

## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

### Fashion Notes.

ated Irish poplins have come into fashion.

Very small buttons to fasten the corsage is the latest freak of fashion.

The wicker-basket bonnets so fashionable in Paris have reached America.

Bonnet crowns completely shingled with small feathers will be much worn.

The new de beiges come in improved forms, finely finished and illuminated.

Blouse waists for children and young girls never go entirely out of fashion.

Red hats, red feathers, red gloves, and red stockings are worn by the million.

The jackets, ulsterettes and sacques for early fall wear are made longer this season.

Very plain skirts will be much worn, but not to the exclusion of more elaborate ones.

Colored handkerchiefs are brought out in the loveliest combinations of aesthetic colors.

Plaids are worn by women who affect English styles; they are not generally becoming.

The wearing of green and red together is revived, but both colors must be in subdued tones.

Pompadour designs and stripes appear in the new evening silks intended for the dressiest toilets.

Raspberry-and-cream color rivals strawberry as a popular color for millinery and evening dress.

Full lace jabots, reaching from the neck to the point of the bodice, will be worn with dressy indoor costumes.

The bouffant tournure draperies as now worn give all women very unsymmetrical and even ludicrous figures.

The latest fancy for neck lingerie is to unite several colors in the ribbon bows that mingle with the laces at the throat.

Dressy cloth suits are tailor finished, and then made effective with handsome soutache embroideries and artistic crochet buttons.

Every lady should have a plush jacket in black, seal brown, or some other color which will harmonize with any kind of a skirt.

Flowers are now but little worn in the corsage in demi-toilet, being replaced by knots of ribbon in hues contrasting with that of the dress.

Grecian lynx, a long-haired, light-colored fur of a yellowish tinge, will be a very fashionable fur for trimming winter cloaks and costumes.

For dinner or ballroom wear brocaded moire antiques are very fashionable. In white these superb fabrics are very handsome for bridal dresses.

Nonpareil Velvet is found in all the stylish new shades of green, sapphire, wine color, chadron, bronze, seal brown, and black. When made with the pile turned upward so that it will be raised by wear instead of becoming flattened, it cannot be distinguished from silk velvet; while the difference in price reduces the cost of a costume by about two-thirds.

### A Learned Woman.

The most learned woman in the world is Miss Ramnabal, a young lady of twenty, who is now in Paris. She is a native of India, and can read and write and talk in twelve languages, having a wonderful gift in that way, besides being up in mathematics, astronomy and history. She is studying medicine, and will go to India to practice, where she says thousands of her countrywomen die every year because they will not consult male physicians.

### New Industry.

Mrs. Chapman of New York has built up a new industry for women in the manufacture of feather-edged braid. She began by making large collars for children out of two braids connected together, or aided in forming designs, by lace stitches and crochet stitches, executed with needles and knitting cotton. This was four years ago. The demand speedily outgrew her powers of supply. She now has seven hundred women working for her, many of them being married ladies, who wish to have a little money of their "very own." Seventy-five thousand collars were supplied last year to the wholesale house which takes Mrs. Chapman's work.

### Single Women.

A clever old maid once said that it was far better to be laughed at because you were not married than not to be able to laugh because you were. There is sound logic in that. It is well for woman to marry if she meets a good, true man, who loves her and whom she loves; but, if she be not suited, better that she remain single. Many old maids are helpful, loveable and sweet-tempered, and fill their allotted niche as acceptably as do their married

sisters. Are they not more to be honored than they would have been had they merely married for a home or position? Our young ladies have erroneous ideas on this subject. They almost disgraced if they have arrived at a mature age and are not able to write "Mrs." before their names. Their whole ambition is to get a husband, by hook or by crook, but get him somehow they must. Consequently they take the first man who offers himself, whether he really suits them or not. Now, girls, do not marry in haste. Get the best education possible, help about domestic affairs, and enter some trade or profession for which you have a taste, and master it. Skilled labor is always well paid. Don't spend your time repining because you cannot see the coming man. If you never see him you can lead useful, happy lives.

### Tad Lincoln's Fast-Day Picnic.

If there was ever a boy in danger of being "spoiled," it was the youngest son of President Lincoln. Much of the time it was impossible that he should not be left to run at large. He was foolishly caressed and petted by people who wanted favors of his father, and who took this way of making a friend in the family, as they thought; and he was living in the midst of a most exciting epoch in the country's history, when a boy in the White House was in a strange and somewhat unnatural atmosphere. But I am bound to say that Tad, although he doubtless had his wits sharpened by being in such strange surroundings, was never anything else, while I knew him, but a boisterous, rollicking, and absolutely real boy.

