

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

A Determined Grand Duchess.

The German wife of the Grand Duke Vladimir has a will of her own, and is not disposed to submit to the peculiar regulations of the Russian government. She discovered not long ago that a letter which she had written to her family, and in which it is said that she complained of the dullness and insecurity of life at the Russian court, had been opened by her own personal aid-de-camp before delivery to the post. The angry grand duchess complained to the emperor, but to her astonishment met with no sympathy from him. Still more enraged she delivered her emphatic decision that if the offender was not immediately dismissed she would make a public scandal and quit the country. The aid-de-camp was dismissed, but only to receive a much more lucrative appointment.

Feminine Finance.

The London *World* says "that speculation of the riskiest character is steadily on the increase. It is a habit which, once formed, is as difficult to eradicate as the drinking of odd glasses of sherry. Lately it has spread with immense rapidity among women. The 'feminine finance' which Sidonia disliked is one of the features of the epoch. The ladies' clubs at the West End of London, which are the growth of the last few years, have given an appreciable effort to feminine speculation. It would be a mistake to suppose that lady financiers are exclusively a London growth. They abound in the most tranquil districts. It is a natural instinct to wish to convert sixpence into a shilling, and the possessors of fixed incomes—retired civil servants, officers, widows with dowers, unmarried ladies whose life is dull and whose time hangs heavily on their hands—swallow with avidity the offered bait. Speculation of this kind, whether it fills the purse or empties it, is certain to yield some excitement; and that is not the least of its attractions. But in the long run it means ruin and misery."

News and Notes for Women.

It is said that there are 2,252 women engaged in farming in the State of Indiana.

The wife of a United States Senator says that he bill for flowers during the season is \$2,000.

Lillian Degau, of Brooklyn, has got \$6,000 damages out of a man who promised to marry her but didn't.

After next January women taxpayers will possess the same voting privileges in Scotland as men taxpayers.

Mrs. Clara M. Beebe, a student at the Harvard divinity school, has been installed pastor of a Boston church.

The Woman's Suffrage association of St. Louis has decided that Mormon women ought not to be granted any "rights."

Ultra æsthetic maidens in London are affecting the Greek sandal and uncompromised foot, and form instead of size as the standard of beauty.

There are seven school superintendents, twenty ministers, twenty-six physicians, four lawyers and three editors of the feminine sex in Kansas.

There is a woman's national hospital for the treatment of women drunkards at Hartford, Conn. The trustees are the leading physicians in ten States.

The Presbyterian Sunday-school at Conneautville, Pa., awards a handsome bonnet every month to the scholar who stands best in her class and church and Sunday-school attendance.

Ellen McCause, who was arrested in Rochester, N. Y., and "sent up" for three years, is said to have been convicted nearly 500 times in Ireland and America. She is fifty-six years old.

A young widow in Stanford, Ill., having just attained her majority (eighteen years) is about to be married. She was first married at the age of eleven years, and left a widow a few weeks later.

The woman suffragists of New York think that women ought to be attached to police stations to take charge of female prisoners and lodgers. They accordingly applied to the New York police board on the matter, but were met with the reply that there was no appropriation for the payment of female policemen.

Fashion Fancies.

Buff tints are revived.

Scarlet rings are worn by ladies.

Blue grenadine veils have white polka dots.

New bonnet pins have hammered gold heads.

Eerie white and tinted batistes are worn.

Very little jewelry is worn in the street.

The stylish pale shade is Havana brown.

Faille ribbons trim bonnets for spring.

Linen-gingham is an old fabric just revived.

Red straw hats will be popular next season.

Brass ball buttons are used for flannel suits.

Gray-haired ladies are wearing silver hairpins.

Metal buttons have Watteau scenes upon them.

Very long ribbon streamers hang from bouquets.

Silver jewelry is worn with black Lenten dresses.

Silk fringes once more assert their right to be seen.

Everything Oriental pleases the woman of to-day.

Among new things for the ballroom are plush slippers.

Jet ornaments continue to be much worn on bonnets.

Peacock-feather fans in round and oval style are in fashion.

Poke bonnets are to be worn tilted far forward on the head.

Louis quince slippers are worn over pale yellow silk stockings.

Deep cardinal, pale blue, crevette and heliotrope are the new colors.

Plain sleeves are preferred to puffs by fashionable young women.

Spring costumes—some of them—represent Marie Antoinette styles.

Ostrich feather bands are being used with good effect to outline large hats.

