

MY MOTHER'S HANDS.

(From the Wasp.)
 Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
 They're neither white nor small;
 And you, I know, would scarcely think
 That they are hands at all.
 I've looked on hands whose form and hue
 A sculptor's dream might be;
 Yet are those aged, wrinkled hands
 Most beautiful to me.
 Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
 Though heart were weary and sad,
 Those patient hands kept toiling on,
 That the children might be glad.
 I always weep as looking back
 To childhood's sunny days;
 I think how those hands reached out,
 When mine were at their play.
 Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
 They're growing feeble now,
 For time and pain have left their mark
 On hands and heart and brow.
 Alas! alas! the nearing time,
 And the sad day to come,
 When "neath the daisies out of sight,"
 Those hands will fold in gloom.
 But oh, beyond this shadow land,
 Where all is bright and fair,
 I know full well those dear old hands
 Will palms of victory bear.
 Where crystal streams through endless years
 Flow over golden sands.
 And where the old crowd young again,
 I'll clasp my mother's hands.

"Wanted a Young Lady."

BY F. V. H.
 "But, Charlie, dear, are you sure you
 will not forget me amidst the amuse-
 ment and gaieties of London?"
 "You may rest satisfied, my darling
 Nell, I shall never forget you; and let
 us hope the time is not far distant when
 I may be able to return and claim my
 little treasure for my dear wife."
 The last speaker was a young bar-
 rister, Charles Madden, who, while on a
 visit to a country aunt, had endeavored
 to ally the countess arising from the dull-
 ness of a rustic village, by falling in
 love, or making believe to, with pretty
 Nellie May.
 Nellie was one of the numerous olive
 branches of a hard-worked curate, and her
 fair, graceful form and unsophisticated
 country manners had proved irre-
 sistible attractions to the rusticated
 Londoner.
 They were now on the platform,
 waiting for the train that was to carry
 Madden away from love and beauty.
 Nellie's innocent eyes glistened with
 tears of joy and hope, as, fondly press-
 ing his arm, she responded:
 "And you will be sure and write
 very often, Charlie, dear?"
 "Yes, my darling!" And now one
 kiss and then good-bye!
 The desired embrace was given and
 returned as the train came puffing and
 whizzing into the small station; and in
 five minutes Madden was whirling
 along on his road back to the modern
 Babylon.
 He wrote pretty regularly for the
 first three weeks after he reached town;
 and then, as time wore on, his letters
 became fewer; and then even those
 grew few and far between; until at
 length, after the anxious Nell had re-
 ceived no reply to three successive epis-
 toles, the correspondence ceased alto-
 gether.
 Upon his return to town, Madden had
 proceeded to his usual chamber in the
 Middle Temple, and, for a few weeks,
 had kept to the many good resolutions
 made while away from temptation.
 But by degrees he had drifted back into
 the usual irregularities of his life, and
 open to a student if he chooses to adopt
 them.
 Shortly after his return he had been
 introduced to Arthur Harcourt, whose
 friends had desired him to get called to
 the bar, and who had taken chambers
 in Essex Court for that purpose.
 Now Madden was very poor, and his
 new acquaintance being exactly the re-
 verse, he "concluded" the friendship
 might be made conducive to his bene-
 fit.
 So he had exerted himself to please,
 and with so much success, that for
 some weeks they had been nearly con-
 stant companions.
 One morning Harcourt was seated in
 his chambers, endeavoring to allay the
 pangs of his head by copious libations
 of soda water.
 Madden had just come in, and had
 been seated on the sofa for a couple of
 minutes, when Harcourt spoke.
 "Upon my word, Charlie, I'm tired
 to death! I wish you could think of
 something that would relieve the mo-
 notony of existence."
 "I'm sure I hardly know what to
 suggest," he replied, reflectively. "Let's
 see; fishing is in season; why don't you
 say to having a 'fish' on the Drayton?"
 "A fish at one end of the rod, and a
 worm at the other. Too slow," re-
 plied Harcourt, with Johnsonian brevity.
 "What do you say to hiring a skiff,
 having a pull up the river and dining
 at Richmond?"
 "Don't care about making a toll of
 a pleasure; rowing, this weather, is only
 fit for galley-slaves."
 For a few minutes there was silence,
 and the sardines pulled contemplatively
 at their haversack.
 At length Madden cried out, "En-
 reka! I have it, Arthur! Suppose we
 put an advertisement in the paper for a
 young lady to take charge of a single
 gentleman's establishment? Let ap-
 plicants come here; if we offer the ad-
 vancement of a high salary we shall
 have a couple of hundred, and the ne-
 cessary examination will be great fun!"
 "It's not a bad idea; but won't it be
 rather cruelly disappointing to them?"
 remarked Harcourt, who was naturally
 of a kindly disposition, which Madden
 was doing his best to spoil.
 "Not a bit of it," replied the other.
 "If you feel any scruples of conscience
 you can pay them their expenses, and it
 will be a good morning's work for
 some of them."
 "I don't altogether like the idea,
 Charlie; it doesn't seem manly to me,
 you know, to—"
 "Nonsense!" interrupted Madden.
 "For goodness' sake, Harcourt, don't
 begin preaching! Let us decide that it
 shall be done. I'll draw up the adver-

