

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Social Life at Vassar.

The Poughkeepsie N. Y. correspondent of the *Harvard Herald* writes that there is not much formality about the social life at Vassar college, as all the students live in one building. There is always considerable fun and enjoyment in the senior class, as a certain corridor is their exclusive property. They have a class parlor also sacred to seniors, which is used as a room for both business and social meetings, and is finely furnished. Outside of the senior class, the pleasant life is the parlor life of the students. A few girls room alone, but the great majority have parlors, five girls constituting a "family," each with her room, but all having the same study parlor. The nature of the girls determines whether or not the room is ready for study. Perhaps this system is conducive to cliques, but it affords a good chance to learn humanity, and to adapt one's self to circumstances. Then there is a chapter of life (neither very social nor interesting), the spreads—much fun, but discouraged by the faculty—and class and club life, whose interest varies with different classes. Vassar is divided into many cliques. It is not possible, it seems to me, for any general sociability to exist, for "birds of a feather must flock together," and you cannot make them do otherwise.

Fashion's Mandate.

The mysterious origin and quick diffusion of the decrees of fashion are past finding out. The silent forces of nature, by which the frigid and sometimes repulsive forms of winter are changed into scenes of vernal life and beauty, are as unknown and unknowable as are the sources of the unwritten laws which hold despotic sway in fashion's world. By seeking, one can rarely find out whence they come, by what mental process they are evolved, or the caprices or necessities, real or fanciful, which call them into being. But no enemy's stronghold, no wrong of the ages, no malign system of oppression, no heresy, or schism was ever assailed with less hope of successful encounter than are the edicts which fashion formulates for the guidance of her subjects and votaries. One would say that in our own country, or in England, a thing of beauty—universally so regarded—would always be reckoned beautiful; that natural gifts of form and feature would always maintain their place as graces unchanged by the vagaries or vicissitudes of la mode. But the news comes to us from over the sea that there is to be this season an entirely new style of beauty. A correspondent of a prominent English journal says: "The girls with ruddy locks or the golden hair and the Saxon skin that have held their sway so long, will have to abdicate their throne to their darker-haired sisters. So fashion has decreed, and when fashion does decree a thing, the result is as unalterable as a general election. To be in the fashion to-day you must have dark hair, dark blue eyes, not a particle of color, but lips as red as a cherry. I fail to see how these varied requirements are to be met, but they will be met I feel sure, and that this new vagary of fashion will be a source of rejoicing to many girls who, for the last few years, because of their dark hair, have been quite surpassed and overruled by the blonde-haired maiden—of that there can be no doubt."
—*New York Evening Post.*

Fashion Notes.

Jersey tunics are new and stylish. Bright yellow is chosen for handkerchiefs. The fashion of sealing letters with wax is on the increase. Irish point collars appear in the standing military form. Large black laces are worn in place of mantles with summer dresses. Drooping brims have taken the place of sailor hats for children's wear. Cloth and cashmere suits are made up in combination with ottoman velvets. Softness is a prominent characteristic of the summer silks and woolen goods. Spanish net mantles dotted with velvet, are the novelty in summer wraps. Copper-colored silks trimmed with black laces are favorites with Parisian women. Entire ruches of bright geranium are made to cover the brims of small bonnets. Gold braid and ribbon velvet are interlaced for the crowns of little dress bonnets. Humming birds, poised on flowers or lace, are on some of the prettiest bonnets. Hand-run guipure and soutache

Spanish laces are the richest and most effective.

A French paper reports the wearing of lace to excess this summer on the other side.

Percale robes, beautifully embroidered, are sold at very reasonable prices this season.

Brides' trains are not very long when the dress is of India mull or any soft sheer fabric.

Chintzes, lawns and organdies make up beautifully with lace or Grecian embroideries.

Many of the pretty summer silks and foulards in light colors are trimmed with white lace.

Black kid gloves are shown with English stitching on the back of mandarin yellow silk.

The fronts of some of the new straw bonnets are formed of amber beads mixed in gilt passementerie.

The small Grecian knot, with waved or crimped front hair, remains a favorite coiffure with many women.

A unique bonnet is composed of alternate rows of gold and leather braid, with a brim lined with roses.

Woolen materials with raised designs in velvet or plush in contrasting colors, grow constantly more fashionable.

