

THE BANK ROLL.

Little bank roll, ere we part,
Let me hug you to my heart;
All the year I've clung to you,
I've been faithful, you've been true;
Little bank roll, in a day,
You and I will start away
To a gay and festive spot;
I'll come back, but you will not.

The Question of Alsace-Lorraine.

Paris.—There has been much talk recently of Alsace-Lorraine and people have with justice insisted that since these provinces were violently torn from France in 1871, their return to the mother country would be in no sense an annexation, but really a restitution, a reintegration, a disannexation.

More specifically, it has been well said that it would be absurd to demand a plebiscite on this question after the war, for such a suggestion signifies that, in the opinion of the proposers, the double plebiscite of 1871, at Bordeaux and at Berlin, which proclaimed the sentiments of Alsace-Lorraine in the most striking fashion is null and void. And it is illogical to dismiss with scorn the plebiscites of 1871 and to attribute any value to a plebiscite in the future.

Certainly Alsace is French at heart and French by tradition, the more so because it did not cease being a pure geographic unit, to acquire personality and to develop its own character after it was united to France.

All these are proper and significant considerations; they touch, however, but one side of the question. They allow the supposition that the question is one purely between France and Alsace-Lorraine and that in restoring Alsace-Lorraine to France we will simply be yielding to the wishes of both populations.

In reality the question of Alsace-Lorraine has an entirely different significance, as all are convinced who have consulted not only on the opinions of France and of Alsace-Lorraine on the matter, but the opinion of Germany as well.

It is necessary to go back at least to the years 1814-1819, in order to grasp the whole question of Alsace-Lorraine. The pretensions of Prussia at the Congress of Vienna are well known. To become the preponderant power in Germany she demanded nothing less than the whole of Saxony. To become the dominating power in Europe she insisted that she should have Alsace and Lorraine should be handed over to her. The idea of a balance of power in Europe existed then. France, Austria and England forbade. And the second treaty of Paris, signed after Waterloo, rejected the pretensions of Prussia to rule over Alsace-Lorraine.

From that moment the question of Alsace-Lorraine took on, in the eyes of Prussia, a value not merely military but symbolic. The continuance of these provinces as French territory was the sign and symbol of the superiority in Europe of the will of Europe over the will of Prussia. And, at that time, the very conscious ambition of Prussia was to play that role in Germany and in Europe to which Austria had once aspired, i. e. to rule unrivalled over Europe.

That is why beginning with 1819 Prussia never left off contesting the right of France to possess Alsace-Lorraine, and piled up arguments or historical, political and strategic sophistications to persuade Germany and the world that the wrong of 1815 must be righted.

German literature of the period 1819-1870 is full of testimonials to this claim.

Here is a remarkable example (reproduced in the Journal des Debats of May 2, 1917) of the importance which foresighted Europeans attached to the pretensions of Prussia.

On the 6th of February, 1838, M de Chateau, French charge d'affaires at Turin, had a conversation with the Comte de La Tour, Minister of Foreign Affairs of King Charles-Albert, in the course of which the latter said: "We were undecided at the time of the Revolution of July, whether to declare war on France or not. The opposition prevailed. * * * And as the conversation led M de Chateau to use the words "dismemberment of France," M de La Tour replied:

"Ah, on that point we fight with you! We have need of a powerful France * * * Lacking that there would be no equilibrium in Europe. What would become of the smaller States? * * * And the Comte de La Tour ended with these words: "Remember that if there is ever a question of taking Alsace-Lorraine away from you, we are on your side. And so you can see an eventual alliance between us."

In 1844 Heinrich Heine wrote to his compatriots in his preface to "Deutschland." "Personally I am unable to incorporate Alsace and Lorraine into the Empire as easily as you do it."

