For The Curious.

The highest range of mountains is the Himalayas, the mean elevation being estimated at from 16,000 to 18,000 feet.

The loftiest mountain is Mount Everest or Guarisanker, of the Himalaya range, having an elevation of 29,002 feet above the sea level.

The largest bell in the world is the great bell of Moscow at the foot of the Kremlin. Its circumference at the bottom is nearly 68 feet, and its height more than 21 feet.

The largest city in the world is London. Its population numbers 3,020,871 souls. New York, with a population of about 1,250,000 comes fifth in the list of great cities.

The largest theatre is the New Opera House in Paris. It covers nearly three acres of ground. Its cubit mass is 4,287,000 feet. It cost about 100,000,000 francs.

The largest suspension bridge will be the one now building between New York and Brooklyn. The length of the main span is 1,595 feet six inches; the entire length of the bridge is 5989 feet.

The loftiest active volcano is Popocatepeti—"smoking mountain"—thirty-five miles southwest of Puebla, Mexico. It is 17,784 feet above the sea level and has a crater three miles in circumference and 1,000 feet deep.

The largest island in the world, which is also regarded as a continent, is Australia. It is 2500 miles in length from east to west, and measures 1950 miles from north to south. Its area is 2,984,287 square miles.

The greatest thing in the world is the Falls of Niagara; the largest cavern, the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky; the largest river, the Mississippi, 4000 miles in extent; the largest valley, that of the Mississippi, its area 5,000,000 square miles; the greatest city park, that of Philadelphia, containing 2700 acres; the greatest grain port, Chicago; the biggest lake, Lake Superior; the longest railroad, the Pacific railroad, over 3,000 miles in extent. The most huge mass of solid iron is Pilot Knob, of Missouri, height, 250 feet, circumference, two miles; the best specimen of architecture, Girard College, Philadelphia; the largest library is the Bibliothique National, in Paris, founded by Louis XIV.; it contains 1,400,000 volumes, 300,000 pamphlets, 175,000 manuscripts, 300,000 maps and charts, and 150,000 coins and medals.

The largest span of wire in the world is used for a telegraph in India over the river Kistnah, between Bezorah and Sectanagrum. It is more than 6000 feet long, and is stretched between two hills, each of which is 1,200 feet high.

Oaths of all Nations.

The Forms of Oaths in Foreign Legislative Assemblies.

The following summary of the forms of oath in use in foreign legislative assemblies is extracted from the reports received at the British foreign office in New York:

Bavaria—I swear * * * So help me God and His holy gospel.

Denmark—I promise and swear * * * So help me God and His holy word.

Greece—I swear in the name of the holy and consubstantial and invisible Trinity.

Hessé Darmstaat—I swear * * * * * So help me God.

Saxe-Coburg and Baden—I swear. So help me God.

Holland—I swear. So help me God.

Portugal—I swear on the holy gospels.

Prussia—I swear by God, the almighty and omniscient * * * So help me God.

Saxony—I swear by almighty God.

Servia—I swear by one God and all that is according to law most sacred and in this world dearest. * * * * * * So help me God in this and that other world.

Spain—After swearing the deputy on the gospel, the president says: "Then may God repay you; but if you fail, may He claim it from you."

Sweden and Norway—I (president or vice-president only) swear before God and His holy golpel * * * I will be faithful to this oath as sure as God shall save my body and soul.

Switzerland—In the presence of Almighty God I swear * * * So help me God.

United States—I do solemnly swear * * * So help me God.

In Bavaria, non-Christians omit the reference to the gospel. In Holland and the United States, affirmation is optional. In Prussia and in Switzerland, affirmation is permitted to those who object on religious grounds to the oath. In Austria, a promise is in every case substituted for an oath. In Belgium and Italy, the adjuration is used without any theistic reference, and France and Roumania, the German Reichstag and for deputies in Sweden and Norway, neither oath not affirmation is demanded.

How it Ended.

