

TIMELY TOPICS.

The surface of Great Salt Lake, in Utah, has risen eleven feet since 1867. Professor King believes this rise to be due not to the cultivation of the surrounding country but to a climatic oscillation that began about 1850, and which is the first of its kind and extent that has occurred within at least 250 years.

One hundred and sixty odd entries of American race-horses in England this year, 130 announced races in Saratoga, from July 17 to September 1, the new Coney Island and other courses, with the great races at Jerome Park, Long Branch, and in the South and West, promise to keep up a pattering of hoofs to the snows of December.

According to Dr. Emil Houb, relics of an extinct race, of a much higher culture than now belongs to any native tribes, have been found in the interior of South Africa. Among the remains are seen workings of ancient mines, some of gold, and the ruins of rude fortifications. These evidences remind the great traveler of the African empire of Monomotapa, as mapped on old Portuguese charts.

That certain insects possess a power akin to reason is illustrated by Gleditsch, a German naturalist, who relates that he one day spitted a toad on a stick which he fixed upright in the ground. The odor of the decaying body of the reptile attracted a number of burying beetles; but as they found they could do nothing with the toad while in the air, they mined under the base of the stick until it fell, when they buried toad and stick together. Such an engineering attempt would seem to indicate the presence of a definite purpose.

A Quebec telegraph operator claimed to have invented a multiplex instrument by which any number of messages could be sent over one wire at the same time. After opening negotiations for the sale of his discovery to the American Union company, of New York, securing assistance from several speculators, and selling to a company organized for the purpose of pushing the patent a three-fourths interest in it for \$2,500, the genial operator left for parts unknown. Eighteen wires leading to the instrument on which he "experimented," which were discovered under the flooring, solved the mystery of his remarkable feats in telegraphy.

People who think mild winters are unhealthy, will learn from the records that the past winter, "unseasonable" as it was, has been a very healthy winter. The mortality reports of Philadelphia may be cited in this connection. The Philadelphia Ledger publishes a table showing the number of deaths in Philadelphia during the thirteen weeks of this winter, compared with the deaths during the same period of the preceding year. The months of December, January and February, 1878-9, which were "seasonable," showed 4,602 deaths; while the same months in 1879-80, which were held to be "unseasonable" and "unwholesome," because they were mild, show but 3,996 deaths—or 606 less in the mild winter than in its immediate predecessor, which was of the average kind.

Mr. Carroll D. Wright, the statistician, who has recently perfected the statistics of divorces in Massachusetts from 1860 to 1878, inclusive, supplies food for reflection to all interested in preserving the marriage relation. The figures presented by Mr. Wright are startling. Since 1860 7,233 divorces were granted by the State of Massachusetts for forty-four assigned causes. The records show that the marriage bond was dissolved in 2,400 cases on complaint of the husband, and in 4,833 cases at the request of the wife. In other words, twice as many divorces have been granted to women as to men in the period covered by the statistics. From this report we learn that "desertion" was invented as a suitable plea for unmarried people in Massachusetts in 1838. We also discover that nearly half the divorces were granted for causes that would not have been entertained half a century ago, and causes which would not have been regarded as valid twenty-five years ago.

A Lightning Proof Reader.

The New York Sun has this account of the late John C. Robinson, known as the "lightning proof reader," who was found dead in his bed in Williamsburg one morning a short time ago. Mr. Robinson was born in this city forty years ago. He attended school in the Seventh ward, and entered John A. Gray's printing establishment in Cliff street as a "copy boy" when thirteen years old. In 1854 he entered the Tribune proof room. In deciphering manuscripts he was a marvel. He read Richard Hildreth's, Horace Greeley's, Count Baskin's, Gerrit Smith's and other crabbled manuscripts almost at a glance. When Mr. Greeley himself was unable to decipher one of his own written sentences, he referred it to Mr. Robinson, who looked at it steadily for a minute or more, and made out its meaning. In the municipal canvass of 1866 a letter from Mr. Greeley, written under the Spingler house heading, was sent to the night editor of the Tribune. It enclosed an editorial article in the same handwriting, favoring the election of a well-known politician, who was running on an independent ticket. It was the night before election. The article was put in type. In assuring the copy before reading the proof the manuscript fell under the eyes of Mr. Robinson. Something about it attracted his attention. He examined it as a paying teller would examine a doubtful bill. "That's not the old man's handwriting," he said. He was so confident that it was a forgery that he called the editor's attention to it, and the article was suppressed. So skillful was the forgery that on the following day Mr. Greeley said that, had he not known different, he would have taken it to be his own handwriting. Mr. Robinson's rapidity in reading a proof sheet aloud was unparalleled, and his enunciation was perfect. Timed by the writer he has pronounced 666 words in a minute. This is at the rate of 41,760 words per hour. The words were pronounced in a monotonous tone of voice without accent, and came from his lips as though sent from the wheels of a machine. Long before the death of Mr. Greeley, Mr. Robinson was given charge of the Tribune proof room. He left that journal in 1875 and accepted a similar position on the Sun. He was straight as an arrow, had clean-cut features, light curling hair, and an eye like a hawk. He had many friends and no enemies.

