

FAMOUS POPULAR SONGS.

The Authorship and the Circumstances Under Which They Were Composed.

From the St. Louis Republican. "And Lang Syne" is popularly supposed to be the composition of Burns, but, in fact, he only wrote the second and third verses of the ballad as commonly sung, retouching the others from an older and less familiar song. The "Old Oaken Bucket" was written by Wordsworth, in New York city, during the hot summer of 1817. He came into the house and drank a glass of water, and then said: "How much more refreshing it would be to take a good long drink from the old oaken bucket that used to hang in my father's well." His wife suggested that it was a happy thought for a poem. He sat down and wrote the song as we have it. "Woodman, Spare That Tree," was the result of an incident that happened to George P. Morris. A friend's mother had owned a little place in the country, which she had been obliged from poverty to sell. On the property grew a large oak which had been planted by his grandfather. The purchaser of the house and land proposed to cut down the tree, and Morris' friend paid him \$10 for a bond that the oak should be spared. Morris heard the story, saw the tree and wrote the song, "Oft in the Stilly Night" was produced by Moore after his family had apparently undergone every possible misfortune; one of his children died young, another went astray and a third was accidentally killed. "The Light of Other Days" was written to be introduced into Balfe's opera, "The Maid of Artois"; the opera is forgotten, but the song still lives, and is popular as ever. Payne wrote "Home, Sweet Home," to fill up an opera he was preparing, and at first it had but four stanzas. The author never received anything for it, but, though the opera was a failure when played in Covent Garden Theater, the song took, and over 100,000 copies were sold the first year. Foster's "Old Folks at Home" was the best song he ever wrote. Over 400,000 copies were sold by the firm that first published it, and the author is said to have had \$15,000 for his share in its sale. Christy, the noted minstrel, paid \$400 for the privilege of having his name printed on one edition of "Old Folks at Home" as the author and composer. The song is thus often and justly attributed to him. "Rock Me to Sleep" was written by Mrs. Allen, of Boston. She was paid \$5 for it, and Russell & Co., of Boston, who had in three years gained \$4,000 by its sale, offered her \$5 apiece for any songs she might write. Some years after, on a poor widow and in need of money, she sent them a song which was promptly rejected. "A Life on the Ocean Wave," by Epes Sargent, was pronounced a failure by his friends. The copyright of the song never got anything from it himself. "What Are the Wild Waves Saying?" was suggested to Dr. Carpenter by a scene in Dickens' novel, "Dombey & Son."

A NEW ORLEANS LEGEND.

The Weird Story of Mme. La Laure's Home in the Old French Town.

