

A MEMORY.

Last night, as I sat in the shadows... That gleam on wood and hill...

FRENCH GAS.

It was on the seventh night, half way up the fourth flight, that I met...

It was a long document. From the beginning to the argument proper...

In France there is much that is controlled by law. Among other things...

When he left, he gave him a good American handshake. Sally and I...

With a dozen or so candles around his head... "By next week at the latest," said I...

Again the faithful Sally met me on the stairs, this time in smiles and her best brodered apron.

"My dear madame," said he, with one hand on his heart, very like an American.

"Oh," said I, innocently. "Well, just make out the receipt, and I will pay the deposit."

He was right; it was not easy. I came to this conclusion when he went away, papers and all, about nightfall.

A few days later I thought the chamber of deputies had strayed from their quarters when Sally ushered in five large, round Frenchmen in heavy overcoats and high silk hats.

I was "so small, so inexperienced; nothing but a poor little foreigner!" "Did I know that gas was a very dangerous thing?"

"But, gentlemen," I ventured to remark, "in America we have gas in all the bedrooms."

"Impossible!" thundered the five. "Contrary to all law." "It would be dangerous to children."

Overwhelmed for a time, I feebly wondered if we did have gas in all the bedrooms. The big five, outwardly polite, but inwardly convinced...

The big five dropped in often to cheer the work along and admire its progress. Toward the end I could see they felt worried about leaving a family of helpless foreigners alone with the gas.

He taught me how to light the gas with the aid of a match, and how to turn it off. I was obliged to solemnly repeat the formula after him, and prove my proficiency by going through the motions.

We will pass over the return of Sally's Gen. Boulanger with a bill of seven dollars and twenty cents for the government stamps that went on the documents which described, in six lines that made me thoroughly appreciate the people who once made tea in Boston harbor.

We had only been trying to enjoy the gas for a few weeks when there was a murder epidemic in Paris. It culminated in a horrible affair; the inhabitants of a small apartment were murdered in their beds—servant, child and all.

It is said that a Paris electrician has succeeded in forcing violets by means of electric batteries. The first bunch of these flowers was sent to the ex-Empress Eugenie, as the violet was emblematic of the empire.

NOVELTIES IN SLOT MACHINES.

There seems to be no end to the ingenuity of inventors in that line. "The slot and nickel business is yet in its infancy," remarked a Jerseyman who is engaged in manufacturing automatic machinery...

"The first slot machine I remember seeing was a race course in a southern hotel. A nickel started the horses. I think I first saw the machine in 1873, and I believe it to be one of the first devices of the kind in this country."

"I recently had a queer call from a man who wants to be a monopolist. He asked me if I could devise an automatic machine to sell hot Frankfurter sausages, and I told him that I thought I could."

"I know of weighing machines which take in from \$18 to \$20 a week. Now, there is an impression abroad that automatic machines are receptacles for bad coins, brass checks and other things which will operate the levers."

"The fact that consumption can be cured is daily becoming more and more impressed on the mind of the layman. One of the simplest and best methods of fighting this dread malady is by coming in contact with a poisonous plant."

"Removing Shine from Cloth. To remove shine from black silks and diagonals, lay the garment on a table and with a flannel wet with elder vinegar rub the shiny places well until they have disappeared."

"The Most Wonderful Kittens. A most wonderful toy has been on private exhibition in Paris. Fancy seven life sized kittens, covered with real skin, but with eyes of emerald set in pearly white enamel and each playing on a musical instrument—a flute, a zither, a violin, a drum, a harp, a cornet and an accordion, all perfectly harmonized and playing the most difficult operas, then you have the picture complete."

"Slaying English Sparrows. The English sparrows increase so rapidly that they have become a nuisance. In Chicago a prize of two cents is paid for the head of each sparrow killed. Last year 20,000 sparrows' heads were paid for. The \$400 was divided among 215 boys. An ingenious paragrapher in Chicago makes this computation: 'Here, then, is the summing up of the first season of sparrow law: Two hundred and fifteen target guns, at an average cost of three dollars each, \$465; ammunition for same, \$64.50; doctors' bills for little girls wounded by mistake, \$430; total expense, \$1,199.50. From which deduct \$400—total receipts—and it is seen the sparrow law is worth \$799.50 to the fathers of Chicago, and not a noticeably bad thing for the sparrows.'"

"Electricity and Horticulture. It is said that a Paris electrician has succeeded in forcing violets by means of electric batteries. The first bunch of these flowers was sent to the ex-Empress Eugenie, as the violet was emblematic of the empire."

