LONDON GOSSIP.

Some Account of the Apostles of Æstheticism.

INTELLECTUAL ANDROGYNES

Chromatic Idealities and Arrangements in Pea Green.

LONDON, Nov. 10, 1879.

The wanderer into certain circles of London society will suddenly become aware that he is, as it were, in a strange land. He is surrounded, it is true, by beings who are of the same race as himself, but their aspect is curious and uncouth, their garments are cut after the fashion of old years and they speak a jargon known only to the initiated. Has he stumbled, thinks the wanderer, upon "the coming race," and will he shortly experience the terrible effects of "Vril," or can it be possible that the house at which he visits is a private maison de santé, and the company in which he finds himself as mad as Hamlet? Such at least would be the first thoughts of a stranger, but the more experienced Londoner knows that he has strayed into what are known as æsthetic circles and the people he sees around him are all artistic and æsthetic and very scornful, you may be sure, of everybody who is outside the sacred pale. Æstheticism is one of the fashionable crazes of the day, and, like all such manias, it is carried to extremes, while it is very amusing to note the way in which the veriest dunce or dauber will be exalted as a great author or a great artist if only he happens to have the seal of the Holy Vehm which presides over æsthetic circles. Art and æstheticism of course go hand in hand, and the devotees show their appreciation of the former by making their houses like the back rooms of shops in Wardour street. The home of one of the presiding geniuses of an æsthetic circle is truly a curious place. The chairs and tables are of Chippendale or Sheraton, the walls are covered with plates and here and there is a pea green picture by some painter of whom you have never heard, but who is, nevertheless, so you are assured, a great genius. There is a variety of china about which is regarded as a sort of fetish, and if it, like the rest of the room, would be all the better for a good wash, why we must suppose that dirt is venerable and put up with it.

ÆSTHETIC PERSONAGES.

So much for the home and now for the inhabitants and *place aux dames*. Let us glance first at æsthetic young women. The girl of the period who goes in for art and æsthetics is often fearfully and wonderfully made. She is tall and angular, she has fulvous red hair and she dresses in garments of green or peacock-blue cut in strange and outlandish fashion. To quote a modern verse writer on such a maiden:—

> She raves o'er Rossettian lyric,
> A *penchant* for Swinburne she owns,
> She holds every painter empiric,
> Excepting one master, Burne-Jones,
> I scarce understood what the change meant;
> But lo! the result 's to be seen—
> She 's now an astounding "arrangement"
> In subtle sage green.

It is just possible, of course, that she may be good looking, and then there is something very quaint and attractive about the old fashioned attire. But when one sees women such as Mr. Sandys has drawn, and Mr. Burne-Jones and others of his school have painted, with prognathous skulls and jaws that seem trying to run round the corner, enveloped in green wrappers, the shudder is irrepressible. There is not much danger to the most susceptible man from these sirens of æstheticism. Even if, like Herr Teufelsdröch, he feels that all women are holy and heavenly, and sees them "hovering mute and inaccessible on the outskirts of æsthetic tea," he will probably be so shocked and scandalized at their views of life, their favorite authors and painters and the exaltation of sensual love which prevails among the high priests of the school that he will turn rather to those examples of pure English girlhood, who, if not so artistic, are at least less likely to have learned the lessons of "Our Lady of Pain," or thrilled at the vision of Faustine. It must be said, however, that the young man who professes to be æsthetic is even more objectionable than the young woman.

FEMININE MASCULINES.

He is an epicene individual who seems always apologizing for having been born a man, and truly masculine humanity might be glad to be quit of him. He wears his hair long, is of a strange and atrabilious complexion and is too evidently unfamiliar with the morning tub. He has most probably been to Oxford, where he idolized Mr. Pater; he perpetrates sonnets for a society paper, and he has been heard to say that he would like to be on the grass at the feet of Mrs. Langtry, both being in the costume of Adam and Eve before the fall, and pelt her with roses. He belongs to the Savile Club, an institution at which there is certainly uncommonly "plain living," but very little "high thinking," unless, indeed, thought is to be considered "high," like game when it is intolerably stale. Sometimes one of these young gentlemen goes on the stage and is hugely admired by his petticoated comrades in the stalls, while ribald young men nudge one another and make bets as to his being a man or a woman. Attempting the stage is, however, rather a dangerous experiment, as the British public is, on the whole, abominably Philistine, has a decided objection to see the stage peopled with histrions who have evidently bathed in Salmacis, and is apt to express its opinion by vehement hisses. Of course, æsthetic society is cultivated to a very high pitch, but at the same time you will soon find out that the reading of these superior beings lies in a very narrow groove and that the gods of their idolatry in literature and art are very few. They scorn old fashioned poets such as Shakespeare, Byron and Scott, the two latter being considered barbarians, and they adore Swinburne and Rossetti and some of the feeble imitators of those poets, their weakness being for what Mr. Robert Buchannan felicitously called "The Fleshly School" of poetry.

