

## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

### Woman.

Honored be woman! She beams on the sight. Graceful and fair, like a being of light; Scattered o'er her, wherever she strays, Roses of bliss o'er our thorn-covered ways; Roses of Paradise, sent from above, To be gathered and twined in a garland of Love. —Schiller.

### A Queen Fond of Children.

The queen of Italy is very fond of children, and seldom takes a walk without stopping to chat with one or two of her youthful subjects, especially little girls. In former days she would often ask a protegee: "And what is your father, my dear?" But since the haughty reply of a mite of seven—"My father is a republican!"—her majesty studiously avoids the question. Some months ago she asked a little girl to knit her a pair of silk stockings as a birthday gift, and gave her twenty lire to buy the material. The queen forgot the circumstance till her birthday came, when she was reminded of it by the arrival of a pair of well-knit stockings and the maker's best wishes. Not to be outdone, Queen Margherita sent a pair to her young friend as a return gift, one stocking being full of lira-pieces and the other of bon-bons. They were accompanied by a little note: "Tell me, my dear, which you liked best." A reply reached the palace next day: "Dearest Queen—Both the stockings have made me shed many bitter tears. Papa took the one with the money, and my brother the other."

### Alaska Women.

The matrons of high fashion and the swell damsels of the Thlinket tribe, says an Alaska letter, never make a canoe voyage without smearing themselves well with the black dye that they get from a certain wild root in the woods, or with a paste of soot and seal oil. On sunny and windy days on shore they protect themselves from tan and sunburn by this same inky coating. On feast days and the great occasions, when they wash off the black, their complexions come out as fair and creamy white as the palest of their Japanese cousins across the water, and the women are then seen to be some six shades lighter than the tan-colored and coffee-colored lords of their tribe. The specimen woman at Juneau wore a thin calico dress and a thick blue blanket. Her feet were bare, but she was compensated for that loss of gear by the turkey red parasol that she poised over her head with all the complacency of a Mount Desert belle. She had blacked her face to the edge of her eyelids and the roots of her hair; she wore the full panure of silver nose ring, ring and ear-rings, with fifteen rings ornamenting her bronze fingers, and a more thoroughly proud and self-satisfied creature never arrayed herself according to the behests of high fashion.

### Fashion Notes.

Fashion renounces gay striped hosiery. Silver spider pins are now placed on the toes of slippers. Slippers for children are the same shade as their stockings. Laces are the standard trimmings for India-mulls and lawns. Very deep lace flounces cover entire fronts of evening dresses. Fancy muslins are prettily made up with colored silks and laces. China silk with printed colored flowers, leaves or spots, is fashionable. Sleeves exclusively of lace prove an attractive feature in many dresses. Currant red and Spanish yellow combine well in bonnets and dresses. Large, round chenille embossed wafers on light fabrics give them a rich look.

China-crepes in all the light shades are considerably used for corsages and bonnets.

A fancy with French dress-makers is to put the bottom of the skirt into pockets, and under these to place a ruffled ruffle.

The fashions of the day vary, so that almost any dress is fashionable if it fits well, has tight sleeves, and drapes back quite tightly.

Black velvet collars, with very deep white lace around the edges and jabots down the front, make a stylish finish for light-colored dresses.

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

Little girls of from four to eight frequently wear the Louis XV jacket with large revers forming a collar, and pockets in the same style. Under the loose waistcoat is worn a pleated skirt.

The gauntlet glove is coming into fashion for morning use in quiet gray, tan and wood shades. They are made in four different lengths, and the longest cuffs reach nearly to the elbows.

Bronze-colored shoes and stockings to match are a late English fashion with full-dress toilets. Walking shoes have the uppers of light drab kid or cloth, or are checked or striped like the dress.

The Paris correspondent of *Harper's Bazar* says that the hair is worn higher and higher, and that all the coils and bows of hair, as well as the flowers or ribbons used to trim it, are absolutely on the top of the head.

The vestal robe of white nuns' veiling is a novel princess dress, with shoulder-pleats that are girdled around the waist and spread out in curves from the hips to the foot. The belt is of dark velvet, fastened by a white silver buckle.

Two new styles of lace have recently been introduced, the one being needle-run Chantilly, to be used in combination with jet embroidery, the other a lace with velvet flowers and buds appliqued, and outlined with colored beads.

The long lace scarfs, that are no longer worn as such, are prettily used after this style: Drawn close down the front of the waist, carried off on each side to form paniers, finished with loops and ends of velvet in the back; flowers at the neck and waist where divided for the paniers are a decidedly pretty finish.

