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THE DAILY REPUBLICAN

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Old Court Life in France.

From All the Year Round.

No one who reads the history of France in some of the volumes before the great revolution, can much wonder at that outbreak. The seigneurial laws were beyond measure oppressive and inhuman, and justice was a mockery to the poor.

A seigneur of the old French school was omnipotent, over his vassals he had the power of life and death over his serfs. The infamous laws which gave over the people and soul to their masters, and which made one blith for one's neighbor.

Other rights, too, were hereditary with the lands and title of a seigneur of old times, to which we can not do more than allude.

One very common form of luxurious oppression was connected with the bullfrogs of the ponds. These frogs do certainly make an unearthly noise through the night, and when a seigneur had a pond, he was obliged to keep a bullfrog in his garden.

And with this hideous state of things, inhuman and barbarous, existed a cynical confession of immorality wherein was no rule but the one of personal pleasure, no law but the law of Kingly might.

The sixteenth century was one of those epochs which are to form and vivify the future generations for all time. Art and literature, speculation and science were in full activity, and even war itself had its favorable side.

Each acts as a spur to the other, both in peace and in war. They introduce the cultivated tastes of a more refined and more liberal age.

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fringed with gold and looped up with priceless jewels and feathers; of embroidered cloaks in costly stuffs—heavy with gold or silver embroidery—hung over the shoulders and hands with richly jeweled garters; of garments of cloth of gold, embroidered with arabesque bearings in jewels; of satin jackets covered with rivers of diamonds, emeralds, and oriental pearls; of ruffs and collars wherein gold, but the foil to priceless gems.

The ladies wear Eastern silks and golden tissues, with trimming of rare furs, wide sleeves and puffed, fan-shaped, and trailing veils. They ride in ponderous coaches covered with carved and gilded, or on horses whose pedigrees are as united as their own, wearing with velvet hosiery and silken nets woven with jewels, their names plated with gold and precious stones.

These illustrious ladies confer with their lords, and are weak in respect of stockings. Foremost in every gorgeous mode is Francis. He wears rich Geneva velvet, and affects bright colors.

In those days a man's enemies were emphatically those of his own household; and the life of Francis I. of France, was a scene of domestic wars.

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throne. She planned and executed the massacre of St. Bartholomew; and she systematically degraded the virtue of women and the honor of men, that she might be the more successful in her designs.

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generations of miracle, of centuries of crime, and they suffered for their fathers, according to the text. The time for retaliation was equal to the wrong that had been wrought.

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A MIDSUMMER IDYL. BY H. W. BUNWELL. Within the shade by willow made. In soft summer weather, We sat beside the rippling tide— My clouds of white, with softened light, The moonbeams shimmered; And on the stream a silvery beam With diamonds of light shined.

The summer breeze, from fragrant trees, The sweet perfume of flowers, And the sound of water, were all around us, As we sat by the rippling tide.

That Historical Society. In some sections of the country a bottle of whisky is familiarly known as "a keg of nails," and to announce to a crowd of old-fashioned folks that a bottle of whisky is to be sold, is to announce to a crowd of old-fashioned folks that a keg of nails is to be sold.

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War; and shall, under the direction and with the approval of the Secretary of War, employ, for the benefit of the United States, the convicts at such labor as in such trades as may be ordered by the Secretary of War.

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