(For the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.) RASH STEPS.

Upon the threshold Ben Adhem struck an attitude.

"I shall now exploit for your benefit the ancient Chateau and present studio of Les-Am'n. You are expected to imbibe the old Chateau feeling, but will not be allowed to make sparkling remarks. We will begin modestly with the kitchen."

Our entrance into the kitchen was like turning up an engraving after Ostade in a portfolio. The light blazed in from a single window, and struck in bars across an atmosphere of smoke. This smoke had its origin in the antique fireplace, which was a little cabinet of itself, with stone seats for wo persons, and an elaborate system of was a complete family room, and according as you turned yourself you were in the kitchen or the bed-room. One wall represented the sleeping chamber, being entirely taken up with the monstrous Breton bedstead. Imagine yourself sleeping in an upper shelf in a clothes pressthat is to be a-bed in Brittany. The window was the dairy. One corner was a private oratory, with images, holywater fountain, rosary, and colored prints of a mystical character. The aristocratic feature of the room was the floor, which was flagged, instead of being the simple ground. A bare-legged old woman was arranging upon the lofty mantle-shelf her enormous coppers, brilliant as the image of the sun in

a Mexican temple. "That old woman is your hostess. She is only famous for crying. One of our fellows was painting this interior, and used to tip her milk pan over every minute with his apparatus; the window-sill is so uneven. She always cried. He would pay her enormous sums, which she accepted readily, still crying eloquently, like a baby with a pin in it. She cried when the cow ate the wheat she had just winnowed; she cried when the pig got his foot into the buckwheat batter; she cried when the biggest branch of the walnut tree came down in a storm. Her laments are executed with the energy you will find in all her motions."

Across the hall was the salon. My guide. producing a bunch of strangely-wrought keys, was just in the act of procuring ingress when the pig, that had got his foot in the batter, came driving through the passage like a tempest, almost running us down. His mania consisted in a dream that that ancestral hall was his swill-trough, and he worked up and down it with the velocity of a piston, scorning to take the least notice of the biped occupants. When we had repulsed him with some of the farming implements which were stored in the carved recesses, we admitted ourselves, along with a dusty column of unfamiliar light, into the rotting

Its decorations were tarnished, its floor

turning into punk, an earthy atmosphere had usurped its scented airs of festival. The walls were paneled, leaving large spaces which were filled with canvasses, badly painted in the taste of Louis XV. I cannot describe the subjects of these huge gross designs, now dropping with their own proper rottenness to the earth. Their plots recalled the enchanted spider-web sung by Ovid, "on which were delineated the crimes of the gods;" and the foul painter, too little skilled to give the desirable beauty to his Ledas and Bathing Dianas, had made it up to them by dressing their hair in the jeweled towers proper to Montespan and Dubarry. The colors were nearly gone; each canvas was a whisper, and each whisper told of a sin. It was like a company of desperately victous people, hobnobbing over heir wicked souvenirs in the moribund impotence of old age. The room seemed saturated with guilt. The wicked old lord who had killed the man seemed to be in the air What a theatre for revels, and vices, and shames, this sweet little château in the lonely Breton groves, a hundred posts from Paris! How they danced and reveled among these pictured walls, the silken gentlemen, and the painted ladies whom their cavaliers had snatched from Paris like Europas and planted in this temple of obscurity! How the spinet used to twinkle, and the wax to burn away in the hours of early morning, while fogs folling lonely from the sea would cloud the secret Olympus! How the little feet would pat these rotting boards; how they whispered between the panels, in the embrasures of the windows, the warm gallantries of the day; while, wherever they looked, the conscious walls would seem to put on ears, and understand and repeat their wildest thoughts!

"The last of the direct line," observed Ben Adhem, "was old Mademoiselle Haumant. She died here last winter, about seventy years old, all alone. Our landlady nursed her. Her relatives were of distant degrees, and were scattered in various provincial towns. Hashish has seen the costumes the old witch had; there were magnificent family brocades and laces, which she took a pride in showing to artists and travelers. I will take you now to the bedroom where she died; a love-affair, they say, carried her off."

"A love affair!" I exclaimed. "Why you said she was seventy?"

"Oh, yes, you see she was a French woman. Her relatives disapproved, however, and there was the dickens to pay. She fought it out as long as she was able, and when her ammunition was exhausted, died in revenge."

From the central hall we entered the tower, in which was accommodated the principal staircase of the mansion. The mason work was of that solid, primeval sort which seems to hold time at defiance. When the great Sphynx bows her towery head to the desert sand, I should expect to see the fall of these circles of great flat stones, these hollowed steps, which, even when cracked and crumbled, retain their first solidity unimpaired.

