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WILKIE COLLINS.

He Got Five Thousand Guineas for His Novel "Armadale."

The highest price which Wilkie Collins ever received for a novel, says Edward Yates in the New York Tribune, was 5,000 guineas, which was paid to him for "Armadale" by George Smith before a line of the story, which originally appeared in the Cornhill Magazine, had been written. "Armadale" has never been a favorite with the public, but it is a very powerful book, and a story of the most absorbing interest, and Dickens expressed a high opinion of it. Just after the bargain had been concluded between the author and the publisher there was a discussion at the Athenaeum one afternoon about book prices, during which Hayward very acrimoniously maintained that George Smith could not possibly have paid any such sum to Wilkie Collins, and for some time Dickens turned to a friend and whispered: "Can you wonder now that that man is so generally execrated?" Thackeray, only a short time before his death, congratulated Collins on the transaction and told him that he had never himself made as much as \$5,000 by any of his books. The purchase of "Armadale" was not a profitable transaction for Mr. Smith, but "Romola" proved a still worse bargain, as \$7,000 was paid for it, and of the first expensive edition only some 1,500 copies were sold. The statement that Collins has left copious reminiscences and numerous MS. stories is incorrect. During the last few years he received several proposals on the subject of reminiscences, but declined to entertain them.

Wilkie Collins, to those who met him on his visit to this country, was a very curious personality. Says a veteran theatrical agent in the Philadelphia Inquirer: "I shall never forget the first time that I came into communication with him. It was in December, 1873. I had gone after midnight into the bar of what was then Tomlin Ryan's hotel, at the corner of Broadway and Union square, New York, and is now the Morton house. Perched on a high stool before the eating counter, with his knees drawn nearly up to his chin, was a little man in solemn black clothes. The position in which he sat, his small body, his large head, his strong features, his gold spectacles, and his bushy hair and beard, then showing more silver than black threads, would have attracted anybody's attention. He was eating an enormous mess of roast oysters and drinking Dublin porter. Presently Mr. Dolby, who was first known in this country as the man who brought Charles Dickens over here for his reading tour in 1868, came in, and the little, gray man hopped off his stool to join him in a drink at the bar. I knew Dolby, and Dolby's friend was introduced to me as Wilkie Collins.

A strange natural phenomenon is the pampero, a South American storm wind, which is described by the author of "Hearts of Oak," who first made its acquaintance during a stay at Montevideo. A light breeze had been blowing from the northeast, but had steadily increased in force, and brought with it the heated air of the tropics, which, passing over a treeless pampa country, exposed to the burning sun rays of a clear sky, so warms up the atmosphere on the shores of the Rio de la Plata that its effect upon human beings is exceedingly bad.

This state of thing generally lasts for a week or longer, until the stifling heat becomes unbearable and the inhabitants are seen resting in grass hammocks or lying on bare floors, incapable of exertion. However, relief is close at hand. A little cloud "no bigger than a man's hand" is first seen to rise above the waters, then the heavens grow black with clouds, and the battle of opposing winds begins.

The pampero advances with its artillery well in front; forked flashes of vivid lightning, followed by peals of thunder, bear down upon the foe, who, quite up to the moment of attack, is merely discharging its fiery breath on the surrounding regions. The inhabitants now climb on the azoteas, or flat roofs, to watch the struggle and to be the first to participate in the delicious relief brought by the pampero to their fevered bodies.

Far out on the river a curious sight may be seen; the opposing waves, raised by the rival winds, meet like a rush of cavalry in wild career; their white horses with foaming crests dash themselves against each other and send clouds of dazzling spray high in the air; this being backed by an inky sky renders the scene most imposing.

Gradually the northeastern gives away, followed closely by its enemy, the pampero, which throws out skimming currents of ice-cold wind in advance of its final onslaught. Then comes a roar of the elements, and a deluge such as no one would willingly encounter, and cooler weather is established for the time being.

German Colonies in Texas. German colonies are forming in Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, and some other states for buying lands and settling in Texas. A colony of 125 families from Westphalia, Kan., is about to settle in Cook county, Texas, their purchase consisting of 22,000 acres, the consideration being \$222,000.

He Has Arrived. Said the frog, in a voice that was hollow: "Oh, my! my! you look like a fellow!" In reply said the stork: "I am off to New York To suggest a new style for a collar."—Litt.

