

### FINE HAND SEWING.

A GREAT DEMAND FOR GIRLS WHO CAN DO GOOD WORK.

One of the Oldest and Most Honored of Callings Suffering for Lack of Workers—Good Wages for First Class Work.

"There is so much talk nowadays about woman's work and the few avenues open to her, and yet one of the oldest and most honored of callings is suffering for want of workers," said a well known lady the other day, whose connection with the Young Women's Christian association, the Women's exchange and other similar institutions has brought her into contact with workers of all classes—teachers, dressmakers, musicians, nurses, saleswomen, factory and shop women, and all the great host who earn their living by doing something which is considered "not menial."

"I mean hand sewing," said the speaker. "I have constant calls to supply the first class plain sewers, but very few are on our list. By this term I do not mean those who can hem sheets or table cloths, or anything of that kind only, but girls who can hem stitch and tuck, put on embroidery and lace, and do all kinds of sewing necessary in the making of underwear, baby linen and fine bed linen. Such work requires a dainty hand, and is an art that the gentlemen of a past generation put among their accomplishments. We find very few girls fitted for this work, and yet there is a large demand for it."

As is well known, people of wealth in New York do not care for machine sewing. Every article of underwear and all the household linen, and especially the children's garments, are all hand sewn. Many families employ a seamstress by the month for this purpose, but there must be a thousand others who would employ one by the day or week.

A young lady who has made her living by hand sewing for the past two years was sought out and interviewed on the subject. She was found in a neat little flat on the east side living with her sister, who teaches in one of the public schools, and with her mother. At first she was loath to talk on the subject, but afterward consented to tell her success.

"I always thought I should like to be a teacher, but my people were not able to keep me at school long enough, and I was kept at home by illness also. When I found out that I must earn my living some other way I applied for a position in a store and got it; but I was home ill in two months. I could not stand for so many hours. What to try next I did not know; but a kind friend said, 'Why not do sewing? you saw how beautifully.' So I advertised to do all kinds of fine hand sewing, and also applied at the Women's exchange, and soon I had work. Now I have more than I can do."

"How much do you make at it?" "Well, more than my sister, who has been teaching for three years. I charge two dollars a day when I work at people's houses, and by the piece when I work at home. I confine myself almost entirely to making fine underwear and baby outfits, and my mother earns considerable doing embroidery for the same garments. Many people employ me who once bought all such things in Paris. They find that it can be done here for half the expense. Frequently they bring me an imported garment and ask me to make a half dozen like it."

"I do not think working on fine white cambric and linen half so injurious to the eyes and lungs as general dressmaking. I am trying to induce my sister to give up teaching and do work similar to mine. I expect to go to Newport this summer, and am engaged by five different families. I shall go from one house to the other and keep all the fine, white dresses and lingerie in order, and make new ones when desired. I am always treated nicely, and I think going among refined people is better than teaching in a public school or working in a store."

ROOM AT THE TOP. This young lady is evidently at the top of the ladder at hand sewing, and it would seem as though there was plenty of room for others on the different rungs. From seventy-five cents to \$1.50 are the usual prices paid to hand sewers, and this, of course, includes meals. There are a number of women who earn a living by doing the family darning and mending. In all households of any size this is no light task; and three families would give many a woman constant employment; \$1.50 a week would not be missed by thousands of New York housekeepers, who would make double that amount in knowing that all the shirts were supplied with buttons and the stockings nicely darned.

A higher branch is the making of bed and table linen and keeping them in repair. This is much neglected in most households, and as there is generally no one on hand competent to mend fine linen, it is used torn as it comes from the laundry, and much costly damage is done for want of a little care.

"There is such a fashion at present for everything hand made," said the amiable president of one of the various employment agencies connected with institutions in this city, "that I think 3,000 or 4,000 women could earn a competency by doing hand sewing. We have had several demands of late from would-be employers, but were unable to find enough neat and expert hand sewers. The trouble is that very few girls are taught to sew by hand as they were some twenty years ago, and caters, cussies, fellings and such terms are hardly known to them. The work has its drawbacks, of course, but as other fields seem overstocked it is strange that more have not come into this one."—New York Journal.

Saved by a Reduced Salary. "My life was saved by having my salary reduced," said a robust, middle aged man yesterday. There was a natural expression of surprise and he explained as follows: "Ten years ago I was under bookkeeper for Riegel & Co. at \$1,300 a year. Something happened—no matter what—and I was thrown out. I looked around for about two months and then went to work at \$750. At that time I lived at Sixth and Market, was thin and weak and couldn't walk a mile to save a dollar. At least I thought I couldn't, but when my wages were reduced so fearfully I had to economize, and I did so by walking home on fair days from Tenth and Market to Sixteenth street—say five miles. It nearly killed me at first, and then I began to enjoy it. In three months I was walking both ways, and I've kept it up ever since. Ten miles a day, summer and winter, unless during a hard storm, and look at me! One hundred and eighty pounds, appetite of an ostrich and not a day's sickness in ten years."—Philadelphia Call.

