

noise, he concluded that the guards had not discovered his flight.

By this time the moon had hidden her light behind some heavy clouds, and in the darkness Carlos had to scramble as he best could across the dry river bed. With some difficulty and many knocks he managed to reach the opposite cliff, and as this was formed of tumbled rocks entangled with tough creepers, he soon swung himself up to the higher level. As he reached it he saw one of the two men running forward to meet him, and stood stock-still in sheer astonishment.

"Leonor!" he cried faintly, "—you here."

It was the girl herself in male attire with sombre and serene. She looked like a handsome boy, flushed and excited; but had sufficient self-command to draw her lover into the shadow, near the horses, before giving him an explanation. Carlos suffered himself to be so conducted, for he was still too puzzled to comprehend the reason of her unexpected appearance.

"Leonor!" he repeated, "you freed me, you who betrayed me!"

"No, no, querido," said the girl passionately. "I did not write that lying letter; it was Luis who wrote it, to decoy you to your death."

"Luis! he decoyed me: the traitor. Alas, and he is to be your husband."

"Never! Carlos, my soul, it is you alone I shall wed."

"I! an outlaw, a pauper!"

"Yes! I give up all for you I love you! I love you! Hear me, I love you, and this night we fly to your mountains."

Carlos stepped forward with a cry of joy to clasp her to his breast, then stopped with a groan. "Heart of my heart, I dare not accept so great a sacrifice."

"I love you!" repeated Leonor.

"Querida! I can give you nothing but misery."

"I love you," she said again, and threw herself on his breast. "I go with you to the mountains. I give up all for you. But listen: Padre Ignatius has influence with the Government, and he is fond of me. It may be that in a few months you will be pardoned, and then with me—with your wife—you can return to the Casa Miramon. Dearest, you are mine."

Carlos hesitated no longer. All the passion of his nature broke forth at this great love; and ardently he clasped her to his breast. "Soul of my soul, I adore you, I worship you, God so deal with me as I with you—Hah!" he stopped suddenly as a rattle of musketry was heard. It came from the prison.

"Your flight is discovered," cried Leonor, disengaging herself. "Quick, quick! let us mount. Antonio! to the paco, here is the money I promised you. Make for the city, and be silent on your life. Carlos! Querida! Away! Away!"

With a laugh of triumph she swung herself into the saddle, and El Cid followed her example, wild with joy when he felt the mustang rear and plunge beneath him. Lights were moving on the opposite side of the gulch, bugles were blowing to call the soldiers to the pursuit; but, like loosened arrows, the horses shot across the plains towards the distant hills. Side by side the lovers, thrilled with wild excitement, urged their mustangs to racing speed. The soft airs of the night breathed in their faces, perfumes exhaled round them from myriad flowers; and the moon bathed them in her silver splendour. It was the supreme and crowning moment of their lives.

"But Don Luis?" cried Carlos, without slackening the pace, "he should be punished for his treachery."

"He is punished," laughed Leonor, "he has lost me. Within a week he shall learn that I have married the man he scornfully called Don Quixote of Mexico."

"Truly I am querida, and you are my Dulcinea."

Leonor tossed her head and burst out singing:

"Would you know the name I bear?
Blue eye, bright eye, sweet lip, red lip
I am Manuel's duchess fair,
Ah! O! O! O!
I am Manuel's duchess!"

Pat and Biddy.

Pat was a bashful lover and Biddy, as "Harper's Bazaar" presents her, was coy—but not too coy.

"Biddy," Pat began, timidly, "did yer iver think av marryin'?"

"Sure, now, th' subject has niver entered me thoughts," demurely replied Biddy.

"It's sorry Oi am," said Pat, turning away.

"Wan minute, Pat," called Biddy, softly. "Ye've set me a-thinkin'."

Read What Vitadatio is Doing.

WONDERFUL CURE OF SCIATICA, LEAD POISONING, AND RHEUMATISM.

BEDRIDDEN FOR THREE MONTHS, NOW THOROUGHLY CURED.

CURED WITH EIGHT BOTTLES OF VITADATIO.

Mr W. Webber,
Proprietor VITADATIO.

Dear Sir,—For upwards of one year I have owed you a debt of gratitude which no words of mine, however far-reaching in their effects, can ever repay. Many times when I have seen you in the streets of Launceston my conscience has always condemned me for not telling you the facts of my case; for, after all, I always think "Honour to whom honour is due" is a motto to which every public benefactor has a just claim. Scores of people in this city know that I have been the victim of great suffering for the past eight years from LEAD POISONING, RHEUMATISM, and SCIATICA. I tried all Patent Medicines and Liniments I could think of. At last the Sciatica got the mastery of me, and I could not turn in my bed for upwards of three months. Anyone who knows the torturing pains of Sciatica can better imagine than I can describe what I suffered during those eight long years, and especially the three months I was bedridden.

I tried the skill of several of our local doctors, and then went through a course of treatment in our City Hospital, but got very little better. In a state of desperation and almost hopeless despair, I went, at great expense, to Sydney, in the hope that some relief from pain might be obtained by treatment in that city. I was treated by several of the Sydney doctors, and without in any way reflecting upon the skill of any member of the medical profession, all my hopes were doomed to despair, and I returned to Launceston no better than when I left.

