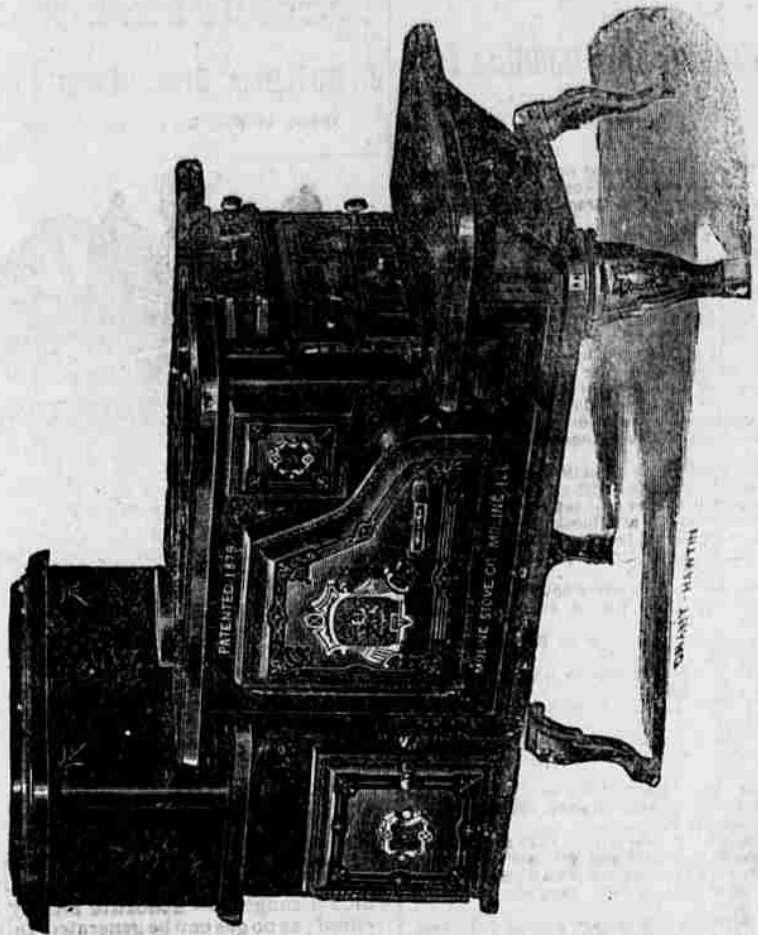


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CAMILLE'S ORIGINAL.

The Story of Dumas' Heroine as Told by Mile. Le-grande. The Well-known French Actress Tells a Romantic Tale Brought to Mind by the Flowers of Decoration Day - At the Antipodes.

Philadelphia Press. A graceful, charming woman is Mile. Eugenie Legrande, the artistic actress, who is now starring at the Chestnut street opera house.

"I met several of your military posts this morning as I was returning to the park," she said to a newspaper man yesterday. "You know we have a similar ceremony in France, only we decorate the graves of all our dead every year, just to keep the dear ones in remembrance. I was thinking as we were driving, of the grave of Alphonse Dumas in Pere la Chaise cemetery, Paris. Of course you know her story? Not why she was the origin of the older Dumas' story, 'La Dame aux Camélias,' the novel from which the play of 'Camille' was adapted, and which also inspired Verdi's opera, 'La Traviata.' But I must tell you all about it. When the younger Dumas was a dashing fellow about town he used to make himself especially agreeable to ladies. One night at the opera he was particularly struck with the beauty of a certain lady who occupied a box. He followed her bronch in a cab and discovered where she lived; it was in the Quartier Brede. I need not explain to you what sort of locality the Quartier Brede is; sufficient to say, that Dumas felt presented himself on the following morning to the lady. At first he was repulsed but he persevered - he was in love, desperately in love with the woman whose surroundings plainly indicated her condition. That woman was Alphonse Duplessis, Dumas called again and again, and his earnestness so gained upon Alphonse that she returned his love. She cast loose all other chains which bound her, and promised to live for him alone. They were to be married, and then the elder Dumas heard the story. He was naturally horrified at the union his son was about to make, and remonstrated with him but in vain. I forgot to tell you that Alphonse is depicted with consumption, just as Camille is depicted in the play. Finally the elder Dumas determined to rescue his son at all hazard, called on Alphonse and begged and implored her by the love she bore his son to renounce him. He demonstrated to her the social degradation she would bring on the young man by uniting her life to his, and at last she consented to repulse young Dumas in such a manner as to break off the marriage. She was true to her promise and within three months died of consumption and a broken heart. Previous to her death she sent for her lover and acquainted him with the sacrifice she had made in his behalf. The elder Dumas immortalized her self-abnegation in his novel, but his son kept her memory green to this day. Her grave in Pere la Chaise is always fresh with flowers, and on All Souls' day, the day upon which we specially decorate the graves of the dead, the lover, now an elderly man, may always be seen paying his devotion in person at the grave of the ill-fated Alphonse.

