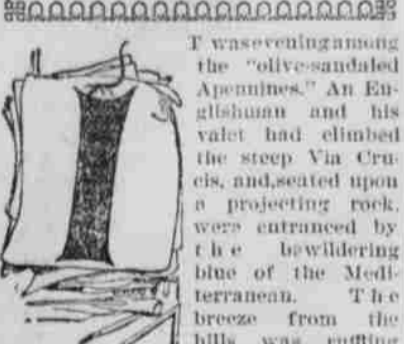


THE WOODLAND CAMP.

"There is a spot where the plump pine... Where pigeons feed among the vines... That hang above the lily-like trees...

Held For Ransom.



I was returning from the olive-sanded Apennines... An Englishman and his valet had climbed the steep Via Crucis...

"Jack," continued Cathcart, turning to his valet... "An hour hence it will be dark and we have not yet struck upon the hospice of San Columbo..."

"We are on the right path," said the valet... "of that I am sure; but three good miles have yet to be done before we get shelter..."

"Then we had better go on. The shadows are beginning to darken the valleys with their gloom..."

"That is not our way," said the valet... "It is an untraveled path. You can see, sir, there are no footprints on it..."

Cathcart examined the two paths, and after some thought said: "Jack, you are right, I think..."

The route selected led into a narrow gorge overhung by frowning precipices... Twilight soon faded away and darkness gradually encompassed the travelers...

"Did you hear that?" asked Cathcart... "as he turned round and peered into the darkness behind..."

"There are no brigands here; so the innkeeper told me. Indeed, I have left my pistol behind me..."

"Let us make off," cried the valet... "No," said Cathcart, firmly... "We must stand our ground. Here they come..."

As he spoke two men of dark visage came up... They were long, loose cloaks and slouched hats... "We have lost our way," said Cathcart...

and, touching Cathcart upon the shoulder, she said, with sudden surprise: "Who is that beautiful lady? The face is not strange to me..."

"Your wife! She was my best friend when I was ill in Rome. She tended me during the weary months of convalescence... She was more than a mother to me..."

"Certainly," said Cathcart... "You are as noble as you are beautiful..."

Amid the wild revel of the birth-night celebration Cathcart's heart trembled with him... What was Teresa doing? Did she repent of her promise...

"To Teresa, our beauty," they said... "As they drank the insidious draught. The deed was done..."

One by one the noisy brigands dropped to sleep, and Teresa beckoned to the prisoners to follow her...

"An Antediluvian Fish in a Glacier. State Fish and Game Commissioner Johnson is one of the oldest cowboys in the State..."

But he has apparently changed. This morning he claims to have seen a man who saw a fish frozen in the ice in the perpetual glacier of Long's Peak...

"Garlic Eaters in the United States. There are between 250,000 and 300,000 pounds of garlic annually consumed by Italian, French and other foreign residents of the United States..."

"How to Destroy Mosquitoes. Two and one-half hours are required for a mosquito to develop from its first stage, a speck resembling cholera bacteria, to its active and venomous maturity..."

"High Prices for Chinese Pottery. In London recently very high prices were given for some pieces of Nankin pottery, the purchasers being probably moved to unusual prodigality by a suspicion that after the present Chinese troubles shall have been settled such pottery will be more than ever difficult of procurement..."

"The smallest book in the world. Probably, is in the possession of the Earl of Dufferin. It is an edition of the sacred book of the Sikhs, and is said to be only half the size of a postage stamp..."

"The giraffe has such powers of mimicry that, although its size might be supposed to make it a conspicuous object to its enemies, the most practiced eye has been deceived by the animal's resemblance, to one of the dead and blasted tree trunks which abound in its haunts..."

"Every horse in the English army is numbered, and has a little history kept for it. The number is branded on the animal's feet—the thousands on the near hind foot and the units, tens and hundreds on the off hind foot..."

"The effects of the persistent use of strong coffee are most marked. They show themselves in profound mental depression, insomnia, and severe headache. There is muscular weakness and trembling irritability of the heart's action, with sensation of weight..."

DEVICES TO KILL BOXERS

INVENTIVE GENIUS STIMULATED BY THE NEWS FROM CHINA.

General Greely Receiving Hundreds of Letters Containing Devices, Mostly Chimerical, to Be Used by the Nations to Destroy the Chinese Rebels.

Brigadier-General A. W. Greely, Chief Signal Officer of the Army, Washington, is receiving so many letters containing suggestions for devices to be used in the war of the nations of the world against China that the problem of disposing of the communications is a serious one, declares the New York Sun. The inventive genius of the entire civilized world appears to have been stimulated by the news from China, and communications are received from many quarters of the globe, written in various languages...

