

## Chinese Aggressiveness.

China is becoming bumptious since the more thorough discipline of her army and her acquisition of several ironclads. The manner of the Court of Peking toward foreign powers is often insolent while acts that have a warlike meaning are not infrequent. Several years ago, when China was so much occupied with the Taiping rebellion as to be unable to put down insurrection in that remote quarter of her dominions, the Russians, in self-defense and to prevent the entire slaughter of the population, took possession of the Kuldja, the northwestern province. When the rebellion was subdued the province was ceded back to China, Russia only retaining the western portion and receiving an indemnity from the injuries she had suffered. For a while every thing went on well in the restored territory, but during the last year, owing to the insolence of the local Governor and hostility to the non-Chinese native population, who had by the treaty permission to place themselves under Russian protection, there is a great deal of friction, which may eventually lead to war.

The relations of China with Japan are not agreeable. Some years ago there was a dispute between the two nations in regard to some not very valuable islands, which were at last taken in an arbitrary way by Japan. Since this difficulty, which was never amicably adjusted, Japan has made a lodgment in Korea, and though the latter is nominally subject to China, has acquired at the Korean Court a far greater amount of influence than her rival. War between them is possible, and though China has a larger army and a more efficient navy, Japan is more isolated, and the result would be doubtful. The feeling between England and China is not cordial. In pursuance of her policy of exclusiveness, China wishes to prevent the landing of an ocean cable at Shanghai, and England threatens to use force if necessary to effect her purpose. In case of a war with Japan it is not probable that Russia would look on as a silent spectator. She is not yet satisfied with the situation on the Amoor, though she has all of the north bank to the ocean and a strip of the territory on the south bank, extending from the mouth of the river to Korea and some hundreds of miles to the westward. She will never be content until she possesses the entire basin of that great stream, including a good part of Korea and most of Manchouvia, a fertile region which borders on the Amoor for more than a thousand miles. Its climate is much milder than that part of Siberia lying on the opposite side of the river, and in case Russia shall build a railroad from the Ural to the Pacific it would be absolutely needed to prevent detours of many hundred miles to the northward. Russia has, as yet, no part on the Pacific not closed by ice for several months in the year and it will hardly be possible to acquire one without coming into hostile contact with the Chinese Empire. The latter would do well to maintain amicable relations with Western Powers, for she is sure to have the worst of it in any foreign encounter. She has an army without efficient soldiers and a navy which she does not know how to manipulate to advantage, besides which there are signs of insubordination that may lead to other rebellions as disastrous as that of the Taiping.

## Fashion.

Valenciennes lace is extensively utilized for under garments. Light surah and satin petticoats have trimmings of three rows of black or white lace.

Jonquil and mandarin yellow, mahogany, tobacco and Havana brown, Turkey red, French gray and corn-flower blue are the names of the colors which will be most fashionable for millinery purposes this season.

The coverings of dress parasols are of the richest brocaded and foulard silks, with flounces of Spanish white or black lace. A varicolored bow adorns one panel of the parasol. The sticks are of white ash or ebony wood, tastefully carved, with a loop handle.

Corsets are very long and quite low back and front, so as not to interfere with the low-neck waists. Corsets for day wear are of black or sea-colored satin, trimmed with Chantilly or Valenciennes lace. For evening toilets there are white satin corsets trimmed with lace ruchings. All shades of satin are used for corsets, but black and white are most generally worn.

Silk stockings for day use are in the color of the suit. Ecru silk hose are the only kind worn with all evening toilets. When the stockings match the dress the corners are embroidered with silk. The favorite shoe worn at present is open over the top of the foot and tied on the instep. On the large bows trimming the shoes are two butterfly wings of plaited material.

Lace of all kinds is still to be used in great profusion, and it is not strange that the fashion continues, for this deli-

cate trimming is more becoming to both young and old than garniture of any other description. Black, white, blue, ecru, cream, icelle, pale coffee-colored, as well as dark-hued Spanish laces in myrtle green, olive, garnet, and the like, to match the color of the costume, are employed on silks, woolen and other materials suitable for the street, while the more delicate tints are at present reserved for evening wear. Later on, these airy trimmings will decorate the exquisite toilets of French muslin, sateen, linen lawn and tinted organdie, the indications being that dresses of this kind will be in as great fashion as they proved last year. Silver and gold lace will be used upon fancy dress materials, such as Chambery gauze, Brussels net and India silk muslins, brocaded with silver or gold dots, moons, flowers or small fruits.

