

THE OPERA IN PARIS—THE GRAND STAIRCASE.



A SPECTACULAR VIEW IN THE PARIS OPERA HOUSE.

Perhaps at no other point can so vivid an impression of the riches and grace of the French capital be gained as at the foot of the grand staircase leading to the interior of the opera house at Paris. The exterior of the building with its colonnade lit with blue mercury lights is familiar to everyone who has been to Paris, but until the visitor has witnessed this scene of shimmering satin and sparkling jewels he will have missed a remarkable sight which only the opera can show him.

Science AND INVENTION

Arkansas leads among the states in the production of bauxite, her output being more than 60 per cent of the total last year.

Holland has a new law forbidding the adulteration of butter, under penalty of imprisonment, which may reach one year.

The brilliancy of a limelight used in a demonstrating lantern can be increased by slipping it over an ordinary gas mantle.

The United States government maintains fifty-seven wireless telegraph stations and has ninety-six vessels fitted out with the apparatus.

A professorship of aerostatics has been founded in Gettysburg University, and schools for training aeronauts are to be established in several German cities.

The word "tungstoller" has been coined to define the fixture used to hold a group of tungsten electric lights in proper position to give the best service.

Austria limits the number of drug stores to the number of inhabitants of a district or city, and the need of an additional one must be clearly shown before the license is issued.

The geological survey is erecting at Pittsburg a testing plant for structural material that will be able to handle girders 65 feet long and give them a tension of 10,000,000 pounds.

Government tests have shown that many coals which are too high in ash and sulphur for economical use under boilers or for cooking may be made commercially valuable by proper washing.

Messrs. Henri and Stedel recently demonstrated to the French Academy of Sciences the practicability of sterilizing milk by means of the ultraviolet rays emitted by mercury vapor lamps. Milk thus treated can be completely sterilized in the cold. At the same meeting of the academy Mons. A. Gascard showed that milk to which potassium bichromate has been added as a preservative keeps much better in the dark.

The Yana language of northern California represents a distinct linguistic stock, and had formerly three dialects, one of which is now extinct. It possesses two forms of speech, one of which is employed by men speaking to men, while the other is used in all other cases. Practically, the language has only nouns and verbs, the adjectives, adverbs, numerals, interrogative pronouns and conjunctions being formed from the verbs.

In the Calaveras National Forest there are two groves of big trees. In the North Grove, in Calaveras County, there are ten trees each having a diameter of 25 feet or over, and more than seventy having a diameter ranging between 15 and 25 feet. The tree called the "Father of the Forests," which now lies on the ground, is estimated to have had a height of 450 feet, and a diameter, at the ground, of more than 40 feet. The bark on these trees runs from 6 inches to 2 feet in thickness. Besides the giant sequoias, there are hundreds of sugar pines and yellow pines from 8 to 10 feet in diameter, and ranging to 275 feet in height.

After you get a dollar in your clutches the taint soon evaporates.

A tombstone epitaph isn't necessarily a hard fact.

WHO MAKES BURGLARS' KITS?

Few Shops Where the Jimmy Can Be Bought.

Every little while, said a London detective, recently, the police arrest a man with a set of burglar's tools in his possession, and one naturally wonders where they all come from. It is easy to buy a gun of any description, and the most reputable person would not be alarmed to be seen purchasing the most wicked looking knife ever made, but who would know where to get a Jimmy or a device for drilling into a safe or any of the many tools used by the professional burglar in the pursuit of his calling?

There probably are places in the large cities where these things are made and sold to the user, but such places are exceedingly scarce. It may seem a little strange to learn that most of the tools used in burglaries are made by mechanics who are looked upon as respectable men in the community. When a burglar wants any particular tool made he goes to a mechanic who can do the job, and pays him perhaps five times what it is actually worth for making the tool and keeping quiet about it. Many detectives can recall cases of this kind that have come to light in London.

One in particular occurred some years ago, when an escaped convict named Williams went to a blacksmith in the East End and got him to make a lot of drills to be used in safe cracking. He personally superintended the tempering of the steel, but when the job was nearly completed it leaked out, and Williams was arrested. In this instance the blacksmith knew nothing of the use to which the tools were to be put. Most of the tools used by burglars are secured in the same way.

The only regular establishment ever discovered where they were made was in the East End. This was years ago, and the place was soon pounced upon.