While some of the suggestions are practical, the greater number are wholly chimerical. Most of the letters are accompanied by drawings, some of them works of art and others a few sketches on yellow wrapping paper. A large percentage of the communications are from ignorant persons, two letters having recently come from persons in this country addressed to "The Hon. United States." One reached General Greely which was addressed to "Grover Cleveland, President of the United States Republic..."

Probably the most absurd idea concerning aerial navigation was recently received in a communication accompanied by beautifully executed drawings. The first drawing represented an eagle soaring in the clouds and carrying a bomb in its talons. Then followed a picture of two eagles fastened together and carrying a full grown sheep. Under the second picture was written, "If the first is possible, why not this?"

Then followed four eagles fastened together carrying a basket far above the clouds. The last and largest picture represented the climax of the scheme. On this could be seen twenty-five eagles fastened by small cords to a car containing a man, who was calmly driving in the great birds among the clouds, while he casually dropped chunks of dynamite on the "Boxers" below.

The letter from this genius says: "Nature furnishes this flying machine. It is very easy to raise the eagles for the purpose and they can be trained easily. My last picture shows that the twenty-five eagles, plus the tractability shown in falconry, plus my experiments, equal practicability..."

Countless are the suggestions for propelling balloons by means of a bicycle gear. One inventor has a device, consisting of a balloon covered with propellers, "for the purpose," he explains, "of making the balloon go wherever you want it to and to prevent its turning over in a wind." Another drawing represents a balloon fitted with an inverted umbrella fastened to the balloon, "which," says the inventor, "will prevent the thing going up too fast. This is the trouble with all balloons..."

One elaborate drawing, accompanied by what was designated a working model made of wood represents three great cylinders, which are to be filled with gas and are made to float horizontally in the air. From these cylinders is suspended a small car, equipped with ordinary boat outriggers. The inventor explained in his letter: "This perfect machine does not necessitate any other motive power than the ordinary light airs which are used in boats. They are used on air instead of water. By this means the ship can be guided or propelled anywhere. You have no idea what a hold you can get on the air with a large car. You can give it a real hard crack..."

Another inventor has made an airship which is fitted with wagon wheels to be used in case the ship meets with an accident and falls to the earth. In such an emergency the ship is intended to run on the ground. A similar idea was suggested in a drawing received showing a balloon carrying a car which was made in the form of a boat. This was thought to be very useful by the inventor, as it obviated all danger of the aerial navigator being drowned if he should by mishap drop into the sea. The propeller blades were so arranged that when the craft struck the water they converted it into a sidewheel boat. Very appropriately the inventor called this the "Sea Scout..."

One aspirant for fame submitted an idea which he termed his "balloon fleet." This was composed of twenty or thirty balloons carrying nitro-glycerine. On each balloon was placed a time fuse so arranged that the explosion would occur directly over the enemy. The inventor wrote an enthusiastic note to accompany his model, in which he said he was certain that the plan was practical, "as it was only necessary to turn loose a sufficient number of balloons. Some of them are bound to drop on the Boxers." The writer closed by stating: "I will be glad to furnish quotations for large or small lots..."

An inventor from a Western State suggests the making of an air ship, to be propelled by an electric motor, the power to be furnished by a dynamo located on the ground. To quote from the original letter: "It would be an airship when they meet the Boxers. The wire supplying the current could be dragged behind, as it is so light it would not interfere with the progress of the ship. If the ship cannot be propelled by electricity, a gas engine can be supplied with gas by means of a long rubber hose..."

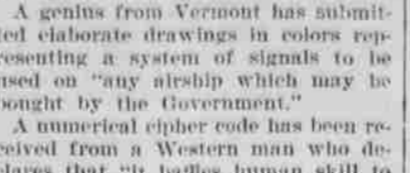
A genius from Vermont has submitted elaborate drawings in colors representing a system of signals to be used on "any airship which may be used by the Government..."

A numerical cipher code has been received from a Western man who declares that "it baffles human skill to unravel this code." To this statement General Greely agrees most heartily. The letter explains that the code consists of a system of numbers which are to be spoken. For instance: If a General should call out to his aides: "thirty-seven plus fifty-three minus eight," he would mean "attack on the right flank." The letter offering this suggestion has a postscript stating that the code is for sale...

