AROUND THE WORLD.

A Letter from Mark Twain Descriptive of Adventures in tinvil.

[These letters are written jointly by Professor D.

R. Ford and Mark Twain. The Professor is now about to sall from San Francisco to Japan, and of course could not run back to visit Hayti. Yet it was manifest that Hayti ought to be visited at once, and a very peculiar state of things existing there Mostrated in such a manner as to give the American public a better appreciation of it than they could gather from mere frozen facts and figures in the New York papers. Therefore the undersigned has

> TROPICAL ASPECTS. AT SEA, OFF PORT-AU-PRINCE, October 5.

As I stepped ashore at the above-named place to-day, I was assailed by a swarm of darkies of all ages and all degrees of hilarity and raggedness. But it was a peaceful assault. They wanted to carry my valise to the hotel.

In the midst of the clamor I felt that the valisè was passing from me. I was helpless. I simply followed it, making no complaint. It was on the head of a bright little darkey who depended solely on his personal comeliness for attractiveness-he had nothing on but a shirt. And the length of time that had elapsed since that shirt was at the laundry was longer than the shirt itself, I should

We wound in and out among the narrow streets bordered by small houses scantily furnished, and generally with pigs, cats, and parrots, and naked colored children littering the dilapidated little front porches, a monkey or two making trouble with all these parties in turn; a glimpse through the open door of an insignificant stock of wares for salesuch as oranges, pine-apples, cocoanuts, bread, sausages, cigars, brooms, herrings cheap prints of saints carrying their bleeding hearts outside their shirt-bosoms-and tending the grocery, a stout wench in parti-colored turban, calico dress, wide open at the breast, cigarette in mouth, no shoes, no stockings. Occasionally we passed genteel houses, entirely surrounded by verandahs, and these verandahs close-shuttered to keep out the heat. In the yards attached to these houses were tall, thick-bodied cocoapalms, with foliage like a bunch of swampflags exaggerated—the cocoa peculiar to the West Indies. And of course in these yards was a world of flowering tropical plants—curious, gorgeous, outlandish-looking things that had the air of being glaringly out of place with no green-house glass arranged around them.

It was the hottest part of the day, and so there were not many people stirring. We met two companies of soldiers on their way to embark for the northern coast, where the Quaker City is bombarding Fort Picolet. The Quaker City! 'It seems strange to speak of her as being engaged in such work-the very ship in which a hundred of us pilgrims made a famous pic-nic excursion half round the world about two years ago. But she seems a good warrior. She just riddled one of Salnave's war vessels in a sea-fight two or three days ago. A NEAT SPECULATION.

ODORS OF WAR,

The third citizen I met addressed me in Spanish, and said he was going down to Bejar to post himself on a hill and observe the battle which must come off there in a day or two, between the insurgents and the Government troops, and he would take it as a very great favor if I would sell him the field-glass that was suspended from my I said I did not care particularly to part

with it, but still-what would be give? He "I am willing to pay forty thousand dol-

lars. "What!"

"Forty thousand dollars."

"My friend, are you insane? He took a package out of a sort of knapsack which was slung about him, and deliberately counted out forty new and handsome one thousand dollar Haytien greenbacks. We exchanged. I felt small and mean thus to take advantage of a lunatic; but then, what would you have done? I then resumed my journey with an unusually sneaking expression in my countenance.

EXTORTION. Arrived at my hotel, I asked the small colored boy what I owed him for carrying my

valise. "Nine hund'd dollahs, sah.

I fainted. When I came to, a number of people were about me, applying restoratives and doing what else they could to help me. That soulless colored boy was standing there, cold, serene.

I said:-How much did you say, boy?" "Nine hund'd dollahs, sah-reg'lar price,

I appealed to the bystanders for protection. An old gentleman of noble countenance and commanding presence said the boy was right -he was charging only the usual rate. I looked at the other faces. They all mutely endorsed the venerable conspirator's statement.

I sadly handed the boy a thousand dollar bill. He walked off.