MISSING LINKS.

There are more than two hundred lawyers practicing in Seattle, Wash.

A citizen of North Hampton, N. H., has been a justice of the peace for more than fifty years.

Emperor William of Germany has boycotted his laborer for sending him a pair of French kids.

The emperor of Russia has increased his chances of a sudden and violent death by learning to play the cornet.

Buffalo Bill and Rosa Bonheur have become great friends. The former is taking lessons in oils from the great artist.

A West Virginia farmer claims to have dug three bushels of potatoes from one hill. In his field the ground is very uneven.

Thieves made a dunkard's meeting house in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, a receptacle for stolen goods.

There is a rumor that the German waiter is henceforth to wear a kind of order, a gilded star pending from a short chain on his manly breast.

A company has been formed in Berlin to run a line of steamships between Hamburg and Mozambique. The vessels will stop at Zanzibar en route.

In Paris the drams have increased from 24,000 in 1880 to 29,000 at the present time. The consumption of alcohol has tripled in the last thirty years.

According to a paper read at a congress at Strasburg, 32 per cent of railway passengers in Prussia travel fourth class, 21 per cent third class, 20, second and only 8.2 first.

A handy man in Steubenville, Pa., used his children's roller skates to move a heavily laden refrigerator from the dining-room to the kitchen, and not one breakdown happened.

A beautiful spring of crystal water, where West Chester folks were wont to tarry, has proved to be an outlet to a filthy sewer, the water being purified by percolation through the soil.

Miss Cordelia Meyers, of Newville, Cumberland County, N. Y., has a piano which was owned by the wife of President John Quincy Adams. The instrument is still in excellent condition.

"Please come up—dad is away this eve," was the message found on a postal card picked up on a street in Bradford. It was signed "Sadie," and addressed to a prominent young man.

A few years ago Antelope Valley, on the Mojave desert, was considered worthless for farming. This season, however, the people have harvested 60,000 sacks of wheat and the same amount of barley.

Members of the Iowa tribe of Indians are very well off. They have been reduced in number to 83 persons and have 200,000 acres of rich farming land, which they are to sell to the government—an average of over 2,400 acres each.

An eastern Ohio invalid thinks he contracted rheumatism from a horse chestnut which he carried in his clothes as a preventive. He picked up the nut in the street, and now believes some one else had thrown it there after loading it with the disease.

President George Williamson Smith, of Trinity college, Hartford, Conn., has been very successful since he took hold of that institution, some years ago. The college under his guidance has grown rapidly and now has the largest number of students in its history.

Pope Leo, despite his advanced age, is an unusually early riser. He is rarely in bed after 5:30, and by 6 he may be seen walking in the gardens of the Vatican attended by some members of his household. Very often he gives audience to his secretaries before breakfast.

The Indians of the Five Nations take great interest in news from the surrounding states, as well as within the borders of their own nations. Ten weekly newspapers are published within the territory, and a number of daily newspapers from the states are taken by the Indians.

The female clerks who have obtained positions in the Treasury Department within four or five years are mostly young women who have just passed through the normal schools and have entered the government service through the civil service examination test. They are a bright lot of young women.

In Hamilton, Ohio, a man died a few days ago, who had \$500 in money laid up, and a payment of \$150 was due to save his home. His widow took the money to buy a fine casket, an expensive lot in the cemetery, and to hire twenty-five hacks for the procession, and thus used every dollar and let her home go by default.

Says an American tourist, writing from Rome: "We went to St. Peter's twice on Sunday to hear the choir. They are all men, and there is one among them who has a phenomenal soprano voice. He is called 'The Angel of St. Peter's.' If I had not looked right at him when he was singing I should not have believed that the voice was a man's."

Says a correspondent—from Boston, of course: "What William D. Howells is to the Harpers in a literary sense, and what Kelly is to Soden in the baseball line, Lew K. Harlow seems to be to the Prangs, who are producing so many of his water-color studies at their establishment. It is understood that the firm agrees to take every picture that Harlow makes up to \$10,000 a year in value."

The court of Austria has not yet re-

covered from the sensation caused by the shah of Persia. He was considered at Vienna a thorough barbarian. He paid no attention to his royal hosts and snubbed them in the most brutal fashion. On three different occasions he made appointments to visit public institutions in Vienna, and archdukes and ministers assembled to receive him, but he came not. His manners at table were horrible and he seemed to take delight in shocking the onlookers.

