FREEHAND NOTES.

Something About Modjeska, Artists and Social Events.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 6, 1883.

You had Modjeska in "Adrienne." Is she not charming? A gentleman who had seen all the good acting in Germany and France, as well as here at home, unhesitatingly pronounced Modjeska the most spiritual actress he had ever seen, that quality being most beautifully apparent in her love scenes in "Adrienne." My last glimpse of her was in "Mary Stuart" last Friday night. Her version of Schiller is said not to be as good as the one Ellmenreich played, which again sadly garbles the original. It is Mary Stuart as we wish she were and not as later history shows her to us; besides Madame Modjeska made it dignified and gracious and tender, as she alone seems to have the secret of doing. Her celebrated entrance into the wood, in the scene where she meets Elizabeth later, was like the settling down of a beautiful white bird. Her light graceful drapery is disposed about her in the most effective manner, and her outburst of joy at her momentary liberty in the open air is just that mingling of the child and the woman that artists of the French school seem to counterfeit more successfully than English-speaking actresses. For the communion scene at the close of the play, for whose realism Ellmenreich was criticised, Madame Modjeska substituted a recitation in Latin of the Psalm "De Profundis Clemavi," and the effect was exalting. Her old servant Melville retires backward

HOLDING ALOFT THE CRUCIFIX,

Which seems to draw Mary like a magnet. She follows with slow, devout steps and folded prayerful hands, repeating this Latin psalm in the deepest and most solemn tones of her wonderful voice, and seems already half in heaven. The beautiful Continental pronunciation of the Latin made the recitation like a chant. Madame Modjeska said that the part really ended with a confession of love for Leicester, but such an exit she thought unsuitable for a Queen going to execution, and, with her usual good taste and facility of resource, added this psalm. She confessed enchantingly that she had a remorse. In Warsaw once a young Polish student presented her with flowers tied with the Polish colors, and as Poland is politically out of existence, the student was expelled from his college for the treasonable act. Considering it injustice, he challenged the superior officer who expelled him; they met, and the young Pole was killed. I have just been hearing

THE HISTORY OF A GREAT ENGRAVING,

One of the proofs of which may be sent to California. It is of Raphael's "School of Athens." The original painting is in Venice, and thither the author of the engraving went every year for sketches and study. It has taken him thirteen years to complete it, for, besides the immense difficulty of the undertaking, he could only work on it at rare leisure moments, for he has two departments under his charge in the Berlin Museum—the chair of Fine Arts and the Imperial Printing Establishment. He is Herr Louis Jacobi, formerly art professor in the University of Vienna. The Austrian Government has purchased the plate of "The School of Athens," and has given Herr Jacobi 20,000 florins, equivalent to about $33,400, and thirty of the first proofs, the proofs "before letters" as they are called, before the name of the picture is put on the border. One of these proofs will cost $300 in the United States, and all may be difficult to sell because they are so costly. At the celebration of Raphael's birthday at Urbino, on the 6th of April, the Austrian Government sent one of the proofs of Herr Jacobi's engraving of "School of Athens" to the authorities at Urbino, with a memorial. Herr Jacobi's wife is a sister of Bernard Natorp of this city, a partner in the firm of Wilkens & Co., himself a connoisseur in all art matters. His brother, Gustave Natorp, is studying sculpture under the famous Kodin in Paris, Baden Powell, the barrister's son, being a fellow-worker with him in the same studio. Gustave Natorp's first exhibited work, a "Hercules in Hades," two-thirds of life-size, was very highly commended by Thurat, art critic on the *Courrier International*, a Paris paper. In the elaborate style of modern Parisian journalism, M. Thurat says that there is nothing fleshless and marrowless about his

GHOST OF HERCULES.

But it represents a powerful man who must have sinned a great deal. Gustave Natorp has also finished a decorative vase, with a design of skaters, which M. Thurat characterizes as "an endless glide, a harmonious spiral, ravishing attitudes, a *de roulement de farandole*." Pen Browning, the poet Browning's son, is another of Mr. Natorp's Paris art chums, and the three, with Mr. Kinloch, a young Scotch land owner, give a dinner at the English International Club, or the "New Club," as it is called, recently removed from the Avenue Matignon to the corner of the Boulevard Malesherbes and Place de la Madeleine. All the hosts are at liberty to invite guests, and Goncourt, the realist novel-writer, and the poet Theodore de Banville, whose early verses were commended by Sainte Beuve, have been among the diners at the new club.