I was stupided with amazement, "Gentlemen," I said, "what does this mean? There's a hundred dollars change coming to

"True," the old party said, "but it is not

the custom to regard a trifle like that." Stunned and dizzy, I hurried to my room and threw myself on the bed, almost satisfied that I had lost my reason. I applied tests. I repeated the multiplication table without making a mistake. It was plain that my comprehension of numbers was unimpaired. I repeated "The Boy stood on the Burning Deck," without a blunder. It was plain that my memory was sound. I read one of Mrs. Browning's poems and clearly understood some of it. It was plain that my intellectual faculties were in a condition of even unusual vigor. Then what in the world was the matter? Had I not suddenly developed a monomania-a craziness about money, only?

A FELLOW SUFFERER, Somebody knocked. Then the door opened, and a poor, sad-looking American woman, of about thirty-five years, entered. I seated her with alacrity, and with interest, too: for I was glad enough to have a kind, troubled face to look into, and gather from it

sympathy for my own sorrow. She said:-Sir, I am a stranger to you, but grief makes me bold. My husband died two months ago, and left me in this strange land with little money and not a friend in all the island. My oldest son was soon kidnapped and carried away to fight in the war. Our little property was ten miles from here, and I was living there at the time. My youngest child was lying sick of a fever. These sorrows were not enough. A week ago the insurgents came at night and burned my house to gents came at night and burned my house to in a high degree its general suitableness for the ground. My sick child I saved—my other operatic treatment. Wild, dreamy, fanciful, sminica saved themselves. But my escape was 'grotesque-and here and there dramatic oven

dress—do you observe the scorched place at the bottom? The fire was that close behind me. Think how sadly I am situated. I would give the world to get home again to America, if only to die. you not help me? Will you not help me? A friendly schooner captain will give me a free passage, but my creditors will not let me go till they are paid. Oh, I do not mean that all my creditors are so hard with meno, the trifles I owe to most of them they have freely cancelled on their books. But the butcher and the grocer still hold out. They will not let me go. I beseech you, sir, help me in this great extremity. I would not go to any but an American—and it has cost me tears to come to you. But I want to go so much, and these bills are but a trifle-you cannot miss so small a sum-and if-"

"Say no more, Madam! Say no more. You shall go home. I'll pay this villain grocer and this bloody butcher. Pack your

"Heaven bless you, sir."

With that she fell upon my neck, poor creature, and gave way to her tears. I was moved myself, and finding all efforts to keep back my own tears fruitless, I yielded and wept. At the end of five minutes I said:-"Cheer up, Madam, cheer up! All's well now. I'll get this thing right in a jiffy.

What's the amount?" "I am not certain-my poor head has been sadly tortured of late-but I think that sixty thousand dollars will-"

I jumped through the second-story window. sash and all.

A PRINCELY BILL. I wandered round the town for three hours, as crazy as a loon—perfectly desperate. It was plain enough to me now that I had gone mad on the subject of money. How I had ever come to do such a thing was a mystery, for I had always been a sort of spendthrift, a man who had never worshipped gold or greenbacks to any alarming extent. But I was reluctant to accept the situation, anyhow, and so I said to myself that by this time Charley must have bought all the things we wanted and got the bills to the hotel. I would go and pay them. I would see if this dismal hallucination was still in force. When I arrived I told the landlord to make out his own bill and add the tradesmen's bills to it, and give it to me as quickly as possible. Then I sat down to wait-a smothering volcano of patience and anxiety-for if my mind was not straight by this time, I dreaded that my madness might increase, under my distress, and drive me to commit some fearful crime. I shuddered, presently, when I thought I felt a desire creeping through me to spring upon a decrepit old man near me and throttle him. I moved away and turned my back-and then I covertly threw my pocket knife out of the

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window. Now the bill came. I read thus -I

Two hundred and ninety-five thousand four hundred dollars! I read this bill over deliberately six or seven times, and never said a word. Then I said I would step out and get a breath of fresh air.

