NEWS OF FOREIGN CAPITALS

London the Dullest Place on Earth Just After Christmas

(By PHILLIP EVERETT.)

London, Jan. 7.—I doubt if any place in the civilized world is as dull as London during the weeks that follow immediately after Christmas, and this year it has been particularly bad. Everybody who can possibly afford it is away and the newspapers are at their wits' end to fill their columns.

The scarcity of news is the only reason why the papers still continue to discuss the election which ended nearly [illegible] weeks ago, and the results of which are certain to be the utter rout of the Lords and their unionist followers. Some of the Tory papers have tried to work up a little excitement by describing how their loyal supporters, the orangemen of Ulster, are importing Mauser's and cartridges from Germany, free of duty, of course, so here at least is one reason for them to bless our present free trade policy, and are drilling on the moors during dark nights to prepare for the day when they are to fight those who are mean enough to want to force them to govern their own country. But nobody believes in these scares, least of all the papers that print them, and it is really difficult to say whether one should laugh or be angry at these well advertised secret conspiracies. The government is nevertheless keeping an open eye on these supposedly bloodthirsty orangemen, whose "patriotism" just now arouse the enthusiasm of the loyal conservative press.

Meanwhile, the English allies in this partnership of disloyalty are still discussing their future plans. The special point, which seems to rest heavily on their nerves, is the question of the creation of peers. Shall they force the government to create the peers or shall they not?

Their first idea was to laugh. But the laughter begins to ring very hollow. It has a false note. "Five hundred Puppet peers" sounded all very well at first. But if hard words break no bones, still less do silly phrases. What are most of the present peers but "puppet peers"—puppets in the hands of Mr. Balfour and Lord Landsdowne? Is it certain that the new peers will be puppets? Is Great Britain so sterile of men of worth? What if the new peers should represent a liberal house of lords, not only willing to pass the veto bill, but willing to give instant passage to all the great liberal bills? What if they, in their turn, served a tariff reform budget as the Tory peers served the budget of 1909?

These are chilly thoughts for the Tories, and show the danger of thinking that great political problems can be solved by foolish jests.

What if the new peers provided the country with a new aristocracy of merit and ability which would throw the old aristocracy into the shade? The thing is not impossible.

The government, at any rate, is quite confident of being able to select five hundred men of ability and achievement for its purpose. If the existing peers are still obstinate they are quite ready to advise whatever amount of peers creation may be necessary. They would do it reluctantly but resolutely. They are determined that the silly guffars of westend drawing rooms shall not turn them from their purpose.

For the rest, the immediate business of the coalition is to concentrate on one thing only—the veto bill.

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Fully recovered after his unfortunate accident some three weeks ago Mr. Graham-White has promised to take Mr. Ecclestone, the heaviest man in England up in the air in a week or two. Mr. Ecclestone who weights 500 pounds has no fear.

"I shall go up with Mr. Grahame White or any other pilot without the slightest hesitation, and be glad of the chance," he told me yesterday. "I'm the heaviest man in Britain, and I have an ambition to take my big weight into the skies. You may be sure the event will come off."

The proceeds of the record flight are to be given to the Willesden Cottage Hospital, it being Mr. Ecclestone's intention to raise enough money to endow four new beds.

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London is to have some great "surprises" in the way of outdoor amusements in the coronation year. Within the past few weeks many leading American amusement providers have arrived in London to confer with Mr. J. Calvin Brown, director-general of Earl's court, and to arrange an interchange of attractions with "amusement parks" all over the world. One of the foremost of these American makers of "fun-cities" is Mr. F. McClellan, of Coney Island, New York's famous pleasure resort.

Mr. McClelian holds the opinion that English exhibitions and other summer resorts are not half jolly enough.

"You stolid Englanders," he states, "are too apt to belittle the advantages of the purely amusement side of exhibitions. The proposed interchange of attractions will tend to alter this. Earl's court next year, for instance, will be first and foremost a place of amusement, with novelties which will give Londoners all the excitement they want.

"One of these is called the Giant Coaster—an entirely new form of switchback, which will give people the opportunity of enjoying a swoop down from the height of 100 feet. It will cost $100,000 to erect. Many other riding devices of a novel character are to be introduced.

