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FAMOUS SONG.

The Song That Reaches Our Hearts Is "My Old Kentucky Home."
There is one song in the English language that, perhaps, comes closer to the hearts of Americans, particularly if they are far from home, than any other. That song is "My Old Kentucky Home." The simple, tender story it tells and its irresistible melody are familiar to nearly every one. It has been sung by noted singers in every civilized country on the globe, and has been eulogized by authors and critics of classical taste; yet its author, Stephen Foster, died unremembered and unstung, and unconscious of the masterly work he had wrought. Like nearly all other great artists, however, Foster's recompense came after he was dead, and it is safe to say that "My Old Kentucky Home" and its writer's name will live so long as human sentiment and love of home endure.
Those Americans who were present at a Patti concert in the Grand opera house of Paris in the early seventies are many of them, old men and women now, but they can still vividly recall the indescribable scene when the diva appeared in response to an encore and sang, as only Patti could sing, this sweet, simple ballad. It was entirely unexpected, and before they were aware strong men were weeping and women were hysterically giving vent to emotions they did not try to control. At its conclusion the great singer was literally showered with flowers and costly gifts. One rich American threw a roll of bills into the orchestra, and was said to contain a sum of money up in the thousands. The demonstration was perhaps the most magnificent ever accorded a suitor for public favor.
Apropos of all this, the following from the Philadelphia Call illustrates the wonderful charm the song still holds:
A street singer stopped to sing the other night in front of a well-known hotel. He was an old chap, blind of one eye, and infirm, but gifted with the remnant of what was once a very sweet tenor voice. With him as attendant and guide was his daughter, a child of sunny Italy, sun-browned, large-eyed and attractive in her picturesque garb. The old fellow sang first that ditty of the streets: "Just Tell Them That You Saw Me," provoking little attention. Then he began to sing in his tremulous, quavering voice an old favorite. As he proceeded the windows of the hotel were raised one by one and guests looked out with sympathetic eyes. Coins showered down to the picturesque little maid, who circulated about with her tambourine, collecting. Men strolled out of the cafe and gathered on the steps, listening with interest. One old fellow, a tall, soldierly-looking man, with flashing dark eyes and an air that was unmistakably southern, gave the child a note with the remark: "It did my heart a dollar's worth of good."
When the last strains of the touching old melody died away, everybody present wore that dreamy look that tells of old memories stirred and refreshed.
The song was "The Old Kentucky Home"; the southerner touched by its rendition a former Kentuckian ruined by the ravages of the war.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A SHEEP STORY.

An Englishman Tells of the Remarkable Sagacity of a Pet Lamb.
Having read from time to time notable instances of the sagacity of dogs and cats, it has occurred to me, says a writer in the London Spectator, that the following well-authenticated record of the intelligence of a sheep may possess at least the interest of novelty. Two years ago a lamb owned by a gentleman whose farm lies close to Lough Foyle was left motherless. A yardman in charge of the flock nursed and fed the little orphan. She became very tame, and was petted by her master's children. Last year she had grown into a young sheep, with a lamb of her own. One day some dogs ran through the pasture grounds, and the frightened flock scattered and fled through the field, which was a large one, sloping toward the shore. The yardman, Aleck, banished the intruders and collected the sheep, as he supposed, into safety.
An hour or two afterward the pet sheep rushed past the dwelling house apparently in great distress. With piteous bleatings she went to the lodge gate, where Aleck was sitting at his noonday meal, and, coming close to him, seemed to seek his help. As he rose from the table she ran out of the house and straight through the pasture to the shore. He followed her, and soon saw the cause of her alarm. Her lamb, terrified by the dogs, had fled to a little peninsula among the rocks, which the incoming tide had transferred into an island. Of course, it could not cross the strait and the mother could not save it, therefore she appealed to the power and sympathy of her human friend. Her trust in his help was not disappointed, and she and her rescued offspring were soon safely reunited.
—The four burglars who recently robbed the savings bank at Whitinsville, Mass., had such a high regard for the rules of fashion that they committed the crime after they had just arrayed themselves in dress suits.
—Some of the bronze tablets put up in Albany, N. Y., at the time of the city's bi-centennial celebration ten years ago have disappeared. The tablets had been placed on many of the historic spots throughout the city.
—One of the greatest hunting feats of the season was that of George E. Farnham, of Canaan, Me., who, a few days ago, entirely alone and while standing in the wagon holding his frantic horse with one hand, shot two very handsome deer.
—Eighteen gold watches were found quilted in the clothing worn by a baby, a passenger on the steamer Saale, from Bremen, on her arrival at Hoboken. The baby's parents were arrested, and on the father 12 other watches were found. The 30 watches are worth \$7,000.
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LOST TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

