

**How Madame Calve Became an Operatic Star.**

There is a strange similarity between the earliest hopes and aspirations of Madame Sarah Bernhardt and Madame Calve, respectively the greatest tragedienne and the most popular operatic singer France has ever produced. Both were drawn towards religion during girlhood days, and both became convinced that they would find their real vocation in the Church. There was, in fact, a determination in both their hearts to live the life of a nun. But fortunately for the world of art, the natural histrionic ability of the one, and the music in the other, asserted itself before either had time or opportunity to totally immerse themselves in a convent.

It was with considerable misgivings, however, that Madame Calve abandoned her idea of entering a nunnery, and went from her country home in the South of France, in order to study music. As a matter of fact, it was necessity which drove her to take this step. Madame Calve's father died when she was very young, and her mother turned to her for help. The future prima donna even in those days possessed a very good voice, and she decided on a professional career in order to support the family.

But the struggle was a hard one, as Madame Calve has often confessed. It is true that she made a very successful debut on the operatic stage as Marguerite in Gounod's "Faust" at Brussels, in 1882, when she was but sixteen years of age. It is also true that Madame Marchesi, under whom the prima donna studied singing, prophesied a great career for the now famous artist. But triumphs did not at first come very quickly. Perhaps the main reason for this was that in those early days, Madame Calve did not take great pains to develop her wonderful power as an actress, in addition to her musical ability. To quote the words used by the popular operatic singer during the course of an interview which she recently granted to an American journalist:

"At that time, and through long years, I am afraid I cared little for art. Even when in 1884 I appeared under the management of Victor Maurel at what is now the Theatre Sarah Bernhardt, in an opera called 'Aben-Hamet,' I fear I was a poor artiste. I acted without feeling, and I had little interest in my work. Nor did I im-

prove when I joined the company of the Opera Comique. Indeed, I might never have been worth much, but for an impulse or inspiration which led me to commit what many friends considered a proof of madness. It occurred to me one day that if ever I was to become a great artiste, I must go to Italy. My health was not good at the time, and I was poor—pitifully poor. But I determined to risk everything, for I am of opinion that to succeed one must dare much.

"With only 500 francs in my pocket, I left Paris and proceeded to Milan, where, after much hardship and many adventures, I secured an engagement. But they hissed me in Milan. Yes, and now I can see that they were right to hiss. For I was then a bad singer and actress. On the advice of some musicians I returned to France, and took lessons of Madame Laborde, who taught me much that was useful. Then I went back to Italy, and this time I was applauded as heartily as I had once been hissed."

It was during this last visit to Italy that Madame Calve saw Madame Duse act, and the performance of the great Italian tragedienne made a profound impression on the singer. To revert once more to Madame Calve's own words:

"When I saw Madame Duse act, I understood at last the value and sincerity of art. I went again to see her, in fact became her disciple, and tried to profit by her example. At first to the best of my ability I tried to imitate her—to put more intensity into my tones, more nature into my interpretations. What I learned of Duse was invaluable to me."

Since those days Madame Calve's career has been one continuous line of successes. In view of the fact, however, that in her early days Madame Calve was once hissed at Milan, it is interesting to recall that when in October, 1891, Mascagni's "L'Amico Fritz" was produced at the Costanza Theatre in Rome, she was selected to create the leading soprano part in that important work.

When "Cavalleria Rusticana" was given for the first time in Paris, Madame Calve was chosen for the role of Santuzza. Later, she took the principal soprano part in the late Leo Delibes' opera "Raissa." Not only on the Continent, however, has Madame Calve won fame. Whenever she appears in London immense audiences pay tribute to her wonderful dramatic power and vocal ability, while her visits to America have brought her equal triumphs, as may be judged from the fact that for sixty performances in the latter country she has received as much as £19,000.

**Very Special Recipes.**

**STEAMED EGGS WITH TOMATOES.**

Those who appreciate egg cooking should test the virtues of this recipe before the chief ingredient used becomes too expensive a luxury. You will find it is an inexpensive, simple, and an extremely tempting dish to both eyes and palate.

**Required:**

- Four eggs.
- Two tomatoes.
- Four slices of bacon.
- Four pieces of buttered toast.
- Two teaspoonsful of chopped parsley.
- One ounce of butter.

