

MILLET'S STRUGGLE.

HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE OFTEN ON THE BRINK OF STARVATION.

Suffering Shortened His Life, but Never Weakened His Enthusiasm. He Was the Son of a Farmer and Worked at the Plow Until Eighteen Years Old.

Jean Francois Millet has for the first time been put adequately before the reading public by Julia Cartwright, whose handsome octavo volume, "Jean Francois Millet: His Life and Letters" (Macmillan), is a carefully written and appreciative review of his life and works.

For in Millet's case, as Miss Cartwright points out, the man and the artist were bound closely together.

His first masterpieces were rejected by the jury of the Salon. The pictures which now fetch their thousands were sold for a few pounds to buy bread for his children. Pitiful as the story is, it is none the less noble and inspiring. His sufferings saddened and shortened his life, but they did not crush his spirit or weaken the message which he had to give.

It is a pretty story, that of the budding forth of the boy's genius. Always impressionable to the wonders of nature, the vague stirrings in his heart found expression at last through the sight of some old engravings in an illustrated Bible. Then he tried his hand at drawing the objects around the fields. While his father stumbled on a couch at his side, Francois would sketch the cows, the sheep, the trees. Often the father, waking from his sleep, would get up and take a peep at the drawing on which the boy was intently engaged, and return softly to his place without disturbing him, well pleased to see this new development of his son's powers.

But it set him to serious thinking. One Sunday when the lad was about eighteen years old, he spoke to him and asked him whether he wished to be a painter. Francois answered in the affirmative. Then with a kindness that the youth never forgot, the elder Millet said:

"My poor Francois, I see that this idea has taken hold of you. I should like to have sent you long ago to learn this trade of a painter, which people say is such a fine thing, but it was impossible. You were the eldest of four boys, and I could not do without you. But now that your brothers are growing up I will no longer hinder you from learning what you are so anxious to know. We will go to Cherbourg and see if you have really enough talent to be able to earn a living."

At Cherbourg they called upon an artist named Bon Dumoucel. The latter saw at a glance the originality and merit of the country lad's productions.

"You are laughing at me," he said roughly; "you don't mean to tell me that this young man made those drawings by himself?"

"Yes, certainly," said the father gravely, "I saw him make them myself."

"I don't believe it," returned Dumoucel. "I see that the method is awkward, but as for the composition, I repeat, it is impossible."

When at last the incredulous artist was convinced, he turned to the father and exclaimed:

"Well, then, all I can say is you will be damned for having kept him so long at the plow, for your boy has the making of a great painter in him."

And he agreed on the spot to take Francois as his pupil. Later came the 12 years' stay in Paris, the painful apprenticeship to art, the still more painful effort to obtain recognition. Time after time his pictures were rejected by the Salon. He was now a husband and a father. In his dire need he accepted whatever orders he could get, and painted signs and portraits for the smallest sums. Even then he had great difficulty to get paid, and often met with harsh and cruel treatment.

His wife died. He married again under a temporary but illusory gleam of sunshine. Then darkness once more fell upon the little family. So late as 1848 a kind-hearted artist, learning of his plight, raised 100 francs for him from the minister of the interior, who was likewise the head of the administration of fine arts. At that time all Paris was talking of his pictures, but, alas! not buying them.

Some of his sketches now found a small sale. These were mostly of nude subjects. But one day he happened to overhear two youths speaking of a pastel he had already sold, representing two women in a bath.

"A man named Millet painted it," said one. "He does nothing but paint naked women."

The words were a shock to the unwilling eavesdropper. His friends had often admired his nude figures and praised his skill in flesh color. But never until that moment had he realized that upon them depended his chief reputation as an artist. His soul rose up in horror.—New York Herald.

His Vast Experience. A New York school boy, in an essay on his favorite authors, says: "Should I be asked to select a library of my favorite books, I should name Scott's Dickens's, Cooper's, Irving's, Porter's Shakespeare's, Elliot's and Hawthorne's works." It is doubtful if that school boy is entirely frank in naming George Elliot and Shakespeare; they look like a concession to the teacher's "prejudices." But the following is perfectly honest, and is a gem: "As a rule boys are fond of works of adventure, and I am no exception to the rule. It is only natural that young people seeing so much of domestic life, do not care to read about it."—Philadelphia Ledger.

