

A FRIGHTENED ACTRESS.

When Malibran Ran For Her Life From Her Father.

Malibran was an exceptional woman as well as a great singer, and she had an interesting and spontaneous temperament. The daughter of Garcia, she had a harsh and difficult master in her own father.

When she was sixteen he one day came to her room and without any kind of preparation said to her, "You will make your first appearance with me on Saturday in 'Otello.'"

It gave her exactly six days for preparation. The child, terrified nearly into speechlessness, stammered that she could not possibly do it—what he asked was impossible. But Garcia could take no contradiction. All he answered was: "You'll make your first appearance on Saturday, and be perfect. If not, in the last scene, when I am supposed to plunge my dagger into your breast, I'll do so in real earnest."

The frightened girl had to make the best of it. Her success was absolute, but one little piece of realism in her acting at the end was a delicious though entirely unconscious piece of retaliation upon her father for a rather brutal method. Her Desdemona had been exquisite; she had made her what she was herself, a child, innocent and submissive and adoring.

But in the last act, when Othello strode toward her with uplifted dagger, la Malibran, truly frightened out of her wits, ran away from him and made for windows and doors, frantically trying to escape. When her father at last caught hold of her, so real had the whole thing become that, seizing the hand with which he was supposed to murder her, she bit it till it bled.

Garcia gave a cry of pain, which the audience took for a cry of rage, and the act ended in deafening applause for father and daughter.

The incident reveals la Malibran. She was never, in one sense of the word, an actress at all. There was no studied counterfeited of emotions, but a woman with an extraordinary power of losing herself in the emotions of others.—T. P.'s Weekly.

FORCED TO EAT BOOKS.

Human Beings Who Were Compelled to Devour Literature.

Among the causes that contribute to the destruction of books, says an Italian writer, Americo Scarlatti, there is one very curious one that may be called bibliophagia. No reference is intended to the mice that once destroyed in England an entire edition of Castell's "Lexicon Heptaglotton," but to human beings who have literally devoured books.

In 1370 Barnabo Visconti compelled two papal delegates to eat the bull of excommunication which they had brought him, together with its silken cords and leaden seal. As the bull was written on parchment, says the Scientific American, not paper, it was all the more difficult to digest.

A similar anecdote was related by Oelrich in his "Dissertatio de Bibliothecarum et Librorum Fatis" (1756) of an Austrian general who had signed a note for 2,000 florins and when it fell due compelled his creditors to eat it.

The Tartars, when books fall into their possession, eat them that they may acquire the knowledge contained in them.

A Scandinavian writer, the author of a political book, was compelled to choose between being beheaded or eating his manuscript boiled in broth.

Isaac Volmar, who wrote some spicy satires against Bernard, duke of Saxony, was not allowed the courtesy of the kitchen, but was forced to swallow them uncooked.

Still worse was the fate of Philip Oldenburger, a jurist of great renown, who was condemned not only to eat a pamphlet of his writings, but also to be flogged during his repast, with orders that the flogging should not cease until he had swallowed the last crumb.

Terror Saved Her.

A tale of a paralytic and a stroke of lightning: For twenty-two years a woman had been paralyzed, unable to leave her room. One night when she happened to be alone in the house a fierce storm broke. The poor woman was terrified by the thunder and the blinding glare of the lightning. With an effort of which no one had believed her capable she struggled from her bed and to the house of a neighbor. Barely had she reached safety when the place she had just left was struck by lightning. The room in which she had lived so long was rent in two and everything in it was burned or smashed. Power of locomotion had been restored to the cripple just in time to save her life.—Chicago News.

Her Advantage.

Mistress (after many remonstrances on unpunctuality)—Really, Mary, you must try to be more punctual about serving the meals. When they are late your master blames me. Mary—Ah, well, mum, of course I can go, but you're a prisoner for life!—London Punch.

We are all wise. The difference between persons is not in wisdom, but in art.—Emerson.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

The Humble Start In Life of the Famous Master.

Two boys were herding swine in Italy. They were evidently discussing some very important subject, for they were earnest at it. A man approached, and the boys separated, each for his own side of the pasture. The man was angry and was shaking his hand at them. The boys said nothing: they drove their swine in and were quiet as a mouse about it. The man had said they should stay out until dark, and the sun had not even set yet. After they had driven the swine to their respective places each crept to his room, took his clothes and tied them in a bundle. This done, they both crept down and ran to the road which led to Rome. One's name was Peter; the other Michael Angelo. Both were poor boys. They tramped and tramped, and the first thing they did when they reached Rome was to go to church. After they had rested and prayed they looked for employment. Peter received employment as the cook's boy in some cardinal's house, but Michael could find nothing to do, so he almost despaired.

He went to his friend Peter, who gave him something to eat and at night secretly let him into his room in the attic to sleep. This went on for a long time, Peter content to let his friend do this and Michael content also. Michael when in church had seen some fine pictures. One which fascinated him was "Christ Ascending to Heaven." Taking bits of charcoal, he went to Peter's room and drew pictures on the white walls. One day the cardinal had occasion to go to the room. Michael had meanwhile secured employment in the cardinal's kitchen. The cardinal, upon seeing all the pictures, was dumfounded with their accurateness. He called Peter and Michael upstairs and asked who had drawn them. Michael confessed he had, but said he thought he could rub them out again. The cardinal explained to him that it was all right so far as the wall was concerned. He took Michael and sent him to a drawing master and gave Peter a better position. And Michael worked hard at his drawings, learned diligently and became the renowned Michael Angelo, one of the greatest painters of his time.

VEGETABLES AS MEDICINE.

Asparagus stimulates the kidneys.

Water cress is an excellent blood purifier.

Parsnips possess the same virtues as sarsaparilla.

Carrots are good for those having a tendency to gout.

Celery contains sulphur and helps to ward off rheumatism.

Celery is a nerve tonic; onions also are a tonic for the nerves.

Tomatoes are good for a torpid liver, but should be avoided by gouty people.

Beets are fattening and good for people who want to put on flesh; so are potatoes.

Lettuce has a soothing effect on the nerves and is excellent for sufferers from insomnia.

Spinach has great aperient qualities and is far better than medicine for sufferers from constipation.

Hatching Eggs In the Mouth.

Some curious examples of the egg laying habits of certain frogs are related by naturalists. The female of one species, a species which was recently exhibited at a meeting of the Zoological society, carries the eggs about in her mouth until they are hatched. When the young emerge they are tadpoles, but fully formed, though, of course, diminutive frogs. An American tree frog, again, has a pouch along the whole extent of its back, in which the eggs are carried until hatched. It is the Nototrema marsupiatum of zoologists, the name referring to this curious habit. The case of the Surinam toad is equally curious. In this species the male places the eggs, one by one, in hollows in the loose skin on the back of the female, where they are developed.—London Globe.

Waiting to Be Found.

Lost one evening in a side street off Charing Cross, a small terrier came for the next six days at nightfall to the same spot, waiting to be "found" and scanning eagerly every passerby. The constable on the beat got to know her wistful little face and the bright silver collar she wore quite well, but she was never to be seen by daylight. It was only on the sixth evening, half starved and weak with waiting, that she allowed herself to be captured and taken to the dogs' home at Battersea, where she was eventually claimed by her owner.—St. James' Gazette.

The Golden Magnet.

"A pretty girl, even if she is poor, can have all the attention she wants, can't she?"

"Yes. There is only one that can beat her."

"Who's that?"

"A homely girl with the coin."—Detroit Free Press.

M. V. DUTCHER

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