Life in the Animal World.

A Middleburg (Pa.) mouse tunneled an ear of corn, built her nest in it, and was living on the grain on the outside. The ear was 84 inches in length and 94 inches in circumference, and it contained 1,600 grains of corn.

A drunken sparrow was recently seen on the streets of Easton, Pa., and was picked up and cared for by a peanut vender until it became sober. Someone had dropped a flask of whisky on the sidewalk, and the bird drank of the liquor until it staggered and fell.

Monkeys are caught in Africa by means of fermented beer. It is placed by the natives within reach, and as soon as one monkey tastes it he screams with joy, and many answer his call. They soon get too drunk to realize the approach of a person, and are easily captured.

A missionary living among the Dutch Boers of Natal says that a hunting party came upon a large herd of elephants, and as they fired at the leader the entire herd fled. They were in a valley, and in trying to escape they ran around in a circle three hundred yards in diameter, and were shot down. After awhile a new leader broke out of the beaten track, and led off the remainder of the herd in safety. Ninety elephants lay dead in the valley, and each man's share of the valuable tusks of ivory was considerable.

Russian wolves show great sagacity in the capture of wild horses. They roll and frisk about until the unsuspecting victim is completely put off his guard. One wolf then approaches the horse's head, and another his tail. Both wolves then spring at their victim at the same instant—one at the throat, and the other at the flanks—and they do not let go until the horse is disabled. The horse turns round and round without attempting a defense, and is soon on its side, and the victory is won. At a signal the pack close in, but the small fry wait until their superiors are gorged.

A traveler in the forests of Brazil saw a hairy spider with a body two inches long, and eight legs, measuring seven inches each. It was on a tree trunk beneath a deep crevice, across which was stretched a dense white web. The lower part of the web was broken, and two small flies were entangled in the pieces. One was still alive, but died soon after its rescue. The hairs of these crab spiders come off when touched and cause a maddening irritation. He says that he saw the children of an Indian family with one of these monsters secured by a cord and leading it about the house like a dog.

Old Jake is a one-eyed pointer dog of Sardis, Miss. On a cold, rainy day he made a call on an old sportsman, and spent the afternoon by the fire. When bedtime came he was driven out and the door-lump bolted on the inside. In the course of the night he was awakened by a cold wind blowing on him. Hearing a slight noise at the fire, he looked, and there sat old Jake. The fire had nearly died out, and the dog was putting the chunks together with his paws, and actually blowing the dying embers. The man got out of his bed, put on more wood, made a pallet for Jake near the fire, closed the door and again retired.

When Henry Lascar, of Lafayette Corners, Pa., returned from a day's hunt he looked as though he had been put through a threshing machine. He went to a panther's den, crawled in, and, drawing a bead on the animal, fired. When he recovered consciousness the panther was tossing him about as a cat does a mouse, and with one stroke of her paw she sent him headlong outside the cave. Early in the fight Lascar's rifle was made useless by breaking the nipple. The animal tore his face in shreds. With a hundred wounds on his body and his clothing torn to ribbons, the old man was well-nigh exhausted, when, by an almost superhuman effort, he reached his hunting-knife, and, by a well-directed blow, quieted the beast.

Russia's Dictator.

Gen. Boris Melnikoff, who is now the military dictator of Russia, is the son of an Armenian merchant, and began his military career as an officer in a hussar regiment in St. Petersburg. His talents were recognized by Mouravieff, the governor-general of the Caucasus, but until the campaign of 1877 he had never had an opportunity to handle a large body of troops, or to learn the science of war in the open field.

