

SUCCESS IN MARRIAGE.

The Sensible Views of an Extremely Sensible Woman.

On the much mooted question, "Is Marriage a Failure?" a lady writes to the Chicago Inter Ocean some remarks so sensible that we can not but quote them for the benefit of our readers:

A woman makes a failure of marriage unless she makes an effort to do a great deal more than is implied in her marriage contract. It is supposed that the husband supplies the material for the home, and they are very raw materials indeed unless the wife takes hold of those means with the hand of a creator, building up out of them helps and associations loved and needed by both. And a woman must put her soul into her house, or it is a hollow and sounding shell.

As high as we must rate the accomplishment of good housekeeping, it is not all in the making of a home. I know a lady who was a marked failure as a housekeeper who was the idol of her husband, and who graduated to the world a family of accomplished and honored children. And there are women who in pain and weakness are confined to their own rooms, yet who manage to hold the power in an orderly house and fill it full of love-light and happiness sufficient for the comfort of all who cross its threshold.

It is the quality of recognizing and filling need that is the essential quality of success in marriage. Practically, if a man comes home from business with a headache, hungry for a bit of sympathy and love, and a good deal of quiet, and finds his wife in a raging excitement over an elaborate dinner, and is ordered to keep out of the way and amuse the children till the great proceeding is culminated, he is about as unfortunate as the man who brings a college friend home to dinner and finds his wife in wrapper and slippers deep in a French novel. But the woman who spies the coming friend from the window slides out of her wrapper in a twinkling and appears upon the scene in due time with a soul cheering cup of French coffee, is the woman who makes her husband envious among men.

Unfortunately women have hobbies, and ride and ride and never perceive that they are boring their companions to death. There are men who would go to war to be rid of paper flowers, hair flowers, rugs, tidies and what not; and there are men who think art and music are inventions of the evil one to make people miserable. Any one, anywhere, who cultivates a hobby at the expense of other people's comfort is making a failure of life; but true politeness of the heart between friend and friend, man and wife, will obviate the danger of overdone amusements.

It is easier to forgive virtuous excess of zeal, and it is mostly excess of zeal for excellence of some kind that causes some women to be more exclusive housewives than wives of men. The greatest charity should be extended to a woman who makes her house so perfect in detail and polished in appearance that her friends go into it with fear and trembling, for she is afflicted with a virtuous zeal, and has only overdrawn a very good thing. Housekeeping has its fanatics and martyrs as well as any other good cause.

But housekeeping conducted as a means of happiness and comfort, either in a cabin or a palace, is a science that no wife can neglect if she wishes to sustain the law of mutual helpfulness in marriage.

A wife expects her husband upon marriage to begin a course of tolling for her support without remission or any suspension of responsibility, and why should he not expect her to aspire to the greatest excellence in housemaking? Just here is where the wedge of dissolution frequently enters. A woman fails to give as much as she receives—that is, she works from compulsion more than from a desire to keep up her side of the partnership with dignity and grace.

But one says: "I work all the time; I work like a slave." Yes, my dear, you do work like a slave—just like a slave, and not like a responsible being seeking an end and not the means. You have braided little Eva's dress up and down and all over, which does not help little Eva, and your husband would have appreciated you more had you spent your evenings with folded hands and happy face in your rocking-chair by his side. You spent hours of time on unnecessary things and forgot the essentials of your partnership, which is to evolve as much peace and comfort as possible out of your material.

The science of good housekeeping in these days, when we can buy so many conveniences, is not so much superiority in any one thing as a general excellence in every thing. We do not need cooking-schools for girls so much as schools where all branches of home-making are taught, in order to preserve the balance of usefulness in the girl's mind. A man does not want to marry a chef de cuisine, and it is no wonder the papers make fun of cooking-schools. To learn one department of housekeeping to the neglect of everything else is ruinous.

If a woman is to marry, there is nothing so much to be valued as good health and good sense and a very loving heart, and then it will follow that she will adapt herself to the calls upon her ability. When a woman marries for a life of ease and doesn't get it, there is certainly no remedy in her case so long as she forgets that life is a struggle anywhere, and feels that she should be excused from helping to carry the burdens of those by whom she may be surrounded.

The mutual bearing and forbearance of life is as greatly the secret of happiness in marriage as in anything else. We have to tolerate unpleasant things in our companions in any relations of life, and why try to build up a law of marriage in any other way?

Rather Bright, Wasn't It?

Not a thousand miles from Boston dwells a man who has recently wed a third spouse. It was the somewhat

eccentric whim of the second wife to have a picture painted wherein she and the first wife were represented as standing together with their arms entwined about each other's waists. When the third wife came into power she was at first somewhat puzzled to know what to do with this extraordinary production of combined affection and art. With genuine woman's wit, however, she hit upon the idea of having the piece worked over, and with what result may be judged from a conversation in regard to the picture which took place between the bride and one of her wedding callers. The visitor inquired if the picture represented relatives of the family.

"No, not relatives," the wife replied. "I believe the originals were distant connection of my husband, but the picture represents 'Faith and Resignation.' It is thought that the figure of Faith resembles a former friend of Mr. Smith, but I cannot tell, as I never saw her."—Boston Transcript.

Englishmen as Husbands.

I wish a few American women could have English husbands for about one month. They would then realize what it means to take all the money that Charles has got, while Charlie laughs at your cuteness and then laughs still more when at midday you call him up on the telephone, ask him if he loves you, tell him you have seen a bonnet that will make him think you are 15 years old, and repeat that delicious day when you first met him, and won't he please send you a check for it?

The English husband is not built this way. His creed is that a woman should have as little money as possible, as few desires, and then look as well as women who have more money and gratify all their wishes. The Englishman as a man is most interesting—as a husband he is a failure.—New York Graphic.

Emphasis in Life.

Some people find fault because a few have so much influence in politics, in business, in society and even in church. They seem to forget that it is inevitable and applies even in childhood and youth. In every school and on every playground a few dictate the policy, and lead in fun and hard work, in thought and action, because of the emphasis they place upon what they say and do. It is still in emphasis that usually determines success. If it is known how any one emphasizes life it is easy to estimate the probabilities of success. Emphasis in life is much like emphasis in reading. The first principle in each case is to emphasize ideas, not words. There is a radical difference between the two. Superintendent George Howland of Chicago read "Evangeline" to one of the grammar schools of that city on Friday afternoon a year ago, and I chanced to be present when the pupils read their compositions on the reading.

A bright little foreign boy wrote: "I thought so grate a man would read very loud, but he didn't. I thought he would emphasize it lots, but he never emphasized a word; but, oh, my, didn't he picture the story, though! I shall see it as long as I live." This is a vivid illustration of emphasis upon ideas rather than words. This principle holds in life. Success depends upon magnifying essentials. Some people tire us in their talk because they dwell upon minor details about which we care nothing, while others fascinate us by giving the pith of a story so that we do not wish a word omitted. This is a land and age of progress. A man's life must show on the face of it that every word and act tells, and that he has not done the best that he will ever do.—St. Louis Republican.

Remedy For Sunstrokes.

Whatever is to be done in this disease, must be done quickly. Clinical, as well as experimental observations, enforces this doctrine. There should in such cases be no waiting for the doctor. The remedy is so simple, the death so imminent, that the good Samaritan passing by should save his brother. The good Samaritan must, however, have a cool head to be useful. Not every man who falls unconscious on a hot day has a sunstroke. There is fortunately one criterion so easy of application that any one can use it. Go at once to the fallen man, open his shirt bosom and lay the hand upon his chest; if the skin be cool, you may rest assured that whatever is the trouble, it is not sunstroke. If, on the contrary, the skin be burning hot, the case is certainly sunstroke, and no time should be lost. The patient should be carried to the nearest pump or hydrant, stripped to his waist, and bucketful after bucketful of cold water dashed over him until consciousness begins to return, or the intense heat of the surface decidedly abates.—St. Louis Magazine.

Getting Even.

Mr. Hayseed (of Hayseed county)—"Here's a letter from some one in New York city named Blank, and they want to know if it will be convenient to have them and their nine children visit us all summer on the farm. Who is the Blanks, anyway?"

Mrs. Hayseed—"The Blanks? Blanks? Let me see! Oh, them's the city cousins we visited during the Centennial."—New York Weekly.

Where is the Schoolmaster?

There are 125,000 persons who can neither read nor write, all in one state, and it isn't in Texas, either, that we find them. They are in Massachusetts. What is wanted in Massachusetts is a little less culture and a little more reading, writin', n' rethmetic; less eye glasses and more eyes; less accent and more education.—Burdette in Brooklyn Eagle.

It takes two to make a bargain, and a third party to find out that it wasn't so much of a bargain after all.—Puck.

A Waste of Eggs.

Railway pigs do not always secure happiness for themselves by making their fellow passengers comfortable, writes a Boston correspondent. A friend of your correspondent chanced to witness a melancholy adventure which befell two of the breed on a suburban train the other day. Pig No. 1 was unjustifiably occupying two seats, while other persons were compelled to stand for want of sitting room. To keep the second place at his side he had deposited thereon a good-sized paper bag full of something. The train drew up at a station on its way into town and pig No. 2 entered the car with a slam. Pig No. 1 was a selfish pig, whereas pig No. 2 was an aggressive pig. Both varieties are only too familiar. Now ensued a tragedy in one act. Pig No. 2 made his way along the aisle until he came to the bench occupied by pig No. 1. For the accommodation of himself and his paper bag. Then he paused and glared. Doubtless if he had asked pig No. 1 to remove the offending parcel and make room for him, he would have acquiesced and all would have been peaceful and lovely. Pig No. 2, however, did not choose to make any such polite request. He simply spread his coat tails and sat down upon the paper bag with the ponderous emphasis of about 180 pounds, avoirdupois. Squash! Pigs Nos. 1 and 2 leaped to their feet simultaneously. On the countenance of the former was an expression of pardonable anger, on that of the latter were written emotions of horror and alarm. At the same time, the passengers near by observed that pig No. 2 was literally covered as to his rear with a fluid of chrome yellow tint, which trickled down the legs of his trousers to the floor. The seat he had so suddenly vacated was a puddle of the same.

