

FRIGHTFUL CALAMITY.

AN EXPLOSION THAT SCATTERED DEATH AND FIRE.

Dynamite-Laden Ship Blows Up at the Wharf in Santander, Spain—Scores and Scores of People Perish—About 165 Bodies Recovered—Many Houses Wrecked.

A terrible explosion occurred a few nights ago at Santander, Spain. The ship Cabo Machicao, with a cargo of dynamite, was at a quay. In some way she caught fire. A large crowd soon gathered, and the danger of the ship's cargo, made no attempt to drive them away. Suddenly there was a terrific explosion that shook the city to its foundations. An official despatch says that the bodies of 165 persons have been recovered. The search is still in progress. Many persons were missing. About 190 persons were under treatment for injuries received. The damage to property amounted to several million dollars.

The vessel was discharging 2000 tons of iron and many barrels of petroleum and flour and several wire cables. The captain had declared only twenty cases of dynamite, otherwise he would not have been allowed to dock. The fire started at 3 o'clock a.m. in the coal bunkers. The customs officers and police hastened to remove the twenty cases of dynamite, which were soon landed at a safe distance from the vessel. A tug was then chartered to tow the Cabo Machicao seaward.

Misguided desperate efforts had been made to quench the flames. The captain and crew of the steamer Alfonso XII boarded the burning vessel to help fight the flames. They worked for an hour and a half without success. At the end of that time the fire reached the petroleum.

Then came a series of awful explosions as the flames went from barrel to barrel of petroleum until they reached the contraband dynamite. The tug had just been moored alongside the ship and many townspeople had gone aboard either to satisfy their curiosity or to help extinguish the fire. Then came the explosion of the dynamite.

All on board the Cabo Machicao, and many along the deck were blown to atoms. The tug vanished. The quay, with its enormous crowd of spectators, rose in the air. The people were scattered in every direction, into the sea and up on the land.

Firetrucks fell in showers over the sea and for a radius of a mile and a half. The Cabo Machicao's anchor was hurled 800 yards, and fell on the balcony of a house, which it completely wrecked. It then sank deep in the pavement below.

The shock was felt in every part of the city. Houses were blown to foundations, and more than 100 were set on fire by falling firebricks. The destruction in the harbor was equally appalling.

The launch of the steamer Alfonso XII, which was lying alongside, and which contained the crew and many townspeople, was hurled into the sea and smashed to pieces. The survivors ashore fled shrieking, leaving the women adjoined the gray steam with dead and dying and mangled remnants of human bodies. Wherever the terrified fugitives turned they met only frightful destruction.

Horror was added to horror in the wrecked and burning buildings, from which came a continuous cry for help. Many of the fugitives were thrown down and trampled upon. Numbers are said to have lost their reason. The people were too panic-stricken to think of anything but saving their own or relatives' lives, and ignored their burning property.

When night fell the sky luridly reflected the fire burning in the parts of the city. Mendez Nunez street, running parallel with the quay, was ablaze from end to end. In the blinding light and heat the heads of rescuers worked to extricate the dead and wounded.

On every side were scenes of indescribable confusion and overwhelming grief. The fire burned unceasingly throughout the night. Block after block sank in ruins. Every street near the water front was filled with the noise of crashing buildings.

The people were terror-stricken. Thousands abandoned their homes and fled to the fields or outlying villages. Others remained to search frantically among the heaps of ruins and half-burned bodies for their lost friends or relatives. Children whose parents were dead wandered weeping through the streets, calling for help.

Santander is a fine port in Spain, on the Bay of Biscay. It contains 50,000 inhabitants and has a usually fine public building for a place of its size. It is a busy and thriving town, and has derived much of its importance from its trade with the West Indies and South America.

POISON IN THE PORTER.

Mother and Daughter Die of It, the Father Dies From Shock.

The wife and daughter, Margaret, of John J. Toole, of Boston, Mass., drank part of a bottle of porter and dropped dead almost instantly. A post-mortem examination revealed the fact that they had swallowed enough cyanide of potassium to have killed ten persons.

