

HENRIK IBSEN.

The Great Norwegian Writer Was 70 Years Old the Other Day.

Ibsen clubs and various other literary and dramatic organizations the world over recently celebrated the 70th birthday of Henrik Ibsen, the great Norwegian writer.

Ibsen was born in the little town of Skien, in a mountainous region of Norway, and his early life was passed under restrictions that were far from having a tendency to develop the latent genius of the boy.

His education was received in a private school under the conduct of two theological students, and later in the university of Christiania.

While at college, and even before, he had done considerable writing, and his plays were so well received that, at the close of his college career, he was engaged as dramatic manager of the principal theater of the country.

He continued here until the Danes got into trouble with the Prussians in 1864. Then he became disgusted at his own countrymen for not joining the Danes, and began to write caustic epigrams.

His railings accomplished nothing, but he himself became so disgusted that he left the country and remained in Rome and Dresden about twenty-five years.

He wrote many books, and for each there was always a ready sale. His writings have been translated into several languages, and when it becomes known that Ibsen has a new book coming there is a great stir among all classes of people, and the wonder is what the book is to be about.

This is a secret that is withheld even from the members of his own family. In his home life Ibsen is a bundle of peculiarities. He has a wife and son, who is a doctor of philosophy, and is married into one of the most distinguished families in the country.

His home is bright and cheerful. His study is a cosy little corner, stored with a collection of well-selected and well-marked books, affording ample conveniences and comforts within, and looking upon a panorama of magnificent scenery without.

He is a man of moods. If you can catch him in the humor, you can get from him readily one day what no amount of persuasion could wring from him the next.

In the throes of composition he is absolutely inaccessible. He never goes to church, and does not believe in church organizations. He thinks well of Americans, and frequently talks of making an American tour.



HENRIK IBSEN.

Honor this morning, of all the days in the year, for, sure, didn't I drame last night that Her Ladyship gave me a pound of tay and Yer Honor gave me a pound of tobacco?"

"But, my good woman," said the general, "do you not know that dreams always go by the rules of contrary?"

"Do they so, please Yer Honor?" rejoined the old woman. "Then it must be Yer Honor that will give me the tay and Her Ladyship that will give me the tobacco."—Chicago News.

EMBRYONIC TORNADO.

Singular Phenomenon Witnessed at and Near New Orleans.

A singular phenomenon recently met the eyes of the good burghers of New Orleans, La. Some excitedly called out that it was a cyclone, others called it a waterspout, and still others dubbed it whirlwind and tornado. Whatever it



THE WONDERFUL CLOUD.

was, it was, at all events, very active and menacing for a quarter of an hour, and kept a large portion of the community in painful suspense until it disappeared. The whatever-it was appeared dramatically over Lake Pontchartrain, darting down in a livid, sulphurous haze, and hanging down like a great blue black icicle from a heavy black pall of cloud.

Although a great distance from the center of the city, it could be seen that the cloud cylinder was revolving at a terrible clip in space. For a while it hung gracefully pendant, then by force the centrifugal action began to lift at the bottom until it had assumed the shape of an enormous sickle, thrust down angrily from heaven, ready to mow away all before it.

The next change was one of gradual dissolution, the tall curling up and then flying off at right angles to the eastward in thin black vermiculate streamers like snakes. At one time in the process of dissolution it looked as if it were going to reform, but of a sudden gave over the idea and melted away in space, much as a cloudlet does in the blue of a summer day.

As soon as the cloud had dissolved, or drawn back into the big nimbus from which it was born, heavy showers of rain fell from opposite ends of the mother cloud and soon cleared the atmosphere.

Douglass' Compliment to Lincoln. Fred Douglass, with all his long experience, never could entirely rid himself of stage fright. "During the fifteen minutes when I front an audience," he said, "my knees will knock together."

But when he got fairly going this not uncommon nervousness, which all speakers have sometimes felt, would pass away. He puts his points well in any argument, and his eloquence was of a high order. His tribute, in one sentence, to Abraham Lincoln, is an unsurpassed compliment.

"Mr. Lincoln," he said, "is the only white man into whose presence I ever ushered who did not make me feel that I was a negro."—Harper's Magazine.

Railroad Building in China. For more than a year work has been going on on fourteen miles of railroad from Shanghai to Woosung and the grading has not yet been finished. Not a tie or a rail has been laid. Only Chinese workmen are employed.

About a month or two ago the first sod was turned at Hankow for the Hankow-Peking Railway, but its further prosecution depends upon the success of the Belgian syndicate in floating a proposed loan for its construction.

Sampler 132 Years Old. A Seaport (Me.) man has an old-time linen sampler, worked with silk, which is inscribed: "Bluebill Bay, July 9, 1766; Phoebe Parker." The sampler is of coarse linen, such as young ladies used to work 200 years ago.

Two Voices. His Northern Brother. Just make it two, old fellow! I want to stand once more beneath the old flag with you. As in the days of yore.

Our fathers stood together. And fought on land and sea. The battles fierce that made us a nation of the free.

I whipped you down at Vicksburg. You licked me at Bull Run. On many a field we struggled, when neither victory won. You wore the gray of Southland, I wore the Northern blue.

Like men we did our duty. When screaming bullets flew. Four years we fought like devils. But when the war was done Your hand met mine in friendly clasp. Our two hearts bent as one.

And now when danger threatens, No North, no South, we know. Once more we stand together To fight the common foe.

My hand, like yours, is frosty—old age is creeping on; Life's sun is lower sinking. My day will soon be gone. But if our country's honor Needs once again her son, I'm ready, too, old fellow—So get another gun.

