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# HOURS AT HOME;

# A POPULAR

# MONTHLY OF INSTRUCTION AND RECREATION.

VOL. VIII.

# MARCH, 1869.

No. 5.

# EMILE DE GIRARDIN.

Among the notabilities of Paris none shine just now more conspicuously than the celebrated journalist and publicist whose name heads this article. For forty years, indeed, Emile de Girardin has commanded the attention not only of Paris but of all France. The most mercurial of this mercurial race, he is ever most at home in the midst of danger and excitement, and when the latter rules the hour in Paris, Girardin is in his element. In his long career he has usually been in the opposition, and has found his greatest pleasure in thrusting thorns into the side of the government. He was a devoted friend of Louis Bonaparte as long as the latter was out of power, and claims the honor of having been the first to nominate him for the Presidency of the new French Republic. Louis used him as a stepping-stone to position, but when this was gained, soon discarded him on account of his excitable nature and thirst for innovations.

Girardin, not being able to rule, determined to ruin, and the boldness with which he attacks the Emperor, and reads to him his daily lessons, has been the delight of French radicals, and a model for journalists whose training in audacity is still incomplete.

The Emperor's recent unexampled attacks on the press have banded against him nearly all the journalists of Paris, Vol. VIII.-25 except the few who are in the pay of Church or State, and thus Girardin finds himself fighting with a host that have frequently opposed him, but of all of these none are more prominent than he. Thus, more than ever, he is just now conspicuous, and being in the fore-front of a battle that may result in the overthrow of the present dynasty, it is a matter of no little interest to trace his remarkable career. In this we are aided by the recent revelations of the German publicist Lanfer, whose intimate acquaintance with Girardin's history gives to his story the charm of romance.

We thought Girardin in the plenitude of his power, when we saw him some twenty years ago contending for Louis Bonaparte against Cavaignac with such acrimony, vigor, and effect, that the brave republican general felt himself forced to consign the editor to prison, and his journal to suspension, in order to maintain the peace of the capital. But he had then been fighting somebody in this same style for twenty years, and thus he has wielded his pen, more dangerous than the sword, ever since.

He began life by fighting his own father for the privilege of bearing his name. He was the illegitimate son of a nobleman, Count Girardin, a name of power and influence in France. In childhood he bore the name of his mother, a of horsemen were among them—that the baggage was piled up in a heap, and our fellow-travelers seated upon it, or held in custody by the dismounted horsemen, many of whom seemed to form a sort of cordon around them. My past life—my friends—my probable execution and certain robbery—marched in rapid procession, at double quick step, through my mind.

Like unto two persons clothed in long white shrouds walking up to the ugly cross-piece with a rope dangling from its centre, so walked the Englishman and myself towards the suspicious group. The swart faces that we could at last faintly descry-the silence observed by our comrades and their position in the middle of the strange party-were ominous. Nor was this grim silence broken, nor any demonstration of pleasure exhibited as we neared the spot. As we walked up, and the grave informal circle of dismounted horsemen opened to let us in, our delighted eyes glanced at once over our companions seated upon the piled

baggage, quietly smoking, and among them the conspicuous and stately figure of the chief of the military detachment whom we had met the day before in pursuit of the horse-thieves.

"Howadji travelers," said he, rising with great native dignity and turning towards our comrades, "Allah has restored to you your lost companions. I bless Him and congratulate you." Then turning towards us he continued : " Allah has permitted us to witness this happy reunion. Blessed be Allah! We were returning from our pursuit of the horserobbers when we overtook here your distressed friends and were about to set out with them to sweep the desert to find you, when, Allah be praised, we descried you. We have waited your coming. Now our presence would be an embarrassment. Howadji all, Salaam and salaamat."

The fifteen leaped their fine Arabs and were soon but a vague cloud through the enfolding shadows of night.

# THE SEA: BY ONE ON SHORE.

I.

THERE is a music of the waves-A laughter of the sea-Might woo the sternest heart, methinks,

To sweet tranquillity.

