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VICTOR HUGO.

His Life, His Ways and His Character.

Count Victor Marie Hugo was born in 1802, his father having been one of the most distinguished of Napoleon's Generals. At one time General Hugo held command in the province of Auvellino, in Calabria, where he managed, after a desperate chase, to run Fra Diavolo to earth. Afterwards he went to Spain, taking Victor with him. The child already gave promise of genius, and King Joseph asked to see him. "Remember, my boy," quoth the father, "that if His Majesty speaks to you you must address him as 'Sire.' The King did converse with little Victor, who called him "Monsieur." Gen. Gen. Hugo asked his son after the audience why he had disobeyed the paternal injunctions. Victor made a reply which perhaps only a shy man will quite un-derstand: "I was afraid."

About this time Victor was entered as a student at the Seminary of the Nobles in Madrid. Previously his education had been conducted under the auspices of an old royalist, who was a general into the bargain. In 1813 he was placed at the Convent of the Feuillantines. He is thus one of the most mournful and striking arguments against the old creed. Brought up a Catholic, and endowed with all the susceptibilities which could enamor a soul of the Catholic poetry, he has deliberately rejected it. He is no sceptic, but a passionate Deist, who speaks somewhat scornfully of what are pre-eminently styled the mysteries

Papa Hugo wished his son to be come a soldier, but the boy had other ideas. He had begun to scribble at six or seven; a veritable replica of

"Whilst yet a child, and all unknown to fame, I lisp'd in numbers, for the numbers came."

At fourteen he wrote a tragedy-bad, of course, but such as many a man of twenty-eight might have been proud At fifteen he competed for one of those prizes which the French Academy annually offers with the benign intention of encouraging the study of letters among the people most disposed to rush into print of any in Europe. The subject was— "The Advantages of Study." Victor's poem was unquestionably the best, but he had been goose enough to sign "A Poet of 15." The bigwigs fancied they were being chaffed, never dreaming of such a product of nature as a mention.

Three religious, patriotic odes, all "crowned" by somebody, followed in three successive years; and Victor began to be looked upon by the Royal-ists pretty much as Mr. Gladstone was looked upon by the Tories of forty years ago. Indeed, there is more than one point of resemblance between these eminent men. They have both traveled the same way, only Mr. Gladstone has not covered the same space. He began as a Christian and a Christian he has remained. Victor Hugo has measured the vast distance between belief in the Pope and belief in himhimself alone. Again, the men are both terribly in earnest. A Government of Hugos with real power at its back would probably reform society, unless, by way of alternative, it succeeded in destroying that time-honored institution akogether.

In 1822 was published the first volume of "Odes and Ballads." success was fully equal to that of the two first cantos of "Childe Harold." Like Byron, Hugo awoke and found himself famous. For a time he was happy, this lad of twenty who had ome one of the greatest men in France. He now took what some persons have pronounced the one wise step in his life. A Mlle. Foucher had been brought up with him at the Convent of the Feuillantines, and young Victor had risen to love her. The parents of the young lady, however, had looked upon him as a detrimental or worse; now he was discovered to have merit, also much prudence in money matters—a quality which has never forsaken him—so their views changed, and his suit was encouraged. Frankly, this poet has a keen eye to the main chance. On his return to Paris in 1870, after a nineteen years' exile, his first act was to drive to the Academy and claim his arrears of pay as one of the Forty. A thousand francs a year, I think, is the allowance of an Immortal, so that the sum was worth asking for. Victor Hugo has been accused of lack of generosity, chiefly because his charities are unostentatiously bestowed. But numerous little acts of kindness on his part are known to friends who have come in contact with him. For instance, Hugo makes frequent use of the tramway, and regularly gives a Christmas box

by an uncommon series of calamities.

of Havre, in 1843. It was a singularly gay boating party that had this tragic end. And yet M. Hugo, does not give one the idea of a melancholy man; quite the reverse. At his own table, for instance, he will talk and laugh like a great schoolboy, seeming to overflow with animal spirits. I was dining with him one day, and towards dessert the conversation had become political when the door suddenly opened and a pretty child of eight years or so made her appearance. "C'est l'Amour et c'est la Joie!" was Hugo's

Hugo's political life can only be said to have begun in 1848. The Revolution found him an Academician, a Peer of France, an officer of the Legion of Honor, a rentier. He had everything to lose, nothing to gain by change and disorder. But the move-ment of 1848 had in it so much of the heroic and hopeful that more than one strong head was turned. Bitter was the reaction; but Victor Hugo had the genius to perceive that the principles of the Republican leaders were the only ones possible for his age and country, and that the scle question was as to the best method of applying them. His conversion occupied in all about five years. It was in 1853, when liberty had absolutely disappeared from the entire continent, that Victor Hugo seized the opportunity of proclaiming himself a "Democrat." He told a friend about this time that there was no phase of his career of which he felt prouder than this. "I had to give up many cherished prejudices and many fair illusions, and to part with some dear friends. I had, too, to confess myself mistaken. I am proud to look back on it all. I dared, I spoke, I conquered."