A large chamber on the upper floor was pointed out as that in which the long family line had run itself out in the scraggy person of poor, lovelorn Miss Haumant,

"Among this litter on the floor," said my friend, "we have managed to root up several valuables. There were some good bits of Valenciennes and Malines lace, somewhat darned, but pretty fair. Hashish what darned, but pretty fair. Hashish picked up a gold ring enameled in the taste of the latter Bourbons. There in the corner you may go and get your pockets full of vingt-cinq sol notes. Make your fortune while you have a chance. It securrency of the first revolution. I won't courrency of the first revolution. I won't tober 26,

describe to you the wooden saints and other furniture we discovered. You'll see most

of it in the studio." Poor Mademoiselle's chamber was not one I would be likely to select, even to die in. The paneling, of antique black oak was separating from the walls. The stately old enclosure for the bedstead, of the same wood, was about as attractive as the darkchamber in a penitentiary. The floor was a wonderful mess of bonnets, letters, bexes tools, books and other relies, pulled hither and thither by the curiosity hunters, Ia the middle was a nauseous puddle of rain, and rot, due to the defects in the ceiling above, and the roof above that. And filling every corner were the tents of the patriarchs, and great shaggy Esaus and Ishmaels pulling away voluptuously at the

"There," said I, "all this makes me a hearths, ovens, jacks, &c. The apartment little sick. PoorMademoiselle Haumant, and her affair of the heart, and her loneliness, and her seventy birthdays. I would like to go to the studio at once."

"Nothing easier," said Ben Adhem kindly, "it is on this floor, just the other side of the tower."

We stepped acress the passage, where I could imagine the unquiet feet of the hypochondriec wearing the cold stone over and over again in the lonely nights. There, inside a little vestibule, we paused at a black old door, and my friend knocked. Up to that moment the silence we had been disturbing was the silence of the Pyramids. Now, upon our kneck, there was developed a sudden chorus of every sort of male voice, roaring through the ancient stone passages, and even whirling down the spiral stairway to astonish the pig. We were bidden enter with a sound I have often heard, and love well to hear—the warm, interior "Come in!" of artists laboring away among their dreams in the silent sanctity of the studio.

The room was illuminated from the upper part of a single, ample casement. This unity of light, in giving effect to a chamber, is a subject very little attended to by architects. though artists have long understood its value. Thus managed, the apartment became at once a Rembrandt subject. Everything upon the corners and edges of the scene was confused in a transparent dimness, while a flood of burning, flowing silver fell from on high upon the centre of the floor. and bathed a girl who sat in the radiance and seemed to spin.

Mona sits in the soft flame and seems to spin. One light foot is pressed upon the treadle, the pretty fingers of one hand are gathered upon the peg that starts the wheel, the distaff is thrust into the belt, while her face, as if attracted by something at the window, looks off for the instant with sudden surprise. In another moment the brilliant gray eyes will bend again to the spin. ning-wheel; the fingers of the right hand will give it the proper impulse; the fingers of the left will roll for it the thread, coaxed out of the hoary top-knot of the distaff; the slender foot will beat its even rhythm upon the floor, and the ankle, madelfor dancing, will turn to the pretty work as if it were the ankle of Terpsic hore; and then, perhaps, as the purring wheel goes round, Mona will sing again her song, the song we heard beneath her window, the hymn in praise of labor, the "Fuseau de Marguerite."

But the moment does not come. Mona's four extremities are fixed. The wheel never starts. The air of surprise lives in her starry eyes. No thread comes from the distaff. The bunch upon it is not its proper chevelure, but a wig. Mona is doing a clever bit of acting. Mona is posing for the painters.

Another girl sits there for company, knitting at an endless description of stocking In a little half-circle around sit the artists our friends. One is planted upon an earthen crock, inverted, and cushioned with a handful of fern; another on the old ancestral hearthstone; another is quite invisible, having squatted between the two facing window-seats; the column of light skips him totally, as a thing of nought, and he is reduced to a mere voice of welcome as he gives us the cheery "Come in."

"Come in, tabernacle!" (Ben Adhem sports a monstrous white umbrella at his landscape work.) You too. Perhaps Mona will be awed by your presence, and hold still a minute. She has been talking scandal with Jacqueline till she was ready to spring from the bench."

The graceful Bretonne, hearing her own name, bridled her light-head and turned her bright eyes us wards. We made a pair of bows. The bend she executed in return was absolutely courtly and graceful. It was not only graceful; it was stylish. It would have succeeded at Complegue. Mona had been born the thing we call a lady. She looked, in her preposterous collar and outrageous cap, like the sauciest belle of a

"They have been laughing together over the most horrid scandals. Hashish, you know a little Celtic, wasn't it scandal?" Hashish, a tall young man, with slender hands, and deep, burning, Arabian eyes, which he had kept hitherto glued to his easel, looked up.

