

SONGS AND SONG-MAKERS.

Some Hitherto Unpublished Facts Concerning Popular Ballads.

Popular songs are often queer. So are their authors. But stranger still is the secret governing the public taste, by which some compositions are taken up and others rejected.

Notwithstanding this apparent lack of appreciation on the part of a surfeit public, the issue of sheet music continues a profitable enterprise, rendered so by the spasmodic sale of an occasional hit, the pecuniary return of which usually overbalances losses entailed in other directions.

Since the days of Stephen C. Foster, Henry C. Work and John Howard Payne, a class of balladists has sprung into existence, the exact description of which it would be difficult to give.

The song which stands alone in the American market in point of issues sold is the "Scotch Lassie Jean," which reached 1,000,000 copies, and is still in fair demand.

It is interesting to note how songs are made popular. Undoubtedly the stage is the great factor. A catchy ballad brought out by a prominent singer invariably produces a desire to imitate.

How some songs came to be written is an interesting study. For several months there was a warm controversy on the authorship of "Don't Leave Your Mother, Tom."

Entirely Too Particular. "I wish to report a case of larceny," she said as she entered the police station yesterday.

—The confidant of my vices is my master.—Gaelic.

THE SIZE OF MAN.

A Claim That He Never Had a Greater Height Than at Present.

Men of the present day have no occasion to feel humiliated, because they are not taller and larger than they are.

The myth of a race of giants has its counterpart in those other creatures of imagination, the pigmies.

The stories of the pigmies belong with the fables of the giants.

Among famous tall men was the Roman Emperor Maximian, whose stature was seven and three-quarters feet.

SICKENING SIGHT.

Fifty-Seven Head of Cattle Transformed Into Mountains of Mangled Flesh.

Just as the west-bound train had reached a water tank a mile west of Pine Bluffs a herd of three thousand Texas cattle was observed grazing on the adjacent prairie.

In this he failed, however, and a moment later there was a terrific shock that shook the train from end to end, and the quivering flesh of frightened cattle was being ground to pulp under the wheels of the locomotive.

The locomotive was reversed as quickly as possible, when a sickening sight met the gaze of passengers.

About Black-Headed Pins. Sitting alongside a lady in the elevated train the other day, writes an observant New Yorker, she had occasion to adjust a portion of her dress which was fastened with a black pin.

—The pleasantest thing in the world are pleasant thoughts, and the great art of life is to have as many of them as possible.—Bovee.

THE BARREL HAMMOCK.

Reliable Advice of One Who Has Experienced All of Its Pleasures.

Kind reader, did you ever swing in a barrel hammock—one of the genuine, home-made country barrel hammocks, such as you find in the summering places of New Hampshire?

But first, let me describe this instrument of tor—pleasure. It is composed of six parts, barrel staves, two of rope, and two of cussedness.

There's a newspaper in your pocket, but how to get it is the question. You dare not move, for the pesky thing will kick you out, so you content yourself with reaching for a cigar in a convenient pocket, strike a match on a stove—Oh, these barrel hammocks are accommodating—and settle down for a smoke.

"Blank, blank the blanked thing! who cut the rope, any way? Oh, excuse me, ladies." Of course you have to offer apologies at the tea table to smooth the matter over, but Miss Brown will always avoid you after that, for it is possible she had a suspicion that before the cigar struck you you saw her where the treacherous staves of the lower half of that hammock had placed her.

Reader, should you ever visit the country shun the barrel hammock. It cost one man five years of his life, a new vest and the acquaintance of a most estimable young lady.

A Careful Nurse-Girl.

The Hibernian's idea of being careful is sometimes rather peculiar. A lady who had recently engaged an Irish nurse-maid said to her one day, while walking in the garden:

"Mary, wrap the baby up very carefully, and bring him out to me." "Yes, mumm," glibly replied Mary, and straightway departed.

—At Springfield, O., a few days ago a mother checked her baby carriage to a neighboring town where she was about to visit, and forgot to remove the child from it.

SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.

Provisions Made for Freeing the Bondsmen Held in the Empire.

In 1871 a law was passed in the Brazilian Chambers or Parliament providing for the gradual emancipation of all the slaves in the empire, and requiring a registration by masters of all slaves.

All slaves registered throughout the whole of the empire of Brazil are declared to be free from the date of the promulgation of the present law.