Details of the countless ideas which are being submitted to the War Department could be continued indefinitely. Almost without exception the letters refer to an offer having been received from a foreign Government. Then the inventor sets forth in detail his preference for this Government above all others, and his strong desire that his invention should be purchased by it before some foreign Power profits by the result of his ingenuity...

The number of crank letters is increasing every day. As the news from China develops graver features, the legions of "inventors" who would destroy by means of their war machines the many millions of the Flowery Kingdom grow rapidly in numbers, and their growth means more work and worry for the Chief Signal Officer of the Army.

WOMANKIND



WOMEN AS ARCHITECTS.

Feminine Taste and Skill in Home Planning a New Field of Labor. In an attractively decorated and seemingly comfortable suite of rooms in one of the popular apartment houses in Buffalo a young woman carefully surveyed her possessions that had just been moved in, says the Buffalo Express. A friend sat near her, and together they planned the disposal of the chairs, tables, pictures and bric-a-brac with which the rooms were littered. The rooms had apparently all the requisites for comfort. There were a mantel and grate, gas and electric light fixtures, good windows, a closet as large as are usually allowed in such houses, a tiled bathroom, with porcelain tub and a box of a bedroom...

"Where will you put the dressing table so that it will be useful by daylight and gaslight?" asked the friend skilled in arranging furniture. The possessor of the suite shook her head. The idea was impossible, for the window was at one end of the room and the gas jet at the other, on neither side was there a space between doors or fireplace large enough for the dressing table to stand so as to be in a good light both by day and night...

"It is the way with the majority of houses that are built for speculation," said one of the women. "Men design and plan them without a thought other than that they may have an attractive appearance in order to rent quickly. A woman's first thought would be 'is such a room liveable?' and liveable invariably means convenience and comfort..."

Generally when a woman inspects a house or a room, she imagines herself arranging the furniture in the different rooms and living in them. In fancy she locates the dressing table in the most convenient place for it, if the window and gas lights are not properly placed so as to make dressing her hair a comfortable process either at morning or night the room is condemned at once. If there is not sufficient clear wall space for the bed to stand against without blocking a door or window or shutting off a mantel, it is a difficult matter to reconcile her to it at all...

There are many other points about a home that, when considered, add to its pleasure and, if neglected, make it a continual source of annoyance. Women ought to know best what those points are, and for that, if no other reason, it is argued ought to study the architect's profession more generally. It would give a new field of labor, and be useful knowledge, though she used it only for her own benefit and comfort...

Bicycle Gowns For 1900. Bicycle costumes show a tendency to rather picturesque effects, but the tendency is one that, like that of the low-cut gown, requires to be carefully thought over before following. A smart bicycle gown is made of dark red linen and, while effective, can scarcely be termed suitable for the purpose for which it was designed. The jacket has a new sleeve and a turned-back cuff with the under-sleeve of muslin, the trimming of the gown being bands of a darker red with machine-stitching. The quite high and flaring collar opens over a waistcoat of fine white tucked muslin. Not so picturesque, but on many accounts smarter, is a gown of beige linen whose four narrow box-pleats in the back are stitched down to give the effect almost of a habit skirt. With this is a short jacket in Eton shape, but made without a high collar, and fastened with four smoke pearl buttons. A yoke, or rather, a blouse front is of tucked white muslin, and there is no trimming on the gown except the rows of machine-stitching which are always necessary in every well-appointed bicycle or golf suit.—Harper's Bazar.

Golf Tournament Teas. At our golf teas, for instance, every Saturday men are a very conspicuous feature. The teas follow the handicapped tournaments, of which one of a series is played each week—men's and women's singles and doubles, and mixed singles and doubles, the handicaps being changed after every series as the players improve or—perhaps—play worse. A big table is spread under the awning of the clubhouse veranda, and although a matron is responsible for the entertainment, we girls take turns in aiding her. On the table is a centerpiece of flowers—usually wild flowers—small dishes of cakes, sandwiches—the most popular being those filled with grape-fruit marmalade, which has so entirely cast the good old orange marmalade into the shade—candies, and tall pitchers of different cool beverages. The appointments for making hot tea are at one end of the table, but tea is—into which we put a little raspberry vinegar to improve the taste—is much more popular. So is the mixture of ginger ale and sarsaparilla; lemon and orangeade, with strawberries and pieces of pineapple floating on it.—Anna Wentworth, in the Woman's Home Companion.

