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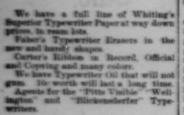
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THE GIRLS OF KASHMIR.

They Are Not as Beautifu The girls of Kashmir in former were sold and carried away to the Punjab, in India. They commanded a large price, and parents in moderate circumstances for centuries past have een in the habit of parting with their daughters to place themselves in easier circumstances, and the daughters have renerally been quite willing to escape rom a life of penury and labor to one

of opulence and ease.

A laboring man in this part of India cannot earn over \$2 or \$3 a month, while many receive for their daughters as high as \$1,000. There are some cases where \$5,000 was paid, but the usual price has been from \$100 to \$500.

The practice became so common as well as so damaging that a severe law was enacted prohibiting any one from removing any woman from the country, but it is said that the business goes on now as it has done for hungless of the properties. dreds of years, and to that practice may be charged the fact that the wo-men of Kashmir are not as beautiful

as they once were.

The process of taking all the beauti ful girls away, leaving only the ordi-nary and ugly ones to continue the race, has lowered the standard of beauty. Most of the women and girls per form field labor as much as the men and their dress is of the coarsest and and their dress is of the coarsest and plainest materials, consisting of a gar-ment like a nightgown made of white cotton. There is no effort to have it fit. The condition of women in Kashmir is a very sad one, but one from which there does not seem to be any presen escape. It is a constant struggle to live, without the least hope of any ac-cumulation or of ever seeing better

day and the women generally about 3 cents, and that will provide only the coarsest food.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

PICKINGS FROM FICTION. There is nothing that is enough for woman, but all.—"The Mississippi

Overdone heartiness is nearly as nat ty as underdone mutton.—"Comment of a Countess." No man can be brave who considers pain the chief evil of life.—"The Hero-ine of the Strait."

We ought never to do wrong when people are looking.—"A Double Bar-reled Detective Story." Occasion's everything, but the rub i

to know an occasion when you see it."The Lady Paramount." I'd be slow in advisin' anybody to go crooked, but when ye feel ye're in the hands of sharpers it's the only way.-"Rockhaven."

The master poets love to deal with the victory of the vanquished, which the world's thinkers know to be greater than the victory of the victorious.

Be sure, before you give your love and your trust, that you are giving them not only to one who deserves -"Many Waters."
A PANTHER'S DEN.

an and Bright, In Decided Co-trast to the Popular Idea. It was my good fortune to discove the newly abandoned lair of a conga evidence of that fastidious cleanliness which is a marked characteristic of the animal. This retreat was not at all the typical "panther's den" of tradition, but a bush grown harborage under the edge of a rock with just enough of shelf to keep off the rain. I should not have found this breeding place but for a certain well gnawed array of bones scattered over a little smooth bench above a creek channel. From this boneyard there was a very traceable path leading through grass and this boneyard there was a very tracea-ble path leading through grass and brush to the retreat where the dam had housed her young. The evidence here told plainly of the cougar's long immunity from annoyance and attack and of a thoroughly cleanly habit of life. There was no home or other sign in every instance, and the children had been called to the dining room. As been called to the dining room. As bones which would have been crunched or eaten by grown animals had been perfectly cleaned by the kits I was able to judge of their summer's diet. This had consisted mostly of minor game, rabbits, marmots, grouse and the like, with an occasional small

deer. At least one whole family of badgers, old and young, had been served, pussy having probably lain for them at their hole until they were all in.—Franklin Welles Calkins in Out-The Rheumatic Flends.
"I have been in the business for nine years," says a drug cierk quoted by the Philadelphia Record, "and up to date I have learned of 3,607 cures for rheunatism which regularly licensed phy-icians know nothing about—or, at east, if they do, they don't recommend em. People come in suffering from eumatism—and it's queer that peo who suffer from rheumatism all em to look and act alike—and present

doctor's prescription.
"The first thing they want to know i "The first thing they want to know is how much it's going to cost. I look over the prescription and tell them, and then they invariably rear up on their hind legs and how!. They tell me about the virtues of something that cured Uncle Heary—goat's milk, drunk at 3 o'clock every morning; a raw onlon carried in the left hand hip pocket, a horsechestnut carried in the vest horsechestnut carried in the ves pocket, magnetic rings oh, all sorts of things that I've made notes of. It has become so that I am discouraged over the chances of filling a prescrip-tion for a rheumatic patient."

In the old days of western Pennsyl In the old days of western Pennayl-vania, when the people had little mon-ey to pay for teachers and could spare their boys but little time from the work of the field, school "kept" almost in-cessantly during the few weeks when it was in session, with no Saturday holidays and very brief recesses. At one little schoolhouse among the moun-tains an old fashioned Irish schoolmas-ter was once employed who kept his ter was once employed who kept his beys grinding steadily at their tasks, but gave them permission to nibble from their lunch baskets sometimes as they worked.

One day, while the master was in structing a class in the rule of three he noticed that one of the pupils was paying more attention to a piece of apple pis than to the lesson. "Arrah, there," said the master. "Jack Baies, be listenin' to the lisson, will ye!" "I'm listening, sir," said the boy, "Listenin', is it!" exclaimed the master. "Then it's listenin' wid one car ye are an' atin' poi wid the other."

A Singular Marriage Custom. The Kurds have a very curious and comewhat dangerous marriage custom, which one would think would be more honored in the breach than in the ob-servance. The husband, surrounded by a bodyguard of twenty or thirty young men, carries his wife home on his back in a scariet cloth and is desperately as ited the whole way by a number o

Sticks and stones are buried at the bridegroom, who, is the coming home with his bride, can hardly be consider with his bride, can hardly be consider-ed a very happy man, for the irate amazons often inflict on him marks which he carries to the grave. It may be that among the lady pursuers are some of the bridegroom's former "flames," who turn the mock attack into downright cartiest to avenge elighted loss.

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