tisement, and if we put it in to-morrow,
 why we can let the people call the fol-
 lowing day, which will be Friday. Will
 that suit you?"
 "If you really think it's all right—
 Friday will suit me as well as any other
 day; but—"
 "All right—there, that's settled. Now
 I'll go and have the advertisement in-
 serted. By-the-by, you may as well
 let me have five pounds if you have them
 handy, for I want to pay the new-
 paper people, and I'm rather short."
 Madden generally was short; never-
 theless, Harcourt handed over the re-
 quired sum, and with a careless "Au-
 revoir!" he took himself off.
 The next day the following appeared
 among the "Wants" in the leading
 daily paper:
 WANTED—A young lady, amiable and ac-
 complished, to take the charge of a gentleman's
 establishment. Salary, £500 per annum. Apply
 Friday, between 11 and 12, ground floor,
 No. 4, Essex Court, Middle Temple.
 On the Friday morning the friends
 had breakfasted together, and the land-
 lord had just cleared the table, when
 Madden said, "There's eleven striking!"
 We shall have a rush of them directly!"
 At that moment a faint tap was heard
 at the door of the room.
 "Hallo, there's one of them! The
 landlady must have left the 'oak' open.
 Come in!"
 The door opened, and in walked a
 young lady, dressed in a neat black
 stuff costume, with a small felt hat,
 from under which fell a quantity of
 golden brown hair.
 As she entered the room, her gaze
 was timidly directed towards the car-
 pet; but she had scarcely arrived at the
 table in the center of the room, when
 Madden suddenly exclaimed, "Confound
 it! Nellie May, by all that's unfortu-
 nate!"
 Nellie looked up in astonishment at
 the speaker.
 For a moment she was unable to utter
 a word, and then, recalling her en-
 gage, she said, "Mr. Madden, what does
 this mean? I came here in answer to
 an advertisement. I neither expected
 to see you—Nay, sir, any explanation
 of your conduct is unnecessary! Al-
 low me to take my leave. I wish you
 a good morning!"
 And with a dignified bow, Nellie
 passed from the room.
 Scarcely, however, had she reached the
 front door ere a mist seemed to
 come before her eyes, and, losing all
 her strength, she would have fallen to
 the ground had not Harcourt, who had
 followed her from the room, supported
 her round the waist.
 The fresh air and the knowledge of
 her position brought her to herself once
 more.
 Coloring deeply, she gently removed
 his arm from around her waist, but, as
 she did so, staggered and almost fell
 again.
 Raising her arm, Harcourt said,
 "Allow me to see you to a cab, Miss
 May."
 "Thank you," replied Nellie, grate-
 ful for his assistance. "I have not been
 very well lately, and the sight of Mr.
 Madden recalled some unpleasant re-
 collections."
 Calling a four-wheeler in Fleet street,
 Harcourt carefully handed her in, and
 still more carefully did he note down the
 address which she gave the driver.
 About a fortnight previous to the in-
 sertion of the advertisement, Mrs. Rich-
 ards, a widowed sister of Mr. May,
 wrote and invited Nellie to spend a few
 weeks with her.
 As Mr. May had noticed that his
 daughter had lost her color, and had
 not appeared very well lately, he accept-
 ed his sister's invitation with grati-
 tude, and Nellie was dispatched up to
 town.
 While staying with her aunt, she had
 obtained the acquaintance of a certain
 young man, who, in the course of the
 conversation, had determined to apply
 for the situation, with the result re-
 sulted.
 The next morning, about twelve
 o'clock, as Mrs. Richards was employed
 with some needlework, and Nellie was
 at the piano, the servant of all work
 opened the door and said, "Please,
 marm, here's a gentleman as wants to
 see Miss May."
 And, closely following this announce-
 ment, in walked Arthur Harcourt, who,
 bowing to both ladies, turned to
 Nellie with a smile and said, "You
 must pardon my intrusion, Miss May;
 but I could not resist calling to inquire
 after your health, and also to explain
 and apologize for the cruel hoax of
 which you were yesterday the victim."
 He then proceeded to explain how
 Madden and himself had fabricated the
 advertisement that had attracted her.
 Before Harcourt had finished his ex-
 planation, Nellie had glanced more than
 once at his handsome person; and when
 he finished, she determined that it was
 her duty to forgive.
 By the time he had brought his visit
 to a conclusion, Mrs. Richards had dis-
 covered that she had formerly been ac-
 quainted with Mr. Harcourt, Arthur's
 mother, so, when he came to take his
 leave, he received an invitation from the
 elder lady to repeat his visit, which,
 if eyes speak the truth, was certainly
 not negatived by the younger.
 On his return to Essex Court, Har-
 court found Madden seated in his arm-
 chair, enjoying a cigar, to which he
 had helped himself from a box on the
 table.
 Walking up to the fireplace, Harcourt
 leant against the chimney-piece, and
 steadily observing the smoker, observed,
 "I have a neglect of duty was the
 worst possible offense, and never from
 this night to the day of his death was
 he promoted to a more responsible po-
 sition."
 On another occasion, Mr. MacIver
 was on board one of the steamers as he
 was passing from the river into dock,
 and stood watching some sailors dock-
 ing a rope under the direction of a mate
 in uniform, who was helping them with
 a will. Mr. MacIver was a creely pleased
 with his zeal, but, touching him on the
 shoulder, said, with affected severity—
 "We do not engage you for that kind of
 service, sir!" The mate relinquished
 the rope at once expecting a further re-
 proof; but during the next week he was
 promoted from the third to the second
 rank.