Legal Information

ARNOLD'S TREASON EXPECTED.

Revolutionary Letter Lately Sold Tells of His Tory Friendship.

An interesting historical letter, relating to Benedict Arnold's treason, Gen. Gates' disastrous campaign in the Southern States and the appointment of Gen. Nathaniel Greene to succeed him there, fetched \$55 at Freeman's in Philadelphia a few days ago, the New York Times says. The letter was written to Greene from Philadelphia, Oct. 5, 1780, by Charles Pettit, a member of the continental congress, who also was assistant to Greene while the latter was quartermaster general. In regards to the West Point treason Pettit wrote:

"I cannot say that Gen. Arnold's treason, so far as respects his turning tory and deserting the American cause, was any great surprise to me. The constant and uniform tenor of his conduct in this city looked strongly that way, and the court he paid to the Tories was too plain and evident and too universal to arise from any other motive than the laying of a foundation for joining them at some day or other, but the magnitude of his treason and the extent of his plan, I must confess, startle and amaze me; I could scarcely have conceived that the pride of an ambitious man and that sense of honor, or at least the pretension to it, which every man of station thinks himself bound to wear the appearance of, whether he really feels it or not, would have prevented a man of his situation to rush at once into a villainy so atrocious and degrading to human nature. But he seems to have been determined not to be a little villain. Nothing short of the highest rate could satisfy him, and in this he has shown his courage, though his plan has failed. I shall at present add only one reflection upon this affair, and that is that I consider it as a public benefit not only that the plot has been so seasonably discovered, but that the attempt has been made."

In writing about Gen. Gates' Southern campaign Pettit says: "The Southern gentlemen particularly seemed desirous that Gen. Greene should be appointed. The Southern people are strongly prejudiced against a Caledonian (Gen. St. Clair), having an ugly pest of them in their own bowels in North Carolina."

To Stop Coughing.

Coughing is one of the nuisances that no one has been able to abolish in churches or in theaters. A physician however, claims that the coughing nuisance is a mere question of acoustics. "There is a subtle connection between the ear and the throat," he said. "When the ear is strained the throat is affected and a cough is the result."

"When we can hear perfectly in church or theater it never occurs to us to cough. But when we bend forward, straining every nerve to catch the actor's or preacher's muffled syllables, then we find ourselves coughing every little while. Build auditoriums with perfect acoustic properties, and I warrant that the thunderous choruses of coughs, so common now among us will be no more heard."

Tea Possibilities.

"I have just had an invitation to an electrical tea to be given by a woman doctor," said the bachelor girl. "I'm looking forward to it and wondering what is going to happen to us—whether she will give us a little battery and let us entertain ourselves, make the tea on an electric stove, or just electrocute the bunch of us."

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Patron—Have you pigs' feet? Waiter—No, sir; it's a bunion makes me walk that way.

She—Does the course of true love run smooth? He—Oh, yes; there are banks on both sides.

"Money may make the mare go," said Uncle Eben, "but I don't see as it's much of a guaranty agin kickin'."

Daughter—Mamma, who was Minerva? Mother—The goddess of wisdom—she never married.—The Club-Fellow.

Gladys—So you've sent Herbert about his business, have you? Maybelle—Yes. But I have since used the—er—recall on him.

Father—You never heard of a man getting into trouble by following a good example. Son—Yes, sir, I have—the counterfeiter.—Boston Transcript.

Julia—Going to Marie's dance? Bertha—I shall be out of town that night. Julia—I wasn't invited either.—Cornell Widow.

"What! Spend \$100 on a bathing suit?" "Now, hubby, this isn't a bathing suit. This is a beach costume."—Washington Herald.

She—I heard you singing this morning. He—Oh, I sing a little to kill time. She—You had a good weapon.—Kansas City Journal.

First Chauffeur—Do you find out who you have run over? Second Chauffeur—Of course; I always read the papers!—New York Sun.

Sillicus—Yes; she has threatened to make things unpleasant for him. Cynicus—Is that so? When are they going to be married?—Philadelphia Record.

"I can't tell her she's the first girl I ever loved. She knows I've been engaged before." "Well, tell her you're glad you discovered your mistake in time."

Friend—Does the baron, your son-in-law, speak with much of an accent? Richpurse—He did when he discovered how I had fixed his wife's dowry.—Puck.