Miss Jane Beagle had lived years enough in this wicked world to know that even single blessedness is not always perfectly satisfactory to its possessor of her particular share of beauty. She had flirted with several admirers; but she went too far when she refused Billy Winkum because he was poor and unknown, for Billy had in him that stuff that makes a man rise in some place—opinions of his own, a loud voice, a feeling that he was as good as anybody else, if not a little better, and a talent for Fourth of July orations. So that in these years which had changed his old lady love from "that there handsome Jane Beagle' to "Miss Jane Beagle, that hasn't ever married," he had risen in the world and been to Congress, and was a person of such distinction that no one would have dared to call him Billy Winkum. Mr. William Warrington Winkum was his designation; a finer coat, more watch and chain, or a larger diamond in his cravat were owned by no one in Billberry.

He had never married, but that had made him all the more desirable to Billberry society. He had met Jane very often there; and now Jane would very willingly have proved to him that her decisive No of fifteen years ago had been repented of. Alas! either Mr. William Warrington Winkum no longer grieved over that No, or he regarded it as final.

"And yet he hasn't married," said Miss Jane, "and he don't flirt around amongst the" young girls, nor pay attention to widows. I have not a gray hair. He is five years older than I am anyway. Suppose he should like me still?"

However, concealment did not seem to prey like a worm in the bud on Mr. William Warrington Winkum's damask cheek. He shouted on the platform at election with unimpaired lung power, and he built himself a house on the hill wherein he installed a housekeeper, his remarkable old grandmother, who had outlived fourteen children, and at ninety walked, rode, talked and ate with an energy not often met in a woman of forty.

Oh! that house with its bright bricks, its new shutters, its elaborate roof, its stately chimneys, its balcony at front porch, and its interior of Wilton carpets, real lace curtains and velvet parlor furniture! How often Jane Beagle said to herself:

"All this might have been mine if I had said yes to Billy." She said it to herself very often one day, about house cleaning time, when she was doing her best with the shabby old house that was all her own now. One after another had slipped out of it—some were married, some were dead—nobody remained.

"I don't think I can stand it much longer," sighed Jane. "I must take boarders or something. Nobody to speak to all day long. If I feel sick, nobody to do for me."

Jane was down on the kitchen floor scrubing as she spoke. The rag carpet was hanging on the line outside. The rushbottom chairs, well scrubbed, were turned upon the grass to dry, every pan shone beautifully but the wood was worm eaten and the smoothest whitewash would not make the walls flawless.

"Heigh-ho!" sighed Jane; "I like a handsome house; but I shan't ever have one of my own."

She said it aloud—a habit of talking to herself had grown upon her—but to her surprise she was answered on the instant.

"Why, who knows!" said a voice. "You may have the handsomest house in the village yet. Who knows? Don't you want me to tell you how?"

"Good gracious!" cried Jane, jumping to her feet, "who is that?"

"It's only me, ma'am," replied a stout, dark woman, with a big straw hat trimmed with poppies on her ears, who sat on the door sill and smiled at her merrily. "It's only a poor gypsy wandering over the world telling folks fortunes for them. Will you have yours told, lady?"

"Mine?" said Jane, laughing. Why, I'm too old."

"You are young enough to have lots ahead of you, lady," said the gypsy. "Come, what's twenty-five cents to you to hear all your good luck? Besides, luck is misused sometimes if we are not on the lookout for it."

What woman does not believe in her inmost heart that there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in philosophy?

What single woman doubts that somewhere upon earth fate keeps the other half of her soul?

"It would be awfully foolish," said she, "but nobody will ever know, and I think I'll do it."

She felt in her pocket for some change. It was not there. She had given it, she remembered, to the man that had mended the wash-boiler that morning. And she went to the drawer of the little bookcase with a sliding desk in it, which stood in the sitting-room, to get it. The gypsy followed her, chafing, laughing hinting at things which brought blushes to Jane's cheek. She peeped into the drawer. There lay the silver spoons and forks, the sugar tongs, a broach set with pearls, Jane's only costly bit of jewelry, and a roll of bills. Miss Beagle drew her little income once a quarter, and kept it in the house in fear of the savings bank, which had once ceased payment for awhile.