There is no portion of New Orleans so full of interest to stranger or resident as that which a stranger prettily calls "the Old Orleans of George W. Cable." Its old, red-tiled houses, one with great, overhanging roof that serve as a sort of awning, some with high balustrade of tiles set on end, forming an old leonard around the edge of the roof, are pretty to look upon. Time has softened the angularities in these small houses, the winds of many years have blown a rich soil upon their tops, as, witness, I passed a cottage on Bourbon street the other day, upon the tiled roof of which grew, in luxurious profusion, golden rod, each stalk at least four feet high. Far down upon the corner of Royal and another street stands a big square house, built in old French style. It is five stories high, and, although there are great scars upon the grey stone walls, and the ornate carvings over the peaked tops of the small-paned windows are beginning to crumble off, it is a building whose architectural features attract the attention of all the sight-seeking strangers. About forty-five years ago this house belonged to a wealthy old French woman, whom one may call Mme. La Laure. She owned many slaves, and when she went to live in her Royal street residence she furnished some of the rooms in grand style. The madame was a she-devil, who tortured her slaves, all the town was beginning to back yard, in which, it is said, she hung the negroes, even to the little babies, suspending them by the arms, so that the black, cold, foaming water came up to their lips, and there they hung till almost dead. If they died in the water, especially the babies, who could not naturally endure much of such treatment, the body was weighted, the rope cut, and the poor, freed darky sunk swiftly out of sight. In a room on the lower floor of the house Mme. La Laure had built a sort of dungeon—a brick room inside of a brick room. It has one window, with iron gratings across it, and is as black and awful-looking as any dungeon you can imagine. The floors in this echoing old building are full of murderous-looking stains, and to-day, if water is thrown upon them they come out blood-red. It was up in the garret, though, that the worst torturing was done. Here this bloodthirsty old woman, so they say, upon the least provocation, used to take her negroes, tie them to the walls or nail them by the hands down to the floors, and then amuse herself by cutting off their ears, tearing out their nails and cutting out their tongues. One night there came a hoarse roar blowing down the narrow length of Royal street, and toward midnight a black crowd of human beings—that awful result of a outraged community, a mob—surrounded the stately, grim building. The old French mistress listened in scorn to the storm-like clamor, until the tumult of people apparently came to halt under her own windows, and she heard her own name cried out with threats for her of the torture. She sprang down the oaken stairway, across the marble hall, past the doorway, then full of festering wretches, past the well of water—they say to beason this so black to-day is owing to a little negro babies on the bottom—and, unloosing the heavily-barred back gates, she made her way to the river side. She dodged her pursuers, and crossed the river in a canoe. Finally she escaped to France, where she afterward died. They say the mob, after freeing the negroes, fairly gutted the house. Of course, the place is haunted. By all the laws of sensationalism it could not but be a place where black ghosts walk. The building was once used as a public high school, but the parents of the girls were superstitious and would not allow their daughters to cross the threshold of the place; so it was abandoned.

THE JONES FAMILY.

Mr. Jones Has a Painful Attack.

From the Detroit Post. When Mr. Jones came home the other evening he discovered that the hall carpet was up and house cleaning was in progress. It gave him a hurt, homesome sort of feeling to see the hall carpet standing on its head, and he marched to the library, and, after falling over a roll of carpet and an empty coal-hod, lunged his hat on the chandelier, and pulling off his boots set them carefully on his desk, while he groped about for his slippers. His intention was to join his family at the supper-table, but as Mrs. Jones and the children seated themselves in expectation of his coming they were horrified to hear a dismal shriek from the library. "It it pa," said Willie with his mouth full of buttered toast. "He's killed himself," said Johnny. "Howdy Moses! what ails the man now?" echoed Bridget, as they all rushed in pell-mell. The unfortunate head of the house was lying on the sofa apparently dead. "Jephtha, dearest! what is it? Look at me, darling—speak to your own Maria," wailed Mrs. Jones, throwing herself violently on his chest. "The lips of the prostrate moved—" "Ma-r-i-a," he murmured, feebly, "the—a—a-tack—will be fatal!" "Run for the doctor!" shrieked Mrs. Jones. "Go as fast as you can, Willie; tell him you poor pa is dying! Oh, Jephtha, can you have the heart to leave me?" "Misfortunes never come alone," said Bridget, wringing her hands, "it's loike a man, it is, to go an' die in house cleanin' time; the erthurs haven't any more sense nor a hin."

Methods of Opium-Eating.

Where opium-eating is a science—in other words, where it is extensively practiced—there prevail many methods of using it. One is swallowing a dose of opium, another is firing a boulette or pea and inhaling the smoke through a pipe made for the purpose. This is commonly used by the Chinese, and the pipe is called the opium pistol. In Persia and the Levant the former method of swallowing the pill prevails. In the base of the bowl is a chink for transmitting the smoke into a stem, and above this is laid the pellet. The smoker holds the pipe in one hand and the lamp in the other, takes a full breath. Old smokers swell their lungs as much as possible, and, retaining the smoke for some time, puff it out through the nostrils much the same as a Spaniard smokes a cigarette. The novice would find one pellet about all he could handle; yet Surgeon Hill relates that he saw a young man about 24 use eight pellets, each the size of a pea, within twenty minutes, taking a long breath after each and then dropping off into a deep sleep, which continued for three hours. The breathing was heavy and the pulsations one in twenty. In the United States there is another method of using opium, which is becoming alarmingly common. This is what is known as the hypodermic method—subcutaneous injection by means of a syringe. The method is cheaper, since one-third of the quantity is needed, or, in other words, the same quantity is three times as strong.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Photographic Speech.