Big Bills for Dry Goods. The head of one of the great New York dry goods firms was asked the other day if he could give any idea of the yearly aggregate of the bills of his lowest customers. Twenty five thousand dollars, he said, one woman had spent with him within a twelve-month, and several others had grown poorer to the extent of \$20,000 or \$15,000. Thirty thousand dollars is not unheard of as the price of the dresses and toilet equipments of an extravagant city's extravagant dames.—Public Opinion.

### THE ORIGIN OF GEOMETRY.

The Discovery of Its Principles Ascribed to the Ancient Egyptians.

The origin of this science is ascribed to the Egyptians, who, having their landmarks annually washed away by inundations, in efforts to devise a plan for readily restoring them, discovered the principles of geometry. From them Thales, of Miletus, one of the "seven wise men" of Greece, is said to have learned the elements of the science. He introduced it into Greece about 600 B. C. Pythagoras, half a century later, having also learned the science of the Egyptians, enriched it by the proposition which still bears his name, to wit, that the square described on the hypotenuse of a right angled triangle is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides.

Plato, about 300 B. C., invented the study of conic sections, and through these and the use of the analytic method of demonstration he made great advances in the science. The elements of geometry were compiled by Euclid, 280 B. C. This author introduced a device of reasoning that has been found very useful where neither direct proof (the synthetic method) or the analytic method could be readily used; it consists in proving the truth of a proposition by assuming it contrary to truth and showing that this implies a logical absurdity. Apollonius was a geometer who lived about 230 B. C., and whose work in the science has not been surpassed by the most brilliant achievements of others since. Archimedes, a contemporary of Apollonius, first inscribed polygons in circles. Hipparchus, in the second century before Christ, and Ptolemy, in the second century after Christ, applied mathematics to astronomy.

From about 550 to 1000 A. D., during the darkness of the Middle Ages, the science made no advance and was little studied. Vista, who lived from 1540 to 1603, revived the ancient geometry. The demonstrations of Kepler, Roberval and Pascal in the seventeenth century greatly stimulated geometrical investigation. But to Descartes, who published a volume of geometrical problems in 1637, the world owes chiefly the invention of analytic of modern geometry. Newton discovered the differential calculus in 1667. In 1799 the first descriptive geometry was published in Paris by Professor Monge.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Big Circus Pay Rolls. The salary list of a good sized circus runs anywhere from \$600 to \$1,600 a day. Forepaugh's pay roll calls for the latter amount, and the list of the Barnum show is claimed to be even higher. These figures include the pay of performers, agents, hostlers, canvasmen, grooms and trainmen, or "razor backs," as the latter are facetiously called. Of course, the performers get the most money. Last season the Barnum people paid an English trio of trapeze performers, Lola, Lola and Sylvester—the latter a man—\$250 a week and their expenses. Forepaugh pays William Showles, the bareback rider, \$250 a week, and yet has some equestrians in his employ who draw as low as \$25 or \$30 weekly.

Acrobats are always well paid when their act is graceful and diverting. They generally travel in teams of two and three and do what are known as "brother acts." The three Lamartine brothers, for instance, draw \$150 a week from Forepaugh's pay check. Many of these performers do two or three different acts, and, indeed, they tackle almost anything from a flying trapeze to a horizontal bar, while nearly all the good tumblers and leapers are easily and advantageously used in "the grand tumbling and finale" so familiar to circus goers. There are many groups of performers who turn themselves into "families," and by doing a daring act of some novel kind are often able to get \$200 or \$300 a week. Clowns are exceedingly plentiful, and may be engaged for as low as \$20 a week. Still, good jesters like Billy Burke, Johnny Purvis, Charley Madden and Billy Conard get \$75 a week.—Boston Herald.

Got There Nevertheless. A city hall official was standing on the Woodward avenue steps of that structure yesterday when a man who had his hand on his stomach came up and said: "Beg pardon, but you have the look of a physician—an eminent physician." "Oh, I'm no doctor," was the reply. "Sorry for that, but perhaps you can give me some information. What are the symptoms of poisoning?" "Have you been poisoned?" "Well, I have queer feelings in my stomach." "Is it a burning sensation?" "No." "Do you have spasmodic pains?" "Not yet." "Feel shivery, with a great thirst and heat?" "No, nothing like that. I feel a complete giddiness for about a foot up and down here, and every time I think of ham and eggs my mouth waters." "Why, that may be hunger." "I shouldn't be a bit wonder if it was, being I haven't eaten anything for thirty-six hours." The official uttered a "Humph!" looked the man over three or four times, and then handed him twenty cents and said: "Better get some new scheme. It takes too long to come to the point in this."—Detroit Free Press.

