

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Malay Marriage Customs

The Malays have marriage customs of their own. A gentleman who was living at Amboyna, an island of the Molucca group, about 120 miles from Batavia, the capital of the Island of Java, where the recent earthquake transpired, attended a Malay wedding. One day a strange servant came to his house carrying a tray or platter, on which were some twenty different kinds of fruit, fishes and pagan mixtures. The people in whose house he was living explained that there was to be a wedding in a house near by and that one of his hired men was the father of the bride. The sweets were intended as presents, and were sent for several days. Next came invitations. They walked to the house of the bridegroom along a narrow lane which was adorned with Chinese lanterns, and thronged with men and boys. Next entering the house where the bride was waiting to receive her lord, the piazza opened into a large room containing many tables which were loaded with sweetmeats and Malay delicacies. Concealed by a red curtain was a smaller room, in which the expectant bride was sitting. Only ladies were permitted to enter here. Boiling tea was passed around, and pepper leaves and betel nuts were taken by the ladies, while an urn-shaped spittoon was circulated as necessity for expectoration demanded. Soon a shrill piping was heard down the street, and all rushed out to see the approaching procession. First came boys carrying wax candles, then others bearing the presents of the wedded pair. Next followed the bridegroom and his friends, who were surrounded by candles arranged at various heights on triangular frames. Dressed in a Malay suit of bright red, he wore a gilded chain. The bride arose slowly as the bridegroom entered. He put the palms of his hands together and bowed three times, just as the Chinese address the images in their temples. She returned this bowing three times. She was dressed in scarlet, a white opaque veil concealing her face and fastened to her hair. Next came the exciting moment. While she remained standing he stepped forward and began pulling out the pins which fastened the veil and hid from sight her beauty. They then sat down and were gazed at by the guests.

News and Notes for Women

Madagascar, with the exception of a few years, has been ruled by women. A ladies' vigilance committee has been formed at Galt, Cal., for the extermination of dogs. Professor Schilling took his own daughter as the model for the great statue of Germania, to be unveiled next year by the emperor. Miss Lydia Poet, having gone through a regular examination has been admitted as a lawyer to the bar of Toronto, Italy, with eight votes to four. Miss Sarah Turner of New Haven, is asking for compensation for services during the war. She says she served as orderly in the 105th Ohio volunteers, being dressed in male attire and known as "Jim." She shows the scars of several wounds. A society lady is wearing upon her forehead pretty rings made from her deceased husband's hair, which was very curly. As her own hair is straight, and as gray hair is expensive, we have here an ingenious combination of the useful and economical, not to mention the tenderly sentimental. — *Boston Journal*. Mrs. L. May Wheeler writes from Minnesota: "Miss Mary M. Carey, young, fair and gentle is employed by the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba railroad at Nazata, as depot and express agent. She has charge of yard work and signals around the station. She is at her post from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m., much of the time. She is respected by all, and understands her duties thoroughly. She is the eldest of four orphan girls, who live and keep house together. We should like to add that the post is much too hard. From 6 o'clock in the morning till 10 at night is too much for any young person, male or female."

Fashion Notes.

Jerseys are generally worn. Dress buttons remain small. Hats are faced with dark velvet. Jersey ottoman cloths display great elasticity. Corsage bouquets for evening wear are larger than ever. Clothes-pins furnish the latest designs for lace pins. White dresses continue fashionable for children of all ages. Rolling turn-down collars are seen on some of the new dresses.

Corded woolen stuffs come in checks, plaids and even figures.

Some of the round skirts have no trimming except folds or bands of velvet.

A Begonia leaf in velvet, with a plush stalk for a handle, is a novelty in fans.

There is talk of a polonaise for winter wear with a full waist, to be worn with a belt.

White undressed kid gloves are worn with white dresses, so are tan-colored ones.

Very few of the new cloaks are cut evenly all round. They are slashed up either in the back or front.

Afternoon toilets for home wear are made of silk and cashmere combined and are cut with saque necks.

Wide velvet ribbon is fashionable for bonnet strings in lieu of the two narrow pairs worn during summer.

All basques, except those of the Jersey shape, are cut very short, with a point in front and fan-shaped back. The newest habit bodies are pointed in front and have coat-tails behind finished with buttons. These are made of cashmere and are worn with a gathered waistcoat of checkered silk.

