

LOLA MONTEZ.
Her First Appearance in America, and Incidents in Her Remarkable Career.
Col. T. Alton Brown, in 'Clipper',
December 20, 1851, Lola Montes made her American debut as Betty in "The Tyrolean." The prices of admission were raised. Tickets were sold at auction, and the price was not extravagant, yet sufficient to show the anxiety on the part of the public to see this wonderful woman. Everybody had heard of her exploits, and night after night she packed the Old Broadway Theatre. Among her repertory was a play called "Lola Montes in Bavaria," written by Charles P. T. Ware, a librettist of the day. Lola was beautiful and could sing fairly, but her "Spider Dance" was her fortune. Its effect upon an audience was wonderful, and she was forced to repeat it so many times of an evening that, from utter exhaustion, she would absolutely refuse to come again upon the stage unless the applause was discontinued. If you have never seen the "Spider Dance" let me give you a description of it: Up went the curtain, and on comes Lola Montes, fomenting the pit, agitating the gallery, and sensationizing the dress circle. She is arrayed in a costume of as many colors as Joseph's coat, and stands for an instant full of fire and action and abandon, with all the glow and excitement of the coming dance. She apparently represents a country girl walking across a meadow green, with tall grasses held together by spider webs. Finally she appears to step into one of those huge nests of spiders found in the meadows during the warm mornings of spring. She commences to dance, and the cobwebs entangle her clothes. The outside of spiders, young, old, and half grown, begin to colonize. The music—a slow, measured, but fascinating mixture of waltzes, polka, mazurka, schottische and jig, conforms to the step, or else the step conforms to the music, you can't tell which. The spiders accumulate and the dance stamps. They appear in swarms—you can imagine eleven-legged nondescript with two heads and no eyes—hairy monsters with five clawed feelers, crawling and jumping about the stage, lighting upon Lola's petticoats, and committing unwarrantable liberties, and would sympathize with her, but she seems to take it so coolly that one comes to the conclusion that she is "enough for them." After a series of exclamations and shaking of dresses, she succeeds in getting the intruders out of the way. She apparently stamps daylight out of millions of them, and does it with much noise. The moment she has won Lola's victory, and she glides from the stage overwhelmed with applause and smashed spiders, and torn cobwebs, and radiant with parti skirts, smiles, graces and glory.

She was an Irish woman. The city of Limerick was her birthplace. Her mother was a Creole, of Spanish blood, and her father was an English officer. When she was two years old, she was married to a man who was 20 years old, and she was born two years later, their only child. She was christened Maria Dolores Gilbert, and Lola was merely a diminutive of Dolores. She went on the stage as a dancer in Paris, at the Porte St. Martin Theatre. She led the parade of the press captive in her train. Upon two of them—Beauvallon and Dugarrier—she bestowed her favors pretty freely, with the result of arousing jealousy between them. A duel was fought in Lola's presence, and Dugarrier was killed.

Louis I. King of Bavaria fell in love with her at once, and she became the real sovereign of Bavaria. Abel, the devoted Roman Catholic statesman, was then prime minister of Bavaria, and he bitterly opposed Lola and her influence over the King, but in vain. She had him removed from office, and for a time she made and unmade cabinets at will. Munich, and indeed, all Bavaria, became divided into two factions, termed Lolaists and anti-Lolaists. Riots broke out, and civil war at one time seemed imminent. For a time Lola held her ground. She had herself created Countess of Lansfeld, and then retired to a villa in Lake Constance, Switzerland. Lola next returned to England, more famous and more admired than ever. After a brilliant social career she was married to Mr. Heald, a rich young gentleman of good family.