Church—In the future the man with the airships will take nobody's dust. Gotham—Won't he? You just try to hire one, and you'll find out!—Yonkers Statesman.

The Young Doctor—Just think; six of my patients recovered this week. The Old Doctor—It's your own fault, my boy. You spend too much time at the club.—Life.

"You don't seem to give Bykins credit for any originality whatever." "I don't. His memory is so wretched he can't quote correctly; that's all."—Washington Star.

Guest—Mercy! What's this awful profanity down stairs? Hostess—My husband has come in late and fallen over the new Persian prayer rug.—Cleveland Leader.

"Who's that homely girl you spoke to?" "Sir, that lady has promised to be my wife!" "Cheer up. Lots of women don't keep their promises."—Cleveland Leader.

Mr. Newlywed—The moths have eaten every single thing in this closet, Ida. Mrs. Newlywed—I don't see how they could get in. I've kept the door locked all summer long.—Brooklyn Life.

Bill—I see a good many of the apartment houses in New York have the kitchen on top. Jill—Yes; that is so the cook who uses benzine won't have so far to go.—Yonkers Statesman.

"You seem to have a great deal of faith in doctors," said a friend of the sick man. "I have," was the reply. "A doctor would be foolish to let a good customer like me die."—Boston Home Journal.

Mrs. Brickrow—It does a lady good to have Dr. Grinn when one is sick. He is always so jolly! Mr. Brickrow—You'd be jolly, too, if you were getting three dollars for a ten-minute call.—New York Weekly.

"What diagnosis did the doctor make of your wife's illness?" "Said she was suffering from overwork." "Is that so?" "Yes, he looked at her tongue and reached that decision immediately."—Detroit Free Press.

Mr. Slinpurse (after a decided refusal)—I know what the matter is. It's because I'm poor. You would marry me if I were rich. Miss Gallie (thoughtfully)—Perhaps so; but you would have to be very, very rich!

The following conversation was overheard between two boys, aged 7 and 5: "Joe, why can't chickens talk?" "Aw, they don't have to. When they want anything, they just pull their wish-bones and they gets their wish."

"Sure, it's Mike, the boy, that's the lucky man." "How was he lucky?" "Why, mum, he got insured for five thousand dollars, and the very next day he fell off the ladder, paintin', and broke his neck."—Baltimore American.

Mr. Newwed—You never call me pet names now unless you want something. Before marriage it was different. Mrs. Newwed—Oh, no. Before marriage I called you pet names because I wanted you.—London Gentlewoman.

"More than five thousand elephants a year go to make our piano keys," remarked the student boarder who had been reading the scientific notes in a patent-medicine almanac. "For the land's sake!" exclaimed the landlady. "Ain't it wonderful what some animals can be trained to do?"

Good at Any Station.

Tough Looking Passenger (presenting ticket)—Can I get a stopoff on this? Conductor (inspecting it)—More than than; you get a kickoff. (Pulls bell rope.)

Thirst for Knowledge.

"I will wait a moment," said the temperance lecturer at the close of his speech, "to answer any questions you may wish to ask."

"Can a person get drunk on sauerkraut?" inquired an earnest woman in the audience whose husband had signed the pledge.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

How Careless.

He—There was nearly a bad fire at the theater.

She—How was that?

He—The villain lit a cigarette and tossed the match into the snow!—Comic Cuts.

Practical Patriotism.

The thing for you to do now is to get busy so that you will have an income tax to be taxed when all the States agree to it. That's true patriotism.—Indianapolis News.

Lame back and Lumbago make a young man feel old. Hamlins Wizard Oil makes an old man feel young. Absolutely nothing like it for the relief of all pain.

Prints of Man.

"There is such a masculine touch about the dresses she wears."

"You mean that smudgy streak of finger marks along the line of buttons in the back?"—Houston Post.

Experience in England shows that in towns supplied with soft water the death rate is 19.2, while in towns that have a supply of hard water it is only 16.5.

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Knew His Place.

Housemaid—Please, sir, will you come at once, the drorin' room's on fire. Master—Well, go and tell your mistress; you know I never interfere in household matters.—Punch.

His Little Kick.

"In this matter of quick thinking," said the base ball umpire, "all the bouquets go to the players; and yet we fellows have to think as quick as they do, if not a little quicker. If a player works his thinker too slow all he gets is an error. If I do it I get a pop bottle."—Chicago Tribune.

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