The bright eyes, set close together in the gypsy's head, saw all at a glance; and her smile was very bright as Miss Jane put the twenty-five cents into her hand.

"I have taken a notion to you," she said, looking at the palm of the beautiful if not youthful hand that lay in hers. "There's luck afore you. There's one that is liked, not far off, eh?"

Jane blushed again.

"He'll give you a handsome house, and set you up in carriage," added the gypsy. "Now own up, lady, your heart is toward him, is it not?"

"He does not care whether it is or not," sighed Jane, unaware that she had spoken.

"Lady," said the gypsy, solemnly," I have a great power. I can bring together the disunited. I can cure love troubles. Do as I tell you and he shall come to you again."

"What am I to do?" asked Jane, carried away by her own emotions and the gypsy's dramatic manner.

"I'll tell you, lady," said the gypsy. "Kneel down here beside this chair. Let me cover your face with this handkerchief. Don't be afraid, it's clean; it is a magic handkerchief. Now think of him. Think of him you love and don't move until I tell you."

People in love are generally a little mad, I am afraid, and Jane had been hopelessly treasuring the image of Mr. Warrington Winkum in her heart for years. She did what the gypsy bade her.

The next moment she felt the handkerchief tied tightly over her eyes, and next her hands were tied also with a stout corn.

She screamed, but some one was tying her feet together.

"It's no use, lady," said the gypsy's voice, blandly." I've got the key of the drawer and I shan't hurt you. I'll just help myself and go."

The spoons jingled. Miss Jane could not see, but she knew that the contents of the drawer were being transferred to the gypsy's pocket and she screamed and struggled vainly.

About an hour after the gypsy had left, Mr. Winkum drove past Jane's house in a buggy. He was fond of lilacs and stopped to gather a bunch that hung over the fence from a full bush. In old times Jane had pulled lilacs for him from the bush. As he put them to his nose a scream met his ear.

"Something is the matter," said he, as he ran up the path to the house.

The kitchen was empty, the scrubbing brush on the floor, the pail upset. The gypsy had done that as she departed. Another scream was heard. He rushed into the inner room and found Jane with her head tied up in a black silk handkerchief, and her feet and hands bound.

In a moment he had her untied. The next she sat in a chair. "Such a sight!" she said to herself; but Mr. Winkum noticed that she had nice plump arms under her tucked up sleeves, and that her big frightened eyes were blue indeed.

"I've been tied here for I don't know how long, Mr. Winkum," she said. "Oh, how thankful I am you came by! I have been robbed of everything I have—my silver, my money, my jewelry. What I shall do I don't know."

"Unprotected women ought not to reside in any house alone," said Mr. Winkum seriously.

"Sometimes they can't well help it," said Jane.

It was so singular, in that old calico, with such shoes, and no back braid—for that was hanging over her bureau glass upstairs—Miss Jane could never believe it, but then and there William Warrington Winkum changed suddenly into only an older Billy Winkum, and said without any oratorical flourish or a big word:

"Jane, you don't need to live alone, I've always liked you, and I sorter think, arter all, you've always liked me. Have me, won't you?"

"Not even my back braid on!" thought Jane Beagle, afterward. But all she said was: "Oh, Billy; I was such a goose fifteen years ago."

"I'm glad Billy had sense to marry an old maid," said Grandma Winkum at the wedding. "Gals is so hity-tity, and widders is so kinder overrullin' and unsettlin'. Old maids is kinder thankful and willin' to please."

But Jane was too happy to be offended by anything any woman could say.

Try walking with your hands behind you if you find yourself becoming bent forward.

The stockraisers of Colorado estimate the aggregate value of their flocks and herds at $35,000,000. The number of horned cattle is placed at 2,250,000.

Home Dressmaking.

How Every Woman May Become a Fashionable and Economical Milliner.

