THE EDICTS OF FASHION.

New York City.—The waist that includes a deep yoke, narrow front and bertha holds a high place among the designs of the season. The smart May Manton design illustrated has the advantage of suiting both the costume and the odd bodice, and all will be found generally becoming. The original is made from Louisine silk in pastel blue, with bertha of cream guipure, undersleeves of white chiffon and trimming of black velvet ribbon, but taffeta, panne crepe, crepe de chine and all the soft finished silks are suitable, while charming effects can be obtained with veiling, albatross, wool crepe and the like.

FANCY WAIST.

The fitted lining consists of the usual pieces and opens at the centre front. The back is faced to give the yoke effect, but the front yoke and plastron are entirely separate, being attached to the right side and hooked over onto the left. The waist proper is tucked at each front edge and is arranged in gathers at the waist line, the bertha finishing the upper edge. The sleeves embody the latest novelty and are cut short, with points at the lower edge, to fall over the full cuffs or undersleeves that, in turn, are finished with straight cuffs and may be unlined, to allow the wrists to be seen through their meshes when the material is of a transparent sort.

To cut this waist for a woman of medium size three and five-eighth yards of material twenty-one inches wide, two and three-quarter yards twenty-seven inches wide, two yards thirty-two inches wide or one and five-eighth yards forty-four inches will be required with three and one-half yards for undersleeves, one yard of all-over lace for the bertha, and one piece of velvet ribbon to trim as illustrated.

Woman's Fancy Waist.

The square yoke and the bertha are among the notable features of the season's styles and lend themselves to various combinations with satisfactory effect. The smart May Manton waist illustrated in the large drawing shows wool crepe in pastel blue with yoke and undersleeves of cream cluny lace and trimming of black velvet ribbon and is exceedingly effective, but the design is in every way suited to a variety of light weight wools and soft silks while the combination can be varied again and again. Yoke and undersleeves of chiffon or Liberty silk with a figured Louisine silk are exceedingly handsome, crepe de chine with point de Venise is beautiful and similar materials might be suggested by the score.

The foundation for the waist is a fitted lining that closes at the centre front. The yoke is faced onto the back, but made separate at the front and included in the right shoulder and neck seams while it hooks over into the left. The front of the waist is gathered at the upper edge and seamed to the lining closing invisibly in front and the seamless back is laid in tiny pleats at the waist line. The bertha is attached to the waist, effectually concealing the seam that joins the yoke to the main portion, and closes with the yoke at the left shoulder seam. The front of the waist may be cut on the fold of material and closed with the bertha at the shoulder, around arms eye and underarm seams if so preferred. The sleeves are cut after the latest style and include the full under portions that are unlined and seamed to the lining of the upper sleeves. At the neck is a stock collar of the lace that closes invisibly at the centre back.

To cut this waist for a woman of medium size, three and one-half yards of material twenty-one inches wide, three yards twenty-seven inches wide, or one and three-quarter yards forty-four inches wide will be required with three-quarter yards of all-over lace.

Bicycle Skirts For 1901.

Bicycle skirts must, of course, be shorter than those for golf need be so, as a rule, it is necessary to have separate and distinct outfits for the two sports. A bicycle skirt will be found very much more comfortable if lined with silk, that lining being cooler and more slippery than the plaid woolen reverse side of the golfing cloths. Under the skirt knickerbockers are, of course, indispensable. These in all seasons are better made of silk, lined with thin flannel for winter, if necessary, for warmth. Pongee or wash silk is best for summer. A less expensive material for making knickerbockers for summer use, however, and almost as satisfactory, is grass linen. Bicycling skirts of pique and duck are quite practical. —Harper's Bazar.

Clustered Stripes.

Clustered stripes, or rather a group of lines interspaced at intervals, are patterned upon the new linens shown for shirt waists. The stripes are in solid color on a white ground, or on a pale ground of the same color. Or you have clusters of black lines introduced upon a lavender, sea-green, raspberry-pink or deep-blue linen. The blues are bright but clear, and avoid the "bluest" shade popular in other seasons. Now and then linked rings in black are printed upon the linen. Tan and golden-brown linens are as handsome as any.

Button Roses.

"Button roses," as they are called, are tiny flowers made in pink and white chiffon, delicately shaded to resemble nature. These are not sold singly, but are made up in bunches, small sprays and garlands for trimming the decolletage of an evening gown. You can have the button roses of simple chiffon, or they are sold ready powdered with glassy dew drops. Green leaves and green stems are provided for these miniature roses, a pretty detail of a lady's evening gown.