he saw that he was not to be played
 with; so, with a tinge of sarcasm in his
 tone, he quietly observed: "Really,
 Arthur, I was not aware the fair one
 had so vehement a champion. I should
 have been more careful in what I said."
 "And I advise you to be more circum-
 spect in the future, Mr. Madden. If, as
 I suspect, you have ever behaved in an
 ungentlemanly manner to that young
 lady, I tell you plainly I shall not be
 anxious for the pleasure of your soci-
 ety."
 "Ha, ha, ha!" laughed Madden, as he
 slowly rose, and commenced putting on
 his gloves. "How the fellows at the
 club will laugh at the idea of—"
 Harcourt frowned, and interrupted
 him, saying, "I warn you once for all,
 Madden. If I hear you have been ut-
 tering a word respecting either Miss
 May or myself, I'll give you the sound-
 est thrashing a man ever had."
 Upon my word," replied Madden, ad-
 justing his hat, "the young lady in
 question ought to feel herself highly
 honored! Fancy the exclusive Arthur
 Harcourt becoming enraptured with a
 country parson's daughter?"
 Harcourt, clenching his fist, advanced
 a step towards him; but Madden, con-
 sidering discretion to be the better part
 of valor, had left the room.
 It was about three months after
 Harcourt's first visit to Mrs. Richards,
 that Nellie and he were seated alone in
 the drawing-room. Harcourt had only
 just arrived.
 "I am sorry, Mr. Harcourt," observed
 Nellie, "but my aunt has gone out shop-
 ping, and will not return for a couple
 of hours."
 "And I, on the contrary, am pleased
 to hear it, Miss May; for it gives me an
 opportunity of asking you a question,
 and one to which I require an answer."
 "Indeed!" replied Nellie, innocently.
 "I shall be most pleased to reply if I
 am in your power," said Harcourt;
 and then, seating himself beside her, he
 took her hand, and continued, "Ever
 since I first saw you, Nellie, I have loved
 you; and my affection has increased day
 by day; and now I want to ask you if you
 can reciprocate the feeling sufficiently
 to give me this dear little hand—to be-
 come my wife? You do not reply,"
 continued he. "May I take silence for
 consent?"
 "But will you take me after what I
 told you passed between Mr. Madden
 and myself?"
 "Yes; undoubtedly I will!" exclaimed
 he. "Only say that you love me!"
 "I do!" replied Nellie, softly; "and
 —and you have made me very happy!"
 When Mrs. Richards returned from
 shopping, she was not a trifle scandal-
 ized to discover her niece reclining in a
 gentleman's arms.
 But while Nellie ran away upstairs,
 all smiles and tears, to hide her joy,
 Arthur explained matters satis-
 factorily to her aunt. In two months
 the wedding took place with the usual
 accompaniment of bridesmaids, tears,
 cake and toasts.
 Arthur Harcourt has not yet brought
 his wife home from the south of France,
 whither they went for their honey-
 moon; but, judging from his letters, he
 has not yet repented of advertising for a
 "Young Lady."