ART AND LITERATURE.

The painters who are accepted are Messrs. Burne-Jones, Whistler and Rossetti, with some gentle toleration of Mr. Holman Hunt and great delight in small daubers who imitate the ultra pre-Raphaelites. But the most curious thing about æsthetic society is the discovery you make on your first introduction to it that there are a great many more geniuses in the world than you expected. True, you have not previously heard, nor has the world any knowledge of the existence of these great men and women; but still that is easily remedied. You hear of artists who could put the whole Royal Academy to shame, only unfortunately that cross and corrupt body refuses to exhibit their works, so the Raphael of Fulham and the Carracci of Chelsea have to content themselves with their own admiration and that of their friends. Then, again, there are great masters of prose who would extinguish forever the memories of Addison, of Gibbon and of Macaulay if only they could be induced to put pen to paper. But the majority of them are far too wary to risk detection by giving anything to the world, and they content themselves with conversation, giving their disciples, like bogus Coleridges, a "confused, unintelligible flood of utterance," which is listened to with reverential silence. Occasionally one of these geniuses is induced to take up the pen, and then the pages of the *New Quarterly Magazine* are enriched with a discourse, say on "Idealism in Chromatic Art," which, strange to say, makes no sensation, but is received with a good deal of unkind laughter. We come next to the poets of æsthetic circles, and they are even more phenomenal than the geniuses who think in prose or the unexhibited artists. It must be added that they are much more amusing, for most of them have published, and they are none of them averse from letting you judge of their productions if you make advances to them in a proper spirit.

FOLLOWERS OF SWINBURNE.

These are all founded more or less upon Swinburne, and in them you see his faults emphasized and accentuated. They are full of "sweet blood," "bitten lips," "salt kisses," "bitter foam," "burning tears" and the rest of the cacophonous twaddle of the adjectival Algernon. One versifier of this school wrote a lovely thing in poems, in which he described a woman as a vampire, "behaving as she" to her husband in a highly edifying manner. Another still more aspiring bard has published a book which is called "Flowers of Passion," the principal poem in which—this is no exaggeration, but a simple fact—deals with the incestuous love of a brother and sister, and was justly stigmatized by an indignant critic as "Flowers of Filth." The great delight, however, of these gentlemen of what may be called the Swinburne-and-dirty-water school is to get hold of some obscure Frenchman whose life was a standing testimony to the necessity of a future state of punishment, if not of rewards, and whose verses faithfully reflected the gutter he called his mind. Having found such a man, and it is unhappily not difficult, the next thing to be done is to translate him, with all possible fidelity, so that none of the nastiness shall escape, and then, indeed, you have "crowned the edifice," and are free of the sacred circles of æstheticism forever. Moreover, it happens that some fathers are foolish enough not to let their daughters read such books, it is a good plan to lecture upon one of these Frenchmen—say upon Baudelaire or Villon—as was positively done in London recently, before an audience in which there were many ladies, the lecturer being by no means sparing in his allusions to subjects which must have made their cheeks tingle, supposing them to have had any power of blushing left. What is remarkable, also, is that these painters and poets have their tame critics, who herald each masterpiece with this sort of stuff. Here is a description of a lady in a picture recently painted by D. G. Rossetti. We are told that the "physical and mental expectancy and insufficiency of self is impressed by nature on the sumptuous loveliness of the lady and appears in the suppressed languor of her broad eyelids, in the potentialities of passion rendered plain in the morbidezza of her marble-like cheeks, which have been refined in form and blanched in tint by the urgency of unperiected love." "Nonsense!" the reader will cry, "that is a parody, and a very foolish one, of a certain style of art criticism." Not at all. That is what positively appeared in the *Athenæum* last week, an æsthetic critic on an æsthetic painter, though it is certainly hard on an artist of Mr. Rossetti's indubitable powers to be the subject of such crazy "gush;" and the intelligent foreigner must wonder whether Sir Charles Dilke permits his critical journal to be edited in the nearest Lunatic Asylum.

THE MUSICAL ÆSTHETICS.

Other circles there are, which might arrogate to themselves the title of æsthetic, wherein music is cultivated, and in which reunions take place where hectic young men and women sing songs by composers unknown to the public and never likely to be popular if published. But the leading features of the æsthetic society of the day are those which I have described, as any one may convince himself by seeking an entrance, which is not difficult to obtain, to any of the select gatherings of the disciples of this new *cultus*. These will be found in various parts of London. You may go to the drawing room of an almost forgotten dramatist, who lives on the rather faded laurels of old triumphs. You may be invited to the weekly meetings at the house of a novelist famous for weird plots and sensation Christmas numbers. There are studios in Fulham and in St. John's Wood, where may be met all that is most æsthetic among the devotees of high art, and there are certain publishers who delight in gathering round them the rising young men of the school, the passports to the favor of these Sosii being a settled conviction that all monarchs ought to be executed and a disbelief in the existence of a Deity. The visitor will find much to interest and amuse him in æsthetic society. It is at the same time possible that he will reflect that Carlyle was right when he said that our économists, "nigh buried under tables for minor branches of industry, have altogether overlooked the grand overtopping hypocrisy branch;" that he will wonder with a touch of sadness what their pitiful masquerading means and how sane people can conduct themselves in such a fashion. And yet they are probably only amusing themselves, for does not Herbert Spencer tell us that he met with a quotation from a German author to the effect that the æsthetic sentiment originated in the play impulse? We must not then look on life too seriously; and there are more crazes more harmful than this mania for high art and æsthetics which has developed among us so many mutual admiration societies.