Melnikoff is a handsome soldier, with black curly hair, large, dark, sparkling eyes, a somewhat bronzed complexion, and features which, without being quite regular, are comely and refined. He is of middle stature, of a slight nervous structure, and spare in person. His manners are polished and extremely affable, while his conversation is light and easy. He has been one of the most successful of the military governors who have been invested with supreme power in their districts during the last year. He is a man of great and varied accomplishments. In addition to his native language, Armenian, he is familiar with and speaks Russian, Turkish, Persian and French, but is ignorant of German and English. He was a great favorite with his soldiers. He visited them in their bivouacs, tasted their soup, and inquired after their comfort. He took special care of the sick, frequently inspecting the hospitals and ambulances. At the same time he was a strict disciplinarian, and required from all, and particularly the non-commissioned officers of his army, a punctual performance of their duty. His age is fifty-seven.

"The Luck Guinea."

The Baroness Burdette-Counts was created a peeress on account of her large gifts to public objects. Her wealth is derived from her maternal grandfather, the rich London banker, Thomas Coutts.

In the banking-house there is preserved a gold coin called the "Luck Guinea." It has a curious history. Old Mr. Coutts was in the habit of visiting a town in the vicinity of the country seat of one of his married daughters. On one of these visits, his neat but somewhat worn clothes attracted the attention of a benevolent old gentleman.

Noticing the banker, he imagined that he must be a decayed old gentleman who had seen better days. It was near Christmas, and as the "Good Samaritan" passed by Mr. Coutts, he put a guinea into his hand, bidding him get a good dinner.

A few days after the benevolent man received an invitation to dine at Mr. Coutts' daughter's house. There he was introduced to the recipient of his charity. The banker told the story to the guests, and amid their amusement announced that the guinea would remain among the heirlooms of Coutts' banking-house.

The Coral Fishers of Capri.

Coral fishing is a slavery to which nothing but sheer poverty drives the fishermen. From April to October their life is a life of ceaseless drudgery. Packed in a small boat without a deck, with no food but biscuit and foul water, touching land only at intervals of a month, and often deprived of sleep for days together through shortness of hands, the coral fishers are exposed to a constant brutality from the masters of their vessels which is too horrible to bear description. The fishing is itself hard work. The two beams of wood laid crosswise, with hemp and loose netting attached to them, which serves as a dredge, are dragged along the sea bottom with a rope, which it sometimes requires the crews of half a dozen boats to haul to the surface. If it breaks the whole boat is in peril; if the sailor who is paying out fails to note the moment when it catches the coral, his thigh, over which it runs, is cut to the bone. A long pull tears the branches entangled in the net from the rock, or breaks off rock and all, and a shout of joy bursts from the wearied fishermen as the tangled mass of coral appears above the waves. To the masters the fishery is lucrative enough; of the eight thousand francs which form the returns of a single boat, some two thousand are clear profit. But, measured by our notions, the pay of the men seems miserably inadequate to the toil and danger which they undergo. For the whole period of eight months, it varies with the strength and experience of the seamen from \$60 to \$90; the boys receiving as little as \$20; and of this much is absorbed by the extortionate shopkeepers of Torre. Enough, however, remains to tempt the boat of the Caprese fishermen to sea. Even a boy's earnings will pay his mother's rent. For a young man, it is the only mode in which he can hope to gather a sum sufficient for marriage and his start in life. The early marriages so common at Naples and along the adjoining coast are unknown at Capri, where a girl seldom wedds before twenty, and where the poorest peasant refuses the hand of his daughter to a suitor who cannot furnish a wedding settlement of some twenty pounds. Even with the modern rate of wages, it is almost impossible for a lover to accumulate such a sum from the produce of his ordinary toil, and his one resource is the coral fishery. —Saturday Review.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

A Leap Year Proposal.
Fray, gentle being, give me heed,
As kneeling humbly at thy side,
With lacerated heart I plead
That thou'lt become my blushing bride.
I long—I wildly long to stand
These to my heart, yet stand aloof—
I pine to print a fond caress
Upon thy meek and mild mustache.

Why, tell me why thine eyelids drop
And turn away so pettefully,
And why with fierce, tumultuous flap
Thy bosom heaves coquetishly?
I know that thou art young and fair
As tiny buds in early spring—
But thou shalt be my constant care,
Thou frail and fragile little thing.