Two sons and a daughter have been arrested, charged with the murder, but the evidence which the police have thus far secured against them is not strong.

That night Mr. Toole learned for the first time of the death of his wife and daughter, and in a few minutes he, too, was dead. The shock killed him.

The scene of the tragedy is 88 West Third street, South Boston. Mr. Toole is a piano polisher, and had lived in that house nearly thirty years.

He had reared a family of five sons and three daughters, and had acquired property worth about \$20,000. He was one of the most respectable citizens in that part of town. His wife had been ill for some time, and in accordance with her physician's orders had been in the habit of drinking a glass of porter every night before retiring.

One night she asked her daughter Mary to give her son Michael some money to purchase a bottle of porter. The lad went to George Walker's liquor store and procured it. Mary Toole met him at the foot of the stairs and carried the bottle to her mother's room. It is a mystery how the poison got in the bottle.

LATER NEWS.

The Sheriff, Under-Sheriff and Superintendent of Police of Buffalo, N. Y., have been subpoenaed to testify in an investigation of legal acts by public officers on Election Day.

NATURAL GAS has been struck near Grand Junction, Col.

A CASE with a dynamite bomb and a revolver in his hands, who called on Myron T. Erick, of Cleveland, Ohio, and demanded \$5,000, was promptly knocked down by that gentleman and forced to beat a retreat after an ineffectual shot.

THE UNITED STATES have given Admiral Avello, of Brazil, to understand that his fighting up to date has not raised him above the level of a common rebel, and refuse to recognize him as a belligerent.

FIFTEEN cities near Central Cuba have declared against Spanish rule and are in open rebellion against the Government.

ECHOES OF THE ELECTION.

RESULTS OF THE BALLOTING IN VARIOUS STATES.

The Republicans Carried New York State by a Good Sized Plurality and Elected Bartlett Over Maynard by a Big Majority—Massachusetts and Ohio Go Republican.

November elections for State officers were held in eleven States. They were New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota.

New York elected a Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, Attorney-General, State Engineer, Judge of the Court of Appeals, and an entire Legislature, besides Delegates to the Constitutional Convention. The Republicans elected their entire ticket, from Secretary of State down, by the estimated majority of 30,000. Bartlett (Republican) was elected to the Court of Appeals bench over Maynard by the plurality of from 100,000 to 110,000. In all the interior towns and cities the Republicans secured great gains, especially in Erie County, the home of Lieutenant Governor Sheehan. The Republicans recaptured both branches of the Legislature, in the Senate they have a majority of six, three being Democrats and thirteen Republicans. In the Assembly there will be seventy-seven Republicans and fifty-one Democrats. New York City gave 66,000 majority for the head of the Democratic ticket, but Mr. Maynard's majority did not reach 33,000. The entire Tammany ticket was elected by a big majority. In Brooklyn, Schieren (Republican) was elected Mayor over Boody (Democrat) by a plurality that will exceed 31,000. The Board of Aldermen is Republican by eleven to eight. The Republicans swept Kings County, electing their county ticket by a plurality of about 8500. William E. Gaynor (Ind. Democrat) was elected a Justice of the Supreme Court over Thomas E. Fearnall (Democrat). Republican State ticket has a plurality of about 12,500 in Brooklyn and 7000 in Kings County. In Gravesend, McKane's district, the Democratic State ticket received 3506 votes against 162 for the Democratic ticket. The Republicans also have a large majority of delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

New Jersey elected eight members of the Senate, from Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Monmouth, Salem, Somerset, Union and Warren counties, and a full Assembly. The Republicans made almost a clean sweep. They captured the State Assembly, which was last year Democratic by ten majority, by twenty-two majority. They also carried the Senate by one majority, and have a plurality of joint ballot of twenty-three. In Hudson County, where there is a normal Democratic majority of 4500, they elected their candidate for Sheriff by more than 3500 majority. In Essex County they elected their county ticket by a plurality of 1000. In no less than a dozen counties they wrestled the political control from the Democrats.

