

SONNET.
(FROM "DANTE.")
So gentle and so gracious doth appear
My lady, as I find her others greet.
All tongues grow silent in her presence sweet:
And no eye dares to meet her glances clear.
The smile of her most lovely mouth is fair,
And passes clothed in innocence. You meet
A creature like to that the Golden Street
Of God—Who sent her as a miracle here.
To gaze on her such blessed spirit
And gives such joy and comfort to the heart;
And from her such a blessed spirit
Breathes out, that, before her suit lips part
In speech, she says to every soul: *Aspirare.*

A COSMOS WEDDING.

We have just attended a most beautiful home wedding, and quite a novelty in its way—a "Cosmos Wedding."
A clear October night—a full moon—two hundred and thirty guests—made a pretty suburban residence, but a few miles from the capital, made a combination from which only the happiest results might be expected. That these expectations were fully realized can be vouched for by the gay company of young folk, who followed the bridal couple to the depot, and bade them "God-speed" on their journey.
And now for the wedding and the preparations which preceded the ceremony.
White cosmos flowers and ferns formed the decorations. There must have been wagon loads used to produce the beautiful effect seen on every side. Piled high from book-cases, from brackets, from mantels, in vases large, in vases small, peeping out here and there, forming a solid mass there. Everywhere one might find a vase containing this beautiful, graceful flower. But the most charming effect of all was produced in a novel way. Stretched across a large hall was a festoon of ferns, and ferns were placed in the edge of the ferns, which dropped like a delicate green lace that it might be seen through the ferns, while the ferns were placed across the hall, their graceful drooping stems and sunny flowers showing exquisitely against the glossy green background. From the ceiling hung festoons formed of clematis and cosmos. Anything more perfectly charming in effect could hardly be imagined; we wish all our readers could have had even a momentary glimpse into this fairy land.
In this lovely spot were gathered, at the appointed hour, the wedding guests. Presently were heard the strains of that charming of all wedding marches, Lobengrin, and down the staircase, in a line, came the bride and groom, Miss Harriet B. Kingsbury and Mr. William Estlin Bonter. The bridesmaid, Miss Jennie Kingsbury, a sister of the bride, and the best man, Mr. Wilbur M. Delano, the bride's cousin.
As they stood in the Cosmos bowery, facing the guests, the bride, in a lovely cushion-like ceremony, kneeling on cushions to receive the pastor's blessing, and with lowered hands joining in the impressive prayer, against the lovely background of sunny blossoms and glossy green leaves, the scene was as beautiful as it was solemn, and the four young faces made a charming picture not soon to be forgotten.
And the gown? O yes, we must speak of the gown, for what account of a wedding is ever perfect without a full description of that all-important robe?
The wedding-gown was heavy white tulle, made en princess—neck high, sleeves long—with delicate white lace from the neck and across the bodice.
The skirt, a demi-train, was trimmed with a narrow quilting of tulle. Entering the elevator, the bride, accompanied together with a pendant of pearls reaching nearly to her feet, was a girl of old Roman period, an heirloom in the family, and was worn by the wearer. A tulle veil, fastened with pearl pins, and a bouquet of white roses, completed the costume.
The gown of the bridesmaid was of pink silk, her bouquet of pink roses, and the pretty color in her cheeks, carrying out the harmony of tone most effectively.
The groom, six feet in height, and blonde. The best man had little less, and dark. The two formed a most striking and pleasing picture of our best young-menhood.
After the congratulations to the groom and felicitations to the bride, supper was in order. The bride of course sat at the "bride's table," and then followed the guests, the bridesmaids, cream, coffee, etc. In the dining room as elsewhere, a wealth of cosmos greeted the guests upon every side, and upon the table, its tall, slender stems and delicate blossoms, made a most appropriate decoration.
In the library were placed the gifts, of which there was a long and valuable list. Almost everything that taste could design and love devise was there to be found. Etchings, water-colors, oil-paintings, framed ready for hanging in the pretty new parlor, to which the couple will shortly return, entirely, table linen, bed linen, embroideries, aspers, and most delicate china, silver spoons, and silverware, and various things from the single, gold-lipped berry upon to sets for all possible occasions, to say nothing of tea table and plates and ready fruit and silverware, and framed in response brass came as a reminder from absent New England friends. Of the other gifts, sofa cushions, table, books, cushions and all other accessories, and a home life, there can be but little said. They were absolutely too numerous to mention. Among them, however, must be noted a most beautiful set of China too large to put among the rest of the gifts.
And over all, here, too, the pale complexion, the delicate, delicate beauty to a scene a ready charm.
Mr. W. M. Kingsbury, the young and only brother of the bride, came all the wedding, bringing with him a number of pretty and useful remembrances from absent but not forgetful friends.
"Edgewood Cottage," the scene of the wedding, has been the home of the Delanos for more than a quarter of a century, and since the death of Mr. Delano has been the home of his daughter and her husband, (Mr. and Mrs. George B. Chittenden,) and their three charming children, Mrs. William E. Bonter, her sister, and the late Mr. Delano and a resident of California.
The wedding was a beautiful one and a delightful occasion to the old family friends.
Sad memories but a sacred generosity to another wedding in the same spot, but it was given with discreet love, and earnest love, and a people most starting on their journey of life. And yet another member of the household must be spoken of—for no one must be passed by—who has done so much to know to the world at large by the messengers she sends forth to them from her *stomach* in the Cottage. Within its walls dwell "Margaret Spencer," whose pen as it flies over the page, chronicles scenes and incidents sometimes pathetic and tender—sometimes humorous—but always so deeply interesting that her readers clamor for "more."

