

PROOF OF SINCERITY.

In the days of the "old army" on the frontier, when military posts were sometimes hundreds of miles from any civilized place, there was little to do in the way of amusement in the winter time when the post was snowbound, and it was then that the reputation of the army has been earned by card playing and drinking was gained. And it is true that a great deal of both was done at that time.

It was in these days that an event transpired that showed that the principal actor had the courage of his convictions, and that he was not certainly born under a lucky star. It was after a very "wet" dinner party, and all had partaken most freely of the wine, and, strange as it may seem, the subject that came up for discussion was the Mohammedan religion. The Mohammedans believe in fate. To them a man's fate is written above, and the time of his death is set, and nothing can advance it. Well, this belief had been discussed long and earnestly. The pros and cons had been gone over at length, till one of them wanted to know of what use was reason if everyone was born with a tag of destiny attached. An officer finally arose and said there was no use of discussing the matter any further; the only way to make a practical test of the question, and that he would give himself as a subject. Could a man willfully dispose of his life when the fatal moment had been chosen for his birth from above? He could get no one to try the experiment on him. Finally a wager was made.

"Who will you pay if I lose?" said the subject, as he drew his pistol and showed that it was loaded. He placed the pistol against his temple and pulled the trigger. The pistol missed fire. "A joke," yelled the crowd. The subject smiled, and, recocking the pistol, aimed it with a steady hand at the clock on the wall. He fired, and the bullet crashed through the face of the dial. "Apologize to me now," he said. "I have won the bet. I always bet on fate."

Salvador Patti, Adelina's mother, was anxious that I should see the child sing, and so she sent her little daughter to my home one day, says Arditi in "My Recollections." (This was in New York.) Bottesini and I were amused to see the air of importance with which the tiny songstress first selected a comfortable seat for her doll in such proximity to the piano and asked me to accompany her in the rondo of "Sambola."

How I give an adequate description of the effect which that attachment notes produced on my enchanted senses? Perhaps I say that both Bottesini's beautiful genuine tears of emotion and the outcome of the night and never to be forgot-

ten impression of her voice made when it stirred our innermost feelings, that may, in some slight measure, convince my readers of the extraordinary vocal power and beauty of which little Adelina was, at that tender age, possessed. We were simply amazed, nay, electrified, at the well nigh perfect manner in which she delivered some of the most difficult and varied arias without the slightest effort or self-consciousness.

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