Massachusetts elected a Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney-General, eight Justices of the Court and a Legislature. There were four tickets—Democratic, Republican, Prohibition and People's. The Republicans carried the State. The plurality for Governor was Fred T. Greenhalge (Republican) over John E. Russell (Democrat) was thirty-four thousand. The entire Republican State ticket was elected by practically the same vote, and the Legislature will have a few more Republican members than the last Legislature had. There was a net Republican gain in year of 4741, and corresponding gains in the other cities and manufacturing centres. Cambridge, Governor Russell's home, gave a Republican gain of 1500.

Pennsylvania elected a State Treasurer and a Justice of the Supreme Court. The vote was light and resulted in the election of Samuel L. Jackson, Republican, of Armstrong County, for State Treasurer, and D. Newlin Fell, Republican, of Philadelphia, for Justice of the Supreme Court, by 129,000 majority.

Ohio elected a Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Supreme Court Judge, Attorney-General, Food Commissioner, Member of the Board of Public Lands and a Legislature. There were three tickets—Democratic, Republican and Prohibition. Governor McKinley and the entire Republican ticket was re-elected by a plurality which exceeds 82,000, and may reach 85,000. The Legislature is over two-thirds Republican in both branches.

Iowa elected a Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Justice of the Supreme Court, Railroad Commissioner, Superintendent of Public Instruction and a Legislature which will elect a United States Senator. There were three tickets—Democratic, Republican and Prohibition. The Republicans were successful by the election of Jackson for Governor and the remainder of their ticket by 51,000 plurality. The Legislature is also Republican by a large majority. In many districts have gone Republican for the first time in ten or twelve years.

Maryland elected a Legislature, five Judges and a Comptroller. The Democratic ticket was elected by 20,000 plurality. The only ticket contest was for Comptroller, Mayor Latrobe, Democrat, won a notable victory for re-election in Baltimore over two candidates.

Virginia elected a Governor, a Lieutenant-Governor, Attorney-General and a Legislature which will choose a United States Senator. There were two tickets—Democratic and Populist. The Legislature is heavily Democratic. The Populists failed to make gains in the cities as they expected. The Democrats are sure of the United States Senatorship and also of their State Court of Appeals. O'Ferrall (Democrat) was elected Governor by 40,000 majority.

Kentucky elected a Legislature which will choose a United States Senator. The Democrats had almost no opposition. The Legislature is overwhelmingly Democratic and United States Senator Lindsay will be re-elected. Louisville re-elects its Democratic Mayor, Henry S. Tyler, in spite of the opposition of the other candidates.

South Dakota elected three Supreme Court and eight Circuit Court Judges. The Republicans elected their State judicial ticket by seventy-five per cent. of the 40,000 votes polled.

Wisconsin elected an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The contest resulted in a Republican victory by the election of a Supreme Justice and two Regents of the State University.

Cook county, Illinois (Chicago), voted only for Judges of the Circuit and Superior Courts and County Commissioner. Judge Gary, before whom the Anarchists were tried, is elected by 8000 majority. The Democrats won in the other contests.

Michigan Griffin (Democrat) is elected to Congress in the First District over Stone (Republican).

At a meeting held at Stockton, Cal., committee by real estate owners, a committee was appointed to draft a petition asking the Board of Supervisors and City Council to order a bond election in order to vote \$350,000 bonds to build a ship canal through the tule land from the Stockton Channel to a point on the San Joaquin River twelve miles below Stockton. The canal would drain a large area of valuable land.

A BEAR shot last week at Newcastle, South Dakota, in the Black Hills, proved to be a grizzly, weighing about 750 pounds and in good condition. There are plenty of cinnamon bear in that part of the country, but a grizzly has not been seen for fifteen years.

Of 10,000 babies cared for in the nursery of the Children's Building, at the World's Fair, a three-month-old boy was abandoned.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 19.

Lesson Text: "Imitation of Christ," Eph. iv., 20-32—Golden Text: Eph. iv., 32—Commentary.

