

## A TAPESTRY ARTIST.

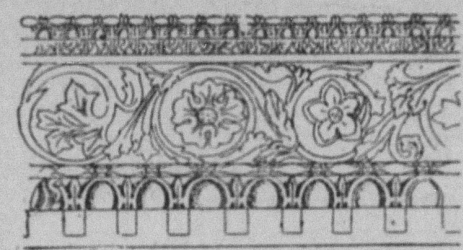
**MRS. H. W. DART, THE MOTHER OF TAPESTRY PAINTING IN AMERICA.**

**Pictures That Command Attention-- A Glimpse of Her Studio.**

A pretty and practical studio in New York, which has not been formally thrown open to the public, belongs to Mrs. H. W. Dart, the tapestry painter. It takes up the whole width of the house, on the ground floor, is simple and unpretentious in decoration, and fitted up with large stretches and easels, all of which are well filled with the work of the artist.

Mrs. Dart is the mother of tapestry painting in America. She was the first person to do the stained tap-

Chiego, and for six months hung in the entrance hall of Mrs. Potter Palmer's mansion. It was to have been hung in the Women's Building at the World's Fair with Mrs. Dart's tapestries of Marie Antoinette, in a space that was offered to the artist for that purpose, but which she was



TAPESTRY BORDER.

a canvas frame upon which is stretched a large worsted tapestry, upon which the artist is now at work. It depicts a young girl sitting on the bank of a stream, surrounded with wild roses and butterflies; her bare feet barely tip the water as she sits looking into it with a musing expression. The figure is three-quarters life size. Opposite to this, nearing completion, is a large tapestry of Charon rowing Psyche over the river Styx. The figures are half life size and beautifully proportioned. The subtle beauty of Psyche, as she sits reposefully in the end of the boat, is intensified by the contrast of Charon's brawny body, upon which every muscle is highly developed.

Another well-known piece of Mrs. Dart's work is now in the possession of Mrs. Ladd, of Boston. It is a re-

## SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

**INTERESTING NOTES AND MATTERS OF MOMENT.**

**Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show that Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.**

TAILLESS cats with purple eyes are common in Siam.

NEW YORK has 400 regular egg chandlers, who earn their bread by telling good eggs from bad.

'Tis said that drug stores in Massachusetts have increased in number from 1,400 to 2,500 in two years.

A BIBLE distributor died recently in New Hampshire at the age of 66, who during his life distributed 120,000 Bibles.

A CAR LOAD of matches was ignited by friction in transportation and burned the other day at Burgin, Kentucky.

ACCORDING to statistics, women today are two inches taller, on an average, than they were twenty or thirty years ago.

In certain districts of Sicily the industry of gathering the thread-like substance secreted by mussels is carried on. The fiber thus obtained is used in the manufacture of silk.

A MOSQUITO injects poison into the wound he makes, in order that the blood may become fluid enough to flow readily. This is what causes the pain.

BLACK BULL and Bushyhead, two full-blooded Indians, recently appeared in St. Paul with 162 head of cattle to sell for themselves and neighbors. Black Bull alone owns 150.

AS FASTERS the sect of Jains, in India, is far ahead of all rivals. Fasts of from thirty to forty days are very common, and once a year they are said to abstain from food for seventy-five days.

THE brig St. Andrea at Constantinople, from Salonica, is exciting great curiosity. The captain, officers and crew are all monks of Mount Athos, and while visitors are kindly received, women are not admitted.

ZEKI CLOTT, of Mobile, Ala., is the owner of an ox with a natural knot in the middle of his tail. Several veterinary surgeons have tried to untie it, but their efforts caused the animal to emit a strange hoarse cry. The tail is so shortened by the knot that it is practically valueless to switch off flies.

ONE of the most wonderful of the many mountain railways is that which ascends Mount Pilatus, Switzerland. Its length from the shores of Alpacht Bay to the Hotel Bellevue on the summit is but two and three-fourth miles, but in that distance it makes an ascent of 5,360 feet.

A COMMITTEE of the French War Department has after prolonged investigation, reported in favor of a new kind of buckler made of aluminum and copper; it can be made light enough not to be burdensome, and yet strong enough to stop even the modern rifle ball except at short range.