In the present era of cheap dry goods, the heaviest item in the cost of a dress is not unfrequently the making. Therefore ladies who wish to economize, or who cannot afford the expensive luxury of a fashionable dressmaker, make their own dresses at home. It is undoubtedly false economy to entrust the making of a handsome dress to inexperienced hands, now that such robes are really works of art, which none but skilled modistes can accomplish successfully. Still, outside of these, there is no reason why every lady who has leisure to sew, who can use the sewing machine and handle her needle, may not be her own dressmaker.

The manufacture of paper patterns has grown into an immense business and patterns for the latest novelties in every article of clothing for men, women and children may be purchased for a trifling amount. With these are usually furnished plain and simple directions for cutting out and putting together, as well as instructions as to the quantity of material required for the garment. Before buying the pattern, take your measure, easy, around the bust, under the arms with a tape-line. Cut the lining out first before touching the material of which the dress is to be made. Take care to keep the goods straight in cutting and pin the pattern down carefully, with every straight line running true to the thread of the material. A piano makes a capital cuttingboard for large garments, polonaises, skirts, etc., and next to that comes the top of the dining-table. For sleeves, folds, and for basques, an ordinary lap board serves every purpose. Mark the darts with a tracing wheel, which will leave a pricked line upon the goods, but do not cut them out. Baste up and try on with the seams outside, taking up more or less, as may be necessary.

DRESSMAKERS' RULES.

The best dressmakers merely mark the darts, and pin up the figure, but this is not practicable if you are fitting yourself. Be sure to have a good light on your mirror, so that you can see exactly how your dress lining fits. Never take up or let out a seam, without making a corresponding alteration in the opposite one, or your dress will be onesided. No dress waist will fit well if tight over the bust, and it is a wise precaution to lay a fold of batting or a soft towel across the bust, from under one arm to the other while fitting it. The darts should be kept quite low down; high darts make the figure look flat. Stout figures require a greater distance between the front of the first dart than slender ones After the lining fits to your satisfaction. rip it apart, and laying it on the dress material, cut out by it instead of the pattern. The two fronts must be cut so as to face in opposite directions, with the selvage of the goods on the outer edge. Everything, even white muslin, has a right side and a wrong side, and even if you cannot detect the difference it is safer to cut your dress all on the same face of the cloth.

The best dressmakers use silk for lining, or, failing this, fine gray linen, but the best silesia is equally as good, although less expensive. Drilling is heavy, and apt to stretch, although some dressmakers prefer it. Baste each piece of the corsage on the lining; then baste up, and try on, as before. It is an excellent plan to work the buttonholes, and sew the buttons on the front before this basting up, as it will greatly facilitate trying on. To measure the size of the buttonholes, put a piece of card beneath the button, and cut it an eighth of an inch on either side. Having turned down the piece in front on the right side, run a thread a sixteenth of an inch from the folded edge, and again another the width of the card. Measure the distance of the buttons apart, and cut at regular space, beginning with a buttonhole at the bottom of the bodice. It is no longer customary to stitch down the points when they are folded back, the buttons and buttonholes holding them in place, but a straight strip of the material an inch and a half wide, double, and with the edges turned in, should be set on the edge of the left-hand front to underlap the buttonholes on the right.

FINISHING TOUCHES.