King Ja Ja, the deposed potentate of west Africa, who has been imprisoned in the island of St. Vincent by the English, has taken up a Napoleonic habit. He became extremely melancholy and fears were entertained that he would soon sink into a premature grave, when somebody suggested teaching him how to play cards. He now spends days and weeks at solitaire. He is as patient and docile as a lamb since he learned the game, and has begun to recover his health and spirits. If he could behead a few slaves he would be himself again.

On going to the top of the Eiffel tower Mr. Edison wrote in the visitors' book as follows: "Top Eiffel Tower, Sept. 10, 1889.—To M. Eiffel, the brave builder of so gigantic and original a specimen of modern engineering, from one who has the greatest respect and admiration for all engineers, including the great engineer, the lion Dion.—Thomas A. Edison." He subsequently wrote his name upon Mlle. Eiffel's fan, which forms a valuable collection of autographs, bearing the signatures of all the princes of the blood royal and the princes of science who have visited her father's chef d'œuvre.

Miss Mary Garrett, sister of Robert Garrett, of Baltimore, is a great business woman. Says one of her acquaintances: "It seems incredible, but it is the truth, that this young lady has virtually handled the Garrett railroad and banking interests ever since one of her brothers was attacked with disease and the other lost his life. She is not 30 years of age and is a handsome woman of the blonde type. She obtained her business training from her father, to whom she was a constant companion in his later years, and she turned it to good account when the Garrett family was actually deprived of a male head. She has made Robert Garrett a wealthier man than he was when his father died."

Photographing Stars. The method of photographing stars is interesting. When the photographer places in the focus of the telescope a highly sensitive photographic plate the vibration of the rays of light throw themselves assiduously on the plate and steadily apply to the task of shaking asunder the molecules of silver salts in the gelatine film. Just as the waves of ocean, by incessantly beating against a shore will gradually wear away the mightiest cliff of the toughest rock, so the innumerable millions of waves of light persistently impinging upon a single point of the plate will at length affect the necessary decomposition, and so engrave the image of the star. It will be obvious that this process will be the more complete the longer the exposure is permitted, and thus we see one of the reasons why photography forms such an admirable method of depicting the stars. We can give exposures of many minutes or of one, two, three or four hours, and all the time the effect is being gradually accumulated. Hence it is that a star which is altogether too feeble to produce an impression upon the most acute eye, fortified by a telescope of the utmost power, may yet be competent, when a sufficient exposure has been allowed, to leave its record on the plate. Thus it is that photographs of the heavens disclose to us the existence of stars which could never have been detected except for this cumulative method of observation that photography is competent to give. No telescope is required, as the photographic apparatus takes the exact impression.

Negro Maxims. Face an ox behine (behind), a mule befo', but a raskil nowhairs; he don't got no safe side. Black man skoot fur de bresh. Mobbe he chase snake, mebbe snake chase nigger. Ef yo' got no shoes don't tromple in de bramitil. Don't yo' neber let loose de wildcat to chase away de house kitter. Better set in de mud den fall in de crick. Yo' call nigger black and you no mo' white yourself. No use hangin' de lame mule. Brere Bar he done got cotech by him foot, Mister Man by him tongue. Dat pig, he say, 'I misbrul to two niggers, 'case I'm so nigger.' Yo' hear turkey in de wood, and he say 'Gobble, gobble,' dat nico. Yo' hear turkey in de skillet, and he say 'Sizzle, sizzle,' dat nico. When yo' waits for yo' dinner bress de Lord if yo' get um cold. Yo' no kin boss yo' belly. He don't take nuffin on trus'. De big crab not allers good meat. Because yo' eat egg Monday, whaffo' yo' hanker for hen on Tuesday. De forwardest pig make de fast rash-er. A fine hoss ain't no wuss for a rope bridle. De ain't no tire in borrowed mule. Yo' got holt of de handle of de fryin'-pan, den sez yo': 'Dis yere bacon's got to be done jes as I please.'—Washington Capital.

Human Skin Leather. There is a growing demand in England for human skin leather.

Small Eaters Live Long.

