

MIDSUMMER MADRIGAL.

Behold! The tenebrous curtains of the night The twilight's haze is let fall, The sunset glory with the dying light Frades from the western wall.

A TRAIN ADVENTURE.

In our little circle of friends there was general astonishment when we learned of the approaching marriage of Valentine Sancerre.

"I have hardly time," he said; "I have a hundred things to do. But if you will walk along with me."

"The Lyons station there was a perfect jam, but, thanks to the proverbial obligingness of the station agent, M. Friegnot, I managed to find a corner in a coupe."

"Everyone was in his place and the train was about to leave when we heard distant voices at the car door."

"But, madam, we have none." "You ought to have paid attention to my letter."

"I have received no letter, madam." "Put on a car then."

"The door opened, the little brown face was lost in a pile of packages, and a shriek from the engine pierced the air."

"Without even casting a look at us, out of breath and red with anger, she arranged her bundles in the strap and around her, with that haste common to all who have many hours to spend in the car."

"Madam," "Did you receive a telegram from Paris for a sleeping compartment?"

"I longed to enter into a conversation with her, but what pretext, what subject could I find? Owing to the temperature, the classic resource of windows to raise or lower did not exist."

"I looked to enter into a conversation with her, but what pretext, what subject could I find? Owing to the temperature, the classic resource of windows to raise or lower did not exist."

"I entered with the stream of hatless, breathless, ruffled travelers. In short, I was one of that file essentially grotesque and painful, as regards human grace and beauty, that pours out from an express train to feed itself in a hurry."

"I seated myself and hastily swallowed the courses served me, and my lady traveler took some soup at a separate table."

"I was one of the first to rise to go and smoke a cigar on the wharf. The twenty-five minutes, as usual, reduced to twenty, would soon be consumed, and the passengers were leaving the station in groups and hurrying to the cars, and I entered mine. The lady had not yet returned."

"I saw her looking at the books at the little book-stall at the depot, on the other side of the track. Although her back was turned to me, I easily recognized her by her pretty figure, beaver cloak and gray hat."

"The man took the articles and went to the lady at the bookstall. At the same moment, on the opposite side of the car, near the wharf, the door opened and my lady traveler, hurried and hurried along by a cross conductor, sprang into the car and the train started."

"My bundles—some one has stolen my bundles," and for the first time she looked at me, but with what an expression in her eyes, My God! that look, do you know, I shall never forget it."

"Enough, sir," she said to me. "I know what is for me to do," and she drew back in her corner, twisting her gloves in her anger."

"I do not wish to talk to you, sir," she said, curtly. "I was very nervous and excited. In the first place I thought her charming; then I was furious at my ridiculous blunder; in short, I was in a mood for great resolutions."

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Odd Tricks. If you want to see curious sleight-of-hand performance, you must go to India. No jugglers in this world can compare with those who practice their curious art in that far-away land.

They have neither curtains nor tables, boxes nor drawers, nor do they wear those embroidered mantles with large sleeves, as Western wizards usually do. An Indian juggler is clothed only with a strip of muslin fastened around his body. His limbs are bare. He stands in an open courtyard, without a tree, a grass-plot or the shelter of a tent; and in the midst of a ring of spectators, all gazing at him with intense watchfulness, he calmly performs tricks which look like miracles.

For instance, he extends to you his empty hands. You see that there is nothing in them. He stoops down, picks up two or three pebbles, rubs his hands together and presently there is a shining silver rupee.

Again he shows you his bare hands, picks up the rupee, breaks it in two, or pretends to do so, and there are two coins. He breaks these again and again until he has ten or a dozen, and where the money has come from or where he had it hidden no mortal can tell.