In the matter of jewelry the palm may be awarded to spiders. Jet, sparkling cut silver and jeweled spiders may be seen by day and by night, in masses of lace, in bonnet strings, in bows.

Watteau drapery is no longer confined to the back of the garment, as French couturiers speak of Watteau vests that hang from the throat and are tied across the bust with velvet ribbons.

English travelling cloaks are furnished with straps and buttons by which they can be converted into a pretty dolman or a polonaise with paniers when the wearer quits the train and stop at hotels for dinner.

Collarettes of black satin, much beaded in jet, cut out in deep points with jet tassels or balls from the points, are dressy adjuncts to the toilette for ladies who always wear black. Loops of satin ribbon with a silk pompon at each end, sewn on to a collar band of satin, are novelties for younger ladies' wear. The loops are about two inches long and one inch and a half wide, not very close together, and the pompoms are small, about the size of a cherry.

Army Badges.

If from any cause whatsoever, any one happened to have lost his command, or to have strayed away from or been left behind by his regiment, he could usually tell what part of the army he was with.

An admirable and significant system of badge was adapted for the entire Union army. The different corps were distinguished by the "shapes," the different divisions by the "colors," of their several badges. Thus, the First corps wore a round badge, the Second a clover leaf, the Third a diamond, the Fifth a Maltese cross, the Sixth a Roman cross, the Ninth a shield, the Eleventh a crescent, the Twentieth a star, and so on. As each corps included three divisions, and as it was necessary to distinguish each of these from the other two, the three good old colors of the flag were chosen for the purpose—red, white and blue, red for the first division of each corps, white for the second, and blue for the third. Thus a round red badge meant First division, First corps; a round white, Second division, First corps; a round blue, Third division, First corps; and so on of the other corps. Division and corps headquarters could always be known by their flags bearing the badges of their respective commands. As the men were all obliged to wear the proper badges, of flannel or colored leather, on the top of their caps, one could always tell at a glance what part of the army of the Potomac he was in. In addition to this, some regiments were distinguished by some peculiarity of uniform. Our brigade was everywhere known as "The buck-tails," for we wore buck-tails on the sides of our caps.

Automatic Whistles.

A little instrument has been designed for automatically sounding the whistles of steamers in foggy weather. It consists of a brass case, containing clockwork, and which, by means of gear, works a valve, admitting steam below a piston connected to the whistle cock. Each rise and fall of the piston gives one blow of the whistle, the sound occurring after stated intervals, the duration of which is regulated by a governor in connection with the clockwork. After once starting by hand the instrument is self-winding, each stroke of the piston acting on the drum of the main spring by a rack and pawl motion, so as to entirely obviate all chances of failure to sound the whistle through inattention.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

According to *Zeitung*, a valuable fibre for textile purposes is obtainable from the young growth of the poplar tree, by a simple process of extraction.

According to Dr. H. Gradle, the progeny of one of the microscopic beings known as bacteria may, with plenty of food, amount to over fifteen millions within twenty-four hours.

Russian geologists consider the granites of the Dnieper to have been formed by the action of water instead of having had the igneous and eruptive origin usually assigned to such rocks.

Dr. A. Mayer says sourness is accelerated when milk is heated at 45 degrees, but retarded if heated for twenty-four hours at 55 degrees. In the latter case, however, the milk assumes a burned taste. For the preparation of condensed milk it is recommended to use partially-creamed milk, as it decomposes less rapidly.

It is denied by Semid Muhheim that the formation of part of the milk obtained from a cow begins with the process of milking, and that the udder is too small to give room for all the fluid to be obtained at one milking. On the contrary, the most thorough duet will leave some milk in the ducts, whence it is driven into the milk reservoirs by the newly-formed secretion pushing from behind, and which may be obtained after the lapse of an hour from the time the milking began.

The Granton quarry, on the east coast of Scotland, admits the tide, so that at high water the inlet has a surface area of about ten acres and a depth of sixty feet in some parts. The mouth of this inlet is to be so closed that fishes and other marine animals may be unable to pass through it, while the circulation of the sea water will remain unobstructed. The enclosure will form a natural aquarium, which is to be stocked with marine life of all kinds. A laboratory for students is to be placed on a barge anchored in the quarry, additional quarters being provided in a cottage on shore. This curious scientific aquarium is being established under the auspices of the Scottish Meteorological Society.