The new system of teaching the deaf and dumb by directing them to look at a person speaking, and to note the position of his lips in giving utterance to different sounds, has now been in practice for several years on the continent, and, as our readers are probably aware, has also been adopted in this country with some success. A continental teacher has now hit upon a plan of furthering the instruction by having recourse to photography. A model has been chosen whose lips are particularly expressive in their action, and a series of photographs taken of him while pronouncing the different sounds that go to make up a language. Such a "speaking likeness" has been obtained that, in many cases, even an untrained observer has difficulty in guessing the letter on the lips of the model as the photographs are displayed one after another.—Photographic News.

Bank of England Wonders.

A story teller, wishing to excite astonishment by the exaggeration of his statements, said that a famous banking house transacted so large a business that in order to economize they ordered their clerks not to cross their 'n's nor dot their 'i's, which resulted in the saving of ink alone in one year of £5,000. Preposterous as this story seems, it is almost equalled by some of the items which show the magnitude of some of the transactions of the Bank of England. In the course of five years that famous institution has paid 77,745,000 notes, all over £100, and some reaching, of course, millions of pounds. These could fill 13,400 boxes, which, if placed side by side, would occupy two and one-third miles. If placed in a pile these notes would be five and two-thirds miles high, and if joined end to end would form a ribbon 12,445 miles long. At the end of every five years these notes are thrown into a furnace and burned. It is a curious fact that so firm is the texture of a Bank of England note that even burning can hardly destroy it. The authorities have in a little glazed frame the remnants of a note which was in the great fire of Chicago, and, though completely charred and black, the paper still holds together, and the printing is sufficiently legible to establish its genuineness and warrant its being cashed. It is a point of honor with this great institution to cash every genuine note, no matter how disfigured. Notes long under water and reduced almost to an indistinguishable pulp have been duly honored, and in one case £30,000 was paid over to a gentleman who testified that he had destroyed or unintentionally mislaid a note for that amount. Many years after his death the missing note turned up, and as it called for immediate payment the money was handed over and the bank lost the amount.

Farms in the United States.

The following table shows the number of farms in the United States in 1880, and the number in 1870:

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Bank of England Wonders.

A story teller, wishing to excite astonishment by the exaggeration of his statements, said that a famous banking house transacted so large a business that in order to economize they ordered their clerks not to cross their 'n's nor dot their 'i's, which resulted in the saving of ink alone in one year of £5,000. Preposterous as this story seems, it is almost equalled by some of the items which show the magnitude of some of the transactions of the Bank of England. In the course of five years that famous institution has paid 77,745,000 notes, all over £100, and some reaching, of course, millions of pounds. These could fill 13,400 boxes, which, if placed side by side, would occupy two and one-third miles. If placed in a pile these notes would be five and two-thirds miles high, and if joined end to end would form a ribbon 12,445 miles long. At the end of every five years these notes are thrown into a furnace and burned. It is a curious fact that so firm is the texture of a Bank of England note that even burning can hardly destroy it. The authorities have in a little glazed frame the remnants of a note which was in the great fire of Chicago, and, though completely charred and black, the paper still holds together, and the printing is sufficiently legible to establish its genuineness and warrant its being cashed. It is a point of honor with this great institution to cash every genuine note, no matter how disfigured. Notes long under water and reduced almost to an indistinguishable pulp have been duly honored, and in one case £30,000 was paid over to a gentleman who testified that he had destroyed or unintentionally mislaid a note for that amount. Many years after his death the missing note turned up, and as it called for immediate payment the money was handed over and the bank lost the amount.

Farms in the United States.

The following table shows the number of farms in the United States in 1880, and the number in 1870:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Total, Male, Female. Rows include Actors, Artists, Clergymen, Domestic servants, Journalists, Lawyers, Physicians, Teachers and scientists, Undertakers, Blacksmiths, Carpenters and joiners, Millwrights, Masons, Milliners, Dressmakers, Painters and varnishers, Plumbers, Riggers, Printers, Lithographers, Saddlers, Bagpipers, Tailors.