### The Use of Salt.

We have received from a correspondent a letter making some inquiries into the use of salt, and we are given to understand that among other follies of the day some indiscreet persons are objecting to the use of salt, and propose to do without it. Nothing could be more absurd. Common salt is the most widely distributed substance in the body; it exists in every fluid and in every solid; and not only is everywhere present, but in almost every part it constitutes the largest portion of the ash when any tissue is burnt. In particular it is a constant constituent of the blood, and it maintains in it a proportion that is almost wholly independent of the quantity that is consumed with the food. The blood will take up so much and no more, however much we may take with our food; and, on the other hand, if none be given, the blood parts with its natural quantity slowly and unwillingly. Under ordinary circumstances a healthy man loses daily about twelve grains by one channel or the other, and if he is to maintain his health that quantity is to be introduced. Common salt is of immense importance in the processes ministering to the nutrition of the body, for not only is it the chief salt in the gastric juice, and essential for the formation of bile, and may hence be reasonably regarded as of high value in digestion, but it is an important agent in promoting the processes of diffusion and therefore of absorption. Direct experiment has shown that it promotes the decomposition of albumen in the body, acting probably by increasing the activity of the transmission of fluids from cell to cell. Nothing can demonstrate its value better than the fact that if albumen without salt is introduced into the intestines of an animal no portion of it is absorbed, while it all quickly disappears if salt be added. If any further evidence were required it could be found in the powerful instinct which impels animals to obtain salt. Buffaloes will travel for miles to reach a "salt-lick;" and the value of salt in improving the nutrition and aspect of horses and cattle is well known to every farmer.

The conclusion therefore is obvious that salt, being wholesome, and indeed necessary, should be taken in moderate quantities, and that abstinence from it is likely to be injurious.—*London Lancet*.

### What Cheap Postage Has Done.

Penny postage has worked wonders in England. In 1839, the year when it was adopted, 76,000,000 letters passed through the postoffice. The next year the number bounded up to nearly 169,000,000, and has ever since increased rapidly. Last year the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom was no less than 1,280,536,200. In addition to the letters there were 144,016,200 postal cards, 140,682,600 newspapers, and 288,209,400 book packets and circulars. The average number of letters per head of the population is larger than in any country of the continent, and considerably higher even than the average in the United States. The average number of letters per head of the population in the United Kingdom is 36, and in the United States, 21. The highest averages on the continent are in France and Germany, 15 and 13 respectively. In England and Wales together the average reaches as high as 40; in Scotland 30, and in Ireland 15.

Women visitors to the Yosemite have to ride as men do.

## CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

Monkeys follow leopards on their way through the forest, shaking branches at them, chattering loudly, and even making faces at them.

A lady on Staten Island who "collects" them writes to a New York newspaper that it takes exactly forty sparrows to make a presentable pie.

The tumble-weed derives its name from the circumstance that when ripe the wind tears it by the roots and sends it over the fields rolling hither and thither, so that its seed is soon thrashed out. It is sometimes seen piled fence high on the prairie farms.

According to the census the army of Man appears to consist of thirty-one officers (effective and retired) and twenty-three non-commissioned officers and men. Militia, yeomanry and volunteers include four individuals, while there are thirty-one army pensioners.

A "canina" recently exhibited in London, is an instrument called musical by courtesy, and producing its tones by dogs who sit in a box and growl or howl or bark, as 'tis their nature to, when struck on the head by a wire connected with a key manipulated by a player.

Different tribes of Indians use different sorts of poison for their arrow points. The Comanches use the juice of the Spanish bayonet; the Apaches bruise the heads of rattlesnakes with bits of deer liver, allow it to putrefy and dip their arrows in it. The Moquis irritate a rattlesnake until he bites himself, and moisten their darts in the blood. Poisons made from the stings of bees and from ants are used by other tribes.

The following curious sign is kept before the eyes of the public at the foot of a steambot landing in Portland, Me.: "No passes given to tramps. Do not take the trouble to ask for them. In those days were no passes given. Search the Scriptures. Thou shalt not pass.—Numb. xx., 18. Suffer not a man to pass.—Judges, iii., 28. The wicked shall no more pass.—Nahum, i., 15. None shall pass.—Isaiah, xxxiv., 10. This generation shall not pass.—Mark, xiii., 30. Though they roar yet can they not pass.—Jeremiah, v., 22. So he paid the fare thereof and went.—Jonah, i., 3."