"Sir! exclaimed pig No. 1, wrathfully, 'how dare you smash my eggs?'" "Jackass!" replied pig No. 2, with equal heat, "what do you mean by setting a trap with your infernal hen fruit for decent people to sit down upon?"

"Two dozen and a half, fresh laid," said pig No. 1. "I'll thank you to pay me for them."

"A brand new pair of fourteen dollar pants!" rejoined pig No. 2. "Replace them or fight!"

It was the brakeman who interfered and put an untimely stop to what promised to be an unusually interesting scrimmage. At the last view a writer's friend had of the combatants, as the train came to a full stop in the Boston depot, pig No. 1 was leaving the car breathing awful threats of action for assault, while pig No. 2 was being wiped off with newspapers by the brakeman aforesaid. Most of the passengers, strange to say, appeared to be grieved that the two had not been unseated. There are plenty of railroad pigs to spare in these parts.

Old Stories, But Good.

The Rev. Dr. Joshua Peterkin is perennial in humor, as he is in goodness. One of his anecdotes in the Episcopal council was that during a flood in the Ohio Valley a relief boat went to a submerged house and found the thrifless owner penned up in the second story. Supplies were handed in to him through an upper window, when he broke forth: "Thank the Lord; I don't know what I should have done but for this blessed flood." Another was where a good Methodist brother had preached about the benefits of humility and poverty; and when he called on one of his devout flock to lead in prayer the latter turned the doctrine of the sermon on its astonished pastor in this unexpected manner: "Lord, you keep him humble and we'll keep him poor."—Lynchburg Virginian.

The Samoan Treaty.

The conclusion of the Berlin Conference on Samoan affairs is hailed as eminently satisfactory from the American standpoint. The only particular in which our representatives do not appear to have secured what they were disposed to insist upon was with regard to the indemnity claimed for the destruction of German life and property during the disturbances last December on the islands. The demand of the German Commissioners was heavy enough to seriously embarrass the natives, but this our agents would not concede, and the amount was reduced so as to be nominal merely. It ought to be nothing at all. The Samoans certainly had belligerent rights and the Germans should bear losses which they brought upon themselves.

One gratifying feature of the treaty is that it secures governmental autonomy to the natives and obviates the need of any extended interference on our part in affairs with which it is a blunder for us ever to have had anything to do. There is to be an advisory council, composed of representatives of the United States, Germany and England, the Englishman only to have a vote in case of disagreement between the two others. Malletoa is to be reinstated and a constitutional form of government provided for him to preside over. Courts for the settlement of land questions are to be established. No foreign power is to pre-empt.

Let us hope that the matter is now ended, and that it will be the last time this great big Republic is inveigled by insignificant busybodies into bothering itself in an international controversy about a little patch of land more than five thousand miles away in Polynesia and peopled by a small lot of more or less naked savages.—New York World.

The Swaying of Chimneys.

Observations upon the sway of tall chimneys during high winds show that one 115 in height and four feet in total diameter at the top waved twenty inches during a heavy gale, and another 164 feet high, but with a six and one-half feet diameter of flue, moved through an arc of only six and one-half inches.

Trout That Reasoned and Remembered.

"Some time before the death of Seth Green, the celebrated New York fish culturist and naturalist," said a Philadelphiaian who takes great interest in piscicultural matters, "I paid a visit with him to the fish hatchery of that state at Caledonia. In one of the ponds there at that time there were 5,000 large brook trout, every one of which had been captured with the fly-tied on barbless hooks—in unfrequented brooks in the Adirondack region. These trout, Mr. Green said, had convinced him that fish have reasoning power and memory. When they were hooked he said, and were reeled slowly in by the careful fisherman who were capturing them for the state pond, they had time and opportunity to note the form and character of the tackle that made them prisoners. According to Mr. Green they never forgot that experience. Of trout had been in the pond a long time, the females never being allowed to spawn there, and would follow Mr. Green as he walked along the edge of the water, tossing bits of liver into the pond. To show that his theory about the memory and reason was correct he would carry a cane and a fish rod concealed behind his back. If he took the cane from its concealment and held it out over the water the fish paid no attention to it; but the moment he produced the rod with its reel and line attached away the trout scampered like a flash to distant parts of the pond. Mr. Green told me that he would permit anyone to cast a fly in that pond to his heart's content, as he was satisfied that not one of the trout would come near it, so vividly did they remember their enemy of five years ago." Philadelphia Press.

The Health of the World.

The other day I took up a New York newspaper and read: "The dictates of fashion death to health and happiness. The world is cursed with sick people. It is almost impossible to find a well woman, and not a little difficult to find a perfectly well man," and so on. It was all anent the poor, much abused corset, that hapless woman insists on wearing to the grave, but let that pass.

We don't care a button about corsets in Boston, where the women go about looking like bags run through a cylinder press; but what I would like to remark is this: Corset, or no corset, a consideration which ought not to affect the sterner sex, the world is much more healthier than it was 60 or a 100 years ago. It is a deal bigger in proportion, but physicians who have reached the good old age of 70 odd affirm that the average life of is greater than in their youth. One of the most thoughtful practitioners here, a man of learning and wide pathological research, says the improvement in the American race, physically, is due to its regard to hygienic laws, better food, less medicine, and the protection science has afforded against the attacks of climate.

Our great-grandmothers killed themselves wearing low shoes in mid-winter, and died of consumption because they would not cover up their necks and arms, and it was rare in those days to find a New England family that had not lost one or more members by that disease, while now their descendants have almost eradicated its seeds from their constitutions, and look the picture of health in—corsets. Well, you pay your money and so forth, but as to getting frightened by the resounding phrases of dress reform, don't. Perhaps the dear girls, though, are not as healthy as they appear to the appreciative eye of a believer in anti-sloppiness.—Boston Herald.

Where Cars Are Run With Sails.

I was looking at some models, in the National Museum, of curious cars used in the early days of railroading in this country, when Mr. Watkins, the curator, pointed out one particular one that had a mast and sail. Experiments with such cars were made on the Baltimore & Ohio and on the South Carolina road. It was then a serious question whether the motive power on railroads would be sail, horse or steam. The steam locomotive was looked upon as an experiment. Sail cars are used today on a guano railroad on the island of Malden, in the South Pacific. They are, in fact, used nearer home than that, for railroad men at Barnegat Beach, when the wind is favorable, frequently ride over the road on construction cars, sloop-rigged. "The wind has a good deal to do with railroading even today," Mr. Watkins said. "If you go to the Board of Intelligence at the Board street station, Philadelphia, and ask if some train, say from New York, is likely to be on time, you may be informed that it is likely to be four or five minutes late because there is a strong wind from the west. Winds make considerable difference in the running time of trains."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Be Good.

Pretty Marie Jansen hasn't very much to do in Francis Wilson's new opera at the Broadway Theatre, New York, but she has certainly created a sensation with her new song entitled Be Good, and a controversy is threatened over the question whether or not the song may not be too suggestive for the kind of audiences which Mr. Wilson in the Oolah has attracted since the opening night. One of the verses in the song describes how a young man carresses his sweetheart and dallies with her tresses, the tresses rhyming with caresses, of course, and the young girl thus tenderly treated remonstrates with him and insists that he must "be good." And Miss Jansen utters the phrase with subtle and humorous suggestiveness that gives to it its fullest possible significance.—Ex.

Swindling at Calais.

There was one fellow in particular whose roguery impressed me by its sheer boldness and nerve. He was a tall, gaunt ruffian, with a broken nose and a goitre like an Italian Swiss. His hat was a dingy old English derby, his shabby dress showed not even the faintest notion of imitating a uniform, and he spoke only a few words of English. Yet he was going around and collecting from all the passengers whom observation showed knew no French, the sum of 6d. for each piece of luggage they had brought over on the steamer. In this he was aided by all the porters, who, because they spoke English, had been employed to carry this luggage. These thieves having satisfied themselves that their particular patron knew no French, would beckon to this chief swindler, and then say: "This is the agent of the steamship company. You must pay him 6d. each for nine pieces of luggage." Of course this sweeping fraud would now and again strike a snag. Some passenger who retained his senses in the tumult and crush would explain that he was not born yesterday. Then the tout would make a pretense of looking at this wise man's luggage ticket, and, with unabashed effrontery, say: "Oh, I see you paid on the other side." To talk to the station-master or train officials about this impudent rascality would be like whistling to the moon. They are all leagued together, from the top to the bottom, and they are the cheekiest crew of villains to be found at the present moment anywhere outside a prison.—Cor. New York Times.

He Got His Bath Free.

A good story is told on Bally Magruder, keeper of a bath house at Sanford, Fla. A boy applied to him for a bath but as he had no money he was told that he could not get one. However, upon reflection, Bailey said to him: "I will tell you what I will do. If you get and six other boys I will let you have your bath free." The boy agreed to the proposition, and went and got the requisite six boys and all were admitted to the bath room. Mr. Magruder told the attendant of the agreement, and told him not to charge the boy anything for his bath. After waiting while the attendant went in to collect fare, what was his surprise to see the six boys perched upon the benches watching the one boy take his free bath.

The "Yellow Fever" in New York.

Society has the yellow fever. Not the scourge, but an insatiable taste for the color. The fancy has been raging for some time and still the cry is more, palms are displayed in windows, corners and hallways, and in nothing but a yellow jardiniere is the beauty of color and foliage so effectively brought out. No cabinet is considered relieved without a bit of yellow porcelain, and a drop lamp or pedestal burner of orange china, with trimmings of blackened iron, is the very acme of artistic taste. Then there is the king's blue candlestick, with the candle of gilded yellow wax; and how can you imagine a bunch of mignonette more poetic than when displayed in a smooth bowl of underglazed yellow? These crazy colorists, who are a law unto themselves, go so far as to worship the marigold, "that molten thing of beauty," which the florists were obliged to force and which brings as good returns as the queen of flowers, the rose. But think of putting yellow marigolds in a yellow bowl, and then say who dictates in chromatics.—New York Sun.