Many times during those years I was urged by my friends to use VITADATIO, and now I frankly admit there was an amount of prejudice lurking in my mind against it, because of it being a local preparation. But the most astounding part of the whole affair is that eight bottles of your VITADATIO, purchased from one of our local chemists, effected the great cure in my case, of which I am proud to boast. I have never been laid up a day from work since the cure was effected. The hale and strong may be slow to believe the facts of my case, and it is a very small matter to me whether they do or not; my hope is that none of them will ever have a similar experience, but I do hope that any fellow-sufferer who may read this will be induced to try the virtues of VITADATIO, and thus prove it to be a conqueror of pain, and a positive boon to suffering humanity. Of course, I can only speak as I find, and, personally, it is my opinion, based on experience, that the invention of VITADATIO may rightly be classed as one of the most valuable discoveries of the nineteenth century. I cannot but speak well of it.

You have my full consent to use this account of my case in any way you think fit.—Yours very truly,
ANDREW MILLER.

51 Canning-street, Launceston,
August 30.

For further particulars,
S. A. PALMER,
WAREHOUSE, WATERLOO QUAY,
WELLINGTON.

Correspondence invited. Write for Testimonials.

Stamp Collecting.

BY PHIL ATELIC.

The transfer of Apia in the Samoan Group to Germany has been followed by the issue of a set of stamps of a somewhat distinct design, ranging in value from three pfennig to 80. Across the top is the word Samoa on a scroll, and in the centre is shown a large steamer. The values are 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 80. For some time prior to the annexation of Apia by Germany, the Consul representing that nation has used German stamps for his own correspondence, and these are obliterated with a stamp bearing the word "Apia," and notification that they are from the Kaiser Consulate. These particular stamps become valuable, as it is scarcely likely that a large number were ever postally used. Just before Apia was taken over, the Samoan fern tree issued appeared surcharged "Provisional Government," and were quickly followed by the ordinary German stamp, with the word "Samoa" printed right across the face from the bottom to the top corner, in a slanting direction. These stamps were in use for a very short period and should therefore become valuable, especially those that have actually passed through the post.

In Queensland stamps the 1881 issue, values from 2/ to 20/, are the rare ones, owing to the fact that the dies were destroyed and the surplus stock burned. Added to these particular values were only an issue for about two years, and of course the demand for stamps from 2/ upwards is not large.

The Turkish new issue of stamps range from 5p to 50 piastres. The colours are as follows: 5p bistre inland; 10p, yellow green; 20p, magenta; 1p, violet blue; 2p, gray blue; 5p, pale brown; 25 p, dark green; and 50p, yellow. The colours for the foreign issue are: 5p, purple; 10p, green; 20p, carmine; 1p, blue; 20p, orange; 5p, pale reddish lilac; 25p, brown; 50p, yellow brown. Journal stamps are surcharged in black. The unpaid letter stamps are: 10 paras and 20 paras, black on dark rose, and 1 piastre and 2 piastres, same colour.

The Pan-American issue, which were figured in the "Graphic" a fortnight ago, are quoted here at double face value. Some of the 2 cent, 1 cent and 4 cent have been issued with inverted centres. The lucky possessors it is reported sold some at 25 dollars each the same day they were issued.

The new issue of half-penny green Victoria, small rectangular shape, is now obsolete, and a new plate has been struck, with the word postage in label at the bottom. As these stamps have only been in issue a few months they should be worth holding.

A new Greek issue of stamps is notified, the design being similar to that of the "Olympian" set, each one being different, yet typically Greek, and really artistic. The 5 drachmas will be double size and printed in gold. The values are 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 40, and 60 lpa. and 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 dra.

A letter was received by a gentleman in this city recently which bears on it what is known as Finland's mourning stamp. Russia has long and systematically tried to crush out the distinctly national spirit of the Finns, but so far without success, even though all officials are Russian and only the language of the dominant power is allowed to be taught in the schools. Recently Russian stamps were substituted for the well known Finnish issue, and thus caused the ingenious practice to be resorted to of issuing a black stamp with the national coat of arms, and the words "Suomi Finland" on it. This stamp was simply placed on envelopes as a protest, but instead of ignoring it, the Russian authorities suppressed the stamp, whereupon the Finns began to use very thin envelopes, so that when the black stamp was placed within it could be seen outside, whereupon the authorities once more interfered and declared the practice to be illegal. The Finns have now got an Indiarubber stamp made in the form of a square, with the words "Grand Duchy of Finland" around it, and room for the Russian stamp in the centre. As Russia has taken in Finland, and not been surrounded by it, no doubt this stamp will likewise be interdicted, and the Finns will have to try another scheme. Meanwhile, the "mourning stamps" are being secured for stamp collectors, and Russian petty tyranny will thus be advertised by philatelists the world over.

The Dominican Republic purposes issuing another lot of stamps, three millions in all, the ostensible reason being that on the present stamp the map of the boundary between Hayti and San Domingo is not quite correct.

THE BEST NATURAL APERIENT WATER.

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For GOUT and RHEUMATISM.

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"Hunyadi János has invariably shown itself an effectual and reliable Aperient, which I recommend to the exclusion of all others. Never gives rise to undesirable symptoms even if used continuously for years."
AVERAGE DOSE.—A single glassful before breakfast, either pure or diluted with a similar quantity of hot or cold water.

CAUTION.—Note the name "Hunyadi János," the signature of the Proprietor, ANDREA BALKNER, and the Medallion, on the Red Centre Part of the Label.