Great men, whose lives are spent in the study of color, will not paint a flower! Anything but that—a furred mantle, a jeweled zone, a silken gown, a brazen corset, nay, an old leather chair, or a wall-paper if you will, with utmost care and delight; but a flower by no manner of means, if avoidable. Titian, in his early work, sometimes carries a blossom or two out with affection, as the columbines in our *Bacchus* and *Ariadne*. In his portrait of Lavinia, the roses are just touched finely enough to fill their place, with the most subdued red possible; while in a later portrait of the same there are no roses at all, but a belt of chased, golden balls, on every stud of which Titian has concentrated his strength, and, it is believed, forgot the face a little, so much has the mind been set on the golden belt.—*Ruskin*.

### What They Believed Centuries Ago.

Most of the writers of the middle ages believed that cinnamon, ginger, cloves and nutmegs were the produce of the same tree; that the bay, the fig tree, eagles and seal-skin afford protection from lightning; and that the use of bitter almonds is an effectual guard against intoxication. Two fallacies are attached to the herb basil. Hallerins declared that it propagated scorpions, while Oribasius, on the other hand, asserted that it was an antidote to the sting of these insects.

One great authority, quoted by Browne, states that an ivy has the property of separating wine from water, the former soaking through, but the latter remaining. Sir Thomas seriously tried the experiment, but in vain, whereupon a hostile critic ascribed the failure to the "weakness of our racked wines."

Another sage wrote that cucumbers have the power of killing by their natural cold; and yet another states that no snakes can endure the shade of an ash tree.

### Post-Office in a Keg.

The simplest post-office in the world is in the Magellan Straits, and has been established there for many years. It consists of a small cask, which is chained to the rocks of the extreme cape in the straits, opposite Terra Del Fuego. Each passing ship sends a boat to open the cask and take letters out and place others in it. The post-office is self-acting, therefore; it is under the protection of all the navies of all nations, and up to the present time there is not a single case to report in which any abuse of the privilege it affords has taken place.

## THE CAPE ANN FISHERMAN.

His Adventurous Trade—Its Dangers and Profits—Characteristics of the Men.

A Gloucester, Mass., letter to the *New York Evening Post*, says: "The more one studies the Cape Ann fisherman, the greater becomes his respect for him. Really the courage, energy and fortitude displayed in the founding and building of a flourishing city, among these sterile crags, is most admirable. Fishermen have reared it from the beginning. The fourteen men who may be said to have founded the town in 1623, were fishermen, part of the crew of a vessel despatched to this coast for a fare, by a fishing company in England, and left here with the design of founding a fishing station and depot of supplies; and since then the prosecution of the fisheries has been the only inducement for men to settle or remain here. The town has literally grown up through and in spite of disaster; every year Neptune has tilted its population, and every year the gap has been filled, and the town given a sturdier and more tenacious hold on life. From lists kept in the town, it appears that between 1830, and April, 1882, 2,351 men, in 438 vessels, were swallowed up in the sea. Of the thousands lost before the date, no record has been kept; they are as utterly forgotten as though they had never been.

Singularly enough, the most terrible gales, involving wholesale destruction of life have been of comparatively recent date. The February gale of 1862, swept down on "George's" from the northwest with terrible force; thirteen of the seventy sail there at anchor, were sent to the bottom with their crews, two were abandoned, the crews being rescued, and of the remainder not one escaped unharmed, all losing anchors, booms, masts, or being so badly stove as scarcely to be able to make port. In a few hours 129 men were overwhelmed, leaving behind in the home port, seventy widows, and 150 fatherless children. The reader can imagine the scenes presented, beyond all power of description, when the battered remnant of the fleet came weeping into port, bearing news of the disaster. In the northeaster of March 22, 1864, four vessels, with fifty-seven men were lost. The gale of February 20 and 21, 1879, was the most destructive to life ever known, 249 men being lost in it, leaving fifty-seven widows and 140 children, to mourn their loss.