The Curious Service.

They are a steady-going, conservative
 lot the old Cunarders, and never do
 their business with a flourish or spam
 —neither the owners nor the officers.
 The line, which includes over fifty large
 steamers, runs exclusively in the
 hands of the firm that started it. There
 is no stock jobbing or patronage about
 it. The men employed are selected for
 their worth, and not at the instigation
 of any middleman director. The chief
 consideration in building the ships is
 strength; and the second consideration
 is speed; but strength is never sacri-
 ficed to speed or appearances. The
 manager in Liverpool is Mr. Charles
 MacIver, one of the founders—whose son
 is one of the members of Parliament for
 the town—a straight shrewd, practical
 man, with a personal knowledge of
 nearly all his officers, and a still more
 intimate knowledge of his ships. He
 exacts the strictest attention to duty,
 and never pardons an error in this di-
 rection. He often drives down to the
 docks and inspects the steamers in port
 from the stoke-hole to the wheel house.
 The hour of his coming is never known,
 and if any man is found away from his
 post that man might as well resign. An
 officer (Mr. G—) died in Liverpool
 recently, who had for nineteen years
 held the same position in the service,
 while others had been promoted over
 his head. He was a sober man, an ex-
 perient sailor, and a skilful naviga-
 tor. Many wondered why he never rose,
 and some tell this anecdote in explana-
 tion. One night old Mr. MacIver drove
 down to the Huisson Dock, and asked,
 on one of the steamers, for the officer
 in charge. The watchman stated that
 he had gone on shore, but would be
 back in an hour or two.
 "Who is it?" asked Mr. MacIver.
 "Mr. G—, sir."
 "Very well; when Mr. G— comes
 on board, tell him to take my carriage
 and drive to my house."
 When Mr. G— reached the house he
 found Mr. MacIver seated in his library.
 "You were absent from your post to-
 night, sir; I wanted to see you sir;
 that's all." And Mr. G— was bowed
 out by the implacable old Scotchman.
 In whose eyes a neglect of duty was the
 worst possible offense, and never from
 that night to the day of his death was
 he promoted to a more responsible po-
 sition.
 On another occasion, Mr. MacIver
 was on board one of the steamers as he
 was passing from the river into dock,
 and stood watching some sailors dock-
 ing a rope under the direction of a mate
 in uniform, who was helping them with
 a will. Mr. MacIver was a creely pleased
 with his zeal, but, touching him on the
 shoulder, said, with affected severity—
 "We do not engage you for that kind of
 service, sir!" The mate relinquished
 the rope at once expecting a further re-
 proof; but during the next week he was
 promoted from the third to the second
 rank.