THE TELEPHONE IN FRANCE.

SPREAD OF THE SYSTEM—THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TAKING HOLD OF IT—FUSION OF THE RIVAL COMPANIES.

PARIS, Nov. 7, 1879.

The war which threatened to break out between the three telephone companies (all American) seeking a foothold in Paris has been nipped in the bud by a compromise which will doubtless be as much for the interest of the public as for that of the companies themselves. To go back a little, the success of the Gower telephone as described in the HERALD of July 16 led to renewed activity on the part of Mr. Edison's representatives and also to the development of a third party under the lead of several gentlemen from Chicago, the latter seeking to employ forms of telephones already introduced by the Bell Company in the United States. Having granted a concession to run wires to the Gower Company the government found itself under some pressure to do the same for the others, and finally did so, expressing a hope at the same time that some way of uniting the several interests would be found. This has now been reached, and a visit to the large and elegant quarters fitted up by the Gower Company shows that the introduction of this latest American novelty is fairly under way. The facts and figures are of interest as illustrating the progress of American enterprise abroad. The new combination is entitled The General Telephone Company—Edison, Gower and other systems. The honorary directors are Thomas A. Edison, of Menlo Park, N. J., and Frederic A. Gower, of Providence, R. I. It was intended to include the name of Professor Bell, but this was found inexpedient, because the Bell telephone patent has been declared invalid in France owing to previous publication of the principles of the instrument in this country.

The capital of the concern is fixed at 10,000,000f., of which about one-half is devoted to the purchase of the Edison, Gower and other interests, and the rest to construction and maintenance. The capital is stated to be all subscribed and the shares are already held at a premium. The actual management of affairs is in the hands of a board of directors, with an executive committee, of which Mr. Cornelius Roosevelt, of New York, is a member. The central office is located at the headquarters of the Gower Company, No. 66 Rue Neuve des Petits Champs, where active preparations are in progress.

THE METHOD OF OPERATIONS.

The premises occupy the upper floor of a spacious building and comprise ten rooms, about fifteen feet square, a reception room 30 by 30, and an operating room 40 by 20. Half the smaller rooms are devoted to offices and the rest to Mr. Gower's laboratory and private apartments. The operating room is divided along its walls into compartments, on the system of the French telegraph offices, with a central switch board for connecting wires together, and a desk in the middle of the room for the chief operator. It is finished in American hard pine, and the yellow tint of the wood is already crossed with wires in every direction. The estimated capacity of this room is two thousand lines, and some six hundred of these are already secured by the union of the telephone interests. The subscriptions include the leading journals, bankers, physicians, theatres, hotels and so on, quite upon the American plan. M. Emile de Girardin has already an Edison telephone from his house near the Arc de Triomphe to the Avenue de l'Opéra, while the Rothschilds, the Crédit Mobilier, the Prefect of the Seine, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, and a long list of lesser notabilities in the Paris world have installed the instruments of Mr. Gower. The office of the NEW YORK HERALD in the Avenue de l'Opéra will naturally be among the first to adopt the system and will offer its fullest advantages to those having business to transact there as well as to the habitues of its reading rooms. Mr. Gower proposes one or more special wires for the HERALD service so that information can pass without delay between the HERALD office and the telephone centre at all hours. The facts connected with the telephonic system are familiar enough to the New York public, but to the Parisian mind it still savors of wild fiction that an American in Paris wishing to find a friend's lodging place should step into the HERALD office and in ten minutes be able to make inquiries regarding it of all the principal hotels; or without leaving his easy chair secure places at the theatre, make appointment with a friend, ascertain if the American steamer is arrived at Havre and thus transact his business generally. The idea is still too startling, and people are found who subscribe to the system with express provision that it shall first be proved a practicable means of communication. But the projectors of the system go on with their plans, and the uniform of the messengers of the "Téléphone Gower" is already to be seen here and there on the boulevards.

USES OF THE SYSTEM IN FRANCE.