FANCY WAIST WITH BERTHA.

Taffeta and Ribbon.

Taffeta and velvet ribbons formed into various lace-like designs are cleverly stitched in all-over roses on cloth gowns.

A Stunning Outing Hat.

A very stunning outing hat for summer shows a felt crown and a straw brim, both white and trimmed with a soft Persian silk scarf.

Five-Gored Skirt With Band Flounce.

The five-gored skirt has the great advantage of never going out of style. Slight variations there may be and details may require to be changed but the general cut remains. The May Manton model illustrated is made with stitched seams and includes the latest novelty in the band flounce that completes the lower edge. The original is of gray satin faced cloth, but all skirt materials are suitable, cheviot, serge, homespun and similar woolen fabrics as well as the heavy ducks and linens that are made on tailored lines.

The front gore is narrow and gives the desired tapering effect to the figure. The wider side gores are smoothly fitted with hip darts and the fulness at the back is laid in an inverted pleat. The flounce is finished with rows of machine stitching.

FIVE-GORED SKIRT.

To cut this skirt for a woman of medium size eight yards of material thirty-two inches wide, five and one-quarter yards forty-four inches wide or five yards fifty inches wide will be required.

HOW WOMEN SPOIL VISION.

Their Veils Are Sight Traps, and Some Are Worse Than Others.

Women are divided in their opinions upon the subject of the veil, but where you will find one to maintain that such an adornment fades the complexion you will find ten to aver that no penalties would prevent them from wearing the adornment.

Go and ask an oculist his opinion, and what he has to say on the topic is to plump condemnation upon every veil that is worn. Yet he will admit that, while some nets are extremely dangerous and deleterious to the eyes, others are almost uninjurious.

There are fashions in nets and gauzes, and many are the variations with which the veil is worn. But in England it always covers the eyes, and it is here that the danger arises.

Of all the veils ever tried the ideal one is yet to be discovered. Some women can trace step by step its evolution throughout the century. They have heard their grandmothers talk about the white lace "fall" that used to be liked, and themselves can recollect the thick green, blue, gray, white and green gauze horrors worn to protect the complexion from tan. Those veils were followed by thinner silk ones, which in their turn were deposed in favor of those of thread lace, after which came the many abominations still exploited, to wit: mesh-nets dotted and patterned in various ways.

Just now women are beginning to shorten nets and falls considerably. Indeed, in Paris they are wearing most curtailed ones again, and a feeling has also come in there for the utter banishment of the veil. A more uncomfortable and imbecile affair for afternoon teas than the mask the chin veil is can not be imagined.

It is a sign of grace, perhaps, that the question which is being much debated now among smart people is whether the veil does not accomplish so much harm to the visual organs as to outweigh all other considerations in its favor. They wonder if a veil could not be contrived that would leave the eyes uncovered, while it beautified and protected the rest of the face. As a pattern nothing could be better than the Turkish woman's yashmak, which is justly held to be the most modest face covering in existence.

Now, as to good and bad patterns of veils, considered not from the point of view of beauty, but of visual expediency.

The very best is a veil as fine as gossamer, which can be most becoming, too. It has no spots at all upon it, and so does not worry the poor, tortured eyes that have to dodge spots, or vainly and unconsciously try to focus them, one of the worst possible exercises to which weak or imperfect sight can be put. The retrograde step is taken by Russian net veiling, which need not, however, be very trying if the mesh be fine, for it is unspotted.

Then come the quite condemned veils, which have chenille spots all over them; they are bad in proportion as their dots are close and large or scanty and small, but they are less sight-wearing than a veil that is patterned as well as dotted, a veritable agony to sensitive sight. White veils are often much more evil in their effects than black, for the material, be it tulle or net, possesses a faculty for dazzling the vision and making everything seen through it wavering and ill-defined. Finally, has not the case been proved that those who are conscious of strain, a lack of clarity of sight, or weariness after wearing a veil, should give up the task of looking smart at the expense of vision. Even the strong argument in favor of veils of a sensible and clear mesh, which the oculists do not attempt to deny, namely, that such nets do keep the eyes from the assaults of grit, especially during a drive or while cycling and motoring, should not appeal to the weak-sighted.—London Mail.

Shirt Waist Stocks.