Girls' Names.

In any modern school catalogue or
 newspaper list of ladies' names which
 you may chance to meet, you find an
 endless iteration of the favorite in-
 flection (e); as if the beauty or attrac-
 tiveness of a name depended on the
 sound it makes, in some way depended on
 this liquid and endearing termination.
 In the short space of one page of the
 catalogue of a prominent young ladies'
 college—a school of much higher pre-
 tensions than the average seminary,
 and whose students are of a more ad-
 vanced and thoughtful age than mere
 seminary students—one may find, as
 we have satisfied ourselves by looking
 at least the following varieties, Mar-
 Jennie, Nannie, Hattie, Minnie, Lizzie,
 Lord Dufferin, the present dignified
 Governor-General of Canada, has lately
 chosen to bring this tendency into no-
 tice (and so we suppose it prevails in
 Canada, too) by making it a special to-
 pic in his address at the late commence-
 ment of a young ladies' school in Que-
 bec. But he credits the habit, or its
 exaggeration, to the United States; and
 thinks the practice, when it becomes a
 "national characteristic," is "not with-
 out significance." Some future philo-
 logist, perhaps, may pick it up as a
 remnant of that period when the young
 women of our most cultivated circles
 bore the badge of belittlement and pa-
 tronage, and infer therefrom that the
 Oriental type of infantile helplessness
 had certainly survived this era even in
 Western lands. He will most likely
 conclude (and does not the evidence
 tend in that direction?) that, in our
 Centennial time, the true idea of
 "A perfect woman nobly planned,
 To win, to comfort, and to command,"
 was not so much as suspected or sought
 after. We do not remember that our
 journal of "Woman's Rights" and en-
 franchisement has ever said it per-
 tinent to speak of this subject; but
 surely it bears a direct relation to the
 mental growth and capacity of the sex.
 The literary *nom de plume* of a feminine
 author indicates to some extent the
 force of her mind; and we know just
 as well what to expect from the Lillie
 Linwoods and Mattie Myrtles, as we do
 from the George Eliots. You can
 scarcely pen a *ma regressive* satire
 against the helplessness and indepen-
 dence of women than to wrap her up in
 such terms of daily codding and child-
 ish endearment as the pet names against
 which Lord Dufferin protests. For in-
 stance, persistently to call the two
 great chiefs of woman's advanced state,
 Lizzie Cadby Stanton, and Susan
 B. Anthony, would crush, at one stroke,
 the revolution they have so much at
 heart. Under such sweet persuasives
 as "Lillie" and "Mattie," the members of
 the "Ladies' Union," never say disreputable
 things to each other, than it is to stay
 at home and listen to the whines of
 women about matters of trifling im-
 portance to the world's progress. In-
 stead of the stern and dignified in-
 terest. Tough husbands with their put
 up with the infidelities of their wives
 they are but human, and when they re-
 ceive the blows of the limits of their
 tender a more forcible than polite man-
 ner of disquiet of the same.

Ingenious German Inventions.

