

## 'Twas Far Away.

'Twas far away where skies are fair  
And sweet with song and light;  
When I had but my scythe, my dear,  
And you your needles bright.

So far away! and yet, to-day,  
For all the distance dear,  
My heart keeps chime with that sweet  
time  
And dreams the old dreams there.

There, where love learned its sweetest  
words  
And built its brightest bowers;  
Where sang the rarest mocking birds  
And bloomed the fairest flowers!

And fields were golden-rich, and clear  
The streams flowed in the light—  
When I had but my scythe, my dear,  
And you your needles bright!

How soft and sweet across the wheat  
Your dear voice seemed to roam,  
When stars of love peeped pale above  
And I went dreaming home!

Life had no sweeter joy than this—  
To rest a little while  
There, where you met me with a kiss  
And blessed me with a smile!

So far that sweet time seems to-day,  
Here 'neath these darkened skies;  
And yet, across the weary way  
You light me with your eyes!

And I would give earth's gold to share  
Once more that day, that night,  
When I had but my scythe, my dear,  
And you your needles bright!

—[Frank L. Stanton.]

## A DAGHESTAN PATTERN.

Phoebe Jane Breck hung the little rug over the arm of the old hair-cloth rocking-chair, and Mrs. Ponsonby Ten Broeck gazed at it critically.

"It's a real Daghestan pattern," said the great lady, who was a summer visitor at East Palustrina; and Phoebe Jane colored high with pride and pleasure. Being only fifteen years old, and not the capable one of the family, it was a great satisfaction to have her handiwork admired by a lady from New York.

"You really have a knack at rug-making," said Phoebe Jane's older sister Eunice, when the visitor's carriage had gone. It was at that very moment, while Phoebe Jane was washing the best thin glass tumbler in which the lady had drank her cream, that a great idea came to her. She did not tell Eunice at once; Eunice was trying to trim Pauleny Jordan's bonnet "kind of subdued," according to that lady's injunctions, as she was coming out with new false teeth, and was anxious not to look too "flighty." When Eunice had something on her mind was not the time to talk to her. Besides, it was such a great idea that it almost took Phoebe Jane's breath away.

If she could have told her Cousin Luella, that would have been a comfort. Luella went to the Oakmount Female Seminary, and knew almost everything; but Luella and almost were forbidden to speak to each other, because her father and Luella's mother, Aunt Cynthia, had quarrelled long ago.

Aunt Cynthia's boys, Jerome and Albion, and Phoebe Jane's brother, Llewellyn, had always scowled at each other, but Phoebe Jane and Luella had wanted to be friends ever since the day when Luella's buff kitten got lost in Wingate's woods, and Phoebe Jane climbed a tall tree, in the top of which it was mewling piteously, and restored it to its mistress's arms.

That had happened long ago, when they were little girls; but ever since they had shown themselves congenial spirits. So Phoebe Jane longed to ask Luella's advice about her bright idea. But as that could not be, she allowed it to rest awhile in her eager brain, and then proceeded to develop it.

Phoebe Jane stole softly into "the shepherdess room"—they called it so because the old-fashioned paper on the walls was covered with shepherdesses, with their crooks and their flocks of sheep. It was the best room, the parlor; but although Phoebe Jane's father and mother lived in that house ever since they were married, the room had never been furnished.

They had always been planning to furnish it; that had been one of Phoebe Jane's mother's hopes as long as she lived, and now Eunice, whenever she was able to save a little money, said that sometime, perhaps, they could furnish the parlor.

Eunice had made a beautiful lounge for it out of an old packing-case, and Mrs. Tisbury, when she moved to Orland, had left them her base-burner stove to use until she wanted it. But Eunice said the great difficulty was the carpet—it was such a large room.

Phoebe Jane stood in the middle of the room and surveyed it with a measuring eye.

"Llewellyn will paint the edges for me," she muttered, "and it is very stylish to leave half a yard all 'round."

"Then we could have the choir rehearsals here," said Phoebe Jane aloud to herself.

The choir rehearsals were held in the church before the service on Sunday mornings, which was a very inconvenient time for those singers who lived away up beyond Pigeon Hill down at Wood End. These rehearsals seemed a little like profaning the Sabbath, too, to some of the singers; and, anyway, it was not pleasant and social, as it would be to have them in the evening. But it cost too much to heat or even to light the church for evening rehearsals; it was a large, old-fashioned church, and Palustrina was poor.

