

The Opelousas Courier.

LEONCE & L. A. SANDOZ, Publishers. OPELOUSAS, - - - LOUISIANA.

A WEE WORLD OF MY OWN.

There once used to be At the foot of a tree, Where moss grew across and the violets were blue...

A MUSICAL ELOPEMENT.

Another Instance in Which Love Laughed at Looksmlths.

"Well, yes, Uncle Shefflin seems to have left me out," said Paul Praed, with a shrug of his shoulder.

Poor Mrs. Brand who had fallen into a very fury of rage when she discovered that her future son-in-law was not his uncle's heir, was now repenting, as she usually did, at leisure.

"Of course Gertrude can not marry a poor man," said she. "But I might have been nicer; I was horrid."

Then Mrs. Brand wept profusely and called Gertrude to come to her. "It's for your own good, child," she declared, "all for your own good."

"How would you like it yourself, mother?" was all that Gertrude would say. "Now I must lie down, and I shall take to my bed, I think, for what is the world to me now?"

"All, some of these days you'll repent all this," said Mrs. Brand, but Miss Gertrude returned to her bedroom. Shortly after came a knock at the door, and opening it, Mrs. Brand saw without a couple of stout men who looked between them a bass-viol case.

"This is very do wedding is to be Monday?" asked one of them. "No," said Mrs. Brand. "That is all over."

"So?" replied the spokesman. "Well, I must leave it here a little while anyway. I comes for it pretty soon aready," and with that he followed his companion, who had already vanished.

"The impudence!" said Mr. Brand. But she could do nothing but submit. There the great bass-viol case stood "like a ghost," as she said, "staring at her" (Mrs. Brand's descriptions were very curious at times) until the long Monday had passed.

Meanwhile, Gertrude was shut up in her room and refused to come out. Evening came; Mrs. Brand began to feel desperate. She had no one to advise with, and she bethought herself of an old covey who resided in the same house. At least she would "weep with her tear for tear."

Carefully locking her doors, so that there was no possibility of Gertrude's escape, Mrs. Brand accordingly proceeded to the rooms occupied by Mrs. Finch. But that lady was out, so the little card upon her door declared, and Mrs. Brand hurried home again.

She had only descended one flight of stairs, and her eye had never left the only egg from her own suite of apartments. As she unlocked her door she heard feet ascending the stairs, and turning, saw the Germans who had brought the bass-viol to her room.

"Goot evenin'," said the older, larger and most talkative of the two. "Here we are again, ve come to take de instrument. I wish I come to ply mit dot veddings."

"I wish you did, I'm sure," groaned poor Mrs. Brand. "Well, if I was not a married man mid dea childrens aready, I would brobose, and if you said yes, ve would have dot veddings," said the stout man.

"I never heard such impudence!" said Mrs. Brand. "There's your great Jumbo fiddle, do take it away."

"Yes, ve takes it," said the German. "Careful, Hans, careful. Good-bye, lady. Go lightly, Hans, knock it not mid de door."

"Of course you have," cried Paul Praed, appearing at this instant from behind the others, and embracing his wife and mother-in-law at the same moment.

Then back to the bedroom again, and out with fawn-colored silk, and all the proper costume of the bride's mother, and back to the head of the table.

And then it suddenly occurred to Mrs. Brand that she was once more happy, that all that had happened was like a bad dream, and that, poor as he might be, she was glad that Gertrude had married Paul Praed.

How they feasted that night! How they sung! How they danced! And as for the end of the evening, that was like a fairy tale, for who should come to the door of a messenger boy with a telegram for Paul, which, when he had read to himself, he read aloud, and it was as follows:

"To Paul Praed: Hurrah! uncle's will is covered: Dr. confesses; sixty thousand yours. Come at once. Bless & go."

"Hurrah!" cried every body. "And after all you have a sixty thousand-dollar son-in-law, mamma," said Gertrude. "And we shall live in Avenue A."—Family Story Paper.