A Hartford gentleman recently re-
 ceived from a friend in Germany sam-
 ples of several recent inventions in that
 country, with a view of introducing the
 articles into the United States. One is
 a gun cane, resembling bamboo, and
 which is so constructed that it can be
 used as a cane, or as a gun. It is a
 very ordinary cane in appearance, is a
 small steel handle, pressure on which
 discharges the weapon. The barrel
 is of 30 calibre, and the muzzle,
 when the cane is used in walking, is
 stopped by a piece of gutta percha with
 a steel ferule. To load the weapon the
 cane is pulled from either end, and the
 parts slide apart about two inches, un-
 derneath the chamber, in which the
 cartridge is placed. On closing the
 parts together the gun is ready except
 to set the trigger, the firing mechanism
 working on the same principle as a
 needle gun.
 Another pretty invention of German
 silver is about the size of an opera
 band cigar, and occupies less space in
 the pocket than a match safe. It is a
 hollow cork-screw, and on separating
 the two ends, the cork is driven out, and
 the screw is ready for use. It is a
 cylindrical in form, the screw comes
 out, and by partially pushing the can-
 together, the screw is firmly set in po-
 sition, its square shank fitting into a
 square slot in the case.
 A patent stopper for wine or liquor
 bottles is made of porcelain, an inch
 long, with rubber rings midway. On
 placing this in the bottle and turning
 the stopper the rings expand, and the
 cork is held in position. The bottle and
 making it impossible to remove the
 stopper by pulling. Another stopper of
 the same kind has a key at the top. On
 turning this the key rings are ex-
 panded, and then the key being re-
 moved, it is impossible for any one to
 get the stopper out without a duplicate
 key. The gentleman showing this in-
 vention says that it is used in Ger-
 many to prevent servants and others
 from taking wine from bottles that
 have been opened and only partly em-
 pty, and that this practical method has
 brought it into large demand among
 the economical people in that country.

Ancestry of the Pen.

The earliest mode of writing was on
 bricks, or on shells, stones, ivory, bone,
 bark, and leaves of trees, and from the
 latter the term "leaves of a book" is
 probably derived. Copper and brass
 plates were used for early use, and
 the first of them was brought from
 India, and was a manifestation of parental
 love; but it soon became convinced of my
 error. The necessity of laboring more
 hours to feed the increasing family had
 hastened their rising by an hour and a
 half, and the consequence was that the
 parents constantly slipped and
 seeking on the grass and flower-beds,
 the insects which were to serve as
 nourishment for their offspring.
 Sometimes the birds are deceived in
 the hour. Thus a linnet awakes at
 half-past twelve and began to sing on a
 tree close to the window at which the
 naturalist had placed his lamp. It
 had mistaken the light of the lamp for
 that of the sun; and very soon per-
 ceived its error, and, confused and
 ashamed, went to sleep again.
 A tame blackbird, which was in the
 habit of returning every evening to its
 cage, left hanging in the cage, and
 forgotten one evening, and the cage

London.