After the coup d'etat Hugo résided in Jersey till, in 1855, our fellow-sub-jects of that isle drove him out for having protested against the expulsion of some French refugees. The poet then went to Guernsey, where his lines were cast in tolerably pleasant The scenery is lovely, and Victor Hugo had chosen a delightful spot for his home. Hauteville House soon became the resort of pilgrims from every part of the world where a lover of liberty or an admirer of gen-ius was to be found. Independently of its illustrious tenant, the mere dwelling repaid a visit. Hugo has rare decorative skill, and his house was a perfect gem. He himself, however, rarely used his fine rooms, preferring to work in a garret furnished with a single table and chair, and destitute even of works of reference. thrifty soul, he was proud of having written a whole book without the expenditure of more than one bottle boy of genius. So they refused him the prize, but (for they had a collective conscience) allowed him honorable one splendid apartment, by the way, was reserved for the reception of General Garibaldi, in case that hero should ever accord the honor of a visit. Hugo might be hard pressed for space wherein to bestow his guests, but the liberator's chamber still remained inviolable. Hugo would not hear of its being occupied by any meaner mortal. I believe the General never came, and indeed doubt whether the most brilliant thinker and the bravest soldier of the age ever met. Nor is there much chance that they will in the future, Garbaldi being too ill to travel and Hugo being too fond of France to care to leave it.

Hugo has been accused of inordinate vanity; but at all events he can afa graceful freedom from that quality. He once received a letter addressed, "To the greatest of French poets." Hugo sent the envelope unopened to Lamartine, who courteously returned the same assuring his rival that it had not miscarried in the first instance. Hugo deserved to be praised by Lamartine, and Lamartine by Hugo.

MOLTKE AT BERLIN.

HOME LIFE OF THE GREAT SOLDIER WHO IS SILENT IN SEVEN LANGUAGES.

In a recent publication by Baron A. von Firks, an interesting glimpse is presented of the private and domestic life of the great German strategist, Count von Moltke. The happy mar-riage of the Chief of the Prussian General Staff was dissolved by the death of his wife on the 24th of December, 1868. Since then his domestic affairs have been managed by his only surviving sister, Frau von Burt, whose only son has likewise been attached as second adjutant to his uncle. Count Moltke resides in the new building belonging to the General Staff. It is situate on the King's square or Konigsplatz, Berlin. His apartments have a southern aspect and look out upon the Column of Victory, which commemorates chiefly his own unprecedented triumphs over the Austrians and the French. His habits and mode of life are characterized by the greatest simplicity and regularity, his time being divided and spent strictly ac-cording to the rules he has previously laid down for himself. During the winter half of the year the Field-Marshall, in his dressing-gown and of £20 to the employes of the particular line on which he generally travels.

His marriage was a happy one in the most essential point, but marred morning and takes his early cup of coffee, over which he smokes a cigar.

alterations and additions. His handwriting is flowing and very legible, the characters being clear, firm and uniform. At this work he goes on till 9 o'clock, when his official letters are brought in and laid before him. After reading these he proceeds to put on his uniform and finish his toilet for rapturous exclamation, and politics were contemptuously dismissed. Well General Staff appears and makes his report for the day, the time he occurred according to circumthe Count as a general rule takes a topics of the day. From 5 to 7 and papers, writing letters and finishing up his official work of the day. Between 7 and 8 o'clock he looks at towards the close of the evening, there is a little music, and at 10 o'clock P. M., the Field-Marshal retires to rest, to rise again at 6.30 for a similar day's sau, near Schweidnitz, in Silesia. At two Grecian athletes, and not far from them, resting on large flat bases of stone, two cannon taken in the late ment. Franco-German war and presented by the Emperor to his victorious Chief of the General Staff. The Count's favorite spot in his park is a seat under the shadowy branches of a giant oak, whence a fine view of the hills of the Eulengebirg is obtained. In the park, the tomb of his deceased wife, to whom he was greatly attached.