"Consumption Cured by Warm Milk. The fact that consumption can be cured is daily becoming more and more impressed on the mind of the layman. One of the simplest and best methods of fighting this dread malady is by coming in contact with a poisonous plant."

"Does the Plover Plant Eat Meat? Notwithstanding the admitted fact that bits of meat, insects and other animal substances are more quickly decomposed in the leaves and other trap like appendages of the plover plant, various insect eating plants, that they are in open air, there is a body of scientists who deny that the plants themselves have any agency in the matter, or exercise any vital power in capturing the prey that falls in their nets."

"Jealous of His Donkey. Although jealousy is the most unreasonable of passions, few persons fear the rivalry of creatures far beneath them in the scale of being. It would be possible, one would think, to be jealous of a man, but not of a donkey. Mr. T. A. Trollope writes: 'We took one morning a little excursion to Tusculum, on which my wife rode a donkey, belonging to a very respectable point where it was desirable to draw rein in order to enjoy the lovely and varied views. The donkey, who, no doubt, knew all these halting places as well as his master, once turned aside from the path, in a very business like fashion, and planted himself before a gate from which a specially pleasing outlook was to be seen. My wife, thinking to please the man, said: 'How well your donkey knows his business. He came of himself to this lovely view, just as if he enjoyed it.' But the effect of her words was very startling. The man became suddenly and furiously angry. 'No, not he! I—I know how to make ladies and gentlemen see the views, and all that is to be seen. He!—he is an ass, and knows nothing. I—I am the guide!' he cried again and again. The beast is an ass, I tell you! He knows nothing.' In short, he was furiously jealous of his donkey, and bitterly resented the compliments paid the beast's sagacity as so much taken from his own praises."—San Francisco Argonaut.

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FROM THE STATUE TO ASPINWALL.

A Lively Voyage Graphically Described by a Lady Tourist. Precisely 998 miles from the Goddess of Liberty and her uplifted torch lies San Salvador, the little island where Columbus made his first landing in the New World.

A few hours later we reach Fortune Island, at which point, if the weather be favorable, letters may be put off, to be afterward picked up by some northward bound steamer of the Atlas or Pacific Mail lines. But nobody is advised to pin his faith on the reliability of this postal service in communications of importance, such, for example, as a lady's proposal to your sweetheart or words of reconciliation to a one time friend.

About thirty miles beyond Fortune Island the nodding of palms that fringe the shore of Jamaica may be seen, "through a glass darkly," if you happen to reach the place on a clear day in the passage between that island and the western end of Cuba. None need be told when the Caribbean sea is entered, for the fact is at once emphatically attested by the boisterous waves.

But nobody ever dies of seasickness, though its victims may wish themselves a thousand leagues below. It is surprising how the slight glimpse of land acts as a curative. The moment Manzanillo Island leaves into view, the most helpless and hopeless of an hour before begin to bestir themselves and presently appear upon deck. And here we are at last, bumping against the dock at Aspinwall.—Fannie B. Ward in St. Louis Republic.

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Notwithstanding the admitted fact that bits of meat, insects and other animal substances are more quickly decomposed in the leaves and other trap like appendages of the plover plant, various insect eating plants, that they are in open air, there is a body of scientists who deny that the plants themselves have any agency in the matter, or exercise any vital power in capturing the prey that falls in their nets. Dr. Mosted is one of these skeptics. He favors the idea that the decomposition of the imprisoned insect is owing to chemical action simply, and that the effect is produced in almost exactly the same way that a person is poisoned by coming in contact with a poisonous plant.—St. Louis Republic.

To remove shine from black silks and diagonals, lay the garment on a table and with a flannel wet with elder vinegar rub the shiny places well until they have disappeared. It does not matter how wet the garment gets. Hang it up in the shade to dry, and the shiny places, made as a new garment look old, will have disappeared, leaving it as fresh and crisp as if just from the store.—New York Journal.

A most wonderful toy has been on private exhibition in Paris. Fancy seven life sized kittens, covered with real skin, but with eyes of emerald set in pearly white enamel and each playing on a musical instrument—a flute, a zither, a violin, a drum, a harp, a cornet and an accordion, all perfectly harmonized and playing the most difficult operas, then you have the picture complete. The mechanism is similar to that of a music box, and the whole apparatus, kittens et al., is valued at 20,000 francs.—St. Louis Republic.

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