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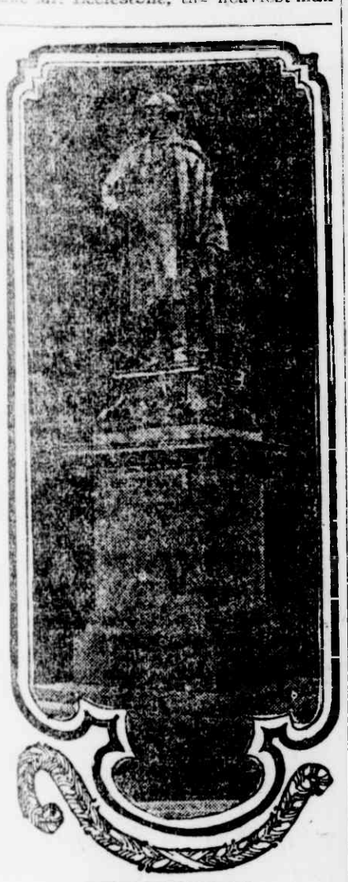
The hitherto unpublished cantos of Garibaldi's great autobiographical poem have now been issued to the world. The work was written by the great Italian hero during his enforced stay on the island of Caprera in 1862. A fair copy of this crabbed handwriting was made by his English lady friend, Mrs. Roberts, and it is to her devotion and industry that Italy is now indebted for a work of massive and spontaneous genius by Italy's most heroic figure.

The poem consists of 30 cantos in blank verse. Its surpassing merit consists not so much in technical perfection or the mere artistry of words—the work was largely an improvisation, and was dashed off at red-hot speed—but in the sustained grandeur and nobility of the conception, in which the struggle for Italian liberty is recountered in epic form. Never, perhaps, in the history of literature has a political theme been treated so magnificently.

The eleventh canto is not new to Italian readers. The poet-hero presented it during his life time to the municipality of Ravenna, with instructions that the proceeds should be devoted to the preservation of the little mud hut in the neighborhood pine woods where his wife, Aneta, died in his arms while he was fleeing from the Austrians. In this canto Garibaldi described with infinite pathos this sad tragedy in his life.



NEW MEMORIAL.

A statue to the memory of Sir Henry Irving was unveiled the other day by Sir John Hare. The monument, of which a photograph is reproduced above, is situated at the back of the National Portrait Gallery and its inauguration was attended by all the leading members of the dramatic profession. Sir John Hare delivered a noteworthy speech on the occasion to which Mr. H. Irving responded on behalf of his father's family.

DAMAGE FOR BREACH OF PROMISE.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Jan. 7.—That Leicester Pond, an architect of Spokane, Wash., has not abandoned his suit for $25,000 damages for breach of promise of marriage started last spring against Miss Elizabeth M. Kelley, a leader in Poughkeepsie exclusive set was anounced today. Charles Morschauser, attorney for Pond will go before Justice Mills in the supreme court here Monday and take judgment against the fair defendant, who is now the wife of Arthur Downing, the man who introduced Pond to Miss Kelly. Pond promises to produce Miss Kelly's letters in support of his claim.

Will Not Recognize Claims.

Galveston, Texas, Jan. 7.—The Mexican government has issued orders that from this time forward that government will refuse to recognize claims of any nature filed by persons alleging themselves to be Mexican citizens unless such person is registered at some Mexican consulate. The order has just been received by Mexican Consul Caesar Caneseco, here. It also provides that all citizens of Mexico residing in the United States shall furnish the consul with notices of all births, deaths and marriages in their families. A violation of the order would debar from Mexican citizenship. It is designed to protect both Mexico and the United States from complications out of the citizenship of so-called Mexicans in the future, it is said.

A Delusion Spoiled.

A venerable, white-haired person received a month or so ago several requests from young women for a lock of his hair. The divine, pleased at this expression of respect, gladly complied with the requests.

It was not long, however, before his wife received a communication that put and end to her husband's pleasant delusion. The note was as follows:

"Dear Mrs.——Do please ask your husband to send me jujst a little lock of his hair. All the girls have been taking lessons in making hair flowers. So many of the girls have asked him that I thought I'd rather address you. Will you be so kind? It's hard to get white hair for lilies of the valley."—Tit-Bits.

