AN OLD FRENCH LADY'S REMEMBRANCE OF NAPOLEON.

By Grace Greenwood in New York Times.

Our friend, the old French lady, of whom I have already spoken, says of Josephine: "She was not pretty, but she was the most graceful woman in the world." Of Napoleon, whom she remembers as First Consul and as Emperor, she gives a singularly vivid description. She says that though in youth he was thin and sallow, and in middle age stout and pale, his face had always a strange beauty—stern, yet delicate; something almost fearful. "His eyes were like blue steel, yet when at rest they had an absent, dreamy look; it was only when they regarded you that you felt their power; then something cold and sharp seemed to pass through you. His finely-curved chin was firm as marble, but it had a dimple fit for a young girl. He had a small, beautiful mouth, which seemed always ready to smile and never smiled. His speech was abrupt and startling; it made one tremble if he only said 'Bon jour.' There was something *moelant* about him, even in his pleasantry. He played roughly, especially with the Empress Marie Louise, whom he treated as a child, sometimes tossing her in the air, and carrying her down stairs on his shoulders."

Of Marie Louise she said: "Her neck and arms were fine, her complexion was not bad, but she had an ugly face, unmeaning eyes, and a vile nose." The old lady startled me by adding that as a wife and mother that royal dame was "sans entrailles."

This Mme. Mere has given us some interesting accounts of the late siege—of its sight, fights, and privations. She says that, given a little more time, the Communists would have re-enacted the most bloody scenes of the reign of terror—that they were "resurrected sans culottes." For many weeks the family lived on the very edge of starvation. They have preserved a small piece of the black bread to which they were reduced. It looks as though made of the refuse of an old granary, ground up into something which could hardly be called flour. But Madame says they ate of it thankfully, as they did of the meat of horses, dogs, cats, and even rats. The latter, she confessed, was a little too much—she could not keep it on her patriotic but enfeebled stomach, but immediately "rendered" it. "Cat meat," she said, "was not so bad; indeed we all found it very like hare."

Then, she added, with a childlike smile, "*Et maintenant, quand nous mangeous du lievre, nous pensons au chat.*" To eat hare and think cat is not pleasant, but when we see a *lievre* served for dinner, lying in state on the platter, with his legs in the air, we are inclined to suspect that the big brindled serenaders of the housetops and the portly promenaders of the courts are really being fatted for the market by these wonderful French economists. Charles Lamb's Chinaman came into a knowledge of the deliciousness of roast pig through the burning of his house—the Parisians burned palaces and found what nutriment there was in grimalkin. As for me, I own to a weakness for cats—those lazy, luxurious, lordly creatures that can be touched by neither our joy nor our sorrow, that attach themselves without attachment, and follow us without devotion. There is something that piques me to love them in their very insensibility to affection; but there is a vast difference between loving cats and liking cat.

The Make-up of the Committees.

The Ways and Means Committee is decidedly hard money, and, at the same time, on the question of tariff is in favor of tariff for revenue. The Banking and Currency Committee is also strongly against inflation, and is probably in favor of hard money. The Pacific Railroad Committee could not have been selected so as to be stronger in favor of the Texas Pacific, and many Democrats declare with emphasis that it must have been understood that it should be thus constituted. This curious feature is occasioning much remark, in view of the vote of the House on Holman's anti-subsidy resolutions.

The selection of Proctor Knott as head of the Judiciary Committee is criticised severely, and many Democrats say it brings the whole business of the Speaker's naming committees into ridicule. If Mark Twain, or Artemus Ward or Petroleum V. Nasby had been announced instead, there would have been no more evidence of the unfitness of the selection. Mr. Knott's friends declare that he is a very able lawyer, but the fact remains that he will never take the floor, even on the gravest and most important legal questions, that the House will not break out in a general snicker, expecting, of course, a line of remark and joke worthy of a comic almanac. It does not make the matter better to reflect that Sayler, of Ohio, and several very prominent Eastern lawyers were considered and dropped in succession for Knott, because it was deemed policy to give this committee to the South, in view of the reconstruction measure. It had suffered heretofore at the hands of this committee. Northern Democrats are sore also over the fact that the Speaker has seen fit to give the South more chairmen, and omitting the Ways and Means and Appropriations, more important Committees than the North, the South having twenty-four Chairmen and the North twenty-two, and of important Committees the South has taken thirteen, and the North twelve. Alexander H. Stephens was assigned a Chairmanship, although he has not yet been sworn in as a member of the House.—Washington Special to Cincinnati Gazette.

The Old Catholics are very much troubled by the question of the celibacy of the clergy. Their Synods have so far, on grounds of expediency, negatived all applications of priests for liberty of marriage. The priest Suscinski, who married and declared himself an Old Catholic, has been recognized by the Prussian Government, but not by Bishop Reinkens. The Old Catholic priests of Baden are also applying to the Government for liberty to marry. In Switzerland the "Christian Catholic" Synod of Berne has abolished priestly celibacy. This action must, however, be ratified by the National Synod. Some of the Old Catholic priests of Switzerland are already married. On this question the Old Catholic leaders are at variance with the laity, who wish to see the obligation of celibacy abolished.