The designs for fancy jewelry are swords, very large pincers, lances, horseshoes and birds. As few women care to have their diamonds frequently mounted, these fancy articles are very generally resorted to. Medallions are replaced by soft ribbon-band necklaces, with small designs in Egyptian and Etruscan style. They sit tight around the neck; some ladies use their diamond parures for head ornaments, and these are placed among the leaves of flowers.

For young girls the Marguerite dress is very much in favor. It is open in a square, which is generally edged with a strip of dark velvet or silk, and the opening is filled up with a high-necked chemisette of plaited material either the same as that of the dress, if it is fine enough, or one different from it, if not. For instance, a dress of flax-gray nun's veiling. The bodice, open in a square, is bound with dark blue velvet. This bodice is plain, with a dark blue velvet waistband; it is draped up very high on the left side with dark blue silk cord, showing an underskirt of plaited dark blue faille. The sleeves are composed of two puffings of the nun's veiling, divided by a bracelet of dark blue velvet; they are finished with velvet cuffs. The plaited chemisette, which terminates the bodice up to the neck, is of the same material as the dress. Dark colored cashmere may be used instead of velvet, in which case the skirt would also be made of cashmere.

Many small capotes are worn as well as round hats. The latter have trimmings of plumes and draperies of old Irish or Genoa lace, fastened down with colored shell-pins. The novelties for hats are gold and colored laces in Persian style, and light shell-pins in all sizes. Small capotes are covered with silk lace ruchings, and the microscopic crowns are of Ottoman epingline or of velvet to match the dress. For instance, for wear with a green Ottoman velvet toilet the capote has a greenuffed crown and a brim of black or white lace worked with jet stars and arranged in seven or eight rows of plaiting. Many colored straw hats are to be worn. They are trimmed with Pompadour or plaid ribbon, with Pompadour threads running through the ribbon. The colors to be used for spring bonnets are "canaque" shade, crushed strawberry and "bleu Meduse." These shades are combined without regard to the effect they produce. For traveling and country wear Greenaway capelines will be favored. They consist of shirtings, black lace and bandeaus of flowers placed against the hair.

## Fond of Snakes.

There is one thing about Prof. Bell Florida agent of the Smithsonian Institute, which his neighbors do not like and that is the pleasure which he takes in the companionship of venomous snakes. A countryman called on the professor the other day, and as he entered the room a huge rattlesnake dropped off a sofa pillow which had been placed upon a chair for his accommodation, glided into a corner, coiled, and, waging his head back and forth, shook his rattles viciously at the intruder. "Great beeswax!" exclaimed the countryman. "Come in!" said the professor, cordially, handing his caller the chair just vacated by the snake. "Don't mind him, he's not used to strangers, that's all." The snake obeyed an order to "hush and fuss," but still kept vigilant watch over the visitor, who, under the circumstances did not care to make a long stay. Doubtless the reptile's fang had been drawn, but that did not transform him into an agreeable object for contemplation.

## THE HABSBERG.

LONDON.—The bark Nicosia, which has arrived at Bremen, reports that on April 29th, in lat. 47.37, long. 20.16, she spoke the North German Lloyd's steamer Habsburg, from New York April 7th for Bremen, previously spoken, with her shaft disabled. The Habsburg reported all well on board. The weather was fine at the time.

## Recent Legal Decisions.

(1). BANKING—CHECK FOR COLLECTION—TITLE. (2). SAME—SET-OFF INSOLVENCY.—B. & Co., of Newark, N. J., had a check for \$11,781.93 on New York, which they deposited in the Mechanics' National Bank at Newark. It was the practice of the bank to credit the checks received on deposit, and on the failure to collect to debit the account on the day following the deposit, and while this check was still in the bank's possession it failed, and the receiver sent on the check for collection, but found payment stopped. Before the deposit of this check B. & Co. had to their credit \$7090.70; but the bank held \$30,000 of their notes, which had been pledged for it as collateral security. B. & Co. demanded the return of the check as their property, and that the balance of their bank account be set-off against their notes. These demands were refused, and they brought suit—Balbach vs. Frelinghuysen, Receiver, in the United States Circuit Court, District of New Jersey—to enforce them. Judge Nixon, in the opinion, said: "I. The Receiver insists that the indorsement of the check to the bank, and its credit on the depositor's book, made the check the property of the bank. The reply to this is twofold: 1. That in all cases where credits are thus made banks claim and always exercise the right of charging checks returned to them for non-payment to the account of the depositor which could not be done if the check had become the property of the bank and did not remain the property of the depositor until collected. 2. That the practice which has grown up among banks to credit such deposits at once to the account of the depositor, and to allow him to draw against them before the collection is made, is reckoned by the ablest text writers as a mere gratuitous privilege, which does not grow into a binding legal usage. II. If the bank had held these notes at the time of its failure, and was entitled to receive the amounts due thereon when they matured, such an offset might be made. But they had been indorsed away for value. The bank holding them as collateral security had the right to collect them and credit them on the loan as it did with the first note. It is claimed that the balance to the credit of the Newark Bank on the proceeds of these collaterals after the payment of the loan, should belong to the complainants, and be set off against the unpaid note of \$15,000; but the Receiver cannot give a preference to them."