Before sewing on the buttons lay the two fronts together, edge on edge, and mark the place where each button is to go on by means of a pin stuck in through the corresponding buttonhole. In sewing the buttons on, put in the stitches orizontally; if perpendicular, they are kely to pucker the bodice so much that the buttons will not match the buttonholes. Before stitching up the seams of the bodice make sure that your tensions are right; if too tight, they will draw; if too loose, they will stitch out of shape. After this is done, try on the waist again, and trim out the neck and arm holes. If these last are not carefully sloped, some ugly creases will always appear between the arm hole and bosom. The casings for whale bones are inserted at the side seams, on the left front, in advance of the buttonholes, and on each dart. The casings are made of tape, a little wider than the bone, firmly stitched down on each side of the open seams. The top of the casing is formed altogether of the tape which is doubled for nearly an inch, a precaution which prevents the bone from wearing the dress. Those set on the darts should only extend to within an inch or so of the top of the dart, both on account of the fit and to prevent cutting out. The close-fitting Jersey basque needs no facing beyond a two-inch wide strip of the dress material; but habit and jockey basques should have the tails lined with the dress goods in case they should accidentally turn up. When the edge of a Jersey basque is cut in battlements they also must be faced in the same manner. To prevent the bodice from slipping out of place, take the wide tape which comes for the purpose, place its lower edge to the bottom of the waist line, and stitch it to the middle seam of the back, taking care not to draw it; put on a couple of hooks and eyes, letting the band set easily, though closely, to the waist. In addition to this, our best dressmakers put a wide belt of the dress lining inside, extending from the front dart to the front, where it fastens with hooks and eyes. The edges of the lining and the dress goods are turned in and neatly overseamed together on every seam, so that no raw edges are visible. Sleeves fit close to the arm, and are deeply scooped out on the under side to accommodate the fashionable short shoulder-seams of the day. Many of them are slightly padded on top to give very high effect now considered desirable.

Linen and lawn dresses, ginghmas, and other wash goods, are not lined, but are made with the convenient French fell, which makes a neat finish, while it prevents the seams from stretching. To make this, stitch up on the right side, allowing room for another seam, trim the seams off close, turn and stitch up, once more on the wrong side.

OTHER DRESS PATTERNS.

The skirts of wash dresses are usually made with overskirt and underskirt separate, for convenience in laundrying, and the draping is done by means of tapes run in casings, which may be easily let out or drawn up at will. All other materials are made up on a foundation, trimmed at the foot and faced with the dress material on the outside as high as the drapery demands. The drapery is made and trimmed and is then arranged on the wearer, and fastened in place. No written directions can be given for this, it requires a plate to go by, and some talent in draping to do it, the latter being more necessary than the plate. There is a decided tendency towards short front draperies, and much bunched up backs, which, however, come down long on the skirt.

The front breadths of the skirt should be without fullness, and hang well to the back, an end attained by scooping them out well at the waist. If the wearer be stout it will be necessary also to take up one or two pleats in front of the stomach. In sewing on the waistband, mass the fullness at the back, either in large gathers, or else in a quadruple box plait. Dressmakers usually sew a full pleating of crinoline at the belt in the back, in order to produce a bouffant effect. More recent, however, is the introduction of a narrow cushion filled with horsehair. This is made like a bag, the upper half, which is sewed to the waistband, being empty, and the lower stuffed. Alpaca makes the best foundation for silks, and French silesia comes next in grade. English cambric is much used, as well as calico, in solid colors, black, brown, blue, etc., according to the dress.

All plaited flounces and frills should be cut straight, all gathered ones bias. Gathered flounces on wash dresses, however, should be straight, since bias ones do not wash well. Gathered bias flounces are coming rapidly into fashion. Most of them are narrow, more ruffles in fact, and from five to fifteen of them are used. All bias folds, pipings and flounces must be cut exactly on the bias, or they will not set well. For this, cut the material perfectly straight from edge to edge of the selvage, fold the cut edge along the selvage in form of a triangle, pin in place, and cut accurately on the folded edge. According to the required width of the strip, measure on the selvage fold, and cut as before. After the first piece is cut, it will serve as a pattern for the others, but care must be taken to pin exactly, and not to stretch it, else the bands will be of irregular width. Bias ruffles require the length and half as much again as the space they are to trim; box plaits with a space between twice the length; quiltings and box-plaits which touch call for thrice the fullness of the skirt. Kilt pleats take nearly four times the length, since, in order to hang prettily, they must overlap each other a little.