SNAPSHOT OF KING GEORGE OF ENGLAND.

Snapshot of King George of England, attired in the uniform of a British admiral, leaving the Royel yacht Victoria. King George is a great lover of the water and takes a keen interest in naval affairs. Great preparations are being made for his visit to Portsmouth on Jan. 17th, when the first keel plate of the new mammoth super-Dreadnought will be laid.

German Chancellor Arouses Bitterness With Constitution

By FREDERICK WERNER.

Berlin, Jan. 7.—If Herr von Bethaman Holweg hopes that the constitution, which he has just granted to the annexed French provinces Alance-Lorraine, is going to win such needed friends for him i nthat part of the German Empire or praise from France or the German liberal party he is evidently greatly mistaken. To the people of Alsaces-Lorraine who had hoped for a real, not a sham constitution the gift is a great disappointment, because it does not go far enough, and here in Prussia it has arousea only bitterness, because it grants to the people of the annexed anti-German provinces greater freedom than loyal Prussian subjects are now enjoying.

What makes the home rule proposition more interesting than anything else, is that its second chamber, which consists of 36 members of whom half are named by the kaiser, evidently gives an intimation of what the government considers a model senate. The other eighteen members of the Alsacian upper house will consist of the heads of the recognized religious communities, the Evangelical, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and so forth; of four representatives elected by the councils of the four largest cities in the Reichsland (Strassburg, Metz, Kolmar and Muchlhausen); of three representatives of the chambers of commerce; of as many from the chambers of agriculture; and one each from the Strassburg university and the Strassburg chamber of trade; and, lastly, of the President of the Central Law Court.

As for methods of election to the popular chamber, they probably show the lines on which Prussia would like to revise the Reichstag suffrage. Males over 25 years of age get one voice; those reaching 35 get two, and those of 45 get three votes.

The laboring population, which, as everywhere, is very shifty, is almost entirely disfranchised by a clause requiring a residential qualification of three years from all those who don't possess either a "stake in the country" or independent means of living. This clause is obviously intended to handicap the socialists.

As an intended sop to the people of Alsace-Loraine the constitution is a failure, principally because it does not change the status of the province within the German empire. Alsace-Loraine remains a mere province, the Kaiser still its sovereign ruler and the reform bears no resemblance to real autonomy.

The press of Alsace-Lorraine has not for a moment concealed its opinion, that the people of the province while accepting the constitution place themselves under no obligations, that they have no reason for gratitude to Alsacians, who will not rest until they will not give up a single one of their just dreams. Only the granting of absolute independence will satisfy the Alsacians, who wil not rest until they are given equal rights with any other state within the German empire, and at the bottom of the hearts of the people is the fervent desire, of reunion with France, a desire no less strong than 39 years ago.

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Popular opinion in Holland continues to be strongly opposed to the scheme of the government for spending $19,000,000 on coast defences.

It is generally agreed that the government has responded to some indirect pressure from Germany. No one seriously believes that the coast of the Netherlands is in danger from Great Britain. The only power that can covet or can benefit in way by the occupation of Holland in Germany. Why, people ask, should the Netherlands government suddenly reverse the traditional policy of the country and not merely neglect the land defences on the eastern frontier but even withdraw the annual subsidy for their improvement?

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Now that domestic political conditions in Greece are less uncertain than for many years the government intends to recognize the country's army and navy, which have been in a rather chaotic condition, since the last war with Turkey, and as Greek army officers persistently have refused to obey the orders of a fellow countryman, simply because he happened to be the commander-in-chief, a French general is to be trusted with the important task of teaching Greek officers to obey their superior , and King George has just been informed by the French secretary of war, that a French general, known to be a stern disciplinarian, three French colonels and 5 lieutenant colonels, have been placed at his disposal, and will arrive in Athens next month.

The king has now asked the British admiralty to permit the English admiral Sir Edmund Poe to take charge of the re-organization of the Greek navy. If the admiral comes, his flags ship will be the new armored 10,000 tons cruiser "Aweroff" which is being built for the Greek government at Leghorn, Italy, and which will be completed in a week or two.

