FOREST MUSINGS.

[illegible]

A Tree Never Leaves.

The great baritone, Lassalle, with a company of fellow artists, among whom were Dunlap Price, Mrs. Blackstone and one of the De Reszkes, was one morning in the summer time taking breakfast on the veranda of the Reservoir hotel at Versailles, when two and eight great Italian musicians came along and began to play the harp and sing one of Valentine's songs from "Faust."

A sigh of dismay broke from the assembled company, but Lassalle, who was in good humor with his breakfast, jumped up with his usual cry, "Tenez, I'll fix them!" Pushing away his coffee he arose, and tradeing the singer a piece of silver, said: "My friend, I'll show you how that should be sung. You do not please that scene properly." Then he burst forth with his grand voice and sang the song through, to the great delight of all within range.

The poor traveling musician turned green and began to tremble with awe, and finally, when the end came, touched his hat and murmured humbly, "Mons. mon maitre, I will not sing again when you sing hour." As he slunk off with his comrades of the harp a shower of laughter and coin followed him. He was not grateful. He was stunned.—Irish Times.

Blinded.

Nine persons out of ten would probably give the derivation of blind as coming directly from blind, and fold from the practice of folding a cloth round the eyes, as in the game of blindman's buff. The word has, however, nothing to do with fold, but means fellow or struck blind, and might be written blindfellow. In the same way the word battery is usually confused with the common term batter, with which, however, it has no connection, save in the minds of those who do not know it to be a contraction for battery, a place where bottles are kept, and over which the bottler, or butler, presides.—Chambers' Journal.

Curious Superstitions.

It was a popular superstition in Norfolk that whatever you are doing the first time you hear the cuckoo, that you will do most frequently all the year. Another is that an unmarried person will remain single as many years as the cuckoo, when first heard, utters its call.—London Queen.

The stickers at Homestead did one of the worst possible things for their cause when they treated the newspaper reporters roughly, harassed and assaulted them in pursuit of legitimate business and finally drove some of them out of Homestead. Reliable authorities even declare that while they were present at the scene of the trouble the correspondents could not tell the whole truth about the situation for fear of personal violence. If so this is shameful. A statement that all is fair and square while representatives of the press are not allowed right of way to come and go through the Carnegieworks at will is a statement that will not hold water. If stickers are fair and square in their doings they will be glad to have the truth told about them. If they are not willing that the whole truth could be told about them, then their doings are not right, and public sympathy will be on the side of those whom they murdered, and of those whose property they took possession of. Such tale cannot lose the price of this scandal.

Don't Talk Personalities.

If you are in the company of a cultivated, intellectual person and cannot talk of anything but mere personalities, go and drum on the window with your fingers, twirl your thumbs, or excuse yourself and get away, but keep your mouth shut. Don't under any consideration give it away that you are a shallow, tinsinnt fool. For if you undertake to talk with this person about how late such an individual sits up at night, how nearly of an age the Jotson babies are, how Susan Jones sleeps on a folding bed in the parlor, how Miss Smith dyes her hair, how Bedkin and his wife quarrel, how many meals a day you eat and what you like, how Tom Smith's pug dog killed Walt Brisbane's cat, how they do say that Widower Hodge is going to marry the schoolmistress and his wife not dead a year yet—if you undertake to pour out this unspeakable rubbish on the cultivated, intellectual person, he will vote you the most frightful bore he ever met in his life, as well as the most ill bred bore. He will get away from you as he would from a big, gaping body agent and never come near you again.

If you cannot talk of poetry, of literature, of music or art, if you know nothing at all of the mighty social, economic and political questions with which our generation wrestles, or of the wonderful scientific and psychological discoveries of the time, or of anything else than the age of Sally Jones' last child, go and learn something of them. Or if you can't do that, go and drown yourself.

The Parenthood Congress.

