

Compensation.

I like these stormy days that come And shut us in safe with ourselves; With gray skies overhead and soft-toned rain...

FOR WANT OF A NAIL.

Mr. Bilkins is a most accommodating neighbor. All last winter, when Squire Prescott's family were in Europe, he went over their house every day to see that it was as they left it, and took such care of the stock that the squire said he thought it would pay him to stay away.

When the Princess was six weeks old, the squire called Mr. Bilkins in, as he was passing, and, to his astonishment had him agree to her. So along the country road, shortly after, Mr. Bilkins joyfully wended his way, leading by a rope the baby of Queen Bess.

But although breathless, Mr. Bilkins did not lose his patience; triumph beamed from every line of his perspiring face. It added to his pleasure to meet several farmer friends who, recognizing the royal beauty, asked facetiously if he was stealing the squire's calf.

As far as possible, everything was made ready for the night before, as Mr. Bilkins must take an early train. In the morning he arrayed himself in his best before boxing up the calf, that he might not keep her waiting.

It happened that Mrs. Bilkins was in the barn when he arrived, and also Orrin, the hired man. The latter was examining a broken frame on which was stretched Mrs. Bilkins' latest work of art in rags, a hooked-in mat.

As this masterpiece was to compete for a prize at the next "cattle-show," Mrs. Bilkins hoped Orrin could repair the frame. He said he could, indeed, Orrin never acknowledged that anything was beyond his ability.

Very soon Mr. Bilkins received this brief letter: "Mr. Bilkins—I accept your offer. Will take calf at \$75. F. O. B. cars, Boston."

That "F. O. B." was the subject of Mr. Bilkins' frequent conjectures, until he found that it meant "Free on Board" the cars. "Who'd a thought it!" exclaimed Mrs. Bilkins, when the mysterious character was explained to her.

Mr. Bilkins, having already settled these points, indulged in a little masculine sarcasm at his wife's expense. "He'd look pretty," he said, "wouldn't he, cantering through Boston hanging on to that calf? No, sir! that Guernsey was going to be boxed up so she'd have to ride as quiet as a lamb."

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Princess was the brilliantly painted figure of an Indian holding a tomahawk. Again Mr. Bilkins hoped, and missed, the Guernsey eluding him by turning a short corner.

Now it chanced that an old fruit-dealer was sweeping around his stand, with his back towards them. The Princess brushed past him with her utmost momentum; before he realized what struck him he threw up both hands and fell against the corner of his fruit-stand, upsetting it.

Mr. Bilkins saw it all in one agonized glance, as he sped by after his property, who had now turned into an alley. Presently he saw a new danger for the valuable calf—a policeman at the end of the passage-way, who, beholding her approach with a shouting crowd in pursuit, evidently took it to be a case of hydrophobia that ought to be exterminated.

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A STREET CORNETIST.

A Man Who Makes a Fair Living at His Vocation.

What Brooklynite happening in the vicinity of the City Hall daily has failed to notice a tall, well-dressed individual carrying a cornet under his arm? If the observer be curious and take the pains to watch the owner of the cornet he will find that musician, for such he is, will take a position in Fulton street, between Adams street, and Myrtle avenue, and after many flourishes will play the opening notes of some popular melody of the day.

Two years ago I was a member of a theater orchestra in New York, but losing my position and being at my wits' end to earn a living, I concluded to try the "street act." Does it pay? Well, yes; although I suppose a steady job would pay better. When in an orchestra I received \$30 per week, but in the summer have made nearly twice that sum in the same space of time.

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HORSE NOTES.

Governor Stanford has 204 mares on his Palo Alto farm in California.

Trouble, the once famous steppochaser, now pulls a cart through the streets of Saratoga. Jockey Garrison rode three winners—his only mounts—on the second day of the Washington meeting.

Garrison and Church, the heavy and light-weight jockeys, will probably ride for S. S. Brown next season. George Efner, of Buffalo, has sold to James W. Whitney, of Rochester, a 3-year-old filly, by Sherman, for \$2500 cash.

R. B. Conklin has sold to C. W. Reagan, of St. Albans, Vt., the b. s. Sheldrake, foaled 1885, by King Wilkes, dam Grace Rogers, for \$2000. Captain Bruce, of New York, has broken his 3-year-old filly Listell to harness. She has fine trotting action, and can go close to 3 minutes.

