

PATTI'S HOME LIFE.

Where La Diva Finds Rest Far from the Madding Crowd.

A MODERN CASTLE IN WALES.

Craig-y-Nos and Its Beauties to an American's Eyes.

HER PENCHANT FOR PRECIOUS STONES.

The Wonders of a Lyric Artists' Matchless Wardrobe.

NICOLINI AS AN EXPERT BILLIARDIST.

Ten Pictures of the Country Surrounding the Abode of the World's Great Queen of Song.

Craig-y-Nos Castle, Ystradgynlais, South Wales, June 27, 1891. Special Correspondence of The Bee.—Royal Albert hall presented a magnificent appearance Saturday. Its 8,000 seats rising tier upon tier, balcony over balcony, round and round its circular walls, were filled to overflowing with London's most fashionable people attracted by the place by the anticipation of hearing the world's greatest prima donna in a matinee concert. This is the empire of the Queen of Song. As soon as Patti presented herself upon the platform the fluttering fans ceased to move. A storm of tumultuous applause greeted her first number. As encore after encore was given, the audience grew more and more wild with enthusiasm. Other participants in the concert received due recognition, but no sooner was the encore to Patti's last rendition completed, than half this vast concourse of London's lovers of music, already satisfied, left their seats in their desire to retain the final impression of their favorite. Suddenly an occasion of her second appearance in the metropolis and at the close of the season affords striking proof that the diva now, more than ever, retains the pre-eminent position which she has so long held in the operatic world. Patti is growing old but she is the youngest singer on the stage, always vigorous, healthy and supple. She talks freely about her forty-eight years but points triumphantly to the fact that she is the only woman in the world who commands \$500 (\$4,000) for singing three or four operatic duets at a matinee concert in London.

Patti Off the Stage. Is no less entertaining, attractive, fascinating. In England as in America, she is accustomed to travel in her own palatial style, and with the consent of the prince of Wales the railway management places the prince's special car at her disposal. An invitation to visit Craig-y-Nos is not to be lightly rejected, and to that extent to accompany its fair owner on her journey to London, it becomes simply a queen's command. When, shortly after 10 o'clock Monday morning, Madame Patti reached the station, she was immediately surrounded by a host of friends who had assembled to bid her good-bye. There were much to say and do, and she was obliged to handshaking. One farewell piece will never suffice. At last it is all over and the train starts. The party settles down for an all-day ride; it comprises besides Madame Patti and her three attendants, a Miss Woodford and her brother, my father and myself. I must not forget to mention the most interesting and latest acquisition, a bullfinch that pipes whole tunes and melodies to perfection. The car is elegant and comfortable, upholstered with morocco-cushioned seats in well arranged compartments. We should never call it luxurious nor venture to tender its use to the prince of Wales should he condescend to travel in America.

Patti could scarcely have been in better humor. The delightful expectation of soon reaching home—that home of which she thinks whenever she sings her famous song—seemed to put her in the best of spirits. Five chairs, hand made, were brought by her. And it is not all classical music. How well I remember the amusement I derived from hearing Patti Rosa sing the ditty, "Oh, Coriolan! Oh, Coriolan! Meet Me Round the Corner," etc. What then was my surprise to hear the same song binned by the diva Patti, to see her belted her hand and perform it with grace and accompanying pantomime! How did Patti Rosa obtain the name? "Oh, she took it," says Madame Patti, "because the cost was cheap." But that marvelous voice must not be endangered. First one window is raised, closed, the opposite one opened and shut. The ventilators must be turned now this way and that. No currents of air can possibly be tolerated in the car.

