

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

A Persian Lady's Face.

J. C. Wills says that by Persian ladies, on all important occasions—as at entertainments, weddings, etc.—is usually much painted, save by young ladies in the heyday of beauty. The color is very freely applied, the cheeks being reddened as is a clown, and the neck smeared with white, while the eyelashes are marked round with kohl (black antimony). Sham moles or stars are painted on the chin and cheek. Even spangles are stuck at times on the chin or forehead.

Valenciennes Lace.

It is a fact not commonly known even among lace dealers, that very little of the article known as Valenciennes is made in that far-famed locality. It is difficult work, requires a long apprenticeship, absorbs all the maker's time, and is so inadequately remunerated that labor seeks other fields. As it takes several months, and sometimes even a year, to make a coupon three yards in length, and as it is impossible for the operative to remain so long a time without compensation, it is customary to pay by bandes, there being three bandes in a yard, and twelve in a coupon—the result of this being that the material is furnished and almost the whole amount due the maker paid out a long time before the completion of the work. What is known as Valenciennes lace is, in fact, made extensively at Ypres, Courtray, Ghent, Bruges, and in almost all parts of Flanders; and in the production of one coupon of the fabric rarely less than 400 spindles and 1500 pins are employed.

A Young Italian Girl's Life.

The Italian girl is kept as close a prisoner as her French sister. She must never be seen unaccompanied, either by a mother, father, elder brother, or married sister. She sleeps in a room close to her mother, and which has no other entrance or exit, save through her mother's apartment. No man is allowed to speak to her save in her mother's hearing, and when engaged she is not permitted a moment to say a word unheard by her mother to the man who is to be her companion for the rest of her life. However old she may be, if unmarried she must not be seen out alone; whereas, on the contrary, if married, however young she may be, she is allowed every freedom. A married woman of fifteen may be chaperone to a girl of forty or fifty years of age. An unmarried woman cannot even cross the street to buy a yard of ribbon alone. She is rarely trusted alone with servants. That she has her love romances despite the watching, need to be added.

New York Nursemaids.

The babies of New York have attracted the attention of a correspondent of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, who writes that the sidewalks in the precincts of poverty are littered by them, as will be the case as long as hot weather lasts, and that there is about as much juvenility out of doors in those more fashionable quarters where tenements are called flats. The creepers and toddlers here are attended by nursemaids, neat in their white caps and aprons, idle except for the light duties of keeping their little charges clean and safe, and altogether the best placed among servants. "Just think of it," said a keeper of an employment bureau. "These nursemaids get from ten to twenty dollars a month, the average being about fourteen dollars. Not so much skill is required of them as of the commonest cook or laundress, their work is very light, they are put into the best sleeping rooms in order to be with the youngsters at night, and by day they lounge in the parks. Taking their board into account, they get as good as a dollar to a dollar and a half a day. That is as much as the average wages of salesgirls in the stores, and considerably above the earnings of the hard-working girls in the cigar, clothing, flower and other factories. You'd suppose that such places would be sought after; and so they are, but entirely by foreign-born girls. The nursemaids are Swedish, French, German, Irish—everything but American. Girls born in the city seem to inherit pride from the soil. They will not go into menial service, especially a branch of it which requires them to wear anything like a livery."

Fashion Notes.

Jackets different from the skirt are much worn. Raglans for travelling have Japanese sleeves with dolman backs. The empire puff worn at the bottom of the skirt has been revived in Paris. Small mantelets of cloth are newer than jackets with tailor-made cloth suits. Transparent sleeves of lace or em-

broidery are much used for handsome dresses.

Curtains are now hung in one piece thus doing away with the parting in the center.

Boston high and low chignons are worn by fashionable women, but they must be small.

A bow of ribbon in many loaves is worn on the left shoulder of evening dresses by young ladies.

Tan, stone-color, and black are the popular colors for the Jersey silk gloves, worn with dresses in the street.

Ivory white ottoman ribbon or pale blue, rose or lemon colored velvet ribbons are used for these long looped bows.

Basques of black chenille gauze, lined with colored silk, are new for wearing with skirts of Spanish lace, or of velvet and grenadine.

Ball fringe for edging the bottoms of kilt skirts or silk or satin, is made of jet beads over cork, yet is of a sufficient weight to hold the pleats in place.

