

households. A number of the members of the Diplomatic Corps, headed by Sir Edward Thornton, General Sherman and several other officers of the army, together with many gentlemen of high official status, accompanied by ladies, who passed down the room to the platform, the bands meanwhile playing "Hail to the Chief." They took seats on the platform, especially constructed for the Presidential party, which was elaborately adorned and bearing gas jets representing the names of Grant and Wilson. There being a cessation in the dancing, many ladies and gentlemen were presented to the President and Vice President. Among the most noticeable of the guests was the Minister from Japan, escorted by a Chinese lady in the full dress of her country. The cadets from West Point and the Naval Academy all attended the ball as invited guests. The attendance of the army and navy officers was large, and very many Senators and members of Congress were present, including Speaker Blaine. Nearly all were accompanied by ladies. The supper was on a magnificent scale. In all respects the ball is regarded as a success.

Imported Plagues.

While the importation of novel foreign plants under the auspices of the Agricultural Department has undoubtedly been highly beneficial to the country, it seems to be attended with evils that are by no means to be despised. For this information we are indebted to the Agricultural Reports, which candidly tell us that very many of the most valuable plants imported from abroad. The first of these is a new species of grasshopper supposed to have come in the egg state on some exotic plants from the West-Indies, Balise or Brazil. It has been discovered in the houses of the Agricultural Department, where it committed depredations upon the plants. The jaws are remarkably strong and sharp, and when the insects were incautiously handled, they bit so severely as to draw blood. As they were killed or caught as soon as seen in the greenhouses, and being a tropical insect it is said that it could not stand the rigors of our climate. Nevertheless it might become a permanent pest in greenhouses, and perhaps the insect might be domesticated in the Gulf States. Certainly if it were to get loose in some of our southern and tropical States, it would be a very serious pest. It is bred, and an insect similar to it is found near Para, South America.

The other pest is a much more dangerous one. It is an ed-worm of a new species, thought to have been first introduced to the earth in which some Japanese plants were imported by the expedition under Commodore Perry. It has been found in the houses of the Agricultural Department at Washington. This also is tropical and cannot live out in the open air. It is remarkably quick in its motions, and breeds with extraordinary rapidity that it seems impossible to eradicate it. It also has great muscular power that it is difficult to hold it between the thumb and finger. This worm has spread to various houses in England, and probably will do so here unless precautionary measures are adopted.

We mention these matters in no spirit of fault-finding with the Department, for our information is obtained from the monthly reports of the Department, but it is to show to those who may feel inclined to import exotic plants on their own account without being aware of the care necessary with them what mischief they may inflict. It can scarcely admit of a doubt that many pests of agriculture have been imported in various ways; and while scientists and farmers are hard at work to eradicate the well-known ones it is extremely undesirable to be troubled with new ones.—*German Telegraph.*

Style in Old Times.

In 1782 Governor Hancock received his guests in a red velvet cap within which was one of the blue flannel turned up over the edge of velvet one or two inches. He wore a blue diamond gown, lined with silk, white satin small clothes, white silk stockings and red morocco slippers. The judges of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, as late as 1772 wore robes of sealskin. He had black velvet, and in summer black silk gowns. Gentlemen wore coats of every variety of color generally, the cape and collar of velvet, of a different color from the coat. In 1780 General Washington arrived in New York from Monticello, to assume the duties of the Presidency. He was dressed in a full suit of Virginia homespun. On his visit to New England he wore the old Continental uniform, except on the Sabbath, when he appeared in black. John Adams, when Vice President, wore a sword, and walked about the streets with his hat under his arm. At Levees in Philadelphia, President Washington was clad in black velvet, his hair powdered and gathered behind in a silk bag; yellow gloves, knee and shoe buckles. He held in his hand a cocked hat ornamented with a cockade, fringed about an inch deep with black feathers. A long sword in a white scabbard, with a polished hilt, hung at his hip.