SOME QUEER CUSTOMS OF THE HINDOOS.

BY ELLA BARTLETT SIMMONS.
"One half of the world surely does not know how the other half lives."
We had accepted the above as a somewhat stale truism until we ourselves had made the half circuit of the globe. Then did it become a burning reality. We Americans have really no idea how the natives of India do live until we visit that country and make a conscientious study of their habits and customs.
No country on the face of the earth is more poverty stricken than this, and none would have greater resources if properly developed.
But there is a stationary civilization. They are bound down by the iron bands of caste.
Nowhere in the world is it ever observed with such rigidity as in Hindustan. From birth to the funeral pile it directs every movement. The Hindoo is always under its prevailing influence. Indian caste is inherited from birth alone. It cannot be transferred from one class to another. There were originally but four castes, Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Sudras, but at the present time they may be counted by the thousands, each little craft or profession constituting a different caste. Each is bound to follow directly in the footsteps of the father.
He the father a weaver, all the boys and girls as well must learn to weave, and so on with the other castes. They must marry within their own caste. They must work and weave and none but those must attend the wedding. In fact will never associate with any other caste than those belonging to a different caste.
We have in one of our mission schools, a bright little girl who was abandoned of her parents for eating a "Chopree" (pickles) given by a woman belonging to another caste.
They will let a stranger die at their feet, but they will not let their caste be polluted. They will work and weave and none but those must attend the wedding. In fact will never associate with any other caste than those belonging to a different caste.
For three thousand years the Indian people has been little better than a perfectly stuck. Their methods of performing work of whatever nature be long to the primitive ages. There has been no advancement.
It is in accordance with caste requirements that brass or copper utensils should be moved from place to place, but in certain vessels once used for cooking food or water must not be transported to another locality. Loads may be carried on the head by some castes, on the back by some, and not at all by others.
The poorest Hindoo family do not wash their own clothes or sweep their own floor, unless belonging to the "dihibo" or "meter" caste. If a Hindoo were touched by a man of an inferior caste while eating, if, indeed, the shadow fell upon his person or food, he would not only throw away all the prepared food, but would even spit out what might chance to be in his mouth at the instant. The accumulation of refuse for the preservation of caste purity is a disgusting sight. It is reported from Washington, will be the most artistic coin ever issued from the mint. On the obverse side will appear the head of Columbus, designed from the Lotta portrait, and surrounding it the words, "World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1892." On the reverse side will appear a caravel, representing Columbus' flag-ship and beneath it two hemispheres. Above the caravel will be "United States of America," and beneath the hemispheres, "Columbian Half Dollar." The coin will be regarded as the most distinctive and highest priced cheap souvenir of the world's fair.
All of these souvenir coins, except five, are being sold at a uniform price of one dollar each. For the first coin struck off \$10,000 has already been offered, and various prices have been bid for the 4th, 1892, and the last one. Desiring that these souvenirs be distributed as widely as possible among the people, and that all, irrespective of locality, should have an equal chance to obtain them, the Exposition authorities have sought to purchase large quantities and thus "corner" the market. On the contrary, they have arranged to supply banks, business houses and individuals in all parts of the country with as many as they may desire to distribute among their patrons, customers or friends. They require only that the order must be for fifty coins, or some multiple of fifty, and sent to the order and money and to distribute the coins when received. Orders should be addressed to A. F. Beecher, Treasurer World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago.
It is probable that the coins will not be ready for distribution until some time in December. But the orders are being sent in rapidly, and will be filled in the order of being received. Therefore it is important that all who desire coins should put in their orders as soon as possible.



Simply Awful.

Worst Case of Scrofula the Doctors Ever Saw.

Completely Cured by HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA.
"When I was 6 years old I had a scrofulous sore on the middle finger of my left hand, which got so bad that the doctors cut the finger off, and later took off more than half my hand. Then the sore broke out on my arm, and I got so much worse that I was nearly destroyed by the sight of one eye, also on my right arm. Doctors said I was dying."

Work All the Time.
Before, I could do no work. I know not what to say strong enough to express my gratitude to the doctor who cured me. I am now a farmer, and do all my own work. I am now a farmer, and do all my own work. I am now a farmer, and do all my own work.

There is no Remedy the equal of St. Jacobs Oil for the Prompt and Permanent Cure of Pains and Aches.

WORLD'S FAIR SOUVENIRS.

HOW YOU CAN GET ONE OF THE COLUMBIAN HALF DOLLARS.