Aside from the "district system," so familiar in America, there are several interesting uses of the telephones peculiar to European life. In Paris every house, public or private, has its *concierge* or janitor on guard at the entrance, while but few have any prompt means of communication from the *concierge* to the tenants on the floors above. Speaking tubes are a costly luxury and bells are of limited application. Even in a hotel like the Continental, where bells and tubes have been made a study, it has been found that two of the Gower telephones put in, wire and all, in two hours, give greater satisfaction than a speaking tube which occupied two weeks in construction and cost twenty times as much as the telephones. Large concerns like the Crédit Foncier, the Crédit Mobilier, the Bourse and the Hôtel de Ville report the same experience. Let us take again that of the coast guard. As everybody knows, the western and northern coasts of France are provided with coast guard stations, within sight of each other and connected by telegraph with the nearest towns. At intervals, also, there are batteries and military posts, though the latter are more numerous along the eastern frontier. As a telegraph force at each of these thousand points is expensive, the government was inclined to welcome the advent of the telephone until it was found that it, too, required a battery and some electrical knowledge. But with the advent of the Gower telephone this last objection was obviated, for without the aid of a battery the instrument not only sounds a whistle like a distant foghorn, but can be made to release a spring that starts a clockwork bell which will produce any amount of sound required. In the public telegraph service it was first thought that telephones would be of no great use in the presence of a well-organized system of "old-fashioned telegraphs," as Mr. Gower puts it.

THE TELEPHONE IN GERMANY.

But Dr. Stephan, the telegraph director of Germany, has put in operation some six hundred telephone stations, and France cannot afford to be behind in the progress made in this direction. Experiments show that for distances under twenty or thirty miles, where the wires are not numerous upon the same poles, the Gower telephone (which is, after all, only a highly developed form of the original Bell instrument) is practically effective for common uses without the aid of a battery. The Belgian government reports a satisfactory test between Brussels and Ostend, seventy-seven miles, but this is regarded as exceptional. So it follows that any village large enough to have a post office may receive its telephone for communication with the nearest telegraph station, and that without requiring any knowledge of the principles of the instrument on the part of those who use it, this last being an important feature from the European standpoint. The use of private telegraphs has never become common in France or Germany as it has in England, and is comparatively trifling to what is known in the United States. So the telephone now finds this field clear and makes known for the first time the very want which it supplies. For military purposes this latest scientific improvement has already taken a firm hold. It has been found that a cavalryman can hang a Gower telephone upon his saddle bow, strap a reel of wire upon his back, and run out a kilometre (three-fifths of a mile) of telephone line, attach the instruments and begin conversation in sixteen minutes from the time of starting. A strong steel wire is used, and to test its strength batteries have been driven over it at full gallop without breaking the communication. On one occasion a file of soldiers was detailed to use the instrument steadily, eight hours a day for an entire week, without developing any weakness in the system. It is scarcely necessary to add that American inventive genius now holds a high place in French military estimation. And in this whole telephone business one of the facts most impressive to the European scientific mind is the freedom from any allegiance to theory characteristic of American invention. Theory and law in Europe are everything; in America it is the demonstrable fact that rules the situation. Professor Bell developed a speaking telephone and explained its theory, while Mr. Gower, his friend and pupil, produced a form of the instrument of which Professor Tyndall said, with a smile, that "no theory could have led to these conclusions." And so long as this striking difference exists we may expect to see American inventors pointing out the way to fresh employment for the surplus millions of European capital.

OBITUARY.

DONA MARIA MANUELA KIRKPATRICK, COUNTESS DOWAGER DE MONTIJO.