Great was Tad's curiosity, in 1864, to know what was meant by the President's proclamation for a day of fasting and prayer. His inquiries were not satisfactorily answered, but from the servants he learned, to his great dismay, that there would be nothing eaten in the White House from sunrise to sunset on Fast Day. The boy, who was blessed with a vigorous appetite, took measures to escape from the rigors of the day. It happened that, just before Fast Day came, the family carriage was brought out of its house to be cleaned and put in order. Tad stood by, with feelings of alarm, while a general overhauling of the vehicle went on, the coachman dusting, rubbing, and pulling things about, quite unconscious of Tad's anxious watch on the proceedings. Pretty soon, drawing out a queer-looking bundle from one of the boxes under the seat, the man brought to light a part of a loaf of bread, some bits of cold meat, and various other fragments of food from the larder. Tad, now ready to burst with anger and disappointment, cried, "Oh! oh! give that up, I say! That's my Fast Day picnic!" The poor lad, from dread of going hungry, had cautiously hidden, from day to day, a portion of food against the day of fasting, and had stood by while his board was in danger, hoping that it might escape the eyes of the servants.

He was consoled by a promise from his mother, to whom he ran with his tale of woe, that he should not suffer hunger on Fast Day, even though his father, the President, had proclaimed a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer for all the people.

### Wedding Rings.

Most women have a sincere interest in betrothal and wedding rings, so that a few facts picked up concerning them may not come amiss. The first has altered noticeably in shape and setting. A pure white diamond, the only suitable gem, is under set in short claws so that the stone hides the setting completely. Polished gold is preferred to Roman gold. The shank is oval and tapers from the gem. There is neither enamel nor engraving on its surface, and inscriptions are cut inside as the purchaser may order. It is but an old fashion revived, and one which will be liked. In the last thirty years wedding rings have changed twice in style, from the narrow, double circle to the polished oval; and lastly the plain, wide, flat band, which is now also preferable in polished gold. A fourth style, and one eminently in harmony with the present temper of romantic sentiment, might well revive the ornament which decorated a ring discovered long ago in Egyptian ruins. It represented two cats, sitting back to back, and between them the goddess of love, who smiles sweetly on vacancy while they glare around at each other in genuine Kilkenny fashion. Such rings are generally made to order.

A cowboy at Prescott, A. T., was running the town and carrying a high head until a Massachusetts consumptive cracked his skull with a club. The natives never dreamed that a cowboy could be laid out.

Splinters from the floor whereon Jesse James fell when he was shot are sold on the premises for 25 cents each.

## MISTAKEN FOR A LUNATIC.

### The Way a Wife Unexpectedly Turned the Tables on Her Husband.

A man whose wife had just been declared insane went with her yesterday morning, in company with a court attendant, to the office of the Brooklyn Charity Commissioners to have her committed to the lunatic asylum. While they were waiting for Commitment Clerk Short to get through with other business the court attendant stepped out, promising to return soon. The husband, weighed down with the melancholy nature of his business, sat brooding over the matter beside his wife, who, on the other hand, happened to be in an especially cheerful mood. She talked to him in a lively way, and appeared to be doing all she could to lift up his spirits. When Mr. Short found leisure to attend to the case, he fancied that he took in the situation at a glance.

"What appears to be his hallucination?" he asked, drawing the lady a little on one side.

"Oh," said she, divining the clerk's error with a lunatic's quickness of perception, "it's the old story. He thinks I'm insane, and endeavors to control me. He is not often violent, but I feel it is necessary to put him under restraint."

"Yes," said Mr. Short, with the instinctive sympathy that clings to him, notwithstanding his occupation; "it is a sad thing, but you must make the best of it."

Mr. Short noticed the husband gesticulating wildly behind his wife's back, touching his own head, and then pointing to his wife's—all the time, however, carefully avoiding her observation; but he saw no evidence of any immediate violent outbreak on the husband's part.

"Sit down, my good man—sit down. Everything is all right. I understood how it is."

"Yes, my dear, the gentleman understands all about it," chimed in the wife, in a kindly tone.

Then the husband tried to pull the clerk aside and whisper something in his ear.

"Yes, yes," said the latter; "I know all about it. Nobody is going to hurt you. You are just as safe here as if you were in your own home, and so is she."

"But I'm not going to stand this any longer," broke out the husband, at last losing his patience.