One of the most important and impressive of all the international conventions to be held at Chicago during the week following fair will be the congress of all religions. One hundred of the most eminent preachers of Europe and America constitute its advisory council. Leading scholars and representatives of the world's great modern historic faiths will be there to expound their own special theology. The Christian divine, Protestant and Catholic, will shake hands with the follower of Confucius, with Buddhist, Brahman, Parsee and Mohammedan. The Jew will stand there side by side with the priests of the Greek church who persecute him, and will have as fair a show as they in this universal debating ground. How they all will argue, to be sure! It is not stated that commissers and agnostics, like Colonel Ingersoll and ex-senator Ingalls, will be welcomed, or that invitations will be extended to the followers of the late Madame Blavatsky, but it may be that you and I will be broad enough to cover even these.

At any rate, all non-Christians except those are already invited. Each honest representative of other religions then ours will be asked to lay before the assemblies the leading tenets of faith that constitute his theology. Especially will he be asked to say what universal truth and sins are at the heart of his religion, and what consolation it has brought to the progress of mankind.

The comparative study of religions is now a main object of attention to the most eminent students of theology the world over. They are bringing these faiths together, examining them critically and recording to and how much ornament there is between them. Thus will the universal truth dwelling in the hearts of mankind in all ages and nations be reached. It is beginning to be seen and more believed that the most liberal Christian scholars that each great historic faith, as Hearne and Swift, had its own message to deliver to the people to whom it was sent. Each in turn did its work and passed, or is passing.

Christianity envelops them all when it is lived up to, because it is the religion of love and good will among mankind. But is it lived up to?

A Particular Senator.

Senator Sawyer's daughter, Mrs. Howard Gaston White, is perfectly devoted to her father, and her attentions to his comfort seem to leave no end. The senator is continually seen out with her, although he much prefers home quiet to society which Bill white Mrs. White says is his law. When night sessions compel his attendance Mrs. White is assiduous in her attempts to make him comfortable. Everybody knows the senator has a soft spot for the senator, and aids and abets Mrs. White most willingly. On one occasion of a night session, when the senator insisted that it was his duty to stay, Mrs. White gave it up and drove away. In about an hour she appeared in the senate corridor, followed by her footman, bearing a large warm blanket that she had carried to the senator's committee room, so that when she he could catch a nap in comfort.

Mrs. White isn't the only one who looks after senators' comfort on such occasion. The senator smokes only a certain kind of cigar, never buys one at the Capitol or smokes those given him. At the same session when Mrs. White was so thoughtful the senator's wife appeared at the door, and, as her husband couldn't leave a second, begged the doorkeeper to get to him a bunch of cigars she had brought, because she knew he hadn't any, and he wouldn't be able to stand it without his own cigars.—Washington Post.

The Club Among Savages.

The club or mace was probably the first, as it is the most universal, weapon, and every nation would seem to have some form peculiar to itself. The Maori spent years of labor in grinding to shape his battle-mattlin "meri" out of jade or greenstone; the New Britain savage makes a hole through a granite pebble by dropping water on it while hot, and then forms the head of his club; the Fijian found ready to his hand a tree, whose evenly radiating roots he trimmed into an exact likeness of the mediæval "morgenstern," which with the Serbs battered down the Austrian ranks at Semruch.

The mace of the Persian horseman was of steel, with a head formed of six or more radiating blades or ridges, and had often a basket hilt him a sword. The terrible Mahmud of Ghazni, like the knight of Border song, "at his saddle girth had a good steel sperthe, full ten pound weight and more," and it was with this that he shattered the idol of Somnauth before the eyes of the horrified priests, strewing the temple floor with the jewels in this.—Chambers' Journal.

Gout and Gastrogy.

We readily associate the names of Corot and Daubigny, and with reason. Notwithstanding the twenty years' seniority of the former artist they were intimate friends, sharing many similar aspirations in art, while each still preserved his distinct individuality. Corot was more reflective, imposing his works with his own peculiar poetic fancy. Daubigny, on the other hand, gave himself up more to the impression of the moment, endeavoring to express the local qualities of form and color in all their brilliancy and freshness. He did not reach perfection of style as the former, but his manner, but through most devoted study, guided by the native strength and originality of his views, nor did this high epoch of landscape art come hastily or accidentally, but was made possible by the united efforts of many men and minds working together during the first half of our century.—Cosmopolitan.

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