The Countess Dowager de Montijo, whose chief claim to fame consists in the fact that her daughter, the fair Eugénie, was at one time Empress of France and wife of Louis Napoleon, died yesterday in Madrid. The ex-Empress Eugénie had travelled from Chislehurst, hoping to exchange adieux with her mother before the final moment, but the filial desire was fated to remain unfilled, as the spirit of the Countess had passed away before Eugénie arrived. The sad intelligence was imparted to Eugénie by King Alfonso, who awaited her arrival at the station, and prevailed on her to accompany him to the Alba Palace, where thousands of visitors called to express their sympathy and pay their respects. The life of the Countess reads like a romance. Dona Maria was the daughter of an English Consul at Malaga, whose name was Kirkpatrick. He was a son of one Thomas Kirkpatrick, who owned a small property called "Knock," in Dumfriesshire. His second son, named Robert, married Henrietta Gillespie, and was father of William Kirkpatrick, of Conneath, in Dumfriesshire, who married Mary Wilson, by whom he had several children. One of his sons settled as a merchant at Malaga and married the daughter of a foreign consul there, by whom he had three daughters. The eldest was the Dona Maria, whose remarkable beauty attracted the notice of the youngest son of the great family of Montijo, grandees of Spain of the first class. The marriage of the daughter of the Scottish merchant was considered a *mésalliance* for a young man of so distinguished a family, and her inferior birth was stated as a reason for consent being refused. An application was made hereupon by the friends of the family to the late ingenious Mr. Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, a gentleman who, from his wit and fondness for virtu, was called by Sir Walter Scott the Horace Walpole of Edinburgh. Mr. Sharpe, it was charged, undertook with considerable zest the task of supplying his fair countrywoman with a long and flourishing genealogical tree, in which the dagger dripping the heart's blood of "the red Comyn" made a conspicuous figure. The pedigree was beautifully drawn up and sent to Spain. When it was submitted to King Ferdinand VII. he indulged in a joke on the occasion. Looking at the document where the origin of the Kirkpatricks seemed lost in the mists of ancient Caledonia, His Majesty said, "O by all means let the young Montijo marry the daughter of Fingal." The husband of Miss Kirkpatrick eventually succeeded to the titles and estates of this family, and left two daughters, of whom the elder espoused the Duke of Berwick and Alva, representative of the Maréchal Duc de Berwick, natural son of King James II.; and the younger, long celebrated for her beauty and grace as Countess de Theba, became Eugénie, Empress of the French. Until recently a Miss Kirkpatrick, grand aunt of the Empress, inhabited a very small house in the third-rate Scottish county town of Dumfries; and Her Imperial Majesty has several first cousins of the name of Kirkpatrick, sons of her mother's sister, who married her cousin, holding respectable mercantile situations. One of them was not long ago settled in trade at Havre. It is reported that for some reason the Count of Montijo soon tired of his wife's company, and the pair were separated long before the Count's death. With her two daughters the Countess then travelled from country to country, and spent some years in London, where she lived in retirement and went little into society. On leaving London, which, it is said, she found too expensive, Mme. de Montijo returned to Spain and resided for about three years in different parts of the Peninsula, her place of predilection being Seville. But toward the year 1845 she went to Paris, and some documents found at the Préfecture de Police under the Commune brought to light the following queer notes about her:—"There is staying at No. 45 Rue St. Antoine, in a rather shabby apartment on the third floor, a Mme. de Montijo, who professes to be the wife of a Spanish grandee. Her style of living is modest and she receives no visits from ladies; but three or four times a week a number of gentlemen, principally foreigners, come and spend the evening with her and play cards. It is presumable that they are attracted as much by the beauty of Mme. de Montijo's two daughters as by the wish to gamble." On the margin of this police note the Prefect of that time, M. Delessert, had written, "Find out whether Mme. Montijo is really the wife of a nobleman;" and on a paper appended to the above was this brief statement, "Mme. de Montijo is really what she asserts she is, the wife of the Count of that name, but the couple were virtually divorced three years after marriage, and the Countess professes to live on her jointure of 10,000f. a year." The word "professes" was underlined in both notes and it is evident that the authorities supposed that the foreign lady derived the larger share of her income from the maintenance of one of those private gambling saloons which have at all times been common in Paris. Whether this was the case or not need not be conjectured, but, if the fact were true, it would entail none of the discredit which attends the encouragement of gambling in other lands, seeing that the French look upon games of hazard with a wondrous respect and affection. As to the note about the beauty of Mme. de Montijo's daughters nothing that could have been said on this head would have been exaggerated, for they were both lovely to an astonishing degree.