Gloves are still worn very long, and the new English styles are gathered at intervals around the wrist and arm, forming puffs.

An accepted evening costume consists of a silk bodice over a lace waist and the skirt of silk trimmed with lace flowers all the way to the top.

Watered silks and satins are employed for combining with other materials, such as camel's hair and brocaes, but are not used for the entire dress.

Kate Greenaway handkerchiefs of white silk, with gayly colored figures of old-fashioned children on the hem, are knotted as cravats for little boys to wear with their kilt suits.

Corded hats in basin and poke-shape are made of white linen and of colored gingham to match the summer dresses of little girls. A box-pleating of lawn and lace is placed around the crown for trimming.

THE FAMILY DOCTOR.

To Cure Hoarseness.—Beat well the whites of two eggs, add two table-spoonsful white sugar, grate in half a nutmeg, add a pint of lukewarm water, stir well and drink often. Repeat the preparation if necessary.

Asthma.—One ounce flour sulphur, one ounce pulverized sugar, a small quantity of ground capsicum, enough to barely flavor it; dose, as much as a 3-cent piece can hold every two hours; rub the chest and spine with butter and salt. The homeopathic remedies are arsenicum and capsicum; avoid sauces, cheese, cakes, pies, and gravies as food.

Lime Juice in Treatment of Diphtheria.—M. Czartoryski, M. D., of Stockton, Cal., writes as follows to the *London Lancet*: "During a prolonged residence in the interior of China, I became acquainted with the fact that the Chinese place great reliance during the epidemics of diphtheria on the internal use of the fresh juice of the limes and of the fruit itself, which they consume in enormous quantities in every conceivable form—as lemonade with native spirits, cut in slices, etc.—during attacks of this dreadful disease, with apparently most successful results, it hardly ever failing to effect a cure. The Chinese consider it a specific, and will, in case of need, do anything to obtain a supply. Since I have come back from California, as also in Louisiana, I have used limes and their juices in my practice as a physician, with most successful results in cases of diphtheria—even in the most desperate cases. As soon as I take charge of a case of diphtheria, I order limes to be administered as freely as possible, in any manner the patient can be prevailed upon to take them, especially in the form of hot lemonade, sweetened with white sugar or honey, or cut in slices with powdered with sugar. Besides limejuice (which I suppose acts by imparting an excess of oxygen to the circulation and thereby prevents formation of vibriones, etc., and so has almost a specific effect on disease), I prescribe whatever drug may be indicated to relieve symptoms as they develop and impart strength by appropriate stimulants and nourishment.

A Turin jeweler has made a tiny boat formed of a single pearl, which shape it assumes in swell concavity. Its sail is of beaten gold, studded with diamonds, and the binnacle light at its prow is a perfect ruby. An emerald serves as its rudder, and its stand is a slab of ivory. It weighs less than half an ounce. Its price is \$5000.

A CURIOUS TALE.

The Mongolian's Queue and Why He Wears It.

A Cleveland, Ohio, reporter spent fully an hour in conversing with a score or more of the Chinese citizens with a view of obtaining information regarding the queues worn by Chinese. There are in Cleveland a number of the celestials who are intelligent and industrious. One of these, who keeps a laundry, is far more intelligent than the average Chinaman. He is neat and clean in his dress, which is patterned after ours, and is more orderly in his habits and abode than most of his race. From this intelligent Chinaman, and from other sources, some interesting information regarding the "pigtail" was obtained.

For many hundred years prior to the year 1644, the native emperors of the Chinese dynasty compelled the Chinese subjects under them to wear long hair over the whole head, and wear it in a tuft or coil, something after the manner in which the ladies wear false hair switches at the present day. The first emperor of the present dynasty, who ascended the throne in 1644, determined to make the tonsure of Manchuria, which was his native country, the token of the submission of the Chinese of the entire country to his authority.

It was not long after he began to reign that he issued a general order that carried the greatest consternation with it throughout the kingdom. He ordered the people to shave all the hair from their heads except the crown, and to allow the hair on that particular part to grow long and dress it according to the custom of Manchuria. It required considerable time for the Chinamen to become fully accustomed to this change, but the custom finally prevailed throughout the length and breadth of the great empire. It is said at first those who conformed with the new rules were presented with a tael of silver. After a while all the new converts to the new custom were given half a tael of silver. Then the present was reduced to only a tenth of a tael, and then only an egg was given. Finally the egg was dispensed with and no present was given.