FREAKS IN TABLES. Dainty Pieces of Furniture For the Smoking Room or Parlor. Fancies in tables are as common as in any thing else. The housewife with an inclination to be artistic and artistic will show many different designs in stands and tables pleasing and ornamental.

The right thing for a smoking room is a rustic three-legged affair, supporting a handsome Moorish brass tray. The room should be in keeping, and with low chairs and wide divans, and oriental curtaining, quite a Moorish and aesthetic appearance is produced.

Small tables are more popular nowadays than the large, clumsy affairs in vogue not long ago. A very dainty five o'clock tea table is octagonal in form. The wood, of mahogany, has a top of inlaid work in boxwood. Midway to the polished brass feet are four circular shelves, each about the size of a tea plate. Under the edge of the tabletop are a row of tiny brass hooks, intended to hold the cups, the saucers standing on the circular shelves.

Then there are pretty little three-shelfed tables in built work, which show red mahogany and boxwood inlays, brass railings and brass-tipped legs. The center of each shelf is in a soft, mottled gray wood, making a pleasing groundwork for the display of ornamental porcelain.

A pretty home-made table seen recently was simply made by placing two disks of wood about three feet apart as top and shelf, these held in place by three legs. The whole had received a liberal coat of black enamel paint and a top of marbled slate, with a spray of wild roses painted on it, making a charming accessory to a corner in a small room.

Another double-deck table of home manufacture had seen good service as a washstand, but after the sides and backs had been removed and several coats of white enamel paint had been applied to hide the wear and tear it had received, a very pretty square table was produced, and after a grapy of light color and texture had been tastefully thrown over it, a more complete table could not be desired.

Table covers in odd designs are also frequently introduced. One was seen a few days ago of alternate strips of drawn work and pen-and-ink sketching. Small mats, edged with lace, the pattern of which may be outlined with silks, are pretty for table squares.—N. Y. Star.

An Anecdote With a Moral. The doubts that many good people feel as to the professional insight and honesty of even their pet physicians will get a trifle of confirmation from this little story. There was upon within a few years an English doctor whose morning levees were crowded beyond description. It was his pride and boast that he could feel his patient's pulse, look at his tongue, probe at him with his stethoscope, write his prescription, pocket his fee, in a space of time varying from two to five minutes. One day an army man was shown into the consulting room and underwent what may be called the instantaneous process. When it was completed the patient shook hands with the doctor and said: "I am especially glad to meet you, as I have often heard my father, Colonel Forester, speak of his old friend Dr. L."

"What?" exclaimed the doctor; "are you Dick Forester's son?" "Most certainly I am." "My dear fellow, fling that infernal prescription into the fire and sit down quietly and tell me what's the matter with you. How can I guess at it and do my duty by you?"—N. Y. Independent.

New Method for Melting Iron. A German inventor proposes a new method of melting iron, the advantages claimed for which are economy of fuel, greater facility for making sharp, strong castings, and a purer description of metal. The cupola is supplied with blast through two tuyeres, one above the other, there being eighteen in each set—the tuyeres being ports, with the form of a vertical slab, and directly connected with a tuyere ring. The special feature of the cupola is that the bottom is a slightly inverted arch, pierced by two openings, through which both blasts, or rather imperfectly consumed gases of combustion and the fluid, can flow. Below is a small chamber in which the iron collects. It is heated by the gases forced downward from the cupola above, these being supplied with the necessary air for combustion by a special tuyere leading to the main pipe, the chamber at the same time serving to preheat scrap, etc., which need only to be pushed into the bath for dissolving it.—N. Y. Sun.

FROCKS FOR CHILDREN.

Beautiful and Tasteful Outfits For the Little Ones. A frock of Henrietta cloth, had the skirt in wide side plaits with band of wide galloon just above the hem; cut-away jacket body with fronts opening over a vest of contrasting material. The vest had bands of the galloon round the lower edge and as a finish to the turn-over pointed collar. The vest was round at the top and had rows of narrow velvet set plain round the neck. The sleeves were plain and had pointed cuffs. The fronts of the jacket and the sleeves at the edges of the cuffs had fancy buttons. The cuffs were trimmed with narrow velvet to match the vest. Belt trimmed with rows of velvet.