I'll sew thy shirts and darn thy hose,
Thy victuals cook, thy fires will light—
I'll grease thy gracious Grecian nose
Each snowy, croupy, wintry night.
So, surely, thou'lt not tell me nay
And bid me dying quit thy side—
Brace up, pull down thy vest and say
That thou wilt be my blushing bride.

—Kansas City Times.

Fashion Notes.

Short shoulder capes of material resembling the dress or harmonizing with it are talked about as a feature of walking suits. In both evening and walking dresses any and every combination of colors and materials that does not conflict with artistic requirements is admissible. Black or iridescent beads and appliques of silk and velvet are largely employed upon silk, satin and cashmere fabrics.

The close-fitting bonnet is prominent among a variety of fashionable shapes. Turbans are popular for young ladies. Instead of fancy plumes, flowers appear upon latest bonnets. Just at present the sunflower is much employed, and large clusters of roses and peonies in rich but subdued colors are in favor.

Laces for neck wear consist almost entirely of the popular Breton and Languedoc, and cream tints and eury or deep yellow are shades much admired. The fichu has usually a narrow center of mull or net edged on both sides with full ruffles of lace. It is drawn up closely about the neck and takes the place of collar and bow. It may be fastened in front with a pretty oblong pin or small bows of ribbon. Spanish lace is most fashionable for veils, scarfs and the like.

Purple in all its shades, from the darkest violet to the palest lilac, stands in the front rank this spring. Among them the newest and most fashionable is the heliotrope, a reddish shade, which is exactly that of the heliotrope blossom when full blown. Other purples are in grayish-red tints, suggesting raspberry cream.

Most of the new spring dresses are made with a basque bodice and double skirt. The panier arrangement does not seem to be gaining much ground; some dresses are trimmed about the hips, but not in a very bouffant manner. At the back the skirt is always draped up more or less, but lower than was formerly the case. If there be but a single skirt, it is trimmed on tablier in front, with panels at the sides and some sort of tournure and drapery at the back. Combinations of two materials, one plain, one figured, are still very fashionable; indeed, very few spring costumes are made of but one fabric, and in many of them there are as many as three or four.

A great many plain skirts are seen of corduroy or velvet for walking dresses. Over these the overskirt is simply draped and is generally of light cloth or camel's hair, finished with machine stitching on the edges.

Fashion Facts From the "Bazar."

A new fabric has been introduced for making archery and yachting costumes, and also for under-skirts to use as Balmorals with light dresses. It is eury cotton, thicker than the heaviest unbleached muslin that were worn last summer, and it has Bayader stripes of the gayest and richest colors, such as claret, Marie Louise blue, scarlet, or else three or four bright colors appear in each stripe. It is a yard wide, and costs seventy-five cents a yard. The whole costume may be made of the gay striped goods; or else the cheese-cloths of last summer, which are now sold for five cents a yard, will be used for the over-dress and the striped goods for the lower skirt. The design will be very effective beneath a Tallien drapery. For Balmoral skirts the new material will be very useful, as it is of the same thickness as that of the wash poplins now used for summer skirts, and the coloring is prettier than the somber grays and browns seen in those goods.

Such ends hanging at the left side in Oriental fashion are in great favor wh made of the gay Oriental brocades, or else the plaid stuffs used for combining with plain goods. A large rosette is placed on the left side of the over-skirt just below the hips, and two ends of the material, dotted, hang nearly to the foot. Sometimes spiked metal ornaments call the hanging ends, or else a passementerie tassel is used to finish each end, or if the material used is silk, it is gathered in deep shirring a short distance above the end, and thus a tassel is formed.

Another feature of the wool suits for spring is the use of cords and tassels arranged merely as festoons, or passed around the hips with the ends hanging to the feet directly in front or else on the left side. These are not used to hold up drapery, and, indeed, are most often seen on coats and suits that are not draped; they are especially liked for cloth costumes.