"Home Sweet Home." And now we are approaching Wales. The landscape becomes more variegated and hilly. At last we reach the Savora tunnel, from which we emerge after five minutes' rapid locomotion, and there we are in Wales. Madame Patti is all excitement and ecstasy; she is again upon familiar ground, again in the country of her choice. The horizon is hemmed in by mountains covered here and there with verdant woods. The erie land is bright green and divided into small patches by means of the darker lines of hedges. At North we are given a view of a locomotive and pass hurriedly up the steep grade. Now begins the crawling of necks and straining of eyes. Everybody gazes eagerly out of the window to catch the first glimpse of Craig-y-Nos. At last it comes into sight! There is, indeed, a most beautiful view, the halfway up the mountain slope; from the lofty blastoff over the center tower flutters America's stately banner—most welcome sight in a foreign land—and at its side the British standard. Craig-y-Nos, the rock of the night, seemingly stands out in somber hue from its green background to w whom it is. It is not the only welcome. Mr. Nicolini is in waiting with the carriage. As we alight, Madame Patti utters a cry of surprise; this is not the Nicolini whom she left but a few days before with a fine full beard, it is a handsome, robust man with blue eyes, brown hair and mustache, and a friendly smile. Despite repeated exclamations, "Is this my husband?" Patti seems to have already accustomed herself to the change and rather seems to like it.

From the station a serpentine paved roadway leads down and around the mountain to the gates of the real enclosure. Craig-y-Nos castle has undergone many alterations and extensions since it came into the possession of Madame Patti eleven years ago. Vast sums have been spent annually in embellishing, modernizing and enlarging it until at present, it represents an investment of over a million dollars. The castle is an imposing, oblong structure with its main frontage towards the rising sun overlooking terraces, lake, valley and mountain. The turretted south wing with its narrow windows and Norman crest was built some eighty years ago. The rest has since been added. Its massive walls of sand-

Fourth Week of Great Cash Clearing Sale \$250,000 Worth of Goods Still Left to Select From.

All goods marked down. We mention a few of the tid-bits, particulars underneath. Gingham at 4 1-2c, was 8 1-3c. Double fold Challis at 5c, was 12 1-2c. Suitings 5c, was 15c. Domestic Satens 5c, was 10c. Barbour's Linen Thread 2 1-2c per spool. Brooks' Soft Finish Cotton 1c a spool. Corsets 69c, was \$1.65; 95c, was \$3.25, and all the remnants that we have accumulated during this great sale in Dress Goods, Silks, Embroideries, Ribbons, Laces and Domestics at prices that are practically giving them away, also all the Sunshades and Parasols put up in lots to close them out. In Cloak Department we offer the whole of our White India Linen Waists at a great reduction, and a lot of Plush Sacques at \$13.00, the price of these was \$27.50.

GREAT CLEARANCE SALE OF DRESS GOODS REMNANTS. THOUSANDS OF YARDS SACRIFICED.

Cost price cuts no figure in this sale. Our object is to clean up and you know what that means. To facilitate the sale of these remnants we place them in seven lots, as follows: Lot 1 at 20c each remnant. Lot 2 at 50c each remnant. Lot 3 at 95c each remnant. Lot 4 at \$1.00 each remnant. Lot 5 at \$2.25 each remnant. Lot 6 at \$3.25 each remnant. Lot 7 at \$5.25 each remnant. This means a saving to you of 65 per cent, and that is a consideration these hard times.

At the same time your choice of 95 Pattern Suits for \$9.95; not one of them worth less than \$20. See them. This will be your last chance to get a 42-inch All Wool Cheviot for 42c per yard. Examine the Camel's Hair Cheviot, French De Beige, Albatross, Flannel Plaids, Check Suitings and Scotch Tweeds we have thrown on our counters to close them out, only 30c. Mohair Brillantine, in all the new and desirable shades for summer wear, choice of the entire line for 60c. Pure Brilliantine, which sells everywhere today at \$1.25, for this week 85c. The new feather-weight Sublime Cloth is taking the lead. Lighter in weight than silk and very durable. Silk to suit it.