Under the influence of Prussia this thought (of incorporating the two provinces) penetrated deeper and deeper into the spirit of Germany. When, in 1869, I went to Heidelberg, to take a course under Ed Zeller and to study the university system of Germany, the first student to whom I spoke began the conversation with these words:

"We are going to have a war with you."
"Why?"
"Well, aren't you holding back Alsace and Lorraine?"
Not in France, but in Germany did I realize what the German claim signified.

Europe—the world—are compelled at last to occupy themselves with the question of Alsace-Lorraine. Our eyes will be opened on the day when we realize that this is not a French question, but a world-question, and that we have to decide whether we shall leave in the hands of Prussia-Germany a conquest to which it attributes such a moral significance that it becomes the symbol of the supremacy which Germany arrogates to herself not only in Europe but in the world.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT

Dear Jesus, help me, I pray,
To do all the good I can,
In all the ways I can,
To all the people I can,
And just as long as I can,
And this I ask for Thy Name's sake.
Amen.

The fashion editor says in the December Woman's Home Companion: "The boutonniere has a rival! Now it's the flower on the veil! This odd fashion whim is really quite lovely. The flowers match in color the brim facing of the hat and are caught at the right side of the veil toward the back.

There are all sorts of twists and turns to the new collars. Truly, it is often the collar that makes the gown! Something novel and something new is the big turn-over collar of velvet or fur with long scarf ends. These cross in front, come around to the back, where they are knotted, and hang down in long tasseled ends.

Coats with muff effects are quite the smart thing this winter—perhaps for economy's sake, and perhaps just for style. A three-quarter coat of taupe duvetyn has two straight pocket slits on either side of the front concealed by bands of kerami mole (the fabric which imitates moleskin). Between these bands, which really form the ends of the simulated muff, the coat is fully a trifle.

Narrow soutache braid is one of the fashionable trimmings of the hour. Both chalk white and cream satin collar and cuffs are soutached in color. Brown is a favorite, also reseda green. Georgette blouses are also lavishly soutached. One in basque effect, navy blue in color, has a fitted bodice closely soutached in dark red.

Among the less expensive furs, the plebeian rabbit is fashion's favorite. It is dyed in all sorts of colors and used on the very straight, very narrow, tailored suit coats for high choker collars and deep, tight-fitting cuffs.

There is little doubt that the present war has had a strong influence on women's garb. A most noticeable feature is the gradual elimination of all that is bizarre. Fashions remain jaunty, distinguished and of quiet elegance. Gone is all that which smacks of showiness in the reliable autumn and winter modes. This trend was already noticeable last season. Now it is pronounced.

Ideas gleaned from the soldiers' uniforms, ideas of lines from those khaki-clad heroes who come from the trenches to Paris on leave; ideas of color as well from the soldiers that come to and pass out of Paris in their more gorgeous garb of colonial English countries.

Even the American troops, hardly arrived, have made their impression on the newly created modes in Paris in the pocketed, belted tailored suits and the wide felt hats inspired by those worn by the Sammies.

Sleep with the bedroom windows open. The old superstition that night air is unhealthy, even for an invalid, is entirely false. On the contrary, night air, especially in large cities, is purer and better than day air, because it contains less dust and fewer microbes.

To get the best ventilation in a bedroom have the windows open at both top and bottom.

Formal invitations are always expressed in the third person, and are usually sent on properly printed cards. You, of course, have to fill in the particulars as to time and date. If there is to be dancing, this word is printed in the bottom left-hand corner of the card; if there is any other entertainment, such as music or theatricals it would also be stated. Invitations to a dance are sent out in the name of the hostess only; dinner invitations go in the joint name of the host and hostess, as also do the weddings. The letters R S V P mean that an answer is required. In the case of informal tea-parties or dinners, the hostess can write a little note: "Dear Mrs. —, we shall be so glad if you will dine with us on — at —. If other visitors are going, you should say "We are having a few friends to dinner on — at —, and shall be so pleased if you can come, too."