THE MARRIAGE FEAST.

Grant and Hartranft at Prayer.

The worshipers at the evening services, which were for men only, numbered ten regiments of 1,000 men each. Much innocent distraction was noticeable, most eyes being riveted to a point a few feet left of Mr. Moody, where, in turn, sat, stood and bowed the head, the President of the United States and the Governor of Pennsylvania. The keen, coal-black eye of the latter was hardly for a moment diverted from the evangelist of orators, except to fix upon the handsome form of the evangelist of song. Mr. Sankey's part of the programme had evidently the greater charm for the President, Mr. Moody's the greater interest for the Governor. There were also on the platform Postmaster General Jewell, Hon. George Bancroft, Judge Strong, of the Supreme Court; ex-Governor Bigler, ex-Governor Parker, of New Jersey; Col. Fred Grant and lady, ex-Speaker Blaine, Gen. Garfield, Major Gen. Patterson, Senator Wallace and lady, Hon. Messrs. Wells, of Mississippi, Thompson, of Massachusetts, and Purham, of Florida; Hon. Thomas A. Scott, ex-Senator Cattell, of New Jersey; Bishop Simpson, Judge Peirce, Geo. H. Stuart, Alexander Brown, Hon. Morton McMichael, Edward C. Knight, W. V. McKean, managing editor of the Public Ledger, and other eminent Philadelphians.

The 86th hymn, "Jesus, Lover of my soul," was sung by the congregation; then Bishop Simpson offered prayer, beseeching blessings upon God's servant, Mr. Moody, upon the President of the United States, upon his Cabinet and other high officers of government, many of whom were present. Mr. Sankey sang the "Ninety and Nine" so well that many well-nigh forgot the sacredness of the exercises and were about to give him a rousing clapping. Mr. Moody read from St. Luke the same verses as at the 4 o'clock meeting, and then, that the distinguished worshipers might be fully benefited by the occasion, requested Mr. Sankey to sing the 8th hymn, "Jesus of Nazareth passeth by," which he did as though fully aware of who were his critics. Mr. Moody prayed that every hard heart might be softened during the delivery of the Gospel about to take place. The congregation, led by Mr Sankey, sang the seventy-ninth hymn, "What shall the harvest be?" Mr. Moody's sermons comprised answers to excuses proffered by sinners undesirous of attending the Bridegroom's feast. The Bible doesn't say God gave His Son to the elect, but to the world. 'Mr. Moody, I'm not prepared to put on a long face and become a Christian.' Who says it'll make a man gloomy? It's a black lie from hell, and I want to drive it back where it came from. There's a man dying for want of bread, and another for water. I bring them bread and water. Does that make them gloomy? Does it, I ask you? [Cries of "No, no," from various quarters.] There, see! You couldn't hold your peace. Christ is food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty. Here—

DECEMBER 19, 1875.—To the King of Heaven: While sitting in the depot building, this evening, I received an invitation to be present at the marriage feast of your Only Begotten Son.

"Will anybody put 'I can't go' to that, and sign it? No, you dare not." Mr. Moody then put it in the form of an acceptance. "Will anybody sign it now? (One voice: 'I will'.) Thank God." The 54th hymn, "Just as I am, without one plea," was then sung, and Mr. Moody stated that the services were ended, but there would be a prayer-meeting immediately, and all not desiring to remain should depart. One-third of the audience moved for the exits, President Grant, Governor Hartranft and others going out by the back door.

Every Man His Own Tinker.

The American Agricultural ist says: It is something very convenient to be able to mend your pans and pails; it is all the better if one can do it easily and without any soldering iron. I'll tell you what a traveling tinker told me. We have proved by experiment that he told the truth, and we find it a great convenience to follow his instructions. You use a soldering fluid and this is how you make it. Buy from a druggist an ounce or other convenient quantity of muriatic acid. Handle it carefully, for it is powerful stuff, and "eats" everything with which it comes in contact. Turn it into an old teacup or bowl, and put into it a few small strips or parings of zinc, such as you can get from a tinner. No matter how much you put in, as the acid will only take up a certain amount and the rest will remain in the bottom. Don't turn it back into the bottle until it has ceased to effervesce. Then put the liquid into the bottle, and provide a small stick of wood to apply it with. After the acid has dissolved the zinc it is much less corrosive. The muriatic acid will probably cost but a few cents, the zinc probably will cost nothing and a bit of soft solder only a trifle.