20. "But ye have not so learned Christ." He has just been speaking of the Gentiles, who with darkness in their hearts, alienated from the life of God through ignorance and blindness, walk in the vanity of their mind, and then he adds this word to the main text. The Christian's walk or life is to be most marked and manifestly contrasted with that of the worldling; who are to walk not as other Gentiles, but worthy of our vocation in love as children of light, and circumspectly (chapter iv., 17, 18, and chapter v., 2, 8, 15).

21. If so be that ye have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus. We hear Christ and are taught by Him when we hear His word either directly from the Bible or through His servants, even as He said, "He that heareth you heareth Me, and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me" (Luke x., 16). We must, however, see that all messages are according to the book, and now more than ever must watch for the Messenger (Isa. viii., 20).

22. That ye put off concerning the former conversation, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. Or as in Col. iii., 9, "Put off the old man with his deeds." This old man, or carnal mind or flesh or body of death, as it is variously called, is not subject to the law of God, and never can be. It is said to have been crucified with Christ, and we are to reckon it dead and have done with it (Rom. vii., 7; vi., 6, 11). It is the "I, myself," part of us whose acquaintance we are to out forever and know no more.

23. "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind." The new birth, by which we become children of God, is the reception of something we never had before, even Christ Himself into our hearts (John i., 12, 13). He will fill the temple, our bodies, with Himself and His Spirit, and so transform us by the renewing of our minds, conforming us to His own image (Rom. vi., 13; xii., 1, 2; viii., 29).

24. "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." It is henceforth to be "not I, but Christ, who liveth in me," for we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before prepared that we should walk in them, these works being wrought by "not I, but the grace of God with us" (Gal. ii., 20; Eph. ii., 10; 1 Cor. xv., 10). We were chosen in Him that we should be holy (chapter i., 4).

25. "Let us speak the truth in love, as we have spoken every man truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another." Our business here is the building up of the body of Christ, and this will never be accomplished by lying, but by speaking the truth in love. We are to know Him and yet not keep His commandments, or to say we love God and yet not love our brethren (1 John ii., 4, iv., 20). As to deceit and lying, read Ps. cv., 7.

26. "Be ye angry and wrath, but sin not in your anger, and be ye not angry with your neighbor, for we are members one of another." It must be possible, then, to be angry without committing sin, and yet in verse 31 we are to put away all anger. It is a different word in the Greek in each case, but neither word seems to indicate a great or long-lasting anger. It is to be from him. Therefore, as one has said, never offer him a chair and consent to talk the matter over with him, but refer him instantly to your Advocate and hold no parley with him (1 John ii., 1). Resist him with the sword of the Spirit, which is the shield of faith (Eph. vi., 17; 1 Pet. v., 8, 9; Eph. vi., 11, 16, 17).

27. "Let him that stole steal no more, but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." The eighth commandment (Ex. xx., 15) is emphatic upon the first clause. The second is supported by Acts xx., 35, where Paul says, "I have showed you all things, how that no laboring ought to support the weak." Observe why we ought to labor, not to supply for our own support, but to have something for the needy.

28. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." The words of our mouth are the meditation of our hearts are to be acceptable unto Him (Ps. xiv., 14). Foolish talking and jesting are not becoming (chapter v., 4), and all idle words must be given account of (Matt. iii., 36). Who is sufficient for these things? He says, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

29. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Unbelievers may resist the Spirit (Acts vii., 51), but believers may grieve or quench the Spirit (Eph. iv., 30). The Holy Spirit and Spirit of truth; therefore anything impure or deceitful must grieve Him. If He fill us (chapter v., 18) He will make us as sensitive to evil as the eye is to the least particle of dust. He is our witness and our comforter, and He will show us the things of Christ and guide us into all truth (John xvi., 13, 14). He jealously desires us to be all for Jesus (Jas. iv., 5, margin).

30. "Let all bitterness and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice." Perhaps we are most apt to sin manifestly in the line of evil speaking. See Jas. iv., 17, with Zech. vii., 10; viii., 17. But bitterness in the heart is the most insidious, and the Lord searches out our hearts and our understandings all the imaginations of our thoughts (1 Chron. xviii., 9). We can only trust Him to give us clean and pure hearts and then to keep them so, for we cannot, but He is able.