Less elaboration and more simple elegance are noticeable in spring novelties.

Mantelets of black satin, trimmed with ruffles or lace, are worn with black dresses this spring.

French and India foulards will be much worn next summer, in place of striped and checked summer silks.

A delicate tint of blue, rose or lemon color is seen in many of the rich white bridal fabrics of this spring's importation.

Cassimeres, corduroys, Scotch tweeds and English suitings and homespuns are the materials used for small boys' school suits.

Among eccentricities in lingerie are black, blue and lemon-colored handkerchiefs of sheer linen embroidered with contrasting colors.

The best English round hats are copies, somewhat modified, from the old portraits of Reynolds, Lely, Vandyke and other famous artists.

Little girls' dresses grow longer, thanks to the Princess of Wales, who attires her young daughters in skirts reaching to their ankles; and so the short skirt dress is now dubbed the "lackey style."

Buried Alive.

The Rev. Dr. Field says in a letter from Rome, Italy: In an old part of Rome, not far from the Coliseum, one who knows the way turns aside from the street into a narrow alley which seems to come suddenly to an end in a blank wall, on which there is a painting of the crucifixion, but follow it to the end and there steps lead up to the picture, and a side staircase to a second story, where the visitor can proceed no further. Here, behind barred doors and gratings like a prison, is a convent of nuns who are fitly called the Sepolte Vive, the Buried Alive, because those who enter there never come forth again till they are borne to the grave. Communication with the interior is by an opening, in which there is a round bar, like a barrel, through it was covered with sheet-iron. While I stood before it a man came up the steps, who seemed to be a servant, and rapped on it, to which a muffled voice answered from within. His voice being recognized, the barrel turned slowly around till it disclosed a shelf on which he deposited a paper, when it was turned again, the paper disappeared the voice from within ceased and the sheeted iron presented the same blank surface as before. Should a priest knock, or any one who had a right to be admitted into the convent, the barrel turning round would present a key by which he could open a door and let himself into a small room in the interior. But even then he would not see the inmates, who are closely veiled even when they converse. Here, in his "Walks in Rome," says: "In one of the walls is an opening with a double grille, beyond which is a metal plate, pierced with holes like the rose of a watering pot. It is beyond the grille and behind this plate that the abbess of the Sepolte Vive receives her visitors, but she is even then veiled from head to foot in heavy folds of thick bure. Gregory XVI., who of course could penetrate within the convent, and who wished to try her, said: 'My sister, raise your veil.' 'No, my father,' she replied, 'it is forbidden by our order.' 'The nuns of the Sepolte Vive are never seen again after they assume the black veil. They never hear anything of the outer world, even of the deaths of their nearest relations. Daily they are said to dig their own graves and lie down in them, and their remaining hours are occupied in perpetual adoration of the blessed sacrament.'"

Nevada has 5,416 Chinese, 2,803 Indians and 400 negroes.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The London *World* speaks of a wonderful preparation from the eucalyptus plant, which is said to be marvelously effective in cases of consumption and particular phases of lung disease. It is the invention of the Hon. Wyndham Stanhope, who is at present residing in Madeira for the benefit of his health.

A touching tribute was paid to the memory of the late Delano A. Goddard, editor of the Boston *Advertiser*, by the Omaha Indians for the effort he made to assist them in their struggles for titles to their lands. His name was not mentioned in any of the remarks, Indian etiquette forbidding such mention, but he was spoken of as one belonging to them, a high compliment for Indians to pay, and his worth was described in terms that were eloquent from their simplicity.

Beneath most of the villages in the coal regions of Pennsylvania are caverns made by the process of mining. "Sooner or later," the Philadelphia *Times* predicts, "some of these towns will suffer from caving in. The mines depend upon artificial and in some cases exceedingly flimsy contrivances to keep them open and the surface in place. As the timbers decay or become displaced it is only reasonable to expect that a collapse will follow."

The United States produces one-third of the gold and one-half of the silver which are taken from the earth in the whole world each year. The gold produced in this country in the census year 1880 amounted to five ordinary carloads, and the silver would have loaded a train of 109 freight cars of the usual capacity. Of the total annual bullion product of the world, amounting to \$182,092,351, North America supplied \$101,558,384; Europe, including Russia in Asia, \$39,697,271; Australia, \$29,018,223; South America, \$8,531,761; Africa, \$1,993,800, and Japan, \$1,382,948.