The Brecks had a large parlor organ; it almost filled the little sitting room. Mary Ellen, the sister who died, had bought it with her school-teaching money. No one else in Palustrina had such an organ, and Eunice had often said, with a long sigh, "How delightful it would be to have the choir rehearsals here, if we only had the parlor furnished!"

Phoebe Jane decided that if she had a "knack" it was high time she used it to accomplish something worth the while, especially as she had an uncomfortable sense of not being good for much.

Eunice was a famous housekeeper, and could trim bonnets so well that people preferred her work to that of the village milliner. She was so useful in sickness that every one sent for her; and she could play beautifully on the organ, too, although she had never taken any lessons.

Even Llewellyn, who was thirteen years old, and only a boy, could be trusted to get dinner better than Phoebe Jane; he could draw delightful music out of the old fiddle that they had found in Grandpa Pulsifer's garret, and could puzzle the school-master himself when it came to mathematics.

Phoebe Jane couldn't play on anything, except a comb, and she was obliged to go to the barn to indulge in that musical performance because it made Eunice nervous; she said she could bear it if Phoebe Jane could keep a tune. And Phoebe Jane was very apt to be at the foot of the class at school.

Never mind! Mrs. Ponsonby Ten Broeck might flatter, but Eunice certainly never did, and Eunice had said that she, Phoebe Jane, had a "knack."

Phoebe Jane slipped away that afternoon without giving any account of herself. She called first on old Mrs. Prouty, who had been the Palustrina dressmaker for fifty years. Old Mrs. Prouty had the reputation of being "snug"; she had a great store of "pieces" in her attic, and she had never been known to give any away, even for a crazy-quilt.

But she and Phoebe Jane were very intimate. Phoebe Jane had brought up Mrs. Prouty's tender brood of turkeys, hatched during a thunder-shower; had always stood up for Ginger, the old lady's little rat-terrier, that was voted a nuisance by the neighbors, and had twice rescued him from cruel boys. Moreover, old Mrs. Prouty's niece Lorinda sang in "the seats," and longed for evening rehearsals.

The pile of "pieces" in Mrs. Prouty's attic was like a mountain of rainbows, and old Mrs. Prouty had so good a memory that she knew to whose dress almost every piece had belonged.

Phoebe Jane made two or three other calls, and before she went home the success of her plan seemed assured.

Eunice said, "I don't see how you're going to make a rug that's large enough," and "I hope you won't get tired of it before its half-done as you did of the bed-spread you begun to crochet." But she helped; Eunice would always help, though she was practical and saw all the difficulties at once.

Llewellyn got the Corey boys to help him make a frame that was large enough, and he helped to make the rest too. By dint of hard work it was finished and laid upon the parlor floor the first of December. As Phoebe Jane said, if you don't believe it was a sieve, you'd better try one! A real Daghestan pattern, nine by twelve feet.

Then, alas! when the rug was down, and the parlor furnished, all the pleasure of the choir rehearsals was spoiled by a church quarrel. It arose as church quarrels and others often do, from what seemed a very small thing.

Old Mrs. Tackaberry, Aunt Cynthia's mother, had the old-fashioned New England habit of suspending all labor on Saturday evening, and beginning it again on Sunday evening; and being a very obstinate woman, she would knit in the Sunday evening prayer meeting. No matter how loud the minister and the members prayed and exhorted, no matter how loud the congregation sang, old Mrs. Tackaberry's knittingneedle seemed to click above everything.

Some people were shocked and some had their nerves affected, while others declared that "a mother in Israel," like old Mrs. Tackaberry, should be allowed to indulge in such a harmless eccentricity. At this time the church was divided into two parties, one insisting old Mrs. Tackaberry should cease to knit or leave, and the other declaring that if she left it would leave with her.

So the church was rent asunder. The supporters of old Mrs. Tackaberry hired the town-hall for their services, and a young divinity student for their minister. The funds that had been barely enough for one church were sadly insufficient for two, and there was enmity between old friends and neighbors. So Phoebe Jane said with a tearful sense of the futility of all human hopes, that there was "no comfort in half a choir rehearsal."

It was old Mrs. Tackaberry who had made the trouble between Aunt Cynthia, and her brother-in-law, years before, so it was not very likely that the Brecks would espouse her cause, though Deacon Breck who was a mild and gentle man, and never had quarrelled with anybody but Aunt Cynthia in his life—Deacon Breck said he "wished folks could have put up with the knitting, for he believed it was conducive to godliness to let some folks do as they were a mind to."

