## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

### A Chinese Bed-Spread.

Among the many elegant presents Daniel Leech, of the Smithsonian Institution, recently brought his charming wife and family from California is a remarkably beautiful and elaborately embroidered Chinese bed-spread, with pillow shams to match. The materials are pale blue and shrimp pink silks, neatly quilted. Richly embroidered in appropriate colors are groups of storks forming center and corner pieces, while a graceful border is formed of delicately tinted flowers in the fine needle work so deftly wrought by the skillful fingers of the Chinese. Heavy cords and tassels of blue and pink silk make a substantial finish to these beautiful articles.—*Washington Republican.*

### Old Dress Reform Poet

It is, perhaps, not generally known that dress reform was suggested in England at least 100 years ago. The movement took a form almost analogous to our own bloomer mania, and afforded enjoyment for some time to the wits and moralists of the town. Churchill contains references to it, but a stanza from a less known poet seems to convey the notion that for some little time it was almost fashionable, and found its way even into Ranelagh gardens:

"Ye belles and ye flirts and ye pert little things
Who trip in this frolicsome round,
Pray tell me from what this impertinence springs
The sexes at once to confound.

What means the cocked hat and the masculine air,
With each motion designed to perplex?
Bright eyes were intended to languish, not stare—
And softness the test of your sex."

These lines are by William Whitehead, the poet laureate, a bard whom there was none to praise and very few to love.

### What the Woman's Clothes Cost.

"It doesn't require a mint of money to dress a young lady," said a teacher in the city schools to a young man who, with the unreasoning propensity of this generation, was kicking vigorously on account of the large amounts of wealth which he alleged were annually squandered by women. "It might surprise you to know how little a woman's wardrobe really represents," she continued.

"Suppose you give me an estimate," returned the young man, who, it may be said, is a candidate for matrimony, and for that reason felt a lively interest in the subject.

"Of course," said the young lady, glancing over her neatly fitting, well-made dress with the slightest perceptible air of pride, which was very pardonable. "I am better acquainted with the cost of my raiment than with than of any one else, and I'll have to base my figures on personal experience. I think there are few girls whose expenses for clothing exceed $200 annually. My expenses do not amount to more than that, and I have to hire nearly all my sewing done. The items would be: Two tailor made dresses, $30; a silk dress, $30; underclothing, $15; that is to say, the materials could be bought for that; hats and bonnets, $35; gloves, $10; shoes, $14; incidentals—collars, cuffs, laces, stockings and other articles—would not amount to more than $60. Some years the expenses might run up a little higher, as a new circular or cloak would become necessary, but the cost of the average young lady's apparel will not exceed $200 very often."—*Cleveland (Ohio) Herald.*

### Fashion Notes.

Large collars, capes and pelerines are much worn.

Pleated brim and cap-crown bonnets are much worn.

The short, glace kid glove is almost a thing of the past.

Long wristed, tan-colored and buff gloves are all the rage.

Hats with eccentric brims are worn to a limited extent.

French gray and Egyptian red combine well in costume.

Lace is the correct trimming for all one-fabric thin dresses.

Hats are worn far back in the head, bonnets tip-tilted forward.

Burano lace cloth is very fashionable in France and England.

Children's muslin caps have wide brims or borders of embroidery.

Waistcoats for ladies are revived, and worn under cut-away jackets.

Dresses all of one fabric are more in favor than combination costumes.

Medium-sized hats or bonnets are more worn than very large or very small ones.

Skirts trimmed with lace, put on in half-moon shapes, will be very fashionable.

An inside waist of the same shade should always be worn under every Jersey.

A new llama lace of very fine quality is coming into use for black lace bonnets.

Mousquetaire gloves have been improved by a series of elastics on the inner side of the wrists.

Muslin bonnets with cap crowns and pleated lace brims appear among other millinery novelties.

All the newest hosiery for both ladies and children are in solid colors, dark shades generally preferred.

The fancy for using yellow in all sorts of odd ways seems to increase as the season advances.

Tailor-made street suits usually in browns or deep grays remain the most fashionable.

The much-worn terra-cotta and crushed-strawberry shades are on the wane.

Bonnet-strings now tie under the chin, instead of across the back.

