our sins
For our Saviour's sake. Amen.

New Year's Greeting.

Here is a very good one. It went through the mail to-day, printed on a tag, attached to which was the cork of a champagne bottle:

May merry yule,
Of bumper joys be full.

I'd like to crack a bottle, friend,
With you, for, faith, 'twill be a treat,
And as I wet my throttle, friend,
Drink joy to thee and thine.

Tho' cash I can't out-fork, my friend,
Kind hearts are more than wealth
So let us smell the cork, my friend,
And sniff each others health;

Wishing you a very happy new year.

He Spoke Feelingly.

What was considered a very good joke by the professional men who heard it at a recent dinner in this city, where the reporters were conspicuous by their absence, has just leaked out. One of these latter newspaper men was responding to the toast of "The Ladies," and was treating the subject in a unique way. After paying the usual compliments to the softer sex, he said:

"I tell you, gentlemen, a great deal has been said and written about the women in all ages, but I am going to touch on an important branch of the subject by speaking of the mother-in-law——"

Just then one of the gentlemen interrupted the speaker with, "But how is it if a man has two?"

"Ah, how feelingly you speak!" was the happy rejoinder, all the more happy from the fact that the interrupter is blessed with a brace of healthy mothers-in-law who make his home a paradise.

Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo.

Here are some interesting statistics of three cities which spell their names with a big B: Boston contains $822,026,100 of taxable property and $26,592,400 of property exempt from taxation. The rate per $1,000 is $13.20. Brooklyn's assessed valuation is $452,758,601, an increase over 1890 of $24,274,920. Its net debt is $38,131,565, an increase of $3,492,023. In other words its net debt is $1 for every $12.87 of valuation. The net debt of Buffalo is $9,986,736, an increase of $245,670 over 1890.

Rather Realistic.

Exchange: The gamins of the city are crazy over the Eyraud trial, and crowds are gathering about the Palais de Justice and every convenient corner singing the new popular ditty:

She lured the man into her lair, tra-la,
And her lover he strangled him there, tra-la;
With a kiss and a hug
And a mops and a mugs
They did the job neatly and well;
Oh! La Belle Gabrielle!
They knew that he carried a cheque, tra-la,
And to grab it they twisted his neck, tra-la;
For poor old Geoffe there was "old Nick" to pay
For I hear she had worked him up to S—ll
Through La Belle Gabrielle.

The Perfection of Politeness.

A writer in the New York *Star* narrates an instance of what he terms the perfection of politeness. A little girl had upset a glass of water at table in presence of company, and her eyes filled with tears. Instantly the host upset his own glass with a crash that drew the gaze of all, to the infinite relief of the childish guest, and peace was happily restored. The incident was pretty, and the sympathetic thoughtfulness which it revealed was beyond all commendation.

At the Marriage Bureau.

Buffalo *News:* Elderly Gent—I want to consult with you about getting me a suitable wife.

Agent—All right, sir; I think I can accommodate you.

What are your charges? I'd like to know that before going any farther.

Well, you see that depends on yourself. Do you want a wife with or without a mother-in-law?

Dr. Dodd's Death.

New York *Times:* When the Rev. Dr. Stephen Dodd died, an East Haven poet took upon himself the duty of writing a suitable epitaph, and here is what he presented, with due respect, to the widow:

"Here lies the body of Dr. Dodd,
Have mercy on his soul, O God;
Almighty God, do unto Dodd
As Dodd would do if he were God."

The Sole Condition.

Life: "Gentlemen," said the Governor, who had been petitioned to extend executive clemency to a prisoner convicted of poisoning her husband, "I will pardon this woman, but only on one condition."

"And that is——?

"That she shall not go on the stage."

Always Acceptable.

Buffalo *News:* "Stop, Charlie, don't ask me. I've always regarded you as a good joke, that all," said the fair maiden.

"Well, I tell you what," returned Charlie, "you'd better snap me right up. Good jokes are hard to find nowadays."

John was Able.

New Haven *News:* An Apt Pupil.—Mrs. Youngbusband—Now that it is the new year, John, I hope that you will be able to say no; and by the way, won't you let me have a little money?

John (heroically)—No.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has 97,715 members at present, an increase of 9,819 in 1890.

An extensive phosphate deposit is said to have been discovered in Longhboro' township.