A Mexican "Gentleman."

A Mexican gentleman would no more be seen carrying a bundle of any size than he would a hod upon his back, says a Monterey correspondent. I am confidently informed, on good authority, that it is no special humiliation to carry a book, provided it is a small one, and is not wrapped in paper, but there they draw the line. Some gentlemen occasionally condescend to call at the post office for their mail, but generally all such onerous duties are delegated to the servants. Therefore the smallest family must maintain a retinue of "mozos" and "creados" (servants)—which perhaps is well in the grand economy of the whole, since the serfs far outnumber the masters in Mexico. A gentleman never travels from town to town, on business or pleasure, without one or more mozos in attendance. When he disports himself on horse or mule back, his mozo rides—just so many paces, no more, no less, behind him. In fact, every duty in life is done by his servants. The most high toned "F. F. V." in ante-bellum days was never more waited upon, and African slavery, in most respects, was preferable to this serfdom, for the blacks were at least sure of enough to eat, and of being cared for in sickness and old age. A Mexican criado considers himself in receipt of a princely income if paid "dos reales" (25 cents) per diem for his services, out of which he clothes himself and supports his family. Gentlemen who are not house-keeping, and therefore cannot feed their servants on the refuse of the table, frequently pay a valet six cents a day, which is sufficient to buy all the tortillas and red beans he requires for food. As for other necessities, he beds himself in his master's cast-off clothes, than which Solomon in all his glory was never so arrayed, depends upon his own light fingers for the indispensable cigarettes, and sleeps at night, rolled up in his sarape, on the hard stones of the court, with the blue sky for a counterpane.

What He Was In.

"Mr. White," said a lawyer to a witness in the box, "at the time these papers were executed you were speculating, were you not?" "Yes, sir." "You were in oil?" "I was." "And what are you in now?" "Bankruptcy and the poorhouse" was the solemn reply.

THE WINTER PALACE.

Magnificence of the Home of the Czar of All the Russias.

A letter to the *San Francisco Chronicle* from St. Petersburg says: Scarce as money is and poor as are the mass of people, there is enough to keep up a certain style, especially in the royal palaces and public buildings. Thanks to the courtesy of G. M. Hutton, the United States vice consul general, who was in charge of the consulate, we obtained permission to go over the winter palace, a favor not always granted to strangers. It is a huge building of brown stone and covers a large area, each of the sides (it is nearly square) measuring some 450 feet; but it is not more than ninety feet high, and the heavy cornice that forms an almost unbroken line round the top still further detracts from the height. Placed on this cornice are a large number of statues, which it requires no great stretch of imagination to conceive to be persons endeavoring to escape from destruction by the way of the roof, so jumbled up are they with the chimneys. The general effect of the building, which only dates from 1853, would be poor were it not for its size, which, to some extent, makes up for want of architectural grandeur. The interior is also devoid of any special architectural features, and there is no grand staircase. It is simply a huge square box, divided up into rooms, but some of these are truly magnificent, and when filled with the flower of Russian society, as they are at state receptions during the winter season, must look grand indeed. Peter's throne-room, with silver chandeliers, red tinted walls, and highly decorated dome; a hall, with gilded columns; the throne-room with its massive marble pillars and gold chandeliers and the plate-room, with crystal chandeliers and trophies of gold and silver plate against the walls and standing up to the very ceiling, are all imperial apartments in every sense. The succession of reception rooms and corridors is also most imposing, although the paintings of battle-scenes, where carnage and rapine are depicted in all their horrors with a monotony that becomes almost nauseating, seems to be hardly adapted to exclusive adornment of rooms intended for gay assemblages, and they must form a ghastly contrast to bright 'olets and glittering jewels, and fair womanly forms.