From the Turkish province of Epirus the Christian (though not Greek) inhabitants have of late been emigrating in large numbers. Unable to endure, on the one hand, the depredations of the robber bands still infesting the country, and, on the other hand, the hardly less cruel treatment of their Mohammedan fellow subjects, the natives in question have for some time past been unobtrusively, and generally at night, abandoning their farms and villages, and crossing the frontier into the new Greek province of Thessaly for the purpose of taking up there their permanent residence.

The Chinese automaton "King Foo," after bewildering Berlin with its mysterious powers, was in the midst of a successful season in Vienna, when a too inquisitive spectator having given emphatic expression to his conviction that the automaton had "human brains inside of him somewhere," found means to assure himself that he was right. An exceedingly small boy, seventeen years old, was found concealed within the body of "King Foo," and the owner was prosecuted as a cheat. With unblushing effrontery the man who had made it the chief business of his life to convince the public that his curiosity was purely mechanical turned about and asked the following questions in his own defense: "Whom have I cheated? Can the people of Vienna be such fools as to believe that a piece of clockwork can talk Chinese, Persian, German, French and English? That it can tell whether Suez canal shares will rise or fall? That it can predict the exact day on which a rich uncle will die?" This defense was apparently regarded as a good one, for the showman was acquitted.

The discussion of electric light dangers springs up or breaks out often and in numerous places. A Providence scientist and expert was asked if a man's life was in danger when his body was exposed to the current of electricity necessary to feed the electric light. His reply was that no man knew the extent of the danger, or rather the extent of the injury that might be incurred. If a man should place his hands upon the wire before the generator started and keep them there until the machine stopped, as he might be obliged to whether he wanted to or not, since the muscles would contract very strongly—if he did this, it is believed he would be comparatively safe; but if his hands were removed, if they could be, or if the wire should break while the generator was in operation, he would receive an induction spark that might kill him and might not. That would depend upon what part was affected and upon the man's physical condition. It might paralyze the heart, it might cause strangulation, and in any case would be likely to cause more or less derangement of the nervous system. But the positive or definite result will not be known, cannot be known, except by actual experience. Some light may be thrown upon it by experiments on lower animal. Even then man may not be

satisfied and proceed to test and perhaps kill himself. Then shall we know and possibly not till then.

An Egyptian Village.

An American, traveling in Egypt, writes: A village consists of a number of cubes, parallelepipeds and other rectangular shapes that answer for habitations. This geometrical architecture is followed, I suppose, in memory of Euclid, who was a native of Egypt.

These rectilinear houses are built mostly of mud or mud bricks, and have a doorway and several other small openings in the side walls. I observed some of them were constructed of palm branches interwoven and plastered also with mud. At any rate one of these villages looks more like a geological formation than a human one. One of them in particular that I passed, some fifty miles from Alexandria, looks like a landscape from the terrace epoch.

Most of these communities are situated beside a pool of stagnant water. This site, I suppose, is especially chosen as it affords easy means of getting water for culinary purposes. As the rate of speed on the Alexandria and Cairo railway is rather slow, I many times caught a glimpse of a maiden standing on the banks of one of these misanthropic pools doing a little washing. They used for the purpose large shallow stone bowls. In some instances the water is led about the place in a ditch; in others I saw girls carrying water to the village in large stoneware vessels, generally upon their heads. The sunny part of the town is patronized at this season of the year (January) by the male portion of the inhabitants, who do a tall amount of sleeping.

Life is however better displayed upon the roof. This is the general camping-ground for both animate and inanimate objects. There are innumerable siestas, commencing at sunrise and prolonged till sunset. The matron hangs her clothes here, attaching one end of the line to the chimney and the other end to one of the male sleepers. The dogs retire here after eating till they are stupor-stricken by a carcass that lies near the house. The cat and dog are here on good terms, which was probably not the case an hour before in the space about the carcass. The chickens and goats occupy that part of the roof not occupied by the sleepers.

One thing I never remember to have seen on the roof, and that is the Arab's patient little donkey.

The canine portions of these communities may be divided into those that are white and those that are black. If the white dogs are in the minority at any particular time, they are very promiscuously chewed by the blacks and vice versa. A canine color feud!

Sad Incident of the Flood.