### п.

There is a royal mirthfulness About yon bursting tide; The frothing breakers roll in joy And sparkle as they glide.

# nı.

There is a glory of the mind Upon yon azure main; Forgotten bards glance through the foam And smite their harps again.

# IV.

Blind Homer felt thine ancient scorn, And Maro knew thy charm When rosy zephyrs stilled thy rage Or soothed thy wild alarm.

# ٧.

Sing on, sing on thine anthem proud, Fair and translucent sea;

Thy woe is changed to pleasance now, Thy furor turned to glee!

# VI.

The morning hath its pageantry, Which may our hearts arouse; The green wave ruffling in the wind, The breaker's gay carouse.

# VΠ.

Or if the sun's first saffron beam A slumbering sea illume, The heaving ocean breathes in smiles,

Like sculpture on a tomb.

# VIII.

Think not this gracious trance is death; Where glory streaks the skies:

The dancing waves shall leap once more, When God shall bid them rise.

### IX.

And when the lucid heavens pour The noon's majestic calm,

And tropic odors from the line Have filled the air with balm;

# X

Or when along the ragged shore The billows break afar,

And high above the reddening wave There gleams the evening star;

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XI.

Or when on Night's bedizened brow Arcturus shineth fair, And in dark gulfs of silence glows Sad Cassiopeia's Chair;

# XII.

Or when through lattices of cloud The Harvest Moon grows round, And squanders gold upon the sea, And silver on the ground :

# XIII.

Ah then we dream once more the dreams The old-time minstrels sang; How from the sparkling salt sea-foam

Bright Ariadne sprang;

### XIV.

And how, above retreating waves His locks-the sea-god rears; And to the tale of Ilium

Fond Dido lends her tears.

# XV.

How well these songs of olden bards With history agree,

Which tells the joy of wandering Greeks Who cried—"The Seal the Seal"

### XVI.

But other thoughts oft whelm the soul That meditates on thee—

Nor can thy ever-flowing tide Wash out thy treachery!

# זיעצ.

How has thy strand been strewed with death;

Destroyer of the brave;

How many argosies are hid 'Neath thy deceitful wave!

# XVIII.

How hast thou swept the works of man; What blessedness shall be,

When with new heavens and new earth There shall be no new sea!

# XIX.

Sing on, sing on thine olden song, Sing on, relentless main; For ever though thy tide recede Thy tide shall turn again!

# XX.

Or ere through heaven's sapphire vaalt The new-found tidings ran, That in cool vales of paradise Walked the last wonder—Man,

# XXI.

Bounds had been set thy infant wrath That else had all dismayed,

"Thus far---no farther shalt thou go, Here be thy proud waves stayed."

# XXIL

Apt image of the restless soul, Type of eternity— Unfathomed, limitless, the same, Thou ever-changing sea:

# XXIII.

When powers, dominions, thrones shall fall And waxing moons grow wan, Through all the ages yet to be, Thy tide shall still roll on I

SEVASTOPOL IN MAY, 1855. (Continued.)

# ٧I.

"And where, where is my master nowow?" said Nikita, drawling his words and still a little drunk. "How I love that master of mine I myself don't know —I love him so much, that if, God forbid, they should kill him in this sinful affair, that, do you believe, aunty, after that I myself don't know what I would do with myself—God knows. He is such a master in one word! To change him for those that play cards there? that—phoo!" concluded Nikita, pointing to the lighted windows of his master's room, in which during the absence of the sub-captain the yunker Zhoadtchesky had given a small carouse, in honor of his receiving a cross, to Lieut. Ugrovitch and Captain Nepchicetsky, who was sick with a catarrh.

"The stars are flying about!" the little girl looking up at the sky broke the silence which followed the words of Nikita. "See, there is another rolling around. What is that for, mammy?"

"They will be at our house quite down," the old woman said, sighing, without answering her daughter's question.

"And when we went there to-day with uncle," continued the little girl in a musical voice, "such a big cannon-ball lay in the room by the side of the cupboard! It had fallen into the room and