



MAGIC BUTTONS.

"Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief, rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief, rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief. This same Isabelle, Besse and Kate. And each kept the rich man would be her wife."

THE ARTIST'S STORY.

"They had been engaged only a week, and she had not yet lost the feeling of novelty about it all. It was so strange, so wonderful, that she should have been chosen her—chosen her from her brilliant sisters to crown her life with his love."

MEISSONIER.

"Among the pictures that attracted the greatest attention at the recent exposition of Meissonier's works at Paris was 'Soferino.' Napoleon III. is painted from the original. Meissonier often tells us that he had never seen the Emperor, but he had seen the Emperor's portrait."

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"The fisher of the crabs has come to the conclusion, and for the past five or six years many thousands of hard shells have been caught and transported to the Great South Bay, on Long Island, where all the conditions are favorable to the crab—sandy beaches and rushes and alibum. Even now the result of this transportation is seen in the important number of soft crabs which are caught on Long Island and brought to the New York market—a number which constantly increases, while the importation from the Shrewsbury diminishes. There is something in the insidious flavor of the latter that is far superior to the Long Island article. This is believed to be some food in the Shrewsbury crab which makes it better than the Long Island article. The industry of crab-catching, as an industry, is therefore perhaps not less profitable than more generally followed than it was. The prices obtained are better than in the past, and are, even in the middle of the season the fisherman will ask you on the spot \$2 or \$2.50 a dozen for crabs which a few years ago might have been bought very cheaply for \$1.50 a dozen. The prices of the fish industries of the Shrewsbury are falling off in every way the past few years. Bluefish, which used to be a staple article in these waters, are disappearing, owing, no doubt, to the excessive catch of menhaden which is constantly going on. When the last menhaden shall have been caught, the bluefish will have disappeared. The crab goes as the bluefish goes, and both will before long be a high-priced luxury on the table of New York. The crab, the oyster, must be cultivated. He is not, like the bluefish, nomadic. He has a home and sticks to it in spite of all the deprivations of human kind. Yet that species of crab which produces the soft shell exists only in our waters. His existence and his favor are unknown elsewhere. During the season, which extends from May until September, 3,000 people are engaged in the soft shell crab business as fishermen, middlemen and retailers. It is one of the important trades of the summer season, and proves profitable. Though nothing has been done about it, there is a widespread feeling that it is before long coming to an end, or will be so diminished that the men engaged in it will have to make a living elsewhere."

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"The luxury of New York life is ever increasing. Here is a picture of a house which has become famous for its hospitality. The present mansion represents the results of two houses erected in the same spot, which were entered as the library, rich in bric-a-brac, and furnished with Gobelin tapestry. The hostess receives there in the afternoon. Next comes a little music room in his bright colors, at other times all is pale gray and of a neutral tint. As he cannot paint by any other means, he paints by the brush, and the pupils try to do so, but with the exception of a few they tell—they do not."