31. "Wash, Lord, and purify my heart, An' 'tis clean as every part." An' 'tis clean as every part. For the sake of the name that I can do.

32. "And be kind one to another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." The love of God in Christ, to us should constrain us to love others. Only thus can we prove our love to God (1 John iv., 19; John xv., 12). As God was manifest in Christ, so Christ should be manifest in us, to the glory of God and the good of others. Since God has forgiven us our great debt we should surely forgive the little debt of our brethren, the greatest wrong of others to us and our sins against God? Believing that God hath forgiven us (John ii., 12) and that we are sealed (chapter i., 14) will enable us freely to forgive others.—Lesson Helper.

Destruction of Seals by Poachers. Agent Tingle, of the North American Commercial Company, who has returned to Washington from the Seal Islands, estimates that during the last season poachers captured 90,000 sealskins, and in doing so destroyed without securing them 500,000 seals. Poachers confine their operations to pelagic sealing, shooting them in the open sea, and the deaths of those killed sink before they can be reached. The Commercial Company took all that were allowed by their contract, 7500, but these were slaughtered at the rookeries.

Death of the Smallest Man. Major Decker, the "smallest man living," is dead. He was forty-four years old, weighed seventy-five pounds, and was thirty-two inches high. He died in Chicago a few days ago, after an illness of two days. It is supposed his death was due to chronic alcoholism.

UNITED STATES MARINES.

A CORPS ESTABLISHED IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE NAVY.

It Costs Nearly a Million Dollars a Year—Daily Routine at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

It was the lack of military qualities in the sailor that led to the formation, in the first days of the navy, of the United States Marine Corps. The passing of a hundred years has not changed the character of Jack Tar. While formidable in impetuous assaults with cutlasses or sabres, he has not the steadiness and discipline necessary in sustained conflicts and in the effective use of the rifle, and so with the recent growth of the navy the marines have come to constitute one of its most important branches.

The corps is maintained by an annual appropriation from Congress. This appropriation last year was \$900,000, which covers the wages, clothing and living expenses of the 2500 men who compose the body. The marines are useful in times of peace for police duty in the navy yards and on shipboard, but it is when the country is engaged in war that they are expected to justify their existence in Uncle Sam's navy. They are sea soldiers. If the time comes when the white battle ships of the United States will engage with the men-of-war of a hostile power it will be the duty of the marines to man the rapid-firing Gatling guns, fill vacancies at the other guns, scour the enemy's decks from the tops, the poop and forecabin with their rifles, cover boarding parties with their fire, and repel boarders with fixed bayonets.

Should the enemy gain a foothold they must gather at the mainmast, so as to command the deck. They must make the small arms effective and disable the enemy's men, while the great guns, with which the marines have nothing to do, except in case of emergency, play havoc with his ship. But all naval fighting is not done on the decks of men-of-war. The surprise of camps or posts, and the blockade of forts, render shore operations necessary. Picked men are sent with the attacking sailors, known as pioneers, and the rest of the marines form a supporting column to cover the retreat and embarkation of the sailors in case the undertaking fails.

Every navy yard in the United States has its detachment of marines. The barracks in the Brooklyn yard, however, are the most popular, and as the marines have their choice of stations when they return from a cruise, the largest number are quartered here. The full complement of men is 300. The thing which first attracts the attention of the visitor entering the part of the yard set aside for the marines is a very long and narrow building of gray brick, with a piazza running the whole length in front, shaded by a line of trees. This is the barracks, the living quarters of the men in neat uniforms who pace slowly to and fro on guard, or lounge on the benches under the trees. The parade ground, ordinarily green, but now brown with drought, stretches out in front. In a group of trees to the left, with a garden behind, is the house of the Commandant of Marines, and at about the same distance to the right are the quarters of the other officers. Each of these is approached by a stone walk canopied and shaded by rows of pear trees.