The checked or irregularly barred Louisiana silks of soft quality and evenly twilled are liked for travelling dresses, and may be had in all the dark stylish colors.

Collarettes of lace take the form of high ruffs or of a row of lace turned down over a ribbon passing around the neck, finished with two jabots side by side, giving a square effect.

Colored stockings have given so much discomfort to ladies and children by "croaking," and are so apt to wash badly that they are being given up by many, and ecru Balbriggans are used instead.

New Paris sunshades are formed entirely of black lace gathered and lined with light mauve Surah, the stick in ebony terminating in a small ebony hood, which incloses a carved ivory head.

Both painting and lace on one fan is a popular method of decoration, the lace serving as a sort of frame for a large painted landscape in the center, or for two or three medallions placed at irregular intervals on the face of the fan.

The white lace overskirt and fichu of moresque lace make simple Surah dresses rich enough for dinner and evening toilets. The short skirt may have lace flounces, or heavier silk flounces may be notched in wolf's teeth, as the sharp points are called, and placed in many thick frills.

Hair-dressing is becoming more elaborate. The fashion of arranging the hair quite on the top on the head is gaining favor, and the front is parted on the left side. Twists, coils, loops and braids are gathered up on the crown of the head, and fastened there with long shell-pins or jewelled combs.

When Niagara Was Dry.

A correspondent of the Buffalo *Commercial* relates an instance when the great Niagara ceased to flow, and describes remarkable discoveries in the dry channel, as follows:

In the spring of 1849, I think it was—at all events it was about that date—the people on the banks of the Niagara were surprised to see the water rapidly receding from the shore. It continued to fall until there was absolutely no water flowing through the rapids, except a small stream in the very middle of the river bed. As a matter of course so strange a circumstance gave rise to no end of speculation, and attracted people to the river from far and near. I have forgotten now just how long the water ceased to flow, but it must have been for nearly a day. What was done while the river bed was dry could not have been accomplished short of several hours, and I distinctly remember that hundreds of people spent most of the day in exploring the bottom. For some reason the impression prevailed upon people in Chippewa, that in the river channel was a spring similar to the burning spring on the shore near the head of the rapids. Search was instituted, and sure enough a gas well of large proportions was discovered quite a distance out in the channel directly opposite the mouth of Chippewa creek. The thought occurred to somebody that it would be a good idea, now that the river was dry, to attach a tube to the well and keep the gas burning. Accordingly a number of men repaired to the foundry in the village and there found a large iron kettle such as is used in boiling down sap. They drilled a hole in the bottom, put a thread in it, fitted a piece of tubing to it, and carted the two down to the gas well in the river channel. The kettle was turned bottom side up over the well, the tube inserted in the bottom, and a glass lamp put on the top, the idea being to have a sort of natural beacon light. But the flow of gas was so strong that when a match was applied the lamp was blown

into fragments. The gas, however, continued to burn from the end of the tube, making a brilliant light at night, for a long time afterwards and until the tube was carried away by ice.

Bells.

"To whose mind does not the sound of a bell call up joyful or frightful associations?" queries a writer in the *New York Sun*. "While listening to the ringing of a school bell, what man or woman does not return, in imagination, to the days of childhood? At the tolling of a fire-alarm bell, who does not recollect stirring and perhaps tragical scenes? What Irishman is not filled with awe at the mention of the four-sided Clog-an-eal-hachta Phatraic (the bell of Patrick's will)? What Russian does not feel proud that his Czar-Kokolok (the Czar bell) is the largest bell in the world? What Londoner will not bet all he is worth that there are no bells in the world like Bow bells? What New Yorker will not fail to uphold the superiority of the Trinity chimes? What working man does not take pride in the old Mechanics' bell? What Dutchman does not know that at Bruges there are the finest carillons in Europe?"

The associations aroused in the mind of the student of history by the sound of bells are exceedingly interesting. In Egypt, thousands of years ago, the feast of Osiris was announced by the ringing of hand bells. Aaron and other Hebrew high priests wore golden bells attached to their vestments. The priests of Cybele used hand bells in their rites. The Greeks employed them in their military camps and garrisons. By their tintinnabulum the Romans announced the hours of work and of bathing. But bells are most intimately connected with the services of the Christian church. The passing bell and the ave bell are of Christian origin; and, alas! the horrible excommunication by bell, book, and candle also originated with men professing the religion of love. In all Christendom there can hardly be found a church without a bell.

