

TAKE HEART.

Purchaseth thou many times hast failed,
Some weaklings over thee prevailed,
And thou hast faltered in the strife
And softly rind thy lighted life;
And though great thy grief and keen thy pain
O weary one, take heart again,
Dwell not upon thy mournful past,
Arise, and for the right stand fast,
Be strong and brave, fold not thy hands,
For these still flow life's golden sands;
To better things sweet voices call,
And God in love rules over all.
—John Allen Guilford, in Boston Transcript.

THE PRAIRIE COUNTRY.

By Bertha Gerneaux Woods.

It was a dry, stifling day on the prairie. The south wind blowing from the west, wafted clouds of dust across the horizon. The view from the window of the sod house was not particularly bright, but it was bright to the man at the window of the sod house. He could see only faintly the golden cups of the prickly pear cactus, the purple of the deep crimson of the pinon cactus blossoms, breaking the brown stretch of land. The little pot of geraniums and the little pot of mandarin orange on the mantel, and the small square sitting room, all the window lay on the furnace. A gray coating lay on the window pane, and the little pot of geraniums and the little pot of mandarin orange on the mantel, and the small square sitting room, all the window lay on the furnace. A gray coating lay on the window pane, and the little pot of geraniums and the little pot of mandarin orange on the mantel, and the small square sitting room, all the window lay on the furnace.

CONVENTION CITIES.

Baltimore has been the scene of twelve national conventions, more than any other city in the United States. It came to be called Convention City. The first National Convention of the Democratic party was held there in May, 1832. The Democrats convened there again in 1836, 1840, 1844, 1848, 1852, 1856, and 1860. The Republican National Convention met there in 1864. Chicago, of later years, has been more deserving the title. The Republicans made Chicago their choice in 1860, the famous convention at which Lincoln was nominated. Since then the Windy City has been the scene of the following national conventions: Democratic, 1864; Republican, 1868; Republican, 1880; Republican and Democratic, 1884; Republican, 1888; Democratic, 1892; Republican and Democratic, 1896; New York City seems to be shunned by national conventions. The Democratic Convention of 1898 is the solitary record. Kansas City gets its first National Convention this year. The Republicans this year go back to the scene of their first national convention, 1836. The Republican National Convention of 1872 was also held in Philadelphia. The only other cities in which national conventions have been held are Washington (Whigs, 1832; Harrisburg (Whigs, 1836 and 1840); Cincinnati (Democrats, 1856 and 1860); and St. Louis (Democrats, 1876 and 1888, and Republicans, 1860) and Minneapolis (Republicans, 1892).

HER JET BLACK CUT GLASS BOWL.

A New York woman has an addition to her stock of curios since her up town home was burned out last winter. A beautiful cut glass bowl survived the fire, but was stained by the smoke, which was particularly thick and dense on the dining room floor. The bowl is now perfectly black, the pattern of the glass brought out in iridescent relief. Scouring has had no effect on the new coloring, which seems to have burnt its way into the glass. A china pitcher, which also stood on the sideboard, had its delicate color fired to a reddish black so evenly that no one would suspect that it was not done in a professional kiln. The two pieces were brought out by the owner at a recent luncheon, and her guests were asked if any of them had been specimens of what the hostess explained was a very rare ware; all the company fell into the trap, and most learned opinions were given around the table in an effort at decision before the joke was explained.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

STUMPS DRAWN BY WIND POWER.

Utilizing the wind as a stump puller is an Oregon invention. It was the idea of the farmer at the State penitentiary, whose task was to clear six acres, and with the aid of the wind he cleared the whole tract in six weeks, although the timber was a dense growth, the firs measuring from one to four feet in diameter. The winds in the quarter blow strong from the south at this season. The farmer put his men to work on the north side of the fir grove. They cut a log and dragged it close to the north side of the bases of the fir trees that were to be felled. The preparations were made during the first day, and then the men went home and slept while the wind did the rest. During the night a strong south wind blew the trees down, and they, in falling across the logs, pulled up the treetops. The next day the men sawed up the fallen trees, burned the brush, and laid their logs for another lot of trees. They proceeded in this way until the whole grove had disappeared.—Farmer's Advocate.

THE SCAVENGER OF THE YIELD.