At this season has been exceptionally good in this department and we have in consequence accumulated quite a number of remnants. Silk remnants are always good as they can be used so much for combination. They run from half a yard up to ten yards, and are in all kinds and quantities of Silks, Satins, Surahs, Failles, China's, Wash Silk and Gros Grain. Lot 1 10c, former remnant price \$1.00. Lot 2 \$1.25, former remnant price \$2.00. Lot 3 \$1.90, former remnant price \$3.00. Lot 4 \$2.80, former remnant price \$4.00. Lot 5 \$3.60, former remnant price \$5.00. Lot 6 \$4.30, former remnant price \$5.75. Lot 7 \$5.25, former remnant price \$6.75. Lot 8 \$6.10, former remnant price \$7.75. Lot 9 \$7.35, former remnant price \$8.50. Lot 10 \$8.25, former remnant price \$12. Lot 11 \$10, former remnant price \$15. Lot 12 \$13.50, former remnant price \$20.

WHITE GOODS DEPARTMENT.

Short lengths of White Goods at half price. All our Remnants from 30c to 50c, at 15c piece. All our Remnants from 45c to 75c, at 35c piece. All our Remnants from 85c to \$1.00, at 58c piece. All our Remnants from \$1.00 to \$1.50, at 78c piece. All our Remnants from \$1.75 to \$2.00, at 95c piece. All our Remnants from \$2.25 to \$2.50, at \$1.45. All our Remnants from \$2.50 to \$4.00, at 25c Orléans. Among the above remnants will be found some very suitable lengths in black, lawns and organdies.

LINEN DEPARTMENT.

Odd dozen in Napkins, very cheap. Odd lengths in Damask very cheap. Odd lengths in Crash very cheap. Our Towels at 16c and 19c are fast moving away. Secure some of them now. A few more of these Table Cloths left at \$3.98, \$5.75, \$8.75. In connection with the above will be found a quantity of Muslins and Sheetings that we have marked down below cost to close them out.

WASH GOODS DEPARTMENT.

Monday we make still deeper cuts in our already exceedingly low prices in wash Dress Goods. 8c and 10c Ginghams reduced to 4c. 12c Challis double fold, reduced to 5c. 12c Arnelian Suitings, reduced to 5c. 10c Satens, reduced to 5c. 10c Batistes, reduced to 5c. 25c Oriental Crepes, reduced to 13c. 40c and 50c Crepes, reduced to 25c. 40c French Satens, black and white and black, with colored figures, 19c. 40c colored figure Melaines, 19c. 30c Wash Henriettes, 19c. 40c Organdies, 25c. Remnants of Wash Goods at half price.

FLANNEL DEPT.

SECOND FLOOR. Neglige Shirting in all makes. Madras, in stripes and plaids, reduced to 15c, from 25c. Madras, in stripes and plaids, reduced to 35c, from 55c. All other makes in proportion. Our All Wool Suitings, 24 inches wide, from 40c to 12c. The greatest sacrifice of all.

COMFORTS.

Summer weights, in all colors. Cheese Cloth and Silkaloon from \$2 to \$2.75.

RIBBON REMNANTS.

Ribbon Remnants at 7c, worth up to 10c. Ribbon Remnants at 19c, worth up to 40c. Ribbon Remnants at 33c, worth up to 50c. Remnants of Ribbons, worth up to 70c all at 43c each.

EMBROIDERY.

All remnants of the Hamburg Edging and Skirting will be put up in average lots. Remnants 8c, 9c and 10c, all at 7c. Remnants from 13c to 20c, all at 13c. Remnants at 23c, worth up to 30c. Remnants from 35c to 40c, for 33c. And so on all through the stock. The lots will be placed on one counter and marked in plain figures. There will be some exceptional bargains among them, as the goods are all of this season's importation.

LADIES' COLORED PARASOLS.

Lot 1 at 25c—White Conching Parasols. Lot 2 at 70c—Colored Parasols, worth \$1.50. Lot 3 at \$1.95—Colored Silk Parasols, worth \$3.00. Lot 4 at \$4—Silk Parasols, black and colored, worth \$8 and \$8.