It is a fancy with French dressmakers to cut the bottom of the skirt into turret blocks, and under these to place a pleated ruffle.

The small colored batiste pocket handkerchief, trimmed with lace and worn in the front of the bodice, is a pretty English fashion.

A new London bonnet is called the Jumbo. The crown is of gold braid, pleated on gold cord, and the brim is a thick, soft pleating of cream-colored velvet.

The frames of fine fans are of tortoise shell, mother of pearl, black carved or brown polished wood, sometimes varnished and ornamented with small pictures.

The economical will be glad to learn that silks will be cheaper than ever in the fall, as thousands of pieces of last year's silks have lately been purchased at Lyons at cost prices.

The *Bazar* says that independent young women select some simple style that is becoming to them, and have all their dresses, of both rich and plain fabrics, made by one pattern.

### The Signing of the Declaration.

In thinking of that instrument one is apt to call up before him an august assemblage gravely seated around a table, with the Declaration spread out upon it, and each member of the Continental Congress in turn taking a pen and with great dignity affixing to it his name. Nothing, however, can be further from that which actually took place. Very few of the delegates, if indeed any, signed the original document on the 4th, and none signed the present one now in Independence Hall, for the very good reason that it was not then in existence.

On July 19 Congress voted that the Declaration be engrossed on parchment. Jefferson, however, says that New York signed on July 15. Consequently New York must have signed the original copy of the Declaration before it had gone into the hands of the engrosser. On what day the work was done by the copyist is not known. All that is certainly known is that on the 2d of August Congress had the document as engrossed. This is the document in existence now in Independence Hall. It is on parchment, or something that the trade calls parchment. On that day (August 2) it was signed by all the members present. The original Declaration is lost, or rather was probably only purposely destroyed by Congress. All the signatures were made anew. When the business of signing was ended is not known. One, Matthew Thornton, from New Hampshire, signed it in November, when he became a member for the first time; and Thomas McKean, from Delaware, as he says himself, did not sign till January, 1777. Indeed, this signing was, in effect, what at the present day would be called a "test oath." The principles of many of the new delegates coming into Congress from the different states were not known with certainty—some of them might be Tories in disguise—and thus each one was required on first entering Congress to sign the Declaration. In January, 1778, an authenticated copy, with the names of all the signers, was sent to each state for signatures—a fact which may have put a stop to the business of signing. It shows, however, the little importance that was attached to this ceremony, that Robert R. Livingston was one of the committee of five that reported the Declaration, and yet did not sign it, unless his signature is lost with the original document.

The truth is, the Declaration of Independence was considered at that time of much less importance than now; nor did the signers dream of its becoming a shrine almost of worship at the present day.—*Harper's Magazine.*

## PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Hope is the brightest star in the firmament of youth.

He who knows most, grieves most for wasted time.

Moderation is the silken string running through the pearl chain of all virtues.

A friend cannot be known in prosperity, and an enemy cannot be hid in adversity.

The gratitude of most men is but a secret desire of receiving greater benefits.

Humility is a virtue all preach, none practice, and yet everybody is content to hear.

A philosopher being asked to define a quarrel, said: "It is usually the termination of a misunderstanding."

Only that is truly beautiful which either has within it the element of growth, or suggests vital energy as its cause.

We cannot be too much on our guard against reactions, lest we rush from one fault into another contrary fault.

If we did but know how little some enjoy of the great things they possess, there would not be much envy in the world.

He who swims securely down the stream of self-confidence is in danger of being drowned in the whirlpool of presumption.

The pleasantest things in the world are pleasant thoughts, and the greatest art in life is to have as many of them as possible.

We must distinguish between felicity and prosperity, for prosperity leads often to ambition, and ambition to disappointment.

One of the best rules in conversation is, never to say a thing which any of the company can reasonably wish he had left unsaid.