As if Phoebe Jane had not had disappointment enough, the worst storm of the season came on that Saturday

night when the choir had been invited to hold its first rehearsal in the newly-furnished parlor. It was a rain, following a heavy fall of snow. The roads were almost impassable, and most of the singers lived a long distance from the village.

The town-hall was opposite the Brecks' house, and Phoebe Jane looking out of the window, saw that the choir of the new society was assembling in spite of the storm. It was to be a great occasion with the new society to-morrow; Jerome, Aunt Cynthia's oldest son, who was a student in a theological seminary, was going to preach.

But a great volume of smoke was pouring out of the doors and windows of the hall, and Llewellyn, who had been over to investigate, announced that "that old chimney was smoking again, and they would have to give up their rehearsal." Then Llewellyn, who was a strong partisan, and didn't like Aunt Cynthia's Jerome, turned a somersault of excitement and delight.

"It is too bad!" cried Phoebe Jane, whose soul was sympathetic. "Father—Eunice—don't you think we might ask them to come in here?"

Father Breck hesitated, rubbing his hands together nervously. He said he was afraid people would think it was queer, and if any of their choir should come it would be awkward.

Then Eunice suddenly came to the front, as Eunice had a way of doing quite unexpectedly.

"I think Phoebe Jane has a right to use the parlor as she likes, she worked so hard for the rug," said Eunice.

"Well, well, do as you like, Phoebe Jane. Maybe it's a providential leading," said Father Breck.

Phoebe Jane threw her waterproof over her head and ran out. There were Cynthia and Jerome, and with them a professor from Jerome's seminary. Phoebe Jane had a lump in her throat when she tried to speak to them, but behind, oh joy! there was Luella.

"If you will come and rehearse in our parlor—you know about my rug!" said Phoebe Jane; and then she drew her waterproof over her head again and ran back.

There was a consultation, evidently. Phoebe Jane heard old Mrs. Tackaberry's voice, and was afraid they wouldn't come.

But they did! It seemed almost the whole of the new society came pouring into the parlor, and by that time Alma Pickering, and Jo Flint, and the Hodgdon girls, of their own choir, had come!

It would have been a little awkward if old Mrs. Tackaberry had not been immediately struck by the new rug, and begun to ask questions about it with a freedom that made every one laugh.

Soon they were all talking about it. Phoebe Jane remembered, as she had meant to, where she had put almost all the "pieces" of which Mrs. Prouty had told her the history.

Old Mrs. Tackaberry cried about the pink delaine that was her little granddaughter, Abby Ellen's, who died, and about the brown tibet that was her daughter Amanda's wedding dress when she married a missionary and went to China, and died there.

Then they all laughed at an arabesque in one corner which was Jerome's yellow flannel dress—Phoebe Jane had been a little afraid to tell of that, Jerome was so imposing in a white necktie. Aunt Cynthia would not believe that she had let the dressmaker make that dress until she remembered that it was the time when she scalded her hand.

People kept coming in. Phoebe Jane had an inspiration, and made Llewellyn go and invite them. It became a good old-fashioned neighborhood party—"just like a quilting," old Mrs. Tackaberry said. Everybody found some of their "pieces," or their relatives' "pieces" in the rug, and smiles and tears and innumerable stories grew out of this.

The new-comers found the two factions apparently so reconciled that they were surprised out of any animosity that they might have felt; and when they came to rehearse their music it happened, oddly enough, that both parties had chosen the same hymn, and they all sang together.

When they had finished rehearsing, someone—Phoebe Jane never was quite sure whether it was Jerome or the professor—started "Blessed be the tie that binds." How they did sing it! Old Mrs. Tackaberry's thin, cracked treble sang out in defiance of time and tune, and when the hymn ended tears were rolling down her seamy cheeks.

"I'm going back to the church!" she said, brokenly. "I've spilt my meet'n's and other folk's long enough. And—and—I'm going to do what I'm a mind to, to home, when it comes sun-down on the Sabbath day, but I ain't goin' to knit a mite in meetin' again—not a mite!"

There was a great hand-shaking; Aunt Cynthia and Father Breck actually shook hands, and out in the entry old Mrs. Tackaberry kissed Phoebe Jane.