In fact, London has already become a
 sort of white elephant, putting its
 possessors to their wits end. The ir-
 regularity and amazement of its streets
 infinitely exaggerate the virtual area
 of the city, and it was a lucky day for
 postmen that saw invented the contriv-
 ance of dilating up the unwieldy mu-
 nicipal carcass into four-quarter, hind-
 quarter, rib, and sirloin, clumsy and
 arbitrary though the division was. And
 the chief aim of Londoners is, having
 got biggest town in the world, to make
 it as practically small again as possible.
 I do not refer merely to their under-
 ground railways, their cabs, "buses," and
 trams, their ferryboats, messengers,
 and telegraphs, but to the tendency and
 reason of all their ways of living. The
 London of the dwellers in "cheap" and
 Lombard Street is a place of narrow
 dimensions; many an American vil-
 lage is larger. The crowd with and
 past which they daily hurry to their
 business is but part of the ordinary fur-
 niture of the streets—they never think
 of moralizing about it. Their mind
 holds the idea of their cab or "bus," of
 their office, of their restaurant, of their
 club, and that is all, so far as London
 is concerned. Add the houses at which
 they dine once a week or more, and
 there remains nothing. May-fair is
 equally limited within itself. They ride
 in the Row, they stare out of Pall
 Mall windows, they show themselves at
 the opera, the parties, and at the theatres,
 the shops in Regent and Bond Streets,
 of Pentonville and Whitechapel they
 know nothing. There are London clique
 and style, as pronounced and provincial
 as any Bacon Street or Pumpkinville.
 The typical cockney is not a great but a
 small man. The very pressure of the
 immensities around him crams him into
 a certain narrow groove, whence to
 stride would be explosion. A man can
 walk London streets in a turban, or in
 long-tailed blue coat with brass buttons,
 without exciting general remark, and
 the hostility of the police. This is not
 what we would expect; a Kaffir naked
 from the Zambesi would be called to dine
 at the Athenaeum and dawdle in the Park
 without causing so much as a butcher's
 boy to turn his head. London, from this
 point of view, is a pretty fair
 specimen of a city where a Yezzo, in
 broad areas of meaningless flesh. It
 does not all mean one thing; if you pick
 it up it will fall in twenty pieces. It is
 cosmopolitan on the surface, but only so.
 It is not an immeasurable unit, as it
 is with St. Paul's for a centre, as it is made
 out to be in the title-piece of the *Illustrated London News*. It is a bundle
 of sticks, not a single giant bole.
 It is not a city, but a collection of cities,
 all it would be whose terrible roar
 would brain all the sap out of the rest
 of the world in another generation. But
 by a wise decree of Providence, giants
 of body have seldom been giants of soul,
 and London does not prove the rule by
 being the exception to it. The Tower
 of Babel could ascend only so far, and
 London, spread how much it will,
 reaches only to the limits of its great
 noise. Perhaps it was formerly greater
 than now, both comparatively—because
 there are other giants abroad in these
 days; and intrinsically—because the in-
 crease of its skirts has diminished its
 central vitality. Yet, after all subtrac-
 tions at deductions, there stands Lon-
 don, unrivalled, inconceivable, invic-
 ible. It is an anvil, on which all men
 hammer out their reflections without
 fear of cracking it.—*Appleton's Journal*.

Famous Early Birds.