"Don't mind him—he'll quiet down in a moment," said the lady reassuringly to the clerk.

"I am not crazy!" shouted the troubled man, breaking away from all self-control in his vexation. "It is she that is crazy!"

"I told you how it would be," said the wife. "The next thing, perhaps, he will try to make out that you are crazy."

By this time there had appeared that amount of color in the husband's face that Mr. Short began to look about for assistance. While he was in this anxious state of mind the court attendant reappeared in the doorway. His explanation soon put matters on a right footing, much to the discomfiture of the clerk.

### Hungarian Grass.

The Boston *Cultivator* says this plant has two peculiarities, explained by Dr. Sturtevant, as follows: First, it is a plant of warm regions; second, it is a drouth plant. The inference from this is—what my experience in light soil confirmed—that the ground must be warm at the time of planting, and the soil must be a dry one; that is, free from standing water. A careful examination has shown me that the Hungarian is a very shallow rooting crop—it feeds very near the surface when the temperature of the soil is the highest. Another peculiarity with me has been that a single cold or cool night checks the growth of seed. Bearing these observations in mind, I have not failed in obtaining a very large crop by pursuing the following course: First, planting not earlier than June 20th, in order to secure the warm soil, and the certainty of no cool nights during the ensuing six weeks; second, manuring or fertilizing close to the surface, and just scratching in; third, planting at least six pecks of seed per acre. In order to have the crop relished by cattle, I have found it necessary to sow thickly, and to cut just as the heads begin to be discovered. By this course I have a hay the cattle prefer to timothy, and pound per pound it expends better than timothy, and my eye detects no falling away in condition, and the scales detect no change in the milk yield. If over-ripe—and most people cut too late—the cattle do not relish it as they otherwise could, and the eye and scales show inferior feeding value to the best hay.

London has 41 theatres, with an aggregate seating capacity of more than 55,000.

## Something About Spiders.

The destruction of insects by spiders is enormous. I have counted 250 insects, small and great, hanging entangled in one orb web. In one net in Fairmount Park I counted thirty-eight mosquitoes; in another, hung under a bridge at Asbury Park, and out of reach, there must have been two or three times as many. Green head flies by the legion have been seen in the webs that fairly enlase the boat houses at Atlantic City and Cape May. The very small spiders prey upon microscopic insects like gnats and devour myriads. A glance at the fields, bushes and trees on a dewy morning in September will reveal an innumerable multitude of webs spread over the landscape, all occupied by spiders of various ages, sizes and families, and all busy destroying the insect pests of man.

There are several species of spiders, divided into two classes, the sedentary and the wandering spiders. To the first class belong the orb weavers, who make a circular web; the line weavers, whose web is labyrinthian; the tube weavers, who hang their nests on walls or rocks or branches of trees, and the tunnel weavers, who live in tunnels cut into the earth and having automatic doors ingeniously contrived. In the wanderers are included the cetegrades, whose motions are quick and vivacious; the laterigrades, who have a queer sideways motion, and the saltigrades, who jump, and dance and vault. The dolomedes spider is a swimmer, and lives on or under water. She builds her nest on a detached branch of a tree or bush, which she makes into a tent. The argiope fasciata, or banded spider, is a silver yellow and black color.

Spiders are not social creatures. They are generally, on the contrary, of solitary habits, and are mostly cannibals, eating each other with great gusto. They mate in the spring and autumn, and the mating is often a trying and dangerous one. They reverse the order of nature in one respect, for the males are infinitely inferior in every respect to the females, and the latter are well aware of the fact. Their courtships are scenes of violence, and not of love and peace. The lady looks with sublime contempt upon the gentleman and keeps him at a distance. He can only approach her by stratagem, and sometimes she nips off one of his legs in her anger and casts him adrift a cripple. I have seen poor fellows who have lost four out of their eight legs, and still they were attracted to the opposite sex like moths to a candle. A spider will never eat her own young, but the males will destroy them when they can. The mother either goes away or dies soon after the hatching of her eggs, which number about 100 to each nest, and the little ones are thrown upon the world almost as soon as they see light. There are several varieties who carry their eggs in a silk pouch until they are hatched. The tube weavers sometimes care for their young until they are able to get about, and I had a brood of about sixty in my yard until the rains destroyed them.