PATENTS—LICENSE—AGREEMENT NOT TO CONTEST VALIDITY.—We gave a manufacturing company a license to make and sell his invention, and agreed not to contest the validity of the patent. The license was revoked because the company violated the conditions of the agreement, and it continued to sell the invention. In a suit upon the infringement—Wooster vs. the Singer Manufacturing Company—brought in the United States Circuit Court, Southern District of New York, the company contested the validity of the patent, and on the question of the right of the defendant to set up in its answer the invalidity of the patent after its agreement not to do so, Judge Shipman, in the opinion, said: "That more commonly expressed and presumably, therefore, better judicial opinion is to the effect that when the license has been revoked by the plaintiff and the bill treats the defendant as a naked infringer he is at liberty to avail himself of any defense ordinarily open to any defendant who is charged with infringement."

(1) SHERIFF'S SALE—OF PATENTED MACHINE—(2) SAME—FIXTURES—MACHINERY.—K bought at a Sheriff's sale of a wooden-ware factory, at which there were sold the land and buildings, "with machinery for manufacturing tubs, pails, etc.; large boilers, etc." In this factory were two graining machines which were made under a patent, and the patentee sued K as an infringer, claiming that the Sheriff could sell the right to use the machines. In this case—Wilder vs. Kent—in the United States Circuit Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, Judge Acheson, in dismissing the bill, said: "1. The purchaser of a machine from the patentee acquired no right to the patent itself, and needs none to enable him to enjoy his acquisition. By implication he is invested with a license to use that particular machine, and, in the absence of an express provision to the contrary, such license passes with the machine to successive owners as an incident of proprietorship. That such is the law in the case of a voluntary sale is incontrovertible. But wherefore should the rights of a Sheriff's vendee under an execution against the patentee be less than those of a purchaser directly from the patentee? To deny the vendee the right to use such machine would, in effect, prevent its sale upon an execution as an operative apparatus and practically withdraw it from the reach of the owner's execution creditors. The mischievous consequences to which the doctrine contended for would lead can hardly be estimated. The position is untenable. 2. The law of Pennsyl-

vania as between venter and vendee, heir and executor, debtor and execution creditor; machinery, whether fast or loose, of a manufactory which is a constituent part thereof for the purposes of the business there conducted, and without which the establishment could not be fully equipped, is a fixture, and passes as a part of the freehold. The graining machines were used in the works in the ordinary course of the manufacture of tubs and pails, and clearly they were within the scope of the levy."

## Home Economies.

THINGS NOT KNOWN.—That salt will curdle new milk, hence, in preparing milk porridge, gravies, etc., the salt should not be added until the dish is prepared.

That kerosene will make your teakettle as bright as new. Saturate a woolen rag and rub with it. It will also remove stains from the cleaned varnished furniture.

That beeswax and salt will make your rusty flat-irons as clean and as 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 them with a paper or cloth sprinkled with salt.—Hall's Journal of Health.

Spirits of ammonia, diluted with water, if applied with a sponge or flannel to discolored spots of the carpets or garments will often restore the color.

GRAFTING WAX.—A reader writes to us for a recipe for making grafting wax that will not melt in summer nor crack in winter. Replying, we would say that three parts resin, three parts beeswax and two parts tallow, will make an excellent grafting wax. A cheaper wax that has given us good satisfaction is made by melting together four parts good, clean resin, two parts beeswax, and one part tallow. When the ingredients are all melted and mixed, pour into a pail of cold water, when the wax will harden sufficiently to be worked and pulled, as in working molasses candy. If used in cool weather it will be necessary to keep in warm water; and in hot weather cold water will be needed. For nursery grafting, this wax is sometimes melted and spread on narrow strips of cloth which are wound around the graft.