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The building of the four Austro-Hungarian Dreadnoughts which form the battleship section of the present naval program, and two of which are already in hand at Trieste, seems likely to cause some ill-feeling between the two kingdoms. As a result of the conference between the Hungarian board of trade and the admiralty in 1908, the Hungarian government voted $6,000,000 for the construction of a dock yard at Fiume large enough to build Dreadnoughts. They did this under the impression that it was understood that Hungary was to have her share in the profits of the construction of the empire's future battle fleet.

Under the arrangements for the program now laid down, however, all four of the new battleships are to be built in Austrian ship yards—three at Trieste and one at Pola. The reason put forward in well informed quarters for this neglect of Hungarian shipbuilding enterprise, which has already evoked protest in Budapest, is that the new dockyard at Fiume could not safely been entrusted with the building of a Dreadnought on the ground of its lack of experience, and, further, that it could not jpossibly deliver the ship until 18 months after the autumn of 1913, the term required.

In society it doesn't take a botanist to pick out the wallflowers.

Mystery Murder Of Mme. Hoffman

Berlin, Jan. 6.—The mystery surrounding the strange murder of Mme. Hoffmann, wealthy widow, sixty-eight years of age, is monopolizing public attention at present.

Mme. Hoffmann, who inherited a large fortune from her husband, was closely related to several high government officials, and occupied a prominent position in Berlin society. She lived alone in a small flat.

Curiously enough owing to the fear of being murdered, Mme. Hoff.mann refused to engage a companion or servant, declaring that an elderly helpless lady was easily killed by unscrupulous domestics.

Mme. Hoffmann, who out evening, visited a theatre on the night of December 6, accompanied by a woman friend. The next morning the charwoman cleaned the flat as usual. This was the last time that Mme. Hoffmann was seen alive.

About two weeks later the occupant of the flat immediately beneath the flat occupied by Mrs. Hoffmann heard continuous screams and calls for help; then the words: "I don't want to de; I won't die yet!" These words were followed by a heavy thump, and then heavy footsteps.

The neighbors who were thoroughly alarmed, rushed to the concierge, who summoned a policeman from the street. The entire party went upstairs to Mme. Hoffmann's flat. Hearing sounds within, the policeman knocked at the door.

At first there was no reply but finally persistent knocking produced the response: "I was ill, but am feeling better. I shall not open the door."

The concierge declared that the voice was that of Mme. Hoffmann, yet it was strange and somewhat muffled. The policeman was not satisfied, and proceeded to force the door. The moment the door was opened, another door inside the flat, leading into the room behind the entrance hall, was hastily locked.

When the policeman promptly forced this door the person within the room retreated to another apartment and locked the door. When the third door was forced, the fugitive escaped through a back-door down the backstairs, and got away unnoticed.

After an attempted pursuit which proved futile, the policeman with the concierge and three neighbors, proceeded to examine the flat. There were no suspicious signs, and the search party concluded that Mme. Hoffmann must have become mentally deranged and fled from her home under some delusion. The policeman locked the flat and departed.

A few days later a relative arrived from the country to visit her, and heard the story of her remarkable flight from home.

Being more suspicious than the credulous neighbors, she informed the authorities, who sent a policeman with her to examine the flat. After searching all the rooms the policeman, the relative and the wife of the concierge were about to leave when the latter thought that the appearance of the bed was unusual.

She pulled the quilt away, and found Mme. Hoffmann's body wrapped in the bed-clothes.

The police are following several clues, which lead to the conclusion that the perpetrator of this mysterious crime must have been a woman intimately acquainted with Mme. Hoffmann.

Wrote About the Corean People

Paris, Jan. 7.—In an niteresting article on the Coreans, M. Lannelongue, referring to the graceful movement of their people and their picturesque costumes, says that the ladies are a little slatternly in appearance, the men, on the other hand, looking grand in their white tunics, recalling the burnous of the Arabs of Algeria. This silhouette is sometimes spoiled by the fantastic headgear, which marks the social position of the wearer. The national popular hat is high in form, has a tube of half the calibre of ours, and is slightly conical, black in color, supported by brims. The material is of horse hair very finely woven.