There are men from all stations of life in the Marine Corps. In the ranks may be found well educated men, college graduates even, who have become reduced by misfortune or billious habits, country boys who came to New York to seek their fortunes and found want instead, and men who have lost their occupations. They all find a place of refuge in the Marine Corps, provided they are physically and mentally sound, at least five feet six inches in height, between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five, unmarried and of good habits.

With the frequent bugle calls and the marines crossing and recrossing the parade ground, there is always life about the barracks during the hours of daylight, but at 10:30 in the morning, the hour of dress parade, when the marines are out in full force, their uniforms lending brightness to the sombre background, the yard takes on a gala-day appearance. But it only lasts for fifteen minutes. The marine, even in these times of peace, does not live in a perpetual holiday by any means. At 6:30 in the morning the men must be out of bed, and ready fifteen minutes later for "setting-up drill," which is gymnastic exercise without apparatus. Then the mess call is sounded, and they file into the long mess room, furnished with two tables extending the whole length, and partake of their breakfast of hash, pork and beans, or beef stew, according to the day in the week, and bread and coffee. After breakfast the order is given "To the colors!" and the flag is raised on the pole in front of the mess room. Then the guards take their posts and the routine of the day begins.

The work for the men on duty is not easy, but every marine with a clean record has twenty hours out of forty-eight to himself. There are various ways in which he can spend this time. There are Indian clubs and dumbbells in the library and cards and chessmen, which are in great demand in the winter, and an organ, too, at which the musical marine may indulge his taste, if the operation is not too painful to his companions. In this event he is "called down" very speedily and effectively.

At 11 o'clock at night all lights must be out in the barracks, and the marines settle down to slumber, those who have been on duty during the day with the pleasing contemplation of leisure and recreation on the morrow, and the

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

HOW TO WASH FLANNELS.

Flannels should always be washed by themselves in a suds prepared for them; on no account be rubbed on the board, unless very dirty. The suds should be pleasantly warm to the hands, not too hot, and no hot or cold water be added while the flannels are in the tub. They should be rinsed in clean water of the same temperature as the washing suds, and as many waters used as may be necessary to take all the soap out, as the flannels will never be soft with the soap left in them. They should never be blued. They should be pulled in shape before hanging, undershirts being hung from the shoulders. They should never be hung out of doors in freezing weather, but quickly dried before the fire, or, better, over the register, and pressed as soon as dry enough.—New York Advertiser.

MISSISSIPPI HOUSE-BOATS.

The house-boats, it appears, are a survival of one among many kinds of boats which were very much more numerous upon the great river before the era of steam navigation than steamboats are now. Among the earlier forms of boats were the famous "Kentucky flats," or "broad-horns," and family boats of this pattern were an early modification of their general plan, which was that of a strong-bulked ark, long and narrow and covered with a curving roof. I have read "that family boats of this description, fitted up for the descent of families to the lower country, were provided with a stove, a comfortable apartment, beds and arrangements for commodious habitation, and in them ladies, servants, cattle, sheep, dogs and poultry, all floating on the same bottom and on the roof the looms, ploughs, spinning-wheels and domestic implements of the family, were carried down the river." Fulton's Clermont, which proved its usefulness as the first practicable adaption of steam-power to water travel in 1807, must have been quickly copied on the Mississippi, for in one list of notable passages up that river I have seen a note of a trip by a steamboat in 1814.

Long after that the barges, skiffs, horseboats, broad-horns and family boats must have remained very numerous. They floated down stream with the current, and were pulled up again by means of wheels worked by horses or cattle and by the toilsome and slow processes known as warping and bush-whacking. A boat which was warped up the river kept two rowboats ahead of her carrying hawsers, which were made fast to the trees on the shore and then pulled in as the bigger vessels were thus hauled along. When the length of one cable had been pulled in the other boat had fastened the other cable far ahead, and so the vessel "inched" along against the five-mile current of the stream a little more quickly than a horse moves when its owner has decided to move it down a country road to a distant cellar he has dug for it. It took a day to go six or eight miles by that method. Smaller boats were propelled against the current by rowing, sailing or poling them along; and when the water was high and overflowed the banks they bush-whacked up stream—that is, they pulled the vessel along by hauling on the bushes that brushed the sides of the craft.—Harper's Magazine.