The World's Fair souvenir coins are "going like hot cakes," and those who want to get one or more of them will have to bestir themselves or they will be too late. The desire for one of these mementos of the Exposition seems to be almost as universal as the interest in the Exposition itself, and orders for them have been sent in from all parts of the United States and also from foreign countries.

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NEW-POSTAGE STAMPS.
The new series of postage stamps by Postmaster-General Wansmaker will be known as the "Columbian" series of postage stamps, and will serve to illustrate the important incidents in Columbus' life. The new stamps will be of the same high as the present series, but twice so long, the increased size being thought necessary in order to properly display the illustrations. These are intended to commemorate the discovery of America by Columbus, and several of the illustrations have been already decided upon. These are: "Discovery of America by Columbus—First Sight of Land," "Columbus' Fleet at Sea," from Revista de la Marina; "Land of Columbus," after the Van der Lyp picture in the United States Capital; "The Santa Maria, Columbus' flagship, after Alfred Herreshoff; Columbus Asking Aid of Queen Isabella," "Columbus receiving the Story of His Discovery to Ferdinand Isabella on His Return from His First Voyage." It is expected that the entire series will be put on sale Jan. 1, 1893.

A school of whales estimated to be 400 or 500 in number, were seen sporting their huge bodies just outside the surf on Long Beach, Washington. One large and fine specimen was washed ashore and killed.

The area sown to wheat in South Australia will not be so large this year as last, the season having been late and the ground hard for plowing.

Prince and Yankee.
A musical critic from Yankee-land, Mr. L. C. Elson, who describes in a very "free and easy" way his experiences in Europe, was at one of the great Wagnerian performances at Bayreuth. The place was full of congenial people, who had come together for one purpose. As an illustration of the spirit that prevailed, Mr. Elson says:
I have spoken of the Prince of Hesse. I did not know he was a prince until I had chatted with him about half an hour, and then it was too late. On the contrary, put on an exactly behavior. I resisted the temptation to tell him that I was the Duke of Oshkosh or the Marquis of Kalamazoo, and kept my character as a humble American citizen. As for his highness, any rich Western speculator would have put on more airs.
Alas! there are no manuals of etiquette on "How to converse with a prince," even the Bowdler phrase-book omits this important chapter. I feared to ask if the prince business was good at this season, and he did not once say, "By my halldome!" as princes do in novel, he began talking very quietly and most learnedly on music, in which he seemed to be one of the best-informed gentlemen I had ever met. He was a very near-sighted poet, and as I also am nearly as blind as a bat, it may be supposed that the bond of sympathy drew us together.

How's This?
We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of catarrh that cannot be cured by taking Dr. Carter's Catarrh Remedy. It is a perfect cure for all cases of Catarrh of the Bladder, Prostate, Uterus, etc. It is a perfect cure for all cases of Catarrh of the Bladder, Prostate, Uterus, etc. It is a perfect cure for all cases of Catarrh of the Bladder, Prostate, Uterus, etc.

What are you going to do? These and other similar articles may offer you some suggestions.

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Shipbuilders Wanted. Chats with great shipbuilders on this Subject; by Alexander Wainwright.
Admission to West Point; by the Supt. of U. S. Academy, Col. John M. Wilson.
Admission to the Naval Academy; by Lieut. W. F. Low, U. S. N.
By the Chief Clerks of Six Departments.

Things to Know.
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A Chat With Schoolgirls; by Amelia E. Barr.
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FREE to 1893. Specimens copies sent free on application.

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION, Boston, Mass.

The Youth's Companion

The last year has been the most prosperous of the Sixty-five years of THE COMPANION'S history. It has now over 550,000 subscribers. This support enables it to provide more lavishly than ever for 1893. Only a partial list of Authors, Stories and Articles can be given here.

Prize Serial Stories.
The Prizes offered for the Serial Competition of 1892 were the Largest ever given by any periodical.
First Prize, \$2,000. LARRY; "Aunt Mat's" Investment and its Reward; by Miss Amanda M. Douglas.
Second Prize, \$1,000. ARMY; How a very hard Lesson was heavily Learned; by Charles W. Clarke.
Third Prize, \$1,000. CHERRYCROFT; The Old House and its Tenant; by Miss Edith E. Stowe (Pauline Wesley).
Fourth Prize, \$1,000. SAM; A charming Story of Brotherly Love and Self-Sacrifice; by Miss M. G. McClelland.
SEVEN OTHER SERIAL STORIES, during the year, by C. A. Stephens, Homer Greene and others.

The Bravest Deed I Ever Saw, will be described in graphic language by Officers of the United States Army and by famous War Correspondents.
General John Gibbon. General Wesley Merritt.
Captain Charles King. Archibald Forbes.

Great Men at Home.
How Mr. Gladstone Works; by his daughter, Mrs. Drew.
Gen. Sherman in his Home; by Mrs. Minnie Sherman Fitch.
Gen. McClellan; by his son, George B. McClellan.
President Garfield; by his daughter, Mrs. Molly Garfield Brown.

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