The trimmings on bonnets follow the brim, and leave the graceful shape of the crown in full view. This is true at least of the close cottage shapes and the larger medium-sized shapes with scooped front or else with flaring brim; but the gypsy bonnets, with irregularly indented brim that is not wired, have occasionally trimmings on the crowns. If the soft satin known as Turc satin, or satin duchesse, and as Merveilleuse is used for trimming, it is shaped into many lapped soft folds close around the line that joins the brim to the crown, and is finished by one or two rosettes of four or five loose loops and a strap laced quite low down on one side. One of the new low spiked ornaments is then stuck through this rosette and indeed through the bonnet itself. This spike may be gilt or jet, and is in quaint new shapes, such as the half comb with one long tooth worn by Japanese women, instead of the arrows and darts worn last year. The brim is then covered with plaies of gold lace, or of Languedoc, or else a

Sold Himself.
A Correctionville farmer sold a load of corn at that town the other day. When it was weighed he slyly stepped on the scales, and then drove off to unload. When the wagon was weighed he took good care not to be in it, and congratulated himself that he had cheated the buyer in good shape.

The grain-dealer called him in, and after figuring up the load, paid him in full. As the farmer buttoned up his coat to go out, the buyer kindly asked him to smoke with him, and then talked over the crops and the price of hogs, and the likelihood of the Maple Valley railroad building up that way, till the farmer fairly squirmed in his chair with uneasiness about his chores at home.

At last he could stand it no longer, and said he must go. The dealer quietly said that was not to be thought of; that he had bought the farmer at full weight, and paid him his own price, and that he would insist on doing as he pleased with his own property.

The raiser of corn saw that he had indeed sold himself, in one sense, at least. He acknowledged his cheat and compromised the affair. Now when he markets grain he don't stand on the scale. —Sioux City (Ia.) Journal.

Extinction of the Buffalo.

According to the Montana Herald, a Canadian paper, very few buffaloes, comparatively, have ranged during the past year north of the boundary between the United States and the British possessions in America. This important and useful animal is every year becoming more and more scarce, and before very long will probably be extinct. Forts Walsh and Macleod have for some years been important centers for the collection of buffalo robes, the market value of which to the Indian hunter may be estimated at two dollars each. In 1877 some 30,000 robes were gathered at Fort Macleod, and a large number at Fort Walsh. In 1878 the number was 7,747 at the former and 16,827 at the latter place; while last year only 5,764 came in at Fort Macleod and 8,377 at Fort Walsh. This steady decrease in the number of buffaloes slain by the Indians and half-breeds of the Northwest affords a ready explanation of the suffering prevalent among them.

Blasting in Hoosac Tunnel.

Generally twelve holes are drilled, and these are filled with large cartridges, from each of which protrudes a wire. These wires are connected with two other wires, about 200 feet long, attached to a "powder keg battery." When all is ready the hands fall rapidly to work covering up the rails in the vicinity of the blast with heavy timber, as sometimes a large stone will break or bend a rail, and thus delay trains. This being done, the foreman shouts "fire," and all the workmen in the three or four hundred feet, either way, to a safe distance. One man stations himself at the battery to fire the blast. Suddenly, while you are listening for the report, you experience a quick, powerful feeling of pressure, which seems to spring away from you as quick as it came, and there follows such a "bang" as you never heard before. You feel as if an attempt had been made to throw you from your feet, and then the air rushes by you in a rapid succession of waves of roars. It seems as if the whole mountain above you were trembling with the echoes, and you hear the rumble of the report, even after the men have got back to the scene of the blast. A person can have no conception of a loud report until he hears a blast in Hoosac tunnel. There is no chance for the noise to spread, except through the long hole, and the explanation of the sensations one has there when a blast is made is easy enough. Some of the miners themselves dread it, and cover up their ears before the electric spark is sent. Sometimes a cartridge will not explode, and then the foreman has to draw it. Every time he does this he takes his life in his hands. After every blast the track is covered with broken rock, which is promptly removed in order not to delay the trains.

A Paper Dome.

There seems no end to the new use of paper. Trunks, bricks, Pullman car wheels, chimney flues, carpets, roofs, buckets, basins, scull boats, no longer excite much astonishment. The Railroad Gazette says the paper car wheels, in use since 1876, have proved a success. They are about forty inches in diameter. Sixty-six of these wheels were lately made over new after running an average of 11,188 miles. Some were still good after still further running. The price of one of these wheels, according to Le Decor, is 425 francs, or about \$85.

We have in this country an astronomical tower made of paper. This is at the Polytechnic Institute at Troy, N. Y. The interior diameter of the revolving dome is twenty-nine feet. Made in the ordinary manner this dome would weigh from five to ten tons, while quite extensive works to support it and quite important machinery to revolve it would be necessary. In place of the ordinary metallic armature, there is a light but strong framework of wood. On this framework the paper rests. By enormous pressure it is reduced to one-sixth of an inch in thickness and made as hard as the hardest wood. The weight of this paper dome is not more than one-tenth that of the ordinary construction.