When the Crorean gentleman's hat is of straw color it denotes that he is a happy fiance. Le cheapeau de riz, elegant in its conical form with angular brim, denotes a bonza. Another hat of gigantic proportions is that of the Ping Yang sect, who must hide their faces. It descends at the back almost to the shoulders, the brim being festooned, and if the proprietor is of superstitious turn, he adds some black figures to ward off the evil spirits. After a certain age married men add "storeys" to their hats.

Hunger Strikes in Russian Prison

Berlin, Jan. 7.—Hunger strikes are a common enough form of protest against ill-treatment in Russian prisons. It has been left for a Berlin business man to resort to one as a protest against conjugal infidelity.

Recently the concierge of a house in the suburbs of Reinickendorf, became uneasy about two of his tenants, Herr Max Wulff, a young merchant and his wife, who had given no sign of life for many days. Making inquiries he found that Herr Wulff had not been to business for some time. As ringing and knocking failed to gain him admission to the flat, he fetched the police, who forced the door. The flat was apaprently empty and the porter was about to go away, believing that the Wulffs had quietly left their abode, when he stumbled on Herr Wulff, who was lying in a corner of the room.

In a fainting voice Herr Wulff told how his wife had deserted him more than a month ago, taking the furniture with her. In despair he resolved to starve himself to death.

The only dignity some men ever acquire consists of a frock coat and a silk hat.

League Of Paris Consumers Formed With the New Year

(By GEORGE DUFRESNE.)

Paris, Jan. 7.—Simultaneously with the new year a most interesting league was born here:

It is called "The League of Paris Consumers," and it means business. In three days it has attained several thousand members. University professors, politicians, and property-owners are amongst those joining the new league, the main object of which is to protect the unfortunate customer from the abuses of which he is the victim.

It is pointed out that up until now the consumer has remained isloated and, therefore, powerless. He has submitted with angelic patience to the increase in the cost of living, to the strikes in the public service and to the decrease in salaries. But he is now weary of being oppressed and exploited, and intends to make his voice heard.

The idea of the league was first suggested by M. Gide, a professor in the faculty of law, who considered that the time was ripe to create a vast association which should defend induvidual interests. The league of consumers will seek to bring pressure on public authorities, and take immediate action when the prices of articles of food are unjustifiably increased.

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The Regie, which is another name for the state tobacco monopoly has found it necessary to advertise its goods. This step has been taken on account of the publicity given to foreign cigars and cigarettes in the state tobacco shops. Outside the shops a luminous sign informs the passer-by that foreign tobaccos can be had within. Inside these foreign goods are displayed everywhere, the cigars of French manufacture being relegated to some dark corner. The result is that the French products are not getting a chance.

But all this will be changed. The Regie is going to take up advertising. A catalogue is in course of preparation. In it will be described the different kinds of cigars and cigarettes turned out by the state. Much s expected from this catalogue. But the Regie will have to take care not to defeat its object. There have long been complaints of delay in furnishing supplies. What is the good of smokers being attracted to a certain cigar or cigarette through an advertisement if they cannot get it when they ask for it?

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Convinced of the great usefulness of aeroplanes not only in war, but also as a means of cummunication in peace the French colonial minister is about to spend $80,000 for experiments with Bleriot monoplanes in the French colonies, and before the end of the year, mails may be delivered regularly by aeroplanes in French and West Africa.

The aeroplanes are to leave here in about a week and the erection of postal hangar will be undertaken at once.

When the chamber meets again the minister will ask for a grant of $100,000 to be spent during 1912 in establishing an aerial postal delivery service in Indo-China in case the West African experiment proves successful.

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By postponing the debate on the French naval estimate for the coming financial year until the chamber meets again, Admiral Boue de Lapayrere, the indefatiegable secretary of the navy, has gained time to prepare some very important and interesting declarations. The secretary has a naval program, which will add immensely to the strength of the French navy, already prepared and M. Briand intends to stake the whole political existence of the cabinet on its adoption by the chamber and estate.