The basket trick is a favorite and a very mysterious one. The basket is shown you empty. It is turned upside down in your sight. You know perfectly that there is nothing beneath it; but the juggler sings a little song, "Meeow! meow!" is heard; he lifts the basket and out jumps a cat. Sometimes instead of a dog or the coming of a dove, and one of these emerges instead of a Madam Puss. More apparent still it is to see pass there by herself at any moment, and the next, on the lifting of the basket, to behold her the center of a happy family, kittens crowding by her side and a bird perched on her head. Sometimes a child is placed under the basket and the juggler dances wildly around it, thrusting long lances and knives into the bamboo until blood comes out and the spectators are horror-stricken.

But just as they are ready to interfere, a merry laugh will be heard on the edge of the circle, and there will be the little one quite unhurt; and how he escaped from the basket, or where the red fluid which looked like blood came from, is not explained.

A French traveler saw a juggler set a large top spinning on the end of a stick which he balanced on his forehead. The top then stopped revolving or went on at the word of command, just as if it had been alive. Some of the jugglers dance airily on a loosely-fastened rope, their feet bare and earthen jars on their heads. One of them was seen to walk along the rope without a misstep, although buffalo horns were tied to his feet.

I think you will agree with the general opinion that if you want to see really clever tricks you must go to India.

Books and underclothing go in first, then the dresses in trays, with parasol, bonnet-box, and small things wedged as closely as you can get them on the top. To have things go smoothly and safely, learn to pack firmly so that nothing can be shaken about. All nice dresses should go in wide, shallow boxes, or be pinned in soft paper or thin towels to prevent injury. See that all flounces and platings lie smooth and that waist and sleeves lie flat, folded only in their seams. It was easy to give rules for folding dresses when they were made with plain, straight skirts, and you had parts to lay it smooth; but no such thing is possible with polonaises and puffed overskirts. Fold in the seams and across the middle of puffs is all that a dressmaker can tell you. Lay things smoothly, with no turning up at the sides of the trunk. If a dress or skirt doesn't fit in, take it out and fold it smaller. If the trunk is too large to be filled snugly, make the compartments smaller by thin partitions of wood tightly wedged in. If your things only half fill the trunk, pack that half as closely as it will hold, and leave trays empty and nailed down to keep the rest in place. The moving about of lightly-packed things ruins boxes and dresses together. Finish by leaving the things you are likely to need first at the top of the trunk, and on them without going to the depth of the strata. See that all buckles, straps and hinges are in order before the canvas cover is drawn on the trunk, and have a stout strap outside of all, riveted on so that it can not be stolen.

Using an artificial gastric juice of hydrochloric acid and pepsin, Chittenden and Cummins have determined the relative digestibility of various foods to be as follows: Beef, 100; veal, 95; mutton, 92; chicken (light meat), 87; ditto (dark meat), 84; salmon, 92; mackerel, 85; haddock, 82; trout, 72; lobster (young), 88; ditto (large female), 79; ditto (large male), 66; fresh cod, 72.

THE FASHIONS.

Braid and elaborate galloon are in great vogue, and will continue during the coming season. Set border patterns are again coming into fashion. One sees them sometimes braided or embroidered, sometimes printed on woolen or other materials, occasionally combined with broad and narrow stripes, as well as floral designs.

For traveling and seaside wear tailor-made jackets and gowns are considered indispensable. The jackets are short and well-fitting at the back, but the fronts are loose or close-fitting. They are made up of the same materials as men's suits, and many of them are elaborately braided.

Jackets are in a great favor and are of a number of varied shapes and styles. One of the most favored is the Croizette jacket, which opens with revers upon the chest, and is fastened down to the waist under bows of velvet or ribbon. It is finished by a very wide sash, tied at the back or a little on one side. This jacket is frequently made of fancy ribbed velvet or silk of some dark color, and may be worn with any dress.

The fashionable colors and combinations for the present season are so varied that it is almost impossible to name them. Indeed, it is very hard to choose amongst them, and the only true method of dressing becomingly is for ladies to confide themselves to a first-rate fashions, who studies their complexion and figure to a nicety, and combines such materials and colors as will produce the happiest effect.