So now you are set with tinkering material to last a long time—and this is the way to use it. Suppose that the article to be mended is a tin with a hole in the bottom. Turn it bottom upward and scrape around the edge of the hole until the tin is as bright as you can make it. Then wet it with the soldering fluid, lay a little lump of solder over the hole (not too large), and hold it over the blaze of a lighted candle, which burns on the inner side of the pan. The solder will be melted down flat and fixed fast to the pan and the job is done. The tinker said headded alittle sal ammonia to his soldering fluid so as to mend iron, copper and steel, but it not needed for tin ware. Remember that muriatic acid is very corrosive, and great caution must be used not to get it upon the clothing or other material that may be injured.

Laura Ream writes thus from Washington to the Indianapolis Journal:

"In contrast with Mr. Conkling, it is a pleasure to look upon such an impersonation of health and mental vigor as Secretary Bristow. He is really a spendid specimen of a man. Tall, erect and magnificently proportioned, with a head set on his shoulders like Jupiter's, and a countenance as open and frank as the day. His manners and conversation are genial and charming. Like the Vice President, his hair and complexion are light, and he is yet a young man. Unlike the Vice President, he is married, and his wife is exceedingly attractive. She has a tall, willowy figure, as graceful as Mrs. Sprague's, and her sweet, low brow, hair and eyes, are quite as lovely. She has the sweetest voice, and it has a cadence peculiar to the South. Withal, there is not a particle of the society woman about her, and I am told her home is perfectly delightful."

President Smith, of Dartmouth College, writes to the Boston Post to say that though there are apparent discrepancies in the accounts of the late treasurer, which extend over a period of forty years, there is no proof that he apppropriated "a single penny of the college property to his own use. The examination of the college books is not yet completed, and our hope and trust is—warranted by many and weighty considerations—that even if mistakes shall be ascertained, it will appear beyond a doubt that there has been no embezzlement of funds." Should it prove otherwise there would still be no loss to the college, but "the tongue that death has stilled does at least plead silently" for a suspension of judgment.

How The Widow Taught Him.

A gentleman of an autobiographical turn, relates how he was instructed in the custom of taking toll, by a sprightly widow, during a moonlight sleigh ride with a merry party. He says:

The lovely widow L. sat in the same sleigh, under the same buffalo robe with me.

"Oh! oh! don't! don't!" she exclaimed, as we came to the first bridge, at the same time catching me by the arms and turning her veiled face toward me, while her little eyes twinkled through the moonlight.

"Don't what?" I asked. "I'm not doing anything."

"Well, but I thought you were going to take toll," replied the widow.

"Toll!" I rejoined. "What's that?"

"Well, I declare!" cried the widow, her clear laugh ringing out above the music of the bells, "you pretend you don't know what toll is!"

"Indeed I don't, then," I said, laughing; "explain, if you please."

"You never heard, then," said the widow, most provokingly, "you never heard that when we are on a sleigh-ride the gentlemen always—that is, sometimes—when they cross a bridge call a kiss, and claim it toll. But I never pay it."

I said that I never heard of it before; but when we came to the next bridge I claimed the toll, and the widow's struggles to hold the veil over her face were not enough to tear it. At last the veil was removed, her round, rosy face was turned directly toward mine, and in the clear light of a frosty moon the toll was taken for the first time in my experience. Soon we came to a long bridge with several arches; the widow said it was no use to resist a man who would have his own way, so she paid the toll without a murmur.

"But you won't take toll for every arch, will you?" she said, so archly, that I could not fail to exact all my dues; and that was the beginning of my courtship.—Providence Journal.

Alaska, for which the United States paid $7,000,000 in gold, is proving a veritable elephant. There are not more than forty white persons in the whole region, and the twenty-five thousand natives are being rapidly demoralized and impoverished, it is said, by unlimited quantities of whisky, which is smuggled to them by unlicensed traders in defiance of all laws and regulations. The troops stationed there are said to be powerless to suppress this illicit traffic, and efforts are being made to enforce the civil law. Two bills are now before the Senate looking to this end. One provides for constituting Alaska a county of Washington Territory, and another empowers the Secretary of the Treasury to exercise a more rigorous supervision over revenue affairs. It is well enough to give Secretary Bristow all the authority he needs to hold the smugglers in check, but there seems no necessity for erecting the machinery of civil government in a barren waste, practically uninhabited except by savages. For the present the native Alaskans can very well be left to govern themselves in their own way. When civilized people settle there, if they ever do, it will be time enough to go to the expense of maintaining Territorial officers. Meanwhile, a law passed in 1868 extends the jurisdiction of the courts of Oregon and Washington Territory over this arctic province, and if any of the straggling traders, trappers or smugglers up there hanker after litigation they can be accommodated by coming down to those courts.—Philadelphia Times.

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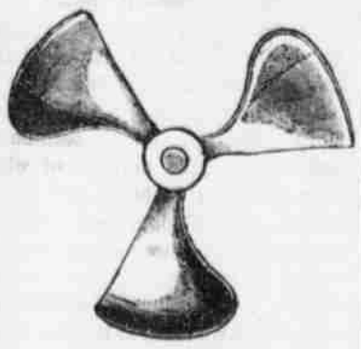

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