Prior to the American Revolution every colonial farmhouse and every blacksmith's shop was a manufactory, for everything was literally manufactured, that is, made by hand. The blacksmith hammered out axes, hoes, forks, spades, ploughsheares, scythes and nails. A tailoress went from house to house to make up the winter clothing, and was followed by the shoemaker.

The farmer prepared the leather from skins which had lain in the vat for a year, and his wife made ready the cloth.

Spinning-wheels buzzed from morning till night. Skeins of woolen and linen yarn hung on the walls of every house. Seated on the loom-seat, the best woman of the family plied shuttles and treadles, weaving blankets, sheets, table-cloths, towels, bed curtains, window curtains, flannels, and cloth for garments.

Every woman in the household manufactured something. The aged grandmother spun flax with the little wheel; the youngest daughter carded wool and the oldest, if the men were busy, hatcheled flax. It was hard work that did it, and every hand did what it could best

The woman, whose "work was never done," not only carded, spun and wove. but they milked the cows, made butter, bread and cheese, soap and candles, cooked the food, did the washing, and in harvest raked hay, pulled flax, and dug potatoes.

The neighbor, who happened in for an afternoon's gossip, brought her work. The mother patched or knitted, as she rested by the fireside, or quartered apples for the children to "string" and hang in the morning in festoons on the sunny outside walls. All were busy-always busy.

#### Post Office Thief Drowned.

Shot While a Gang is Breaking in to the Bound Brook Post Office.

BOUND BROOK, N. J., Feb. 10 .-Daring thieves entered the post office here. They were discovered by the railroad agent and he at once opened fire on them. One thief was shot, but he managed to get into the Raritan Riyer, where he jumped in, hoping to escape by swimming to the other side. The loss of blood weakened him greatly and the icy waters numbed him. When but a few feet from the shore he sank with a despairing cry and was drowned. Efforts are now being made to get his body.

The pal of the drowned thief made a desperate struggle for freedom. He fought like a tiger, but was overpowered and taken into custody. It is supposed that others were with him, but they got away safely. Beyond doubt the robbers were members of the same gang who entered the Jersey City post office a few days ago, bound the watchman and janitor and tried to rob the safe. The town is in a terrible state of excitement. The captured burglar was taken to the jail at Summerville. He is sullen and morose, refusing to tell who he is or give the name of the dead thief.

### A Woman Fish.

'Walk up! Walk up, ladies and gentlemen,' shouled a man at the top of .his voice in front of a booth at a fair. 'Walk right up and inspect this curious phenomenon-a real, live womanfish, the only one in existence.' There was a rush; the place was crammed to the doors. The curtain rose and a young woman dressed all in black appeared on the stage and said, in doleful accents: 'Ladies and gentlemen, I Selinsgrove, - - - - Penna. am the woman Fish. There is my certificate of marriage. My husband's name was Fish. He was a slater by trade. He was killed last summer through a fall off a scaffolding, and, as he has left me with four children un. provided for, I will take the liberty to go round and make a collection on their behalf.'

### Delicately Done.

'Ah, madam,' he said, as he extended a hand to help her up, 'I never saw a more graceful fall. You threw up your arms like a born actress, your little feet indulged in a scufile, and down you settled with a swan-like movement which was superb.' 'Really, sir ?'

'Honest Injun, madam.'

And he picked up a No. 7 rubber which had been flung from her left foot, turned his back to a dent in the snow which looked as if a cottage had been upset there, and, raising his hat and making a profound bow he took his leave, while she continued to blush and smile for sixteen blocks .- Detroit Free

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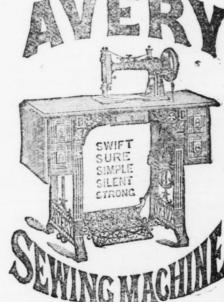
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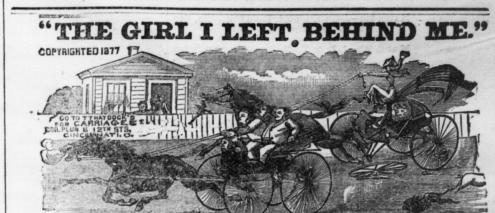


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