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD WHITE-WASH.—The following is the recipe sent out by the Lighthouse Board of the Treasury Department, and has been found, by experience, to answer on wood, brick and stone nearly as well as oil paint, and is much cheaper: Slack one-half bushel unslacked lime with boiling water, keeping it covered during the process. Strain it and add a peck of salt, dissolved in warm water; three pounds of ground rice, put in boiling water, and boiled to a thin paste; one-half pound powdered Spanish whiting and a pound of clear glue, dissolved in warm water. Mix them well together, and let the mixture stand for several days. Keep the wash thus prepared in a kettle or portable furnace, and when used, put it on as hot as possible, with painters' or whitewash brushes. Here is another recipe for whitewash for outdoor use: Take a clean water-tight barrel, and put into it one-half bushel lime. Slack it by pouring boiling water over it, and in sufficient quantity to cover five inches deep, stirring it briskly till thoroughly slacked. When slacking has been effected, dissolve in water and add two pounds sulphate of zinc and one of common salt. A beautiful cream color may be communicated by adding three pounds yellow ochre. This is much superior, both in appearance and durability, to common whitewash.

## The Modern Young Englishman.

Perhaps it may be said that, on the whole, our young men to-day are not much better than they have been at any past time. Unquestionably they have their faults, their vices, and their affectations. But in some respects they do indicate a material improvement upon their predecessors. If they are often as deficient in ideas, and in generally intellectual tastes, they pay much more attention to the refinements and amenities of life. They do not parade coarseness or grossness in their manner or in their conversation, as formerly it was esteemed the mark of an esprit fort to do. They have, in a word, far less suspicion of what has been called "British brutality" about them; they conduct themselves uniformly more like gentlemen and less like grooms. Nor can it be said that this grave bearing and speech has been purchased at any sacrifice of manliness. The young Englishman of to-day proves himself, whenever opportunity occurs, true to the best traditions of English courage and endurance.

## Scraps.

The people of the far West have an idea that a dude is something given away with a pound of tea.

Portable paper houses are coming into vogue in England. It is said that they will be used to extend the accommodation of seaside abodes.

A Taunton woman rolled off a lounge while drunk. Her face struck in a basin, and was wedged so snugly that she, being unconscious lay there and smothered to death.

A painted advertisement in huge white letters upon the rocks of Lookout Mountain caused a spirited horse to run away one day last week, and horse and driver went headlong over a cliff and were killed.

The paper yacht to be propelled by steam at which E. Waters & Sons of Lansingburg have been at work for several months, is about ready to be launched. The builders are confident that their experiment will be successful.

Shad, organ-grinders, and ale-wives may be in the valley of the lower Connecticut a sign of spring, but down in Georgia the negroes have a surer one. When they hear the first alligator's tender note, rousing you as gently as any sucking dove, the darkies say it is "ho" sign spring dun come."

A Michigan woman announces her intention to set out May 1, from Paw Paw, on a tramp across the continent, delivering lectures on the way. She expects to reach San Francisco by September 1. The people on the line of march cannot complain that they have not had fair warning.

A resolution of thanks was proposed in behalf of a temperance evangelist in the Wesleyan Conference of Australia, but before the vote was taken he was invited to give an account of his work in the past year. He responded by telling how he had made great numbers of converts and closed up saloons, but his report seemed so astounding that the ministers didn't believe it, and the compliment was tabled.

The Newer Arithmetic: A woman placed four pounds of cold meat and eight slices of bread before a tramp. At the end of twenty minutes how much was left? A young man by swearing off on cigars, tobacco, and beer, saved 30 cents per day for six months. How many frog suppers would this give him at \$8 per supper? If it cost \$200 for a young lady to learn painting, and she turns out two landscapes worth 40 cents apiece, what is the net profit?

The vestry of Bethnal-green were startled at a recent meeting by the announcement of the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee that horseflesh was being sold in the parish for beef, and that, moreover, its appearance was so rosy and altogether desirable that customers didn't know the difference. The Sanitary Committee could not swear that the horseflesh was "unfit for the food of man," and, therefore, could not interfere; it could, however, and would, "watch events and exercise the utmost vigilance."

## How to Manage a Biting Dog.

A gentleman who has given the subject close attention furnishes the following campaign plan to avoid being bitten by a vicious dog, which we in all seriousness publish for the benefit of those of our readers who may be interrupted by a biting dog while they are stealing firewood, or are in their neighbor's yard for any other improper purpose:

"If you enter a lot where there is a vicious dog be careful to remove your hat or cap as the animal approaches you, hold the same down by your side, between yourself and the dog. When you have done this you have secured perfect immunity from an attack. The dog will not attack you if this advice is followed. Such is my faith in this policy that I will pay all doctor bills from dog bites, and funeral expenses for deaths from hydrophobia. It is the unknown danger the dog does not like to meet."