Velvet and good velveteen are much used for short jackets, and made in dark colors, can be worn with a great variety of skirts of all kinds and materials. Jackets and mantles of the same material as the costume are also worn. As a rule, these are small and can, of course, only be worn with one costume. Mantles and visages are worn by young and old. The long redingote is very stylishly worn over lace or silk skirts.

The disposition to trim light materials with velvet is very apparent this season. Velvet is also adapted as panels to dresses made of lace, whether the latter be white, cream-colored or of the soft beige tint so much in favor this year. The fashionable woolen lace has become more attractive by the addition of a velvet pattern. This covers the thick lace knots and is sown on in fine chain or stem-stitch lines. Of course, the velvet must be of the same color as the lace itself.

The majority of useful costumes are composed of light woolen materials. A striped material corresponding with large and small are also noticeable and figures of all kinds, but stripes predominate. The stripes are in various widths and are sometimes shaded in contrast with the plain material. Stripes of velvet and plush are also pretty on the woolen ground, and look particularly well as draperies and bodices or polonaise over plain silk or shot-silk skirts.

Another pretty toilet for a young lady is of pale blue tulle, striped with open-work bands of pale shade of buff. A sort of open jacket-bodice is rounded off on each side into a rather deep basque at the back, and shows a full plastron, confined round the waist by a peaked belt of blue velvet, but continued beyond into a sort of limp puff all around the waist. A second drapery crosses over the skirt under the puff, and is tied high up behind, falling in two loose laps over the back of the skirt. The skirt is quite plain over the striped tulle with a deep hem round the foot.

Another style of jackets, called the Jane Hall, is made quite high up to the throat, with close round basque, molding the figure, but slit open at the back to give place to the tulle. It is made either of French moire or of brocade silk. A lace plastron is sometimes added in front. In some cases this style of jacket-bodice is completed at the back by one loose width of the same material falling over the skirt. This skirt should be of plain silk or fancy woolen material, either gathered or pleated, and falling over a fluting or quilled founce, which shows beyond. This makes a handsome toilet for receptions or fetes at fashionable casinos.

The plain dress is still in fashion but mostly for young girls or the neglige toilet for young married ladies. It is made with a round waisted bodice either plain or more frequently gauged either plain or with a round top and bottom, and with a round skirt simply gathered on to a plain waistband which should be put on over the bodice, so as to avoid any space being left between skirt and bodice. A plain belt or wide sash is worn round the waist, the former with a clasp or buckle in front, the latter tied in a full bow with long loops and ends at the back or side. This is the more dressy style of the two. These wide sashes are very frequently of French moire; they are also made of ribbed Ottoman silk, or of thick tulle. Black velvet sashes are also fashionable and elegant to wear with any dresses. Draperies are not, however, entirely given up. Some of the prettiest toilets exhibited this month by our best couturieres are draped, but in a loose, simple style, very different from the mass of heaped-up chiffonage so much in vogue a short time ago.

HORSE NOTES.

Phillis is for sale at \$15,000. Dunbar is now handling Clematis G. and Nobby in place of Jack Splin. Maud S. will probably try to lower her record at Narragansett Park next week.

A two days running meeting was held at Callao, Peru, on July 29 and 30, the first on record in South America. Hampden Park, Springfield, Mass., allows no swindling wheel, although as high as \$3000 has been offered for the privilege.

The stallion Shawmut, by Cornig's Harry Clay, was driven to a record of 2:29 by John Murphy at New York recently. It is thought that the Hampden Park track, at Springfield, Mass., will be faster next year than this. Frost is expected to have a good effect on the track.

A Newburger, of New York city, has brought from the estate of Daniel Mace the black stallion Adonis, by Ethan Allen, dam the running mare Charlotte F. It took a stimulant, Harry Wilkes' light sulky and Frank Van Ness driver to land Joe Davis a winner of the big race at Hartford. These improvements were made in the last heat.