"If you chance to be in the fields when the clouds threaten rain, and notice a plant, whose solitary, five-petaled scarlet flowers, rising from the axis of opposite green leaves are rapidly closing, he wise enough to seek shelter, for this is the 'Pimpernel' or 'Poor Man's Weatherglass,' and the closing flowers indicate that rain is coming speedily."

THE Six Finger Club is the latest thing in the way of clubs. Each member of this particular club must have at least six fingers on one hand. An elaborate report drawn up by the secretary shows that there are 2,173 persons in the world with six fingers to each hand and 431 with seven fingers. One individual, indeed, is the proud possessor of eight fingers to one hand.

THERE is on a mantel in one of the residences of a Georgia family a piece of stone which bears a striking resemblance to an ancient castle, the turrets, massive doors and strong foundations being distinctly marked. The peculiar feature about the little oddity is that, to hold it under a gas-light, gives the stone the appearance of the building with many lights reflected from the windows.

"GOLDSMITHS 'save' their floors and gliders their rags with surprising resultant economies. One important firm of jewelers in this city requires its factory employes to leave their working clothes at the factory. The work benches and floors are carefully swept nightly, but once in every few years floors, benches and clothes are burned. After one of these burnings the crucibles contain as a residuum thousands of dollars' worth of precious metal.

THERE may be seen near Kelso, Scotland, the extraordinary spectacle of a hen bestowing maternal care on a litter of three Dandie Dinmont pups, the property of John Wait, fosterer there. It seems that the pups, which are about three weeks old, had been deserted by their mother, and in their aimless wanderings had come into contact with a broody Orpington hen, the result being that the hen began to go about with them. When she sits down the pups climb over her back and crawl under the wings just like as many chickens, and are, apparently, as much attached to their feathered foster-mother as the latter is to her canine family.

A TRAIN was recently stopped in France, on the line between Belleme and Geneva, under the follow-

## PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY.

**The Growth in the South is a Commercial Marvel.**

The growth of the phosphate industry in the past four or five years has been immense. It is located in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Georgia. But little is done, however, in the first and last named States. The commissioner's report covers 187 phosphate mining establishments, 106 being in Florida, thirty in South Carolina and one in North Carolina. Phosphate mines were discovered in South Carolina in 1867-68, and the importance of the discovery was promptly recognized and appreciated both by scientific and by business men. In 1868 the South Carolina mines produced 12,262 tons, while in 1891 they produced 572,943 tons.

The Florida phosphate deposits were discovered in 1888, and their last annual output was 532,027 tons. The last annual output of the South Carolina mines was 638,976 tons, and the North Carolina mine reported 700 tons, or a total for the whole industry of 1,281,703 tons. This quantity was valued at the mines at \$7,153,201.

As in other valuable things counterfeits will accompany real values. There have been bogus phosphate lands and bogus phosphate companies and much money has been sunk by investment in such. But the figures here given represent actual products and not mere estimates.

The operators in all the four States mentioned control 265,638 acres of land and 1704 miles of river. Of the land 183,348 acres are in Florida. The total value of capital invested in plants in the industry is \$4,705,582 and in land \$14,365,067. The total number of hands employed in the industry is 9,165; of this number 5,242 are employed in South Carolina mines. The total expenditure for labor for the last year was \$2,473,265. The average earnings in the Florida land mines was \$214 for each person employed, and in the river mines, \$355, a higher grade of skill being required in the river mines than in the land mines. In South Carolina the earnings in land mines were \$287 per annum, and in the river mines \$378.

In addition to the wages paid in the mines, a large body of longshoremen have been brought into employment through the phosphate industry, the amount of wages paid to this class of men being for 1892, \$121,685, while the wages paid for manipulating and converting phosphate into superphosphate are estimated at \$1,587,600, or a total wage roll added to the industry of the State named, through the discovery of phosphate of \$4,182,910, the payment of this large sum being due to the new industry of phosphate mining, and it is of course a constant yearly addition to the economic force of the States in which the industry is carried on. It should be noted also that labor is benefited through the cost of transportation, drayage, warehousing and other handling which, in the aggregate, amounts to a very considerable sum.