The fashionable rose plaiting is still more extravagant, its triple box-plaits requiring double the quantity of an ordinary quilting, or six times the length of the space it is to trim. The quantity necessary for any trimming may be easily calculated by cutting a strip of paper and making mall quantity up in that, then measure the trimming and the length of the strip used, and you may make the estimate without difficulty. Dresses all have collars, and not unfrequently there are two on the same dress; a straight band or English collar, and a round or Marie Antoinette collar, which last is a kind of fichue forming a collar in the back and revers in front. The gathered Mother Hubbard collar is very becoming to slender figures; stout, broad-shouldered people should never wear it since it exaggerates the breadth of the shoulders. The English collar, so fashionable now, is merely a bias strip of the dress material or of the trimming fabric, an inch and a-half wide, faced with the same with an interlining of wiggin. The ends are turned over in front, English style, or they may be rounded off in clerical fashion and left upright.

All the new bodices have the side forms running into the armhole. The shoulder seams should be taken far back and turned to the front. The long flat corsages of the present day require underclothing with but scant fullness at the waist, and will not set well over bulky gathers. Nor can the most skilful dressmaker accomplish a well fitting dress over an ill-fitting corset, a fact which seems self-evident, yet which many persons fail to understand, and, failing, throw the blame upon the dress maker.—*Ex.*

Victoria.

From Port Townsend it is a three hours run across the Straits of De Fuca to Victoria, on Vancouver's Island, and here, at one's first step, he realizes that he is on British soil. It is strange that two peoples speaking the same language, holding in the main the same or similar beliefs, can have in their daily living so utterly dissimilar atmospheres as do the Americans and the English. This sharp contrast can nowhere be more vividly seen than in going from Washington Territory to Vancouver's Island. Victoria is a town which would well repay a careful study. Even in the most cursory glances at it one sees symptoms of reticent life, a flavor of mystery and leisure, backgrounds of traditionary dignity and hereditary squalor, such as one might go up and down the whole Pacific coast, from San Diego to Portland, and not find. When Victoria is, as it is sure to become, sooner or later, a wide-known summering place, no doubt its byways and highways, its bygone ways and days, will prove mines of treasure to the imagination of some dreaming story-teller. The business part of the town, if one may be pardoned such a misnomer in speaking of its sleepy streets, is rubbishy and littered. The buildings are shabby, unadorned, with no pretense of design or harmony. They remind one of the inferior portions of second-class commercial towns in England, and the men and women in the shops, on doorsteps and in alley-ways look as if they might have just come from Hull. But once outside this part of the town all is changed: delightful, picturesque lanes; great meadow spaces full of oaks; knolls of mossy boulders; old trees swathed in ivy; cottages buried in roses and honeysuckel; comfortable houses, with lawns and hedges, sun-dials and quaint weather-vanes; castle-like houses of stone, with lodges and high walls and drive-ways; and, to complete the picture, sauntering down the lanes, or driving at stately paces along the perfect roads, nonchalent men and leisurely women, whose nonchalence and leisure could not be outdone or outstared in Hyde Park.

Sanitary Briefs.

Hall's Journal of Health recommends the following remedies for common human ills. They are simple, always a hand in the family, and are indorsed by first-class authority:

Try cranberries for malaria.

Try a sun-bath for rheumatism.

Try clambroth for a weak stomach.

Try cranberry poultice for erysipelas.

Try a wet towel to the back of the neck when sleepless.

Try swallowing saliva when troubled with sour stomach.

Try eating fresh radishes and yellow turnips for gravel.

Try eating onions and horseradish to remove dropsical swellings.

Try buttermilk for removal of freckles, tan and butternut stains.

Try a hot flannel over the seat of neuralgic pains, and renew frequently.

Try taking your cod-liver oil in tomato catsup if you want to make it palatable.

Try taking a nap in the afternoon if you are going to be out late in the evening.

Try breathing the fumes of turpentine or carbolic acid to remove whooping-cough.

Sleeves have almost disappeared from the waists of evening dresses, but the arms are covered by kid gloves that are nearly a yard long, and that reach from shoulders to wrists. The gloves match the dress in color.