The Red Don Juan.

Casanova, who flourished many years ago, met with a curious love adventure in his youth. One day he was in the house which he lodged, and the city was the mansion of Hidalgo, a grandee of Spain. A pretty, pensive face at the window of the house attracted his attention. He made signals to the owner of the face, which were returned. At midnight a note was dropped into his hand from a lattice window. Obedient to the summons contained therein, he made his way through the doorway of a house adjoining that at the window of which he had seen the face. In the sombre gloom of the corridor a soft hand seized his arm, while a woman's voice enjoined silence. Thus led by the fair guide—the heroine of the lattice and the note—he went up a broad staircase. In a room, dimly lighted but radiant of perfume and that nameless charm of a woman's occupancy, lay upon the floor the dead body of a cavalier, dripping with gore. "If you love me and would win my love," said Dorotea, the grandee's daughter, "rid me of this carcass; and the man lying here was my lover and betrayed me, and have killed him." Perspiring with horror, but too much to refuse indignantly from the field, Casanova shouldered the corpse and hurrying with it through the dark streets bore it to the river and threw it in. On the next morning, with the dawn, he occupied Madrid. In the height of his social and military career, he was, namely, from about the year 1750 to about 1780, Casanova lorded it

throughout Europe like a great star. He traveled from city to city in a stately coach drawn by six horses with valet and courier. He was the king of the ball, and the king of the king, and queen—only Maria Theresa, of Austria, and virtuous, distinguished upon him the cold shroud, and, owing to his notoriety, expelled him from the empire—and the trail of his sword was the path of his fame. He was the good terms with Louis XV. and his minister Duc de Choiseul, with Frederick the Great of Prussia, with King Stanislaus Augustus of Poland, and with the Empress Catherine of Russia. He visited Voltaire at Ferney, and had a series of conversations with the philosopher, but the acquaintance ended with an outbreak between the two. He fought duels, and he always professed himself ready to avenge his insulted honor. At Warsaw, in 1767, he was in the lodge of an actress of the name of the Comptess de Farnese, general of Polish Cavalry and the Grand Chamberlain of the King, entered the lodge and put an affront upon him. Casanova, mindful of the high rank of De Brancicki, shrugged his shoulders and walked away; but as he heard the voice of De Brancicki, he turned and said: "Comptess de Brancicki, I will show you that a coward of a Venetian is at least the equal of a great Polish lord!" Two days after they fought with pistols, and Brancicki received the bullet in the forehead, but the wound was not mortal. A prodigious sensation followed this affair in the Polish capital. De Brancicki's dragons sought Casanova's life, and he took refuge in a convent. When the excitement was over, he visited De Brancicki's bedside, and after an embrace and a kiss, he said to the duke: "I have forgiven you, but I am not prepared to forgive you, and I am not prepared to forgive you, and I am not prepared to forgive you."

Wolf Hunting in Russia.

A correspondent of the London Morning Post writes a lively account of wolf hunting, which is one of the favorite sports in those parts of Russia where the animals have not disappeared before advancing civilization. At some abnormal hour between night and morning you are aroused by a vigorous shout from the hunter, who is "trampling up and look sharp about it, for there's no time to lose." You make a hasty toilet, and sallied forth, in front of your hut, in the dim light of the coming dawn, a huge, dark shaggy mass, which, as your eyes get used to the darkness, you see to be the form of a broad, heavy three-horse sledge with very high sides, not unlike an enormous washing-tub, around which fit three or four spectral figures with lanterns—the fatal glare making their grim bearded faces look grimmer and less human than ever. They are dressed in harnesses, etc., are stowed away in the bottom of the conveyance; and last, but not least, a young pig, protesting against his abduction with a loudness and fluency that would do honor to a Hyde Park meeting.

Wolf Hunting in Russia.