In 1850 the elder sister married the Duke of Alba, and, thanks to his wealth and rank, the position of the Montijos was now very different to what it had been before the marriage. The Countess was no longer obliged to live in a third floor lodging of a second rate street, nor to lay herself open to the suspicion of keeping a card saloon. She set up sumptuously for a time in the Duke of Alba's house in Madrid, and in 1851, when she went back to Paris, hired a mansion in the Champs Elysées and became a regular frequenter of the parties given by the President, Prince Louis Napoleon, at the Elysée. It should be mentioned that this return to Paris, which was to lead to such high results, had not been undertaken spontaneously by the Countess, but had been in a manner forced upon her by her ducal son-in-law. The Duke of Alba liked to be master in his own house; Mme. de Montijo, who had a fairly meddlesome and domineering temper, loved to be mistress too, so that the Duke would have ended by leading a difficult time of it if he had not hit on the easy expedient of allowing his mother-in-law 100,000 francs a year provided she would live abroad. This she did, as above said, in a fine style, and her daughter Eugénie was enabled to appear everywhere dressed with the grace and richness suited to her wonderful beauty. It became a marvel to everybody at this time how a girl of such attraction as Mlle. de Montijo remained so long without finding a husband. She was twenty-five, and yet seemed in no hurry whatever to be married. An English earl, an American banker, a young cousin of the Duke of Alba, both wealthy and titled, all proposed to her, and so did shoals of Frenchmen, among whom was a famous novelist, who is still living. But to all of them Eugénie said "No," not heartlessly, but with a firmly settled purpose, as if her good genius were whispering to her that she would lose nothing by being patient. And so it befel that at a ball given by the President at the Elysée, some nights only before the *coup d'état*, Mlle. Eugénie met her future Emperor and husband. The Countess was naturally charmed at the attentions lavished by Louis Napoleon upon her daughter Eugénie, and did much of the manœuvring that induced the future Emperor to offer his hand and heart to the belles of the season. The Prince of Bavaria had declined to give the hand of his relative to an "adventurer," and Louis Napoleon sought consolation in the society of the Countess and her daughter, who had been guests in all the Presidential residences—Fontainebleau, Compiegne and St. Cloud. Possibly Mme. de Montijo had been waiting her opportunity, for, two days after the news of the Bavarian snub had begun to get bruited, she begged a private audience of the Prince and told him that as his attentions toward her daughter were beginning to excite comment she had the intention of leaving France. This was at St. Cloud, where the mother and daughter were both staying. The Prince asked Mme. de Montijo to tarry one day more, for he might then have something to say to her, and he employed those twenty-four hours in acquainting his ministers with his determination to marry Mlle. Eugénie. The news fell upon them like a shell. Nothing of this kind had been apprehended by any one, and both Count de Morny, M. de Persigny and Edgard Ney earnestly implored the Prince not to contract such a *mésalliance*. But Louis Napoleon was inexorable. The communication was made to the Cabinet on the 25th of November. On the 2d of December the Prince was proclaimed Emperor; on the 23d of January the coming marriage was officially notified to the French people, and on the 30th of January it was solemnized at Notre Dame. The Countess was an extraordinarily beautiful woman in her prime, and as late as 1864 a United States Minister at the Court of Spain wrote of her:—"Although she is far advanced in the sixties, by a closer scrutiny one can easily discern that she was as handsome, if not handsomer, than both Eugénie and her second daughter, the late Duchess of Alba, the pictures of whom represent her as exceedingly charming and beautiful. The old Duchess was taller. She goes usually somewhat bent down, but to-day she appeared in her full dignity, grand and erect; and how did she display her triumphant joy! To perceive just here in Madrid at the royal Court, in the midst of these old grandees, her daughter resplendent in imperial glory and majesty, was, of course, to her a source of unbounded satisfaction. I saw how, led by the Nuncio, she took her seat at the royal table; how, forgetful of everything around her, she was absorbed in looking at her daughter, who was sitting between the King and the Infant Sebastian. Mechanically her left seized the bread which laid on her plate, and put it yet before soup was served, and without breaking it, into her mouth, and, to my great delight, nibbled continually at it. I am sure she did not know neither what she was eating nor drinking. When, after supper, I stepped up to her, saluted and told her how enviable a position was at this high and aristocratic Court of Spain, she seized both my hands and pressed them with a warmth and brightened features as I never would have expected it of a lady who, from the daughter of a Scotch merchant, rose to the aristocratic rank of a countess; who gave one of her daughters to an Emperor—not as mistress, but as his legal, rightful wife, and who had married her second to one of the first and most powerful grandees of the country." The Countess-dowager shared the honors and triumphs of Eugénie, as in other days she had shielded her from obtrusive and offensive attentions. Subsequently, when the Empire fell and dishonor seemed to be the only portion left, the ancient spirit revived, and with maternal instinct she extended the hand of motherhood to her exiled daughter. After a brief illness the distinguished lady has succumbed to fate, and to-day the nobles and grandees of Spain extend to her bereaved daughter their consolations and sympathetic attentions.

J. HARMON BROWN.

J. Harmon Brown, Register of Wills in Baltimore for the past twelve years, died at his residence in that city yesterday after a brief illness of pneumonia. Mr. Brown was elected twice to the office mentioned, but at the late election, after failing to get the democratic nomination, he "bolted" and ran on the independent ticket. The excitement attendant upon the campaign doubtless hastened his death. Mr. Brown was seventy years of age and was widely and favorably known in commercial circles and prominent in charitable enterprises. When a young man he embarked in the metal trade, but subsequently associated himself in a confidential capacity with a mercantile firm in Baltimore and later with a similar establishment in this city. In 1866 he returned to Baltimore and soon after was elected Register of Wills. Mr. Brown was an elder in the Central Presbyterian Church for thirty-eight years; treasurer of the Poor Association; a manager of the Maryland Bible Society since its foundation and its Corresponding Secretary for the past five years. He was also actively identified with the management of several other charitable organizations and for twenty years was a teacher in the Sunday school at the Penitentiary. He was married to Miss Margaretta Wilson, daughter of a leading merchant, in 1830, who, with two sons and two daughters, survives him.

JULES NOEL, FRENCH PAINTER.

The cable announces the death of Jules Noel, the French painter, who was born at Quimper in 1818, and made his artistic début in the Salon of 1840. For a while he was chiefly known by his works on Oriental subjects drawn from a three years' voyage in the East. Afterward he devoted himself to delineating scenes on the coast of Northern France, and his paintings of Calais suburbs, of old streets at Quimper, of Morlaix Harbor, of wrecked fishing boats or Breton dances, and notably of "The Queen of England's Reception at Cherbourg in 1848," brought him substantial profit and no inconsiderable fame. During the latter years of his life he lived alternately at Cherbourg and Nantes.