A Pocket Fence Over a Hill.

"R. D. C." asks if it will take more pickets to build a fence through a hill than over it, the pickets to be set two inches apart, and to be two inches wide in both cases. It will depend on how the pickets are set. If in both cases they are set perpendicularly to the plane of the hill the same number will be required in both cases. But if the pickets over the hill are set perpendicularly to the surface of the hill it will require more, but how many more will depend upon the difference in distance over and through the hill.—Chicago News.

Very Amusing.

Second Husband—Are you fond of me as you were of your first husband, dear?

Wife—Yes, indeed, and if you were to die I would be just as fond of my third. I'm not a woman to marry for anything but love.—Omaha World.

The Ungallant Outhbert.

Sir Outhbert, that out-and-out woman hater, would have no female creature about his place in Lindfars, not suffering even a cow, saying, "Where there was a cow there must be a woman, and where there was a woman there must be mischief." In the cathedral at Durham, dedicated to him, a black cross in the pavement marked the spot beyond which no woman was allowed to pass. In 1833 Edward III. and his queen went to the priory at Durham where they lodged together. In the middle of the night a monk broke rudely into their room, saying to the queen that St. Outhbert loved not her sex, and that she must up and go. The queen tumbled out of bed, undressed as she was, and spent the rest of the night in the church, praying for pardon to the patron saint whom she had offended. In 1417 two servant girls dressed themselves as men and "impiously" approached the saint's shrine, to be severely handled by the authorities.—Fortnightly Review.

She Would Go.

Miss Gotham—"You'll join our theater party to-night, of course, Miss Wabash?"

Miss Wabash (of Chicago)—"What is the play?"

Miss Gotham—Pygmalion."

Miss Wabash—"Yes, indeed, with pleasure! You know papa is in the pork business."—Epoch.

A Fascinating Man.

Virtue, unfortunately, does not fascinate. The veriest scoundrel that ever drew breath is apt to be a thousand times more magnetic than he, who, having marked out an ethical path for himself, proceeds religiously to follow it. All women like insinuating manners. They represent as it were, what a garniture of trifles represents on an entree. They give flavor as well as artistic beauty. The fascinating man is always a skilled artist. He must assume, if he have it not, a tenderness that never loses sight of itself, and he must continually show an appreciation that presents him always in the light of a suppliant on bended knees, and never as one who demands or expects anything.

Nearly all women are vain, and the man who would fascinate must begin by flattering a woman's vanity. But he must likewise take care that his modus operandi is never discovered or its existence ever suspected. Otherwise he is lost. The courage and independence born of possession unfortunately incite to the reckless expression of absolute truth, and a man who desires to please a woman, should never tell the whole truth. Suggest it, play with it, ignore it entirely, but reveal it never! The Latin races are adepts in the art of fascination. Why? Because they are always lovers, or pretend to be lovers, which in the end amounts to the same thing.

Emerson expressed an unalterable truth when he said: "All the world loves a lover." But in order to be a lover it is not necessary to rush into vulgar protestation of affection. A glance of the eye, a pressure of the hand, the particular curl of the lip in a smile, the hundred trivial courtesies that appeal to the feminine sympathies are embodied in the man who fascinates. And when he has once mastered the secret of feminine inclination and the special qualifications of feminine taste, his way is clearly marked. Be he ugly as Satan, he will not fail in personal magnetism.—Once a Week.

He Was Too Honest.

"I try to be a man of my word," he said, as he entered a Cadillac eating house yesterday, "but I can't always do as I promise."

"What did you want?" asked the proprietor.

"You gave me a square meal on tick two months ago. The bill was forty-five cents. I promised to pay in six weeks, but I am a little late."

"I don't remember the circumstance."

"Perhaps not, as you are a big-hearted man, but I do, and here's your money."

The proprietor pulled in a \$2 Canadian bill and flung out the change, rather disgusted with the man's honesty. Ten minutes later, however, this disgust had changed to admiration. In making change he took a closer look at the bill, and on the back he found the stamp: "Suspended 1884."—Detroit Free Press.

How It Feels to Drop 3,000 Feet.

"How does it feel to let go of the balloon when you are two or three thousand feet in the air?" said Thomas F. Grinly, the parachute jumper. I am sure I can not tell. One comes down so rapidly he hardly has time to analyze his feelings. Macolain, my partner, compares the sensation to that of being upset in the river. We cut loose from the balloon almost mechanically, and before we realize we are loose, we have shot down a couple of hundred feet, and thereafter the remainder of the descent is easy. It does not jar you until when you strike the ground, if you strike on your feet. In fact there is less jarring to the system than if you jumped off of a six-foot high fence. Neither is there any appreciable difference in the air to the height which we attain. It is a great deal purer, though, but not as rarified as you would suppose.—Washington Post.

Luminous Numbers Wanted.

Anyone who has been forced to search for a house number after dark will appreciate the words of a Western newspaper man who is at present visiting this city. "A fortune and the gratitude of his fellow men," said he, "await that person who shall discover some practical method of applying phosphorus to the manufacture of luminous street numbers. Comparatively few of the houses of this or any other large cities have the street numbers so placed as to take advantage of the light from the hall gas jet, and there are many houses and buildings where no light is kept burning during the evening. Many of the numbers are on outside doors, and as it seems to be the rule to leave them open, the number is lost to view from the sidewalk. Then, if a man happens to be in search of a particular number after the regulation bedtime, his chances for prowling around for an hour or more, not to mention incidental annoying experiences, are excellent. At such times how much unnecessary profanity might be prevented by some simple illuminative device. It seems strange that some inventive genius don't turn his mind to this subject."—New York Times.

Choosing a Profession.

Pretty Girl—"I have called, sir, to ask if I am beautiful enough for the stage?"

Theatrical Manager (kindly)—"No-o, my child, yours is not a good stage face; but don't despair. You would be a brilliant success as a typewriter."—New York Weekly.

The Man for the Place.

Mr. Oldchap—"Yes, I have concluded to apprentice my son to a barber." Friend—"Has he a bent that way?" "Well, no; but I think he'll be popular. He doesn't like onions."—New York Weekly.

Wiggins says, the seas are drying up. They set him a good example—Pittsburgh Chronicle.

A Real American.

If the people of England and France were asked to-day to say who is the most characteristic and distinguished representative citizen of the United States that has been seen in Europe in the present generation, they would declare without a murmur of dissent that Buffalo Bill, otherwise Colonel William F. Cody, is the man. If the people of Berlin, Vienna and other capitals had also seen Colonel Bill they would testify to the same fact as the people of London and Paris would do.

The reason for this is simple enough. When the Europeans look upon a representative of the United States they do not expect to see an imitation Englishman, nor do they desire it. An Englishman as such is all right in any country; but a counterfeit article, fabricated out of an American who is ashamed of his nationality, is a pitiful spectacle, and he would not meet with much consideration in Europe if there were not money to be made out of him. Probably no Americans were ever more admired and appreciated abroad than were Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. They were true representatives of the newest and freest people who could claim a nationality. They were proud of their origin and their quality, and kings and potentates were glad to do them honor. To-day the average American of the Northern States when he goes abroad endeavors to disguise himself so as to look as much as possible like a European, but he is not successful in deceiving anybody but himself.

In this way the Europeans are sickened with these Americans ashamed of their country, and when they see a grand and heroic representative of the New World, of the great Wild West, wild no more—when they see all this in the handsome and dashing figure of Buffalo Bill, they recognize in him an American worthy of America. To be an American to-day is to be more than lord or princeling. It is to be one of a race that has the control of nations and the shaping of the world's history in its keeping.

A people powerful in peace, overwhelming in war and possessing the richest country on the planet, have long ago been recognized by the statesmanship and worldly experience of Europe, and Europeans naturally expect in the men to whom is committed this splendid and tremendous destiny something majestic and noble to an unusual degree; but when they see the average American citizen they see a naturalized foreigner or a native American posing as a bogus foreigner. Naturally this is disappointing. When our American women go abroad they are indeed goddesses, worthy of any heroic race, and there is universal astonishment that the men do not correspond to this splendid type of women. It is only when Buffalo Bill appears that they see an American in whom every grand and heroic possibility is contained.

It is worth while then to be an American and to look like one while visiting Old World countries. It is not necessary, as it is not possible, for every man to pose as a Buffalo Bill, but as he can show by his bearing and behavior that he is not ashamed of his country and is not desirous to pass as a counterfeit foreigner.—New Orleans Picayune.

Precocious Children.

John Philip Baratar was born at Schwobach, in the margravate of Anspach, in 1721. At the age of four, states a writer in Notes and Queries, he conversed with his mother in French, his father in Latin and the servants in German. In his eleventh year he translated "The Travels of the Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela" from Hebrew into French. He was elected a member of the Royal Academy of Science at Berlin, and offered the degree of M. A. at the Halle University, to which he was admitted on drawing up and defending fourteen theses in philosophy and the mathematics (1735). He died at the early age of nineteen.

Another marvelous child was Christian Henry Heinecker, who was born at Lubek, February 6, 1721—just twenty-seven days after Baratar first saw the light of day. He could recite the principal facts in the "Pentateuch" when but one year old; the entire history of the old and new testament was familiar to him at fourteen months; at two and one-half years he could answer the principal questions in ancient and modern history and at five he died. Goethe is said to have known German, French, Italian, Latin and Greek before he was eight. On January 20, 1889, the New York Sun gave an account of a little negro—Oscar Moore—who knew all of Appleton's "Encyclopedia" by heart and could recite anything he had ever heard.

The Shell of the Scallop.

The prominence of the scallop in heraldry has been mentioned. It signifies, when found in a coat-of-arms, or carved upon a mortuary monument, that the person has been a crusader to the Holy Land. In the old days it was known as St. James' or St. Jacob's shell, and was worn by pilgrims and crusaders, sewn to their garments or fastened upon their standards. Many legends cluster about it, and allusions to it are frequent in the poetry and romance of the middle ages, while it often plays a significant part in the religious art of that day. Out of this, and its natural beauty of form, has arisen the wide adaptation of this circled or "scallop" shell in decorative designs in both the painters' and sculptors' arts.—Once a Week.