"Come, come, what was it?"

"Well, you may call it that. They were talking about the girl on the bridge, who is crying her eyes out of her head, you know, because the courier is contemplating the sewing-woman at Gourin. You've heard all the story in our kitchen."

"Yes, but which side did they take. Which were they laughing at? "Oh, at the girl on the bridge. Mona sali her face looked like a crêpe just beginning to bake."

Ah, insidious demon of tattle! Have you shrines in every corner of the globe? I have come to Pon'-Am'n, whose girls, says Eugene Loudnm, are unequaled for their elegance, "for the luxury and beaming brilliancy of their coiffures, sleeves, and great collerettes." And the prettiest of these welldressed Peris picks a character to pieces, pokes fun at an injured and forsaken girl? and praises her false, handsome lover, just like a Miss with every advantage of the

American boarding-school system. ENFANT PERDU.

A Brest paper informs us that the Great Eastern has been chartered by M. Despeches for the purpose of transporting visitors from New York to Brest during the Exhibition;

CITY BULLETIN.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL ART ASSOCIATION.-It is very little known to the community how much the study of Art, has become profession as well as an accomplishment among the ladies. That its increase has been rapid and unexpected, the present exhibition, entitled, First Annual Exhibition of the Women's National Art Association, shows the visitor Heratofore Westernand shows the visitor. Heretofore works execute shows the visitor. Heretofore works executed by women have sustained but a small chance when exhibited among the large landscapes and marines that adorn our Academy walls or other places. But now women have found they may take a position apart from the other sex in art matters. The room in which now hang many beautiful works of art is not favorable for the project but below art is not favorable for the project, but being the only one available, had to be used. New York has contributed her share of paintings, and Washington sends us a lovely specimen from Miss Vinnie Reame, a cast of the "Indian Girl." Miss Ida Waugh, one of Philadelphia's sculptors, brings her "Spring," and some others, to swell the number of works of interest and beauty. Miss Wagner's exquisite painting on ivory of "The Flagman's Invocation," is worth a visit of itself. The novelty of the exhibition is a finely-executed lithograph stone by Miss Ellen Simpson, which attracts the attention and admiration of all visitors. Our space will not admit of further detail. We advise all who have a desire to sid and elevate woman to visit this exhibition; they will be sure to come away well pleased. It is open day and evening at 914 Chestnut

OUTRAGEOUS HIGHWAY ROBBERY. -Johnson Kelley was before Becorder Eneu yesterday afternoon, upon the charge of having been concerned in the robbery of Robert Collins, a medical student. Collins had been out on Thursday night at a hotel in the vicinity of Ninth and Walnut streets. in the vicinity at Aintnand wannut streets. He met two men and engaged in card playing. A carriage ride was then proposed and was assented to by Collins. After riding for some time Collins refused to go further and the carriage was stopped. As he was about to get out one of his companion asked him for his cane which was banded over. Collins was then struck a violent blow on the head which rendered him unconscious, and was robbed of his overcoat, dressocat and pocket-book. He identified Kelly as having been one of the party in the carriage. The accused was held in \$5,000 for a further hearing.

Donestic Markets.-Prices in market this morning were as follows: Apples 30 to 40 cents per half peck; butter 35 to 40 cents per pound; cabbage, 3 to 8 cents per head: chickens, 20 to 24 cents per pound; cranberries, 16 to 18 cents per quart; celery, 5 to 10 cents per bunch; ducks, 20 cents per pound; eggs, 50 cents per dozen; lard 20 to 23 cents per pound:mutton, 10 to 18 cents per pound; per pound; mutton, to to cents per pound; petatoes, 23 to 25 cents per half peck; pork, 15 to 18 cents per pound; roast beef, 20 to 22 cents per pound; sirloin stakes, 23 to 25 cents per pound; sausages, 20 to 23 cents per pound; turnips, 8 to 10 cents per half peck; turkey, 25 cents per pound, and veal 10 to 24 cents per pound.

INTERNAL REVENUE IN THE FIRST DIS-TRICT.—The total amount of tax assessed during the month of October, under Inter-nal Revenue law, for the First Congressional District, was \$454,290 49, which amount was divided as follows: On manufacturers' productions, \$227,695 67 On distilled spirits or liquors

(bonded), On chewing tobacco, On smoking tobacco, 69,754 20 959 10 On cigars, 440 00

Total. \$154,290 49 ANNIVERSARY EXERCISES.—The ninth anniversary of the Noon-Day Prayer Meetings was celebrated yesterday at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, Chestnut street, above Twelfth. Rev. Dr. Church acted as Moderator, and the exercises of the street of the stre cises were opened with singing, after which a portion of the Scriptures were read, followed by prayer. The meeting was then thrown open, and addresses were made by Rev. Alfred Barnes, Rev. Heber Newton, Dr. Armstrong, Joseph Parker and Abram

Martin, Esqs. MEETING OF FIREMEN. - A meeting of MEETING OF FIREMEN.—A meeting of the delegates, appointed to adopt resolutions, met last evening at the Columbia Engine House, Filbert street, above Eleventh. A series of resolutions was submitted protesting against the action of Councils, in reference to the appointing of a Board of Fire Commissioners. The meeting adjourned to meet on Monday evening next, at the Phœnix Hose House, when the resolutions will be submitted for adoption.