Why the dog refuses to bite the man who carries the hat in his hand we are unable to say, but such is the fact, nevertheless. Perhaps the intelligent and appreciative animal is disarmed by the politeness of the intruder in removing his hat or, may be, the dog becomes paralyzed at the intruder taking up a collection for some charitable purpose.—Texas Siftings.

A stranger of respectable appearance and somewhat solemn demeanor, entered a flower dealer's store in Oswego a day or two ago and said that he wished to pay for a barrel of flour fraudulently obtained thirty years ago. He "calculated" that flour was then worth \$4 a barrel, and without another word he handed out \$16 and went his way.

## The Dispensary.

DISINFECTANTS.—The London Medical Record concludes from Prof. Koch's experiments that the only certain disinfectants are chlorine, bromine, and corrosive sublimate. Solutions of one part of the latter to 1000 parts of water will kill spores in ten minutes, while a solution of 1 in 15,000 is strong enough to arrest the power of development in micro-organisms.

RESPECT THE BODY.—A writer in the Health and Home has some sensible ideas on the subject of bodily health. He says: "Respect the body, give it what it requires and no more. Don't pinch its ears or pinch its feet; don't roast it by a hot fire all day and smother it under heavy bed covering at night; don't put it in a cold draught on slight occasions, and don't nurse or pet it to death; don't dose it with doctor's stuffs, and, above all, don't turn it into a wine cask or a chimney. Let it be warranted not to smoke from the time your manhood takes possession. Respect the body; don't over work, over rest, or over love it, and never debase it, but be able to lay down when you are done with it a well worn but not a misused thing. Meanwhile, treat it at least as well as you would your pet horse or bound, and, my word for it, though it will not jump to China at a bound, you'll find it a most excellent thing to have—especially in the country."

LIME JUICE AND DIPHTHERIA.—M. Czartoryski, M. D., of Stockton, California, writes as follows to the London Lancet: "During a prolonged residence in the interior of China, I became acquainted with the fact that the Chinese placed great reliance during epidemics of diphtheria on the internal use of the fresh juice of limes, and of the fruit itself, which they consume in enormous quantities, in every conceivable form,—lemonade, native spirits, lime cut in slices, etc.—during attacks of this dreadful disease, with apparently most successful results, it hardly ever failing to effect a cure. The Chinese consider it a specific, and will, in case of need, do anything to obtain a supply. Since I have come back to California, as also in Louisiana, I have used limes and their juices in my practice as a physician with most successful results in cases of diphtheria, even in the most desperate cases. As soon as I take charge of a case of diphtheria, I order limes to be admitted as freely as possible, in any manner the patient can be prevailed upon to take them, especially in the form of hot lemonade, sweetened with white sugar or honey, or cut in lime juice. I prescribe whatever drug may be indicated to relieve symptoms as they develop, and impart strength by appropriate stimulants and nourishment."

## Thumb Portraits.

If the "ball" or cushioned-like surface of the top joint of the thumb be examined it can be seen that in the centre—as, indeed, in the fingers also—is a kind of spiral formed of fine grooves in the skin. The spiral is, however, rarely if ever quite perfect. There are irregularities or places where lines run into each other here and there. Examining both thumbs, it will be seen that they do not exactly match, but the figure on each thumb is the same through life. If the thumbs of any two persons are compared it will further be found that no two are alike. There may be, and generally is, a "family resemblance" between members of the same family, as in other features; there are also national characteristics, but the individuals differ. All this is better seen by taking "proof impressions" of the thumb. This is easily done by pressing it on a slab covered with a film of printer's ink, and then pressing it on a piece of white paper, or a little aniline dye, Indian ink—almost anything—may be used.

The Chinese take advantage of this to identify their important criminals, at least in some parts of the empire. We photograph their faces; they take impressions from their thumbs. These are stored away, and if the delinquent should ever again fall into the hands of the police, another impression at once affords the means of comparison. The Chinese say that, considering the alteration made in the countenance by hair and beard, and the power many men have of distorting and altering the actual features, etc., their method affords even more certain and easy means of identification than our plan of taking the criminal's portrait. Perhaps we might with advantage take a leaf out of their book.

## PREPARING FOR THE LAWN.

Whether large or small, or to be turfed or to be seeded, the soil should be drained; well manured and spaded or plowed. It should then be harrowed, and the surface freed from stones, chips, roots, etc., by thorough raking. In a lawn to be sown, it is well to lay margins of sod along the paths and roads as well as along the out-lines of any beds or borders.