Legends Pertaining to Their Wanderings Up and Down the Earth.
It may not be inappropriate to recall an old legend extant among the orthodox Jews of Russia regarding this subject, and which will confirm the report of the explorer.
Years and years ago, so the story runs, an exiled Jew on the bleak wilds of northern Siberia, in an effort to reach an overhanging branch of a tree, placed his foot upon a log floating on the water. No sooner had his foot touched the log than it seemed inspired with life and moved rapidly off, bearing the exile away toward the vast ice fields, when were plainly visible and plentiful toward the north. Rapidly the current swept the log northward, bearing with it the unfortunate Jew, who was so benumbed with fear and cold that he was unable to formulate a plan of escape from his perilous position.
For three consecutive days and nights the prisoner clung to the log, passing through towering fields of icebergs and floating under arches cut by the current through the sky-scraping shelves of ice. Out into beautiful sunshine our traveler eventually emerged. The grass was green and the trees were garbed in the splendor of nature and birds made merry music on every branch. People great in numbers were congregated on either bank of the stream all dressed in holiday raiment of the finest texture, but similar in character to the clothing worn by our ancestors 2,000 years ago. The current of the stream ceased to flow, the log drifted to the bank and the almost famished and thoroughly frightened traveler repeated for the thousandth time the Hebrew words, "Shama—Israel." and in uncertain manner dismounted from the log.
The inhabitants crowded about, and, speaking in Hebrew, with which language he was thoroughly conversant, learned of his need of food and rest and supplied these wants, after which they inquired whence he came and whither he was going. Numerous inquiries were made regarding the people who lived beyond their circumscribed world, who in reciprocity informed him of themselves and their mode of living, which had in nowise changed since the advent of the Christian era.
They worked and worshipped even as did the Jew in ancient times when Palesine was a garden and Jerusalem the center of civilization. The traveler learned that these people were the lost tribes of Israel, who had migrated to this godly country, led by the descendants of Aaron—named Joseph—who had passed away without leaving any descendants. With them they had brought many vessels and much of the paraphernalia of Solomon's temple, and patterned their house of worship after this famous temple of Jerusalem.
The traveler was told that the stream's current was active six days in the week and on the seventh became quiet and did not move, but as he was a member of a different tribe to themselves he would not be allowed to remain within the country. So he was placed in a boat, which was pushed into the current and was borne by a circuitous route back to Siberia. Afterward he was pardoned, returned to Russia and told his adventure.—Atlantic Jewish Sentiment.

NORMANDY CIDER.

It is Very Fine and Produced by the Millions of Gallons.
As a fact the finest cider is not made by the British grower, but in Normandy. They have in that province brought cider making to perfection. The total produce every year there amounts to hundreds of millions of gallons; and it is made with the utmost care. To begin, they choose the site of the orchard with judgment, and see that the soil is of the type which apples love; and they are equally thoughtful in selecting the varieties of the apple most fit for cider. Indeed, for the very finest cider, their solicitude is so great that none but the second or third year's fruit of the trees is used; and when the process of fermentation is reached, nothing is left to chance. Chemists of great experience watch the changes in the liquor; and the skill with which the process is regulated is based on the knowledge gathered from long practice. The result is that some Normandy cider is equal in delicacy and flavor to fine champagne, and many cheap champagnes are simply sophisticated cider.
This deception is very general. The great bulk of the cider made in Normandy goes to the champagne districts, and is used to make cheap champagne, and to form the body of other wines, etc. Fort, it seems, can be made, and often is made, of cider, the color being imparted by logwood or red-berry juice, and the favor by the addition in very nice proportions of the root of the rhubarb. This, it is said, is an imitation so skillful that the buyer would receive a good judge of port. It is quite certain that all the cider made in Normandy does not, by a very large proportion, go on the market as cider; and that it is sold in the guise of cheap wines, both white and red. Certainly, then the champagne-cider of Normandy there is nothing more delicate and effervescent, unless it be the same product of California, when at its best.—Chambers' Journal.

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DUELING IN RUSSIA.

Not Considered a Crime, But in Some Circumstances Compulsory.
An order was issued to the Russian army last year which makes dueling under certain circumstances compulsory, instead of branding it as a crime. The result is that often men who are friends are obliged to fight each other. The Kazvedchik gives a graphic account of a duel of this kind which took place recently between two Russian officers. They stood, by agreement, forty paces apart, facing each other, with the right to approach nearer after firing. The seconds stepped aside, and one of them slowly counted one, two, three; a couple of shots rang out, but no one was touched. The seconds begged that the affair might now be considered at an end, but one of the contestants insisted that there should be a further exchange of shots. The distance was again measured, the word given once more. Two shots were lost in one, a cloud of smoke enveloped each of the fliers. As it cleared one of them advanced a couple of paces and fell face upward. The fallen man lay as if alive, but on his left eye was a dark spot from which the blood welled slowly up. One of the seconds was overcome and turned away. The other, blinking curiously, tugged at his moustache nervously with one hand, and with the other tried to take a handkerchief unobserved from his pocket. The author of the catastrophe remained unhurt, and with his arms folded, looked gloomily aside, tears coursing down his cheeks.
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Oxford is a learned place, and an Oxford "don"—that is, a professor—is an individual who generally excites awe in the average schoolboy. But a young American girl, with no respect for traditions, upon meeting an Oxford don at a fashionable dinner party, began to pester him with conundrums, to his surprise and disgust. Finally she asked: "Why is the letter J like the end of spring?" Of course the don could not tell. "Because it's the beginning of June," was the solution. "Now will you tell me," said the don, sternly, "why the letter K is like a pig's tail?" The young lady had to give it up. "Because it is the end of pork," said the don. He was bothered with no more conundrums.

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