"I have told you a long story, have I not? But, do you know, I never thought of Josephine's story in connection with any part of 'Camille' until today, although I have played the role hundreds of times in England, Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand."

HER TRIP TO THE OTHER WORLD. "What induced you to go to the Antipodes?" "What do you suppose? You may be sure it was a large salary. However, I cannot regret my venture, for I have spent some of my happiest days in the 'other world,' as the great colony is called in Europe. Somehow I seem to be a wanderer ever since I made my debut at the Odeon theatre, in Paris, in 1868. I was quite a young girl, but I loved the stage, and my father, who was a treasury official, had interest enough to get me into the Conservatoire. At the Odeon I attracted the notice of the emperor and empress - I was named after the empress - and at their desire I was transferred to the Vaudeville. What my fate would have been had the Prussian war not occurred, I do not know. However, that event drove me to England, where, as a member of Dejazet's company, I performed for a season or two at the Opera Comique Theatre, London. I fell in love with Shakespeare and determined to learn English. I studied hard, and in six months I was enabled to make my debut at the St. James theatre at Olympia. After a year or two I was engaged by Coppin's agent in London for the Theatre Royal, Melbourne. I love Australia. It is thoroughly refined and civilized, and the society of Melbourne, Victoria, Sydney and other great towns will compare favorably with that of great cities in America and Europe.

"I learned to ride, shoot and swim out there, and I guess I could astonish a few sportsmen if they were to meet me in the field. I have been days at a time in the saddle and have thought no more of shooting a kangaroo than a rabbit. One of my friends in Victoria was Sir Samuel Wilson, the Australian gentleman who recently purchased the late Lord Beaconsfield's seat, Hughenden Manor. One of his estates, and he has several in Australia, is 3,000 miles square, and I suppose he possesses three or four million sheep. It is impossible to describe the vastness of a seat in Australia. On one occasion he gave a friend 20,000 sheep on the condition that the animals be removed the same day. It was the dry season, and ample as the pastures were the Wilson sheep were running short of food and water. The friend took the sheep, and the next morning succeeded in disposing of them for seven shillings each. Not a bad gift, 47,000. However, the donor never missed it.

"You have not complimented me on my acting. Bah! You will latter

now, of course. Do you know that an American named Washington Irving Bishop claims to possess the sole right of production of 'Camille,' whether in England or in France. The play was originally adapted from the novel for Matilda Heron, and Bishop asserts he purchased the right from her agent after her death. If his claim is just and he brings suit, he will be able to sue for a fortune in royalties from Fanny Davenport, Clara Morris and several other actresses, including my unfortunate self. However, sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. Meanwhile, au revoir, it is time for me to go to the theatre."

An Old Friend.

He was afflicted with a lame back and general debility; he was recommended to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills at once. This famous specific is a positive remedy for bodily pain. 61w

NINETY MILES IN EIGHTY MINUTES.

An Engineer Who Traveled from New York to Philadelphia in One Hour and Twenty Minutes. From the Brooklyn Eagle. "I've made some pretty good time myself," said the second engineer. "I took a train through from New York to Philadelphia in eighty minutes."

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"Not a bit of it," said the first engineer. "Why, afore we was half way Philadelphia, both of our knees stokers were down on their knees praying, and I had to do the feeding myself until I swore 'em back to their senses again. Well, everything went well the first two-thirds of the run, and I was just a whistling to myself over the second I was in, when there came a report like a rifle, and I knew one of the blasted piston rods had busted. There was nothing to do but stop, and I lost ten fixin' up. The big gun left the coach and came down to see what was up. 'What's to be done?' said he. 'I've got one piston rod left,' says I, 'and I'll take you through on time. He knew me, and he just lit a fresh cigar and walked bare to the coach as contented as a lamb. Well, I just set those praying firemen to work for all they were worth, and I had her up to sixty pounds over the limit in less 'n no time. Then I let her slide, Lord, Harry, I thought old Jim would jerk the stuffin' out of everything behind him. We just played hop scotch, and I don't believe we touched the rails more nor four or five times a mile. I know it was \$100 check or nothing, and I was after that check. Well, those firemen got to praying worse 'n ever, and I had to swear I'd throw them overboard afore they'd come to time. I tell you we was just movin'. Why, the towns got runnin' all together, and we had no more 'n got a squint at one station afore we was five miles past the next one."

"Hear! hear!" said the second engineer. "That's laying it on too strong."

"True as you're here," said the first engineer. "I'd introduce you to the praying firemen, but they cut the business after that run, and I kinder lost sight of 'em. Well, we got within ten miles of Philadelphia and I begun to stop her."

"Yes; I knew I couldn't do it inside of ten miles, and I didn't quite fetch it at about what time we ran into the station we sawed in the bumpers and ripped up about twenty feet of the platform afore old long-legged Jim would agree the run was over, but I got the check," and the Yankee engineer thoughtfully drained his glass, as his friend ordered the barkeeper to "set 'em up again."

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