In 1851 she came to America. Lola Montes took to the lecture room and appeared in January, 1850, in "John Bull at home." The points touched upon were the comic side of English character, English and American characteristics, the real origin of national roguery, English philanthropy unmasked, and a peep at English gallantries. Her lecture was interesting. In California Lola married a Mr. Hull, from whom she was afterward divorced. Then she went to Australia and lectured, giving all her receipts to the sufferers in the English army in the Crimean war. She continued lecturing until about July, 1850. Previous to that she had possessed great dread that she would die in an almshouse. To guard against this she promised a lady friend to send to her every day her salary. On her last tour she received \$25 for each lecture delivered, and had all expenses paid. She kept her promise, and when she returned the lady had \$1,500 in the bank for her. After her retirement she went to live in Astoria. Two years later she came to live with the family of an old friend, Isaac Buchanan, now a florist at No. 407 Fifth Avenue. One night during July she left her home (it was the 17th) to return to her own in Waverly Place. That night she was taken with an epileptic fit. From this she never fully recovered. She always firmly believed she had been poisoned. On the night she was taken sick she was greatly excited. She made her will and all arrangements for her funeral. She was taken to Howells' Hotel, Astoria, L. I. She recovered a little, but was never well again. After a time she returned from Astoria and went to live on Seventeenth street, below Eighth avenue, New York. Here she spent her days and died. Lola Montes, or as Gilbert, as she wished to be called, died in her own home January 17, 1861. Her funeral took place from Mr. Buchanan's, No. 9 West Seventeenth street, during her illness, when well enough, she used to drive to the Magdalen Home on city-eighth street, and read to the girls, and to say that she wanted to do all she could to reform them. In her will, or stating what should be spent for her funeral, she directed that all the residue of her estate be given to the Home, which she had done. It amounted to only \$300. January 19 all that was mortal of her was deposited in Greenwood cemetery, and from the members of her family, as published by those who had been the ends of her youth, she was much happier than she could have been had she died in the midst of the palatial splendor which was so long her glory and shame. Though disabled by illness and deprived of all claims according to worldly principles, upon such association, she here found a denying friend, who soothed her dyings moments, and led her to take refuge in consolation of the Christian faith. Rev. Dr. Hawley, on being requested, attended her, was frequently at her bedside, and gave her the benefit of his instructions as if she had been a new flock. He officiated at her funeral, and Mr. Brown, who had at-

tended so many funerals and weddings in his day was seen to wipe the tears from his eyes as he heard the clergyman say he had never known a case of more sincere penitence than was evidenced in the present instance. "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone." That she possessed a noble, generous heart, filled with kindness and sympathy, all must admit. Her purse was ever open to the call for charity. Her carriage was often stopped, that she might descend to relieve the unfortunate cripple, and the mendicant was never turned from her door. She was a woman of genius, highly accomplished, and of more than usual attainments, and possessed of great natural eloquence. She had a petite, well-rounded figure, a wealth of black hair and wondrous gray eyes. In these lay her chief charm. They used to look black when she was angry. Then they would sparkle and blaze up. She had ability, and was generous to a fault. When she had money she spent it royally. She was good hearted, but possessed of an ungovernable temper. She was a woman who will always live in the memory of any one who knew her.

Why His Better Half Bet.
From the Providence Journal.
It is said that women are especially prone to bet upon base ball. A couple pretty well known in sporting circles in Boston are said to have gone to a ball match not long since, and there to have met another couple of choice spirits, a man and his wife who were almost as much given to sporting life as themselves. In the course of the afternoon the excitement wagged apace and the gentlemen bet with a good deal of vigor. The ladies, nothing loath, followed their example, and by the time the game was concluded a considerable amount of money had been wagered. Mr. A. had all the afternoon been betting on the Boston nine, and to his great disgust he found himself a loser, the home team having failed to secure a victory. On the way home he complained to his wife of his bad luck, adding that he had lost more money than he knew how well to spare just then.

"Oh! that is all right," his wife responded, "I won from Mrs. B. just as much as you lost to him, and I told her we'd trade the two things off and call it square."

"Why, how did that happen?" her husband asked in surprise.

"Well," was her reply, "I knew the other team was sure to win, and I sat where I could hear you bet. So every time you put up anything I covered it with Mrs. B."

"But," persisted her other half, "what in the world made you bet on the out-of-town nine would win? You said beforehand that you should back the Boston."

"Oh! yes," replied Mrs. A., with feminine logic, "the moment that I saw what a lovely straight nose the shortstop had I couldn't bear to have them beaten, and so I bet on them."

Whatever her husband thought of her logic it would have been manifestly grateful in him to object to her method of betting when it helped him out of an awkward place.

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Lard—California, 28.
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Eggs, per case, 85.50; 60.00.
Butter, per lb, 22.00; 20.00.
Cheese, per lb, 20.00; 18.00.
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2-B standard peas, 82.50; seconds, 82.75.
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