

THE COURIER

VOL. 2

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TERMS.

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POETRY.

A COUNTRY HOME FOR ME.

I do not ask that city spires

May round my mansion rise.

But that my home may be where trees

Are pointing to the skies.

Where flows the silvery mountain rill

With a sweet and merry sound,

And the echo of the hunter's gun

Shall through the woods resound.

I cannot love the city's pomp,

Its fashion and its pride,

I had rather dwell in a humble cot

Upon the mountain side,

Where sweetly blooms the acacia tree,

The tulip and the rose,

And where, beside the rivulets,

The early violet grows.

I would not give my quiet home,

Its happiness and health

For all the city palaces,

Its pleasures and its wealth;

I live to breathe the mountain air,

I'd roam where all is free,

Let others choose a city life—

Put a country home for me!

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MISCELLANEOUS.

Bell-Bird.—One meets in the forests of Guyana a bird much celebrated with the Spaniards, called *campanero*, or bell-bird. Its voice is loud and clear as the sound of a bell; it may be heard at the distance of a league. No song, no sound can occasion the astonishment produced by the tinkling of the *campanero*. He sings morning and evening like most other birds, at mid day, he sings also. A stroke of the bell is heard, a pause of a minute ensues; second tinkling, and a pause of the same duration is repeated, finally a third ringing, followed by a silence of six or eight minutes. At noon, says an enthusiastic traveller, would halt in the heat of the chase, Orpheus would let fall his lute to listen; so novel, sweet, and romantic is the silver tinkling of the snow-white *campanero*. This bird is about the size of a jay; from its head arises a conical tube of about three inches long, of a brilliant black, spotted with small white feathers, which communicates with the palate, and which, when inflated with air, resembles an ear of corn.

Count de Chambord.—The Count de Chambord, (the rightful King of France, according to the Royalists, and the centre of all its patriotic homage, though in exile) was, of course, the most important visitor at Baden; a description of him may not come amiss. He is of the middle height, and though inclining to be stout, of great elegance and proportion of outline. He is slightly lame, like Lord Byron, but limps with a certain attractive grace. His head is one of great beauty, and he carries it with an air of singular nobleness. The features of his face are of the finest chiselling of delicacy—the mouth small, the nose straight and thin, the eyes expressive and spiritual, and, in their whole character, there is a mixture of high intelligence and of inexhaustible goodness of heart. He wears all his beard, and its blond color, with the light shade of his hair, give him the look of a man of twenty-two, though he is now thirty. It were impossible to have a greater charm of personal manner, or more winning dignity of presence. In conversation, he speaks with propriety. (We thus translate *avec apropos* into a word very much wanted in our language,) and his nurture and education in a foreign land have, in no way affected his Parisian accent.—*Cor. Home Journal*.

WAR.—A soldier in active service has published a little unpretending volume, in which he describes the effects of shot in the field of battle: "You can form no idea of the storm of balls and shells which crossed each other in their deadly course. Before and around the spot on which Field Marshal Radetzky was standing, the heavy sixteen-pound shots ploughed the ground, tracing in one place a deep furrow, and cutting down a tree like stubble in another. It is remarkable how each kind of missile has its own characteristic. There is the tremulous howl of the large round shot, the whistle of the musket-ball, hiss of the shell, like that of the Catherine wheel firework, and then its detonating as it bursts. Of these last, many which fell amongst us missed fire, and many exploded harmlessly in the air, but where one fell and did its office, the effect was dreadful. One such struck an officer in the breast, exploded at the instant, struck down a man to the right and left, and cut off the upper part of the officer's body, in such a fashion that the frightened horse galloped off with the feet of the corpse in the stirrups. Such are spectacles which a field of battle occasionally presents. Not far off lay a Piedmontese artilleryman, who had been struck on the forehead by a spent six-pound ball, which remained in the wound. An Hessian had been killed at the same instant, with his horse, by a shot which had passed through the neck of the latter; they had sunk together, the rider still in the saddle, and the sabre still in his hand. The sudden collapse of a man in full vigour is most fearful to behold. One sinks without a groan, another jumps high from the ground, with a shriek, falls over, lies still and dead. I saw a Grenadier from the Banat, with a ball in his forehead, flutter a few paces, leaning on his musket like a drunken man, and then after a faint whisper about his home, expire. Over the town the cannon trunks had spread a colossal canopy, which floated motionless above the roofs like the crown of the Italian pine tree.