The law that required the people to shave their heads and braid the queue was not often rigidly enforced by the penalty of immediate death, but it was soon an established fact all over the empire that those who did not do as the emperor desired, would never become successful in a lawsuit against those who did conform, nor would they succeed in their business, or other enterprises and undertaking.

About a year ago, when the empress and co-regent died, the whole nation went into mourning, and in memory of the deceased the law forbade the Chinese shaving for a month. In the city of Foochow, the mayor of the town made the discovery that the higher powers were being disregarded and he accordingly made a raid upon the barber shops, and sixty Chinese were caught in the act of being shaved. They were arrested, brought before the mayor, were heavily fined, and then severely bastinadoed. More than this, their heads were painted a bright blue, which is the color for mourning in China, and a coat of varnish was put over the paint. Every week while the mourning lasted the culprits were compelled to present themselves weekly to receive a fresh supply of paint and varnish.

In this country the Chinese who become American citizens, and who accept the Christian faith as their belief, do not hesitate to cut off their queues and dress their hair in the American fashion. However, those who retain their native religion, and who intend at some future time to return to China generally retain their queues or "pig-tails," as the boys sometimes call them. If a Chinaman were to return to his native land without his queue he would lose the respect of his countrymen and be compelled to leave the country.

Japanese Horror of Fire.

As the hour approaches for the lighting of lamps in the evening at Yokohama the sound of the fire patrol is heard and all the night long the streets are permeated by these warning guardians, who beat two hand-sticks or clappers together with the regularity of clockwork, giving forth a sharp ringing sound that there is no mistaking, and they also have a regular note of warning which they cry out at regular intervals of time, so that the necessity for precaution is present to the mind of all the dwellers in the city throughout the hours of darkness, whether they will or no. The incendiary is the most depraved of criminals in the estimation of the people, and none others were so fearfully punished in the past. At present death is the penalty meted to one who commits arson.

"A JUMPING-OFF PLACE."

A Town Which Will Be a Gateway to Mexico.—A Mexican Audience.

Laredo is literally the "jumping-off place" for this part of the country, writes a correspondent from Laredo, Tex. Here it is that the Missouri Pacific system finds its most extreme southern end, while from here the Mexican National, and to-be-built International roads, take their start and shoot southward to the city of Mexico, some 800 miles distant. The place is destined, at no very distant day, to be an important stopping point, as it is directly on the route of travel between the United States and Mexico. Laredo, take it as a whole, consists of two parts, North Laredo, located in the United States, and South Laredo, which is upon the opposite shore of the Rio Grande river, in the republic of Mexico. The combined population of the two towns is about 15,000. North Laredo has a little the larger population, and is by far the more civilized and enterprising part. Most of the inhabitants of both sides are Mexicans, although on the Texas side there are a larger number of white people, most of whom, if not engaged on some of the railroads, are interested in business or land in the vicinity.