CHILDREN'S COLORED PARASOLS.

Lot 1, 13c—Children's Colored Parasols, worth 25c. Lot 2, 55c—Children's Colored Parasols, worth 85c. Lot 3, 85c—Children's Colored Parasols, worth \$1.35. Lot 4, 11c—Children's Colored Parasols, worth \$1.65.

CORSETS.

Great closing out sale of Corsets. The tremendous slaughter we have made in prices will and must wipe out the entire stock in the few days that are left. Lot 1, 30c—18 dozen Corsets which we have always retained at 75c and \$1.50 sizes 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, Monday's price 30c. Lot 2, 60c—In this lot will be found Corsets which we have sold at \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.65, sizes 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; price for Monday 60c. Lot 3, 95c—In this lot will be found some of the finest Corsets in the house, sold at \$2, \$2.50 and \$3.25, sizes 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33; closing out price 95c. Lot 4, 82c—Contains C. P. and G. B. Satin Corsets, sold at \$4.50 and \$6.50, sizes 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25; Monday's price 82c.

MUSLIN UNDERWEAR.

Ladies' 50c Gowns, Monday 35c. Ladies' Corset Covers 25c. Monday 15c. Ladies' Vail, lace trimmed Drawers \$1.38, Monday 75c. Ladies' Embroidered Drawers \$1.25, Monday 60c. Ladies' Vail, lace trimmed Skirts, \$1.50, Monday \$1. Aprons, 25c and 30c, Monday 19c. Children's Dresses, 75c and 90c, Monday 50c. Children's and Infants' Bonnets, 25c per cent off on the \$1.

CORSETS.

French Woven, P. D., C. P., I. C., Good Luck and Sunrise, 50 cents off on the dollar.

GENTS'

Gents' fancy striped Lisle Thread Hose, different grades, originally sold at 75c, now 30c pair. Gents' odd sizes of oxford mixed and cotton Half-Hose at 12c a pair. Gents' fancy trimmed Night Shirts, for 48c each. To close out a line of odd sizes of Boys' Waists, we will offer them at 37c each, worth 60c.

BOYS'

A large full line of sizes in white unlaundered Boys' Waists for 50c, worth 75c to 80c. Boys' French Paralee Laundered Waists, all sizes, at 95c each, always sold at \$1.50.

LADIES'

A few dozen odd sizes of Ladies' Ribbed Lisle Vests, at 13c, regular price 40c. Ladies' fancy striped Lisle Hose, several different styles at 45c, well worth 65c. A few dozen neat patterns of gray and tan striped cotton Hose, at 30c a pair. Black Lisle Thread, fast dye, at 19c.

NOTIONS.

Barbour's Linen Thread at 2c per spool. Brooks' Soft Cotton Thread at 1c per spool. Best Coraline Stays, at 5c in yard lengths. Tubular Bone Casing, at 15c per bolt. A full assortment of Tennis Belts at 10c to 15c. The B. B. Skirt Protector at 20c, in black, brown and gray. Fancy color bordered and white hemstitched all linen Handkerchiefs at 12c, worth 25c. White hemstitched, embroidered and scalloped edge fine Linen Handkerchiefs at 25c, worth 50c.

MILLINERY DEPT.

We will place on sale Monday, July 20th, all our trimmed Hats and Bonnets in Three Lots. Lot No. 1, your choice at \$5.00. Lot No. 2, your choice at \$3.50. Lot No. 3, your choice at \$1.95.

UNTRIMMED HATS.

Children's and Infants' colored Milans and fancy Braids; your choice for \$1.00, regular price \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50. Ladies' and Children's Black Leghorn Hats, your choice for \$1.00, regular price \$2.00.

BOOK DEPARTMENT.