Eole and Blue Grass have been entered for the English Cesarewitch, but not for the Cambridgehire. Blue Grass has also been entered for the Great Yorkshire Handicap, to be run at Doncaster on September 15. The Coney Island Jockey Club has secured the services of Frank T. Clarke the present Superintendent of Jerome Park, and dismounting judge at Mount Pleasant, as the official starter for its fall meeting.

De Barry was lightly lame so was not started in the \$10,000 race at Hartford. He would probably have been tired out in scoring. It took eighteen trials to get the field off together in the first two heats—eight in the first and ten in the second.

Hon. Charles Stanford, proprietor of Locust Grove Farm, Schenectady, died suddenly at his home on Monday morning, August 24. He was the brother of Senator Leland Stanford, of California, and was well known at the trotting horse breeder's meeting.

At the close of the Hartford meeting the trotting mare Roky M. was sold at public auction to Mr. H. White, of Boston, for \$1400. Pierre Lorillard has cabled to England for a jockey. Both Fred Archer and Tom Cannon, having at different times shared Mr. Lorillard's confidence have been induced to use their influence in inducing some good jockey to make the autumn campaign in the States in Mr. L's cherry jacket. Olney is a very capable lad, but he is growing so fast that in reducing weight he so weakens himself that he is unable to finish, and it is impossible for him to do justice at low weights.

There is some prospect of Freehand and Miss Woodford again coming together. On Tuesday Mr. Corrigan telegraphed from Saratoga to the Dwyer Brothers, offering to match Freehand against Miss Woodford, \$5000 or \$10,000 a side, anywhere from three-quarters of a mile to one mile and three-quarters, as the challenged party might select, the race to come off at Chicago, St. Louis or Louisville. An answer came which was to this effect: The brothers were not willing to go West with the Queen, but they were willing and anxious to match her against Freehand for \$10,000 a side the race to come off at Sheephead Bay, Baltimore or Washington.

Isaac B. Murphy, who piloted Freehand to victory at Monmouth Park on August 18th, is the leading jockey of the Corriagan stable, and is known far and wide as the "Colored Archer" and premier jockey of America. He is considered the best rider on the turf, and is noted for his excellent judgment and sagacity in calculating a race, his estimate of pace being something wonderful. He is very fond of close and exciting finishes, and for that reason is a prime favorite with the grand stand, who enjoy the great struggles of the home stretch. He is a bright mulatto, 25 years of age, and was born at Lexington, Ky. He first commenced to ride in 1874, and since that time has had more winning mounts than any other jockey in the land, and has been astride of nearly every famous horse that has been on the American turf, including Ghidalia, Bendor, Falsetto, Cheekmate, Pearl Jennings, Modesty, Lizzie Dwyer, Freehand and a host of others. He landed Buchanan, Modesty, and Volante winners of the Illinois Derby, Audrain for the Hindoo stakes, and Freehand in his last two victories over Miss Woodford, which are the most important ones ever run in the states. It is estimated that the aggregate of his winnings of stakes and purses amounts to nearly a million dollars. He is modest and unassuming and a great favorite with everyone whom he meets. His weight is 113 pounds, but if necessary he can reduce down to 110. He is a married man, and has a lovely home near Lexington, Ky., where he spends his winters.

Sheep and Rattlesnakes.

A Connecticut farmer tells how sheep kill rattlesnakes in his section by surrounding the reptiles and breathing upon them until they are stupefied, after which they trample them to death. The California hog has a more expeditious way of dealing with the rattler. He steps right in and begins to eat the snake tail first, and the more the snake bites him the better he seems to like it. When a hog is fat he seems to like the snake has no effect on him, but a lean porker will occasionally succumb to the terrible venom.

In the last volume issued by the Geological Survey is an account of a fiery eruption from one of the mud volcanoes on Cheduba Island. A body of flame 600 feet in circumference is said to have at one time reached an elevation of 2,400 feet, petroleum being the cause.