Laredo is not an inviting looking place, and does not offer many inducements to a person who wishes to live in a decent, comfortable style. The soil on which the town is located is sandy, with some cactus, small bushes or dwarfed trees growing here and there. When the wind blows lustily, a fine alkali dust is distributed all over, and is anything but good for clothes or the eyesight. The houses and most all other buildings are low and flat and uninviting in appearance. The bank building, court house, post office and a few other buildings are, however, substantial appearing, good sized brick structures, which have been built of late by the Americans. The hotels are veritable curiosities, and, although not serving as appetizing meals as one would obtain at home, get up pretty fair eatables. All milk used is obtained from goats. It is hawked about the streets by Mexicans who ride on a little donkey, which has a can of the goat's milk suspended on either side. The drinking water is obtained from the Rio Grande. It has a queer, soft taste, and seems to have little substance. There are scores of Mexicans here who make their living selling this water about the streets. Go where you will down to the river bank, and you will see from five to twenty of these little water carts. They consist of a large sized barrel mounted on two wheels, and are drawn, each, by one little "burro" or Mexican donkey. I wish that I could picture to you the ludicrousness of one of these outfits—the "burro" itself is the most comical, scraggy, tough, God-forsaken-looking little creature I ever set eyes on. It resembles, for all the world, a huge rat which has just been drowned out of its hole. The burro has a tail which looks as though it had been gnawed half off by an industrious terrier. The streets are quite narrow in places, yet again they will be found wide, well-built and substantial. Most of the persons seen on the streets are Mexicans. They all wear the proverbial "sombbrero," wide, flowing trousers, and are frequently wrapped up in a blanket, generally of some bright color. A Mexican, when attired in his street costume, looks most like the heavy villain one sees on the stage about the time blood is to be shed. The people all seem to be excessively civil and peaceable—eager to please you—do not stare at strangers, but appear to have business of their own to attend to, and go about it content not to molest, if left undisturbed. The Mexican National railroad has its main offices at Laredo, on the Texas side. The buildings are constructed of brick, are large, substantial, and present a good appearance. I went to see "Blind Tom" the night I arrived in Laredo. This musical wonder, who has charmed and mystified thousands all over the country for years, has drifted way down into this edge of civilization. He drew a good audience, too, and we were greatly interested, as, seated in a large and well ventilated hall, located over the principal saloon in the place, I gazed upon an audience which was truly representative of frontier life. There were a few white ladies, generally the wives of Americans employed by the railroad company; several Mexican women, in their peculiar fancy headdress, a number of small children and babies, about a dozen representatives of "Uncle Sam" from the neighboring military post, some in a half-dress uniform, and others wearing simply a civilian's dress and a soldier's air. There were Laredo police—Mexican and American—each with a small silver star on his breast, and a huge revolver on his hip in a belt. Colored people and Mexicans,

Americans and Germans, of all ages, sizes and conditions, made up the balance of the audience, which, albeit that it was a curious looking mixture, was at the same time most orderly and appreciative.

ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

Nordenskiold's New Project.—A Geographical Survey of Greenland and a Quest for Historical Remains.

The hapless fate of explorers who have striven to unravel the mysteries of the Polar seas has not deterred others from essaying their task. Baron Nordenskiold, encouraged by his past success in navigating arctic waters, proposes to start for the north again. This time his mission is not, as before, to seek an open waterway or look for unknown lands. He is bound to Greenland, the east coast of which he is to survey from a point opposite the southern part of Iceland or Cape Bismarck, the most remote point on the east side of the country.

The chief object of the expedition is to search for traces of the colonies which the people of Iceland established in Greenland in the tenth century, and which flourished exceedingly for a time, so that there were many villages, a capital city, and a bishop.

But the decline of piracy and of the influence of which the Scandinavian kingdoms had yielded in the affairs of the north of Europe, which decreased as piracy became discreditable, resulted in the gradual neglect, not only of Greenland, which had been colonized from Iceland, but of Iceland itself. After contending with the difficulties of the situation with the little help Iceland could afford, Greenland was abandoned, the population returned to Iceland. It is believed that many articles most valuable to archaeology and to history may have been left behind, such as manuscripts of ancient sagas, weapons inscribed with runic inscriptions, swords with rings of victory in the pommels—the sig-runr—so famous in the history of the north and many other objects which may be hoped for. It is possible that some additional light may be thrown upon the discovery of Vineland by Bjorn and Leif the Bold, since the expeditions for the discovery of continental America started from Greenland as well as from Iceland, and perhaps there may have been expeditions of which no record was preserved in Iceland.

The hardest explorers have heretofore shrunk from this endeavor, as it will be surrounded by hardships and dangers that intimidate the boldest. The possibilities have been carefully considered by the baron and his staff, and they are making preparations to guard against all conjectural emergencies to preserve life and make the journey successful. The party will be provisioned for two years, as it is thought it will require nearly that length of time to accomplish the purposes of the expedition.

The enterprise is due to the liberality of Mr. Oscar Dickson, a lumber merchant and sawmill owner of Gothenburg. Mr. Dickson is of English extraction, but he was born in the city where he now resides. His fortune, independent of a large and very profitable business, is estimated at \$13,000,000. He gives employment to many thousands. In early life he had no opportunities to acquire an education, but his library is replete with books that delight students in all the sciences, and he reads them attentively while sitting at a window which overlooks his deer park, a tract of land nearly four miles square. He is the wealthiest man in Gothenburg, and his mansion in town and his country seat are wonders to the peasants. His deeds of charity and philanthropy endear him to the people.

President Johnson's Romance.