A Fagacious Horse.

A Montgomery (N. Y.) farmer has a colt that has learned to ring the farm bell by catching the rope in his teeth and prancing back and forth. He knows, too, when to ring it—at day break to awaken the farm hands and at noon to call them to dinner, and is never five minutes late or early.

An Iconoclast.

Extract from the diary of a traveler: I crossed over to Stillhope county, Kentucky, and for a time I found deep interest in the contemplation of the scenery. Every turn of the bridge-path presented a new beauty to me; and every heavily timbered slope held a grandeur of landscape, but after awhile I became tired. I wanted to see more evidences of the civilization of man. I wanted to smell a boiling pot. After awhile I came to a house. It was a mean looking structure, built of logs, but the sight of it was most pleasant to me, for I had heard of the hospitality of this wild region, and I knew that I should find no difficulty in getting something to eat. I had dismounted and had tied my horse to a sapling before the house showed any signs of life. Then a man came out. He was lank and wiry-bodied, had a nose that resembled a hawk's bill and wore boots that must have taken into their construction at least half of the hide of an average steer. He came forward, wiping his hands on his trousers, and I saw that he had been greasing his boots with tallow.

"Maw'nin', maw'nin'!" he exclaimed, "How are you?"

Just then, discovering a dog, I drew back.

"Come right on; he won't hurt you."

"But he will! Look at him!" I yelled.

"Oh, he'll grab you if he gets a chance, but his teeth's so bad that he can only pinch a little. Step right this way."

I did step that way, and I stepped in a lively manner too, for I could see that nothing would do the dog more good than to "pinch me a little."

"Than ain't nobody at home but me and Zib thar," said the man. Zib was a small boy. "Wife and Nance air down on the branch washin'."

We generally make it a pint ter wash ever summer whether the clothes needs it or not, water's so powerful cheap an' wood don't cost nothing. 'Ain't got a putty good axe, too, an' wife's a mighty peart hand in makin' the chips fly."

"I would like to get something to eat," said I.

"Yes, you shall have somethin' too, I've got a pone uv co'n bread in thar, an' we'll git a piece uv midlin' putty soon and fling it here on the fire. What's yo' business?"

"I am not in any business at present."

"Ain't no candidate, I hope."

"No."

"Ain't got no new churn-dasher that would knock butter outen stump water in five minutes."

"No, I have nothing to sell."

"I hope you ain't round buyin' dried fruit with plugged money."

"I am not trying to buy anything."

"Was you ever in any business?"

"I have been a school teacher."

"Good!" he exclaimed. "Come here, Zeb (calling the boy). Come here an' show this gentleman how much education you've got. Thar ain't no school in this section an' I have been a teachin' uv min myself. Oh, I'm determined that he shan't go out in the world without any education. Now, let's hear you spell gun."

"G-u-n."

"Right. Oh, he ken knock the fur offen spellin'. Now spell shoot."

"S-h-o-o-t."

"You are wrong," I struck in.

"What?" the old fellow exclaimed.

"Say he is wrong. S-h-o-o-t is the way."

"Look here, you air a blamed abolitionist, that's what's the matter with you. What! you come here tryin' ter pizen the minds of the young folks? Have you come here ter 'ar down the gre't work that's been built up? Hand me that gun, Zeb."

I do not know whether or not Zeb handed him the gun, but I know that the old dog could not have caught me as I was getting out of the yard.—Arkansas Traveler.

The Valley of Shadow.

Today the heart of the nation is moved with sympathy for the sufferers by the greatest calamity that has ever yet visited this country, turning a beautiful valley, the abode of industry and contentment, into a vast charnel house, a valley of shadow. The mind stands appalled at the thousands of lives blotted out from the record of the living by that terrible flood which has devastated the Conemaugh region. Earth has had before its Black Fridays, but henceforth Friday May 31, 1889, will figure in American history as the blackest and gloomiest Friday this continent has ever known.

Time will fix the responsibility for this terrible catastrophe where such responsibility rightfully belongs. The present duty is not so much that of dealing with the cause, as with the effect. The present duty is the sepulture of the dead and the care of the living, and to strengthen the hands of those who have charge of the execution of this duty, money is needed, and is being munificently supplied. It needs but the cry for help from any section of the country to prove the tie of kinship that binds the heart of the people. Sections may antagonize each other in business rivalry, sectional prejudices may erect a barrier to the freest unity of sentiment, but in the face of a calamitous visitation to any particular section all barriers are swept away, and there is no other rivalry than that of benevolence, a warm-hearted competition for the honor of doing most for the afflicted locality. The sufferers are for the present the country's wards, and the honor of the nation and every sentiment of humanity appeals in their behalf. How well that appeal is being answered the tide of monetary assistance that is setting in toward Johnstown well attests. Boston has always been a prompt and generous city in responding to the needs of every afflicted locality, be it the fever-stricken south,

the cyclone or blizzard-swept west, or the cities suffering from earthquake, fire or flood, and that same promptness, that same open-handed benevolence that she has shown so often before, she is showing to-day in behalf of that valley of gloom and shadow, the Conemaugh region.—American Cultivator.

Ten Good Things to Know.

1. That salt will curdle new milk; hence, in preparing milk porridge, gravies, etc., salt should not be added until the dish is prepared.
2. That clear boiling water will remove tea stains and many fruit stains. Pour the water through the stain, and thus prevent it spreading over the fabric.
3. That ripe tomatoes will remove ink and other stains from white cloth; also from the hands.
4. That a tablespoonful of turpentine boiled with white clothes will aid in the whitening process.
5. That boiled starch is much improved by the addition of a little sperm, salt or gum arabic dissolved.
6. That beeswax and salt will make rusty flatirons as clean and smooth as glass. Tie a lump of wax in a rag and keep it for that purpose. When the irons are hot, rub them first with the wax rag, then scour with a paper or cloth sprinkled with salt.
7. That blue ointment and kerosene mixed in equal proportions and applied to the bedsteads is an unfailing remedy, as a coat of whitewash is for the walls of a log-house.
8. That kerosene will soften boots and shoes that have been hardened by water, and render them as pliable as new.
9. That kerosene will make tin tea-kettles as bright as new. Saturate a woollen rag and rub with it. It will also remove stains from varnished furniture.
10. That cool rain-water and soda will remove machine grease from washable fabrics.—The Sanitarian.

The Value of Short Words.

We all know how to talk, and there is a certain quota of words put on the tongue of every man by the song he gives to the canary bird or to the robin. But beyond the song these birds cannot go. And beyond the natural speech, or the words which nature gives to every one, the illiterate human being cannot go. His vocabulary is limited until he becomes a student. Then it begins to widen, and there is no boundary line to its possibilities. The writer who imagines he can give additional emphasis to a composition by the use of large words is greatly mistaken. The economy of the reader's attention is absorbed in understanding and applying these big words, and there is little of the mental energy left with which to digest the idea which these long words contain. The picture which is brought before his mental vision is therefore dim and uncertain. If the writer would give more prominence to the idea and less to the verbal frame; in other words, if he would use simple language, which by contrast would bring out the idea, he would not only economize his reader's mental energy, but would benefit himself by making himself more easily understood. The mind is not able to do more than one thing at a time and do it well. It cannot delve into the mysteries of a many-syllabled word and comprehend the thought in a proper manner at once. Does the man say that he cannot write a book or an article with little words? Then he is very wrong. If he knew how many little words are in the speech of the land he would not say that he cannot find those small words. And it may be said that these small words have more force than the big words, because the soul of the tongue, or it would be more fit to say speeches, is to be found in the short words more than in the long. In this all the men who write on words think as one. They feel that the very life of the thing is shown in the short word. There is no long word that will take the place of buzz, sour, roar, splash, acid, scrape, sough, whiz, bang, rough, smooth, keen, blunt, thin. Each of these words is like the thing which it sets forth, and so it is more strong and helps the brain in its work.—Ex.

A Remedy For Snoring.

Only the man or woman chained to that rest destroying angel, a snoring partner, can appreciate its sinfulness. The wicked emotions aroused in the soul of the sufferer can not be transferred to paper. Could a man or woman preserve their night thoughts of the innocent offender during the entire twenty-four hours, married life would be a bleak, treeless, unwatered waste. For this sort of affliction, if made public, a man or woman gets only the same class of sympathy accorded to malaria—a grinning "That's too bad." There is a remedy for snoring, and that is bitter, too. Scientists have discovered that snorers are invariably great laughers and talkers, who exist principally with their mouths wide open, thereby clogging the breathing apparatus with dust and roughening the delicate chords by contact with crude air. To these good natured and loquacious sleep killers science says: "Shut up; keep your mouth closed; better deprive the world of your cackle and chatter than turn honey into gall and make marriage a failure." If this does not cure snoring, then Bob Burdette's remedy for dandruff is the only resource—chop the head off.—Washington Critic.

We Cheerfully Comply.

A woman writes the following note to this office: "Last Sunday a gentleman and his wife called at my home, and during their stay the wife was so mean to her husband that I resolved to behave myself better in future to my own husband. Please print this for the benefit of other wives who are at times thoughtless and harsh."—Atchison Globe.

How the Government Learns the Rapidity of a Rifle Ball.

How fast does a bullet travel? It is in proper shape for traveling. Col. Flagler and his officers say it ought to go at a rate of 1,375 feet a second upon leaving a rifle.

This matter of speed is very important, and if a cartridge is five or ten feet too fast or too slow the quantity of power must be changed. This matter of speed is tested in a very interesting way.

At the northern end of the arsenal grounds is a long wooden shed, in which a distance of 100 feet has been carefully marked off, says the Philadelphia Record. At either end of this space is a stand something like a target, with a large circular opening where the bullet's eye would be.

Across each opening is stretched a small electric wire connected with a delicate instrument in another room.

The rifle from which the firing is done is so aimed that the bullet which flies from it cuts both wires. Obviously the difference in time between the cutting of the first and of the second wires will mark the speed of the bullet through 100 feet.