"Romant" prices on Books and Stationery. A few more Encyclopedias at \$1.18, worth \$2.30. A line of \$1.50 12 mo. Books 25c. A line of 25c Novels for 15c. A line of 50c Novels for 35c. 50c Music Folios for 30c to close. 25c Music Folios for 15c to close. 10c Sheet Music, 3 for 10c to close. 25 per cent discount on Baxter and Oxford Bibles. 50 per cent discount on Family Bibles, Prayer Books and Hymnals, single or in sets. Big discounts on everything in this department.

CLOAK DEPARTMENT.

FIVE SPECIAL BARGAINS. Ladies' Vassar Shirts, slightly soiled, only 25c each. Ladies' Colored Shirt Waists, only 35c each. Ladies' Spring Jackets, only \$1 each. Children's Ready-made Gingham Suits, only 25c. We have 29 Plush Skirts that we do not care to move into our new annex. We will offer them at such a price that will sell them all right. Plush Sacques, full 40 inches long, made of genuine seal plush, full seal ornaments, and first-class lining, armaments that we offer at \$27.50 during the winter, we have sold for this sale at \$13 each. Buy one and lay it aside for next winter. Ladies' White India Linen Waists, handsomely omb' ruffled, at 75c, \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50. We have just received the celebrated Carmonita Waist, made of fine linen de Alcala, trimmed with Van Dyke embroidery, only \$2.75 each.

REMNANTS BLACK DRESS GOODS.

Consisting of Silk Warp Henriettes, All Wool Henriettes, Camel's Hair Brilliantines, Wool Serges, Nun's Veilings, Cashmeres, etc., etc., in lengths of from 1 to 10 yards, price for each length 25c, 75c, \$1, \$1.35, \$2, \$2.50, \$3, \$4, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8, \$9, \$10. Amongst them will be found some of our choicest goods.

FALCONER'S MOVING SALE.

stone, now gray and antiquated in appearance, are surrounded by a castellated cornice set off at each end by bastion-like towers rising above the three-storied castle. Recent extensions and additions have been in harmony with the original design. The new center tower is embellished by a clock tower, which strikes the hour exactly like the famous Victoria clock in Westminster. The principal entrance opens in a large airy hall from which a wide convenient stairway leads to the stories above which are devoted to chambers and sleeping apartments. It goes without saying that these rooms are superbly furnished and equipped with all the latest conveniences including electric call bells. Madame Patti's Bondoir is more elaborately yet unostentatiously arranged. The most noticeable piece of furniture is a large safe in which the diva's princely jewels and valuables are securely kept. The chambers are handsomely decorated, not overdone; the other ones are finished with painted woodwork, those just completed in the new addition with beautiful natural wood. On the ground floor to the north of the entrance hall is a cozy little reception room, in which is displayed a number of the greatest trophies. Letters from the crowned heads of Europe and eminent composers, pictures of dear friends bearing autograph inscriptions, among which that of Mrs. Cleveland attracts the eye of the American visitor; chaplets of gold and silver and precious stones and other tokens of esteem present the story of the career of the most famous songstress of our age. The drawing-room on the opposite side of the hall is larger and perhaps a little more elaborately furnished. An adjoining alcove contains a Parian Marble Bust of Patti.