All being now ready, the hunters squander themselves into their places, the driver shakes his reins with a wild whoop, and away we go into the darkness. Mile after mile of the frozen waste goes by like a dream, till at length the spectral shadows of the forest begin to gather round us, and the hunters, who were hitherto silent, now utter a low murmur, which ears one of our party is now pinching vigorously) begin to be answered by another sound, which one who has ever heard it will easily forgive; not the low melancholy howl wherewith a suppers wolf may be heard moaning in the distance, but a low, hoarse, guttural cry, which is the cry of the wolf, and which is the cry of the wolf, and which is the cry of the wolf.

Wolf Hunting in Russia.

And there they come at last, the wily, slouching fellows, with their black, shaggy, murderous eyes, Crack! the foremost of the pack roars on his side, kicking convulsively; but the rest gallop on unheeding. Crack! crack! and two more fall dead, blotting the snow with a sneer of dark crimson; some of the boldest jump on their sledges, and attempt to leap over its projecting sides, while we pound their heads with the butt ends of our pieces, and chop their paws with hatchets, and slash them across the eyes with hunting knives, the two hindmost of our party meanwhile making great play with their short swords as fast as they can load.

Wolf Hunting in Russia.

And so for a time the running fight goes fiercely on, making altogether a very striking tableau. But "the pace is stiff to last," as our leader remarks with a knowing grin. A run at full speed through deep snow, even a full-grown wolf will find it difficult to be continued beyond a certain time, and in face of a stout resistance the beast's inherent cowardice is sure to come to the surface sooner or later. Already three or four gaunt, shaggy veterans, who have probably had a severe struggle over night, begin to lag back as if doubting the wisdom of risking their lives for a hypothetical breakfast. The speed of the rest slackens by degrees, and at length the whole pack drops off as if by tacit agreement, leaving us to pursue our way more leisurely. Two emerge again upon the open plain, across which his first beams of the rising sun are just beginning to fall, we see the last of our grim followers sinking like a belated spectre into the gloomy shadows of the forest which we have quitted.

Shoes.

In the ancient times, only the soles of the feet were covered with the shoe, or more correctly speaking the sandal. Its construction was very simple, a sole tied around the foot and ankle with thongs or straps called shoe-latches. At first these soles were wood, coarse and clumsy, but answering the purpose for which they were devised—protection to the feet from the hot sand, and from the flinty stone which paves what are called the roads, but are not really more than brittle paths in Syria. It was the duty of the servant to carry these for his master, to put them on and take them off. At this time the inferiority of all who are acquainted with the ancient history of the East already know. The putting on and taking off of shoes, and the transfer of them, have had certain meanings with different nations—in Brazil, to wear a shoe is a sign that one is a free man; a slave goes barefooted in that country. In conveying property, the Jews took off their shoes and gave it to the purchaser. In times of great mourning they indicated their grief by appearing in the street barefoot. At their solemn funerals, and on other occasions, they kept their heads covered, but removed their sandals. The latter custom is still observed by the Orientals. But shoes gradually became ornamental, as well as useful and symbolic articles, and they have in many countries, and in many ages, been in shape and adornments. Wealth

has been displayed in their decoration as in other articles of dress. In the old Roman triumphs the conquerors wore the shoes of their captives, and the barbaric huns paraded their spoils on their feet, the shoes of Alaric, their chief, were studied with good and precious stones. But poor Montezuma, of Mexico, carried his kind of extravagance to the height of his very shoes, which were of solid gold. Men have shown quite as much vanity as women in the adornment of their feet. In the latter part of the reign of Elizabeth, and the first of her successors, the courtiers wore boots and spurs with every step. There was an age of ostentatious and long-pointed toes attached to the knee by silver chains, and of immense buckles, on which a man might spend a fortune if he chose. Extravagance in shoes was carried to a height that diamonds were sometimes set in the buckles. A portrait of Charles II, the state robes of white satin, set off with crimson, and crimson stockings were worn. 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