In an economic sense the condition of the fishermen is much better than it was a quarter of a century ago. With improved methods they generally secure a better fare; they have a larger share, and more care is taken by the fitter-out for their comfort. Crews still ship "on the lay"; that is, for a certain share of the profits, after expenses of salting, packing, barrels, etc., have been deducted, the owner furnishing vessel and outfit. The lay at present is one-half the profits. From some fares brought into port during the last ten years, one would conclude that the hardy toilers must soon become wealthy. For a long time the largest "stock" ever made in a season by a banker, was that of the schooner, *Baer*, in 1896. Her catch brought \$22,000, William Thompson who was "high lines" that year, receiving \$1,300 for his season's work. The schooner *Mary Carish*, in 1871, after an absence of thirty-four days, brought in 58,553 pounds of halibut, 6,900 pounds of codfish, netting \$4,738.75, the crew sharing \$236.25 each. Capt. Benjamin Hines, however, eclipsed both by arriving in October, 1884, with 320,000 pounds of codfish and 1,600 pounds fished halibut.

These voyages might be often duplicated; but it must be remembered that in too many cases the fisherman toils for weeks and gets nothing. In the fresh halibut fisheries, \$1,500 to \$2,000 is considered a good trip, and stocks from \$3,000 to \$4,000 are rare. A Grand Banker averages about nine trips a year, and the trips vary from \$8,000 to \$17,000. As showing the uncertain nature of their occupation, the fishermen tell the story of Mr. Taber, who launched his dory one day, pulled out to the fishing grounds, took 2,114 pounds of codfish, and pulled ashore, having spent but three hours on the trip, in contrast with that of Mr. Woodbury, who hauled three tubs of trawls, comprising 1,500 hooks, and secured five pounds of fish; and with that of a neighbor, who hauled six tubs of trawls, and failed to secure even a dogfish. It is owing, perhaps, to this system of "shares," that wealth is so evenly distributed in the town. One sees in his walks few pretentious mansions, but many neat and comfortable homes.

The native American goes no longer to the fishing banks, preferring to remain at home, fit out, handle the products, and transact other necessary business of the city. His place is sup-

plied by men of the provinces, and by waifs and strays from all nations. There is quite a colony of Portuguese, chiefly from the western islands, who occupy a quarter by themselves, and are worthy and industrious citizens. There are Irish, Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes, but exceeding all others, the Bluesoes, from the maritime provinces of the Dominion. These men are born fishermen, reared to that occupation in lack of any other. Naturally shrewd, the swift, staunch well-appointed vessels of Yankee skippers, and their improved methods of fishing, early attracted their attention, and led to their shipping on them when opportunity occurred. There has been for years a steady stream of these hardy fellows flowing into port. They make excellent fishermen; many of them, rising to be skippers, marry here, settle down, and add much to the town's prosperity. There are others, again, to whom more of romance attaches—men of birth and education from England and the Continent, whom some youthful error had driven into exile. Others seem to have adopted the business because of its danger and adventure. A volume might be made of the tales told in the town of men of this character, who are now, or have been, forecastle men on the cod and mackerel catchers."

### The Worship of Cholera.

In lower Bengal, Dr. Macnamara, a great authority, whose "History of Asiatic Cholera" is a text-book on the subject—and a very confused text-book it is—says that the natives have for a long time past worshipped the Goddess of Cholera as the *Olda Behee*, whose temple is at Calcutta. The tradition is that at an early period, the date of which cannot now be ascertained—since upon a time—a female, while wandering about in the woods, met with a large stone, the symbol of the Goddess of Cholera, and it became a prevalent idea among the Hindus that the worship of the diety through this stone was the only means of preservation from the influence of the disease. As the fame of the goddess spread, people flocked from all parts of the country to her shrine in Calcutta. Apart from the period of a cholera epidemic the temple was most frequented by pilgrims in the months of April, May, and June. The votaries of the goddess fast in the morning and evening, partaking of a dish of crushed rice and dhahee, a preparation of milk at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. At the time of which Dr. Macnamara writes between 300 and 400 females used to worship after this fashion every Tuesday and Saturday. All of them used to bring offerings. The idol was at one period productive of a large income to the priestly family into whose possession it had passed, but latterly the income has only amounted to between \$30 and \$40 a year. Originally the home of the idol was under a bamboo shed, but about 1720 an English merchant, to give pleasure to his native friends, built a temple for it. This becoming inconveniently situated thirty years later, Mr. Duncan, who married a Mahomedan lady, erected the temple at present in use, his contribution amounting to \$600. "The old rude stone was transferred to the new temple, and a somewhat elaborate idol constructed. It represents in the centre a carcass, with a vulture preying upon it. Upon the back of the vulture the goddess, with folded hands, is represented in a sitting posture. On her right is Munsha, the goddess of serpents; next to her is Shiva, the destroying principle. Next comes a female in a suppliant posture, and a male afflicted with the disease; the female is supposed to be praying to Shiva for the recovery of her husband. On the left of the goddess are the idols of Sheetola, the goddess of smallpox, and of Shusthee, the goddess presiding over infants and children."