It is said that colts raised on a light sandy soil appear to lack the strength and muscular development of those of the same age reared in Kentucky. J. L. Case will winter his trotting stock at Racine, but in the spring the string, with Pallas at the head, will be moved to Glenview, his recently acquired Kentucky farm.

August Belmont, Jr., amused the people at the New York Horse Show recently by tumbling and pitching with Lady Evelyn over hurdles in the ring. He should make a good circus performer. S. D. Shipman, who, for more than twenty-five years, has been with Mr. Backman at Stony Ford, Orange county, N. Y., died at that place on October 26. Mr. Shipman was well known to horsemen.

It is estimated that the average cost of rearing a yearling thoroughbred is not more than \$250. The average price realized for the 463 head sold at auction this year was \$783, which leaves a handsome profit. Eighty head of thoroughbreds, comprising the horses in training and yearlings of the Melbourne Stable, of Mr. B. C. Pate, Messrs. Chinn & Moran and other gentlemen, will be sold at Lexington, Ky., on December 15.

John S. Campbell, the former driver of Richball, the pacer, will take in the Texas circuit with the runners Berlin, Elsie B. and Ligan, probably winding up at New Orleans, leaving Jim Gray, Punks and the remainder of the Campbell and Fenton strings to winter at Memphis.

FASHION NOTES.

Velvet may almost be said to be the leading feature in the winter's styles. On plain suits are seen collars, cuffs and revers; in more elaborate ones, panels, skirts, basques, Fedora jackets and coats. It appears in combination with all kinds of wool and silk.

One of the new shades for autumn is a handsome Vandyke brown of a rich sheeny hue, blending well with either of the new shades of Marlborough red, marine-blue, or the oriental stripes and plaids in their intricate and inimitable commingling of scarlet, green and gold.

Another prominent characteristic that is especially important is the great variety of corsages of all sorts which are to be worn with skirts of different materials. There will be an unusual demand for silk materials in small quantities for these jackets, basques and coats. Velvet, plush, satin and rich black silks will be especially popular for them.

There are no marked changes in the manner of making new dresses; their novelty consists in new details, in new colors, and in odd ways of combining various fabrics. Basques with vests and revers are retained, also long bouffant draperies with either plain or plaited skirts, and as these were all worn last winter it will not be difficult or expensive to rearrange the dresses of last season and give them a new and stylish appearance.

Rich embroideries in imitation of Hungarian work are made of flat silk gimp, and raised designs in tufted chenille. Bands of this decorate the skirt, sleeves and basque front. Other new embroideries are in velvet applique on cloth, the work in raised silk outlined with beads or metallic threads. Panels for handsome silk and satin dresses are bordered with Renaissance designs in satin-stitch embroidery, intermingled with plush flowers in relief.

One of the fashionable corsages which is likely to prove very popular in evening dress is made of black silk velvet, opening broadly half the length of the front over a chemise of richest white lace. There are merely wide straps of black velvet which go over the shoulders with a dainty fall of lace beneath them simply to veil the top of the arm. The back is cut down slightly in a V-shape and ends in a very short "bird's tail" position with a fan of lace set between the two plaits. This corsage can be worn over skirts of any rich description.

The first characteristic in the new fashions abroad is the rarity of costumes made entirely of one plain material (except, of course, in mourning). The utility tailor-made suits are, to some extent, an exception, but even these have often elaborate trimmings of velvet, and vest of various kinds of bright or light silks, crapes, etc. They are made of light-weight wools rather than heavy cloths. Next come the combination wool dresses. These are of the handsome striped goods (the stripes either horizontal or perpendicular) with plain fabrics.

Very stylish toiles are made in the Louis XV style. The skirt front, or tablier, is of lace, fully gathered around the waist, and trimmed across with two plaited ruffles of ribbon. This skirt front is placed over an underskirt of faded rose silk; a cascade of silk brocade, with a rich floral pattern opens at the sides with flowing bows of ribbon, add fully puffed out at the back; peaked bodice, opened in a square in front, and trimmed with ribbon ruffles; sleeves short to the elbow, and trimmed with ruffles and lace frillings.