

THE FENCING BELLES OF BOSTON.

The Boston girl more graceful grows, Her blood in healthier heart beats flows, Because the arts of foil she knows...

THAT PICTURE.

During five or six years Marcel had worked at that famous painting which he affirmed should represent the crossing of the Red sea, and for five or six years this masterpiece of color had been obstinately refused by the jury at the annual salon.

So, from force of habit in going and coming so often from the studio to the museum and from the museum to the studio, the picture knew the road so well that, if one had set it on wheels, it would have been able to go all alone to the Louvre.

Marcel, who had ten times repainted and rearranged this canvas from top to bottom, attributed to a personal hostility of the members of the jury against himself the ostracism which rejected it annually from the Square salon, and in his idle moments he had composed in honor of the Cerberuses of the institute a little dictionary of curses with some illustrations of a savage ferocity.

For a long time Marcel was not discouraged by the determined rejections which he received at each annual exhibition. He was comfortably settled in the opinion that his picture was, in its least proportions, the long sought for pendant to the "Marriage Feast at Cana," that gigantic masterpiece whose brilliant splendor the dust of three centuries has not been able to tarnish.

distinguished him, the Jew divined that he had arrived at a propitious moment. In fact, the four friends found themselves at that moment met in council and under the presidency of a ferocious appetite they were discussing the grave question of bread and meat.

"M. Marcel," said Medicis, "I have come here solely to make your fortune. That is to say, I've come to offer you a superb chance to enter the artistic world. Art, as you well know, M. Marcel, is an arid road of which glory is the oasis."

"Go on, Medicis," said Marcel, displaying his painting. "I wish to leave to yourself the honor of fixing the price of this work, which is beyond all price."

The Jew placed on the table 50 crowns in beautiful new silver pieces. "Go on," said Marcel; "that is only the advance guard."

"M. Marcel," said Medicis, "you will know I shall add nothing. Reflect! Fifty crowns. That makes 150 francs. That's a sun, that is!"

"A feeble sum," replied the artist. "Why, know that my first word is always my last, merely in the robe of my Pharaoh there are 50 crowns' worth of cobalt. Pay me at least the material. Equalize those piles, round up the figures, and I will call you Leo X."

"Here's my last word," said the Jew. "I'll not add a sou more, but I offer a dinner to all of you, various wines at your own discretion, and at the dessert I'll pay in gold."

SOME OLD TIME GAMES.

Many of the Present Day Sports Were Borrowed From the Past. It is curious to note how some of the games of the early ages have been handed down to the present time.

The young Greeks, too, were well provided with toys and games for their amusement. The toys were chiefly dolls made of baked clay, the arms and legs being jointed with string, and therefore movable.

Save the Forests. Some years ago the government of Bavaria sent a skilled forester to study the conditions of timber growth in the United States.

While our government sells outright its forest lands for \$2.50 an acre, France obtains almost exactly the same sum yearly from each acre of its forest land by sales of timber.

Cotton Gins. Some recent improvements in cotton gins are claimed to insure much greater economy and efficiency than have hitherto been attained.

Mickey and Con. A book minded scion of the Verdant Isle was seeking intellectual food at the public library and could not quite make up his mind as to the particular literary repast he wished to make.

Cheerfulness. That cheerfulness can be cultivated is well illustrated by the story of a lady and gentleman who were in a timber yard, situated by a dirty, foul smelling river.

Sells Worthless Securities. There is an individual in New York who makes a good living by dealing in securities which have a purely speculative value, and which, in many cases, are known to be worthless.

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