Third-person invitations are always answered in the third person. If an invitation begins "Dear Mrs. So-and-so," answer it in the following way: "Dear Mrs. —, I shall be delighted to come to dinner on — at —" you should repeat day and time, to show you are sure of them. And, Mary, remember this, please, you unpunctual person; always answer invitation either the same day as they are received or the next at the latest.

Also remember in future not to make the silly mistake of saying "Miss — will have much pleasure;" has much pleasure is correct as you have the pleasure at the time of writing.

Men like the girl who can chatter, but they love the girl who can listen. There are so few of us who learn this in early youth. But as we get older we realize that people in general would rather talk to a good listener than to be entertained by the most brilliant conversationalist in the world.

If you are not popular with men and with women make up your mind to find out why you are not. Study yourself and try to realize if you are disloyal, unsympathetic, opinionated or selfish.

Be interested in other people and you will find that they will be interested in you. It is an invariable rule that never falls.

French Toast.—Six slices of stale bread, one egg or more, one cup of milk, one-fourth teaspoon salt. Beat egg slightly, add salt and milk. Dip bread into milk mixture, then cook to a golden brown on a hot, well greased griddle or frying pan.

The employment of women in the leather trade in Birmingham, England, has increased over 30 per cent. since the war begun.

Thanksgiving Day One Hundred Years Ago.

The world has changed more in the last one hundred years than in any thousand years that have gone before. To get some idea of the wonderful changes that have taken place, let us go back to Thanksgiving day in 1810 and note how many, many things our great-grandparents did not have which we have today. It will not only astonish us, but it will also make us realize how much we have to be thankful for.

In the first place there was no Thanksgiving day in 1810 except in New England. It was only about forty years ago that the people all over the United States began to celebrate the day. Before that, if one did not live in Boston or very close to it, he probably would never have eaten a Thanksgiving dinner. But even those who were fortunate enough to live in New England did not have anything like the variety of good things for dinner that we have today. Of course they had turkey and pumpkin pie and onions and cranberry sauce and potatoes; but they did not have tomatoes or corn or peas or string beans or beets or asparagus or any of the other canned vegetables that we are accustomed to eating during the winter months. There were no canned goods of any kind. There were no tin cans. Neither were there any cars to bring fresh fruits and vegetables—like strawberries and tomatoes and lettuce—from the south and from California. In fact, there were then no such places in the United States as Florida and Texas and California. They were all of them waste places or foreign lands. They belonged to England and Spain and France and Mexico.

Oranges, bananas, pineapples, grape fruit, olives, Malaga grapes and other tropical fruits which are so familiar to all of us, were never seen in the

markets of 1810. Boys and girls of that day only heard about them from travelers or read of them in books. Dinners were cooked in fireplaces. There were no ranges. There were gas stoves; no coal stoves, no cook stoves of any kind. Housewives had no baking powder, no yeast cakes, no self-raising flour, no granulated sugar, no flavoring extracts, no ground spices, no cocoa, no potted meats, no prepared breakfast foods, no soda crackers, no macaroni. All the coffee had to be roasted and ground at home. Housekeepers then had very few of the conveniences that they have today. They had no running water in the house or stationary wash tubs or clothes wringers or washing machines or wire clothes lines. Neither had they refrigerators or ice cream freezers or egg beaters or waffle irons or meat grinders or carpet sweepers or ammonia or borax or gasoline or moth balls or fly paper or fly screens. And they had no matches, and they had no electric light or gas light, and no kerosene.

But we must remember that in 1810 our great-grandparents were perfectly satisfied and contented without any of these things. They thought themselves very well off with what they had, and those who observed Thanksgiving day made it a special point to offer earnest thanks to Providence for their many blessings.

Surely, therefore, if they could find cause for thanksgiving, how much more thankful ought we to be in the midst of all the blessings of the age in which we live.—Saint Nicholas.

—A stone inkstand at least one hundred years old is the latest curio to be added to the memorial building at Hardwick, Vt. It is about two inches deep. The boring of the stone appears to have all been done by hand.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman".

Inside and Out

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