For the neck of the Runchunda waist there is the stock, and with little tie to match, and it makes all the difference in the world whether or not these are worn with the waists. Any kind of collar and tie may be worn, but those of the same material give the waist a distinction which it does not have without it.

* * *

Wash stocks come in all white and all colors, or with white collar and colored ties. These latter may or may not match the material of the shirt waist, but they are always a little more attractive if they do. There is a little butterfly bow of a new design this year which is very attractive and prettier than those of last.

* * *

A plain little turn-over piece is to be seen on many of the stocks of the same material as the collar, white or colored. Many other collars come without these extra pieces, and these are in fact rather more attractive and becoming. The white stocks are most frequently of pique, and white ties to go with them are frequently of madras.

* * *

Stocks which have a style of their own on people who can wear them are in bright green and in bright red, and are supposed to wash.

* * *

The "Croate" is a stylish new stock. It is of plain or mercerized cheviot and comes in stripes and plaids. The cheviot is folded to form the stock proper, and inside the fold is a piece of heavy linen to give it body. The long, broad ends form an ascot, or are simply tied once. The Croate is intended to be worn without starch. The general effect of the scarfs is light, for there is a foundation of white.

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Pretty soft ties are of fine lawn, bound around the edge with a little color. These are wide and shaped a little at the back to fit around the collar, and are brought around and tied in a soft knot in front.

* * *

The pretty little belts of pique, with harness buckle clasps, are all in white this year. The colored ones have not the style, and those of white are pretty with all colors.—New York Times.

Favorite Game of the Vassar Girls.

The most popular athletic game at Vassar is basket ball. Each class has a team, and in the spring match games are played between them. These games are among the most exciting events of the year. Each class, the girls all wearing white duck suits, with collars and belts of their class color, form in procession and march, with much cheering and waving of class flags, out to the circle, where they draw up around the basket ball court. Then the teams appear on the ground, and slipping off their capes and skirts appear in the "gym" suits all ready to begin.

The class greets them with tumultuous yelling, which continues until the referee's whistle sounds and the game is called. Then there is complete silence, the game begins, and every one watches with breathless interest. An unusually good play brings forth an admiring but suppressed "Oh-h-h!" but when a goal is made there is an uncontrollable shout from the scoring class. Except for these interruptions, the game goes on in silence. But when it is all over pandemonium reigns. Every one yells, whether her side has won or lost, though naturally the victors are a bit more enthusiastic about it. The winning class, gathering up its team as it goes, makes a dash for its class tree, and proceeds to hold an impromptu celebration.

The basket ball championship is held this year by the senior class, who proudly display the championship flag outside of the senior parlor door.—The Book World.

Woman Rules the West—Socially.

The majority of Western men are out of their element, says W. D. Lyman in the Atlantic, in anything except business and politics. The wife usually acts as head of the family in all manner of social and religious crises, as inviting a ministerial guest to ask a blessing at table or conduct family worship, while the masculine partner slouches around at such times in hulking and uncomfortable consciousness of his own lack of piety and polish. That solemn sense of his own dignity as head of the house, that shrinking deference paid to him by the "weaker vessels" of his family, which magnifies the pater familias in England, and to some degree in the old-fashioned New England community—this never lightens up the pathway of the average Western householder. He may consider himself in great luck if he is not discrowned entirely. The independence and "go-aheaditiveness" of women seem to co-exist with a general high standard of intelligence, for statistics show that Washington is third on the lists of States in freedom from illiteracy, being surpassed by Iowa and Nebraska only. In fact, the Pacific coast ranks very high in average education and intelligence, though there is not, of course, so much of high culture as in some circles of older communities.

To Found Memorials of Victoria.

Suggestions are many as to the form that the national memorial to Queen Victoria shall take. Among these are the establishment of residential homes for destitute aged women and of a series of clubs in London and the provinces, for gentlewomen with small incomes, both to be self-supporting and free from the taint of charity. A movement is already taking place under the title of "The British Daughters of the Empire," the object being to carry on the late Queen's life work and desires, so far as may be, for the British Empire.

The Spanish flounce, sixteen-shaped or shirred, has returned to favor.

A new style of stitched bands has the stitching going across instead of in long lines.

The variety in neckwear is infinite, the latest development being washable stocks.

Small buckles used as slides on silk bands and velvet ribbon are one feature of dress decoration.

A revival is promised of the old-fashioned silk and lace mitts. One style has appliqué flowers of lace in the silk mesh.