The measurement of this brief space of time is done by an instrument of French invention called the Boullinge chronograph. When the first wire is cut an electric circuit is broken and a rod which is suspended from a magnet falls a short distance, touching in its descent a point which makes a mark on its side.

The breaking of the second wire takes drop a second smaller rod in the same way. By means of the difference in the marks on the rods it is possible to estimate the difference in the time of their falling, and from this the speed of the bullet per second. There is a provision for detecting any error, and nearly absolute accuracy is secured.

If it is found that a bullet has traveled too fast or too slow that means that there is too much or too little powder in the charge, that the atmospheric conditions are unfavorable.

The charge of powder varies from sixty-nine grains, and is varied by as little as a tenth of a grain to secure just the right speed. The compression may also have to be changed.

The tests of speed are made throughout the day, eight cartridges being fired at a time, and if any error is detected the necessary change is made at once.

If it is found that the speed is all right, then the accuracy of the bullets in hitting an object must be determined. For this purpose they are fired over a 500-yard range at a twelve-foot square target, near the river bank. By an ingenious device by which the aid of photography is called in the exact point of each bullet is rapidly noted, and the general average of accuracy is afterward obtained.

Accuracy is, of course, absolutely essential in warfare, and the greatest care is taken to see that each bullet will go straight to the mark if the rifle is properly aimed.

A Peculiar Duel.

A very peculiar preliminary to a death sentence, that deserves to be put on record, was that in vogue in Franconia in the fifteenth century—that is, in the days of the ordeal, in which heaven itself was supposed to take a hand in the distribution of justice. In case a woman had been made to suffer in reputation by a man she was at liberty to challenge him to combat, which took place in the following way: A regular ring was formed for spectators, and chairs were placed for the judges. In the middle of the ring was a hole about three feet deep, in which the man armed only with a club, had to defend himself against the woman, who was armed with a stone weighing a pound, tied to a slender, willow stick. The lady had a space measuring ten feet in diameter in which to evolve and to attack.

The rules were as follows: If the man in attempting to strike the woman touched the ground with arm or hand, he made an error. If he made three such, or if the woman succeeded in disarming him, he was declared defeated, and was then delivered over to the executioner to be put to death, which was by being buried in the same hole in which he had vainly attempted to defend himself. But if the man succeeded in thwarting the attacks of the woman, or in disarming her, he was declared the victor, and the woman herself was then the victim, and was sentenced to death and buried alive.—New York World.

An Unpopular King.

The subjects of the King of the Netherlands are justly indignant at the conduct of their royal master. He was in a dying condition. The undertaker called at the palace and took the measure of the august personage. The doctors were unanimous that his Royal Highness was as good as dead.

When a king dies in Europe it is a serious matter to all his subjects. In this case more than half of the well-to-do families invested largely in the heavy bereavement and mitigated affliction departments of the dry-goods stores. Immense quantities of black cloth were purchased in which to swaddle the public buildings.

Just at this crisis the king got well mentally and physically. His faithful subjects had to stop working the pump-handle of their emotions, and go down into their garments for money to buy fireworks to celebrate the recovery of their lord and master. The consequence is they are much more depressed, financially and otherwise, than they would have been if the worst had happened.

What that king needs is a couple of New York doctors like those who attended Bishop, the mind reader. They would have seen to it that the king did not come to again.—Texas Siftings.

It Was the Cook.

Perceval sat upon a hammock in the back yard of the country boarding-house. His little alighted feet patted the grass gleefully, and the book in his hand hung lazily athwart the gun-wales of the swinging net-work of the aerial couch. There was a cynical expression upon his innocent face, and his Titian mustache curled like the tail of a full-blooded pug.

There was a titter. It could not be called a laugh. There was a distinct audible titter swishing against the leaves of the locust trees above him. It came from the door of the kitchen. No human being in sight; and the parrot had never been taught to titter nor to twitter. The ugly-mouthed bird lazily winked his watery eyes as he stood upon his swinging perch. The titter was not his'n. Perceval wondered where the titter came from. He determined to investigate.

Slowly he knocked the ashes from his malodorous cigarette. Gradually he permitted his angular and attenuated form to elevate itself into perpendicular longitudinality. Carefully adjusting his eye-glasses, as a confirmed detective is wont to do, he ambled gracefully towards the kitchen. Some one was behind the door. He pushed it, said "Peekah-abooah" and grasped the embroidered white skirt which protruded. A voice uttered and giggled, and then ejaculated: "G'way fum dah, Massa P'siv'l. Ain't you 'bamed flirin' wid a yallar gal like me?"

Lo, Tillie the cook came forth and clamped two glistening yellow arms about his Adams-apple-throat and glued two watermelon-loving lips to the thin compression of mouth of which Perceval was so proud. Just then Blanchie, his fiancée, came across the lawn. Perceval has returned to his counter in "The Fair," and will not leave Chicago again during the summer.

Facts About Refrigerators.

One of the most important articles of kitchen furniture is the refrigerator. Every housekeeper must have one, and in a very short time during the hot weather its cost can be saved.

Some housekeepers experience trouble in keeping their refrigerators sweet and clean. A practical housekeeper recently told a reporter for the Mail and Express how she kept her refrigerator clean. She said she always selected a cool day for this work, and when the ice is low. All the articles of food are taken out and placed in a cool place, and the ice is wrapped in a woolen cloth. She then takes out the chambers, shelves and ice rack, and washes them thoroughly with soap and water—a little ammonia in the water will soften it. The shelves and rack must be well-wiped dry, and then it is a good thing to place them in the open air. Wash the inside of the refrigerator well with ammonia and water, using a pointed stick to go into the crevices. Wipe every part well with a dry cloth, and leave all the doors and lids open until the inside is perfectly dry. Vinegar and water will take any stains off the zinc. To keep a refrigerator sweet, food that has the least tendency to spoil should not be placed in it.

Take care that the inside is well aired and thoroughly dry before replacing the shelves and racks and putting back the ice. Never put anything warm into the refrigerator it is sure to injure some sensitive article of food. Don't let the refrigerator be without ice. Keep it in a cool place away from fire and sun.—New York Mail and Express.

Wouldn't Buy Whisky.

"Simon," said the governor of Mississippi, speaking to an old negro who had nursed him, and who had just asked for fifty cents, "why don't you stop drinking?"

"Wall, I tell you Mars Bob, I would do dat but I see efereed, sah, dat it mout injure my heif."

"Injure your health?" the governor exclaimed.

"Yes, sah, disgreee wid my 'tarnal gestions."

"You are foolish, Simon. Cold water is the salvation of the human family."

"Dat's whar you're wraung, Mars Bob; dat's zackly where I'm wraung. Water is de cause o' er good deal o' de misery o' dis yere worl'."

It swep, de country wid er flood way back yander, an' has caused er mighty heep o' stress since dat time. Tuther day, sah, it rushed down on dat town way up norf yander, sommers, and killed thousands o' folks.

Doan come talkin' ter me erbout water, sah, caze I knows it—knows it frum de beginnin'."

Ef dar wuz ez much whisky ez dar is water, w'y I mout caze jest ez much harm, but ez dar ain't, w'y I reckon water has got de bulge. But be dat ez it may, gubner, gim me fifty cents."

"Not to buy whisky with, Simon."

"I sw'ar ter de Lawd, sah, I ain't gwine ter buy whisky wid dat money."

"All right, then, here it is."

"Thankee sir, thankee. Good day (bowing when he had reached the door) none o' dis money doan go fur whisky. Too much o' er gernerman fur dat. Gwine git gin wid dis money."—Arkansas Traveler.

He Was Industrious.

It is not literally true that Amos Cummings ate cheese and drank beer while sitting in the speaker's chair last winter, but he was certainly abstracted.

He had to write reports of the daily proceedings of the house for the New York Sun. At the same time he was a member of congress from New York. While he was hard at work Speaker Carlisle, merely for wantonness, called Cummings to the chair while he went out for lunch. Amos took the chair, continued writing, and ate his pie at the same time. It was unique.

Disinterested division.—"Did you divide your bon-bons with your little brother, Mollie?" "Yes, mamma; I ate the candy and gave him the molasses. You know he is awfully fond of reading."—Time.

A London journal asks if it was Gov. Hill's "appreciation of the value of the Irish vote" which "influenced his decision" in his refusal to surrender Moroney and McDonald, the alleged suspects in the Cronin case, to the Chicago officers. A New York newspaper criticizes the Governor's refusal on the ground that the United States Constitution only contemplates "charge" of crime as the basis of interstate surrender, and argues that in such a case there is "no question of asylum, as in the case of a citizen of a foreign country, but only the question of enabling a state to enforce its criminal laws, by reaching beyond its own borders to arrest a fugitive from justice."

The men sent from Chicago failed to identify Moroney and McDonald as the persons who rented and furnished the Carlson cottage where Dr. Cronin was assassinated. This proves the trumpery character of the charge made against these men and fully vindicates the Governor's action.

But the London writer forgets that the Irish in America are divided on the questions supposed to be involved in the Cronin crime, and that every reputable Irishman here desires the punishment of every man implicated in that crime. The New York writer overlooks the fact that the constitutional provision relates to fugitives from justice escaping from their own state into another state. There was a question of "asylum" in the case of Moroney and McDonald, who are citizens of New York, not of Illinois, and entitled to the protection of the governor of their state. They would have been denied their rights under the constitution of their own state if they had been deprived of their liberty and surrendered without "due process of law."

Gov. Hill did his duty in the matter firmly and well.—New York World.

An Extraordinary Railroad.