I got it—the breath of fresh air. I walked gently around the corner whistling unconcernedly. And then I glanced back, and seeing nobody watching me, I sauntered towards the American packet ship, at the rate of about eleven or twelve miles an hour. I picked Charley up on the way. We hid between decks a couple of hours, till the vessel was out of sight of land. We were safe. So was the valise, and the cigars and things-the landlord had them. I trust he has them yet. We have parted to meet no more. I have seen enough of Hayti. I never did take much interest in Hayti, anyhow.

MARK TWAIN. P. S. I understand it all now. I have been talking with the captain. It is very simple, when one comprehends it. The fact is, the war has been raging so long that Haytien credit is about dead, and the treasury sapped pretty dry. Therefore one dollar in gold will buy eighteen hundred to two thousand dollars' worth of Haytien greenbacks, according to the tenor of the current war news. I wish I had my valise back.

It is a darling country to live in, that Hayti. Board two hundred and eleven thousand dollars a month in the best hotels, and ice cream three hundred dollars a saucer.

George Sand as a Librettist.

The latest Parisian novelty in the way of

opera is George Sand's Petite Fudette (Madame

Sand signs the libretto herself) set to music by M. Semet, the composer of Gil Blas, Les Nuits d'Espagne, etc. No one likely to take an interest in this work need be told that "La Petite Fadette" was already the title of one of the most beautiful novels which the only one of the really great novelists of contemporary France who seems to have seriously cared for the beautiful in fiction has produced. M. Semet may well congratulate himself on having selected such a subject, and on having had the subject he had selected entrusted to him. Composers of operas cannot, as a rule, be said to show much discernment in their choice of subjects. Tragedies, historical plays melodramas are eagerly seized upon, while le gends and quasi-legendary poems and tales, which seem of themselves to invite musical treatment, are passed by. Meyerbeer, as if to extend the limits of opera, took a pleasure in setting political and religious discussions to music-a hazardous experiment, which in the hands of an inferior master would have meant unequivocal failure. But Meyerbeer also saw

tains three principal personages, each possessing a natural musical physiognomy. Gounod has often been fortunate in his selection of a "book," and never more so than when he took the Provencal poet's Mircio and made it the basis of his Mirville-in many respects his best though not the most striking of his few successful operas. A little touch of the supernatural, an element of wonder in some shape or other, has always its value in opera; and it is this fantastic element, aided by the magic of M'me Sand's style, which gives so much charm to 'La Petite Fadette,' and increases

and, as a composer, fully brought out the

beauty of the little idyll called Dingrah,

which is full of musical situations, and con-

narrow. A soldier cut me with his sabre—you can see the stitched gash if you will look while I part my hair on the back of my head—just there—do you see it? And this dress—do you observe the scorched place It has, at last, had the advantage of being operatized with the actual co-operation of the author, who seems to have written all the prose dialogue, while the experienced M. Carre (part author of Hamlet and Mignon, of Faust and Romeo and Juliet) has prepared the musical pieces and taken charge of the versification generally.

The task accepted by M. Semet, the com-poser of La Petite Fadette, was by no means an easy one. The living work having been reduced, more or less, to the condition of dry bones, it was for M. Semet to make it live again through his music, which, to be fully worthy of the subject, ought, it need hardly be said, to be as eloquent and as expressive as the musical language of George Sand herself. To expect this would be too much; but it appears that M. Semet's music has really had the good fortune to please Mmme. Sand, who, on the night of the fourth representation, sent a letter to the composer expressing her admiration for his part of the work, and begging him to congratulate and thank in her "the charming artists who have contributed so powerfully to its suc-Mmme Galli-Marie, the original 'Mignon' in M. Ambroise Thomas' opera of that name, has, as might have been expected, gained a fresh triumph by her admirable impersonation of M'me Sand's poetical heroine. She is not one of the first vocalists of the day. But though her voice is neither very powerful nor of very extensive compass, she sings with fine dramatic expression; and we doubt whether any one of the three great Italian or Italianized singers who have studied the part of "Mignon" can play that part with greater naivete, more gennine sentiment, or deeper pathes than are brought to its representation by the artist who first "created" M'me Galli-Marie's "Mignon" was not the Italian "Mignon" of Goethe, but the German "Mignon" of Ary Scheffer, Her "Fadette" is, no doubt, the "Fadette" of George Sand herself, and not of any one of George Sand's "illustrators."