There are but two solitary pieces of home gossip: Juliau Rix, the artist, is said to be engaged to Miss Nellie Hopps, who is also an artist, and Miss Georgie Richards and Mr. Blow are to be married on the 19th of this month, which the late Mr. Longfellow, in his "Poet's Calendar," was pleased to call the month of marriages.

PHILIP SHIRLEY.

SERENADE.

Lady mine,
'Tis thy lover who calls on thy name,
Lady mine.
With the sunset the water's aflame.
There's no guard to keep watch on the gate,
For thee doth my gondola wait;
Let us float with the tide to the deep;
On a cradle of waves shalt thou sleep.
Come away,
For the sunset is dying apace;
Come away,
For here by my side is thy place.

As we float
And the twilight grows ever more gray,
As we float
'Mid the beautiful death of the day,
There's a light that I see in thine eyes,
Like to that of the morn that shall rise,
When safely all danger we've passed,
And I call thee mine own one at last.
Row apace,
For the moonlight shines faint on the tide.
Row apace,
For the morning must break on my bride.
—[Temple Bar.

NEW USES FOR PAPER.—The future of paper as an important constructive agent is assured. In household usage it is commonly employed for table-ware, pails, tubs, floor-mattings, napkins, etc. It is used in the construction of the dome to the Columbia College observatory. And now we have a steam boat, which has been nearly completed, to ply on the Ohio river, that is almost entirely made of paper. It is twenty feet long, and has a carrying capacity of several tons. The sheathing is a solid body of paper three-eighths of an inch thick. It would seem that there are two facts characteristic of paper as a building material which people would not naturally look for. First, it appears that, despite the brittle nature of the material in its more common forms, it may be made firmer, because more compact, than wood. Second, while in a thin form it readily yields to moisture, it may be made by pressure to resist water even better than wood. These two qualities of strength and imperviousness must combine to insure the popularity of the material. It is a common principle that paper, cotton and such soft materials offer more resistance to blows than do many of the tough metals. Thus a bullet might be fired at such a surface and penetrate to a less distance than in wood. Practical tests prove that this principle applies to articles manufactured of pressed paper.—[Cleveland Herald.

HAIR CUTTING.

It may be that cutting and shaving may for the time increase the action of the growth, but it has no permanent effect either upon the hair-bulb or the hair-sac, and will not in any way add life to the hair. On the contrary, cutting and shaving will cause the hair to grow longer for the time being, but in the end will inevitably shorten its term of life by exhausting the nutritive action of the hair-forming apparatus. When the hairs are frequently cut they will usually become coarser, often losing the beautiful gloss of the fine and delicate hairs. The pigment will likewise change—brown, for instance, becoming chestnut, and black changing to a dark brown. In addition, the ends of very many will be split and ragged, presenting a brush-like appearance. If the hairs appear stunted in their growth upon portions of the scalp or beard, or gray hairs crop up here and there, the method of clipping off the ends of the short hairs, of plucking out the ragged, withered and gray hairs, will allow them to grow stronger, longer and thicker. Mothers, in rearing their children, should not cut their hair at certain periods of the year (during the superstitious period of full moon), in order to increase the length and luxuriance as they bloom into womanhood and manhood. This habit of cutting the hair of children brings evil in place of good, and is also condemned by the distinguished worker in this department, Prof. Kaposi, of Vienna, who states that it is well-known that the hair of women who possess luxuriant locks from the time of girlhood never again attains its original length after having once been cut. Pincus has made the same observation by frequent experiment, and he adds that there is a general opinion that frequent cutting of the hair increases its length; but the effect is different from that generally supposed. Thus, upon one occasion he states that he cut off circles of hair an inch in diameter on the heads of healthy men, and from week to week compared the intensity of the growth of the shorn place with the rest of the hair. The result was surprising to this close and careful observer, as he found in some cases the numbers were equal, but generally the growth became slower after cutting, and he has never observed an increase in rapidity. I might also add that I believe many beardless faces and baldheads in middle and advancing age are often due to constant cutting and shaving in early life. The young girls and boys seen daily upon the streets with their closely-cropped heads, and the young men with their clean-shaven faces are year by year by this fashion having their hair-forming apparatus over-strained.—[Doctor Shoemaker.