ESCAPE OF PRINCE LOUIS NAPOLEON FROM HAM.—When his determination was made, he set about instant preparations to carry it out.—After long complaint, the government hardly consented to make some repairs in his uncomfortable quarters, and on hearing the fact that workmen were about visiting the fortress for that purpose, the ingenious tho't struck the Prince to array himself in similar apparel, as offering the easiest, and apparently most certain mode of escape. On the day selected for his eventful experiment he rose early, and began at once to disguise himself in the rude materials which his faithful follower, Thellin, had duly prepared. Disencumbering himself of his whiskers and moustache, he clothed himself in a capacious red wig, blue smock-frock, a pair of corduroys, much the worse for wear, and added to his height by a huge pair of wooden sabots. This done, he was ready to descend, but the first difficulty was, to disarm the vigilance of the two jailers at the door below. This was effected by his physician, Dr. Comeau, inviting one into his room for a moment, whilst Charles Thellin occupied the other. The Prince, carrying a board on his shoulder, which he employed still further to conceal his face, made his way undisturbed into the court yard of the citadel. Now began the real dangers he had to contend with—to elude the attention of the officers on guard; to escape the observation of sentinels; to pass the porter's lodge unchallenged; to clear in safety the drawbridge, and the two grand portals of the Chateau—these offered a series of risks and encounters enough to chill the stoutest heart.—He advanced firmly, passing numerous groups of soldiers, till within a paces of the *Conciergerie*, when a common clay pipe which he had in his mouth dropped, and broke with some fracas at his feet. An officer near by, reading a letter, looked up, and regarding him, made some commentary on his awkwardness. The Prince, to hide his confusion, stooped to pick up the fragments. Recovering himself instantly, he pushed on, and getting by the porter's wicket, made his way through the first gate, over the bridge, and now he was beyond the second gate. He breathed freer, and could with effort only restrain himself from running, so impatient was he to avoid the chance of further accident. His presentiments were well founded; for whilst still within the view of all, he heard some workmen hallooing after him, and turning, observed, to his horror, they were walking briskly towards him. It was a moment of dreadful suspense. Not knowing what course to take, he stood still, apparently unconcerned, when, to his inexpressible relief, one of the men, now close upon him, cried out, "Oh, it is only Pierre!" and satisfied that they recognised a comrade, the whole party wheeled about and went off. The tribulations of the Prince were not yet over; for his dog having slipped away from his keeper, came barking and yelling after him. His signs of joy were so manifest, that had it been observed, detection would have been infallible. The Prince, in a sharp undertone, ordered the dog off, and, as if conscious of his master's danger, the intelligent brute instantly obeyed. In a few minutes more, the appointed spot was reached, where Thellin was anxiously awaiting, with a cabriolet and fast horse, and the Prince leaping in, fled with all possible speed on the high road to Belgium. After rapid relays they arrived without incident at the railway station, where pursuit was no longer to be apprehended. Not long after the Prince had left his room, the commandant came to make his usual morning visit, and was received by Dr. Comeau, who informed him that the Prince was confined to his bed by indisposition. Expressing his regrets, he went away, and returned as customary in the evening, when the same excuse was repeated. This time, however, the wary officer demanded as his right, a view of the Prince's person, though cautiously apprised that he was sound asleep. He still insisted, and on approaching the bed, the trick was discovered, and the escape of the Prince made known. The alarm was given, but, happily, too late, for by that time the fortunate captive was in Brussels.

THE NEW TREE.—On the parched side of a rock on the mountains of Venezuela grows a tree with dry and leathery foliage, its large woody roots scarcely penetrating into the ground. For several months in the year, its leaves are not moistened by a shower, its branches look as if they

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were dead and withered; but when the trunk is bored, a bland and nourishing milk flows from it. It is sunrise when the vegetable fountain flows most freely. At that time, the blacks and natives are seen coming from all parts, provided with large bowls to receive the milk, which grows yellow and thickens at its surface. Some empty their vessels on the spot, while others carry them to their children. One imagines he sees the family of a shepherd who is distributing the milk of his flock. It is named the *palo de vaca* or cow tree.

CUTTINGS FOR OCTOBER.—There is no plant, tree or shrub, but what may be made to throw out roots from cuttings, and propagate themselves with proper care and culture. October is the best month in the year for Southern experiment. There are plants which strike much easier than others but there are many which are generally looked upon as hard to propagate from, which throw out roots freely, if the cuttings are placed in the ground in October.—The great advantage of October planting over Spring is, the existing sap helps the wound, and the young rootlets start before cold weather, and when the Spring does come they grow with a rush; whereas those cuttings