Collected the Kisses. The other day while a young deputy postmaster was engaged at his work in stepped one of our bashful maidens of sweet 16 with a money order which she desired to have cashed. She handed it, with a bashful smile, to the official, who, after closely examining it, gave her the money she called for. At the same time he asked her if she had read what was on the margin of the order. "No, I have not," she replied, "for I cannot make it out. Will you please read it to me?" The deputy read as follows: "I send you \$3 and a dozen kisses." Glancing at the bashful girl he said: "Now I have paid you the money and I suppose you want the kisses." "Yes," she said, "if he has sent me any kisses I want them too." It is hardly necessary to say that the balance of the order was promptly paid, and in a scientific manner at that, and omitted satisfaction to the maid, for she went out with the order, and she had never encountered before.—Easton (Pa.) Argus.

The First American Flag. S. S. Stafford, of Baltimore, says that Samuel Bayard Stafford, of Prince George's county, Md., has bequeathed to him the first American flag ever made, which was hoisted on the Bonhomme Richard at the time of the battle with the British frigate Serapis. The flag was the property of Lieut. James Stafford, the father of S. S. Stafford, and the grandson of Col. Jacob Stafford, who fought under Stark at Bennington.—Chicago Tribune.

A Mythical Church. For years New Yorkers have been contributing to the support of a "little colored church" supposed to exist in their midst. An investigation showed the church was a myth, and the superstitious pastor, who has been living on this bounty, has been sent to the island for three months.—Chicago Times.

### Harrisburg

PATCHING UP THE CAPITOL.

Speaker Boyer and the Governor seem to have a pretty clear field for their bill to spend \$500,000 for building a new library and for patching up the present Capitol building. It is a fact beyond dispute that but for the knowledge that Governor Beaver is disposed to veto any bill to erect a new Capitol, the measure which Mr. Boyer has proposed at the instance of the Governor would not have the ghost of a chance. The speaker has eloquently advocated his bill upon the floor of the house. If the general drift of opinion as disclosed in private conversation can be taken as a guide, the only popular feature of Mr. Boyer's bill is that which provides a fire-proof library. If it were not for the fear that this valuable collection of books is constantly in jeopardy there would be no chance whatever for a bill to rearrange the present buildings. Governor Beaver is in a hurry to pay off the eight million and odd dollars of debt which this State owes, and his desire that the whole debt shall be liquidated before his term shall expire so that he can "point with pride" to the fact that he leaves the Executive chair without one dollar of indebtedness against the Commonwealth is the secret of his opposition to many measures now pending in the Legislature.

GOVERNOR BEAVER'S POLICY. The Governor seems to desire above all things to economize and to pay off the State debt as rapidly as possible. A friend of his says that the Governor will feel very proud if he can leave the Executive chair and a clean balance sheet at the same time. Colonel Quay, however, who has written that he is tired of fishing in Florida, and that he proposes to tell his friends in the Legislature what they ought to do, is not in harmony with this policy. Colonel Quay, if he be properly represented, wants a new Capitol, and he is in a hurry to pay off the very small debt which the State owes. Whether the new Capitol, the Billingsly bill, the High License bill or his own convenience be hurrying Mr. Quay from the salubrious and balmy retreats of Florida the fact is that his return is looked upon here as almost as important as if it were a return of the Legislature itself after a long vacation. Colonel Quay is beyond doubt the one man who has the power, or appears to have, of deciding beyond appeal what the Legislature shall or shall not do.

AN OLD WAR CLAIM. The House has passed a bill for the payment to Henry Mullen, of Lancaster county, for his services as first Lieutenant in the United States Army from June 1864 to May 1865; and thereby hangs a tale. Mr. Mullen has a claim at Washington for nearly two decades for pay which he alleges was due for the period referred to. The National government has two or three times passed and reconsidered bills for relief, and finally intimated that if the State would adjust the claim, find it a proper one and pay it the National Government would reimburse the State therefore. Mullen enlisted in April, 1862, in the Fifth Regiment of the Reserve Corps. He re-enlisted in the field in 1864. In 1864 he was made Lieutenant of Company A, 19th Regiment. On account of movements in the field the notice of his appointment did not reach Governor Curtin until after the entire regiment was captured on the 19th of August, 1864, in front of Petersburg. Lieutenant Mullen could not be mustered in until after his exchange and his return to his regiment in May 1865. The interest attached to this claim is that it has been persistent before Congress for twenty years, and now, for the first time, has been recognized by the State.

A lady who resides in Nyack has a girl in her employ fresh from some region far removed from the theatre. Thinking to give the girl a grand treat, and knowing that she had never seen a theatre the lady purchased a ticket for a play at the opera house. The girl went but returned before 9 o'clock. What is the matter? Did you not like it?" asked the mistress. "Oh, I liked it ever so much! it's a fine painting." "But," inquired her mistress, "why have you returned so soon? Surely you didn't see it all." "Yes ma'am I did. I went in and sat down and looked at the large picture hanging up in front. People kept coming in, and pretty soon there was quite a crowd all looking at the picture. They took it away and some men and women went talking up there where it had been at our some, thing that didn't concern me, so I got up and came home. But I enjoyed the picture."

—10 cents for a pound of good cotton —Gardners.

### Railroads.

Table with columns: Train Name, Direction, Time Table, Station, Arrival/Departure Times.

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