The republics of Novgorod and Pskov had their silver bells, at whose sound the sovereign people used to assemble to discuss state affairs, or perhaps to try their prince or an Archbishop. The Novgorodians were massacred and "swam in their own blood" when their silver bells were taken down and carried away by the Moscow czar, and in Pskov all the men, women and larger children cried, sobbed, and groaned for a day and a night on parting with their silver bell Ivan the Terrible used to order that the largest bell of Moscow be tolled when he was about to hang a man of importance, whether a prominent Boyard or a daring robber.

In every civilized country many poets have taken the music of bells as a theme. Longfellow, translating his "Song of the Bell" from the German, exclaims:

Say! how canst thou mourn
How canst thou rejoice?
How art thou metal dull?
And yet all our sorrowings,
And all our rejoicings,
Thou dost feel them all!

Coining Metals.

The coining of all the metals is practically the same. The gold comes to the mint in properly alloyed ingots, weighing about 180 ounces each. These ingots are taken to the rolling room, where they are heated to a bright red heat and then rolled between chilled iron rolls until they are two-tenths of an inch thick and about six inches wide. The plates are then annealed at a red heat and are plunged in cold water, which makes the gold or silver soft and tough. The plates are again rolled into plates the required thickness for the coin, called fillets, and these fillets are then "drawn" to give them a uniform thickness. The fillets are next cut into round blanks, or "planchets," a little larger than the required coin. Every blank is here carefully examined, to see if it is perfect, and if it is too light it is remelted, and if too heavy it is reduced by filing. The next process is to raise the slight rim on the edge of the coin, which is done by a milling machine at the rate of 120 coins a minute. By these processes the blanks have become hard and discolored, and they are again cleaned and annealed, which process is quite a long one. The blanks are then coined. It is impossible to describe the coining machine, but the blanks are fed to it through a tube. A peculiar iron hand takes each piece and lays it upon the lower face of the die. Both faces of the coin and the fluted or reeded edge are struck with one blow when the iron hand picks up the coin and puts another blank in its place. The pressure upon the coin is, for a \$20 gold piece, equal to about seventy five tons, and eighty pieces are coined per minute.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

Germany has at present over 150 schools of agriculture, viticulture, etc. Each of these has farms, gardens, etc., attached.

It appears that the leaf of a plant can be transformed into useful work as much as forty per cent. of the solar energy it receives and absorbs.

Quinine and chincona have proved fatal to rabbits, guinea-pigs and dogs when administered in certain quantities under the skin. A dose of two grains proved enough to kill a dog which weighed 12 kilos.

M. Herve Mangon calls attention to the ease with which the ice-plant can be cultivated on a large scale as a source of potash. According to him, the fresh plant contains about half of one per cent of potash.

The greatest heat of the air in the sun probably never exceeds 145 degrees, nor the greatest cold 65 degrees below zero. About 130 degrees above and 40 degrees below zero are the extremes for the United States and very unusual.

Professor Proctor reasons that the moon has grown old six times as fast as the earth, a comparison of the masses and radiating surfaces of the two bodies, making it evident that the earth's internal heat was originally sufficient to last six times as long as the moon's supply. On the very moderate assumption, therefore, that only twelve millions of years have passed since the earth and the moon were at the same stage of planetary life, this astronomer shows us that sixty millions of years must elapse before the earth will have reached the stage of life through which the moon is now passing.

Alligator Leather.

A large variety of pocketbooks, card cases, hand bags, and other articles made of a peculiar mottled leather was seen in a Chambers street, New York, show case. A long narrow piece of the same kind of leather hung over them. It was rounded at one end and tapered away to a point at the other. Two flippers projected from each side of it.

"The use of alligator skins seems to be increasing," a *Sun* reporter said to the proprietor of the show case.

"The increase is astonishing," he replied. "Twelve or fifteen years ago alligator leather was tanned as a curiosity. Few articles were made of it. About four years ago, however, the manufacture of alligator leather began in earnest. First a few shoes were made of it, and the manufacturers of such goods saw there was something in it. It is a peculiarly beautiful leather. There are no two skins marked just alike, and it follows that no two articles made of the leather can be alike. The natural color of the leather is attractive, aside from the beauty of the marking. It finishes soft and flexible. It is considered that Americans tan and finish it in a manner superior to the best workmanship of the old country. Here is a pocketbook; American alligator skin forms the outside; American calfskin the lining. Any judge of such goods will say that it is by all odds the handsomest as well as the best leather of the kind in existence. Sixty dollars a dozen for such goods, small as they are, is a low price.