Alexander Jasper, an old man from Crittenden county, Ark., arrived in Little Rock, bringing with him his wife and two children. He seemed to be in great distress, and when questioned by a *Gazette* man he told the following sad story: "You know," he said, "that the whole country was under water. I am one of the sufferers of the flood. I lived in the Mississippi bottom, not far from Madison. I settled there several years ago and opened a small farm. I had heard of high water, but the place where I settled seemed to be high, and I did not feel any fear. Well, high water came repeatedly, but it never reached me. One night, while myself and family were at supper, we were startled by a terrible roar. I went to the door and looked out, but could see nothing. My wife suggested that he noise might be caused by water, but I did not pay much attention to the remark, for I did not see how water could break through with such force. While I stood listening there came a mighty rush, and before I knew it the whole country was flooded with water. I called to my wife to help me secure the children. The house was full of water. I seized one little girl and my wife seized the other. The house moved. The lamp fell and was extinguished. I called to my little boy and received a strangled reply. I rushed through the flood toward the place from which I thought the sound came, and called again, but no reply. The house went to pieces. I seized my wife and struggled with her to a slight elevation. The roar was deafening. We remained there until morning. When light came a rushing torrent swept over the site of our home. My little boy was gone."

Potato flour, or the dried pulp of the potato, is attaining considerable importance in the arts—so much so, in fact, that in Lancashire, England, some 20,000 tons of it are sold annually, and its market value is stated to be much greater than that of wheat flour. The article is extensively used for sizing and other manufacturing purposes, and, on being precipitated with acid, is converted into starch. After having been calcined it is used with an advantage as a dressing for silk.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

The mean depth of the sea is 1877 fathoms.

Toads, tortoises, turtles and some lizards are entirely destitute of teeth.

Cheese is really but coagulated milk in a more or less advanced stage of decay.

In the swamps surrounding the "salt licks" of Kentucky, buffalo bones are found packed in the soil in great quantities.

The tarnishing of silver when exposed to the air is due to sulphureted hydrogen, the metal having a strong attraction for sulphur.

The conversion of radiant heat into sound was the subject of one of the recent lectures of Professor Tyndall. He proved and illustrated his theme by a number of beautiful experiments.

Special poisons are secreted by the toad, salamander, newt, frog, etc. M. Paul Bert has collected a liquid from the glands on the neck of the frog, which caused the death, with convulsions, of a sparrow to which the substance had been administered.

The suggestion is made that air for ventilation be drawn into buildings through tubes sunk about ten feet in the ground. By this means it would in winter be warmed to sixteen degrees Fahrenheit and in summer cooled to twenty-three degrees Fahrenheit.

The chief constituent of the tea leaf is proved, by analysis, to be the alkaloid theine. When separated so as to be seen in its perfect purity, theine appears in snow-white, silky, filiform crystals, flexible and fragile, without odor, but having a mildly bitter taste.

Recent observations on light conducted on the summit of Mount Whitney yield the curious result that the sun is in reality of a bright blue color, and would so appear to the eye were it not for the filtration of the light rays through our atmosphere which by its different action on the various rays finally blends them into white light.

Jesse James Not Dead.

A great sensation has been created among the police and county officials in the vicinity of Kansas City, Mo., by the fact that George Shepherd, ex-guerrilla and bank robber, who claimed to have shot Jesse James, the notorious outlaw, at Joplin, Mo., just after the Glendale train robbery of 1879, had proved traitor through all that trouble. Shepherd knew the James brothers well, and offered to go among them and lead them into an ambush where they were to be killed or captured. His offer was accepted, and for several weeks he wrote letters to the detectives and at last a special train over the Fort Scott railroad carried a large posse of men to Galena, Mo., where a bank was to be robbed.

The day previous to the talked-of robbery Shepherd came tearing into Galena on horseback, claiming to have killed Jesse James, saying the gang became suspicious of him. He was himself shot clean through the left leg below the knee, and said two members of the band followed him a mile and Cummings hit him. The report was believed, and every paper in the country sounded Shepherd's praise; but it has become public that all the time Shepherd was standing in with the robbers and that a scheme was entered into whereby the officers were to be made to think that Jesse was killed, and then the large reward for his body, dead or alive, could be obtained by Shepherd and divided with Jesse. In order to square himself with the officers Shepherd had to be slightly wounded, and he deliberately held out his leg and allowed Jesse James to shoot a ball through it. The plan to get the reward failed, and Shepherd, who has been hanging about Kansas City ever since the reported shooting, has admitted the whole thing was a put-up job, and says he would no more shoot Jesse James than he would his brother.

An Alligatorial Fight.