SAN MARINO.

THE MOST DELIGHTFUL LITTLE REPUBLIC OUTSIDE OF FAIRY-LAND. on Bigelow in Harper's for February

The Republic proper stretches over territory seventeen miles long and about half that width, and has a population, all told, of about 6,000 people, the capital, where we were, having about 900 of them. They are governed by a council of sixty, which is a close corporation, nominally composed of twenty princes, twenty of the mid-die class and twenty of the peasant class; but in point of fact, as I afterward learned—and, indeed, as might be inferred from the fact that they themselves filled all vacancies, and the people had no more to do with the choice of the members of their Council than of our members of Congress-all were nobles, and if you were to address one otherwise than "nobilissimo," you had better not have addressed him at all. I gathered that the real distinction was that twenty were taken from the landed gentry, twenty from the town gentry and twenty promiscu-ously from any part of the territory.

This Council, independent of all human control from above or below, elects two executive officers, who are called Captains-Regent; it designates which were cunningly caricatured by the picture of a ministerial orator addressing a flock of turkeys as follows;

"Gentlemen, I have called you to-gether to ask you with what sauce you would prefer to be eaten.' "But we do not wish to be eaten."

was the ungracious reply of the honorable birds of freedom in Congress assembled. "You dodge the question," was the

retort of the imperturbable minister. The government of this so-called republic, therefore, is simply a close corporation, vested with indeterminable power to fill all vacancies occasioned by death or otherwise. Their Council is even less popular in its composi-tion than a hereditary legislature, be-cause no third power, like that of a sovereign, to which the people have access, has anything to do with filling the vacancies that occasionally occur in its ranks. Two Executives or Captains Regent, one for the town and one for the rural districts, are chosen by the Council every six months-in April and in October-and may not be re-elected for two consecutive terms. They may be, however, and frequently are, re-elected after an interval of three years. Some of them have thus re-chosen four or five times. been Count B- told me he had himself been Captain Regent three times. It must be remembered, however, that

impatient to know something of the army, which for 1300 years has defied the manifold elements of disorder that have been fatal to many dynasties and dismembered so many larger and more populous territories in Europe. The on his uniform and finish his toilet for the day. At 11 o'clock he hears the daily reports of his adjutants, and then takes his luncheon, which is generally of a very simple character. After this he is generally engaged in his study till? G'eleck. At the trake After this he is generally engaged in his study till 2 o'clock. At the stroke of 2 the Divisional Chief of the great Staff appears and makes his encies the militia of the country may be called in aid of its unconquered cupies varying according to circum-stances. When this work is finished regular legions. They have two judgwho are, however, required by walk, and on returning home dines with the members of his family. His favorite wine at dinner is Moselle.

After the principal meal of the day he takes coffee and a cigar in his study, where the members of his family or friends generally find him ready to engage in a cheerful conversation on currency in use among them, also, is that of the Italian government. They o'clock in the evening, however, the Field-Marshal is again at his books lent in value of our cent—my host at the inn gave me two or three of them

My readers are doubtless already

but they were not coined in the Re-public. Their number was very rethe evening papers, and at 8 p. M., tea is served in the family circle, after which Count Moltke is very fond of joining in a rubber at whist. Then, stricted, and they are rarely to be met rino from all other countries that it puts out its litigation as some families put out their washing and trades exclusively with the currency of foreign work on the morrow. During the summer months Count Moltke spends most of his time on his estate at Kreino control and submits its differences to foreign tribunals for adjustment, the entrance to the forecourt there are gives pretty heavy bonds to keep the peace with its neighbors, whatever be the title it gives to its form of govern-

> The expenses of their government will not seem large to an American. They never exceed 25,000 francs—say \$5,000—army, navy, post-office, edu-cation, prisons, police, diplomatic service, representation, all included. This revenue is raised out of the profits realized by the government from the purchase of some \$600,000 pounds of tobacco in the leaf, which it manufactures to sell at a small advance; from the sale of about 800 sacks of salt, and a trifling stamp tax of three cents on notarial, judicial and other legal docu-ments. The health of the republic is looked after by one physician and one surgeon employed by the State, who are required to attend and prescribe all who send for them, but who are not expected to resent the offer of a gratuity from those who can afford to pay for their advice. These functionaries receive some \$500 a year each from the State. The Judges receive the same. San Marino has not only never been affiicted with a newspaper, but no printing press has ever

An Inhuman Mother.