One of the most interesting achievements in modern engineering is the electric mountain railway recently opened to the public at the Burgenstock, near Lucerne. The rails describe one grand curve formed upon an angle of 112 degrees, and the system is such that the journey is made as steadily and smoothly as upon any of the straight funicular lines. The Burgenstock is almost perpendicular—from the shore of Lake Lucerne to the Burgenstock is 1,330 feet, and it is 2,860 feet above the level of the sea. The total length of the line is 938 metres, and it commences with a gradient of 32 per cent, which is increased to 58 per cent after the first 400 metres, this being maintained for the rest of the journey. A single pair of rails is used throughout, and the motive power, electricity, is generated by two dynamos each of twenty-five horse power, which are worked by a water wheel of nominally 125 power, erected upon the river Aar at its mouth at Doechs, three miles away. The electric current being conducted by means of insulated copper wires. The loss in transmission is estimated at 25 per cent.—New York Sun.

Cars Run with Sails.

A Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Telegraph was recently looking at some models in the National Museum of curious cars used in the early days of railroading in this country, when Mr. Watkins, the curator, pointed out one particular one that had a mast and sail. Experiments with such cars were made on the Baltimore & Ohio road and on the South Carolina road. It was then a serious question whether the motive power on railroads would be sail, horse or steam. The steam locomotive was still looked upon as an experiment. Sail cars are used to-day on a guano railroad on the island of Malden, in the south Pacific. They are, in fact, used nearer home than that, for railroad men at Barnegat beach, when the wind is favorable, frequently ride over the road on construction cars—sloop-rigged. "The wind has a good deal to do with railroading even to-day," Mr. Watkins said. If you go to the bureau of intelligence at the Broad street station, Philadelphia, and ask whether some train, say from New York, is likely to be on time, you may be informed that it is likely to be four or five minutes late, because there is a strong wind from the west. Winds make considerable difference in the running time of trains.

What They Caught.

Four deluded youngsters. On a summer day, just to go a-fishing. Slyly ran away.

Willows, worms and tackle. To their work they brought, And, if you'll believe me, This is what they caught.

Tommy caught a wetting, He was overboard; Jimmy caught a scolding; Johnny caught a cold; Harry caught a whipping.

Much against his wish, But with all their trouble, No one caught a fish!

The Diamond Spark.

Tiny diamond sparks are being used effectively by way of simple ornamentation. They are set in silver, and a single row worn about the throat looks like a continuous line of light. A season's debutante worn at a late dinner dance a costume of tulle, from its peculiar lustrous, silvery quality called moon tulle. A fine strand of diamond sparks encircled her slender white throat, three or four of the same being jeweled silver threads were twisted about her arms; the several small wrought silver combs that caught her dark coils of hair were likewise bediamonded, and wee gems sent their iridescent gleams from the tips of her dainty satin shoes. Debutantes are not supposed to borrow their brilliancy from gems; but so delicately were these sparkles added that they seemed quite in keeping with the weaver's youth and freshness.—Table Talk.

A San Francisco Examiner.

In 1865, when the telegraph was comparatively a new thing in Southern California, the operators of the Los Angeles circuit found their communication suddenly cut off. Line-men were sent out to discover the break and effect repairs, but they returned with the surprising intelligence that the break was a serious one, and called for a lot of supplies.

About a mile of wire and poles had disappeared as completely as if the earth had opened and swallowed them up. Further search showed no trace of the missing materials, and at considerable expense new ones were furnished, and the line was reconstructed.

Then a detective was employed to investigate the mystery. The country was nothing but a desert, and the detective worked for three weeks without success. At the end of that time, however, he stumbled upon a small ranch, at which he put up for the night.

He found the ground inclosed with a neat wire fence, and in the morning taxed the ranchman with having stolen the telegraph. The man admitted the fact at once.

"Oh, yes," he said, "I've been living here high onto three years, and have watched the old telegraph wire all that time. I never see nothing go over it, and reckoned it wasn't used."

There seemed no reason to question the man's sincerity, and the detective contented himself with giving him a lecture on the invisibility of the electric current. The case was reported to headquarters, of course, but no prosecution followed.

Area of Cultivated Land.

Some interesting statements regarding the extension of the area of cultivated land in the United States are presented in the May report of the statistician of the department of agriculture. It appears that the area under the four principal arable crops—corn, wheat, oats and cotton—increased from 128,000,000 acres in 1879 to 159,000,000 acres in 1885. This represents an expansion in nine years of the area under these crops of 31,000,000 acres, or an extent of land more than equaling the entire area of the three northern New England states. The increase in the area under corn, oats and cotton is greater than the total area of the state of Ohio. This striking result leads the statistician to make the further calculation that if the increase in all tilled and grass land has been in the same proportion as that in the four crops mentioned we have now a total area of improved lands in farms of 356,000,000 acres, as compared with 285,000,000 acres in 1878, or an increase almost equal to the surface area of New England, New York and New Jersey, equaling the entire area of improved land in 1880 to the eleven cotton states, with the addition of Delaware and Maryland. The figures of the coming census dealing with the agricultural area should present some interesting comparisons with those of the last census year.—Bradstreet's.

Let Women Try if they Want to.

"One of the most absurd arguments used against a girl who wishes to become a physician," said a blue-eyed, fair haired medical student in petticoats the other day, "is that the disagreeable sights and experiences of the dissecting room, if they do not altogether overpower her fortitude, will awaken her feelings and destroy her delicacy. Bah, I say, to such mawkish sentimentalism. No one thinks it hardens a girl to nurse a sick person, and yet I tell you that in ministering to the sick and the dying and the dead, in the capacity of a nurse, I have seen sights and performed more distasteful and exhausting labor than I would have been called on to do if I had been the physician; and all the time I know nothing of that keen interest in the scientific part of the work which I now have, which so absorbs my attention and thoughts that what is revolting to others is by me almost unnoticed."—New York Tribune.

Woman Handsomely Reinforced.

Science comes creeping to the front and sheepishly affirms what woman's intuition discerned centuries ago. Science has been bending its back over dusty volumes. It has been studying earth and air, and water and disease. It has reached a conclusion which woman had practically indorsed since the beginning, to-wit: That spring housecleaning is necessary to health; that to this yearly regeneration of the household gods are due the superior health and strength of civilized nations. Men hate housecleaning because they are dull creatures and have only a regard for their present dignity. It galls a man to drink cold tea and eat a cold chop from the corner of the mantel or the kitchen pantry. A man has no imagination; his soul cannot overhalla the kitchen furniture in the front hall, or bars of soap, rusty nails, and tack hammers on his library table, and picture to himself the splendor of the afterglow. But science now proclaims that dangerous disease germs, wicked and infinitesimal, lurk about the habitations of man, dangers for which there is no remedy but soap, and alkali and water, and a woman with a towel on her head and dust-broom in her hand. Science has silenced man.—Washington Post.

Why Congratulations Were Delayed.

We desire to convey our most humble apologies to the esteemed Maharajah of Bangalore for what may seem to him like an omission of the international amenities on our part. But the fact is, we had not had time to congratulate him on his forty-sixth marriage when the news of his forty-seventh came to us, and we didn't like to send congratulations done up in bunches, like radishes, lest it might seem our heart was not in them. If the Maharajah will let up on marrying for a few moments and give us a chance to catch up, we will try very pleasant little conventional duties.

Devoted Wife.

Nearly thirty years ago, before he developed his philosophy of life, Count Tolstoy married the daughter of a Moscow physician. She directs, controls, manages everything at the household at Moscow and at Yasnaya Polna. She assumes the whole responsibility of caring for the family, which numbers thirteen children, superintends their education, and teaches them English and music. Her business ability is also shown by the fact that she has sole charge of the sale, circulation and distribution of her husband's books. Nor is she wanting in sympathy for the count's intellectual labors. She is both amanuensis, revisor and translator. Tolstoy's writing is illegible to most readers, and his wife rewrites his manuscripts again and again until they suit his fastidious taste. In this way she copied "War and Peace," from end to end, six times, and his last work "Life," she wrote sixteen times, besides translating it into French.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Miss Beauty (of Boston).—"Don't you think Tannahauer is delightful?" Mr. Porcupine (of Cincinnati, who is not a teetotaler).—"Oh, I don't know, Milwaukee is about as good."—The Owl.

Teacher.—"What is an unknown quantity?" Coal dealer's son.—"What you got when you buy a ton of coal."—Golden Days.

orders of the room a width of
carred roofing-paper, and afterward
relay the carpets. This thorough
treatment should answer in the very
worst cases, and in a house so cleaned
the insect will probably not regain a
hold during the ensuing year.
Both-covered furniture which may
be infested should be removed and
steamed or also treated with kerosine,
and chests or drawers in which in-
fested clothing has been stored
should be thoroughly sprayed.
Another method of treatment con-
sists in laying a damp cloth (an old
towel or a folded sheet will do)
smoothly over the suspected part of
the carpet, and ironing it with a hot
iron. The steam thus generated will
pass through the carpet and kill all
the insects immediately beneath. If
the infestation is in an entire room
it will not too laborious to dis-
assemble the room and treat the
carpet in this way.—Good Housekeeping.

Mr Cadwallader's Wives.

Mr. Cadwallader ran lightly up the steps of his house in Washington square one afternoon in May. A compactly-built little man of forty-five years, with a round, smooth face and merry twinkle in his eye, he looked fully ten years younger than he was.

"Is Mrs. Cadwallader at home, Nannie?" he inquired of the trim maid-servant in the hall.

"No, sir; she went out about 2 o'clock."

"Are there any letters, Nannie?"

"Yes, sir; in your room on the dresser, sir."

"Thank you. Do you know where Mrs. Cadwallader went?"

"No, sir."

He ran upstairs whistling an air from "Barbe-Bleu," and took up several letters from the dresser. "Two for Mrs. C.," he soliloquized; "look like bills; here are some wedding cards, Bennie De Forrests' I suppose, and here is a letter from Cynthia. What important communication requiring four-cent postage has she now to make, I wonder."

He opened the letter and ran rapidly through the first of the closely-written sheets: "Prevented from writing lately on account of lumbago—may go to the White mountains this summer—poor Mr. Pettito, our rector, in trouble again—used incense Easter morning—some busybody complained to the bishop—have been thinking so much lately of poor, dear Helen." (Here Mr. Cadwallader slightly knit his brows.) "I can hardly believe it is fifteen years since—h'm—do you remember that little sole leather trunk of my father's, which Helen had after she married you? I came across it in the attic yesterday, where it is stored with many other relics of by-gone happy days."

