

RASH STEPS.

Ecocoon, and Art-Gossip There. No. 1.

(Correspondence of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.) Thirty painters, some of them Americans, are excitedly dabbling away at Ecocoon. Ecocoon is the name of a village four leagues north of Paris. It is not upon any railway station, and you cannot go there when it rains (which is always).

My friend, whom I went thither to see, had left without my knowledge. It made me disconcerted. Stranger Laputins of friendly manners throw themselves upon me all the same, stared, and gazed me with the almost unattainable wins. A fresh stranger delivered over to their experiments was a windfall. And the stranger liked it.

"We are a very little village," said Bacon, a talented young painter not unknown in Boston and Philadelphia, "and you know what little villages are. While we are painting, our wives are adjusting us all in cliques. I do not visit at court. By court you understand the family of Frère, the genre painter and monarch of Ecocoon."

"Yes, a cook, certainly. She has been exceedingly handsome, however; there is her portrait, which I made one evening (showing a graphic sketch of a lady of the Madame Mère type), before my departure. These differences and scandals permeate the lowest classes of society. I had a donkey—the loveliest donkey you ever saw in your life; excessively furry, tall like a blind-tassel, and a shade of blue about the nose never attained by a Nova Scotian. When coming home with my marketing, a little excited with too much cabbage on the back, and advancing backwards (a pretty accident he had), I have known him to strike attitudes (against a window, perhaps), that Landseer would have crossed the channel to witness. Well, Ned has just died, in the stable under my studio. And what do you think they say, the other donkeys? I mean the few villagers who are not other painters or painters' models. The blads here say I killed Ned!"

Indignation was expressed by the audience. "They say that I didn't know how to feed him, and that I practically starved him to death. The donkey, who was my pet, my capital, my model, my friend, my br—excuse me, the thought unnamable. Who could accuse me of neglect that had ever seen my portrait? I have painted Ned in every attitude on his hind legs, on his fore legs, or diminishing with my marketing in aerial perspective. My sympathies followed him to the bitter end. In his dying hour he happened to give vent to a peculiar gesture of the off-hamstring that has never been caught by Rosa Bonheur or any of them. Employing a boy to extend the hoof—

"Here," continued the new Parrhasius, fetching a canvas, and I may seize the moment to say that I am narrating a true incident, just as it was told to me. "Here is my sketch for a large painting, which I think will achieve my reputation. Ned is dying, with that naïf movement of the hind-leg. The old village doctor is pouring the drench down his throat. I of course omitted the boy, who would have been quite out of keeping—fancy donkeys dying with boys dying about attached like bull dogs to the hind-legs! He was a resolute rascal, though, and adhered to the animal like a monkey-wrench. He is the cleverest non-painting person in Ecocoon, and deserves a notice. I have taught him a little English. It is very little, yet he already lives in it with the same facility as in his native tongue. I am almost sorry I did not introduce him in some corner—an inventive dog like that, replete with coarseness of the purest water, makes such a sharp contrast to the virginal but bounded individuality of the donkey! If I can find a place for the boy, my Donkey will cause Sterne's to be forgotten. To make amends for the mission, however, I ent the Doctor out of whole cloth. I hadn't any Doctor, because I wanted the silence of the little stable but the creaking of my easel as I worked furiously on, and the action of the gentle invalid, constantly ejaculating the boy into a fresh corner. As the lethal struggles ceased, and I could finish gradually nearer and nearer. So that by the time I reached the hoof—the hoof itself, dear sir! was forever stilled!"

I praised the design, which I thought very promising, and which I hope you will some day see expanded into a great painting. I remarked that it told the story well.

"Ah, telling the story, that is what I think my forte. Some of the Frenchmen here, on the contrary, think it my fault! They say that a picture should not be a story, but a 'motive'—an instantaneous effort of attention, as the event passes before the eye."