Another cloth dress had the skirt gathered full into a pointed belt of velvet; plain, close-fitting body with small cape; standing collar of velvet, full sleeves gathered into velvet cuffs; velvet waist.

Another very pretty little frock was of camel's hair. The skirt was gathered into a round belt, edged with fancy cross-stitched embroidery. The half-fitting jacket opened over a plain vest. Plain sleeves, narrow standing collar with bow at the side. The front of the vest, the edges of the jacket, the collar, belt and bottom of the skirt were finished with the cross-stitched embroidery.

Another was camel's hair and surah. Plain skirt in side plaits, loose jacket body with very wide collar turned over the shoulders. Full sleeves with wide, straight cuffs. Long, very full vest of surah. Vest, corners of the collar, corners of the jacket and the cuffs were embroidered in quaint designs.

A dainty little frock for a child of eight was of gray, fancy striped flannel, with a front of pink veiling. The waistcoat and cuffs were finished with old silver buttons. The rovers, cuffs and full vest were of the veiling.

Another was of white boating flannel. The plaited skirt was trimmed at the foot with a deep band of navy blue and white striped flannel. The bodice was of white with chemisette of velveteen and trimmings of the striped flannel.

A very elegant little frock of velvet and surah had a skirt of plain velvet, with long plaited poisonous of surah, opening at the side, showing the velvet skirt. The front was plaited from collar to waist line, the plaits running to a point. The back was in full box plaits. A sash of the surah was knotted round the waist; the ends falling over the velvet skirt. Full sleeves, with embroidered cuffs and embroidered standing collar.

Another was of fine cloth. The sides and back of the skirt were in box plaits, the front in very narrow side plaits. Jacket body with long pointed rovers cut square and fall over the skirt. A sash is set under the side sections and crossings in front with wide end. Pointed vest of wide plaits. Sleeves with full puff at the shoulders and plain below. Collar and cuffs of fancy embroidered trimming.

A frock for a small girl was of Bengaline. The skirt was gathered full into a belt, below which were rows of shirring. Full collar and V shaped vest of the material, with very wide graduated collar of embroidery falling over the shoulders and crossing the front from left to right, where it is fastened to the belt by a large buckle. Wide cuffs of embroidery.

A frock of striped silk and plain velvet was very pretty and stylish. The skirt was of silk, the front in large box plaits; the sides and back in side plaits. The vest and lower parts of the sleeves were of silk also. Redingote of velvet, the fronts turned back and faced with silk of the same color as the ground of the silk skirt; coat skirts at the back; folds of velvet from the shoulder seams to the waist line in front. Very full puffs at the shoulders, with plain bands below. Collar and cuffs of plain velvet. Twisted sash of silk to match the facings of the redingote.—Philadelphia Record.

KEEP AT WORK. Occupation as a Moral Force and Idleness as a Mischievous Breeder. Occupation and industry are so often recommended merely for the material gains they bring that their moral force is not always recognized as it should be. Yet occupation that brings no material reward, and is, by comparison with work, the merest trifling, may be, if innocent in itself, a moral force simply because it keeps the individual out of temptations and gives employment to his energies. Idleness is a fruitful breeder of mischief. The mind, if not the body, must be at work during idle hours. It is difficult to conceive of a period of inaction for the brain except during sleep or insensibility. Thoughts come unbidden; they may be mischievous or merely idle, but occupation supplants them with other thoughts relating to the work or play in which one is engaged or stirs the mind to speculation or planning. It is not possible, even though it might appear to be desirable, to keep men at work during all their waking hours; they must have rest and recreation, and it is during this period that they need some occupation, harmless in itself, to keep them out of mischief. It is for these otherwise idle hours that good amusements should be provided—books or papers to be read, societies, literary entertainments, concerts and theatrical performances of an improving kind to be attended. In a great city many of these needs of humanity are furnished by business men to meet a want as real as that for food and clothing. But there are many who have not the means to avail themselves of such occupation as is thus provided for idle hours, and for such these charitable people establish free libraries, schools and other places for self-improvement. Some of the workmen's clubs and similar bodies go further than this and furnish gymnasiums and rooms for various games, recognizing that occupation for idle hours is the main thing, and that it must be of a kind contrasting with the daily labor of the individual to be benefited. The clerk may find amusement in manual labor or in