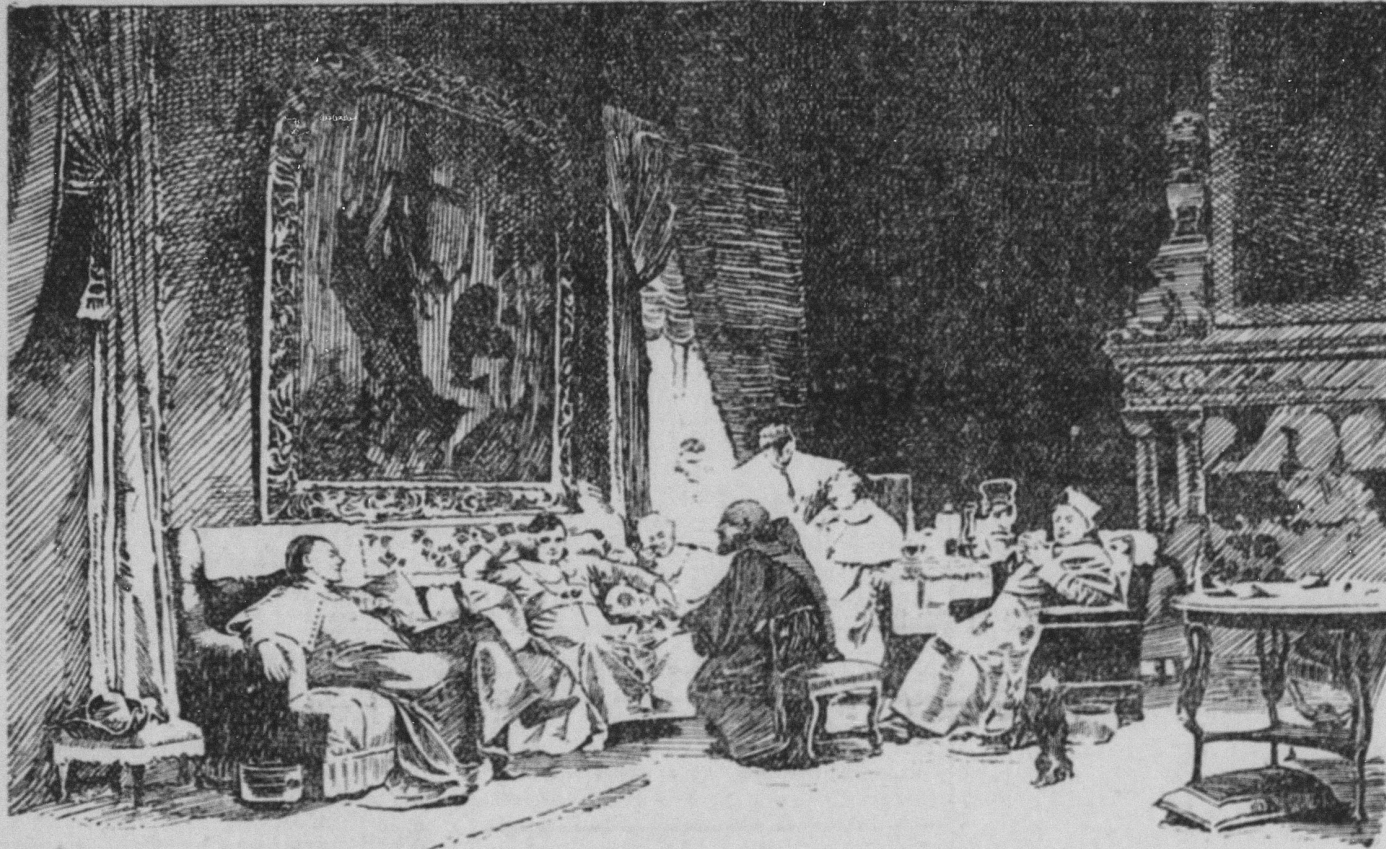
With so enormous a development in so few years it might be imagined that this industry must soon play out. But in the first place the need of fertilizers is constantly on the increase. The soil not only needs more as the years go by, but the benefits and uses of the various fertilizers and their adaptation to produce the results desired in agriculture are becoming every year better known. In the second place, the supply of the raw material seems to be comparatively inexhaustible. A careful expert estimate gives for the State of Florida the amount of phosphate in sight as 133,055,885 tons, for other States 1,000,000 tons. These various estimates give a total of 149,055,885 tons of phosphate in sight, and this statement shows better than any other the future opportunities for the employment of labor in this industry. —[Farm, Field and Fireside.

