

DINED THE AUDIENCE.

And the Treat Proved a Fine Ad. For Liszt and Rubini.

An article in an Italian review contains an interesting story of Liszt and Rubini, the tenor. They were touring together and visited a town where, from the preliminaries which had been arranged, great things were expected. But they were disappointed, for when they entered the hall they found only fifty persons present.

Rubini was furious and said he would not sing, but Liszt calmed him. "You must sing," he said. "This small audience is evidently composed of musical connoisseurs of the town, so we should treat them with respect." Liszt set the example with a grand overture, and Rubini sang to perfection. Liszt gave another piece and then addressed the audience.

Liszt as an orator was as tactful as he had been in the role of pacifier. Addressing his audience of fifty, he said: "Ladies and gentlemen," there was only one lady present—"I think that you have had enough music. Allow me to ask you to take a little supper with us." After a few seconds the invitation was accepted, and Liszt and Rubini entertained the audience to supper at their hotel, which cost them 1,200 francs.

When the guests separated the hosts thought the affair had been a joke, about which nothing more would be heard, but they decided to give their concert as advertised on the following night. To their astonishment the hall was packed. There was not standing room. The whole town had turned out on the off chance of an invitation to supper.

PATAGONIAN INDIANS.

Customs of the Remnants of a Once Powerful Tribes.

Normally the Tehuelches, as the Patagonian Indians are called, are a peaceable and kindly people, yet they are impulsive, capable of strong passions, very revengeful and—often with good reason—suspicious of strangers. They are not to be trifled with and when under the influence of drink are brutal and dangerous. They show love for their children and wives and kindness to their old people. They are divided into numerous tribes or groups, each having its chief or cacique, upon whom the burdens of government rest but lightly.

They believe in a good and an evil spirit, whom they propitiate, and have many stories, myths and superstitions connected with the sun, moon and stars, while the slaying of horses and drinking of blood form a conspicuous part of their superstitions, birth, marriage and death ceremonies, many of which are most repulsive.

When Magellan first passed through the strait there were perhaps no fewer than 10,000 Patagonians roaming from the Rio Negro to the strait, while today, driven back from the littoral to the high pampas and the foothills of the Andes, altogether they would probably not total over 100,000. Harper's Magazine.

The Smallest Pension.

Great Britain's pension system is as liberal as any being considered the vast number of persons carried on both the military and the civil lists. But in one case the record for smallness of payment has undoubtedly been established. Various factors enter into determining the amount to be paid soldiers, and these factors so combined against one old soldier that it was found that he could draw a pension of not any more than fourpence—8 cents a year. Promptly on each quarter day there comes an official communication transmitting the amount due in the form of postage stamps, and he is granted leave of absence in order that he may convert this into money at the post-office. Then, after the proverbial manner of sailors, he promptly proceeds to "blow" the entire amount.—New York Tribune.

Wordsworth's Sense of Smell.

Poets have not failed to do perfumes justice, but one major poet—Wordsworth—went through life without a sense of smell and was not sorry for it. Nature, he told Aubrey de Vere, seemed to him all the more a vision. But once, and once only, did Wordsworth smell, and the prosaic occasion illustrates the unpollished household ways of his time. He sat down with his family to the midday dinner and began to carve a leg of mutton. The leg of mutton was stuffed with onions, and for once, and once only, the sense of smell was revealed to him. The onions, suddenly laid bare, conquered.—London Standard.

Taxed the Beard.

Peter the Great of Russia levied a tax on beards. Finding that his subjects were disposed to keep their beards at any expense of money, he ordered all those he found bearded to have the hair plucked out with pinners or shaved with a blunt razor. Russia then became a beardless nation.

Suspicious.

Bank Vice President—What's the matter? Bank Vice President—I was just thinking. I sat next to our cashier in church yesterday, and I don't quite like the way he sings—"Will they miss me when I'm gone?"—Puck.

Seizing the Opportunity.

Crabshaw—If you insist on this new gown I'll have to get it on credit. Mrs. Crabshaw—As long as it's got to be charged, dear, I may as well get a more expensive one.—Life.

Swampy in the Sixth Sense.

German.

SANDY'S SCRUPLES.

They Almost Kept the Tourists From Getting the Boat.

A couple of tourists staying at a village which is in close proximity to a well known Scottish loch had a fairly good Sunday to go for a row on the loch. They accordingly sallied forth in search of the boatman, whom they met just leaving his house, dressed in his Sunday best and carrying a Bible under his arm.

"We want to go for a row," said one of the tourists.

"Dae ye no' ken it's the Sabbath," answered Sandy. "Ye'll no' get a boat frae me the day, forby I'll hae ye tae ken that I am an elder o' the kirk."

"Yes, yes," expostulated the tourists, "that's all very well for you, but we don't require you with us. You can go to church, we can row ourselves."

"Aye, aye," said the elder, "but jist think whit the meenister 'd say."

"Never mind the minister," was the reply, "he will know nothing about it. We will pay you well."