When either one of a married couple shall have acquired his or her freedom from rendering obligatory service, through whatever cause, the other shall likewise be freed at once and without any conditions whatever.

All ex-masters who shall not faithfully carry out the obligations and duties imposed by the preceding paragraph, shall lose all claim or right whatever to the services of their former slaves, now become freedmen.

Like Her Elders. A Little Girl who had But Little Use for Feminine Playmates.

A story of the rising generation: In one of the suburban towns there is a young lady—quite a young lady she is, too—whose somewhat boyish aspect and innocently masculine tastes have won for her the sobriquet of Tommy.

"There, mamma," said she with an air of conclusiveness, "there's every single one that I want to come."

"Well, mamma," said Tommy, "you know girls aren't any fun!" "But would your boys have any fun if there weren't any girls?"

—A criminal suit has been brought by the United States against three men in Colorado for cutting and moving from Government lands 30,000 cords of pine and spruce wood.

—This is the season of year when we are thrown into the society of the man who rocks the boat for fun if he goes out with you for a row in the lake or river.

—His ticker brought more tick: When I was young, and all was well, I used to live on tick.

SOWING GRASS SEED.

A Subject That Needs to Be Studied by the Great Majority of Farmers.

As a rule, the sowing of grass of various kinds is made with some grain crop, and usually in the fall with wheat or rye.

The preparation of the soil should be very thorough. The land should be plowed deeply, and a liberal coat of manure turned under, not buried, but with the furrows laid over at an angle of forty-five degrees.

In sowing grass and clover seed an even stand is desirable, and to secure this, great care is to be taken in the sowing.

A broadcast seeder is a convenient implement, and costs but little, and can be carried by the sower with ease.

The sowing should be done as soon as the last harrowing is finished, when the seed sinks in the loose soil, or is covered by the first shower.

—In a breach of promise suit in Ohio the girl showed up 745 letters for 120 days of love. That was over six letters per day, and yet the young man kept saying he wished he could find time to drop her a line now and then.

—A middle-aged man at the beach, whose wife thought the water too cold for bathing that day, encouraged her in a novel way.

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RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

Among the sixty-six graduates from Amherst this year was a Japanese student.

—Longing for goodness does not bring it. It is to be sought after all the night.

—America is growing better. Church attendance for 1887 was ten per cent over that of 1886.

—Every man has in himself a quantity of undiscovered character. He is he who acts the Columbus of his own soul!

—The women of the Presbyterian Church of this country are said to have raised in the past sixteen years \$1,500,000 for missions.

—Rev. Dr. Happer has secured \$100,000 toward founding a Christian College in China and expects to open an institution next January.

—Depend upon it; in the midst of the science about the world and its ways, and all the ignorance of God and His greatness, the man or woman who can say, "Thy will be done," with true heart forgiving us, is nearer the source of things than the geologist or the astronomer.—George Macdonald.

—The trustees of Harvard University, Senator Geo. P. Hoar, ex-Speaker Winthrop, Prof. Putnam, Hutton and others, have bought for \$4,000,000 acres of land in Bratton Township, Adams County, O., on which is situated the Serpent Mound.

—If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust, but if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with principles, with the just love of God and love of our fellow-men, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten to all eternity.—Daniel Webster.

—Rev. Dr. Tillett, of Vanderbilt University, recently visited a Mormon Sunday-school while in Salt Lake City. As he entered the infant class department a temporary teacher was saying: "Well, boys, where is your teacher?" They all replied promptly in concert: "In the penitentiary." The teacher then asked: "Is he there for doing right or for doing wrong?" All replied: "For doing right." Dr. Tillett learned afterward that the man in question was serving a term for bigamy.

WIT AND WISDOM.

—The greatest homage we can pay to truth is to use it.—Emerson.

—The man who blows out the gas is anxious to know what they feed mock turtles on.

—Do not think a lesson learned until you have found some thought that seems particularly to fit your needs. Each lesson holds such a thought, if we but find it. Seek!

—So great a happiness do I esteem it to be loved, that I really fancy every blessing, both from gods and men, ready to descend spontaneously upon him who is loved.—Xenophon.

—Lawyer—There is a fearful wind coming in at that window. Office boy—Shure an' I will just open the iber wan, too, so the wind can go on through an' not bother ye.—Detroit Free Press.

—A middle-aged man at the beach, whose wife thought the water too cold for bathing that day, encouraged her in a novel way.

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