Spiders have numerous enemies, and much of their clever nest building is designed for protection against these inroads. Toads and birds destroy them by the thousands, and a little parasite called the ichnumen—a small fly—lays its eggs in the cocoons of the spider, and when the larva appears it feeds first on the eggs and later on the young spiders. Orb weavers and line weavers desert their eggs when laid, and meet their offspring, where they live so long, as strangers. Another bitter enemy of the spider is the mud-dauber wasp, which has a process that might be valuable to humanity, if it could be discovered, of keeping a supply of fresh meat. When they capture a spider that is not needed for present use they sting it in such a manner that it lives, but has no power to move until such time as the captor is ready to devour it. It is rather a singular thing that the wasp in its babyhood feeds on meat, but in its maturity eats nothing but the nectar of flowers.—*Philadelphia Press.*

The Rev. Cummins Hallmark, of Etowah county, Ala., aged eighty-six years, has never taken but one dose of medicine—a dose of morphine—from a physician. He hasn't tasted whisky in forty-five years, and was never drunk. He never used tobacco, nor has he swallowed a sip of coffee in over forty years. Ellis, Cummins Hallmark's son, aged thirty-three years, has never tasted whisky or tobacco, and has never taken a dose of medicine in his life.

A correspondent of the *Scientific American*, who resides at a mining camp on the mountains in the southeastern corner of Arizona, says that the brilliancy of the moonlight there is such that mountains 70 miles distant are seen.

## SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

Dr. Hewson asserts that the common sparrow is liable to have smallpox, and is capable of communicating that disease.

Stations on some of the Marquesan Islands will be the only practical way to observe the eclipse of the sun on May 6, 1883.

The longest span of telegraph wire in the world is about 6,000 feet. It unites two hills—one on each side of the River Kishnu, in India.

There are already in England thirty electric lighting companies, with a capital of \$30,000,000. France has not so many companies, but has invested nearly as much money in introducing the new light.

Paper is made in Belgium which very closely resembles satin. Common paper is covered with a suitable size, and, while the surface is moist, asbestos dyed to any desired shade is sprinkled over it. Any superfluous matter is easily shaken off when the size is dry. Fine effects are sometimes produced with aniline colors.

In the Scherff process for preserving milk the milk, while fresh, is enclosed in glass vessels and heated by steam for from one to two hours to a temperature of 100 to 120 degrees. All germs of fermentation are thus destroyed; the gaseous albuminoids are peptonized so that the gastric juices can easily digest the finely-divided flocks, and any germs of disease from which the cow may be suffering are killed.

Dr. Houghton, of Dublin, in a paper read before the Science Association at Montreal, deduced from certain apparent facts respecting the condition of the planets that the earth and the moon, when they separated from the solar nebula, did so in the form of solid meteoric stones, each of them having the temperature of interstellar space—that is, a temperature not much above 400 degrees Fahrenheit below the freezing point of water.

### Provisioning an Ocean Steamship.

Three thousand five hundred pounds of butter, 3,000 hams, 1,600 pounds biscuit—not those supplied to the crew; 1,000 pounds of "dessert stores" muscatels, almonds, figs, etc., exclusive of fresh fruits, which are taken in at every port; 1,500 pounds of jams and jellies, 6,000 pounds of tinned meats, 1,000 pounds of dried beans, 3,600 pounds of rice, 5,000 pounds of onions, 40 tons of potatoes, 60,000 pounds of flour, and 20,000 eggs. Fresh vegetables, dead meat, and live bullocks, sheep, pigs, geese, turkeys, guinea-birds, ducks, fowls, fish, and casual game, are generally supplied at each port of call, or replenished at the further end of the journey, so that it is difficult to obtain complete estimates of them. Perhaps two dozen bullocks and 60 sheep would be a fair average for the whole voyage, and the rest may be inferred in proportion. The writer has known 25 fowls sacrificed in a single day to make chicken broth. Four thousand sheets, 2,000 blankets, 8,000 towels, 2,600 pounds of various soaps, 2,000 pounds of candles—except in those vessels which are fitted with the electric light; 1,000 knives, 2,200 plates, 900 cups and saucers, 3,000 glasses—fancy what a handsome income the amount represented by annual loss from breakage would be!—800 table-cloths, 2,000 glass-cloths—all these are figures exhibited by the proprietor of one ship alone. Think what they would amount to when multiplied by the number of ships in each company's fleet, and then try to realize the fact that this department constitutes only one, and by no means the greatest of their incidental expenses.