For very many years a learned
 Frenchman, M. Dureau de la Malle,
 took special notice of the times at
 which various birds left their nests
 and began their songs or began their
 duties. Perhaps it was formerly greater
 than now, both comparatively—because
 there are other giants abroad in these
 days; and intrinsically—because the in-
 crease of its skirts has diminished its
 central vitality. Yet, after all subtrac-
 tions at deductions, there stands Lon-
 don, unrivalled, inconceivable, invic-
 ible. It is an anvil, on which all men
 hammer out their reflections without
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was not taken indoors. At midnight
 when M. de la Malle's lamp was lighted,
 the blackbird woke up and began to
 sing the air he had been taught. Im-
 mediately the white blackbirds in the
 garden and shrubbery answered the
 song, and from midnight till morning
 both wild and tame birds sang away as
 in answer to each other.
 I wonder whether the habit of get-
 ting up very early has anything to do
 with the birds being able to sing so
 beautifully. Suppose some of our
 young readers try the experiment, and
 by getting up early, see if they cannot
 improve their voices.—*Christian Weekly*.
 Oriental Marriages.
 In America, love, precedes and pre-
 pares the way for marriage—at least
 this is our theory of courtship. In the
 East marriage precedes and prepares
 for love—at least this is the Oriental
 theory of the wedded state. It quite
 accords, therefore, with the Eastern
 ideas of the marriage relations that wo-
 man should enter into it at an age which
 to us seems very early; and this prac-
 tice of early marriages is also favored
 by the fact that women reach their ma-
 turity at a much earlier age than with
 us. They are at the height of their
 bloom and beauty at fifteen or sixteen.
 They are often married at thirteen or
 fourteen, and sometimes as early as eight
 or nine; and Dr. Van Lenney mentions
 one instance of a wedding which he at-
 tended in which the bride was so young
 that she was carried about in the arms
 of her relatives. Naturally courtship
 is done by proxy, and the young men
 are chosen out of what the American
 regards as one of his most sacred, in-
 alienable rights. The duty of looking
 up for the young man a suitable wife,
 which even in our own society the
 mother, aunt, or sisters often assume,
 is in the East, by universal consent,
 devolved upon them.
 Womanly nature is essentially the
 same the world over, and we may safely
 assume that they are nothing loath to
 perform the duty which social custom
 intrusts to them. For this purpose
 they sail forth in a body on their tour
 of inspection, call at any house which
 affords reasonable hope of containing a
 suitable inmate, are invariably greeted
 with the utmost courtesy, and ushered
 at once into the reception-room; the
 young lady is summoned, and presently
 appears, bearing sweet and smiling water,
 she is arrayed in all the finery and
 jewels which belong to her dowry; nor
 is it considered a breach of social prop-
 riety to inquire with particularity re-
 specting her marriage prospects. The
 African savages, too, are not without
 discoveries which sometimes oc-
 cur to us after marriage to mirror the
 happiness of the young couple. If the
 preliminary negotiations are satisfac-
 tory, a bargain is made between the
 parents, in which the amount paid by
 the bride's father is fixed, and the
 bride or her parents is, definitely
 agreed upon. This, which under the
 Moslem law was fixed at a uniform rate
 at fifty shekels, or twenty-five dollars,
 varies among the modern Jews with
 the condition of the bride's family
 while among some of the Circassian
 tribes and the Tartars, it is fixed at
 the highest bidder. The parties are
 considered as having been married as
 soon as the contract has been agreed to,
 but the nuptial ceremony is sometimes
 deferred for a considerable period,
 during which time the bride and groom
 are not permitted to see each other,
 their sole intercourse with each other
 is through the intervention of a "friend
 of the bridegroom."
 The ceremony is a matter of impor-
 tance with the Eastern bride with us.
 The preparation of her toilet, in the
 presence of female friends, often
 occupies a large part of two days. The
 wedding-vell, the bridal crown, the
 dodos, or cap, are of the emblems
 chosen for the bridal ceremony.
 The costumes are often rich and gorg-
 eous beyond expression. Fashion, as in-
 troduced by an Oriental milliner who
 by Dr. van Lenney, prescribed the
 character of the wedding dress. It
 should measure six yards
 from the shoulders to the end of the
 train; the long sleeves should sweep
 the ground, and the undergarments
 should be of a rich and costly material,
 and be embroidered by a party of pro-
 fessional embroiderers under the direc-
 tion of a chief. The sum paid for
 the wedding was five hundred dollars,
 while the charge for the work done by
 the embroidery was two thousand five
 hundred dollars, and the entire cost of
 the dress was ten thousand; nor must
 it be forgotten that labor in that country
 is very much less expensive than in
 this.
 The marriage festivities last often for
 a week, and in many sections of the
 East the practice of the bride and
 groom appearing in public in the
 mornings of May and June at the
 following hours:
 The greenfinch from one to half-past
 one.
 The linnet from two to three.
 The quail from half-past two to
 three.
 The blackbird from half past three
 to four.
 The red-headed linnet from three to
 half-past three.
 The sparrow from five to half-past
 five.
 It will be seen that the greenfinch
 was the earliest and the sparrow one
 of the latest risers among the birds ob-
 served. Who would have thought
 that the sparrow would be both the
 most dishonest and mischievous and
 the most lazy of birds? I am afraid
 other things are as well.
 Of course, the rule which M. de
 la Malle laid down, as above mentioned,
 was subject to exceptions. Sometimes
 the birds were not so regular, and the
 reason is thus suggested in an interesting
 extract from the naturalist's state-
 ment: "On the fourth of June the
 blackbird commenced their song at half-past
 two in the morning. Struck with the an-
 noyance of the noise, I went out to
 find their broods. I thought at first
 that it was a manifestation of parental
 love; but it soon became convinced of my
 error. The necessity of laboring more
 hours to feed the increasing family had
 hastened their rising by an hour and a