The vulture is the scavenger of the yield. Throughout South Africa he is found. Go anywhere you like on the veldt, and sooner or later—in all probability the former—you will find him. His quickness of eye is simply astounding. An ox falls out of the team, his yoke full. He is out-spanned from his yoke fellow, and he goes down to the spruit, or stream. The sky above and away to the horizon on all sides is absolutely clear and cloudless. Hardly has the breath left the body of the poor ox, when you may observe far away, far away up in the sky a tiny black speck, then another and another, until there are twenty of them. Gradually they get larger and larger, circling round in ever diminishing circles all the while they descend. An hour afterward there is nothing in the spruit but a bundle of bleached white bones that might have been there for months. The sky is clear and speckless again. The vultures have scavenged the veldt.

THE AVERAGE USE OF THE MATTO.

The average woman has an idea that the government ought to let her send anything by mail from a jelly roll to a guinea pig.—New York Press.

ECLIPSE AWED THE BIRDS.

A preliminary account of the observations made at Wadesboro, N. C., during the recent eclipse, under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution, has been prepared by C. G. Abbot of the institution. "The main object of investigation," says Mr. Abbot, "was the corona, and of this, first, a photographic study of the detailed structure of the inner corona; with, second, a determination by the bolometer whether appreciable heat reaches us from it, and, if possible, an examination of the form of its spectrum energy curve." Mr. Abbot must have keen eyes and ears, for he describes minutely many things that would be expected to escape the average scientist. For instance, he says: "It was noticed that the birds were silent during the totality, but, true to their nature, the English sparrows were last to be still and first to begin their discussion of the eclipse after the return of light. 'The eclipse,' he goes on, 'was not a dark one. No second magnitude stars were observed with the naked eye. Most of the observers saw only Mercury, though Venus was distinguished by some, and Capella also was seen by a few. The high degree of illumination operated unfavorably in the study of the outer corona. 'The fall of temperature and rising breeze were distinctly noticeable before totality. No change in direction of the wind was noted. Shadow bands were seen, but those observers who attempted to measure their velocity found them too rapid and flickering for any successful work in this direction; yet there was noticeable unanimity among independent observers as to their size and distance apart (about five inches). 'The attention of all visible observers was caught by the equatorial streamers. Father Woodman describes the appearance as like a moth or pearl, but different observers differ on the color estimate. A yellowish green tinge was noted by the artist of the party, Mr. Child, while to others the light was straw-colored or golden. The visual telescopic observations of the writer gave little indication of the finely divided structure of the inner corona which he had noted at Pike's Peak during the eclipse of 1878.'

SPARROWS WERE LAST TO BE QUIET AND THE FIRST TO CHATTER.

The man with the stooping shoulders and the flush on either cheek went up close to the little woman with the bright, eager eyes. "Well, little woman, are you most ready?" he said, patting her shoulder. "You've had a fine rest, haven't you?" He coughed sharply as he spoke, but she smiled up at him brightly that he might not know how much more it racked her chest than his. "You'd better get on your bonnet, little woman," he said. "It's time we were going. I don't know how we're to thank you and your wife, Mr. Gilbert, for all you have done for us, but we feel it, sir, we feel it."

AN EAST INDIAN KERCHIEF.

A great many girls like to cover the top of the head when bathing with a silk handkerchief of some becoming color, instead of wearing one of the mackintosh caps. The handkerchief can be chosen of a becoming tint to match the bathing suit. If your suit is of black serge, satin or brilliantine, or of navy blue material, you can use one of the handanas of glorious East Indian coloring, tropical greens and orange, blue, violet and dusky reds. Cut the handana in half diagonally and then it is just the right size.

NEW SUMMER STOCKINGS.

There is no silk nor design of floriated pattern on the new summer stockings yelect foulard stockings. It is simply the clever idea of a merchant who sells silks and also hosiery. Fine lisle-thread stockings of colors to match the foulards most in demand, blues of various shades, browns, gray, a few "crushed raspberry," anemysis, sage green or tans are heaped up in the silk counter. Some, but not all, have open work meshes as decoration. They are obviously meant to be worn with low-cut shoes.

TWO ELABORATE BLOUSES.

Of the two blouses shown in the large engraving the first is of chiffon in the new tea-rose yellow coloring, over this charming foundation coming black net embroidered in jet paillettes, and in its turn overlaid with a design of single flowers and leaves in ivory lace applique; while then at the waist there is a deep swathed band of rosepink silk, a twist of which—in a slightly paler shade—is drawn up between

POPULAR LACE BOWS.