"Oh, I thought so," groaned Mr. Cadwallader. "Why is she forever harping on these old relics of by-gone days? Bah!"

He flung the letter impatiently from him and began walking up and down.

Miss Cynthia Olds was the sister of the first Mrs. Cadwallader, a model husband during his first wife's lifetime, and when she died he mourned her sincerely for two years, and then consoled himself with a second wife. He never knew what became of the effects of the first Cadwallader, and without the slightest disrespect to her memory, he never had taken the trouble to inquire. He simply thought nothing about the matter.

Mr. Cadwallader took up the letter again and put it in his pocket. "The rest of this will keep for another time," he muttered. "What's this?" as a folded bit of paper lying on the dresser caught his eye. He opened it and saw a few lines written in pencil:

"DEAREST HIRAM:

"I am not feeling quite well to-day and Mrs. Brown has persuaded me that a little trip into the country would do me good. She is going to take me with her to Short Hills for the day. She has an aunt, Mrs. Widgeon, living there, and we will stay to dinner. Could you come for me this evening on the 8 o'clock train? With a hundred kisses, Yours loving wife, Cynthia Olds."

"P. S.—Mrs. Widgeon lives in a large house near the station, and Mrs. Brown says anybody can direct you."

"What does she mean by galloping off to Jersey, I wonder, when the last thing she said to me was not to forget the Wheatleighs' reception to-night. 'Not feeling well' she was the picture of health this morning. And who is Mrs. Brown? There's something behind those hundred kisses; she is not ordinarily so lavish. I'm glad to see she is paying some attention at last to what I have said to her about her handwriting and has dropped that monstrous angular scrawl. Yes, she is evidently making an effort to please me. I wonder what it is she wants. I'll have to go, of course." (Mr. Cadwallader stood a little bit in awe of his handsome wife.) "I'll just dress now and go and dine at the club."

Leaving the note from his wife on the table he proceeded to make his toilet.

About 9 o'clock a snug little man, in a dress suit and light overcoat, alighted at the station in Short Hills. He approached an old man who stood on the platform with a lantern and asked to be directed to the house of Mrs. Widgeon.

"What Mrs. Widgeon, sir?"

"I do not know. This lady lives in a large house near the station, I am told."

"There never was but one Mrs. Widgeon in Short Hills that I ever heard of, sir. This was old Widgeon, who's been dead right on to ten years. There's her house, sure enough, that big one just beyond the bend in the road. Her married daughter lives there now. There's nobody else of that name here unless it's some of the summer boarders, and it's a bit airy for them."

"That's queer," murmured the little man. "Well, that must be the house. Thanks," said he starting off down the road.

Ten minutes later a lady, heavily veiled, emerged from the gloom at the other end of the platform and approached the same old man.

"Can you direct me to the residence of Mrs. Widgeon?" she asked, in a mysterious voice.

"What, another one?" chuckled the old station master. "The widdow seems to be in demand to-night."

"Do you know, or do you not?" asked the lady, sharply.

"Well, ma'am, I reckon I know as well as anybody else around these parts. Many a day's work I've done for the Widdow Widgeon."

"It's a large house near the station, is it not?" Which way am I to go?"

"Yes—yes, that's just what the gent said, but you'll find the part

as you're lookin' for a very small house now, not much more than by two, in the cemetery just back of the church yonder."

"In the cemetery—at this hour! Is—any one with her?"

"Yes, ma'am, the old man is right alongside. They agree much better there than they did in the flesh; when they lived in the big house."

"The man is intoxicated," she murmured. "No, Hiram has discovered the loss of the note, and thinking he may be followed has bribed this old scoundrel to throw me off the track."

"I will find the place for myself," she said aloud, and walked rapidly down the road.

"Good luck to you, ma'am," the old fellow called after her.

"Perfidious monster!" said Mrs. Cadwallader to herself. "It was all I could do to restrain myself from denouncing him on the train. How smiling and old he looked! Little did he know who was so near to him. To think of my having been deceived in him all these years! I wonder who the creature is. Perhaps he is really married to her, and I—oh, horrible! This must be the place." She entered the gate and, hearing a step on the walk, concealed herself in the shrubbery.

Her husband was there.

The big house looked very dark to Mr. Cadwallader as he walked up the avenue of trees leading to it. He rang the bell several times before a hand protruded from an upper window and a female voice called, "Who's there?"

"Is this Mrs. Widgeon's house?" he asked.

"Yes, what do you want?"

"Is she at home?"

"Mrs. Widgeon is dead."

"Ah! I beg pardon. Is—ah, Mrs. Brown in?"

"No, sir; she don't live here."

"Is Mrs. Cadwallader here?"

"Who?"

"Mrs. Cadwallader."

"I don't know her."

Mr. Cadwallader was silent for a moment. He was at a loss what to say. The window closed with a bang.

"Humph! that cool. Well, I've done all I can. Henrietta will have to get home now the best way she can."

He passed down the walk.

"I wonder if I ought to wait for her," he said aloud. "Pshaw, no! I'll go back to the station and inquire if she has been seen. If I can't find anything here I'll go back to Philadelphia."

"Hiram!" a voice called softly. "Eb—what's that?"

A lady stepped out from the darkness; her face was concealed by a heavy veil.

"Oh, I was so afraid you weren't coming," she said in a whisper.

"Is that you, my dear? What are you doing out here—why aren't you in the house?"

"I was so afraid."

"Afraid of what?"

"Afraid we might be followed."

"Why, who would follow us? Why do you speak in that voice, and what does that heavy veil mean? Has anything happened?"

"Oh, I had a foolish fancy that you might have dropped my note, and as a folded bit of paper lying on the dresser caught his eye. He opened it and saw a few lines written in pencil:

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"Yes—yes, that's just what the gent said, but you'll find the part

ter than yours," coolly replied his husband, who was now thoroughly angry, "but I am not aware of any one else who is privileged to sign herself in that manner."

"Monster! can you taunt me with my handwriting at such a time? Oh, what a heart of stone you must have!"

Mrs. Cadwallader, noting the change in her husband's mood, was about to weep.

"Henrietta, if, as you gently intimate, you did not write me to meet you here, some one has been playing a practical joke on us. It will not help matters for us to stand at bay at one another on the highway of this respectable village. I am going to catch the next train back to Philadelphia. I advise you to come with me."

Mrs. Cadwallader felt that if she did not comply he would walk off and leave her standing there, which would be a most undignified situation for her.

"I will accompany you, sir, for the sake of appearances," she said, "but I forbid you to speak to me."

Mr. Cadwallader obeyed her to the letter. He lit a cigar, and Henrietta walked by his side in dignified silence. Arrived at the station he inquired when the next train left for Philadelphia.

"In three-quarters of an hour, sir," replied his friend of the lantern.

"Did you find the widdow, sir, or ma'am?"

Without replying to the question the husband and wife entered the waiting-room. It was empty. How could Mr. Cadwallader stand three-quarters of an hour alone in the room with that sphinx-like figure, who, he felt, was regarding him with reproachful eyes from behind her veil? If he only had a newspaper. Stay, there was Cynthia's letter, which he had put in his pocket, thinking he might read it on the train. He could consume fifteen minutes over that. He moved over to the other side of the room under a lamp and took out the letter. Henrietta sat motionless as before. Then for a while there was no sound but the ticking of the clock and the rustling of the paper as Mr. Cadwallader turned the pages. A whistle from his husband caused Henrietta to start. He stood up and came toward her. No, she would not speak to him.

"My dear," he said, in a dry tone, "I think that never before during the eight years of our marriage have I had occasion to remind you that you had a predecessor. Though there is nothing to regret in this fact, it is I think, deeply to be deplored that a sister of my first wife still survives. Will you kindly glance over this page of a letter I received from Cynthia this afternoon which I have read for the first time this moment?"

Henrietta thought to herself: "I shall pay no attention to him." Then she took the letter. Mr. Cadwallader had opened it so that the passage about the little sole leather trunk was uppermost. Henrietta read the letter with interest. It was the very day old Mr. Widgeon had his stroke of apoplexy, coming so suddenly as it did. The two girls were there at the time, and Helen returned alone shortly after, and I remember hearing her tell how Mrs. Widgeon carried on."

"Why, Hiram, then this note was from—"

"Yes, this is the note Helen wrote me at the time, though I don't remember a word about it. It must have dropped out of Cynthia's letter."

"And to think of the base suspicions I harbored! Hiram, I can never forgive Cynthia Olds for this. I believe she did it on purpose. I can't tell you how I suffered since I found that letter on your table."

"Don't wrong poor Cynthia, my dear. I'm sure you must have been very much upset to apply such epithets to your husband as bigamist—"

"Hush, hush!" she said, soothingly, laying her hand on his lips. "Oh, Hiram, forgive me! If I were sure that nobody was looking, I'd—"

—Francis M. Livingston, in The Epoch.

Curious Transmittal of Fever.

Roston Post.

In 1846 a boy of 8 years, the brother of the narrator's wife, was taken down with scarlet fever and died. One of the principal amusements of his illness had been looking over a large picture book. After his death this, with several other useful playthings, was packed away in a trunk. Twenty-six years later, in 1872, the sister-in-law of the editor took the trunk with her on a journey to England where he was then residing. The trunk was opened the second day after its arrival, and the picture book was taken out and presented to the editor's 2-year-old son. During the next fortnight the little fellow was attacked by scarlet fever. It was a wonder to the doctors who were called in consultation how the disease had been contracted, as there had been no scarlet fever in the place for years. At last it occurred to the editor that the picture book might have transmitted the disease, and the medical men in attendance, on being told the facts connected with it, agreed that it had retained the poison for twenty-six years and communicated it to the child.

Where They Weaken.

The timidity of people when in the presence of death is frequently shown at coroners' inquests. When a witness is ushered into the presence of the jury the coroner recites the formal oath, which concludes with the words, "The person whose body lies here dead, the persons whose bodies lie here dead, these ghostly words agitate nervous witnesses, and more especially ladies, who frequently look about in a startled manner, with a view of locating the subject of the inquest. Of course the corpse is seldom in the same room with the jury.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Oh, What a Home!