## Stopping a Runaway.

It is asserted that in Russia a horse that is addicted to the habit of running away has a thin cord with a running noose around his neck at the neck strap, and the end is tied to the dash-board. "At Rome," says this informant, "I saw in the Corso a phaeton with two spirited horses bolt. They were driven by a lady, and I expected to see instant destruction. But the lady coolly grasped a thin cord and within thirty yards the horses came to a full stop. I afterward met the lady at Nice and expressed surprise at the skill with which she stopped the runaways. She treated it as a trifle, and told me accidents from runaway horses are unknown in Russia, as no one but a lunatic would drive without the cord. When a horse bolts he always takes the bit in his teeth, and the skill of the driver is useless. The moment the pressure comes on the windpipe the horse knows he has met his master." —[Farm, Stock and Home.

## Turkish Bedrooms.

Turkish bedrooms are models of simplicity, the beds though luxuriously soft and furnished with heavily embroidered pillows, being made upon the floor, from whence they are swept up early in the morning by slave girls the moment their occupants' eyes are open, and stowed away in closets, while the visitor is left to dress himself in a room from which all traces of night occupation have disappeared as if by the wave of a magic wand. This does not apply to all parts of modern Turkey. There are progressive Mussulmans who indulge in brass bedsteads and French dressing tables.



THE MISSIONARY STORY.

stry work in this country. The first piece ever completed hangs on the south wall of her studio. It is about a yard square, and portrays a couple of lovers, dressed in old-fashioned costumes, leaning on a gate. It is nearly a quarter of a century old, and has been washed and scrubbed, but age only beautifies it, softens the rich colors and endears it to the heart of the painter. Many bids have been made on this little gem, but is not for sale. Mrs. Dart says that while she lives its home shall be in her studio.

Mrs. Dart's masterpiece, and the most ambitious work of her life, is a reproduction of Vibert's "Missionary Story." It has just been bought by parties who value it at \$1,000. This tapestry measures 8 feet 9 by 10 feet 3, and has a border one foot wide. The reproduction is almost perfect. Mrs. Dart having used the same colors in the tapestry dyes as Vibert used in his painting. At the Boston exhibition in 1871, Mrs. Dart was awarded the first prize for tapestry upon the merits of this piece of work. The prize was a diploma, the only thing of the kind ever awarded for stained tapestry in this country. In 1892 "The Missionary Story" was sent to



MOTHER AND CHILD.

kept from filling by uncontrollable circumstances.

In one corner of the studio stands

production of the celebrated painting "Mother and Child," and though Mrs. Dart had nothing more than a photograph to go by while painting this, she has lost none of the sentiment of the original picture.

"The Peacock Girl," purchased by Montague Marks, and which is still in his possession, is one of the daintiest pieces of work ever put upon tapestry. It is of an ethereal-looking maiden, gracefully poised in midair, scattering food to doves.

Another of Mrs. Dart's talents comes out forcibly in her interior decorations. She has painted some of the handsomest houses in the country. Another material upon which this artist has become very expert in coloring is the white muslin, upon which she paints magnificent cushion covers, lambrequins, and designs for upholstered chairs.

The artist learned her art in Paris, where she spent seven years in the best schools, under the best masters. And the painters of many of the most beautiful tapestries painted in America to-day boast of having been at one time or another a pupil of the mother of the art.

—[New York Recorder.

## FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

### LITTLE "DIRTY-FACE."

We have a little maid at home,  
She says "my name is Dwaice"—  
To pa and ma she's better known  
As "Little Dirty-Face."

You scrub and dress that child at ten—  
White muslin trimmed with lace—  
In fifteen minutes, often less,  
She's "Little Dirty-Face."

But smiles oft break that crust of dirt,  
And smiles the dimples chase,  
And tender eyes light up with love  
That little dirty face.

'T is naught but superficial dirt  
Which scrubbing will erase;  
So ma and pa are rather proud  
Of Little Dirty-Face.

On tot's small phiz the trouble is  
To find a kissing place,  
But stay—I see a rose-bud mouth  
On Little Dirty-Face.

Then come and give that sweet "bear hug"  
Thou little toddling Grace—  
Thy soul's as pure as angels' robes,  
My Little Dirty-Face.  
—[Boston Transcript.