COSTLY THINGS.

Way People All Over the World Spend Their Money.

Interesting paragraphs compiled by the Chicago News:

The costliest building of modern times is the State Capitol, of Albany, N. Y. Over \$20,000,000 has been expended on it.

The biggest price ever paid for a horse in America was \$125,000, given by J. Malcolm Forbes, of Boston, for Leland Stanford's Arion, a trotter.

A buff Leghorn pullet exhibited at a New York chicken fair in 1892 was valued at \$100.

The Shah of Persia has a tobacco pipe worth \$400,000.

In the year 1635 a tulip bulb was sold in Holland for \$2,200. It weighed 200 grains.

The largest sum ever offered or asked for a single diamond was \$2,150,000, which the Nizam of Hyderabad agreed to give Mr. Jacobs, the famous jeweler of Simla, for the Imperial diamond, considered the finest stone in the world.

The costliest rugs in the world are owned by the Shah of Persia and the Sultan of Turkey. Each possesses a rug made of pearls and diamonds, valued at over \$2,500,000. The Carleton Club, London, owns the largest rug or rug ever made.

The costliest crown is that worn by the Russian Czar on ceremonial occasions. It is surmounted by a cross formed of five magnificent diamonds, resting upon an immense uncut but polished ruby. The ruby rests on eleven large diamonds, which in turn rest on a mat of pearls. The coronet of the Empress is said to contain the most beautiful collection of diamonds ever massed together.

The largest price for a cane was bid at an auction in London of the walking sticks which were once the property of George III. and George IV. It was \$18, or \$90, and was given for a walking stick of ebony, with a gold top, engraved "G. R." and with a crown, and also containing the hair of the Princesses Augusta Elizabeth, Mary Sophia and Amelia, and inscribed, "The Gift of the Princess Mary, 1804."

The most expensive royal regalia in the world are said to be those of the Maharajah of Baroda, India. First comes a gorgeous collar, containing 500 diamonds, arranged in five rows, some of these as large as walnuts. A top and bottom row of emeralds of equal size relieve the lustre of the diamonds. A pendant is composed of a single brilliant called the "Star of the Deccan," and there are aigrettes, necklaces, bracelets, rings and chains to match. The Maharajah's own special carpet, ten by six feet in extent, made entirely of pearls, with a big diamond in the center and in each corner, cost \$1,500,000.

PAPER DRINKING CUPS.

Sanitary Idea Which Carries With it the Great Advantage of Economy.

A paper manufacturer of Ellersfield, Germany, has recently patented quite a novelty which has a great future, particularly for advertising purposes. It is a substitute for a drinking glass and may best be styled a cup made of paper. The idea is well executed. The drinking cup is so small that it may be carried in the pocketbook, and it enables the traveller on foot or on a wheel to always have his own clean drinking glass. It is so cheap that it may be thrown away after having been used but once, or when it has served its purpose. These paper drinking cups are of a strong yellow paper, provided with a leather-like surface, and are absolutely water tight. The outer surface many, of course, be used for advertisements given away in this shape will probably be of much value, the cost a little more than if the same advertisement had been printed on plain paper. The new cup is also made square and with a cover to admit the softening of ice cream, etc., the boxes being folded away into a minimal space until used.—Philadelphia Record.

His Eloquence Missed Fire.

The San Francisco Wave tells a story of a judge on the Pacific Coast, noted for his tendency to explain things to his juries, who expressed in a recent case his own ideas with such force that he thought it almost unnecessary for the jurors to leave the box. They did leave it, however, and were out hours. Inquiring the trouble, the judge was told one of the twelve was standing out against the eleven. He summoned the jury and rebuked the recalcitrant sharply. "Your Honor," said the juror, "may I say a word?" "Yes, sir," said the indignant judge; "what have you to say?" "Well, what I wanted to say is, I'm the only fellow that's on your side."

Toys of the Kaiser's Sons For Charity.

