

PROGRESS AND DECAY.

The topmost glacier heavenward climbs, The fountains dashing leap on high, The dark brier forest leafy shade, The lofty pines in lowly glade, Rear upward to the sky, All Nature higher longs to rise, And so must I.

AGATHA'S WEDDING.

By John Walker Harrington.

The day that Agatha's engagement was announced Mrs. Pennington's school was in turmoil of excitement. Mellicent was in charge, for Agatha was at the dressmaker's, and Mrs. Pennington had put on her best black bonnet and hastened out to tell the news to her relatives and friends. Intelligence of this sort is best made public at once. "I'm so glad to hear Agatha is to be married," said Judge Bryson's daughter, a red faced girl who was always saying the wrong things. "I wish I might hear of your engagement, Miss Pennington."

The younger woman came home one day with her face beaming. "Mr. de Vere will call tomorrow evening," she said. "I suppose you have no objection, Mater?" "When I was your age," began Mellicent—and then she stopped. "I—I know several artists," she concluded lamely. "I'm aware of what you were about to say," Agatha retorted. "Well, he may not have long mustachios like your German count, but, at all events, he's not after Pater's money."

Observation for Young Girls missed the tuition fee of the youngsters from the West, and they felt the loss of the board money most keenly. Manay a time they wished that the red haired girl would come back. The interest on the mortgage stared them in the face. "I often wish," remarked Agatha, after a family council, "that Pater had been more of a financier."

GOSSIP FOR THE FAIR SEX.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON NUMEROUS FEMINE TOPICS. Costly Empire Veils—Theatre Hats and Selfishness—Boutonnieres for Ladies—Women at the French Bar—Etc., Etc. The new empire veils cost such a tidy little sum that only very extravagant women, or those with exceptionally long purses, will own more than one, and if one alone is to be selected it had best be black, though white is now worn all winter, and white veils are always most becoming.

ers from wearing abbreviated skirts to school and trouble may result. This matter of wheeling costumes is causing some conservative sentiments to be gravely shocked. It remains to be seen whether a general dress reform, such as in some directions is really needed, may not result from the wonderful popularity of the bicycle. The men who wear knickerbockers no longer feel timorous about appearing in them without the sustaining presence of the male citizen has been materially amended, doubtless to his greater comfort, during the past few years.

Among novel fancies in evening dress are blouse bodices cut out low and rounding in the neck; these made of silk net crossed in diamond patterns, with bands of pearl, strass and jewel sequins. Other low-necked blouses are made of small-patterned Marie Antoinette brocades in delicate color blendings, and trimmed with Persian head gimps that repeat the colors in the brocade. If desired, a guimpe is first put on made of a crossing lattice work of satin and velvet ribbon, which has the effect of a yoke above the blouse.