Oh, what a home! that sweet companion—ship.

Of life the better part; The happy smile of welcome on the lip; Uprightness from the heart.

It is the eager clasp of kindly hands, The long remembered tone, The ready sympathy which understands All feelings by its own.

The rosy cheek of little children pressed To ours in loving bliss; The presence of our dearest and our best No matter where we be.

And, falling this, a prince may homeless live, Though palace walls are high; And having it, desert shores may give The joy wealth cannot buy.

Far-reaching as the earth's remotest span, Widespread as ocean foam, One thought is sacred in the breast of man— It is the thought of home.

That little word his human fate shall bind With destined above, For there the home of his immortal mind Is in God's wider love.

A PIOUS FRAUD.

BY HELEN FOREST GRAVES.

Saturday Night.

"Does Mrs. Murray live here?"

Mr. Webb knocked apologetically on the glass counter of the bakery with the handle of his whip. It seemed almost a liberty thus unceremoniously to address the gaily attired young woman who was adding up the accounts behind the tall desk.

He stood near the door, keeping a sharp lookout on the barefooted boy who was holding his sleepy old horse—for had he not heard, many a time and oft, of the juvenile New York?

In reply to his respectful question, the young woman nodded her head and curtly answered:

"Upstairs."

"It's a pretty big house," said Mr. Webb, glancing about him. "The Murphys were rich when they lived down our way; but Rachel never had good judgment. I should say, now, the rent of a house like this—"

"It ain't a house," said the young woman, speaking with a lead pencil between her teeth.

"Ain't a house, eh?" Martin Webb's honest, onion-colored eyes gradually expanded, until you would have thought the lids could scarcely contain them. "Not a house?"

"No; it's a flat. Fourth story, back room. Name of Murray. Staircase just out in the hall there."

And so for the first time in his life, Mr. Webb found himself in the precincts of a "flat."

He lost his way half a dozen of times this gaunt, good-humored giant, with a ham in his arms, two or three strings of a country sausage over his shoulder, and a basket of red apples clasped tightly against his breast. That was a matter of course.

He walked into the kitchen of one Mrs. Dulaney, and found her there, flat, brought up in the parlor of another, and presented himself, smiling at the late breakfast table of a third, where a luckless printer, who worked all night, on the early edition of a morning paper, was sleepily chipping the shells of an egg.

"Call them eggs?" said Martin, contemptuously. "If our Wolf's Corners house can't beat it, I'll ask you to come and see it. I've got into the wrong flat. P'raps you can tell me where a lady named Murray lives?"

And by dint of many such questionings and inquiries, Mr. Webb at last got himself, his red apples, ham and sausages into a scantily furnished room looking out on a bare brick wall—a room where everything had a starved look, even down to the cat, which sat intently watching a mouse-hole in the wainscoting.

Mrs. Murray, a tall, pinched, elderly woman, was engaged, through a double pair of spectacles, in mending fine lace, but the slow motion of her needle, and the uncertain expression of her face, denoted no very brilliant success.

And seated on the window ledge opposite her, a riding habit of dark green cloth, a beaver hat with dark green velvet twisted around it, and a jaunty little ivory handled whip, was a pretty girl of 18 or 20.

Both started at the entrance of Mr. Webb, both smiled glad recognition.

"Why," cried Mrs. Murray, "my cousin Martin! Hilda, my cousin in a chair I declare, Martin, I am surprised to see you here!"

"No more'n I to get here, I guess," returned the farmer, with a peculiar chuckling noise down in his throat. "These are city folks, they do take the starch out of a fellow. Ain't much like our medder flats down at Wolf's Corner, eh? Here, cousin Rachel, I've brought you one of Eliza's best sugar-cured hams an' some sausages, and a bushel of the apples that grew on the tree beyond the well—the real, red-cheeked Josey Moore you know."

"It's very kind of you, I'm sure," said Mrs. Murray. "Hilda, can you not offer our cousin some refreshments after his journey?"

Hilda colored painfully. How could she explain to her mother that the cupboard was utterly empty, even of a crust of bread!

"I'll bring up something directly," she murmured.

And then she vanished.

From one good neighbor—the very printer's wife, indeed—she borrowed a potful of freshly-made coffee; from another, a few slices of cold boiled beef; from a third a pan of new-baked biscuits, with a little butter and a comb of honey, and then she flew back to spread the fragrant meal.

"Are they all well, cousin Webb?" she asked, timidly, as holding up her riding habit with one hand, she arranged the table and ministered to the appetite of her guest with the other.

Mr. Webb nodded his head, keenly surveying her the while.

"All well," he responded between the swallows of coffee. "Eliza, she sent her love. And Reed—Reed didn't send no love. But he wanted to be specially remembered. Reed did. He's had dreadful good luck with the sweet potato patches and tobacco crops this year."

"Has he?" and Hilda blushed rosily. She might have added something more, but Mrs. Murray officially interposed.

"You mustn't be late for your ap-

pointment with Mr. Dulaney, daughter," said she with a glance at the clock.

And she added, in explanatory fashion:

"Hilda rides out every day. Two hours with, ahem! a gentleman friend!"

"Rides out, does she?" said Mr. Webb. "I guess likely it costs considerable to keep horses in New York. I'm glad you and Hilda's got so much money to spare."

"I'm told," said Mrs. Murray, complacently, "that Hilda's horse is one of the handsomest in the park. And of course a young girl like her ought to get plenty of exercise and fresh air."

Once more Martin Webb's keen glance circled around the room and settled on Hilda's deeply suffused face. She went out, with a word of hurried apology.

"Hump," was his comment.

"Yes, nodded Mrs. Murray, with the fluttered, flattered expression of a motherly old hen who has just found an extra fine kernel of corn for her brood. "My Hilda has got into some remarkably good society. And I am certain hopes that she may marry well before a great while."

Mr. Webb took his leave—rather abruptly, as Mrs. Murray thought—and the old lady, after carefully putting away the generous gifts from the old farm, set down to mend lace and to dream again.

Reed Webb listened silently to his father's account of their relatives.

"Going out riding every day with a grand New York gentleman!" said he. "Dressed like a princess! Father, that does not sound like our little Hilda."

"Can't help how it sounds," said Martin. "It's so. That's all I know."

"Then," said Reed, sadly, "it's no use my building that wing on the south side of the old house! It won't be needed now."

"Not if you expect Hilda Murray to live in it."

"Hush!" said Mrs. Webb, who was washing up the supper dishes with true housewife's deftness and speed, making each teaspoon shine like silver, each plate glisten like ivory, in the friction of her homespun linen towel.

"There's some one at the door. Go quick, husband!"

"Why," cried Martin, standing on the threshold, "it's Hilda—it's Hilda Murray!"

"But I can't stay a minute," said Hilda breathlessly. "I've got to return by the seven-thirty train."

"Hilda," said Reed gravely, "you must come in. It is not right nor seemly that you should be out alone at this time of night."

"I wanted Cousin Webb to know," faltered Hilda. "I couldn't bear that he should think so ill of me as to fancy that I was indulging in expensive pleasure, while—my mother was so poor. Her sight is failing, you know; she is almost blind. Sheancies that she is earning something by mending lace, but she only spoils it. We would starve if it wasn't for the money I earn by giving riding lessons in Mr. Dulaney's equestrian school. Mother doesn't know. She would break her heart if any one told her that I went daily to the ring and trained little girls and young ladies in horsemanship. She never can forget, you know, that my poor father was a college graduate, and once went to the legislature. So what he believe—"

—Mr. Dulaney and I—that I am taking lessons, instead of giving them. She saw us once in the park with the class of young ladies, and she was so proud poor little mother! And Mr. Dulaney says I am the best teacher he ever had; and—oh—with a piteous clasping of the hands—"is it very wrong? Is it? I almost fancied so, when I saw Cousin Webb looking at me this morning—acting as if!"

"I dunno about that," said Mr. Webb, fumbling around for his pocket-handkerchief, "but I know you're the nicest and best gal I ever saw."

"Hilda," said Mrs. Webb, pleadingly, "cannot you come back here to Wolf's Corners? I know your ma was best to go to New York. She thought poor dear, that fortunes was to be made there hand over hand. But sure, now—"

Hilda shook her head sorrowfully.

"We are too poor," she said; "we cannot afford the expense of moving again. And there is no house to be had here now."

Mrs. Webb put her hand on her husband's shoulder.

"Martin," said she hurriedly, "if Hilda really wants to get back by the seven-thirty train, you must hitch up the horse and take her to the station. And I'll go out to the barn with you and hold the lantern."

Once out in the barn, Martin Webb looked at his wife.

"Eliza," said he, do you think our Reed has any chance?"

"If he hasn't got a chance now, he never will have one," said Mrs. Webb. "Tell you what, Martin, that girl is a pearl of great price, and I always said so."

No sooner was Reed Webb left alone with Hilda than he spoke out what was in his heart.

"Hilda," he said resolutely, "you must come back. You can't live there in the great wilderness of bricks and mortar, and I can't live here without you. The farm is paying for itself now. I can give my wife a comfortable home; and my wife's mother also. Dear little Hilda, say that you will be mine."

Hilda burst out into a sudden gust of tears and sobs.

"Oh, Reed," she cried, "if you knew how often I have dreamed of coming back here—if you knew how homesick I've been!"

"Say heartily, Hilda," he prompted, "if you want to make me happy!"

And, smiling through her tears, she repeated the word:

"Yes, heartily, Reed!"

"You will come back home, then, Hilda?"

"I will!"

And by that time the old horse was at the door for the seventh time, the question was settled.

Reed himself took Hilda back to the city flat, and there pleaded his cause with Mrs. Murray.

"It must be as Hilda decides," declared the old lady, with dignity sufficient for a crown princess. "Though there's no doubt but that she could make a brilliant match in New York—"

"Mother!" urged Hilda, piteously. "Still," went on Mrs. Murray, "I would not