frame. Exquisite flowers, tropical plants, rippling fountains, parrots, cockatoos, doves, canaries—these are the backgrounds; in front lies a panorama, a landscape painted by nature of which the eye never wearies. Along terraces dotted with flowering shrubs, gravel walks and clumps of trees, leads, step by step, to the foot of the valley beneath, where a spashing mountain-stream flows merrily onward over cataract and boulders. Beyond rise the mountains on either side, here covered with wood or grassy pastures, marked by dark green hedges, there exposing rocky crags, behind which every now and then puffs of smoke from passing locomotives can be seen. The birds fit from tree to tree and the rabbits show themselves unabashed. Nature and Art Have United to outdo themselves. It is here that Madame Patti has his morning to himself, breakfast fast being served in his room. Lunch at noon gives the first opportunity for using the lovely dining-room. But it is at dinner, usually served at 7:30 p.m., that this crystal palace, illuminated by electric lights, shines in all its glory. Madame Patti presides at the head of the table, while Mr. Nicolini occupies the seat at the opposite end. The hostess appears in evening dress, and each evening in a different gown. And such gowns! Such jewels! My lady friends may perhaps be interested in knowing exactly what at dinner during the five days of our visit. On Monday she appeared in a white satin dress, the neck and shoulders were adorned with a pearl necklace, pearl earrings, diamond bracelets and a diamond brooch on her breast. On Tuesday, a pink gown of gros grain silk, the whole front covered with India gold and silver, precious stones and pearls; a reversed collar with sixteen diamonds, as large as hazel nuts, costing \$45,000, with diamond earrings, bracelets and rings to match. Wednesday evening, a dress of blue damask, high in the back, but with heart-shaped cut in front, the skirt and bodice embroidered with rubies on pink crepe de chine; the necklace and earrings were of pearls, the diamond bracelets had cost \$10,000. On Thursday Madame Patti was clad in a peach-colored velvet gown with brocade of precious stones and spangles, garnishment of flowers of Oset; this was set off by a magnificent set of jewelry consisting of necklace, earrings and bracelets of large turquoise set in diamonds and worth \$10,000. On Friday evening, a striking ball dress in train, of orange and red satin, the front apron embroidered with pearls, diamonds and spangles. The bottom was garnished with roses; around the neck a necklace of rectangular-cut emeralds framed in diamonds, with earrings, bracelets and brooch to match. This emerald set represents an outfit of \$30,000. If so disposed, Madame Patti could clothe herself daily in a different dress for a period of two months. Every costume has its own fan and is perfection itself. Almost the same can be said of her sets of jewelry. These ornaments represent hundreds of thousands of dollars. "Too much jewelry makes me look over-weighted," says Patti. "But I have so many sets that I must wear them even if I

do look like the jeweled figures in some Catholic shrines. It is on account of these jeweled images that the churches are often robbed." "Robbers have no respect for madonnas," remarked one of the company. "No more have they for prima donnas," came the sharp retort from Patti. It is not only on the operatic stage that Madame Patti has achieved celebrity. She has become famous in other fields and that of sand-dressing is one in which she takes especial pride. At each dinner she personally must dress the salad. It is needless to say that she has good grounds for pride and is not to be blamed for the satisfaction she takes in a handsome good decoration presented to her by some of her intimate friends as a substantial testimonial for artistic sand-dressing. On the south, the summer dining room on a grassy slope which leads to the winter garden, a large, high conservatory entirely of glass and iron. Its erection alone cost over \$30,000. The lofty dome makes room for large palms; flowering vines, hanging baskets, bright blossoms, fragrant perfumes replace in winter or in bad weather the beautiful walks along the terrace. All is lighted by electricity, heated by steam. Grapes, peaches and other fruits are raised in separate hot-houses. There are Birds Everywhere. Patti calls them her children, having lost all her maternal affection upon her birds and dogs and they are treated right royally. Rich, the small Mexican dog with slipped ears and sleek, yellow-brown hair, presented by Mrs. President Diaz, is her special favorite and is carried along on all her tours. The Welsh ponies which Patti herself drives come in for their share of petting, but she feels for all animals. She will allow none to be killed upon the immediate premises. After dinner the evenings are devoted to various entertainments. The billiard room are located in the new wing on the north. There are two large halls, one containing an American table, the other a table with pockets for English players. In the first room is A Grand Orchestration made to order in Switzerland and imported at a cost of 100,000 francs. It is operated by means of an electric motor. All the favorite operas as well as classical symphonies and other dance music are rendered in an artistic manner by this wonderful piece of mechanism. Patti never tires of its music. It plays several selections, particularly a waltz of her own composition, which give her an opportunity to accompany the orchestra with her cataracts. This she does with great skill and her music is rendered in an artistic manner by the rhythmic music to dance about while she plays. "Isn't this nice?" she exclaimed as she fitted along. "Assuredly, but so lonely," I replied. "Come along!" and along I went without waiting for a second invitation. And no miss in her been could possibly wait more easily, gracefully, lightly than she. On the walls of the room, moreover, are hung several suits of stage armour in which Patti and Nicolini have appeared.