The visitor is escorted through hall after hall decorated with almost barbaric magnificence, and as each one is taken under the charge of a fresh attendant, attired in gorgeous imperial livery. The place, which at present is quite unoccupied—as the emperor resides at another palace some distance up the Newski prospect—fairly swarms with servants, who are all well dressed and courteous and extremely idle having apparently nothing else on earth to do except to stand or walk about in the empty apartments, which are seldom trodden by any other feet. Here and there is to be seen a superior officer, in full uniform, evidently in charge of some part of the building, and at one point we suddenly came upon two Cossack sentinels, armed to the teeth and standing motionless on each side of a doorway. This was the entrance to the room containing the crown jewels. Our attendant inserted a key, two heavy iron doors swung open, and we were ushered in. The room was almost bare, with the exception of some glass-topped cases, such as are used at museums for manuscripts and objects of interest which stood near the walls, and two central stands, but when the cloths which covered them were removed, the sight was dazzling. In the side cases was a collection of tiaras and agrettes and pendants, in brilliants and rubies and pearls. The central stands bore the crown regalia; the emperor's crown, a huge mass of diamonds of the purest water, surrounded by an extraordinary uncut ruby; the empress' crown, somewhat smaller, if possible more brilliant, and the sceptre, bearing on its top the celebrated Lazaroff diamond, of which the story is told that it was stolen from an Indian temple and carried off concealed in a cut in the leg of its purloiner. Compared with these Muscovite gems all others that I have ever looked on are dull and small. One thing in the picture-gallery of the palace was remarkable, and that is the absence of peculiarly Russian worthies whose portraits covered the walls. There were faces of strictly English type, Swedish faces in small numbers, and German faces of any quantity, but Russian faces none, and no one could guess that he was surrounded by the likenesses of men by whom the great northern power had been built up. It is very much the same to-day. The leading men here are quite different in appearance than the mass of the people, so different that they might well belong to another race. They have, many of them, fine features and noble forms.

Holland.

Holland, writes W. A. Croffut, was originally a sort of archipelago—a vast sea made shallow by the alluvium washed down from Central Europe through the changing channels of great streams. Its area was equal to that of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Here and there the sand and mud washed level with the surface of the water, and on this trembling mass the people clustered, and grew precarious food, and fought ever for firmer footing. Now they drove back the ocean; now the ocean drove them back and drowned them out. For many years they have slept on the battle-field with weapon in hand and armor on, never relaxing effort and never feeling for a moment secure. The incessant combat has made them a robust, patient, vigorous and overcoming people. But the victories have not been all on one side. Every ten years or so the savage sea would storm the fortifications and drown 10,000 or 20,000 of the farmers. Then, where the sand dunes were too low for defense, they built a great system of dykes, reaching far beneath the tides and far below, the wonder of the world. Still the brigand Meuse would steal through its walls, or the Zuider Zee would burst its prison, or the barbarian sea would leap its barriers, and there was a destructive inundation about once in seven years for centuries. Once 75,000 people were drowned, at another time 100,000—a slaughter three times as great as that at Waterloo. More than once since that great battle was fought 25,000 Hollanders have been swept away in a single overflow. But the survivors were obstinate. They drove back the sea and rebuilt their villages. They strengthened the defenses along the coast and erected windmills upon them, which incessantly pumped out the water and poured it into the sea. They put the rampant rivers in strait-jackets of solid masonry, divided them so they would be harmless and taught them docility. Then they constructed walls around the great lakes, and started windmills on them. In this way they have reclaimed more fertile land than there is in the state of Rhode Island. It was like draining lake George. An enterprise is now on foot to build a dyke across that great inland gulf, the Zuider Zee, pump the lower half dry and expose to the sun a vast area of arable land. It would be below the level of the sea, of course, but the Dutch farmers are accustomed to plow below the level of the keels of the ocean steamers off the coast. Significant, indeed, are the arms of Holland—a lion swimming in the sea.

Heavy Theft.

The St. Petersburg *Viedomosti* reports that the summer palace of the czar at Peterhof was a few nights ago entered by burglars, who successfully eluded the vigilance of the spies, detectives, soldiers, servants and dogs employed to guard the building, and having broken down doors, safes, cupboards and boxes, made off with a vast quantity of very valuable booty. Among the valuables stolen are a number of gold and silver medals, an immense amount of jewelry belonging to the empress, and the curious dishes in which the peasants brought bread and salt to the late czar at the time of the emancipation of the serfs. The police have since arrested about a score of suspicious persons, but it appears to be tolerably certain that the thieves are still at large.

Brave Officer.