According to the diary of a German courtier, the children of the Emperor were well supplied with play things. On Easter eve, he writes, the tutor of the Emperor's sons collects all the toys which have been given to the children during the year. They consist for the most part of things of a military nature, such as miniature cannons, sabres, horns, drums, cornets, and, of course, tin soldiers. Then he causes them to be repainted and generally resold, and distributes them among the poor and the hospitals of the capital. Last Easter four cart loads of toys were thus distributed.

Life Insurance Manager (in astonishment)—"What under the sun ever made you take a risk on this man's life? Why, he swears that he has been a confirmed invalid for five years." Agent—"One of the best risks, sir. Confirmed invalids never die of anything but old age."—Tid-Bits.

TAX ON \$3,000,000 VOID.

JUDGE ARCHBALD DECIDES AN ASSESSMENT ACT UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Judge Archbald handed down a decision at Scranton recently which declares the Act of 1895 relating to the assessment and collection of taxes to be unconstitutional. He says the act contravenes the municipal act of 1889, and that in doing so it created legislation that is vicious in principle, giving to Boards of Assessors and Boards of Revision and Appeal a power that places the property owner at their mercy in the matter of tax assessments, and undertook to overthrow the principle of triennial assessments.

The decision of Judge Archbald was based on the appeal of Joseph Jermyn from the increased assessment in the Eighth ward of Scranton. Its effect will tend to reduce the assessment made in Scranton by \$3,000,000 this year.

The decision affects 24 cities of the third class in Pennsylvania. It was brought about by an appeal to Court of John Jermyn, the Scranton multimillionaire coal operator, the assessed valuation of one of whose properties was raised from \$11,000 to \$14,000 by a provision of the act now declared unconstitutional.

A Family Trait.

A phase of rural character that is not uncommon was illustrated by a farmer who called upon his lawyer the other day. He belongs to one of those families who have lived near the city for years, selling everything they produce at a good home market and saving some money in even the dullest times. He had brought in some things that he thought his lawyer might want at the house, and for 20 minutes haggled over a cent or two on the price of eggs and butter. When the farmer saw that the deal was likely to go against him, he induced the lawyer to throw in half a box of steel pens, and the trade was made.

Then the client told about a horse dicker he had with a neighbor, claiming that he had got about \$5 the worst of it. This was the law business he had, and after another hour's talk he concluded to offer a compromise at \$2.50, and if that was refused to sue, though the lawyer advised against it.

As the farmer was about to leave the lawyer inquired about a \$10,000 mortgage owned by his client.

"Hain't had no interest on it for four years," was the reply, "but I cackerlate it's all right. The land's worth the money, and I s'pose I'll git it some time."

"There you have it," said the lawyer in telling of the affair. "I guess it's heredity. This man is just like his father and his grandfather. Their whole thought was to make money out of the farm. Like them, this man lives close and thinks of nothing but getting the highest possible price for all he sells. What he lays away is to be handed down. He'll put in half a day selling truck and won't talk three minutes about a \$10,000 mortgage that isn't paying interest."—Detroit Free Press.

The Baby and the Burglars

"Hist!" exclaimed the first burglar to his assistant, as the assistant fell over the cuspidor.

"I am," said the assistant whiningly as he gathered himself together.

"Hist! First thing I know you'll be openin' the pianner in playin' Wagner, jes' ter show yer good breedin'."

A few minutes later they were helping themselves to silverware and bric-a-brac, with which the handsome country residence they were robbing abounded.

"Hist!" exclaimed the first burglar.

"Taint me," said the assistant in a frightened whisper.

Then they both stopped breathing and listened.

The sounds came from the rooms above.

It was simply a child crying, and both burglars turned on their breaths once more.

"Hear that?" said the first burglar.

"Yes; what of it?" answered the assistant.

"Why, dat's de only son an heir assertin' hisself, an de whole fam'ly'll be so busy wid him for der nex' hour dat we kin take erlong der dinin' room furniture as well as der silverware. Take off yer coat, Bill, an help me wid de sideboard fust."—New York Journal.

Try Allen's Foot-Ease.