The English Billiard Room contains an organ and a grand piano besides the tables. Billiards form one of the chief recreations for Mr. Nicolini, who is quite an expert at the game. His wife, too, is said to be a by no means unskilled player. Nicolini has also had a new acquisition placed in this room—a game of Duetel top played on a handsome table with metallic ornaments in three compartments in which the top, when spun, is to pertain the plus or ring a small bell each of which counts a certain number of points. The game is one in which chance has as great a part as skill but Nicolini plays with a vim and interest that is most amusing. If at his turn the top reaches the third compartment, he dances about and shouts with delight; if it spins on one spot he utters a despairing tone, "It always! It always!" Again when the top is about to spin itself out, his exclamation is "Cochon fat!" (Go away you pig)—a phrase which, after teaching to his parrot, he himself has unwittingly continued to use. Patti's Famous Theater. As if all this did not furnish sufficient means of entertaining and amusing her guests, Madame Patti has had a small theater built quite to her own desire. It is a small gallery with a gallery and plush covered chairs for 300 persons. The ceiling is supported on each side by rows of tiled columns surmounted by Ionic capitals. The whole interior is finished in white with gilded stucco work and frescoed panels. Smaller panels along the cornice bear the names of great composers who have been invited as guests at Craig-y-Nos. On this occasion quite a number of Patti's admirers and friends including many of the British nobility will be entertained; among them Prince Pierre de Valloir, the son of Count de Chambord, Count and Countess de Reuter, the Omenheimers, the great bankers, and the Count and Countess Castre. The castle is in fact A Miniature Hotel. About forty servants are required all the time to keep up the household. Their quarters, the dining rooms, are always inviting in appearance. Two kitchens are maintained, one for English, the other for French cooking. The wine cellar, containing more than 10,000 bottles of the choicest vintages, is the pride of Mr. Nicolini and has been stocked under his personal care. The stables are commodious and well filled, but on account of their proximity to the castle are soon to be replaced by a set of handsome new buildings of brick and stone, more remote from the residence and more nearly completed. The Machinery Building is extremely interesting. A fifty-horse power steam engine furnishes the motive force by which the dynamo is operated. The incandescent lights are not worked by direct current, but receive their supply from a large storage battery. This gives a more steady illumination and obviates the necessity of running the engine at night. An adjoining room contains a machine for making ice by the other process, while near by are the furnaces for manufacturing gas, the gas purifiers and gas holders. In another building is a fully equipped steam laundry, where the washing of the entire establishment can be quickly done. All the electric and gas machinery are duplicated to provide against possible accidents. The inner grounds are completely surrounded by high stone walls, the gates are solid oak, the bridge across the Tawe is closed by a spiked grating. Not is this all; a watchman makes his nightly rounds and notes his visits at various points by means of a time register. Electric burglar alarms are also provided as a protective against housebreakers.