In spite of the bad roads, there was a great congregation in the East Palustrina church the next day. It was the professor who preached. He chose for his text, "Blessed are the peacemakers," and every one looked at Phoebe Jane until she grew red to the tips of her ears.

She and Luella walked homeward together—openly, arm in arm; and it seemed like walking in Paradise, although one went over shoe in mud.

—[Youth's Companion.]

## THE JOKER'S BUDGET.

### JESTS AND YARNS BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

He Knew—The Questions a Girl Asks—Not Quite Understood—In Business—Etc., Etc.

HE KNEW.

Caller—Can I see Miss Snuggle?  
Servant—She's engaged, sir.  
Caller—Of course she is, and I'm the man she's engaged to.  
Servant—Oh.—[Detroit Free Press.]

### THE QUESTIONS A GIRL ASKS.

"Are you certain that you love me?"  
"I am."  
"But are you sure that you are certain?"

### NOTHING CHEAP ABOUT IT.

Squidlig—Didn't Timberwheel feel cheap when Miss Frisky sued him for breach of promise?

McSwilligen—Cheap? Well, I guess not! The jury secured a verdict of \$25,000.—[Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.]

### IN BUSINESS.

Police Judge—What is your occupation?  
Everett West—I am a promoter.  
"A what?"  
"A promoter—promoter of charitable impulses. See?"—[Cincinnati Tribune.]

### HE WASN'T AT ALL GRATIFIED.

"They say a woman can't keep a secret," she said to her lover, who had run down from the city for a day to see her at the beach.  
"But you can, my darling," he said, tenderly.  
"You bet," she laughed; "I have been here a whole week and none of the young men know yet that I am engaged."—[New York Press.]

### EXTREME PATERNALISM.

"And you would prefer to have me visit you less frequently," he said.  
"Yes," she answered. "Father objects to my receiving so much company."  
"And you won't wear my engagement ring?"  
"No. Father objects to my receiving presents from young men."  
"And you decline to meet me occasionally at the front gate?"  
"Yes. Father has just purchased a bulldog, you know."  
His face took on a shade of deep annoyance.  
"It is as I feared," he muttered. "The country is going all wrong through too much paternalism."—[Washington Star.]

### OVERSHADOWED HIM.

"How did you like the young woman from Boston?" asked the young man's sister.  
"Oh, very well. Only she uses such big words. I gave her a flower and she wouldn't call it by anything but its scientific name."  
"But you always liked botany."  
"It wasn't her botany I objected to. It was her haughty-culture."—[Washington Star.]

### A FLAW SOMEWHERE.

He—You refuse me?  
She—I do.  
He—Do I look all right?  
She—Yes.  
He (decidedly)—It can't be possible. I'm going back to my rooms and discharge my man.—[Puck.]

### NOT IN HIS ETHICS.

Mrs. Hussiff—And now, having had a good lunch, I want you to saw that wood. It won't take you more than an hour.

Rural Ragges (with dignity)—You'll excuse me, madam, but in makin' a mornin' call I stick to social etiquette. Twenty minutes is my limit, an' that space has elapsed.

### ONE EXCEPTION.

"False one!" he shrieked.  
"Not wholly so," she moaned.  
He became calmer.  
"No," he remarked in quieter tones, "that red on the end of your nose is natural. I have no doubt."—[Indianapolis Journal.]

### THE OLD MAN'S OCCUPATION.

"What's Dick doing now?"  
"Well, Dick, he's a doctorin'."  
"And John?"  
"He's horse-tradin'."  
"And William?"  
"He's a savin' of souls."  
"And Tom?"  
"Well, Tom—he's sorter politician 'round."  
"And you?"  
"Well, I'm sorter farmin' an' a-feedin' of Dick an' John an' William an' Tom."—[Atlanta Constitution.]

### NO EQUALITY FOR HER.

Mrs. Seaird—The marriage relation needs reform. Don't you think that both parties should have an equal voice in regulating their joint affairs?

Mrs. Graymare—What! Let my husband have as much to say as I have? Not much.—[Puck.]

### FAMOUS ENOUGH TO BE HONEST.

Jinks (on the rail)—I was talking with an eminent physician in the smoker.  
Mrs. Jinks—What is his name?  
"He didn't mention it, and I did not like to ask."  
"Then why do you think he is an eminent physician?"  
"I asked him what was the best cure for consumption, and he said he didn't know."—[Puck.]