### Drunken Russian Peasants.

Moujks are curious when drunk. They hardly ever quarrel, but become affectionate and embrace each other. Their idea of drinking is to imbibe until they are quite insensible. When I was in Russia I had a coachman, who once a month used to come and ask me for leave to get drunk during two consecutive days. Upon inquiry I found that only on these conditions would a coachman remain sober during the rest of the month. Having obtained leave, he would go to a drinking-house, show the proprietor his money and state how long he might remain there. Then he would sit down at a table with some spirits before him. Gradually and solemnly he would get drunk, place his arms before him on the table and recline on them. Thus he would remain for two days and nights, the proprietor supplying him with more liquor whenever he looked up. His time up, the proprietor would drag him outside the house and set him up in the snow against the wall, having first filled his cap with snow. Every charitably disposed brother coachman passing by would box his ears. In about half an hour this discipline would sober him; he would get up, shake himself together and resume his duties.—*London Truth.*

### What Causes the Timber Line.

The causes of what is known as the timber line on high mountains continues to be discussed in scientific periodicals, and the attempt to connect the line in some degree with mean annual temperature. The writer of this paragraph has had the matter in mind when on these high elevations, and the explanation seemed very simple. On all these high peaks there is a continuous, though in some cases slow, descent of the soil from the summit to the base of the hill. He has never seen a case where there was soil enough to grow a tree where trees were not growing. As the wash from rain or melting snow will be nearly uniform in a given range, there will be of necessity some uniformity in the timber line. On Mount Washington and other high places little plots of dark vegetable earth can often be found far above the present timber line—the remains of trees which existed before the earth was washed away. What is called the timber line seldom shows graduated sizes, as a mere matter of temperature would call for. Generally the line is formed of very tall trees, and immediately scrubby plants, from the absence of deep soil, begin.—*New York Independent.*

### Birds of Passage.

"How many donkeys have you in Austin, my little man?" asked a passenger on the South bound train, protruding his head through the car window at the depot.

"O, we've got some few donkeys here in Austin, but most of them keep right on through to San Antonio."

The stranger bumped the back of his head on the car window and back in his seat.—*Siftings.*

## PERFUMES FROM FLOWERS.

### Some of the Favorites and the Plants by Which They are Supplied.

"Good perfumes are made directly from flowers, and not out of cheese, coal tar, and so on, as people have been lead to suppose," said a New York chemist to a *Sun* reporter. "Take the jessamine, for instance; that's always a favorite, and is used in the make-up of many perfumes. Two different specimens of the flower are used, but the perfume is made principally from the Jasminum grandiflorum. In France the cultivation of this plant for the perfumery trade is an important industry, though the plant is somewhat difficult to raise. Very hot seasons are most favorable for it—the hotter the weather, the richer the perfume. Old ladies take to lavender in any shape, and the lavender shrub produces a powerful volatile oil that is used not only in perfumery and for flavoring dishes, but in medicine also. Lavender produces three distinct oils known to the trade. The poorest is commonly called spike oil. Two other kinds are distilled from a species of the shrub which is common in England and the French mountains. The English oil is the best—worth ten times as much as the French. The villagers about Bedington and Wellington, England, and other places, at one time raised the entire supply. The supply is now growing less, and consequently the price is going up, and the business of raising lavender is a paying one. The English crop, if you call it a crop, is gathered in July and August. Then the flowers are in full bloom and do not require any cleaning or trimming. Boys and girls pick them, and flowers and stalks are distilled together, every fifty pounds giving about ten ounces of oil. The imported oil comes mostly from France, though a great deal comes from Algeria and north Italy. Lavender water finds an enormous sale among barbers, many of whom make their own decoctions out of anything they can get hold of. Real lavender water is made from lavender oil mixed with rose and orange water. A cheap kind is called essense d'aspic, and is distilled from a wild plant and doctored with turpentine and camphor.

"Thyme is an old-fashioned sort of a plant, but thymus vulgaris, common in France, Greece, and many countries, gives us a valuable perfumery oil. In France they take from it two entirely different oils, red and white, the gathering being done in the summer months. In the same localities the rosemary is cultivated, and, being a popular perfumery, is in great demand at a high price. Patchouli comes from the oil of the rogosteneon patchouli, a plant collected by the natives of the Malay islands. It is extremely powerful, a little of it going a great ways when the wind is fair. It is always in fashion and is used with the attar of rose.