LOCKING HER LITTLE BOY UP WITH A CAT TO STARVE TO DEATH.

stood upon its territory.

ial dispatch to the Post. New York, Jan. 22 .- The details of the shocking brutality of a mother to a four-year-old babe transpired in the Police court to-day. The mother, Mrs. Carrie Emmerson, was drunk, and was arraigned by the police. An occupant of the same tenement told the

following story:
Mrs. Emerson took her apartments which the Minister Calonne proposed to yield to the Assembly of Notables near the close of the last century, and rooms, continuing during the morning. Towards noon I heard the child's cries, followed by a rushing noise, as if some savage animals were running around a cage and trying to escape. The in-mates of the house assembled around mates of the house assembled around the room, which is on the ground floor, having a door and two windows opening into the yard. The windows raised up and a large padlock fastened the door. A cat was heard in the room. The cries of the child grew louder and louder, and the cat inside began to hurt itself against the windows in its endeavors to break out. It would strike deavors to break out. It would strike the closed shutters, and rebounding to the floor, would tear around the spartment to the terror of the child, whose screams were heartrending. An officer was called in and broke open the door. A large black cat, with blazing eyes, dashed past him. Inside the room was breading whelly pure and shivering Freddie, wholly nude, and shivering with cold and fright. The officer carried him into my apartments, where I dressed him, and he was taken to the police station.

NEW YORK'S ELECTORAL VOTE.

THE PROPOSED REPUBLICAN STEAL IN DI-RECT CONFLICT WITH THE CONSTITUTION.

As the legislative report has already advised the reader, a Mr. Potter, of Saratoga, has introduced in the assembly a bill to take from the people the right to vote for Presidential electors, which they have enjoyed since every voter now living cast a ballot, and so being the property of the Both his sons, men of great promise, have preceded him to the grave. His daughter, Leopoldine, was drowned with her husband, Charles Vacquerie, on reading over his manuscript, makes

tial election Democratic in majority. Whether the Republicans at Albany will seriously attempt to carry out the revolutionary programme proposed is

But if they should carry it out, they may make some mistake that will result in throwing New York's electoral vote out of the court. There are a number of points involved that are less technical and of more strength than those upon which the Republicans are seeking to set up a State government in Maine.

In the first place, the question has been raised whether it is competent for the legislature of a State, after having directed the appointment of the old maxim, "principles, not men," electors by vote of the people, and the people have for generations appointed them by vote, to change the manner candidate cannot be elected by eithof appointment-whether, when the legislature gave the directions to the people and lodged in their hands the ower to choose, it did not exhaust its

authority.

In the second place, one of the late amendments of the Federal Constitution recognizes what the original instrument did not—the right of the people to vote for Presidential electors; and it attaches a penalty to de-nial or abridgement of that right.

"When," it says, "the right to vote at any election for President and Vice-President of the United States * * * is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age and citizens of the United States, or in any manner abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.'

The male inhabitants described now certainly have the right to vote for all the thirty-five electors of New York. The Grant scheme proposes to deny that right, to take it away, to abridge it, by allowing them to vote for only the two at-large electors, and by Congressional districts to vote for only a single elector in each.

Consequently, the basis of the State's representation in Congress must be reduced in the proportion described. But as the right would be denied or abridged to all the male inhabitants case the National Democracy should described, of course the proportion carnestly strive to find the very best would be such as to wipe out the entire Congressional representation.

And as the right of the State to thirty-three of its thirty-five Presidential electors rests upon its basis of representation, of course the loss of the latter would carry the loss of the former, and New York would have only the two electors who stand for its two Senators. The Republicans who are in earnest in the Grant scheme have no comprehension of the muddle in which they are trying to involve themselves.

The Birth of the New Conspiracy.

From the Wilkesbarre Leader.

The Republicans of this country are in a desperate strait. They fully recognize the fact. The States they stole to achieve the Presidency three years ago, they cannot steal this year. know this. And they have long been contemplating the theft of others. It was at first suggested that the Legislature of New York should enact a law taking to itself the right to choose the Presidential electors. This proposition was informally broached to the country, but it elicited such indications of popular rebellion against so manifestly a dishonest proceeding, that it was concluded if not to abandon it altogether, at least to make no show of positive intention to adopt it, until all other possibilities of achieving the desired result shall have failed them. It was then agreed among the wicked nated, that a bill should be put through the body named giving the choosing of the electors to the Congressional districts. On Tuesday such a bill was introduced. It was presented by a Mr. Potter. It provides that two electors-at-large shall be chosen and that one for each Congressional district shall also be chosen-that is, that each electoral ticket placed in the ballot box shall contain the names of three elec-tors. It is believed by the schemers, that should this act become a law, at least twenty-three of the thirty-five electoral votes of the State are certain to be carried for the Republican candidate for President.