### Hangman's Day.

The origin of the custom of executing criminals on Friday, now fast going out of vogue, is not certainly known. By some it is said to have originated in the fact that Friday was early considered an unlucky day. Chambers says: "Some portion of its maleficent character is probably due to the character of the Scandinavian Venus Frega, wife of Odin, the goddess of fecundity. But we are met, on the other hand, by the fact that among the Brahmans of India a like superstitious aversion of Friday exists." The popular aversion to the day may have been the reason for its being selected as the day upon which executions should take place. Others say the custom originated from the fact that the Savior was crucified on that day, but it is a little difficult to see why that event occurring on Friday should cause it to be selected as a hangman's day generally.

## SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

Electricity has been successfully applied as a motive power to omnibuses in Paris.

Cotton manufactured into duck is being successfully introduced as a roofing material. Aside from its cheapness it possesses the advantage of lightness as compared with shingles or slate; it effectually excludes from water, and it is said to be a non-conductor of heat.

Brohm's experiments seem to show that in the plant there are two operations taking place—making sugar from carbonic acid and the conversion of the same sugar into starch.

Sir Henry Thompson, the London surgeon, recognizes in fish a combination of all the elements of food that the human body requires in almost every phase of life, more especially by those who follow sedentary employment. To women he considers fish to be an invaluable article of diet, but he scouts as a complete fallacy the notion that fish-eating increases the brain power. "The only action fish had on the brain was to put a man's body into proper relations with the work he had to do."

Professor Sir W. Thompson, in his new treatise on natural philosophy, is led by a consideration of the necessary order of cooling and consolidation of the earth to infer that the interior of our world is not, as commonly supposed, all liquid, with a thin solid crust of from 30 to 100 miles thick, but that it is on the whole more rigid than a continuous solid globe of glass of the same diameter, and probably more rigid than such a globe of steel.

Edward Bromley, a young Philadelphia machinist, asserts that he has discovered a new mechanical law, the application of which will enable him to increase hundred fold the power of any machine, from a clock to a steamship, without using an ounce more fuel than usual, or driving the motive power any faster than ordinarily. The discovery consists in combining the action of the screw, the inclined plane and one other form which, like Mr. Keeley, he refuses to mention.

### Arab Courage.

The courage of the Bedouin is one of their most lauded virtues, but one which within the present century has not been conspicuously vindicated. I have seen more than once a tribe on a raid, and have heard more than one tale of Bedouin battles. As a rule, the bulletin seems to be to the following effect: "We bravely attacked the enemy, which made its appearance in a force of one to our ten. We took several prisoners, and the enemy lost heavily, two horses and several cows being slain. At length his remaining forces withdrew, and we found our casualties to include one mare hurt in the leg by a spear. We cut off the fore fingers of our prisoners in remembrance of those of our tribe whose beards and hair had been burned off on a former occasion, and letting them go, drove off the captured camels, and endeavored to conceal as far as possible the direction of our victorious retreat." Such are the deeds which I have heard recounted, and although men are sometimes slain in battle, and Fahed en Nimar has legs which have been peppered with small shot, it must be remembered that to initiate a blood feud is a most serious circumstance in tribe life, and that the whole policy of the leaders will for many years be directed to the healing of the breach thus caused, and to the settlement of blood money. When a disagreement occurs between two tribes, they will gather their spearmen, concentrate their encampments, and square up, so to speak, toward each other, but they generally contrive, before matters come to an open breach, to find a third party willing to mediate, and a compromise is established, to the great relief of the bold warriors on either side.—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

### A Tramp's Siesta.

A woman who had been swinging in a hammock in a yard on Cass avenue recently, had no sooner vacated it in answer to a call from the house, than a ragged old tramp who had been leaning over the fence walked inside and coolly planted himself in the hammock for a siesta. In about five minutes the woman reappeared, and seeing at a glance how matters stood, she brought out a sharp knife, walked straight up to the fellow, and before he could chuckle twice, she cut the head rope. He came down on his head with a thump, toppled over at full length, and slowly scrambled up and walked off. Not a word was said until he was outside the gate. Then he turned and called out:

"Maybe you'd like my photograph just as I keeled out of that old fish-net, but you won't get it—not by a jug-full!"—*Free Press*.