With regard to food, we find from Dr. Humphrey's report, says the Boston Traveller, that 90 per cent of aged persons were either moderate or small eaters, and such moderation is quite in accord with the teachings of physiology. In old age the changes in the bodily tissues gradually become less active, and less food is required to make up for the daily waste. The appetite and the power of digestion are correspondingly diminished, and, although for the attainment of a great age a considerable amount of digestive power is absolutely necessary, its perfection, when exercised upon proper articles of diet, is the most important characteristic. Indulgence in the pleasures of the table is one of the common errors of advanced life, and is not infrequent in persons who, up to that period, were moderate or even small eaters.

Luxuries in the way of food are apt to be regarded as rewards that have been fully earned by a life of labor, and may, therefore, be lawfully enjoyed. Hence arise many of the evils and troubles of old age, and notably indigestion and gout symptoms in various forms, beside mental discomfort. No hard and fast rules can be laid down, but strict moderation should be the guiding maxim. The diet suitable for most aged persons is that which contains much nutritive material in a small bulk, and its quantity should be in proportion to the appetite and power of digestion. Animal food, well cooked, should be taken sparingly and not oftener than twice a day, except under special circumstances. Dr. Parker advocates rice as a partial substitute for meat when the latter is found to disagree with old persons. Its starch grains are very digestible, and it supplies nitrogen in moderate amount, well fitted to the worn and slowly repaired tissues of the aged.

Its bulk, however, is sometimes a disadvantage; in small quantities it is a valuable addition to milk and stewed fruits. The amount of food taken should be divided between three or four meals at fairly regular intervals. A sense of fullness or oppression after eating ought not to be disregarded. It indicates that the food taken has either been too abundant or of improper quality. For many elderly people the most suitable time for the principal meal is between 1 and 2 p. m. As the day advances the digestive powers become less, and even a moderately substantial meal taken in the evening may seriously overtask them. Undigested food is a potent cause of disturbed sleep, an evil often very troublesome to old people, and one which ought to be carefully guarded against.

IRISH COAST POVERTY. How the Peasants of Bantry Manage to Get a Scanty Living. Besides fishing up herring and hake, the poor people at the head of Bantry Bay fish up sand. Sand raising, as it is called, is as important an industry as catching fish. This kind of sand, known sometimes as coral sand, is used as farm manure, and costs from 8 to 9 shillings a boat load—a poor price considering the toilsome character of the work and cost of the boats required to carry it on. A sandboat costs £15 when new and £2 a year in repair. The utmost a boat owner or partner can do in a day is to bring to shore two boat-loads. The proceeds have to be divided among a number of workers, while the working season lasts for a portion of the year only.

In spite of their lifelong labor from morning to night, in Winter and Summer and in calm and in storm, these crofter fishermen are in a state of chronic poverty. They do not live by their scrappy patches of holdings. They earn with difficulty from the sea barely enough to buy sleeping room and a foothold on the land.

They even do more than that; they partly create, with the help of the sea, the very soil for which they pay rent. The deposit which they call coral sand they have used to reclaim these shores of rock and bog. They have used the seaweed for the same purpose, cutting it up from the deep water with a primitive machine, which may be described as a marine scythe, and the seaweed has to be paid for, if not as a separate item, then as included in the holding. Coral sand, seaweed, the refuse of house and pig-sty, and basket-loads of soil found among the bowlders, these are the ingredients out of which, after years of work, the crofter fishermen have produced the tiny green patches which dot innumerably the rocky shores and the grey-brown sides of the sterile but incomparably picturesque mountains that surround Glesgraiff the beautiful. And the dwellings of these hard-working people! They are more fit for the pigs that go grunting and shouting in and out of them than they are for beings created in the image of God. A dry stone box with earthen floor, and without windows, two or three recesses stuffed with straw for beds, and the whole filled with peat rock; such is the ordinary type of houses where a fisherman and his wife live with half a dozen or more children. In one such house which I visited there were seven children.—London Daily News.

A Valuable New Mineral. From New South Wales comes a report that a mineral which has been discovered near Dubbo contains all the properties of the very finest sienna, and that it is in every way suitable for painting, staining, dyeing, and ink.

California, it is said, now manufactures nearly all the iron she needs, though only a few years ago she depended on the east for her supply.

Bathing in Salt Lake.