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The roads in the adjoining districts of Bucks and Montgomery are regularly opened and closed by the Park Commissioners. To all of these exceptions of the expense; on the contrary, the citizens appear to like it, for they compel the Supervisor to do his duty, and the law of the State declares, upon the roads when obstructed by snow to be one of his duties. In the early days of consolidation, the Highway Department always opened the roads when obstructed by snow, and no fault was found with the expense, but in later times the Department has neglected this matter, and this winter declined to do anything, notwithstanding some of the roads were closed for weeks. The turnpikes are regularly opened by the companies owning them. The whole community suffered by the stoppage of the roads, and the citizens petitioned to afford relief, but no attention was paid to the matter, except to refer the petition to the Highway Committee, where it still remains, yet Councils very promptly appropriated five hundred dollars to clear the snow off the pavements around the public squares, a sum sufficient to do all that the citizens of the rural districts desire to do. Failing to obtain relief from the Councils, the opinion of eminent counsel was obtained, to the effect that there was no law to compel the authorities of the city to open when obstructed, or to pay any road in the city, and the only remedy was to apply for legislative enactment. The citizens of the rural districts pay their full share of taxes, and all they ask is that the roads be opened to them, and that the snow lying eighteen inches deep is not an obstruction complained of, but where it is three or four feet deep, and suffered to lie in the roads for weeks, as has been the case this winter, it is an obstruction that calls for the attention of the Highway Department. Roads in this condition cannot be used, and private property is invaded and destroyed by these useless business routes, and it is impossible to travel. The assertion that horses and carts are required to open roads when obstructed by snow is an absurdity, as they are never used, and only show the reluctance of the city to do so. The talk about "big boys," "juicy affairs," &c. There has not been a year since consolidation when one thousand dollars would not have made every road in the rural districts passable when obstructed by snow, and this sum would not have afforded a very "big streak of fat" to those concerned. There are some matters in the city that have a slight appearance of being "big boys," witness League Island, Gray's Ferry bridge, Chestnut Street bridge and Girard Avenue bridge, involving a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the City Treasury, to say nothing of the contemplated South Street bridge, and the contemplated expenditure of about half a million by the Park Commissioners. To all of these expenditures and proposed expenditures the citizens of the rural districts do not object, although paying their full proportion of the expense, and they do not object to the expenditure of the money to do have had travel miles out of their way to perform their work.

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CITY BULLETIN.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE—AN ELEGANT DWELLING DESTROYED.

This morning, at about a quarter before three o'clock, a fire was discovered in a large and elegant four-story brick dwelling, No. 200 South Thirteenth street. The house is owned and occupied by Mr. E. Wilson, and was furnished throughout in the most complete and costly manner. The fire broke out in the dining-room on the first floor of the back building, and spread rapidly through that part of the house. The police and neighbors were promptly alerted, but there was no time to extinguish a signal from the Washington engine house, and when the firemen got upon the ground, the fire was raging furiously. From the back building the flames were driven to the front staircase, then ascended with great rapidity to the top of the building. The second, third and fourth stories were entirely burned out, and the roof was destroyed. In fact, the house was completely wrecked. Scarcely anything in the building was saved. The parlor and hall furniture was hastily removed, and was greatly damaged. Mrs. Wilson and daughter and two colored servant-women were in the house at the time of the fire. The flames were first discovered by one of the servants, but they spread so rapidly that the inmates had no time to escape. The burning structure, Mrs. Wilson and daughter lost all their personal effects, including jewelry and many valuable and highly priced articles. Some silverware was rescued from the ruins after the fire had been extinguished.

The house was valued at \$16,000, and was insured for \$6,000 in the Enterprise Insurance Company. The furniture was insured for \$5,000 in the Royal Insurance Company—an amount which will not cover the loss.

Information Wanted.—Mayor McMichael this morning received a letter from Bernard Kelly, of Indianapolis, Indiana, asking information in regard to the relatives of a young man named Kelly, who had been arrested at New York, and was being held in a jail there. Mr. Kelly is a dentist by profession, but is connected with the revenue office in Indianapolis. His mother is believed to be residing in the city of Philadelphia, and either in Philadelphia or New York.

Larceny of Cigars.—Conrad Freund was arrested at New Market and Poplar streets, and upon the charge of the larceny of cigars. He went to the store of Carl Link, No. 47 Green street, and represented that his employer had been robbed of a large quantity of cigars, and with the cigars, and Freund snatched them from him in a saloon at Third and Green streets, and escaped by a back door. The accused was taken to the police station, and was held in \$1,000 bail to answer at court.

Disheveled Employee.—A colored man named William Wilkins was arrested last evening for the larceny of glassware from the store of George W. Poulton, at Ninth and South streets. He had been employed by Mr. Poulton to do small jobs about the place. Wilkins was committed by Alderman Smith.