"While the beauty of alligator leather is its chief characteristic, its durability is of hardly less importance. These gripsacks of alligator leather will outwear their owners, no matter how youthful. With these two things in its favor, it is no wonder that the sale of alligator leather is increasing."

"How many alligators were slaughtered to satisfy the demand last year?"

"Not less than half a million."

"How do you get the skins, and where do they come from?"

"Most of them come from Florida and the other Gulf states. The alligators are shot with rifles, and the negroes have almost a monopoly of the business. When an alligator crawls out on the sand for his after-dinner sleep he falls a victim. The negro gets from fifty cents to a dollar apiece for alligators. The hunt is carried on so vigorously that the reptiles are beginning to grow scarce. Laws will have to be enacted eventually to protect them during the breeding season and when young.

"All sizes from two to eighteen feet in length are now killed. The choice skin is six feet long. There is as much difference between the six-foot skin and the eighteen-foot skin as there is between a calfskin and an ox hide. The skins are packed in lime for two months to remove the horny scales. The remaining process is much like that for any leather. It takes four months to prepare a skin. There is a tannery for alligator skins in Brooklyn."

HOW THEY LIVE.

Some Interesting Facts About English Farm Laborers.

A correspondent of the *Hartford Times* gives in a recent letter some facts in regard to wages, etc. Most of the land in England, he says, is farmed by renters, who pay from \$5 to \$10 per acre. When land commanding this rent changes hands, which is very seldom, it brings from \$150 to \$225 an acre. Horses used in farmwork are usually of a massive build, so common in this country, and range in price from \$200 to \$400. A good milch cow with calf is worth \$150. Farm laborers earn from \$3.25 to \$4 a week, and frequently have large families to support out of this pittance. During harvest, which lasts from a month to six weeks, the farmer contracts with his hands to work for him during the whole time, putting in about eighteen hours of hard labor a day for \$25, with \$6 extra for beer. At this period the weekly wage is, of course, suspended. The marvel is that these farm laborers are able, on their small income, to keep up such a good appearance. The man has a good suit of black in which to go to church on Sundays, and his wife sits by his side, attired with equal neatness and comfort, and they both, with their children also, present a tidy and well-cared-for look as you see them on the streets during the week. Their dwellings, viewed from the outside are suggestive of anything but poverty or distress. They are of humble dimensions, to be sure, but the windows shaded by imitation lace curtains, many of them are, and lit up by flowering plants, present a really beautiful appearance, and whet the appetite for an inside view. Within you find almost invariably cleanliness and good cheer, and, what is still better, an all-pervading home feeling. The house looks all over as though it were occupied by those who felt it a privilege to live there and were bent on making the place something beyond a mere shelter. That this class make their small earnings serve them so well is owing to several reasons. Rents are very low, these tasteful dwellings costing them, with a small garden attached, from \$15 to \$20 a year. Clothing, too, costs less than one-half it does in America, and is more durable. The schooling of the children amounts to scarcely anything. For the first child four cents a week must be paid; for the second, two cents; for the third, two cents; and all the other little ones, even if there should be a score, go to school free. In return for this sum the children get a fair education and have all the necessary books found for them. The farm laborers suffer the most in the matter of eating. They get enough, such as it is, but it is of a kind at which the poorest in our land would deem it a virtue to turn up their noses in contempt. For breakfast and tea the bill of fare is bread and dripping, the latter a cheap substitute for butter. For dinner a vegetable pudding is usually the order, and I am credibly informed that if these people get a little fat bacon two or three times a week, they consider they are living on the fat of the land.

Abdel-el-Kader's Treaty.