The mere introduction of this bill is confessing that the Republicans despair of carrying New York on the popular vote, and the claim in the face of that confession that voting by districts they would secure 23 out of the 35 electors, shows how unfairly the State is districted in the interest of their party, and how grossly dishonest that fact would be in its results to the majority of its people, even if the method of choosing electors by Con-gressional districts were in vogue in

all the States. It is a desperate and damnable game that is thus being played. The wonder is that in this enlightened age and free country the boldest men would dare even to whisper of such an outrage. They would not, but for the fact that

ward by the Grant managers, with a of the most audacious character, and view of securing to the third term aspirant electoral votes from Republican Congressional districts. It is, of ever, that in this latest endeavor, the can Congressional districts. It is, of course, a confession that the State as a whole is and will be at the Presiden—are not imposing too much upon the endurance of a too patient people.

The Way to Win.

From the Baltimore Gazette,

During the present year the American people will again be called upon to select a President whose term of office, if his life be spared, will extend for four years from the 4th of March, 1881. In a few months the two great political parties of the country put their candidates in the field, and then the struggle for supremacy will begin. Which will be successful will depend entirely upon the candidates nominated, for, strange as it may seem, er party on the soundest platform. Though fairly representing his party, he must be sound himself, thoroughly trusted by the rank and file as well as the leaders, and enjoy to the fullest ex-tent the confidence of the masses, not only because he is a standard-bearer, but, for the better reason, that he is altogether fitted to be one. Just now there seems to be an unhappy conflict of opinion in the Democratic ranks as to who should be their leader. We are afraid that the conflict is based more upon the desire to promote individual interests than to secure party success. This is perhaps natural in the present construction of parties. Candidates are named as available merely because they represent factions and not because they are supposed to be acceptable to the whole united Democracy. This preference is founded quite as much upon the hope of prospective plunder as upon the real merit of the candidate. We are aware that it is a difficult if not an impossible thing to find a man acceptable to every one. George D. Prentice once said, with great force: "It is in vain to hope to please all alike. Let a man stand with his face in what direction he will, he must necessarily turn his back or one half of the world." As back on one-half of the world." with men so with parties, and hence it is a fact, which must be looked squarely in the face, that whoever is nated will be made the candidate in opposition to a large number in the Democratic ranks. In this view of the man for the crisis, without reference to sentiment, or prejudice, or individ-ual interests, or the promptings of factions. Such a man may not be easy to find, but he is worth diligently looking for. Without him the party will go into an utterly hopeless con-test, with no chance of success, and the same political organization that has ruled the Nation since 1860 will again reap the fruits of victory. The Democracy can elect a President this coming Fall if wise and prudent counsels prevail, but they need not hope to do so unless they show that they are worthy of public confidence by nominating a candidate whom the people respect and can trust after the election as well as before the battle is fought.

Partisan Interpretation of Law.

A Hartford Times reporter in look-ing over the vote cast for Representative in Farmington, Connecticut, in the spring of 1862, found it officially recorded as follows:

Although the votes against Rood, defeated by one majority, the Republican moderator, according to law, just as similar cases were decided in Maine by Governor Garcelon and Council, declared that Rood was elected. Demonstrated the control of the council of the c was then agreed among the wicked ocrats submitted without a word occasion occasion occasion. cided by a Republican moderator, in the same town. The vote is recorded as follows:

We would naturally look for a decision electing the Democratic candidate. The law had not changed; but the moderator reversed the law and declared that the Republican candi-date was elected. Christian ministers, reform newspapers and professed friends of equality before the law, made no cry of alarm, attended no indignation meetings, wrote no flam-ing editorials on the sanctity of the ballot. The reason was obvious. The enforcement of the law worked to their interests in the former case, while ig-noring its provisions accomplished the same purpose in the latter. No wonder Democrats at times criticise the ambassadors of Christ, and writers in the religious press.

CALEB CUSHING'S remarkable words, uttered in 1861, are now being recallled in many journals. He said: "I would give a great deal to know the name of the subaltern in the Northern army to-day who will eventually rise to the command of the armies of the