—Atlanta Constitution.

THE GUARDSMAN



My brother Jim, he's in the regiment, an' he says he's goin' down to fight. Soo as the soldiers ever start, an' gee! Maybe they'll go to fight!



But ma, she says she don't want him to go. 'Cause she's afraid, I guess. An' so, las' night, she was cryin' so when Jim said that an'less she'd want to have a coward for a son, he'd have to go an' fight.



But she seem'd just like she never would get done. But cried an' cried all night.



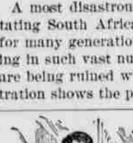
An' sis told Jim that if they went away she thought it was a shame. An' cried when Jim said 'I was a lucky day to show that we are game.'



Sis liked Jim in his suit an' cap an' so I thought she wouldn't care, but she took on an' cried just like as though he's goin' to die down there!



But pa, you know he never said a word, just like he couldn't talk. But just shook hands with Jim, like this, real hard. An' went to take a walk.



An' bimeby I went out to try an' meet 'em. The kids, you know, an' do something, an' pa was walkin' up the street. An' he was tryin' too!

FRANK X. THINEGAR.

WHERE WATER IS SCARCE.

A Disastrous Drouth Is Devastating South Africa.

A most disastrous drought is devastating South Africa, the worst known for many generations. Stock is perishing in such vast numbers that farmers are being ruined wholesale.

The illustration shows the process of boring for water. At a little expense the Cape government provides an apparatus for the use of the farming community and drilling operations are in progress in nearly all parts of the country.

It is generally believed that there is abundance of water at a depth of from fifty to a hundred feet, but the finds are few and weak. Unlike Australia there are no subterranean rivers to tap.

The hope of the farmer lies in the conservation of the rainfall, which, if not stored in dams, quickly runs off into the "sluts" and "spruits," and leaves the parched earth but little refreshed.

In many places the drinking supplies regularly fall short and the farmers are reduced to the thick, opaque contents of a dam. In the remoter districts the Boers experience this acutely.

A Boer recently called at an Englishman's house while on a journey and asked for a drink. The Englishman had a good supply and gave him a sparkling draught. The Dutchman was greatly surprised and in his kitchen "taal" expressed himself highly delighted with such a sweet drink, as he observed, "it had neither taste nor smell."

MESSAGE THAT MEANT DEATH. The Famous "No Rent" Poster Which Landed Many Irishmen in Prison.

Here is a relic of a time made exciting by "agitation" in Ireland. It is the famous "No Rent" poster, which was one of the features of the movement of 1881 that landed so many ardent Irishmen in prison.

The National League of Ireland, the executive committee of which issued and signed this remarkable document, was opposing landlordism by coercing the tenantry into not paying rent.

Such tenants as were known to intend to defy the National League and to pay had these "no rent" posters nailed to the doors. In the corners were certain terrifying sentences. "Your fate is certain if you pay rent.—Capt. Moonlight," was the sentiment in one, while the other showed a coffin bearing beneath it the cheering inscription, "This

is your coffin.—Rory of the Hills." The men who issued the posters were imprisoned for their offenses, but the country was placarded as durng during their imprisonment as before.

Now a copy of one of these posters is as scarce as hen's teeth, and, though not a bit artistic, they are treasured by poster collectors as if they were printed in letters of gold after a design by some master draughtsman.

HOUSE WITH A HISTORY. Structure Which Has More than Common Interest for Masons.

In Canton, N. Y., stands a house which has more than a common interest for the masons of the country. It shows, in the first place, "the royal arch," which seems to be of a shape of mystic meaning to the order.

And in the second place, it was built to flout the principles of its builder, Paul Boynton, in the faces of his enemies, the anti-Masons.

Boynton came to Canton in 1831 and was prominently identified with the Masonic order. About that time a crusade against the organization started; there were pamphlets published on "Masonry Exposed" and the like. In the excitement one prominent opponent of the Masons disappeared and his comrades alleged foul play.

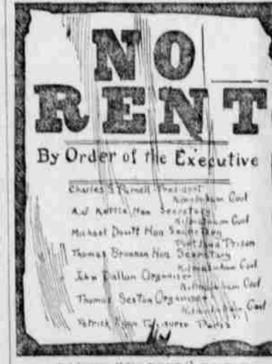
Boynton's house was burned in the trouble that followed. Boynton forthwith built another house. It is the "royal arch house," which is still standing. Along the cornice over each arch there are characters carved unknown to any but royal arch Masons.

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The King glanced at the precious paper and then laughed heartily, after which he went on to explain that this carefully guarded and highly prized document was merely a fire insurance policy drawn up for a Chinese company by some Siamese firm, and that his own signature, which it bore, was such as all similar documents contain. It was, moreover, written by one of his secretaries detailed for that work.

That document is not so highly prized as it was. Definition of Eternity. Here is a schoolboy's definition of eternity: "When our ships all come in; when the sea gives up her dead; when Father Time hangs up his scythe; when the heavens are rolled up like a scroll; when Gabriel blows the ram's horn; when the solar system collapses; when we find the lost Charlie Ross and the man who struck Billy Patterson; when Johnny gets his gun; when society becomes pure; and after the ball is over—then will be eternity."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.



FAMOUS "NO RENT" POSTER.

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RIVER DIVISION. Steamers "Albany" and "Wm. M. Hoag," newly furnished, leave Albany daily (except Saturdays) at 7:45 a. m., arriving at Portland the same day at 9 p. m.

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