ARRANGING CUT FLOWERS.

With very few exceptions, every flower looks best when arranged with the foliage Dame Nature bestows upon it. Flowers should not be crowded. Each one should have a fair chance, therefore do not use a dozen flowers when six would look far better. Buds and foliage are as important in flower arrangements as the flowers themselves. Dame Nature always arranges her flowers in this manner, and we cannot do better than to copy her as nearly as we can.

Different flowers need different surroundings. Tall flowers like gladiolus, lilies, dahlias, chrysanthemums, need large, tall vases, while sweet peas, nasturtiums, pansies and other short-stemmed flowers need low vases, bowls or baskets. In whatever we arrange our flowers, let it be secondary to the flowers themselves. It should not be highly colored, so as to "kill" the coloring of the flowers, or so elaborate as to draw attention from them.

We are not compelled, as in former years, to put our flowers in the regulation vase, says Good Housekeeping, or use a glass preserve dish. There are many beautiful receptacles for flowers, American cut glass, cut into innumerable facets, reflecting myriad rainbows of colors; in bowls, baskets, and dishes of various forms. There are bowls and jugs of crystalline white, amber color, delicate yellow, turquoise blue, sage green and a thousand and one conceits of various kinds.

Cut flowers should be taken from the vases each morning and a bit of the stems cut off, all decaying leaves and flowers taken out, and replaced in fresh water. Soft water is better than hard; if the latter is used, a few drops, of ammonia may be added. The cooler the flowers are kept the longer they will last. In the winter, when flowers are scarce, it is a good plan to take cut flowers from the vases at night and place them in a washbowl, keeping the flowers above water. Put them in the cellar, or a cool room where they will not chill. They will freshen up and keep much longer than if left all night in a hot room. Never leave flowers at night in a sick room. It is hurtful for the sick person and the flowers.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

WHAT MAKES PEOPLE RED-FACED.

The stimulus of the sun's direct rays and that arising from the friction of the fresh air causes increased activity in the capillaries supplying the surface with blood. When this stimulus is continued for any considerable time these vessels become gorged and minute portions of the blood force their way into the layer immediately under the epidermis or outer skin. It is the presence of the red corpuscles of blood which gives the ruddy flesh tint seen through the outer skin. At the same time the sweat glands and oil glands, whose function it is to lubricate the surface and keep it moist and cool, become exhausted by over stimulus; the outer skin gets hard and dry and soon begins to peel off in the familiar way, taking the minute particles of extravasated blood along with it. Direct sunlight also has a darkening effect upon the actual coloring pigments of the skin, but this action is distinct from actual tanning and manifests itself in the form of freckles. The permanent bronze or ruddiness of complexion seen in sailors and travelers in hot countries is a result of the long continued combination of the two processes.—Chicago Herald.

HARDY MOUNTAINEERS.

There is in Denver a peculiar class of men. They are essentially men of the mountains. They may have their weaknesses, but cowardice is never one of them. They are men with a peculiar development of certain faculties. They handle money as a farmer handles seedcorn—only as a means of producing more. They are always spend-thrifts. Misers do not live a mile above sea-level, where the ether intoxicates, and a hysteria of hope disturbs the emotions of even the best poised. Physically, these men of the mountains are remarkable. Their chests average four inches more in breadth than those of the men of the East. They do not become giddy. They can climb anywhere. They can walk all day. They can sleep anywhere and they can eat anything, but are naturally luxurious, and the miner's cabin frequently knows finer viands than the dining-room of the conventional and pretentious citizen.—Omaha World-Herald.

QUEER NAMES FOR SERMONS.

Strange even to irreverence were the titles of some of the sixteenth and seventeenth century sermons. Of such were the following: "Baruch's Sore Gently Opened and Salve Skillfully Applied," "The Snuffers of Divine Love," "A Spiritual Mustard Pot to Make the Soul Sneeze With Devotion," "Crumbs of Comfort for Chickens of Grace," "A Balance to Weigh Facts In," "Matches Lighted at the Divine Fire," etc.—Temple Bar.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

HOW TO WASH FLANNELS.