It is supported by twelve or fifteen cast iron bolts, about six inches in diameter, all of which revolve in a circular groove provided for the purpose. These bolts may be regarded as casters, upon which the vast dome moves with so little friction that a child's hand could turn it.

The idea of making this dome of paper first occurred to Professor Dascombe Greene, of the department of mathematics and astronomy, by whom it was suggested to Messrs. E. Waters & Sons, manufacturers, who are largely engaged in making paper boats.

Tendencies to Disease.
Seventy thousand persons in America die yearly of consumption alone. Vast numbers inherit a tendency to rheumatism, epilepsy, insanity, cancer, dyspepsia, headache, neuralgia, asthma or to early loss of sight or hearing. Probably some 26,000,000 inherit some constitutional defect.

Hitherto little has been done to extirpate these tendencies. Ever when they have begun to show themselves a course is generally pursued by friends the reverse of what is needed. Moreover, a thoughtless squandering of vital reserve is encouraged by the whole force of our social usages. Hence we are degenerating as a people. The birth rate, already lower in New England than in any country of Europe, except France, is steadily gained on by the death rate.

But there is no inherent difficulty in the way of extirpating hereditary disease. It may be accomplished by hygienic care, such as can be given only by a medical expert, and such as, when downright sick, we all resort to.

A physician thus describes the case of his family: "Consumption on my father's side, he having lost one, if not two, sisters by the disease. Mother died of it in her forty-third year. Six children were born to them. All are alive and healthy, the youngest being past his fiftieth year. They are all free from any signs of tuberculosis, and are also thirty-one grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren."

This is a sample statement of many that might be given. The same intelligent care would generally show similar results.

The Amount of Candy Made.

The amount of candy manufactured in this country, says a New York paper, is far greater than is usually thought. The Americans the women, mainly, eat more, it is said, than all the rest of the world combined. New York has, until recently, made most of the candy, but now Boston is a large manufacturer. Within a few years many small houses, mostly French, have sprung up in New York, and reduced the price materially. Boston has three large manufactories, employing some 300 workmen, and producing over 4,000 tons of candy annually. Not more than one-fourth of this is consumed in New England, the remainder going chiefly to the provinces and the West. Boston makes, altogether, more than 5,000 tons, using something over 25,000 barrels of sugar for the purpose. New York, it is estimated, makes about 6,500 to 7,000 tons, which goes to all parts of the Union, a good deal of it being, it is said, exported to the West Indies, South America, and even to Europe. It has been supposed that the French candies were the best, but we now make candy regarded superior to those. Outside of Boston and New York not much candy is made, though the Philadelphia make has considerable reputation.

The Pleasures of Life in St. Petersburg.

A St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times gives the following illustrations of affairs at the Russian capital: A military attache of the French embassy was dragged before the chief of police for looking too attentively at the fortress. The correspondent in calling on friends in the daytime and early in the evening has been refused admission by the dvornik (hall porter) on the ground that he (the correspondent) did not live there and so could not go in. He says: Within my own street, which last night was illuminated at every window by command of the police I witnessed three quarrels with dvorniks who refused to give admission to persons wishing to visit friends or relations. In an adjoining street I saw one arrest for the same reason. On Sunday there was a storm of wind and drifting snow. The emperor in passing from the Winter palace to the parade at the riding school was escorted by a suite of Cossacks and followed by one of the district police masters in a sleigh. Those who saw his majesty's cortege of course removed their caps. One unfortunate individual whose sight was impeded by large bashlik over his head did not doff his head-dress. The police master noticed it and shouted to a policeman to take him off. The unhappy individual, who had through the blinding snow and sleet had failed to notice the imperial cavalcade, protested to that effect, but was nevertheless dragged off to the police station. These are a few illustrations of how directions, very good in themselves, are carried out by utterly incompetent subordinates who are incapable of exercising common sense and discrimination.

The latest instruction to the dvorniks is that they must not sit at their posts. The streets at night present the pictures of groups of big, droopy houses-porters, muffled up in their sheepskin leathers against each gateway carefully nursing the large keys which have turned the locks on the whole town within doors. As each person passes by they rouse themselves, each watching him until he disappears from sight and passes into the jurisdiction of another watchman.

