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FAMOUS SONGS.

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 and kinsmen, 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 unhonored and unsung, 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 over the footlights that 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 strain 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.

Stands at the Head.

Aug. J. Bogel, the leading druggist, Shreveport, La., says: "Dr. King's New Discovery is the only thing that cures my cough, and it is the best seller we have." J. F. Campbell, merchant, Safford, Ariz., writes: "Dr. King's New Discovery is all that is claimed for it; never fails, and is a sure cure for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. I cannot say enough for its merits." Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds is not an experiment. It has been tried for a quarter of a century and today stands at the head. It never disappoints. Free trial bottles at Conser & Brock's drug store.

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Each of the fifty-two numbers of this periodical will open with a story by some author of international fame. Portraits of a few of these authors are given below. Besides the Prize Offers and offers of books there will be

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SOME OF THE SHORT SERIALS

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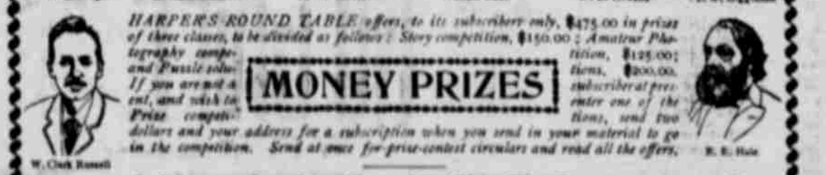

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 1897.

SHOD WITH SNOWSHOES.

Horses of the Sierras That Wear Strange Footgear.

They Are Compelled to Pull Heavy Loads Across the Mountains—A Traveler's Interesting Description of His Trip.

"Well, I can't say that I've seen horses skate, but I've seen them do the next thing to it—use snowshoes and do their work with them on just as well as if they didn't have them on, or nearly so," said a gentleman from California the other evening to a New York Herald man.

"This is the way it was: About the middle of April a year ago, I had business up in Plumas county, California, and went by stage running from Oroville to Quincy, the central point in Plumas county. We left Oroville at seven in the morning in a four-horse 'jerky,' a sort of stage wagon specially built for rough mountain work. For the first six hours the road was as dry as a board, but after the noon change of teams we struck patches of snow which soon merged into solid and deep snow going. Tom, our driver, had called my attention to the new team as it was being hitched up, saying: 'Them's our snow horses. We'll soon have to leave the wheel and take the "sledders" when we get further up the road.'

"Though I had ridden behind and upon many kinds of horses in the west, yet I had never been introduced to the 'snow' breed before, and I looked at them very closely.

"They were all four white or gray, whether from age or natural disposition I couldn't tell, but I was much impressed by their tremendous self-consciousness, their extremely slow motions, the deliberate way in which they stepped, straddling their legs as far apart as possible, and their reluctance to raise more than one hoof off the ground at a time. Every one of the lot was old enough to vote, and at a rough estimate twenty dollars a head would have been about fifteen dollars over their value. At the end of the trip I thought twenty dollars apiece was fully nine hundred and eighty dollars less than they were really worth.

"'Don't think much of 'em, do you?' asked the driver of me as he started them up with a click. 'No,' he continued, 'they're not much to look at, them four old hide packers, but the company wouldn't trade that lot for the best eight flyers in the crackest livery stable in Sacramento. But for those invaluable critters the mails wouldn't get through six months in the year on this route. They're snow horses, they are, and when they strike the snow higher up they'll put their snow moccasins on and show you valley people how they earn their oats.'

"That old gray quartette plodded and worked its way along very wearily to us until we got into the deeper snow and drew up to a large sleigh standing alongside the road.

"'Change cars,' called out the driver, 'and gents will please shift their own traps or they'll get left.' Unhitching his team from the 'jerky,' Tom lined up his horses in pairs in front of the sleigh and then took out of it a couple of gunny sacks, from which he produced sixteen pieces of wood having the appearance of flat dishes, which he said were the snowshoes used by the four horses. I examined the 'shoes' with much curiosity.

"The 'shoe' was made of a stout, seasoned, one-inch plank of tough hickory wood, fourteen inches square, strengthened on one side by a covering of oilcloth and two one-inch wide strips of hickory wood screwed on to the main plate. So situated that when adjusted a horse's foot would be right in the center of the shoe were three holes clear through the wood and oilcloth underneath. One of the holes was large enough to let the heavy and very high toe calk of the horse's shoe pass through, while the two other holes as readily permitted the two hind calks of the shoe to enter and come out as did the toe calk. Then a wrought iron band, separated in the center, swung on a hook and eye on either side of the horse's hoof after he had been fitted with the snowshoe, by passing the calks through, was brought together in front of the hoof an inch below the coronet, and then tightly joined by a screw and nut passed through holes bored in the projecting ends of the band. Everything fitted as snug as possible, and when the screw was tightened up no amount of scraping or kicking could loosen it from a horse's foot. The snow team understood the business perfectly and took it as a matter of course that they should be thus decorated.

"They actually seemed to know a little more about it even than Tom did. Indeed, one old plug held up his off hind foot and knocked Tom on the arm with his shoe as a hint to have the nut screwed a little tighter on the iron band. Though I never before saw horses so queerly shod and apparently anchored with these strange gearings, the animals seemed to consider it quite the proper thing to have the shoes on.

"The passengers having by this time piled all their traps into the sleigh we made another start for Quincy, but at a snail's pace as far as speed was concerned. After we got under way we found the snow getting deeper every yard, until in places, judging by the trees, it must have been at least fifteen feet deep. I became quite interested in the sagacity of the four horses and their singular cleverness in handling themselves on their unusual footing. I found out why they were so slow in moving and why they straddled so wide. Their slowness was to prevent sinking too deep in the snow from the heavy treading and the straddling to keep them from skinning their legs or cutting a tendon with the edges of the snowshoes.'

"A month later, on my return, when the roads were clear of snow, it only took twelve hours to make the trip from Quincy to Oroville, though in coming up nearly thirty-six hours were required."

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TO BUY THE POPE A CITY.

Constantinople, More Than Rome, Is Likely to Be Purchased.

It is suggested that the Roman Catholics of Christendom shall subscribe $1,000,000,000 to buy Rome and a near-by seaport for the pope, says Harper's Weekly. The belief is expressed that the Italian government might sell the property without serious detriment to its political integrity and that the money could be used to great advantage in relieving Italy of part of the burden of her public debt. It is not proposed to turn over the principal to the venders, but to place it in trust and to pay its annual proceeds into the Italian treasury as long as the pope remains undisturbed in the papal territory.

The plan is a very pretty one and there are those who think the money might be raised and that King Humbert's government would appreciate the advantages of such a bargain. But would Rome be the best purchase the pope could make with the money? Chicago would take him vastly cheaper and give him port privileges on Lake Michigan, but she could not engage to make him monarch of an American township at any price. But there is Constantinople, an excellent city, where popes have lived before, full of ready-made churches built by Christians and nearly ripe now for reconsecration. Constantinople seems liable to come into the market any day. If the pope could buy it of the sultan that would be a deal worth subscribing to and worth turning a page of history to record.

"Excuse me" observed the man in spectacles "but I am a surgeon, and that is not where the liver is." Never you mind where the liver is," retorted the other. "If it was in his big toe or his left ear DeWitt's Little Early Risers would reach it and shake it for him. On that you can bet your gig-lamps." Conser & Brock.

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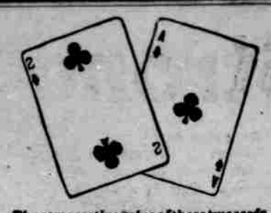

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