Well butter some small plain dariole moulds and sprinkle the bottom of each with chopped parsley.

Into each mould carefully break an egg. Place the moulds in a saucepan with boiling water to come half-way up them, and lay a piece of buttered paper over the top of the tins.

Let the eggs steam for about five minutes, or till they are set.

While they are cooking, cut the tomatoes in half and put them on a tin in a hot oven, put a little bit of butter on each, and cook till they are tender.

Toast the rounds of bread and the bacon before the fire. When all are cooked trim the toast neatly, lay half of a tomato on each slice, then slip an egg carefully on to the tomato. Arrange these neatly on a dish with the bacon.

Lace at £1,000 a Yard.

There is a legend that the first lace was made by a girl who preserved a beautiful bit of seaweed by catching all the dainty parts of leaves and stems to a piece of linen with fine thread. The most expensive lace manufactured to-day is valued at £1000 a yard. Such lace is made, however, in very small quantities. It is in imitation of "rod point," and the thread used is of the finest filigree silver, the pattern being thickly encrusted with diamonds. The price of this trimming is about £28 an inch. The high prices which the fine laces command are, of course, occasioned by the careful workmanship that is required in their manufacture. Besides, the thread is very expensive, an ounce of Flanders thread having frequently been sold at £4 a pound. But this quantity can be turned into lace worth £40. At a sale of lace which was held recently in Brussels a point d'appique lace lounce brought more than £200, while some old Venetian point was sold for £2 an inch.

**Always Keep Faith.**

Many a woman, who would not think of lightly breaking a promise made to a grown-up person, is utterly careless about keeping her word with her children. She promises whatever is convenient at the moment, and apparently thinks that the breaking or keeping of those promises is a matter in which she can please herself, and that her children have no right to consider themselves aggrieved if she does not do so.

A mother who acts thus does her child grievous harm. She forgets that the sense of justice is strong in quite a little child, and that it is natural and reasonable that he should expect his parents to be as good as their word, and to fulfil their promises even at the cost of convenience. Promises should not be lightly broken, and the parent who is guilty of this soon loses his children's confidence, which is one of the sweetest things our little ones can give us.

When boys and girls learn to doubt their parents' truthfulness, they soon look around for someone else whom they can trust, and on that person they shower their affection and bestow their confidence.

**BEAUTIFUL COMPLEXIONS.**

The play of delicate colour over your face is possible only when your skin is free from marring signs, such as roughness, undue redness, sallowness arising from skin languor, pimples, blackheads, &c. Few women are free from these marring signs, hence

**WILTON'S HAND EMOLLIENT**

Finds an increasing sale. This skin food is free from grease, fat and oily substances, readily penetrates the pores, clears the skin, and makes it soft and smooth as velvet.

Be sure to ask for Wilton's Hand Emollient as there are now many worthless imitations on the market.

**CHEMISTS AND STORES.**

1/6 Per Jar.



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**SUNLIGHT SOAP**

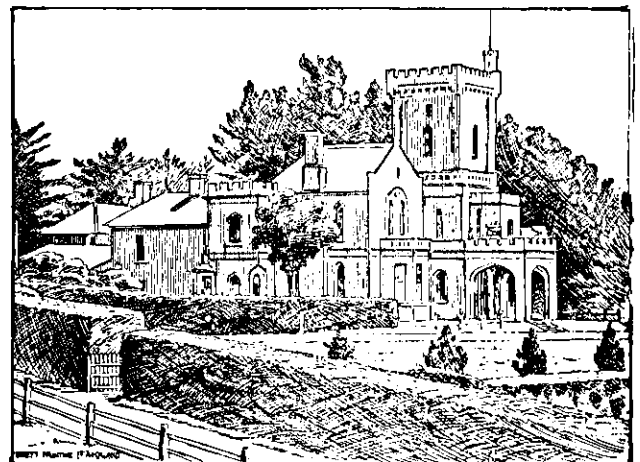
It will remove every particle of dirt and make the whole house bright and cheery. Absolutely pure, and every bar possesses remarkable cleansing power.

Sunlight Soap washes the clothes white and won't injure the hands.

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