A correspondent, writing from Washington, reports a long conversation with Parson Brownlow's son regarding "Andy" Johnson, in which the narrator recalled a romance associated with the late president. It was Johnson's first love affair. Mr. Brownlow said:

"The President fell in love early. He was only nineteen years old when he married, but two years before this, while he was a journeyman tailor in South Carolina, he fell in love with the daughter of a small planter. His love was returned, but the girl's father, who had a few acres of land and a couple of negroes, would not consent to his daughter marrying a tailor, and the future President was rudely repulsed.

The great wall of China is 1200 miles long, twenty feet high, twenty-five feet thick at the base and fifteen feet wide at the top. Towers are set at intervals of 100 feet, or rather were set, for now the greater part of the structure is but a heap of moldering rubbish.

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

Quack medicines have been taxed in England since 1783.

Fulton's first steamboat began running between New York and Albany in 1807.

Until 1835 the punishment for sacrilege in England was death. At that date it was changed to transportation for life.

The first Thanksgiving Day was in 1621, and was appointed by Gov. Bradford, in gratitude for the season's harvest.

Sir John Lubbock is of the opinion, that some of the very lowest animals not only perceive colors but have preferences in regard to them.

The first American bishop was Samuel Seabury, who was consecrated bishop of Connecticut by four nonjuring prelates at Aberdeen in 1784.

It is reported in *Dr. Foote's Health Monthly*, that freezing often merely suspends animation in frogs, snails, insects and even fish, and they limber up again and are "alive and kicking" when thawed out.

A peach tree with blood red leaves has been presented to the Corinth Tenn., *Sub-Solar* and *Democrat*. It is stated that the first tree of this variety grew on the battlefield of Baker Creek, on the spot saturated with the blood of General Tilghman.

The form of yielding up a bride to her bridegroom in consequence of an attack, was preserved in Ireland up to the early part of the last century, and in Wales it was customary for the friends of the bride and groom to meet on horseback, the bride mounted behind her nearest kinsman, who fled with her while a pretended quarrel went on between the two parties, to be pursued and captured when the race had been protracted until both sides had had enough of it.

How to Sleep.

The question of chief importance to most people in these overworked, wakeful days and nights is how to get good sleep enough. Dr. Corning drops a few simple hints which may be of value. In the first place people should have a regular time for going to sleep, and it should be as soon as can well be after sunset. People who sleep at any time, according to convenience, get less benefit from their sleep than others; getting sleep becomes more difficult; there is a tendency to nervous excitability and derangement; the repair of the system does not equal the waste. The more finely organized people are the greater the difficulty and the danger from this cause. The first thing in order to sleep well is to go to bed at a regular hour, and make it as early as possible. The next thing is to exclude all worry and exciting subjects of thought from the mind sometime before retiring. The body and mind must be let down from the high-pressure strain before going to bed, so that nature can assert her rightful supremacy afterward. Another point is, never to thwart the drowsy impulse when it comes at the regular time by special efforts to keep awake, for this drowsiness is the advance-guard of healthy, restorative sleep. Sleep is a boon which must not be tampered with and put off, for if compelled to wait, it is never so perfect and restful as if taken in its own natural time and way. The right side is the best side to sleep on, except in special cases of disease, and the position should be nearly horizontal. Finally, the evening meal should be composed of food most easily digested and assimilated, so that the stomach will have very little hard work to do. A heavy, rich dinner taken in the evening is one of the things that murder sleep. Late suppers with exciting foods and stimulating drinks make really restorative sleep next to impossible. Narcotics are to be avoided, save as used in cases of disease by competent physicians. The proper time, according to Dr. Corning, to treat sleeplessness is in the daytime, and it must be treated by a wise and temperate method of living rather than by medicines. This is good common sense. And doubtless a vast deal of the debility, the nervous derangement, and the insanity of our time would be prevented by more good, restful natural sleep.—*New York Star.*

She Didn't Mind.

"Did you hear any of Wagner's operas?" asked a Boston critic of a Cincinnati lady who had recently returned from a tour of Europe.

"I heard them all," she replied rather languidly.

"I suppose the first time you went you were quite overcome by the grand concatenation of sounds."

"Oh, I didn't mind it," was the response. "I've been married twenty years, and my husband is a fearful snorer."—*Brooklyn Eagle.*