A citizen of Jacksonville, Fla., has been keeping a couple of large alligators in a tank chiefly for the benefit of travelers from the North. A visitor recently stirred up the creatures with a stick in order that he might derive all possible pleasure from the show. Enraged at being disturbed they fell to fighting with each other with great fury and much loss of blood. The fight began at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and neither was willing to throw up the sponge until 11 at night, when the older of the two acknowledged that he had had enough. The event proved that he had had a great deal too much, for he died the following day.

A price is set upon the heads of wild horses in three of the Australian colonies. They hang upon the outskirts of civilization, and are a ceaseless cause of annoyance and loss to outlying squatters. They are vicious, physically weak, and worthless as work horses. Stalking them with the rifle or running them down is a favorite sport.

Be Careful! Oh, My Son!

You are going away from home, my son,
Be careful how you're led,
For we all must lie—so the angels say—
As we have made our bed.

You carry away a boy's true heart,
And a strength through love attained;
Oh! bring us back in its place, my son,
A manhood all unstained.

You are going away from home and friends—
From a mother's loving care—
From a father's council wisely given—
From a hearth of praise and prayer!

Going away to the gay, bright scenes
That will fire your bounding heart—
That will tempt, perhaps, your untired feet
From the better way to part.

"Whatever we sow we shall reap," my son,
Be it grains or noxious weeds—
Be it laurel wreaths or cypress boughs,
Then scatter the goodly seeds.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

Music long drawn out—That made by the accordion.

May not a jury be said to be selfish when they have a greed?

"I can't account for it!" exclaimed the defaulting bank cashier.

The poll on which no tax has ever been levied—The north pole.

There is something wrong about a Clay statue made of bronze.

Never ask a woman her age—that is, not that woman. Ask some other woman.

Tommy asked his mother if the school-teacher's ferule was a piece of the board of education.

Patients do more for doctors than doctors can do for patients. The patients enable the doctors to live.

The cat is the great American prima donna. If bootjacks were bouquets, her nine lives would be strewn with roses.

When you see a lot of old soldiers smoking around a stove you may be sure that there are piping times of peace.

Alice Carlyle is a writer in the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*. We hope she is not the giddy girl her spelling would indicate.

They say an alligator is incapable of nausea. This will afford a comforting reflection to the man who has just been swallowed by one.

When a subject has been debated upon at a ladies' convention, and it is about to be put to the vote, they call it "popping the question."

No circus is complete without a beautiful woman, and Fogg, who is posted, says wherever a beautiful woman is you may look out for a circus.

In the initials of Guiteau, C. J. G., the successive stages of a criminal's career are readily traced. First the C-rime, second J-justice, third G-allows.

REPTAIN ON A CAT.

"Here lies a mouser immured,
Felix in felicity,
Her moans immolated many a mole,
A mouser, my sir, was she."

The New York authorities are very careful of their police force. They never put two officers on the same beat, because it is said to be unhealthy for two persons to sleep together.

"Well," says a canvasser, "I must keep walking and talking. That's the way I get my living, and that's the way I got my wife. But she has done the talking ever since. Good-day!"

"Now," said the book agent, in order to get the gentleman's attention, "if you will allow me to read the prospectus of the work; it is short—" "So am I," interrupted the gentleman. "Good-day!"

Fox hunting is an old English institution and a lively sport to those that like it; but we do not believe that it can ever come up in interest, excitement or endless variety to the great American city pastime of house hunting.

Amelia—"You may talk about your city fellows, but give me a beau from the country!" Juliet—"And why do you want a country beau, I should love to hear?" Amelia—"Because, sis, he's very likely to become a husbandman!"—*Louisville Courier Journal*.

There had been a seeming coolness between the lovers. One day Emily's schoolmate ventured to refer to the subject, and asked her: "When did you see Charley last?" "Two weeks ago to-night." "What was he doing?" "Trying to get over the fence." "Did he appear to be much agitated?" "So much so," returned Emily, "that it took all the strength of papa's new bulldog to hold him."

Always Send Copies.

The parents of original verses to newspapers frequently ask that the verses be returned in case they are not used. This is asking too much. It would be much safer to keep them at home in the first place. They never would be missed at the newspaper office, and in cases where there is the slightest desire on the part of the author for the possession of original poems, it is best not to trust said poems to the tender mercies of mail carriers, or editors, even. Always send copies, and rest the heart as to their fate.—*New Orleans Picayune*.