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"The artist stopped here with a sigh, and then, looking at Janie, said, 'You think she was wrong?' 'Oh, I—I don't know! Please tell me the rest.' 'Ah, you do think it wrong, and so did Nellie. But when I put it all before you, you could not say me nay; and we settled that she should come to my cousin's house in London, be married there, and then go straight to Mifflintown. She took one of the servants into that—and on the day appointed she left the house just at dawn—left it, as she thought, for years. I was waiting for her in the park; and she walked across the bridge to catch the first train at Rylands, and so reach London by eight o'clock. Fancy, darling, what a walk that was for her, leaving her home like a criminal, expecting every moment to hear the sound of her father's angry voice behind her! But we got safely to the station and started on our journey without having seen a face that we knew. Once in London, Nellie's spirits began to rise, and she felt safer when my dear cousin Anna—whom you must love, Janie—received her with eager welcome. We had some breakfast, or rather drank some coffee, for we could not touch any of the dainties which were provided for us; and then Nellie changed her dress for something more becoming, and she felt that she had done her duty. I was waiting for her at the church-rails, and I took her hand in mine and felt that all our troubles were over. But it was too soon to feel secure, for, just as the clergyman began the service, he was interrupted by hasty footsteps entering the church and a loud voice raised to forbid the marriage. It was Nellie's father, and behind him was Mr. Scott, with a smile on his face which told me that I had to thank him for discovering our plans. They took her away from me, scarcely granting a moment for me to bid adieu to her. But that moment was enough for me to remind her that two years more would give her power to act for herself. I claimed no promise of faithfulness, for I knew I could trust her. I took her away; I could do nothing. 'Oh, how cruel! How could you bear it?' 'I don't know. It was like being stung by a heavy blow; for a time the sense of pain was crushed out by the shock. But the cruellest experience of all was that I could not hear a word of her. I wrote again and again; but your father was in India, and her other brothers were all boys, and there was no one to take my part. She was watched continually; some old hag in Mr. Scott's pay was with her always. 'Fifty her, Janie, spending the long dreary days in the house, and the few weeks' holiday I had bargained for, and started to bring her home. I could not sleep, I could not rest; a feverish anxiety could not ask her—something checked my speech—and I started off once more to walk across the moor. You know the way, Janie—over the moor, down the long to the technique of his art. He prefers his studio at the country house at Passy to the one in Paris on the Boulevard Malesherbes. The villa at Passy stands between the railway embankment and the Seine. He had a special railway carriage made in order to observe the movements of a horse galloping at full speed alongside the track and note the play of the muscles and joints, together with the attitude and gestures of the rider. If Meissonier wishes to paint a horse as it appears when covered with mud, he lets one of his grooms gallop the brute across a meadow, and you have a fine sketch of a sketch of it when it comes back to the stables all flecked with foam and bespattered with clay. If he wishes to paint a dusty horse he sends a groom to gallop with the horse, and he has an unhappy animal with it. If he wishes to paint a snow-storm he goes out of doors and paints in the open air, under an enormous umbrella, until his fingers become too stiff to hold his brush. He then goes to the studio and paints the weather as an excuse for suspending an out-of-door sitting. In course of time they become case-hardened. Two poor wretches, who represented Moresau and Vanderbit, posed for their portraits with the thermometer ranging ten degrees below zero, with five feet of snow under their boots. 'Meissonier does not paint on any particular plan—he paints what he sees as he sees it. Sometimes he is lavish of bright pigments, at other times all is pale gray and of a neutral tint. As he cannot paint by any other means, he paints by the brush, and the pupils try to do so, but with the exception of a few they tell—they do not.' 'Why of course,' replied Meissonier, 'I paint what I see. I introduce Moresau and Vanderbit,' he tells the servant who answers it. After a few minutes Mrs. Vanderbit comes into the studio with 'General Desaix and his staff' under her arm. The artist had purchased it by a telegram of two lines: 'Pay for picture of Desaix what please. Must have it at once.' Commodore on a retired list. 'So, you see,' said the financial Titan, 'your picture will have a home in New York in future, instead of in Berlin.' 