Professions and Trades.

The following figures from the census of 1880 show in what way many of the men and women of the country busy themselves:

Table with 3 columns: Profession, Total, Male, Female. Rows include Actors, Artists, Clergymen, Domestic servants, Journalists, Lawyers, Physicians, Teachers and scientists, Undertakers, Blacksmiths, Carpenters and joiners, Millwrights, Masons, Milliners, Dressmakers, Painters and varnishers, Plumbers, Riggers, Printers, Lithographers, Saddlers, Bagpipers, Tailors.

Conjugal Companionship.

Another discouragement that Dr. Dix might have prescribed for divorce is persistent, unselfish intention on the part of married couples to be companionable. Companionship is the basis of all lasting unions of male and female, even among the animals. It is quite true that most couples were originally mismatched, but no fact is better known and recognized, outside of family circles, than that extreme differences of intellect, taste, acquirement, disposition and nature are no bar to the most delightful and enduring friendship, unless in one person or the other there are positive vices or selfishness that prevent the formation of any true and honorable bond with any being whatever. Even heathen philosophers have urged man and woman to perpetuate and perfect their union by mutual and persistent devotion toward each other. But Dr. Dix has indirectly discouraged this in nearly all of his lectures. His injunction that wives shall be obedient to their husbands; his reprobation, or, at least suspicion, of modern women's desire to be well informed on subjects of which their husbands talk; his criticism of women who are not content to be housekeepers and nurses and nothing more, are all calculated to make women the inferiors of their husbands, and, consequently, to a great degree uncompanionable. The lecturer might justly have given his male parishioners, respectable and otherwise, some hard words, for the greater part of the day to devote the better part of the day to business, most of the remainder to their male acquaintances, and only their spare hours to their families.

Professions and Trades.

The following figures from the census of 1880 show in what way many of the men and women of the country busy themselves:

Table with 3 columns: Profession, Total, Male, Female. Rows include Actors, Artists, Clergymen, Domestic servants, Journalists, Lawyers, Physicians, Teachers and scientists, Undertakers, Blacksmiths, Carpenters and joiners, Millwrights, Masons, Milliners, Dressmakers, Painters and varnishers, Plumbers, Riggers, Printers, Lithographers, Saddlers, Bagpipers, Tailors.

SECOND SALE OF LOTS.

Regents' Addition To Minneapolis. The Regents of the University of Minnesota will offer at public sale, one hundred and twenty-five residence lots in Regents' Addition, on Thursday, May 17, 1883, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the Nicollet House, Minneapolis. These lots are located near the University, and are easily reached by street cars. The sale offers special inducements to all those desiring to secure full quarter-acre residence lots in the best portion of the city of Minneapolis. COL. A. H. NICHOLAY, Auctioneer. H. H. SHELLEY, President of the Board of Regents. Dated April 26, 1883. 117*

TAILORING.

McCrath Fine Tailoring. 146 EAST THIRD STREET. Send \$1, \$2, \$3, or \$5 for a retail box by Express, of the best Candies in America, put up in elegant boxes, and strictly pure. Suitable for presents. Express charges light. Refer to all Chicago. Try once. Address C. F. GUNTER, Confectioner, Chicago.

HEALTH IS WEALTH.

Dr. E. C. West's nerve and brain treatment, a specific in hysteria, dizziness, convulsions, nervous headache, mental depression, loss of memory, premature old age, caused by over-exertion or over-indulgence, which leads to misery, decay and death. One box will cure recent cases. Each box contains one month's treatment. One dollar a box or six boxes for five dollars, sent by mail prepaid on receipt of price. We guarantee six boxes to cure any case. With each order received by us for six boxes, accompanied with five dollars, we will send a purchaser our written guarantee to return the money if the treatment does not effect a cure. Guarantee issued only by Lambie & Co., corner Third and Washburn streets, St. Paul, Minn. Order by mail promptly attended to.