

BASK STEPS.

XXI.

Shortly before I left Brittany, there was a wedding, to which all the world were invited.

The tailor, who was married to a washing-girl, "An affair in high life, upon honor," said the English young man.

The Baster is the silk hat. The peasantry are quite distinct from the working classes, to which our hero and heroine belonged.

The tailor, however, is often in Brittany a man apart. He is the gossip, the gazette of the village.

We had been provided with the prettiest girls of the Pon-Am'n—and the girls of Pon-Am'n are celebrated through the country-side for their elegance and coquetry.

When the priest, by uniting the couple, had diminished our party by one, we fled out in a very splendid procession.

I swelled with the thought that I had never before been part of a pageant which had emptied literally every house in a town to furnish spectators to participants.

The barriers were rickety old chairs set out by rickety old women in great profusion: the seats were covered with napkins and bore little cakes and bonbons.

Well, we followed this cruel route with the best grace possible, our tall caps nodding, our catemiers sweeping, and the music gal-lantly howling before.

We wedged ourselves along the benches. The little brown bird, pressed with her partner into a corner, broke up the contours of her coiffe against the wall behind, which was far too close to accommodate that style of costume.

We then danced; we danced for two days, with intervals of gorging. A good sized shed, erected on the place for merchants during the monthly fairs, was our first ball-room; but we overflowed from that in a moment, and took to dancing in the place, along the roads, and wherever our light feet could listen to the pipers.

her pretty head until I could have heard it rattle, if my theory of its vacuum had not been correct. The drunken and reckless fishermen of the coast—the only Bretons who ever stipulate for the privileges of the latch-key—straying into our midst from the bedded silence of the surrounding country, stared on us from under their uxorine bonnets as we hopped with joined hands in an endless ribbon along the night road.

Whether then, leaving this Enchanted Ground, leaving this Brittany which time has forgotten, whether can I climb for one last, sweeping, comprehensive view? I would like to comprehend Brittany. I would like to see and feel its thick twilight, its ballad-romance; I would like to overlook the waves which whisper to its shores the legends of the Table Round; I would like to be where I can feel the latest influences of the Roman Church, which, lying to-day at the centre, is still vital at the extremities, and waves over lands like Brittany a deadly embrace—a Banyan depth of shelter and of power.

The roof has all fallen in, and the shingles have all fallen out. From the middle of the principal facade one great window stands against heaven, with the chamber it used to illuminate, all gone, and the Gothic arch clinging to the corners as if they were frightened and would like to be unchained from their long imprisonment.

When the priest, by uniting the couple, had diminished our party by one, we fled out in a very splendid procession. The bride wore the marriage ring of Brittany, a piece of heavy silver sculpture rudely representing a heart held between two hands.

I never before walked with a prettier girl behind a pair of Eoluses moaning respectively from a wooden trumpet and a bellow (bagpipe).

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little cherry tree which grows out of the top, and which you sketched once yourself. I suppose it was planned by some yourself.

Yankees were going to do him with—confiscate all his property, hang him or do both. That he would be let alone and eventually pardoned, suffering neither loss of liberty nor property, did not occur to him for an instant.

Living South one misses the grand old flag—more than anything else. Occasion-ally, some revenue ensign floats above the Customs, and it is only on a few days, since my attention being drawn in that direction, I discovered the union down.

Next week comes Christmas, it is celebrated here by fireworks and torpedoes in a style quite on a par with our anniversary of Independence.

Philadelphia Market. Monday, Dec. 24.—Who ever heard of the transaction of any considerable amount of business during a day that peculiar season they are supposed to be oblivious of everything but luxurious feasts and the receipts of Government continue small and it might be said to serve for the evening three small sales of Timothy at \$2 3/4 to \$3.

AMUSEMENTS. THE CHESTNUT.—Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams commence an engagement this evening, appearing in "The Fairy Circle" and "The Country of the Country."

THE WALNUT.—"Paul Pry" and "The Maid Queen," with Mr. Clarke in both pieces. To-morrow, at the matinee, "The Natid Queen" will be given.

THE AMERICAN.—For the Christmas holidays the fairy pantomime of "Little Red Riding Hood" will be presented. To-morrow "Little Red Riding Hood" will be given for a matinee.

A NEW DEFENCE.—A man named John Norton was examined before the London Pickering police on the charge of picking pockets in Blackfriars Bridge.

THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.—Chief Justice Chase gave his decision on Saturday in the case of Joseph Bacon against Thomas G. Hills, and Henry Goodyear against O. A. Daly.

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COMMERCIAL.

SALES OF STOCKS.

Table with columns for Stock Name, Price, and Quantity. Includes items like American Gold, Reading Railroad, and United States 5%.

FINANCE AND BUSINESS—Dec. 24, 1866.

Stocks were dull to-day, but without much fluctuation in prices. Government Loans continue to sympathize with the downward tendency in Gold, but the offerings were light.

Table with columns for Bond Name, Price, and Quantity. Includes items like U.S. 5% 1881, U.S. 5% 1882, and U.S. 5% 1883.

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MEMORANDA. Ship Gen Shepley, Diamond, hence for Asapuco, at 10 o'clock.

RESTOR YOUR HAIR AND PROMOTE ITS LUXURIANT GROWTH. The most Reliable Hair Dressing.

MARKET COOPER & CONARD. DRY GOODS. CHEAP ENOUGH.

FINEST FROSTED BEANS. FINEST CORNED BEANS. FINEST CORNED BEANS.

DIED.

DENCKLA.—On Sunday morning, the 22d instant, Mary Denckla, of C. F. and Mary Denckla, in her 74th year.

MELROSE COVERS AND RICH PLANO COVERS FOR CHRISTMAS. Fine Shawls for Christmas; fine Silks for Christmas; Christmas Belts and Prints; Hdkfs., Collars, Gloves and Scarfs.

WEEK OF PRAYER. A meeting will be held on Thursday Next, Dec. 27th, at 4 o'clock, P. M., in the Hall of the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

SPECIAL NOTICES. DIVIDEND NOTICE. OFFICE OF THE MAPLE SHADE OIL COMPANY, 53 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA. December 24, 1866. The Directors have this day declared a Dividend of FOUR PER CENT on the Capital Stock, payable on January 2d, 1867.

PHILADELPHIA. December 24, 1866. The Directors have this day declared a Dividend of TWO AND A HALF PER CENT on the Capital Stock, payable on January 2d, 1867.

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PHILADELPHIA. December 24, 1866. The Directors have this day declared a Dividend of ONE PER CENT on the Capital Stock, payable on January 2d, 1867.

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HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

WM. A. DROWN & CO. 246 Market Street. ELEGANT ASSORTMENT OF UMBRELLAS.

Superior English and French Silks, OF THEIR OWN IMPORTATION, finished with the LATEST STYLES.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. OPERA GLASSES. GOLD SPECTACLES. CHILDREN'S MAGIC LANTERNS.

WRITING DESKS AND PORTFOLIOS. HOLIDAY PRESENTS. MOSS & CO.'S. 432 CHESTNUT STREET.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. LADIES' FUR TRIMMED HOODS. LADIES' SKATING HATS. FINEST SILK UMBRELLAS.

THEO. H. MCALLA. HAT AND CAP EMPORIUM. 804 Chestnut St.

THE NEW HAT, BY WARBURTON, Hatter, 430 Chestnut Street.

FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. Fine Opera Glasses. Elegantly Bound Music Books. MUSIC FOLIOS.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. THE BEST AND MOST USEFUL PRESENT TO GIVE A FRIEND (OR THE NEEDY) IS A BARREL OF SUPERIOR ST. LOUIS FLOUR.

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