IRELAND'S TROUBLES.

PROPOSED MASS MEETING OF SYMPATHIZING SOCIALISTS.

The English speaking branch of the socialists in this city held a special meeting at their headquarters, corner of Stanton and Christie streets, last night, to make arrangements for holding a mass meeting to express the sympathy of American socialists with the farmers of Ireland. Mr. Hugh Corrigan presided and several trade union representatives were present. Samuel Schimkowitz, the Secretary of the Finance Committee, submitted subscription lists which had been circulated among the various sections of the socialistic party. It was decided to hire either the Cooper Institute or the Germania Assembly Rooms for the purpose of the mass meeting. Messrs. Patrick Ford, C. Osborne Ward, Alexander Jonas, Henri Drury and John Swinton were suggested as the speakers who should be invited to address the meeting. Mr. Thomas Brennan, President of the Shoemakers' Union, said that the curse of such movements in behalf of the Irish nation was that professional Irish politicians crept in and delivered speeches to serve their own purposes. He hoped that no one but an American or one of some nationality not Irish would be permitted to speak. Mr. Hugh Corrigan, as vice president, and Messrs. Theophile Millott, Schwab, Swinton, Collenburg and Sotterau were appointed a committee to draft suitable resolutions, and it was decided to add the names of Dr. Adolph Douai and A. Saniel to the list of speakers.

WEST INDIES.

ENCOUNTER BETWEEN REGULARS AND REVOLUTIONISTS IN ST. DOMINGO—GUILLERMO DISLODGED.

ST. THOMAS, Nov. 17, 1879.

There is every probability now that a good understanding between the planters and laborers on the island of St. Croix has been reached. The laborers have commenced work on the plantations. From St. Domingo it is announced that an encounter had occurred between the forces of President Guillermo and the revolutionists, at San Pedro. Guillermo was dislodged from the position he held and compelled to retreat in some disorder to the capital. The revolutionists advanced, and were besieging the capital. The only outlet from the capital was on the river side, toward the province of Seybo, where Guillermo went to try to gather fresh troops. The cause of Guillermo is considered lost. He only holds the capital and the province of Seybo. The balance of the Republic has declared against Guillermo. The decree closing the ports of Puerto Plata and Monte Christi is considered merely a paper blockade. The Republic has no fleet to enforce it, and the mail steamers continue to touch at these ports as though nothing had happened. Business was completely at a standstill. Both friend and foe respect the sugar estates around the city.

At the latest advices from Port au Prince peace prevailed. Judging from the demand for goods and the revival of trade generally, everybody seems satisfied with the new order of things. The financial situation continues very depressed. Coffee deliveries were daily increasing. President Salomon has formed his Cabinet, with Messrs. Laforestrie as Minister of Finance and Foreign Affairs; Piquant, of War and Marine; Ebarriete Laroche, of the Interior, and Lafontant, of Public Instruction.

HIGHER WAGES DEMANDED.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 23, 1879.

The boiler makers of this city have formed an organization, and will demand an advance of ten or fifteen per cent in their wages this week.

SHIPPING NEWS

OCEAN STEAMERS.

DATES OF DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

Steamer.	Sails.	Destination.	Office.
Montana	Nov 25	Liverpool	29 Broadway
Algeria	Nov 26	Liverpool	4 Bowling Green
Canada	Nov 26	Havre	55 Broadway
Baltic	Nov 27	Liverpool	37 Broadway
State of Alabama	Nov 27	Glasgow	72 Broadway
Gellert	Nov 27	Hamburg	61 Broadway
City of Richmond	Nov 29	Liverpool	31-33 Broadway
Malta	Nov 29	Liverpool	4 Bowling Green
California	Nov 29	London	7 Bowling Green
Circassia	Nov 29	Glasgow	7 Bowling Green
Mosel	Nov 29	Vera Cruz	2 Bowling Green
Wyoming	Dec 2	Liverpool	29 Broadway
Scythia	Dec 3	Liverpool	4 Bowling Green
Canada	Dec 3	London	69 Broadway
Rotterdam	Dec 3	Rotterdam	50 Broadway
City of New York	Dec 4	Liverpool	31-33 Broadway
State of Nevada	Dec 4	Glasgow	72 Broadway
Lessing	Dec 4	Hamburg	61 Broadway
Switzerland	Dec 5	Antwerp	52 Broadway
Celtic	Dec 6	Liverpool	37 Broadway
Australia	Dec 6	London	7 Bowling Green
Devonia	Dec 6	Glasgow	7 Bowling Green
Gen Werder	Dec 6	Bremen	2 Bowling Green
Labrador	Dec 10	Havre	55 Broadway
Abyssinia	Dec 10	Liverpool	4 Bowling Green
City of Brussels	Dec 11	Liverpool	31-33 Broadway
Suevia	Dec 11	Hamburg	61 Broadway
Bolivia	Dec 13	Glasgow	7 Bowling Green
Britannic	Dec 13	Liverpool	37 Broadway
Schiedam	Dec 13	Rotterdam	50 Broadway
Donau	Dec 13	Bremen	2 Bowling Green
Nevada	Dec 16	Liverpool	29 Broadway
Bothnia	Dec 17	Liverpool	4 Bowling Green
Wieland	Dec 18	Hamburg	61 Broadway
City of Berlin	Dec 20	Liverpool	31-33 Broadway
Anchoria	Dec 20	Glasgow	7 Bowling Green
Rhein	Dec 22	Bremen	2 Bowling Green
Wisconsin	Dec 23	Liverpool	29 Broadway
Amerique	Dec 24	Havre	55 Broadway