A powder to be shaken into the shoes. At this season your feet feel swollen and hot, and get tired easily. If you have smarting feet or tight shoes, try Allen's Foot-Ease. It cools the feet, and makes walking easy. Cures and prevents swollen and sweating feet, blisters and callous spots. Relieves corns and bunions of all pain and gives rest and comfort. Try it TO-DAY. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores for 25c. Trial package FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmstead, LeRoy, N. Y. 5 13 4td

A Queer Fact About Vision.

In the eye itself certain things may go on which give us wrong sensations, which, although not truly illusions, are very much like them. Thus, when we suddenly strike our heads or faces against something in the dark we see "stars," or bright sparks, which we know are not real lights, though they are quite as bright and sparkling as if they were. When we close one eye and look straight ahead at some word or letter in the middle of this page, for example, we seem to see not only the thing we are looking at, but everything else immediately about it and for a long way on each side. But the truth is there is a large round spot somewhere near the point at which we are looking in which we see nothing. Curiously enough, the existence of this blind spot was not discovered by accident, and nobody ever suspected it until Mariotte reasoned from the construction of the eyeball that it must exist and proceeded to find it.—Harrison Wilson, M. D., in St. Nicholas.

Ants as Guests of Plants.

The ants which are really protective to plants are not those which obtain their food (indirectly for the most part through the aphides) from the vegetable kingdom, but those which are really carnivorous. These are numerous in temperate climates, and their usefulness to agriculture and silviculture is incontestable. Thus the field ant is a great insect destroyer. A nest of this species is capable of destroying as many as 28 caterpillars and grasshoppers a minute, or 1,600 an hour, and such a colony is at work day and night during the pleasant season. In the arid plains of America the beneficent work of ants is revealed in the isles of verdure around their hills.

There are plants hospitable to ants which furnish them shelter and often food, within the cavities of which the instincts of the ants prompt them to take their abode. This is the case with several ferns, among them the Polypodium nectariferum, the sterile grounds of which bear nectaries on their lower face and are, moreover, of a shape favorable to sheltering the insect.—Prof. M. Heim in Popular Science Monthly.

Who opened that bottle of HIRES Rootbeer? The popping of a cork from a bottle of Hires is a signal of good health and pleasure. A sound old fellow like to hear the children can't resist it. HIRES Rootbeer is composed of the very ingredients the system requires. Aiding the digestion, soothing the nerves, purifying the blood, a temperance drink for temperance people. Made only by The Charles Heile Co., Phila. A package makes 5 gallons. Sold everywhere.

ORPHANS' COURT SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.

By virtue of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County Frank Reutz, the Executor of Caroline Reutz, deceased, late of the Borough of Catawissa, County of Columbia and State of Pennsylvania will expose to sale by Public Vendue, on

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1897, at 1 o'clock P. M., on the premises in the Borough of Catawissa, County and State aforesaid, the following tract of land—

All that certain lot or piece of ground situate lying and being in Shuman's addition to the town of Catawissa, in the County of Columbia, and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows: to wit: On the North by Mill Street forty feet, on the East by lands of Mrs. Old one hundred and fifty feet, on the South by an alley forty feet and on the West by lands of Franklin L. Shuman one hundred and fifty feet; being lot number seven/teen (17) in said Addition. Whereon is erected one two-story frame dwelling house and out buildings. The lot being well stocked with fruit trees. Being the same premises which George B. Zarr and Caroline, his wife, conveyed unto Caroline Herold Balm by deed dated 7th November, 1892, said deed being duly recorded in the office for the recording of deeds Book No. 51, Page 592 etc.

TERMS OF SALE.

The highest and best bidder shall be declared the purchaser. Twenty-five per centum of the highest and best bid must be paid when the property is struck down. The balance to be paid on the confirmation of the sale by the Court and the delivery of the deed. Deed for the premises to be made at the expense of the purchaser. C. O. BURKERT, FRANK REUTZ, Attorneys. Executor, etc. 4-29-ts. J. S. WILLIAMS, Auctioneer.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Isaac A. DeWitt, late of Greenwood township, deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the estate of Isaac A. DeWitt, late of Greenwood township, deceased, have been granted to A. M. DeWitt, of Greenfield, Pa., to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay. A. M. DeWitt, Executor. Orangeville, Pa. 5-6-97

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