A new trimming exploited this season occurs in the lace bows, made very small and very neatly. They do not appear singly, but in a series, connected with narrow satin ribbons, upon which they appear to be mounted. They can be used in various ways, and on a great many materials. Their manifest destiny, however, is on organdie and lawn frocks or dainty summer gowns of some sheer woolen material.

A HAT TRUNK.

A hat trunk or hat box, as our English cousins say, will accommodate as many as half a dozen pieces of millinery. Each hat has a stout cushion, which enters the crown and serves as a mount. The hat pins run through the cushion and fasten your big hat to the mount. Now it is firm and cannot wobble about and so get out of shape.

THE NEWEST LEATHER BELT.

Soft fawn-colored or pearl-colored suede leather or oze leather forms a stylish belt for the fastidious girl in a world which is much given to wearing pulley belts of satin or corded silk. The newer leather belt should match as nearly as possible the tone of the homespun suit. Beautiful light browns or grays predominate. Select a chateleine bag to match, for this is the pocketless bag. Get a bag with an outside half pocket, in which you can tuck your little kerchief, so as to get it easily without opening the chateleine bag in which your money is laid away. You can get a red or black and sometimes a dark blue leather belt, also a cream one. They are much less wide than formerly. The latest tapers off very much in front, where it shows decidedly more narrow than at the back. They run in sizes from eighteen to twenty-four inches. The narrow leather belt is certainly quite smart.

MOHAIR COATING SUIT.

Mohair, the most serviceable material made for summer wear, is used for the above costume, reproduced from the Chicago Record. The tone is sand color, trimmed with tailored bands of golden-brown silk. With it a violet silk skirt, finished with a high white satin stock, is worn.



THE ECIPSES OF FASHION.

New York City (Special).—A pretty outdoor bodice, and at the same time one simple of construction, is always welcome. In this model, reproduced from the Philadelphia Record, tucks dispose of slight fullness at the waist back and front, the opening in the latter being fastened by cords from tiny gilt or silver buttons. The vest we should suggest making in either white satin or cloth embroidered all over with an indescribable design in gold and silver thread, a narrow applique of the same edging the revers, cuffs, and that smart Medici collar, which is so invaluable in imparting an outdoor air to a bodice.



BODICE FOR A WALKING FROCK.

FASHIONS FOR A WALKING FROCK.

fashions the corset, which is obviously made over a well-shaped and boned foundation. Two Elaborate Blouses. Of the two blouses shown in the large engraving the first is of chiffon in the new tea-rose yellow coloring, over this charming foundation coming black net embroidered in jet paillettes, and in its turn overlaid with a design of single flowers and leaves in ivory lace applique; while then at the waist there is a deep swathed band of rosepink silk, a twist of which—in a slightly paler shade—is drawn up between



NOTABLY HANDSOME BLOUSES.

MARKETS.

Table with multiple columns listing market prices for various commodities. Columns include 'Baltimore', 'New York', and 'Philadelphia'. Items listed include Flour, Wheat, Corn, Rice, Butter, Sugar, and various oils. Prices are listed in dollars and cents.