An eminent German has been counting the number of hairs in human heads of differing colors. In a blonds one he found 140,400, in a brown 109,440, in a black 102,962, and in a red one 88,740.

A private despatch from Santiago states that the Chilian naval forces have started a revolution.

NATURAL GAS PERILS.

A Hotel Wrecked, Several Persons Killed and Many Wounded.

A Findlay, O., despatch says: The first great disaster Findlay has ever experienced from the use of natural gas occurred shortly before noon to-day. While the guests of the Hotel Merwin were waiting to be summoned to dinner, it was discovered that gas was escaping from a leak somewhere into the dining-room. Mr Marvin, the owner of the building, with three plumbers, spent the entire forenoon trying to locate the leak. About 10 o'clock they entered a chamber under the dining-room and found such an accumulation of gas that they could not breathe, and it was suggested that a hole be sawed through the floor into the dining room in order to obtain fresh air. This was done, and just as the hole was made one of the dining-room girls, who was sweeping the floor, stepped upon a match, and in an instant an explosion occurred which not only wrecked the building, but killed two girls and maimed and injured a dozen other employees. The force of the explosion was so great that it blew out the flame of the ignited gas, and no fire followed the awful ruin which the shock caused. The whole city was shaken by the concussion, and all the windows on the square were demolished, while the wreck of the hotel building was all but complete. The only rooms in the house escaping destruction were the parlors and the office. Had the explosion occurred half an hour later the loss of life would have been frightful, as nearly a hundred people were waiting in the rooms to be called to dinner. When the work of removing the dead and rescuing the dying was begun, it was found that Katie Walters, a waitress, had been killed outright; Ella Johnson, a dining-room girl, was found alive under a mass of brick and mortar, but she died shortly afterward; Kate Rooney, another dining-room girl, was also fatally injured, but is still alive; Frank Poundstone, day clerk, painfully bruised and cut about the neck and face, but he will recover; Anson Marvin, owner of the building, who was with the plumbers under the dining-room floor when the explosion occurred, was probably fatally injured, as a great deal of the flame from the gas was inhaled; Albert French, porter of the hotel, seriously but not fatally hurt; Frank Andrews, one of the plumbers, had his right eye knocked out and is badly bruised. The three plumbers were painfully hurt, but not seriously. The loss is about $35,000, covered by insurance.

THE CHILIAN TROUBLES.

The Revolution Does Not Affect the Land Forces at All.

Iquique, Chili, advices say that when the Chilian navy revolted it was expected it would be seconded by the troops in Antofagasta and Caldera, but the soldiers remained faithful, with the rest of the army, to the Government. Several prominent members of Congress are said to be with the revolutionists. Captain Moust has been appointed commander-in-chief of the forces, and the commander of the ironclad Huascar has been replaced by a former commander of the cruiser Esmeralda. Admiral Vieland and other admirals remain loyal and are preparing to defend Valparaiso. The Government of Chili, has offered two years' pay and amnesty to those who have been unwillingly led into the revolt who will submit to the Government. "Pisagua and Calete Buena, and probably Arica, will be blockaded on an after January 25th. It is reported provisions are becoming very scarce in Iquique.

A Fiendish Husband.

A Dublin cable says: At Magharafelt, Tyrone, yesterday, a farmer who had not been on good terms with his wife attempted to kill her. He broke a hole in the ice and, dragging the woman to the spot, plunged her head foremost into the icy water, her feet alone being visible, struggling frantically [illegible] almost drowned. When rescued by some farm hands the victim was insensible and still with cold. After being taken to her home under skilfull treatment she was restored to life. A short time after regaining consciousness she gave birth to a stillborn child. The woman is in a critical condition. Her brutal husband was arrested and narrowly escaped death at the hands of his enraged neighbors.

A Big Land Slide.

A Tacoma despatch says: A disastrous landslide occurred on the line of the Northern Pacific last night at Palmer's, 43 miles from this city. A mountain of earth and dirt now covers the tracks of the road for a distance of over 300 yards, and travel has been completely shut off. The roadbed of the line in the vicinity of the accident is practically laid on the side of a huge bluff. On Friday night the rain made inroads upon the bank, and two hours before midnight hundreds of tons of earth and rock fell upon the road-bed For a distance of over 900 feet along the tracks the fallen earth averages a depth of 10 feet. There is no way to build around the slide and passengers are transferred.