violent exercise; the mechanic, who has had enough of both, is better satisfied with a book or with a game that calls only for mental exertion. All these different tastes and needs for an occupation that may fill in idle hours are fairly well met in a large city by the variety of entertainments provided by business men and philanthropists—the one for gain, the other for the good he may do humanity. But it is far different in the smaller towns and villages, where it does not pay to cater to such needs and where there is seldom wealth enough to furnish from its abundance free entertainment or educational advantages. For all such places, however, there is opportunity to do a good work by co-operative enterprise at very little cost. A literary society meeting in the school house or church furnishes occupation for the thoughts of members not merely during the few hours devoted to the meetings, but for many hours in preparation therefor. It may also furnish the foundation for a small circulating library of books or papers that will provide reading matter, giving useful occupation for other spare hours. From such beginnings in the course of time may be developed a lecture bureau bringing to town or village occasional speakers from abroad. All such enterprises, undertaken in the right spirit, have undoubted educational and moral value. In the smaller cooperative bodies work on the part of the members takes the place of money capital. A lazy village may be transformed by such an institution; the young men, instead of idling away their hours of rest in useless or mischievous gossip at the country store or the wheelwright's, may have their ambitions aroused, be encouraged to read and study, and thus be given occupation that will keep them out of mischief and promote their mental and moral welfare. Many of the great men of the country received their earliest impulses to study in societies of this kind. The educational value of the exercises may have been limited, but the readings, the debates and other literary endeavors stimulated a desire to learn and established habits of study and industry bearing good fruit in later years. What form the efforts to provide occupation for idle hours should take depends very much upon the community to be reached. It should be adapted to their wants as well as to their needs. Aiming at too much good may defeat the purpose if the occupation provided should be in the nature of drudgery. For men who work hard during the day, relaxation and amusement are needed. These may be found in reading, in literary exercises adapted to their understanding, and games of various kinds. But as the main purpose is to occupy their idle hours with exercises not injurious, efforts toward their improvement should be limited to such things as will surely enlist their interest and engage their attention, trusting to the influence of good habits for the future development of higher tastes and demands.—Baltimore Sun.

PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL. —The belle of Baton Rouge, La., a lady of graceful and attractive manners, owns and personally conducts a job printing office.

—John Wanamaker's life is insured for a round million of dollars, which a statistician computes is at the rate of \$7,500 for every pound of his flesh.

—The late Sydney Bartlett, of Boston, during his active career at the bar, saw the Supreme Court of the United States twice entirely renewed.

—M. Carnot, President of the French Republic, in his youth served a regular apprenticeship in a carpenter's shop, and is a clever craftsman at that trade.

—A woman living near Freehold, N. J., nearly eighty years old, claims she has traveled but once on the cars, never saw a steamboat, and was never more than twenty miles from home.

—Sir Julian Pannocote, the new English minister, is a fine technical musician, and in his younger days used to compose and play the piano with considerable skill.

—A Port Angeles, W. T., woman, who died recently at the age of sixty-nine years, left all her money, of which she had considerable, to the trustees, who are to use it in disseminating the principles of Henry George.

—At the funeral of the late Mrs. Henry Hoffman, at Sassafrasville, Berks County, Pennsylvania, there were used up at the funeral feast 200 pies, 75 loaves of bread, 60 rolls, and cakes, a calf and a large quantity of ham.

—One of the women who write Washington letters reports that Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Harrison's sister, has "made herself beloved by every attaché of the White House force by her gentle and considerate spirit and thorough breeding."