The following is an exact translation of the terms in which the late Abdel-el-Kader made his final treaty of peace with France: "Grace to God only. I give you my sacred word, that I do not admit of any doubt. I declare I will not again excite my people against the French, either by person, or by letters, or by any other method. I take my oath before Mohammed, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus Christ, by the Turat, the New Testament, and the Koran, by the book of Bokhar and the Moslem. I take this oath solemnly, from my heart and tongue. This oath is binding both on me and my friends, who sign not this present paper with me because they do not know to write. Compliments of Abdel-el-Kader, son of Mahdi-el-Din." While the famous chieftain was at St. Cloud he saw a clock which indicated the time in all the principal cities of the world, Mecca included. He at once set his watch by Mecca time, so that he could say his prayers at the same time as those who were so happy as to live near the Kaaba. Then he knelt down with his face toward the Holy City and prayed to Allah—probably the only such ceremony that ever occurred within the walls of the palace of St. Cloud.

Advertising Pays.

Don't drop your ad. because it is "between hay and grass," and you have nothing to sell now. Those who continue before the public are always remembered, while those who advertise occasionally are as often forgotten. If you have sold all out and have nothing to sell till fall, it will pay to say so. Those who have been the most successful will tell you the same.

SIGN LANGUAGE.

The Manner in Which Deaf and Dumb People Talk.

No one seeing the sign language can help admiring its beauty and gracefulness. This language is very simple, and any one taking the trouble to study it with one of the speaking employees at the asylum who is acquainted with it, could soon acquire it. It is universal among mutes, and is founded upon the most natural and convenient way of imitating the forms of objects spoken of, or making some sign which suggests some quality or trait of it, whenever this is possible. Here are a few examples of the way different things are expressed:

Dog—Slap the right thigh just above the knee with the right hand (as if inviting a dog to come to you).

Girl—Close the right hand, leaving the thumb sticking out. Pass the thumb over the cheek a few times, downward strokes (indicating, perhaps, "no beard.")

Boy—Close and open the thumb of the right hand against the fingers rapidly several times near and in front of the forehead, the back of the hand being upward.

Man—Same sign, and immediately raise the hand high above the head (indicating "high boy.")

House—Touch the points of the extended fingers and draw both hands obliquely down, the right toward the right, and the left toward the left, as if describing the roof.

Hat—Take off the hat and put it on again. If you happen to have none on, go through the motion with the empty hand.

Foot—Extend the second finger of both hands and draw up the leg, as if pulling on a boot.

Book—Press the fingers of each hand together, and the thumbs against the first fingers, place the lower edges of the hands together, and open and shut as a book.

Cat—Move the hands as if pulling a moustache on both sides.

Englishman—Grasp the edge of the left hand back of the little finger with the right hand, the back of both being up.

German—Extend the fingers of both hands and cross the edges of the wrists, the right one up; shake the fingers slightly.

Columbus—Crook the thumb and fingers of the right hand to form the letter C, and shake the hand.

Deaf and Dumb—Place the first finger on the right hand to the lips and then to the ear.

State House—Place the first fingers of both hands to the right and left temples respectively, and make the sign of house, described above.

Penitentiary—Cross the open fingers of both hands to make bars, and pass the hands across the sides to indicate stripes.

These signs are, of course, much simpler than many others which must be seen to be described, but they serve to show the manner in which the system is formed. Abstract ideas are quite as easily and rapidly expressed, and it is astonishing to note the few verbs and adjectives it is necessary to spell out by letters in a long conversation. For instance, clapping the fingers of the right hand and the palm of the left means school; placing the palms and fingers of both hands together, prayer; waving the handkerchief in a crowd where deaf mutes are invariably collects them together; to point the fingers of the right hand at the open palm of the left and shake them commands pupils to study; touching the left palm with the fingers of the right hand and rapidly passing them towards the head a few times means to learn (that is, taking knowledge from a book into the head); passing the right palm over the upper end of the left fist means enough, or filled; pressing the first, second and third fingers of the right hand against the chin, with the thumb and small finger extended to the right and left respectively, means to make a mistake or be wrong, etc.—*Ohio State Journal*.

Wanted the Boss.

A travelling man who makes yearly visits to a country store in Kentucky, drove up to the establishment the other day and asked to see the boss.

"How are you, Smith?" he said, when a very depressed looking man came to the door.

"How are you! Who did you want?"

"I wanted to see the boss."

"All right, I'll call—"

"Why, ain't you the boss?"

"No; not any more," and he looked over his shoulder in a frightened way.

"You were when I was here a year ago."

"Yes, I know it, but you see I've got married since then."

There is no benefit so small that a good man will not magnify it.