The Scotch Strikers' Parade.

A Sunday's London cable says: Thirty thousand trades' unionists paraded in Edinburgh yesterday as a demonstration of sympathy with the railroad strikers. The processionists were orderly, and were cheered by tens of thousands of persons who lined the streets. Banners were carried bearing such mottoes as "No Surrender," "Fight for Your Rights," "Fair Pay for a Fair Day's Work." There seems to be no prospect of an early termination of the railroad strike, which has now lasted four weeks.

The Southwestern Railway employees having refused to rejoin the strikers the men are losing heart and gradually returning to work.

The Chilian Revolution.

A telegram containing further news of the rebellion in Chili has just been received in London by way of Buenos Ayres. It says a number of the naval rebels had disembarked at Coquimbo, and the troops were trying to surround the insurgents and isolate them from loyal districts. The despatch adds that President Balmaceda has issued a manifesto energetically asserting his authority and refuting the insurgents' pretensions.

The *Chronicle* urges the Government to strengthen the navy in the Pacific so as to guard the British subjects in Chili. The paper adds that nothing should be neglected while the difficulty with America and the trouble in the South exist.

Four Men Dashed to Death.

A Troy, N. Y., despatch says: Yesterday morning a terrible accident occurred at Split Rock quarry, six miles north of Westport, on Lake Champlain, four men being killed outright and two so badly injured that they may die. A loaded car on the tramway used in lowering the granite to the lake started down the steep incline. For some reason the man at the brake left his post, and the car dashed down the grade at frightful speed. The car crashed into a group of persons consisting of the two sons of Supt. Robertson, aged 12 and 17 years, the engineer and three quarrymen. Both the Robertson boys, the engineer and one quarryman were instantly killed.

Severe Self-Judgment.

Toronto *Grip:* Quickflash, sen. (to his son)—Don't you think you could make yourself useful by dressing off this snow?

Quickflash, jun.—As rather queer job, don't you think, for the son of a gentleman?

Quickflash, sen. (exploding)—Son of a jackass, you mean!

Cold Comfort.

New York *Weekly:* Mrs. De Sotte (musingly)—Three of the girls I went to school with have eloped from their husbands.

Mr. De Sotte (suspiciously)—Hum Perhaps you would like to be the fourth.

Mrs. De Sotte (assuredly)—Oh, no, I couldn't leave the children.

Quite an Item.

Puck: Closefist (to wholesale manager)—Have you made up the list of things in our line affected by the tariff?

Manager—Yes, sir; everything, save one item, has risen enormously.

Closefist—And what item is that?

Manager—Salaries!

Encouraging.

Rochester *Herald:* A man in Philadelphia was singing a song about Parnell the other night when an Irishman present hit the singer on the head and knocked his skull. Such a result is most deplorable, but then some men are very poor singers.

Mrs. H. E. Houghton, of Spokane Falls, is worth $600,000, a fortune that has been made within six years from an original investment of $100. She is hardly 30 years old and her husband is a lawyer.

"THE LAPSED MASSES."

The members of the Hamilton Ministerial Association are going to try to find out, at their next meeting, why so many people do not go to church. Rev. John Morton will read a paper on "The Church and Her Estranged Children," and other ministers will give their views. The question is one that has puzzled laymen, and [illegible] able to decide it. Perhaps there is not church-room for the whole population of a city like this, but it is certain that all the available room is not utilized. Whose fault is it? Are the people to blame? Or the preachers? Or is the system of religion at fault? Do those who attend the churches act in such a way as to keep others out? Or are the non-church going people too proud, too stingy, too lazy or too ignorant to cast in their lot with those who compose the congregations?

The seats in the churches are comfortable. The music is, as a rule, excellent. The services are short and not tedious, and they are held at convenient hours. We can sympathise with the inclination of a workingman to lie abed on Sunday morning, after having been obliged to breakfast by lamplight the other six mornings, in order to get to his work at 7 a.m., but surely he could get his sleep out and be tidied up before 11 o'clock, and he must have been stirring long before the 7 p.m. service begins. In some cases the lack of good clothes and of money to put on the plate may deter from attendance at church, but we noticed that working