Flannels should always be washed by themselves in a suds prepared for them; on no account be rubbed on the board, unless very dirty. The suds should be pleasantly warm to the hands, not too hot, and no hot or cold water be added while the flannels are in the tub. They should be rinsed in clean water of the same temperature as the washing suds, and as many waters used as may be necessary to take all the soap out, as the flannels will never be soft with the soap left in them. They should never be blued. They should be pulled in shape before hanging, undershirts being hung from the shoulders. They should never be hung out of doors in freezing weather, but quickly dried before the fire, or, better, over the register, and pressed as soon as dry enough.—New York Advertiser.

MISSISSIPPI HOUSE-BOATS.

The house-boats, it appears, are a survival of one among many kinds of boats which were very much more numerous upon the great river before the era of steam navigation than steamboats are now. Among the earlier forms of boats were the famous "Kentucky flats," or "broad-horns," and family boats of this pattern were an early modification of their general plan, which was that of a strong-bulked ark, long and narrow and covered with a curving roof. I have read "that family boats of this description, fitted up for the descent of families to the lower country, were provided with a stove, a comfortable apartment, beds and arrangements for commodious habitation, and in them ladies, servants, cattle, sheep, dogs and poultry, all floating on the same bottom and on the roof the looms, ploughs, spinning-wheels and domestic implements of the family, were carried down the river." Fulton's Clermont, which proved its usefulness as the first practicable adaption of steam-power to water travel in 1807, must have been quickly copied on the Mississippi, for in one list of notable passages up that river I have seen a note of a trip by a steamboat in 1814.

Long after that the barges, skiffs, horseboats, broad-horns and family boats must have remained very numerous. They floated down stream with the current, and were pulled up again by means of wheels worked by horses or cattle and by the toilsome and slow processes known as warping and bush-whacking. A boat which was warped up the river kept two rowboats ahead of her carrying hawsers, which were made fast to the trees on the shore and then pulled in as the bigger vessels were thus hauled along. When the length of one cable had been pulled in the other boat had fastened the other cable far ahead, and so the vessel "inched" along against the five-mile current of the stream a little more quickly than a horse moves when its owner has decided to move it down a country road to a distant cellar he has dug for it. It took a day to go six or eight miles by that method. Smaller boats were propelled against the current by rowing, sailing or poling them along; and when the water was high and overflowed the banks they bush-whacked up stream—that is, they pulled the vessel along by hauling on the bushes that brushed the sides of the craft.—Harper's Magazine.

ARRANGING CUT FLOWERS.

With very few exceptions, every flower looks best when arranged with the foliage Dame Nature bestows upon it. Flowers should not be crowded. Each one should have a fair chance, therefore do not use a dozen flowers when six would look far better. Buds and foliage are as important in flower arrangements as the flowers themselves. Dame Nature always arranges her flowers in this manner, and we cannot do better than to copy her as nearly as we can.

Different flowers need different surroundings. Tall flowers like gladiolus, lilies, dahlias, chrysanthemums, need large, tall vases, while sweet peas, nasturtiums, pansies and other short-stemmed flowers need low vases, bowls or baskets. In whatever we arrange our flowers, let it be secondary to the flowers themselves. It should not be highly colored, so as to "kill" the coloring of the flowers, or so elaborate as to draw attention from them.

We are not compelled, as in former years, to put our flowers in the regulation vase, says Good Housekeeping, or use a glass preserve dish. There are many beautiful receptacles for flowers, American cut glass, cut into innumerable facets, reflecting myriad rainbows of colors; in bowls, baskets, and dishes of various forms. There are bowls and jugs of crystalline white, amber color, delicate yellow, turquoise blue, sage green and a thousand and one conceits of various kinds.

Cut flowers should be taken from the vases each morning and a bit of the stems cut off, all decaying leaves and