You get a bathing suit of heavy knit wool, just like that issued to the Chinamen who stood in line ahead of you. It is very thick, and it has a startling tendency to sag down that is increased with wetting. When you have tied yourself up in it and joined the throng that wades out through the coarse sand to deep water, you notice that the waves do not come in with the high, proud arch of those at Long Branch. Nor do they break with the roar of the ocean waves. They come in with a long low sweep, and curl over in foam with a strong hiss. One could hardly expect anything else. This pond is one of salt pretty thoroughly saturated, and that is about all. It is four times as salt as the ocean. The Dead Sea is not much saltier. You find it out to your discomfort if you neglect to read and follow the instructions posted upon the platform and in the bathing houses to avoid swallowing or getting the water in your eyes. You wet your head in the dressing-room and then you make an effort to keep your head out of the water.

The lake is low now. This is accounted for, as is the scarcity of water everywhere about the mountains, by the fact that the snows of last Winter were very light. It is necessary to go out 200 feet to get beyond your depth. Then you are beyond the low breakers and have only to look out that the white caps do not dash in your eyes. There is no undertow. As soon as you have reached a point where you can feel on the bottom with your feet, your feet will come up and you will find yourself involuntarily in the attitude of observing your toes as they stick out of the water. Try to turn over, and you have only lifted your arm to make an effort when you pop over like a lip-sided cork. If you keep one arm down and lift the other over you go, and you find that by repeating the process you can get up a speed of about forty revolutions a minute.

Make the usual motions to swim and your feet will kick in the air. Your best efforts will be wasted in attempting to keep them in the water, whether you are back down or up. If you get a little of the water in your mouth you do not need to be told why there are patches of glistening white along the shore, where the sun has been. It is not a good place for swimming. The best use you can make of the opportunity is to try the capacity of the densely-salt water of flotation. When you have spent half an hour in the warm shower provided in each dressing-room, and a brisk rub, you are ready to admit that there are worse things to take in this world than a bath in the Great Salt Lake.—N. Y. Sun.

Mrs. Maybrick in Prison. Mrs. Maybrick—almost forgotten now—is doing her nine months of solitary confinement, and daily does an allotted task of needlework, says the Pall Mall Gazette. Those who follow the wretched woman's career, as it may be studied from time to time by the prison bulletins, will learn with interest that there is considerable thought as to dress in this prison, and as befits a lady's establishment. Even in prison, according to F. W. Robinson, a variety of toilets is customary. There is the probation class, in which women for the first nine months wear a lilac cotton skirt in summer, with a blouse bodice, a square of serge for the shoulders, a check blue and white apron, small white linen cap with gopher border, and a plain, untrimmed, coarse white straw bonnet of what is termed the "cottage shape," and a very hideous chape, to our masculine mind, it appears to be. On Sundays white aprons and neckerchiefs are worn. In winter the lilac dress is replaced by a thick, blue serge, with a neckerchief of the same material, and a thick, fawn-colored circular cap is also allowed for the shoulders.

In the second nine months the prisoner is a woman of the third-class, and wears in summer a plain blue cotton skirt with stripes, and a square of brown serge for the shoulders. The bonnet and linen cap remain the same in style, or distinguished, as it may be, for want of style, and white aprons and neckerchiefs again smarten up the woman on the Sabbath. In winter the third-class women wear brown serge dresses and fawn-colored capes. In the third nine months a female convict becomes a woman of the second-class, and is allowed the distinction of wearing a full blue cotton skirt with white spots, a blouse bodice of the same material, and a square of green serge for the shoulders. In winter she wears a thick green serge gown, the other details of the dress being the same as in the preceding class. In the fourth period of nine months she becomes a woman of the first-class, with little, if any distinction from the second, and this remains until she is within nine months of the expiration of the sentence, when—happy time for the female convict, with liberty so close at hand again—she is dubbed a woman of the special class.

The two children of Mrs. Maybrick have, by the consent of their deceased father's brothers and of the Baroness von Roque, been adopted by a lady and gentleman in London who are in good circumstances and who will see to their maintenance and education. The children (boy and girl) will assume the names of their foster parents, and thus it is hoped in future life escape the stain attached to the name of their mother.

"Oyster color" is a tint intended for brocades in which women will be presented to the queen at the next season.