News and Notes for Women.

Adeline Patti gets seven dollars a minute in opera.

A recent evening toilette in New York was decked with thirty birds.

The ladies of Chicago have three clubs devoted to literature and philosophy.

Mrs. Lydia Sexton, seventy years of age, is preaching in Little Rock, Ark.

Women convicts in the Kentucky penitentiary are dressed in pantaloons.

Donna Francesca, Garibaldi's new wife, was the nurse of his grandchildren.

The New York woman's exchange employs four saleswomen and four bookkeepers.

Eighty young women are fitting at the Boston latin school for the Harvard "annex."

A blind girl has outranked all her seeing competitors in the Portland, Me., high school.

Mead, the sculptor's wife, is a beautiful Italian lady with whom he could not at first talk.

Mrs. Southworth says she began to write from necessity, and continued from the love of it.

Mrs. Alex. Agassiz pays from her own pocket the most of the expenses of the Harvard museum of zoology.

A New York engraver got out cards in these words: "Mr. and Mrs. request your presents at the marriage of their daughter."

Sir William Gull says that drinking habits are not on the increase among English ladies; but the Rev. Dr. Norman Kerr is of a totally different opinion.

The wife of United States Senator Walkinston Call, of Florida, is the youngest of all Senators' wives, and is said to be the most beautiful. She was a Miss Sinking, of South Carolina.

Mrs. Marie L. Ellis, for eighteen years favorably known as a custom house inspectress at New York, died recently, aged fifty years. It is stated that she captured more diamonds from women smugglers than ever were taken from male smugglers.

The Mormons evade the legal decisions against polygamy by secret marriages and taking the new wife home as helper or teacher, and the old wives submit because they religiously believe it to be their duty.

Mrs. John W. Mackay, wife of the California bonanza king, is solemnly reported to have engaged the exclusive services of one of the most celebrated Parisian dressmakers, so that there might be no duplicates of her gowns.

A young man at Omaha did not wish to marry the girl to whom he was engaged, but she would not release him until he gave her his grocery business as recompense. She now runs the store, while he works elsewhere on small wages, and the bargain pleases both.

The inability of an ingenious woman to purchase a sealskin saccie led to a very original garment. According to an exchange she strapped the down of turkey and other feathers from the quills and wove it into a light soft thick cloth, out of which, when dyed a desirable hue, a luxurious saccie was fashioned.

Miss Charlotte A. Scott, of Girton college, Cambridge, daughter of Rev. Principal Scott, of Lancashire Independent college, has obtained the position of "equal to the eighth wrangler" in the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge. The highest place hitherto won by any lady has been among the senior optimes—i. e., second class. Miss Scott's achievement is the most remarkable on record in the annals of female education in England.

The Pleases of Life in St. Petersburg. A St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times gives the following illustrations of affairs at the Russian capital: A military attache of the French embassy was dragged before the chief of police for looking too attentively at the fortress. The correspondent in calling on friends in the daytime and early in the evening has been refused admission by the dvornik (hall porter) on the ground that he (the correspondent) did not live there and so could not go in. He says: Within my own street, which last night was illuminated at every window by command of the police I witnessed three quarrels with dvorniks who refused to give admission to persons wishing to visit friends or relations. In an adjoining street I saw one arrest for the same reason. On Sunday there was a storm of wind and drifting snow. The emperor in passing from the Winter palace to the parade at the riding school was escorted by a suite of Cossacks and followed by one of the district police masters in a sleigh. Those who saw his majesty's cortege of course removed their caps. One unfortunate individual whose sight was impeded by large bashlik over his head did not doff his head-dress. The police master noticed it and shouted to a policeman to take him off. The unhappy individual, who had through the blinding snow and sleet had failed to notice the imperial cavalcade, protested to that effect, but was nevertheless dragged off to the police station. These are a few illustrations of how directions, very good in themselves, are carried out by utterly incompetent subordinates who are incapable of exercising common sense and discrimination.

The latest instruction to the dvorniks is that they must not sit at their posts. The streets at night present the pictures of groups of big, droopy houses-porters, muffled up in their sheepskin leathers against each gateway carefully nursing the large keys which have turned the locks on the whole town within doors. As each person passes by they rouse themselves, each watching him until he disappears from sight and passes into the jurisdiction of another watchman.