"In attar of rose there is probably more deception than in any other perfume. Certain kinds come from Turkey, done up in curious bottles; but I learned some time ago, on good authority, that these bottles and their contents were manufactured in a Connecticut town, and the profits were about seventy-five cents on a dollar. Even in the east, where the genuine attar of rose is made, it is adultrated with oil of rose geranium and the oil of a grass found in India, and so great is the cheating that the trade in this grass alone is an important one. The headquarters of the trade are in Turkey. The genuine thing comes from Turkey and Bulgaria. Smyrna furnishes a great deal. The natives of the valley of the Ganges also produce a good deal for home consumption, and some is produced in France. Any one who knows the business can tell the genuine article at a glance. The rose from which this valuable oil is taken is the rosa Damascena, and rose water is made from a decoction of the leaves of the same plant. The petals of rosa Gallica, grown in Asia Minor and various parts of England and Europe, are greatly valued, and the leaves also bring a high price. The same deception is found in these, those imported from France being often dyed with some aniline. A drop of ammonia, however, detects the fraud.

"The funeral tuberose produces a powerful perfume, but the violet is most esteemed for its chaste odor. The viola odorata is the one we use, and in France its cultivation gives employment to hundreds of men, women, and children. The harvest of violets is from February to April.

"Verbena was at one time a favorite perfume. It comes from the lemon-grass plant, common at Singapore. In Provence the cultivation of the rose geranium is an important business. From this plant also comes the famous essence of African geranium, valued as an adultrant for attar of rose, it being nearly as expensive, 2,000 pounds of the raw material producing only two pounds of the essence.

"Mignonette is liked as a perfume, and is variously imitated. Bergamot also has its admirers. The latter is an oil taken, not from a flower, but from the fruit of the lemon—like citrus bergamia. In Sicily the trees are cultivated when green, about 200 producing six ounces of oil. Most of the oil is shipped from Palermo and Messina.

"One of the most popular perfumes is heliothrope, but it does not come from the flower of that name, as one might suppose, but is made from a combination of violet and vanilla. The beautiful lily of the valley is largely used in France for making perfumery. The daffodil, which is found everywhere, is also much used. The lemon also is used in perfumery, and so is the orange."

### "Torpedoing" an Oil Well.

In his article on "Striking Oil," in the *Century*, E. V. Smalley says "When a well fails it is usually 'torpedoed' to start the flow afresh. A long tin tube, containing six or eight quarts of nitro-glycerine, is lowered into the hole and exploded by dropping a weight upon it. The tremendous force of the powerful explosive tears the sand and rock apart and loosens the imprisoned oil and gas. Nothing is heard on the surface save a sharp report like a pistol shot, but the ground heaves perceptibly, and pretty soon the oil comes spurting out in a jet that breaks in spray above the lofty derrick. The 'torpedo man' is one of the interesting personages of the oil region who is seen with most satisfaction from a distance. He travels about in a light vehicle with his tubes and his nitro-glycerine can, traversing the rough roads at a jolly round trot, taking the chances of an accidental explosion, and whistling or singing as he goes. Sometimes the chances are against him, and a blow of a wheel against a stone sets free the terrible force imprisoned in the white fluid in his can. There is no occasion for a funeral after such an accident, for there is nothing to bury. Man, horse and 'buggy' are annihilated in a flash, and an ugly hole in the ground and a cloud of smoke are all that is left to show what has happened. The torpedo company buys a new horse and hires a new man, and there is no more difficulty about one transaction than the other. The business of 'torpedoing' wells is in the hands of a single company, which has made a large amount of money from a patent covering the process of using explosives under a fluid. Most oil producers regard the patent as invalid, because nature supplies the fluid in the well into which the nitro-glycerine tube is lowered; but the courts have sustained the patent. Sometimes well-owners 'torpedo' their wells stealthily by night to avoid paying the high price charged by the company. This operation is called 'moonlighting,' and many lawsuits have grown out of it."

### Houses and Homes in the Great City.

The population of New York city is now nearly 1,500,000, and for dwelling purpose in whole or in part, says the *Scientific American* there are said to be 78,368 houses. Of these 49,565 are exclusively occupied as dwellings. The total number of families is 200,000, and of this number only 32,100 own their houses. The remainder pay rents. Within a comparatively brief period large numbers of what are known as apartment houses or flats have been erected. For the most part they consist of large buildings about 50 feet wide, 90 feet deep, and 6 stories high. Through the centre is a hall and stairway. On each side of the hall way on each story, the space is occupied by a series of connected rooms, small in size, ordinarily intended to consist of a parlor, kitchen, dining room, bath room, and three bed rooms with sundry closets. These apartments, collectively called "a flat," are cramped and contracted, affording but a limited amount of light and air. The rentals run from $30 to $70 per month, depending upon the location of the building.