FALL OF A GRAVEL BANK.-John H. Ross, thirty-eight years of age, living at 2024 Murray street, had his right leg broken by a gravel bank falling on him at Belmont, near the Knickerbocker ice-house yesterday, and was conveyed to the Hospital.

RAILEOAD ACCIDENT.-Thomas Lynch. 50 years of age, was caught between two cars at Greenwich Point yesterday, and had his arm broken.

EXPLOSION OF A STEAM DRUM,—A steam drum at Armstrong's mill, Germantown, exploded yesterday. Dennis Larkin had a leg broken and was taken to the Hospital. APPOINTMENT.-W. O. Kline, Esq., of the Seventeenth Ward, has been appointed a United States storekeeper, unter the internal revenue law, in the First District.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON is now looked for with the deepest interest, and during the session of Congress that city will be the magnet to attract alleyes. The papers will furnish full reports of the doings of the Executive and Legislative branches of the doings of the Executive and Legislative branches of the Government, and our readers can peruse them comfort ably at home in parlors warmed by the cheap and ex-cellent coalsold by W. W. Alter, 987 North Ninth street and Sixth and Spring Garden streets.

VERY FINE CRAB APPLE CIDER.
MITCHELL & FLETCHER,
1204 Chestnut street.

FRUIT, LADY AND POUND CAKES of the best materials at S. C. Wood's, 1702 Mount Vernon at eet.

AN INVALUABLE GIFT. -As the season is approaching when gifts are particularly in season, we would early suggest that the most sensible, because the most useful and valuable, gift to a lady is a Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine. These machines are the best for family use, as everybody knows and the place to get them is at Peterson & Little's, 784 Chestnut street.

CREAM CARAMELS and choice Creams; Orange, Vanilla, Maple, &c. These choice Confections made fresh every moining at A. W. Holf's, Caramel Depot, Ng. 1009 Wainut street,

Depot, Ng. 1009 Walnut street.

CBYSTALIZED AND GLACED FRUITS.—
Among the rich and varied assortment of superistively fine confections manufactured by Mr. Stephen F. Whitman, No. 1210 Market seet, we notice that the newspapers throughout the country express unbounded admiration for the brilliant exclemes of the crystalized and glaced fruits manufactured by him—those delectable morcaux which would have delighted the palate of Apicins. Nothing more rich and delictions in the highest forms of confections can be conceived than these fruits, which are preserved in all their natural flavors by the hermetrically sealed envelopes of crystalized sugar, which gives them their brilliant and temping exterior.

A NEW MONTHLY, entitled the Aldgate A NEW MONTHLY, entitled the Aldgate Mogdzine, is published by a large clothing house of London. The "sensational novel" that opens the magnaine is of this style: "I his man, so tall, so graceful, dressed in Milist & Co.'s black suits at 50 shillings, was approaching her. She trembled! It was he—it could be no other! She recognized him by the cut of his vest and pantaloons," etc. It would be an improvement, we think, for some of our story papers to give a practical use to some of their "novelettes" by noticing some public benefaction like Charles Stokes & Co.'s one-price Clothing House, under the Continental, or other institutions,

A FINE DISPLAY OF CONFECTIONERY. A FINE DISPLAY OF CONFECTIONERY.

The demand for sweetmeats always increase as the holidays draw near. George W. Jenkins, No. 1037 Spring Garden street, displays a choice assortment of Bon-Bons, Carameis, French Secrets, Candy Toys, &c., &c., which are exceedingly attractive. He has also, at all times, Foreign Fruits, Nuts, Almonds, Sardines, Preserved Ginger, Syrups, &c.

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Now is the Time.—The Honey-brook Coal is acknowledged by all who have used it to be the best article for household use. It is free from slate and dust, and leaves no residuum in burning but ashes, Mr. A. T. Markley, at the N. W. corner of Eleventh and Noble, has the agency of this particular brand, and those who are about to supply themselves should call on him. FURS! FURS!!!-Cleaned from noths.

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CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. Bridel Presents. Presents for your wife, Presents for your Daughter.

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