### A CURIOUS EXPERIMENT.

Take a piece of pasteboard, about five inches square, roll it into a tube with one end just large enough to fit round the eye, and the other end rather smaller. Hold the tube between the thumb and finger of the right hand (do not grasp it with the other hand); put the large end close against the right eye, and with the left hand hold a book against the side of the tube. Be sure and keep both eyes open, and there will appear to be a hole through the book, and objects seem as if seen through the hole instead of the tube. The right eye sees through the tube, and the left eye sees the book, and the two appearances are so confounded together that they cannot be separated. The left hand can be held against the tube instead of a book, and the hole will seem to be seen through the hand. —[New Orleans Picayune.

### THE UMBRELLA BIRD.

Do you think he carries an um-

brella, this bird from Australia, because he is called so? Oh, no! But he does carry over his head a sort of helmet of feathers, which answers for one. It is more than two inches in length when it is spread.

These pretty, hairy plumes, curved gracefully at the end, cover the head of this pretty bird all over, even going beyond the beak. Each one stands out, just as you have often seen the downy seeds of the dandelion.

This curious bird is as black as the raven in body. The edges of the wings are tipped with glossy blue. He is only the size of the jay, but his wonderful crest makes him unlike any other bird, big or little.

Shouldn't you think any bird might be proud of such a royal covering? And yet the umbrella bird has another gift in a sort of fan on his breast. A large, hanging tassel of feathers grows from a sort of quill of flesh. When this is spread it is just like a fan and covers the whole front of his body.

Did you ever hear of a bird before that carries a fan and umbrella already made for use?

These birds are seldom seen, because they live on the highest branches of the fruit trees, where they get their living. But their cry is often heard. It has so deep a sound that the Indians call them "trumpet birds." —[New York Recorder.

### THE WOODPECKER'S WAYS.

There is a little tapper who gets his living by tap, tap, tapping at the trees to find out any little bugs or worms snugly hidden under the bark. His name, as I suppose you know, is Mr. Woodpecker. He finds most of his food in hollow or partly decayed trees, where myriads of small insects make their home under the bark, or in the various parts of the decayed trunk.

Here Mr. Woodpecker is in his glory. He taps and taps with his sharp little pickaxe of a bill until he finds a hollow place. Here he runs his long, slim tongue, which naturalists tell us is so sticky that it pulls out the poor little worm or insect easily enough and the creature becomes Mr. Woodpecker's dinner. If a more thorough search is required Mr. Woodpecker's bill picks off quite

large pieces of the bark of the tree and he hunts his game out of its hiding place as gleefully as a real hunter could do.

Mr. Woodpecker is said to have several peculiarities. One of these is his feet, or rather the arrangement of his toes upon his feet. He has two toes pointing front and two back, instead of three in front and one toward the back, as most birds have. This enables him to cling more tightly to the bark of the tree when he runs up and down in search of food. Another singular feature is his short little tail, which is not ornamental or loose and feathery, but is very stout and firm and useful to him, for he can prop himself upon it as he pecks away upon the trunk for his dinner.

The funny noise which the woodpecker makes sounds much like the tapping at a door or window. And when the disturbed one looks out and finds clinging to the roof or a post only a saucy little woodpecker it is easy to think by his mischievous eyes that he knows he is cheating somebody and rather enjoys the person's discomfort.

Mr. Woodpecker makes his nest in the same spot where he gets his dinner—an old hollow tree. He picks out a tree to suit his taste and makes a long passage down the inside of the bark as a sort of entrance to his house. At the end of this passage he hollows out a nice nest in the dead part of the tree, lines it with soft, dry leaves, moss and wood dust, and then his nursery is all ready for his young family.

There are many different kinds of woodpeckers—the downy woodpecker, the golden-winged woodpecker and the commonest—the red-headed woodpecker. This bird is a well-known one and makes himself very useful in destroying the various insects which destroy various kinds of trees. —[Atlanta Constitution.

THE regulations of the British Post Office require that every unsound tooth shall be taken out of a man's head before he can be employed. An unfortunate girl who recently was examined for promotion had fourteen teeth taken out at one sitting by order of the official dentist, who explained that "we can't have girls laid up with toothache."