The prime minister is absolutely persuaded of the imperative necessity of at least eight new Dreadnoughts. At present two are being constructed with the utmost rapidity—the Jean Bart, at Brest, and the Courbet, at Lorient. They are of 23,500 tons each, and they form the model of the ironclads to come, in fact, when parliament voted the credits for them, it was understood that the two ships were an instalment of the program. I do not think that in the present parliament, and with a prime minister of the force of M. Briand, opposition to the scheme will have any chance of success.

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From Italy comes the news that Professor Felice Jacoviello of the university of Parma has invented an appliance which will completely revolutionize wireless telegraphy and transmission of electrical force.

Though difficult to explain in simple language, it may be said that the appliance is constructed with the object of transforming ordinary electric currents into Hertzian waves, and experiment has proved the power of the appliance so to transform 90 per cent of any current. It consists of an arc in which two tubes of metal, varying according to the force of the current to be transformed, are substituted for the carbon points. Currents varying in strength from fifteen thousand to one hundred thousand volts have been dealt with successfully. The most interesting part of the arc is a strong stream of air, or sometimes gas, that is forced through the two metal tubes of the arc in such manner that the molecules of the air, or gas, move in the same direction as the irons and electrons or electrified particles of air. The stream of air or gas serves to regulate the production of these particles, and to render the arc capable of charging and discharging many thousand volts per second into and from an electrostatic condenser, thus producing Hertzian waves in continuity.

The chief advantages of this new applonce are that it utilizes a much higher percentage of the transformed electric energy than before, and permits the use of electrostatic condensers only one-twentieth of the size of those ordinarily employed.

The first experiments with the arc were made on November 17 at the Arsenal of Spezia. The wireless telegraph station at Venice, on the coast of Italy, to which the Hertzian waves were directed by the Jacoviello instrument, replied immediately that the signals had been received with an extraordinary force and clearness. The length of the waves generated by the arc is said to be at present two thousand miles. The strength of the appliance can be judged from the fact that steel plates of armor and other metals rapidly melt in the neighborhood of the arc, so that electric furnices can now be constructed more simply and much more sheaply than before. For purposes of illumination the arc is equally valuable. Glass tubes and globes from which air has been extracted yield a bright light when placed in the path of Hertzian waves.

The railway station square of Parma will shortly be lighted in this manner.

Settle Question For Dressmakers

Paris, Jan. 7—A question of great interest in dressmaking circles has been settled by a Paris Court, namely that of copyright for a dress. Two costumers of the Rue de la Paix were at loggerheads over the matter. One accused/ the other of having exactly copied and reproduced on of his exclusive creations, the design of which had been legally deposited. Suit was brought and $4000 damages were demanded. Maitre Maillard, counsel for the plaintiffs, cited the copyright law regulating the rights of literary and artistic property, as well as the law on manufacturers' designs. According to him all these laws had been infringed. A dress enjoyed copyright as well as any other artistic production by the mere fact that it was a work of art. Maitre Gaston Levisalles while not deyning on behalf of the defendants, that a dress may be an artistic creation, nevertheless held that literary and artistic copyright laws could not apply to it, nor the law as to manufacturers' drawings. Besides, he added, the firm had sold its dresses before registering the design, and therefore it was public property. The court also adopted this view, and decided the case against the plaintiff.

Got Wrong Man In The Asylum

Paris, Jan. 7.—A humorus story, told with all seriousness, appeared the other day in a Paris newspaper. A unatic named Legrand was giving some trouble in a country place. "Let him be shut up in an asylum," ordered the mayor. The Garde Champetre was told to take him off with the help of a local baker, to the asylum a few miles distant. While going along the road the lunatic, who was not always under the influence had a lucid interval. Naturally he evinced some resentment at being taken to an asylum. The Garde Champetre consulted with the baker, with the result they offered him drinks to humor him, joining him in quaffing the liquid. Before leaving the bar they had imbibed so much that all three reached the asylum in a state of intoxication. "Which of the three is it?" wired the director to the mayor. "Legrand" was the reply, but in transmitting it the telegraph operator ticked off "Le grand," meaning the tall one. As the Grand Champetre was the taller than the other two he was detained, and the lunatic and the baker returned to the village, when the lunatic, who had been the first to get sober, told on the other two.

COUNTESS TARNOWSKY

Countess Tarnowsky, the Russian murdress, who, is a nervous wreck. According to physicians she has but a short time to live.