'English Boots and Shoes. At the International Health Exhibition, in London, the section allotted to boots and shoes has been highly successful in exhibition of its special hygienic points. One exhibitor sends children's shoes specially cut, with sufficient room for the tender little toes to grow comfortably without pushing them over on each other. The 'elastic waist' is said to be a great improvement on the ordinary stiff sole, which is prone to give rise to aching and fatigue. Between the extremes of ugly and exaggerated fashions and the old-fashioned narrow sole and high heel, it is possible to obtain a fair medium. For walking boots, the new and more fashionable rule is low, broad heel, and sufficient width of sole. A neat, well shaped boot is possible with comfort. Another exhibitor shows an invention for the benefit of those who do not tread straight and consequently get their boots worn down at the side. The remedy for this is what is called 'straighties'; they can be worn on either foot, like a stocking, thus counteracting the evil tendency. Another contrivance of buttons and tabs provides for buttoning on either side. Other exhibitors claim their special point of lightness, weather proof qualities, etcetera. With these new changes the exhibitors exhibited certain curiosities—among them a shoe said to have belonged to Queen Elizabeth, whose shape goes far to establish the supposition that Queen Bess dispensed with toes altogether. Paper Bottles. A great trade in paper bottles is growing up in Germany and Austria. Ten per cent. of rags, forty of straw, and fifty of brown wood pulp are used in making them. Thin paper is coated and impregnated with a solution composed of sixty per cent. of lime, and five of sulphate of ammonia; dry and coat again; put ten or twelve sheets together and then dry in heated moulds under pressure. They are made in two pieces, and joined upward, and are said to be perfectly proof against spirits and other liquids. Sometimes Disastrous. A well-known farmer who lives in one of the 'back counties' came to Little Rock several days ago with a drove of cattle en route for Memphis. When the cattle had been loaded on a train, the old gentleman said to the conductor: 'It is customary for a man that ships a car-load of cattle to get a free ride?' 'Yes,' 'Well, I want to go over with these cattle.' 'Climb up into the caboose.' 'No, I'd rather ride in the car with the cattle. When we stop at a station somebody might steal some of the steers.' 'No danger of that, but you may ride any place you choose.' The old fellow climbed into the cattle-car, and seating himself at one end, he pulled up and proceeded to enjoy his pipe. The train did not stop until after dark. Rain began to fall and the wind roared among the cypress trees. The conductor thought that he heard a wall roaring from the cry of the storm, but deciding that it was only a fancy or the shriek of a night bird, he arrested not the wild course of the train. When the train stopped at a station, the conductor heard some one say 'amen.' He went over to the cattle-car, he held up his lantern and asked: 'All right in there?' 'The man was climbing around on the backs of the steers.' 'All right, thankerful, I'm dead. These things have tramped me nearly to death. Let me out of here and I'll ride on top.' The train proceeded. A brakeman, coming along, said, 'Can't you get charge of them cattle?' 'The cattle's inside. Can't see a ride over the roof.' 'Climb down, or I'll throw you off.' He jumped off, thinking that he could catch the caboose as it passed. He did not. Alone in a swamp he spent the night. A free ride is sometimes disastrous. Cause of Corns. 'To what cause do you attribute corns?' was asked of a noted chiropodist. 'Friction is the one and only cause. It is a loose and not a tight shoe, as is generally supposed, that makes corns. If the boot fits snugly and is not too narrow about the toes, it will not engender corns or bunions. Bunions are the same as corns, except in location, and they are formed by friction on an inflamed part of the foot. When a blister is formed, which is filled with a watery liquid. The outer skin becomes callous, a new blister forms under the old one, and gradually layer after layer of corns is made, building down further into the flesh each time. The pressing of this callous into the flesh by the shoe is what causes pain.' 'Who are most afflicted with such affected feet?' 'The ladies by all means, and just for this simple reason. They wear very tight-fitting shoes upon the street, and returning home lay them off to relieve the pressure, putting on loose shoes or slippers. The action of the corns upon the inflamed foot does the work, and eventually sends the lady to bed.' 'Excuse me, but do you ever meet with offensive feet?' 'Not as much as you would expect. A patient generally makes preparations in the way of cleansing before coming to me to be operated upon. One trouble is that some persons wash the feet too often. The feet should not be washed any oftener than the body, for if they are the pores are stimulated and the feet perspire unequally with other parts of the body, thus rendering them far more offensive than if they had not been washed so often. A person affected in this way will find relief by sponging the feet slightly with bay rum, for it both purifies and hardens the skin.' 'Yes. The street fakir both me a good deal. Every year a new corn remedy is introduced by them. They get some oil of lavender, coal-oil, flax-oil,

NEWS IN BRIEF.

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