HERALD YACHT WEATHER OBSERVATIONS.

Nov. 23.	Hour.	Bar. Inch.	Ther. Deg.	Wind.	State of Weather.
Horseshoe	Noon.	30.05	50	WSW	Clear.
Bar	4 PM	30.05	51	WSW*	Clear.
Highlands	8 PM	30.20	41	NW*	Partly cloudy
Horseshoe	12 PM	30.25	39	WNW*	Clear.

*Strong.

ALMANAC FOR NEW YORK THIS DAY.

SUN AND MOON.			HIGH WATER.		
Sun rises		6 58	Sandy Hook	morn	3 52
Sun sets		4 35	Gov. Island	morn	4 37
Moon sets	morn	2 58	Hell Gate	morn	6 22

PORT OF NEW YORK, NOV. 23, 1879.

ARRIVALS.

REPORTED BY THE HERALD STEAM YACHTS AND HERALD WHITESTONE TELEGRAPH LINE.

Steamer City of Richmond (Br), Leitch, Liverpool Nov 13 and Queenstown 14th, with mdse and passengers to J G Dale.

Steamer Rhiwindda (Br), Allen, Cardiff 14 days, with mdse and passengers to G F Bulley. Had westerly gales.

Steamer Silesia (Ger), Ludwig, Hamburg Nov. 9, with mdse to Kuehardt & Co. Had heavy westerly gales.

Steamer Acapulco, Shackford, Aspinwall Nov 15, with mdse and passengers to the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. Nov 19, N of Watling's Island, passed steamer Alisa (Br), from New York for Kingston, Ja; 18th, off St Domingo, an English brig, showing letters NNLB, bound N.

Steamer Santiago, Phillips, Cienfuegos Nov 15 and St Jago 17th, with mdse and passengers to Jas E Ward & Co. Nov 18, 5 PM, in Crooked Island Passage, passed steamer Alps (Br), from New York for Kingston, Ja.

Steamer Rapidan, Howe, Savannah 3 days, with mdse to Geo Yonge.

Steamer Morro Castle, Reed, Charleston 3 days, with mdse to J W Quintard & Co.

Steamer Wyanoke, Couch, Richmond, City Point and Norfolk, with mdse to the Old Dominion Steamship Co.

Steamer E C Knight, Chichester, Georgetown, DC, with mdse to J L Roome, Jr.

Ship Commonwealth (of London), Cooper, Calcutta July 21, with mdse to Baring Bros & Co. Passed Cape of Good Hope Sept 18, Ascension Oct 5, the Equator 11th and Bermuda Nov 8; had moderate weather to Nov 20, when we took a severe gale from NW, lasting 24 hours, in which the ship was hove on her beam ends and had decks flooded; was blown off 70 miles due S; Nov 30, lat 27 26, lon 52 26, fell in with brig Callao, of Philadelphia, waterlogged and abandoned; two anchors were on forecastle head not lashed, foremast standing, mainmast broken off about three feet above deck; main decks, beams and stanchions all gone, water washing over decks. [The C was abandoned more than a year ago and has been seen several times since.]

Ship Chandos (of Boston), Emery, Liverpool 44 days, with salt to order; vessel to R P Buck & Co. Had variable weather.

Ship Lizzie Burrill (of Yarmouth, NS), Browning, Belfast 23 days, in ballast, to Boyd & Hincken. Nov 20 encountered a heavy NW gale and was blown off shore.

Ship Mabel Taylor (of Yarmouth, NS), Goudy, Belfast 26 days, in ballast. Nov 20, had a heavy gale from NW, lasting 20 hours.

Ship Carl (Ger), Bocklemann, Bremen 35 days, in ballast, to H Koep & Co.

Ship Pascomakar (of St John, NB), Closson, Antwerp 28 days, in ballast, to Scammell Bros.

Bark Alemaria Victrix (Dutch), Mulema, Padang 120 days, with coffee, &c, to Winter, De Visser & Co. Passed Cape of Good Hope Sept 9, and crossed the Equator Oct 10, in lon