BALTIMORE			
GRAIN ETC.			
FLOUR—Balt. Best Pat. #	4 90	@	4 90
High Grade Extra	4 40		
WHEAT—No. 2 Red	85 1/2		49
CORN—No. 2 White	49 1/2		27 1/2
Oats—Southern & Penn.	27		57
RYE—No. 2	55		17 00
HAY—Choice Timothy	16 50		15 00
Good to Prime	14 50		15 00
STRAW—Rye in car lots	15 25		9 00
Wheat	8 50		10 00
Oat Blocks	9 50		
CANNED GOODS.			
TOMATOES—Std. No. 3 #	70		55
No. 2	110		80
PEAS—Standards	80		80
CORN—Dry Pack	80		70
Mol.	80		
BEEF.			
CITY STEERS	8 1/2	@	10
City Cows	8 1/2		9
POTATOES AND VEGETABLES.			
POTATOES—Burbanks #	40	@	45
ONIONS			
HOG PRODUCTS—sla. #			
Clear ribides	7	@	7 1/2
Hans	12		12 1/2
Meas Fork, per bar			15 00
LARD—Crude			7
Best refined			
BUTTER.			
BUTTER—Fine Cream	21	@	22
Under Fine	30		31
Creamery Rolls	21		22
CHEESE.			
CHEESE—N. Y. Fancy #	10 1/2	@	10 1/2
N. Y. Flats	10		10 1/2
Edm. Cheese	6 1/2		7 1/2
EGGS.			
EGGS—Stata	12	@	12 1/2
North Carolina	12		12 1/2
LIVE POULTRY.			
CHICKENS	10	@	10 1/2
Ducks, per lb.	12		14
TOBACCO.			
TOBACCO—Md. Infer #	1 50	@	2 50
Sound common	3 50		4 50
Middling	6 00		7 00
Fancy	10 00		11 00
LIVE STOCK.			
BEEF—Best Beves	4 75	@	5 15
SHEEP	3 50		4 00
Hogs	5 50		6 40
FURS AND BEANS.			
MUSKAT	10	@	11
Raccoon	40		45
Red Fox	—		100
Skunk Black	—		80
Opossum	22		23
Blak	—		—
Oter	—		—
NEW YORK			
FLOUR—Southern	3 85	@	4 20
WHEAT—No. 2 Red	85		89 1/2
RYE—Western	66		67
CORN—No. 2	44		45 1/2
OATS—No. 2	27		28
BUTTER—Stata	15		15
EGGS—Stata	14		15
CHEESE—Stata	9		9
PHILADELPHIA.			
FLOUR—Southern	3 85	@	4 20
WHEAT—No. 2 Red	85		89 1/2
RYE—Western	46 1/2		49 1/2
OATS—No. 2	27		28
BUTTER—Stata	15		15
EGGS—Stata	14		15
CHEESE—Stata	9		9

CAT DISPLAYS STRATEGY.

Feline Ingenuity Worthy a Military Expert. It was not his size or his beauty which made him remarkable, though his possession of these attributes of feline superiority easily made him prominent among the cats of the neighborhood, with whom he waged unrelentless warfare, but the fact is that he possessed a controlling mind and a strategic ability that would have made him a great commander had he been born in a more exalted sphere of life. For this cat, with true diplomacy, made friends with the dogs of his particular domain and went forth to battle attended by a body-guard whose appearance inspired respect and assisted him in his combats. An English mastiff, a bird dog, and a small cocker spaniel shared his meals, and later enabled him to gain victories over his hated rival, the gray cat across the street. This cat had had many a contest with that gray cat, but the combat always resulted in a draw, because of the guerilla tactics of his wary opponent, who preferred a short fight and a rapid dash to safety to a prolonged conflict where the superior weight and fighting ability of the cat with the controlling mind would have a decided advantage. The thought that victory, undisputed, had never yet perched upon his banner, vexed the soul of the diplomatic feline and embittered his milk and beefsteak with the wormwood of vengeance long delayed. But at last diplomacy triumphed and retribution overtook the gray prowler and disturber of midnight slumber. One day in a fatal hour the gray cat invaded the precincts of the feline Bismarck when the allies of the latter were at hand. When he struck a sudden blow and ran, a smile of joy parted the whiskers of the cat with the controlling mind, and with him the three dogs joined the chase.

Because of their superior numbers the dogs easily caught and brought to bay the gray cat and then formed a ring about him while the avenger entered the arena and began the battle. Continually driven back into the ring by the three dogs, the gray cat was unable to pursue his favorite tactics, and the result, after one of the prettiest "cat scraps" that that ward had ever seen, was complete victory for the cat with the diplomatic inclinations. Only when the gray cat, by a flying leap over the heads of the dogs, escaped did he get up in the work of righteous retribution. Then in the consciousness of victory, the conqueror returned, accompanied by his allies, to his repast of milk and beefsteak, lord of his own domain. And the surrounding neighborhood as far as three blocks owned his undisputed sway.—Grand Rapids Herald.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS STRIKE.

Morristown, N. J., special to Philadelphia North American: A novel strike has been threatened here. The smallest class that will ever have graduated from the high school will be that of 1900, consisting of Misses Olive King, Elizabeth Smart, Lillian Bowman, Olive Williams and Evelyn Bennett. On commencement day it has always been customary for the graduates to hold public exercises, sending out special invitations to their friends. Miss Lavina Conklin, vice principal of the school, has informed this year's graduates that, owing to their small number, there would be no formal exercises, but simply a lecture. This has made the girls indignant, and they have announced that they will stay away and refuse diplomas unless exercises are held as usual.