—One of the most efficient post-masters in the country is Mrs. Thompson, who presides over the post-office at Louisville, Ky. Her salary is \$4,000 a year, and she has held her place for eight years. She is a daughter of Alexander Campbell, the founder of the Campbellite sect of Baptists.

—Herr Josef Ritter von Werndl, the great Austrian rifle inventor and manufacturer, gained his knowledge of firearms in America, and then from a small beginning built up a factory employing eight thousand men. On the announcement of his death stock in the concern fell ten per cent., showing the importance in which his personality was held.

—Ex-Justice Strong is often referred to as the most sensible man in Washington. He served ten years on the Supreme bench and then retired on full pay. In 1880 he resigned, and has since lived quietly in Washington, lecturing occasionally and performing faithfully the one duty that the law requires of him. Whenever the Supreme Court is required to take part in any public ceremony, Judge Strong puts on his robe and walks with them in the procession. In consideration of this and his past services he receives ten thousand dollars annually from Uncle Sam's treasury.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE." —We have often stopped in the middle of an article to wonder why men do not use looking glass to make artificial eyes.—Binghamton Republican.

—Lady lawyer—"I demand the discharge of my client, your honor." Counsel for plaintiff—"May I ask you what grounds?" Lady lawyer—"Well, because."—Burlington Free Press.

—Scribbler ate two Welsh rarebits, three portions of terrapin, a plate of ice cream, a lemon meringue pie and a lobster salad, and now says he's got the writer's cramp.—Harper's Bazar.

—Well, doctor, how did you enjoy your African journey? How did you like the savages?" "Oh, they are very kind-hearted people; they wanted to keep me there for dinner."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

—Parson—"Now, my little girl, can you tell me what beautiful verse you have learned to speak at the Sunday school concert?" Little Elsie (who is undergoing a course of medical education, reciting)—"And Jesus said 'Sulphur is good for little children!'"—Lowell Citizen.

—Customer—"Here, waiter, I ordered a bowl of half and half. This isn't it." Waiter—"Yes, sah, dat's de very article." Customer—"What do you mean to tell me that is half milk and half cream?" Waiter—"Oh, no, sah; I mean half milk 'n' half watah, sah."—America.

—Customer—"You jell cracked eggs at half-price, do you not?" Clerk—"Yes'm, we always make a fifty per cent. reduction on cracked goods. Anything else to-day?" Customer—"Yes, you may give me a dollar's worth of cracked wheat and here's your fifty cents."—Omaha World.

—Good Boys.—Proud father—"Goin' ter start r church and Sunday school, are yer? Well, I've got two mighty good boys wot'll do for yer Bible class. They never told a lie in their lives—here they come now. Boys, where did yer git that fowl?" The good boys—"Stole it." Proud father—"See, parson! Erle couldn't live in them boys' mouths."—Munsey's Weekly.

Muskets and Bayonets in a Tree. One night, long since, H. T. Huff, a well known coal dealer of Atlanta, Ga., while cutting down a tree near his farm, five miles from Atlanta, on the Sandtown road, made a strange discovery. The tree was in a hollow tree, and Felix Jackson (colored) was put to work with an ax to hew it down. "Lawd a mercy!" exclaimed the negro, as he dropped his axe and peered into the opening he had made by the light of a torch. The negro had discovered an arsenal whose implements of war were like the gun of Rip Van Winkle when his sleep of twenty years. In the hollow tree were eight old army muskets and two bayonets which had been stored away by soldiers twenty-five years ago. The stocks of the guns had nearly rotted away, and the barrels were rusted. The tree had grown about one of the bayonets and made it immovable.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

—Government Clerk (to friend)—"I'm in a frightful hole. I went to see two doctors yesterday and got a medical certificate from each. One was a certificate of health for a life insurance company and the other was a certificate of illness to send to the chief of my petition for a week's leave of absence." Friend—"Well, I've done that myself. What's the matter?" G. C.—"Matter? Great Scott! I mixed the certificates in mailing them. The insurance company has my certificate of ill-health and the chief has my certificate of good health."—Boston Beacon.

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