Huckles From France. It is a case of "Buckle, buckle, who has not got a buckle?" in these days of wonderful metal work. Recent arrivals from France have brought home with them some exquisite examples of the new art in silversmithy, and so wondrously tinted are the metals employed in the making of the intricate designs that are the fashion of the day that the colors and lustre of precious stones are not needed to enhance their beauty. Heads of Roman emperors, of Della Robbia saints, of Grecian goddesses, of Dutch burghers and of mod-

ern French nymphs and fairies are favorite ornaments for these beautiful belt clasps. Flowers and foliage with buds and berries wrought in relief or in dull luster, such as pearls, coral, turquoise or moonstones, are also among the most admired marvels.

The Touch of Black. Very attractive, as well as simple and cheap, is a fine lawn in baby blue, with splash white figures which are not too assertive, owing to the pale tint of the blue. Cut with numerous gores, the skirt had each and every seam outlined with white beading, through which was run black baby ribbon. This outlining ended six inches short of the foot of the skirt, the black ribbon being finished off with a bunchy, tassell-like bow of the ribbon. A narrow ruffled edge of the circular flounce which fell from beneath. The same, many-gored effect was carried out in the bodice and sleeves, the outlinings being in the ribbon-run beading...

Tips For Women Travelers. In starting away it is important to think of the small things. The big ones take care of themselves. We simply never forget that nice new dress, any more than we do that fresh creation from the milliner. But the paper or case of pins, the extra hairpins, and, indeed, the thousand and one little things that may fairly make or mar the whole trip; and those are the rascally little annoyances which we too often forget. Even if we are able to replenish our stores we too often find the resort shop so woefully lacking a real assortment as it is "steep" in price. They take this way of getting even with us for buying nothing but "notions..."

Queen Wilhelmina as a Painter. When Wilhelmina, Queen of Holland, is visiting foreign countries she is always seen about with her paint box, which she carries with her on her morning walks, and takes with her in the carriage in the afternoons. The Queen has a talent for drawing and painting, and her pictures are said to be really good. It is a fact that most members of the Orange family have been artistic; some of the late princesses used to paint well. When Queen Wilhelmina was young she would often sit at one of the windows in the palace and sketch the guards...

A Cream For the Complexion. This cold cream is splendid to keep the complexion in good condition, and should be well rubbed in at night, and then rubbed still more with a piece of soft white flannel. Pure white wax, one-fourth of an ounce; oil of sweet almonds, two and one-half ounces; rosewater, one and one-half ounces. Put the first three ingredients into an earthen dish and melt slowly; then add the rosewater and beat it well with a silver fork or an egg beater. A pinch of borax dissolved in the rosewater is an improvement. Pour into little covered ointment pots...

Novel Seamstress Not. There are no visible seams in the net gowns worn by young girls and youthful matrons. Nor do any exist, for the breadths are joined by overlapping, one gore laid over the other, and a fancy stitch, herring-bone or some other, in floss silk making them firm. The effect is best in a white net, either plain or chenille-dotted white, floss would, of course, be used. The gore embroidery adds grace to the skirt...

The Snowflake Fichu. A useful fichu which can be worn with any frock this season is of fine dotted net d'espirt in white net. The dots look like snowflakes, and go by that name. The fichu is made in two lengths, one which knots into the breast with ends of medium length, reaching to the waist, the other is considerably longer, is knotted near the waist line, and the ends fall behind almost to the knees, unless the loops are pulled well out...

A Gorgette For a Young Girl. A pretty new idea for a neckpiece this season is the gorgette or dog collar of tulle, an airy creation suitable for the warm days. A turquoise blue or rose pink length of tulle is shirred, gathered or otherwise disposed upon a foundation band no broader than a dog collar would be. This is fitted to the throat...

Wide collars and revers of batiste and lace grow in favor. Shirring is seen everywhere, and there will be more of it as the season advances. Simplicity in gowns is the cry for the future, while the most elaborate ones are to be seen. The Directorate coat is appearing in lace as well as in silks and satins, and it is always effective. There is little doubt that the sleeves of the next season will be full, as the many designs in puffed sleeves now in evidence indicate. A woman who is particular about her lingerie has all her nightdresses made at home and carefully fitted. She says she is as uncomfortable in a loose nightdress as in a poorly fitting frock. The earliest brides of the season had the high corsets to their gowns made of different kinds and colors of flowered ribbons, and pretty girls have been using them off and on ever since, and there is still nothing prettier with thin frocks. Some of the chiffon ties have gayly flowered ends. The flowers are made of an additional layer of chiffon applied on with brilliant colors of silk, which make gorgeously effective posies. Both fine net and chiffon are dotted with black and have black embroidered ends. Foulards were never so pretty as they are this season. The colors are so well blended, and the designs so softly indefinite, that the effect is usually very artistic. But sometimes it is completely spoiled by the donning of a hat or toque that does not "go." Even gloves of a jarring color have it in their power to destroy the harmony of a lovely and a costly costume.