A PREHISTORIC SPECIMEN.

A young man who lives on West Spruce street, Philadelphia, ventured out alone into the unknown regions of Lower Merion a few days ago. The young man did not know much about the country, and it seemed quite natural that he should wish to carry home to West Spruce street a memento of his trip, a specimen from natural history. He saw hanging from a low bush by the roadside a strange object, very much like a small balloon made of coarse gray paper. This singular thing seemed to be just the specimen he wanted. He broke off the twig from which the curiosity was suspended, and went to the station. He entered a well filled car, placed his specimen in a hat-rack and sank into a seat.

The car was arm. The warmth seemed very delightful to the young man, who had been out in the cold so long. In a short time he was in a doze. The car grew warmer. The young man slept. Suddenly the artificial summer atmosphere was rent by an unearthly shriek, and a lady rose convulsively and just as suddenly fainted. Before the startled passengers had time to discover the cause of their alarm another lady repeated the performance. A third who began in the same manner would probably have finished it without any change in the programme had she not received a sudden shock that acted like hartshorn and saved her from losing consciousness, for just behind her a man began to swear in a style truly diabolical. And, as if matters were not already bad enough, a baby set up a yell and would not be comforted.

The passengers soon got into a strange commotion. The men were dancing and some of them swearing; the women trembling, fainting and shrieking; the children scrambling under the seats and blubbering and whimpering. The young man awoke in amazement. For a moment he thought that the people were crazy and that some of them would do injury to his prehistoric balloon. Then the conductor burst through the crowd and stood before the young man. He did not speak. He leaned over in front of the young man and opened the window. The young man was surprised. The conductor seized the prehistoric specimen and threw it through the window with all his strength.

"Impertinence!" shrieked the young man. "How dare you touch my specimen!"

"Your specimen!" roared the conductor. "Why, you fool, don't you know it's a hornets' nest?"—[Philadelphia Times.

A SQUAW'S CUNNING.—Those who think the poor Indian has lost his cunning can read the following and be disabused: On Thursday night as Conductor Winston was taking the Lake Shore Accommodation from Erie to Buffalo, the brakes were applied and the train brought to a sudden stop. Up flew the windows, and the passengers were horrified to see lying beside the track the apparently headless body of a human being. The conductor, brakemen and many of the passengers sprang off and ran back to pick up the remains. Upon near approach and investigation the supposed corpse proved to be a live young squaw under the influence of liquor. A red handkerchief wrapped around her head and shoulders gave her a very ghastly appearance from a distance. Being assisted to her feet she exclaimed, "Me want to die! Me git run over!" Of course the kind-hearted conductor could not think of such a thing and ordered her put aboard the train and carried to the next station, some four or five miles distant. Upon arriving there she was very carefully assisted off the train, and as it moved away she placed her thumb and fingers to her nasal organ and went through a series of movements that would have done credit to any gamin, winding up with wafting a graceful kiss after the conductor as she disappeared around the corner of the depot. She had obtained a free ride, much to the amusement of the passengers and the discomfiture of the conductor. Little squaw heap sharp.—[Erie (Pa.) Dispatch.

THE WORD "WIFE"—It was Ruskin who pronounced the word "wife" one of the most beautiful and appropriate in the language. He described it as the great word with which the English and Latin languages conquered the French and Greek. "I hope," said he, "that the French will some day get a word for it instead of that *femme*. But what do you think it comes from? The great value of the Saxon words is, that they mean something. Wife means 'weaver.' You must either be housewives or house-moths, remember that. In the deeper sense, you must either weave men's fortunes and embroider them, or feed upon and bring them to decay. Wherever a true wife comes, home is always around her. The stars may be over his head, the glow-worm in the night's cold grass may be the fire at his feet, but home is where she is, and for a noble woman it stretches far around her better than houses ceiled with cedar or painted with vermillion—shedding its quiet light for those who else are homeless."

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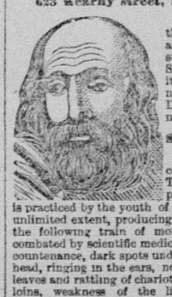

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