Slight Fire.—This morning, about 7 o'clock, a fire occurred at Leds & Co.'s coal oil refinery, Sitka street, below Vine. The damage done was trifling.

An Old Quack on the Criticism.—If you want to make a fool sweat under his nose, Dr. Wolcott has but one remedy. Let the public gaze who are deceived by his quackery. He has a cure for every ailment, and he will cure you by mixing up Cayenne pepper and turpentine, and under the cloak of falsehood induced many to purchase his medicine. He has a cure for every ailment, and he will cure you by mixing up Cayenne pepper and turpentine, and under the cloak of falsehood induced many to purchase his medicine.

Col. Clark never saw the bill, nor had any knowledge of its import until it received it at Harrisburg, where he presented it to the Legislature in obedience to the request of a large number of his constituents. No railroad officer, stockholder, or any one connected with the railroad saw the bill or knew of its contents until it was presented to a large meeting of the citizens of the rural districts, held at Bustleton, and adopted by them without alteration. So many of the rural districts, held at Bustleton, and adopted by them without alteration. So many of the rural districts, held at Bustleton, and adopted by them without alteration.

The roads in the adjoining districts of Bucks and Montgomery are regularly opened and closed by the Park Commissioners. To all of these exceptions of the expense; on the contrary, the citizens appear to like it, for they compel the Supervisor to do his duty, and the law of the State declares, upon the roads when obstructed by snow to be one of his duties. In the early days of consolidation, the Highway Department always opened the roads when obstructed by snow, and no fault was found with the expense, but in later times the Department has neglected this matter, and this winter declined to do anything, notwithstanding some of the roads were closed for weeks. The turnpikes are regularly opened by the companies owning them. The whole community suffered by the stoppage of the roads, and the citizens petitioned to afford relief, but no attention was paid to the matter, except to refer the petition to the Highway Committee, where it still remains, yet Councils very promptly appropriated five hundred dollars to clear the snow off the pavements around the public squares, a sum sufficient to do all that the citizens of the rural districts desire to do. Failing to obtain relief from the Councils, the opinion of eminent counsel was obtained, to the effect that there was no law to compel the authorities of the city to open when obstructed, or to pay any road in the city, and the only remedy was to apply for legislative enactment. The citizens of the rural districts pay their full share of taxes, and all they ask is that the roads be opened to them, and that the snow lying eighteen inches deep is not an obstruction complained of, but where it is three or four feet deep, and suffered to lie in the roads for weeks, as has been the case this winter, it is an obstruction that calls for the attention of the Highway Department. Roads in this condition cannot be used, and private property is invaded and destroyed by these useless business routes, and it is impossible to travel. The assertion that horses and carts are required to open roads when obstructed by snow is an absurdity, as they are never used, and only show the reluctance of the city to do so. The talk about "big boys," "juicy affairs," &c. There has not been a year since consolidation when one thousand dollars would not have made every road in the rural districts passable when obstructed by snow, and this sum would not have afforded a very "big streak of fat" to those concerned. There are some matters in the city that have a slight appearance of being "big boys," witness League Island, Gray's Ferry bridge, Chestnut Street bridge and Girard Avenue bridge, involving a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the City Treasury, to say nothing of the contemplated South Street bridge, and the contemplated expenditure of about half a million by the Park Commissioners. To all of these expenditures and proposed expenditures the citizens of the rural districts do not object, although paying their full proportion of the expense, and they do not object to the expenditure of the money to do have had travel miles out of their way to perform their work.

It is right? If the city is afraid of the expense of keeping the roads so that they can be used, let the rural districts elect their own supervisors, collect the tax, and pay the expense of repairing or opening the roads, as best suits them, and there will be no complaint. But there is no portion of the community who are satisfied to have their just complaints treated in the manner the citizens of the rural districts have been treated in the fourth picture, I illustrate the winter of my young Adam's discontent. He has greedily taken the apple, too warm this time for his tender years, off the stove, and has skinned his palate with it. Adam roars like a little calf, and Eve accompanies in soprano.

FINANCIAL.

In Consequence of our Rapid Sales, THE RATE FOR NORTH MISSOURI R. R. FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS.

Will be Advanced on and after the 21st inst. BOWEN & FOX, 13 Merchants' Exchange.

7-30's Converted into 5-20's

GOLD And Compound Interest Notes Wanted.

DREXEL & CO., BANKERS, 24 South Third Street.

First Mortgage 7