### NOT OVER-SENSITIVE.

Willie—An' what did Clawence do when Bob Slugard kicked him?  
Algy—He simply said, "G'wreat men are not sensitive to criticism, and walked swiftly away."—[Judge.]

## HE WAS MISTAKEN.

"Lady," began Mr. Dismal Dawson, "you see before you a man whose name is mud; m, u, d, mud."  
"There must be some mistake in your calculations," replied the lady. "It takes water to make mud."—[Indianapolis Journal.]

## LOVE'S VICTORY.

"Sir," she cried, "I spurn you!"  
"Hear me out," he pleaded.  
She shrugged her shoulders and turned coldly away.  
"Adored one," he proceeded, "do you know that your father has absolutely forbidden me to ever think of marrying you?"  
She started.  
"You do not deceive me?" she demanded agitatedly.  
"Upon my oath, no," he replied, "I saw him but now."  
With a glad cry she fell into his arms.—[Detroit Tribune.]

## NOT QUITE UNDERSTOOD.

Little Ethel—When are you and sister Nell going to be married, Tom?  
Tom—I don't know, Ethel, I'm not an augur.

Little Ethel (brightly)—Well, she says you're a bore.

## DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HUMAN NATURE.

"Yes," said the proprietor of the barber shop, "he was a very good barber, but we had to let him go. He didn't understand the business."  
"What did he do?"  
"He forgot to say to a baldheaded customer that his hair needed trimming to-day."—[Washington Star]

## HOW IT HAPPENED.

"We die, but ne'er surrender!"  
The Colonel began to brag;  
But he set his heel  
On an orange peel  
And promptly—struck his flag.

## A NIGHT OF TERROR.

It was a cloudy night.  
Dark clouds lowered over the world, and here and there dropped a fringe of fog.

A shriek pierced the night air.  
She clutched her husband's nose wildly in her startled frenzy.  
"Heavens," she gasped in terror, and even as she spoke the awful cry broke again upon her ears, "the paragon bottle is empty!"  
There was nothing to do but walk the floor.—[Detroit Tribune.]

## A SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION.

A prisoner before the Police Judge secured the services of a young sprig of an attorney, who not only was a consequential young man, but he thought he knew about ten times as much as the Judge knew he knew. When the case was called the attorney arose.

"May it please your Honor," he said with great formality, "my client wants more time."

"Very well, very well," interrupted the Judge in the kindest way; "I'll be glad to accommodate him. He was arrested for abusing his wife, wasn't he?"

"That's the charge of the arresting officer your Honor."

"Very good," said his honor. "I had intended giving him only three months, but since he wants more I'll make it six. I always strive to please. Call the next case, Mr. Clerk."—[Detroit Free Press.]

## IT WAS A FINE DAY FOR HIM.

"What have you got to say?" asked the judge.

The prisoner looked embarrassed. He raised his eyes to the ceiling, smoothed the nap of his hat and answered:  
"It is a fine day, Your Honor."  
"I can't say that I am particularly impressed with the beauty of the weather," rejoined the judge, "but it is a fine day for you. The fine is \$10."

## Telephone Doctors.

In a telephone plant for a big city like Chicago there are cables containing upward of 30,000 miles of copper wire. Complete records are kept of the position of every wire, and the men in charge can pick out at once the line of any subscriber whenever it is necessary to inspect it or work on it. When a line gets into trouble it can be tested in both directions from the switchboard and out toward the subscriber's station.

At every exchange there is an official called the "wire chief," whose special duty is to overlook the making of connections between the subscriber's line and the switchboard, to inspect the wires, and to test them electrically in order to determine the position of any defect that may occur in a subscriber's line or instruments. The wire chief sits at a special desk, from which wires run to various parts of the system, and he is provided with electrical instruments with which to make tests on lines that develop "trouble." He is the ambulance surgeon of the telephone plant, and his wires give him the advantage of being truly ubiquitous. He receives complaints and reports of "trouble," and enters on special slips every "trouble" reported or discovered.

These slips are handed to "trouble men," who search out the cause, and finding it, apply the proper remedy. They then enter an account of what they found and what they did on the slip and return it. In this way a close and comprehensive check is kept on the operation of the telephone plant, which, on account of its complexity and of the number of small parts that go to make it up, is peculiarly liable to trifling but troublesome defects. Returns are made up periodically from the "trouble slips," and these form a continuous record of the efficiency both of the plant and of those immediately in charge of it.—[Chicago News.]

## WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

### One of the Most Impressive Objects in the World.

Marion Crawford reads a lecture to those unpatiotic Americans who decry the city of Washington and its society, in an article which he contributes to the Century. He himself, fresh from all the charms of the Old World, admires the city immensely. He writes of "Washington as a Spectacle," and A. Castaigne draws some characteristic pictures to accompany the article. As to the much discussed Washington monument, Mr. Crawford says:

A famous living sculptor of ours has given us his opinion in condemnation of the Washington monument. It is sometimes called the Obelisk, for the comparatively simple reason that it is one, just as "they" called him Peter, people said, because it was his name." With all due respect to the sculptor's right of judgement, which is unquestioned, we may differ with him, and yet not brand ourselves barbarians. To the present writer it seems not too much to say that in certain light the Obelisk is the most imposing simple object of great dimensions in the whole world. Doubtless when seen, as it always can be seen by day, from a distance of two or three miles and from different parts of the city, cut off by a line of modern roofs across a pale sky, there is nothing remarkable or beautiful about it. It is then but the top of an obelisk, and nothing more; a slender straight line of stone visible in an uninteresting atmosphere. Even then it can hardly be said to be offensive, for it is too simple to offend.

Go to it at evening, when the sunset lights have faded and the full moon is rising. It is impossible not to see its beauty then. For some reason not immediately apparent the white light is not reflected from the lower half of it when the moon is not far above the horizon. The lines are all there, but the shaft is only a soft shadow below, gradually growing clearer as it rises, and ending in a blaze of silver against the dark sky. The enormous proportions are touched then with a profound mystery; the solidity of the symbol disappears, the greatness of the thought remains, the unending vastness of the idea is overwhelming. Block upon block, line by line, it was built up with granite from many States, a union of many into one simple whole, a true symbol of what we Americans are trying to make of ourselves, of our country, and of our beliefs. There is the solid foundation, proved and tried, which we know of and trust in. There is the dark and shadowy present, through which the grand straight lines are felt rather than seen. And there, high in the still air, points the gleaming future, perfect at all points, bright at all points, lofty as all but heaven itself. There is the symbol. We may ask of ourselves whether we are to overtake the shadows and reach the light, we or our children, or our children's children; or whether the half-darkness will creep up with us always, and with them, for ages to come, and even to the end.

The Obelisk is beautiful not only by moonlight, as any one may see who will take the trouble to look at it with eyes human rather than critical—at evening, for instance, from the terrace of the Capitol, when all the world is sinking towards its mighty plunge into darkness through the foam of the cloud-breakers and the purple wash of night's rising tide; or at early morning, when the darkness sinks back and the first blush of day swarms the pinnacle of the lonely shaft—as though it had stabbed night in the sky and drawn the sweet blood of day-light upon its point. Most notably is it beautiful at such times when seen with the whole city from the great military cemetery on the heights of Arlington, than which few points in the world command a more lovely view.

There in the quiet earth the solemn dead lie side by side, the many who fought for us when we were but little children, and who, for ours, will fight their immortal battles again in the clouds like the warriors of old. Many of us have heroes of our own name and race lying there in the broad tree-hemmed meadows, and among the flowers, and in that chosen rank where the great generals lie, as they fought in the forefront of the enemy, facing now not enemies but friends, the deep sweet valley with the quiet river at their feet. And far away, beside the airy dome of the Capitol, the single shaft rises upward, and tells in shadow-time for us, the living, the hours of the dead men's endless day.

## A Costly Bed.

A Bombay man has constructed a bedstead priced at 10,000 rupees. It has at its four corners four full-sized gaudily dressed Grecian damsels—those at the head holding banjos, while those on the right and left feet hold fans. Beneath the cot is a musical box, which extends along the whole length of the cot, and is capable of playing twelve different charming airs. The music begins the moment the least pressure is brought to bear from the top, which is created by one sleeping or sitting, and ceases the moment the individual rises.

While the music is in progress the lady banjoists at the head manipulate the strings with their fingers and move their heads, while the two Grecian damsels at the bottom fan the sleeper to sleep. There is a button at the foot of the cot, which, after a little pressure, brings about a cessation of the music, if such be the desire of the occupant.

There are more theatres in Italy than in any other European country.