Since M'me Sand approves, it would be ridiculous for any one else to say a word against, the somewhat conventional process by which her beautifully written, perfectly proportioned novel has been turned into operatic form. Nevertheless, the story having taken a fixed and, as we once fondly imagined, a permanent shape in our memory, it is painful to find that the incidents are, after all, changeable at will. There are some passages of description in the original novel which no painter could realize on canvas, while a composer could at most recall them by masterly use of the orchestra. There are several touching scenes, moreover, between "La Petite Fadette" and her "fadet" which are too delicate for substantial transference from the book to the theatre. But while recognizing the existence of these technical difficulties, we cannot understand what necessity there was for making "Landry," the lover, go mad and demean himself in his moments of insanity like "L'onel," the son of "Lord Derby," in Flotow's Mariha. Some of the French critics compliment M. Carre on the ingenuity he has shown in depriving his tenor lover, through an entire act, of his ordinary amount of intellect. M. Carre can scarcely take such a compliment seriously, knowing, as he better than any one does, that in almost every modern opera that has attained popularity, the heroine goes mad, and that there is nothing original even in representing the hero as demented. Since the day of "Nina" lunsey has always been more or less in fashion on the operatic stage. / Rossini, a sane composer if ever there was one, had, it is frue, no taste for madness; but Bellini's "Elvira," Donizetti's "Lucia" and "Linda," Meyerbeer's "Dinorah" and "Catarina," "Gounod's "Margherita," Thomas "Ophelia," all go crazy. Indeed, Mad'lle Ilma de Murska never impersonates a character who retains full possession of her senses throughout the piece; while the only soundminded personages represented by Mad'lle Nilsson are "Lady Henrietta," who drives her lover mad, and "Violetta," who herself perishes of "folly" in the scriptural sense.

Foreign Items. -The Pall Mall Gazette says:-It seems to be high time that our students should be requested not to transgress the fair limits of ex-periment. At Rossall College, in North Lancashire, one of the collegians, Hogan by name, was observed to put something into a sugar basin at breakfast time, and shortly afterwards to make tender inquiries after the health of Mr. Sleip, a master connected with the establishment, who, fortunately for himself, had left the sugar basin untouched, for on examination of its contents it was found to contain as much arsenic as would have poisoned nine or ten persons. Young Mr. Hogan, on being questioned, replied that he put the arsenic into the sugar out of curiosity; that he wanted to make an experiment; and that he considered Mr. Sleip the likeliest person to operate upon: it further appeared that he had enough arsenic in a bottle concealed in a chimney to poison all the people at the college. Under these circumstances we are not surprised to hear that the authorities of the college permitted young Mr. Hogan's father to take him away from the establishment. It is stated that he was conveyed home, where, we hope, he will be induced either to pause in his interesting researches, or to select himself on the next occasion as "the likeliest per-

son to operate upon. -In the last number of Notes and Queries a correspondent calls attention to the following prediction in Spanish:- "Father Baltassar Mas, who in 1620 was preacher in Granada. and passed from thence to Rome on his way to the Indies, related to Father Martin Alberro a revelation made to him: - 'I saw a land swallowed by the sea and covered with water, but afterwards I saw that, little by little, the sea retreated and left the land visible, and the upper parts of the towers and the turrets of the cities rose and appeared more beautiful than before being swallowed by the see; and it was told me that it was England. This is a very disagreeable vision, especially as it is countenanced by the fact that so many of our public buildings and private dwellings are in a most sinful state of dirt and grimi-

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