The Diva's Great Popularity among all classes of people in the Swansea valley is largely due to the liberality which she has displayed in extending individual aid to the needy and in contributing to churches and charities in a most generous manner. The theater is not in constant use, but some entertainment is given every little while. A magic lantern throws dissolving views upon the canvas, a minstrel show, a farce or miscellaneous concert is carried out by amateurs or semi-professional players brought up from Swansea. To classes of sometimes Madame Patti gives the same polite attention, applauds heartily and even leads the entire audience in joining in the choruses of "Annie Rooney," while Nicolini varies the text and gives piquancy to the song by chiming in "And Adeline is my sweetest heart." The gallery is always so filled for the farmers and employes of the place who show by their countenances their intense enjoyment of the privilege. There is to be a regular season of Theatricals This Summer Beginning August 12, when Patti herself will take part together with a large number of celebrated professionals whom she has invited as guests at Craig-y-Nos. On this occasion quite a number of Patti's admirers and friends including many of the British nobility will be entertained; among them Prince Pierre de Valloir, the son of Count de Chambord, Count and Countess de Reuter, the Omenheimers, the great bankers, and the Count and Countess Castre. The castle is in fact A Miniature Hotel. About forty servants are required all the time to keep up the household. Their quarters, the dining rooms, are always inviting in appearance. Two kitchens are maintained, one for English, the other for French cooking. The wine cellar, containing more than 10,000 bottles of the choicest vintages, is the pride of Mr. Nicolini and has been stocked under his personal care. The stables are commodious and well filled, but on account of their proximity to the castle are soon to be replaced by a set of handsome new buildings of brick and stone, more remote from the residence and more nearly completed. The Machinery Building is extremely interesting. A fifty-horse power steam engine furnishes the motive force by which the dynamo is operated. The incandescent lights are not worked by direct current, but receive their supply from a large storage battery. This gives a more steady illumination and obviates the necessity of running the engine at night. An adjoining room contains a machine for making ice by the other process, while near by are the furnaces for manufacturing gas, the gas purifiers and gas holders. In another building is a fully equipped steam laundry, where the washing of the entire establishment can be quickly done. All the electric and gas machinery are duplicated to provide against possible accidents. The inner grounds are completely surrounded by high stone walls, the gates are solid oak, the bridge across the Tawe is closed by a spiked grating. Not is this all; a watchman makes his nightly

rounds and notes his visits at various points by means of a time register. Electric burglar alarms are also provided as a protective against housebreakers. The Wide Estate contains about 8,000 acres, of which some 700 surrounding the castle are within the walls. The greater portion of the land is let out to farmers and returns a small interest on the investment. The railway station at Penwith, about a mile distant, is located on the estate. In this vast domain Nicolini retains the right to hunt and shoot, and where they afford the huntsman as the sport as he could desire. Nicolini has figured that by this process every pheasant he shoots costs him \$5. Patti has not the heart to join him in hunting, but she has on exhibition some fine specimens of fish which she has taken. How did Patti come to select this spot in Wales as her home? This question has probably been asked by every visitor at Craig-y-Nos, and Madame Patti is not reticent in replying. "When I first saw the place, I was immediately struck by its beauty. I thought it I had ever seen. Then, too, I heard such clear, sweet voices among the Welsh peasants. But I said: 'This is the country for me. I want to preserve my voice.' Beautiful as it must then have been, each year has added to its charm until now the term 'my paradise' cannot be considered misplaced. No wonder that Patti adores the place and that strong inducements are necessary to draw her from it. Money, when earned by hard labor, is never unwelcome, and so Madame Patti continues to sing as long as her services are in demand at her own figures. She will make a concert tour in the United States this coming winter, and will probably reach Omaha in time to see the blue birds, of which she always speaks; but there is no attraction like Craig-y-Nos! To Craig-y-Nos she will return; for here alone can she find that serene and happy life which she desires.

VICTOR ROSKATZ.

The Dealers Did the Trust.

The American watch association which collapsed a few days ago, was one of the largest combines ever organized in the United States. They had a capital of \$20,000,000 and controlled the output of all the watch factories and the trade of all the large jobbers in this country and Canada. But in spite of their large capital and perfect organization they were forced to the wall by the patient persistent efforts of four large retail houses in the United States. These houses although severely boycotted by the watch trust managed to secure watches of their manufacture which they disposed of to their customers in such quantities and at prices so far below those of the pool as to lure the concern to suspend. These plucky firms were located in New York city, Washington, D. C., Chicago and Omaha, the Omaha firm being Haydon Brothers. This signal success of demolishing trusts proves that they are not so formidable when a determined effort can be secured to overthrow them.