"Old Benbow," whom the "beau Ben" of faithless Sally Brown "fought," as recorded by Hood, was an admiral. His last and most celebrated battle was fought off Carthage with Admiral Du Casse in 1702. He was left by his captains, who were afterward shot, to carry on the engagement alone, and he continued the fight, remaining on the quarter deck, although his leg had been shattered by a chain shot, until the French sheered off. The admiral of the enemy's fleet wrote him a letter three days after the battle, saying: "Sir—I had little hopes on Monday last but to have supped in your cabin; yet it pleased God to order it otherwise. I am thankful for it." Bendow died of his wounds in two months.

A Cool Wave.

The old gentleman met him at the door, almost before Hernandez' hand had left the bell-knob, and with one courtly gesture of his paternal hand waved the young man in the general direction of the front gate. Hernandez obeyed, with infinite tact and courtesy, remarking, as he moseyed down the deserted street, that he knew the signal service had predicted a cool wave from the northwest, but he had no idea it would get along so soon.

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

Elias Howe completed the first sewing machine in 1845.

A million bats are said to live in the dome of the court house at Brenham, Ga.

A distinguished Paris physician says that apple sauce is as nourishing as oatmeal or potatoes.

The town of Butler, Pa., uses natural gas for illumination and fuel. The whole town is supplied by one well.

The camels introduced into Arizona some years ago have so increased in numbers as to become troublesome. It is proposed to hunt them.

Red bananas come from the West Indian island of Baracoa. The yellow variety are grown on other islands of the West Indies and in Central America.

A novel sight in Iowa was the finding of hundreds of dead birds, foreign to that neighborhood, upon the roofs of houses and upon the streets. They are supposed to have been caught in the vortex of a cyclone.

A plant called Hoanghan, recently discovered at Tonquin, is said to possess the power of curing not only hydrophobia, but leprosy and the bite of reptiles. It is a violent poison to persons in good health.

A Kansas farmer found one cut worm, twenty striped bugs, and over a hundred chinch bugs in the crop of a quail which he shot, under the impression that it was pulling up corn, and after that he saved his powder.

One of the observances at a Servian marriage is compelling the bride to stand upon a table, with bread, water and wine in her hands, as a sign that she is to have those articles in her care, and to hold a piece of sugar in her mouth, in token that she must speak little, and that little sweetly.

A Cure for Howling Dogs.

Many worried and wakeful persons find in the howling of dogs by night, a persistent, widespread and most annoying irritation. The owners of dogs given to spend the hours of darkness in assiduous howling, appear generally to regard with a serene personal imperturbability the noisy nuisance which makes night hideous for their neighbors. Nevertheless, those who keep dogs, especially those who do so in popular places, ought to feel bound to take the simple precautions which alone are necessary to prevent a troublesome form of vexation, which is really a serious source of inconvenience and loss of rest, and possibly of loss of health to very many people. To the honest bark of a watch dog giving warning tongue upon suitable occasions no one will object, but the purposeless and unending howling of the chained curs which are especially prevalent in the suburbs of towns, is simply intolerable. It is not necessary to exterminate dogs to put an end to the annoying question. The nuisance is perfectly prevented by the adoption of a few simple and sensible measures which, so far from injuring the offending animals, tend to give them length of days by conducting to their contentment.

Those who have had experience in keeping dogs know that these dogs will not howl at night if they be comfortable. If dogs, instead of being cruelly chained up out of doors, in kennels which are often draughty and damp, be allowed to have their liberty by day and to lie within the house at night, they will generally sleep through the night in perfect quietness. Or, if it be necessary to keep a dog chained by day he ought to be let loose at night, when it will be found that he will retire quietly to his kennel and abstain from howling, especially if he be furnished with some fresh hay or a clean mat for a bed. In warm weather dogs often howl simply because they want water. Many dogs howl at night because they are kept constantly chained both night and day. This is a common and most reprehensible form of cruelty; dogs so treated are sure to be restless and irritable and can scarcely be healthy.

Not Fond of Farming.

Lung, a Portland (Oregon) Chinaman, abandoned the laundry business, in which he had made some money, and undertook to run a farm. He came back to town the other day looking a little seedy. One of his old patrons meeting him, said: "Well Lung, how did you make it at farming?" "Not much good," replied Lung, sadly. "I sowed wheat and worm he come catchee some. By me wheat grow up and plenty squirrel come and catch heap. Then leaping machine come cut him and cost too much, and when thasher man come, take all wheat pay him, and his gang eat up my tlee fat hog and cuss me 'cause I not give 'em pie tlee time every day. I no likee farm any more."