THE RUNAWAY DOG

Don Quixote yesterday broke his rope and ran away. From the pleasant feeling of the old familiar dog I can't imagine how his brains could be so good...

When he finds he's free to hit, thither, yonder, yonder, Or, mutterably large, Lie 'mid buttercups and daisies. Harness none to fret and And no wagonette behind...

Or by darkness overtaken, Felt he friendless and forsaken. For he came at evening, Worn, bedraggled, rope led, Trailing broken rope behind, Back to his wife's toilet...

When 'tis no imagination, Hark! his brown countenance. In the simple little story, Find I pray, an allegory. —Fullerton L. Weldon, in the N.Y. Herald.

JINGLES AND JESTS. "The average woman who says 'No,' 'Oh, yes! She'll express all possible shades of meaning.' —Puck. "Why did the police let that go? 'He proved that he was a brick of ice cream horns' —Chicago Record.

Every road which leads you, Though with joy be taken, Ends at last in some far distance, Whence he'd gladly turn back. —(3) Husband—"I don't have accounts in no many stores." Wife—"Because, she makes the bills so much like Harper's Bazar."

The Author—"I wish I could enough to write a good book." Friend—"Why not take it up?" "I am too busy with my successful ones." —Litt. Stubb—"Yes! all the combs the new road are strong and seem fine." Penn—"But what object in having such success?" Stubb—"To raise the car wheel."

"What you bind the book is a man? That you prefer, the point? Rejoice the struggling author? Use any color, so it's red?" —Philadelphia. Nan—"Kitty, what does it look like?" Kitty—"It looks like a man who ought to be put on his necktie early to catch a train." —Indiana.

Minstrel (ironically)—"I'm my music was disturbing the who were talking over there." "Dear me! I never heard that. Don't play so loudly now." —King. Mrs. Smith—"Your husband you a great deal, Mrs. Grogan?" Mrs. Grogan—"Faith, no. I have to be fighting him time, or I wouldn't get a peace."

"I hear that your husband sick, Aunt Dinah." "Yes," says Aunt Dinah. "I hope, his condition is not critical." "Critical! I hope he won't! He ain't satisfied with his health." —(4) "Where does the pain seem? Inquired the owl, in a sympathetic tone. "The pain," impatiently the snake, is in my spinal column, you think it was in one of my answers."

She has promised to marry a man. But I heard it quite broadly last. That she'll break the engagement, as she can't be doing so. When he gets all her pretty points. Smith—"If there is anything like it is a shallow man." "Yes, but there is one thing favor." Smith—"I'd like to know it is." Jones—"A shallow man require as much watching as one." —Chicago News.

Quebec Fortifications Going to the Wall. Since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1871 and the transfer of all the military property to the Union, Quebec's fortifications cost the British Government large sums, and which became known as "the Gibraltar of the Americas" were slowly going to ruin. Efforts have been made by the Canadian authorities to prevent the few thousand dollars later voted now and again, or interests of the local politicians it desirable to throw a sop to the people, but no systematic thorough effort has ever been made by them to put the fortifications in proper repair. A few years ago there was a sudden collapse of a portion of the wall of one of the important portions, the fall of which, without any warning, fell into the trench. There was no life, although the accident occurred early in the evening. As a result nearly the whole face of the wall will have to be taken down and rebuilt.

Bought a Hat For His Wife. A Portland (Me.) hotel man bet with a Commercial street gambler a few days ago, that the bet was on the hotel man's side, says the Portland Globe, and going to the telephone said to the winner: "Get just as you want; in fact, buy any hat that suits you and have me send the bill to me." In a few days two what was his surprise and delight to receive a bill of \$13 from a known Commercial street milliner, who informed him that he was pretty fixed for hats himself, and thought he'd turn the thing over to the hotel man. It was a hat and the bill paid.

And the Epitaph? A sister of the little girl who had her small china doll in the garden hopes that it would grow to be a French doll in the spring, has heard from her. She is six years old and full of questions. The other sister was driving past a cemetery when her mother when she demanded: "What is that?" "That is the grave of a woman named Epitaph." —New Commercial Advertiser.

FRILLS OF FASHION. Illustration of a woman in a dress, part of the 'FRILLS OF FASHION' advertisement.