### Lost His Wager.

The late French Ambassador to the Russian court always carried a very valuable gold cigarette-case, which had been presented to him by the Emperor. General Ignatieff advised the Ambassador to be careful of his prize, as St. Petersburg was full of pickpockets. Whereupon the diplomatist offered to lay a wager that he would go all over the city during his stay there, with the cigarette-case about him, without losing it. General Ignatieff accepted the wager, and invited the Ambassador to take a cup of tea with him at the Raspberry Bush, a noted drinking place, informing him that it was a sight worth seeing. They repaired to this establishment and ordered tea, after which the Ambassador pulled out his cigarette-case, offered the General a cigarette, lighted one himself, and returned the case to his breast pocket, keeping his hand on it. When they descended to the street the Ambassador was astonished to find that his cigarette case had gone, and that a piece of soap of the same shape and size was left in its stead. The proprietor was informed of the theft and the trinket was restored to him on the following day.

## How Broken Ocean Cables are Fished Up.

The machinery used for picking up a cable in both deep and shallow water is of the most simple description. It consists of a rope about an inch and a quarter in diameter, made from twisted strands of the strongest hemp, with interwoven wires of fine steel; the grapnel at the end is merely a solid shaft of iron some two feet long, weighing about 100 pounds, and prolonged into six blunt hooks, which very much resemble the partly closed fingers of the human hand. In picking up the cable in deep water, the Minia, after reaching the waters near the break, lets out her rope and grapnel, then takes a course at right angles to the cable and at some distance from the fracture, so that the broken end may not slip through the grapnel; the grapnel rope is attached to a dynamometer, which exactly measures the strain on the rope, and shows unerringly when the cable has been caught. If the grapnel fouls a rock the strain rises very suddenly and to a high point; but the exact weight of the cable being known, the dynamometer signals by the steady rate or increase its hold on the cable, which is very far below. The ease and certainty with which the cables are picked up in these days is amazing. A while ago one of the lines of the Anglo-American Company was caught without trouble at a depth of two and a quarter miles, near the middle of the Atlantic. Captain Trott, of the Minia, who has won great fame for his skill and ingenuity in cable matters, but recently picked up the French cable 180 miles off St. Pierre, and in four hours from the time the grapnel was let go, he had the cable spliced and in good working condition. The splicing is a work of great delicacy and skill, and when accomplished by trained fingers, the "spliced" part can scarcely be distinguished from the main cord. So rapid has been the improvement in perfecting the modern cable, that the resistance to the electric current has been reduced to one-quarter of what it was twenty years ago, while the duplex system of sending and receiving messages double the capacity of every new cable laid. The working age of the modern cable is about thirteen years.

### An Unkind Habit.

To accuse a friend of looking ill—for it savors of an accusation—is to make him very uncomfortable. This habit of remarking upon the looks of others is not a kind one. It is not only contrary to good sense, but a due regard for politeness and the observance of good manners demand that it shall not be indulged. It is had enough in the family, where the questions and the searching glance are the expression of kind feeling, unless, indeed, the apparently anxious inquiries as to how you have slept and how you are feeling this morning are about as meaningless as the remark upon the temperature, but it is absolutely insupportable from any one but a dear friend who has not had the experience of going out for a walk, or into a neighbor's house, and being greeted with the assertion that she must be ill. In many cases you are accused of not looking well, when, in reality, you may be in better health than usual. It is a great confession of weakness, but I have gone home from a walk, out of which all the sunshine has been taken by some such thoughtless remark, and looked in the glass to see if I could discover the sign of some ailment. Such remarks are not kind, and certainly produce anything but pleasant feelings. Would it not be well to do away with them forever? They may be intended to convey interest, but too often fall short of their object and seem only rude.

### Information About Grain.

Wheat is supposed to have come originally from Asia, north of the Himalaya Mountains, where it grew wild. Corn comes from South America. Wheat was first grown on the American continent by a slave of Cortez, in Mexico. The James River settlers, under instructions of the Indians, began to raise corn in 1608. Samples of wheat were sent to Europe from the Dutch colony of the New Netherlands as early as 1626. As early as 1630 "rye and Indian" bread was becoming fashionable, and oats and barley were cultivated as soon as rye. The growth in the grain area has been almost unbroken, and at a very early day the colonists had a surplus for export. New England, the South and Middle States do not produce enough wheat to supply their own wants, but the South is rapidly increasing the acreage of both wheat and corn. The export trade in grain has been a regular and important business since 1821. Prior to that it was spasmodic and intermittent. Often as late as 1837 the home wheat crop was not equal to the consumption, and imports were made from Europe.