For better flats the rents are from $100 to $500 per month; for the latter sum large and superior apartments, in a ten story fireproof building may be had, with passenger elevator, etc. For entire dwelling houses, of three or four stories, with nine to thirteen rooms, the rentals vary from $600 a year to $3000; the finer houses costing much more. The opening of the great bridge between New York and Brooklyn will, it is supposed, be of great advantage to the working people of New York, by enabling them to secure new and comfortable homes at moderate prices, without the necessity of the close crowding to which they are now subjected.

## SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

It is stated that the rare metal thorium has been obtained in some quantity and in a pure state by Nelson.

The use, or rather the abuse of mineral waters, it is said, is liable to produce atonic dyspepsia. The result is an undue dilation of the stomach and a harassing malady.

It should always be carefully borne in mind that in bare wires, out of doors, erected for the purpose of conducting electricity, there is always more or less danger to person or property.

What facts were noted of several water-spouts seen in the Pacific ocean have been examined by Mr. George Atwood, and he concludes as follows: The waterspouts on the Pacific were caused by a cloud heavily charged with cool moisture drifting from the high mountains of Costa Rica coming into contact with air currents and clouds traveling in a different direction and of a warmer temperature, by which contact the clouds surcharged with aqueous vapor acquired a rotary motion, causing them to discharge a part of their moisture and make them assume a cylindrical form, which finally fell by its own gravity into the ocean.

South America is rich in woods for engineering purposes. The yandubay is exceedingly hard and durable; the couroupay is also very hard and rich in tannin. The quebracho is, however, more interesting than any, and grows abundantly in the forests of La Plata and Brazil. It resembles oak in the trunk, and is used for railway sleepers, telegraph poles, piles, and so on. It is heavier than water, its specific gravity varying between 1.203 and 1.333. The color at first is reddish, like mahogany, but grows darker with time. Being rich in tannin it is employed for tanning leather in Brazil, and has recently been introduced for that purpose into France. A mixture of one-third of powdered quebracho and two-thirds of ordinary tan gives good results.

The boiling point of water is ordinarily 213 degrees, but every liquid has a point of its own. Thus sulphuric ether boils at 96 degrees, alcohol at 176 degrees, oil of turpentine 316 degrees, sulphuric acid 620 degrees and mercury 662 degrees.

### The President's Joke.

President Artnur is fond of playing practical jokes. An incident occurred at the White House recently that afforded considerable amusement. A party of Mr. Arthur's friends were here on a visit from New York. The President had shown them through the White House. The party were loud in their praise of the improvements in the presidential mansion. Coming through the east room, or general reception room, Mr. Arthur halted and said in the most serious manner:

"Do you see that colored man standing over there?" pointing to a well-preserved specimen of the African race. "Well," continued the host, "he has a most remarkable history."

"How so?"

"Guess," said Mr. Arthur.

"An exiled king?" said a bewitching young lady member of the party.

"An ex-Street Commissioner?" observed a practical Wall street broker.

"Neither," said the President. "Listen; he has been sold into slavery over 700 times.

"Impossible."

"Fact, I assure you," said Mr. Arthur.

The colored man was called over and questioned.

"My good man," said the Wall-street broker, "is it true that you have been sold in slavery more than 700 times?"

The colored representative showed his white teeth and bowed.

"Remarkable!" was the general response.

"What are you doing now?" was asked.

"Well, boss, I'm travelling with an Uncle Tom's cabin company. I am put on the auction block every night and sold."—*Washington Capital.*

### Janet Home from Church.

Janet was not comely, but an excellent servant and especially devout. One Sunday afternoon, on returning from the kirk, she mentioned to the ladies of the family how much she had enjoyed the services. Shortly afterward, they heard her scolding at a great rate, and one of the ladies remonstrated with her: "Why, Janet, I'm afraid the service did you very little good, after all, as you seem to have lost your temper." "Ah, weel," said Janet, "I left Willum to look after things, and everything's so upset it's enough to take the taste o' prayer out o' one's mouth."