"Ah, weel," said Sandy, "I'll no' let ye the boat, but I'll tell ye whit I'll dae. Dae ye see ye wee lochie doon among the rushes? Weel, she's ready, wi' the oars inside. Jist ye gang doon there an' row out tae the middle o' the loch, an' I'll come doon tae the bank an' swear at ye. Bit never ye mind, ye jist row on an' I'll call for the money on Monday." London Ideas.

CROWNED HIMSELF.

An Impromptu Ceremony in Which King George IV Figured.

That was a curious sort of impromptu coronation in which his majesty King William IV. of England figured. Things did not go very well with Earl Grey's government after the second reading of the first reformed bill had been carried by a majority of one in 1831, and one Friday in April they suddenly got the king to go down and prorogue parliament in person. Some body went off to the Tower to fetch the crown, and with a scratch body of attendants his majesty drove down to the house of lords. What happened there is described in Grey's memoirs.

The king ought not properly to have worn the crown, never having been crowned, but when he was in the robes of state he said to Lord Hastings, "I wear the crown, sharp blades folded into one with 'Where is it?' It was brought to him, their cutting edges outward and round when Lord Hastings was going to put it on his head he said, "No, no, the crown is not for me, it is for the king, the coronation is over."

The crown did not fit very well, we are told, but the prorogation was successfully effected.—London Chronicle.

Serving Soup.

If anybody were asked to suggest why the soup plate was made broad and shallow the almost certain answer would be that such an arrangement facilitates the cooling of the soup to a temperature comfortable to the mouth. We believe that utilitarians drink tea out of a saucer for the same reason.

While that may be the explanation of the peculiar shape of the soup plate, the advantage indicated is surely insignificant compared with the obvious disadvantages which may probably arise from exposing so large a surface of nutrient fluid to the air. Soup should be served in a cup, a low broad teacup, and the method which is becoming more usual is hygienic. To deep a vessel would be an error on the other side. Its advantages would be canceled by its great drawback. We should miss some of the delicate flavors of the soup.—London Lancet.

Stage Scenery.

Walter Pritchard Eaton, the dramatic critic, believes modern dramas are too elaborately staged in "The Question of Scenery" in the American Magazine he says:

"After all, it was not the Elizabethans who were stupid because they could enjoy the drama on a bare stage. It is we who are stupid because we cannot enjoy the drama unless the stage is littered with 'realistic' scenery. We have no faith in our own imaginative powers. It would be a good thing for the drama if all scenery were abolished for the next ten years. Having learned to get along without it, we would perhaps keep it in its proper place for a while after it returned. Its proper place is as a pictorial and suggestive background to the actors and the play and nothing but a background."

Ruined by Jeating.

The Antiochenes themselves brought about the ruin of the beautiful city of Antioch, the ancient capital of the Greek kings of Syria. These people were famous for their biting and scurrilous wit as well as their ingenuity in devising nicknames. When the Persians under Choaroes invaded Syria in 538 the Antiochenes could not refrain from jeating at them. Ample revenge for this was taken by the Persians, who totally destroyed the city.

Would Do His Own Biting.

The British gentleman new to our shores stepped up to the cigar counter and requested of the "clerk" a cigar. "What will you have, a bit cigar?" asked the "clerk." "No; I'd rather bite it myself," replied the Briton.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Men Are Beacons.

Every man is the center of perpetual radiation like a luminous body. He is as it were, a beacon which satiates a ship upon the rocks if it does not guide it into port.—Amid.

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A Marvel of Insect Mechanism. The sting of a certain Indian fly of the genus, as marked an example of design, nature as our will be imagined. When seen through a magnifying glass, it is found to be composed of three sharp blades folded into one with their cutting edges outward and round when Lord Hastings was going to put it on his head he said, "No, no, the crown is not for me, it is for the king, the coronation is over."

FATHER KOENIG'S NERVE TONIC. Recommended by a Pastor. My daughter suffered all March 1891 C. Epileptic fits had 2 to 4 attacks in a week often that many in a single day. Our doctor treated her without any result. Rev. Otto Meyer recommended Pastor Koening's Nerve Tonic, which she took and after that would not get more than one fit or 1 1/2 in a month. Pastor Koening advised from the doctor of the Koening Medical Co. We give her the Antiepileptic Tablets besides, and she had no more attacks since.

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SHIRLEY PRESIDENT SUSPENDERS. "Why do you insist on that boy's studying music?" said the man with respect for art. "You know very well he can't sing." "Yes," replied the patient father; "I know it. And I want him to learn enough about music to realize it for himself."—Exchange.

Another Viewpoint. Clara—I overheard Mr. Blumberg say to a friend the other evening that I was a pretty young lady. Maude—Well, you are pretty young; but, of course, you are growing older each day.—Chicago News.

An Obstructionist. "So you are going to have a new gown?" "I don't know. Mother has passed the bill, but I expect father will veto it. He is opposed to all our bills nowadays."

Use For the Library. Architect (showing plans)—This room will be your library. Mr. Newrich—My library? Oh, yes, of course. I must have a place to smoke.—Boston Transcript.

No man can do nothing, and no man can do everything.—German.

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