The majority of skirts have what may be termed a modified habit back; that is, they close behind with a fan of scant puckers.

Jet buckles—the only touch of black on them—are seen on some of the new light hats. They are prettiest when not too large or heavy.

A pretty model for a black gown has three stitched bands on the skirt, a broad stitched collar of taffeta and a belt of the stitched silk.

Blouses much trimmed with lace, cut-work, etc., have not lost their prestige. Fancy belts and vests are always ornamental features.

Some skirt seams are laced together with chenille cord or narrow velvet to below the knees, terminating in a carelessly tied knot spiked with gilt or silver.

The tops of skirts are often shaped by narrow tucks. On other fabrics the back breadth is quite straight and full and shirred to about a finger-depth of the waist.

There is nothing very new in putting lace insertions into wash gowns—or any other gowns, for that matter—but it can be done to any extent and in as intricate patterns as may be desired with good effect.

Every once in a while ear-rings are said to be coming into vogue again, but as they are not becoming to the average woman they will doubtless meet with the same fate they have suffered so many times before. With evening dress ear-rings are perhaps an attractive addition, but at any other time they add some years to a woman's apparent age.

The trimming of bodices is a potent factor of the present modes. A short woman can be made to look many inches taller if the trimming of her bodice is arranged in flat, long lines. Again tall, thing women should not choose such lines, but look for ruffly effects. Stout women should avoid plaids, check, in fact, also stripe, and keep only to plain fabrics, and black above all else is becoming to stout figures.

THE YUKON ROADHOUSES

STRUNG ALL ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER NOW.

A Dollar a Bed, a Dollar and a Half a Meal—the Bed—The Meal—Enterprise of the Hosts — How They Turn a Trout to Their Side.

"When the land was young," says Mr. Jack London, when he wants to tell a Yukon tale of men who have traveled fifty miles a day on snowshoes for fifty days, eating one dog salmon and a handful of flour, and are shivering under their blankets in a cotton tent, the thermometer seventy degrees below zero. The temporal qualification is necessary to be true to life. The Yukon country is no longer young, though the remainder of Alaska is generally younger than the Yukon Valley has ever been since the first steamboat ascended it in 1868, says a Klondiker in the New York Commercial Advertiser. It is quite four years since it was the custom in winter for men along the Yukon to sleep in cotton tents and eat dog salmon. In the winter of 1899-1900 the thermometer at Dawson didn't once go below sixty degrees below zero.

The "road-house" has civilized the Yukon Valley. If you start in November with the great exodus from Dawson to salt water, up the frozen boulevard of river, you won't take a cotton tent, and it's nuggets to marbles you won't even get a dish of beans. You will spend every night in a good-sized log cabin, with two or three rooms and more or less sawmill made lumber with rustic ornamentation. The fare will be somewhat more pretentious than in a New England boarding house. A bunk will cost $1, a meal will cost $1.50, and you may get among other things, canned oyster soup, caribou steak with cranberry jelly, and, of course, pie. The Yankee makes the best pioneer, and he does it on pie; and the Yankee has won Alaska.

Every ten miles or so in traveling up the river comes a road-house. On foot or with a dog team, when you are beginning to get a little hungry for dinner or supper, cast your eyes ahead along the hills of smoky amethyst, and there is a blue spire of smoke rising, straight up—oh, how quiet and slim!—into a sky of lacquered brass.

All summer the cabins are empty. Travelers sleep on some of the stern-wheel river boats; from the rest, too small to serve a meal on, they pile ashore three times a day with their stoves and grub boxes, and at night with the cotton tent. Likewise do the scow-travelers. In September and October the last steamboats begin to make stops at the road-houses, and unload crate after crate of canned hash and tomatoes, "this year's eggs," hams and flour. The proprietor, or proprietress, who has been running a summer restaurant at one of the big camps, or on one of the creeks, is on hand, and with him a gang of the "unemployed" to make the woodpile and fix things up.

But outfitting of a road-house is an expensive matter and a great financial risk. One should have such things as eggs and tomatoes, for if you haven't got them, your reputation suffers, and the dog teams and mushers walk right on past you. Competition among the houses is very keen. After the expenses of outfitting and keeping a gang of men all winter carrying your wood and water, you must have every person of the thousands going out stop with you. The season is very short, November to April, and the New England farmers could get points on how to trap the city boarder from the host of a Yukon road-house.

The road-house is there and ready before the trail is broken, but whether the trail follows the right or left bank, or keeps in mid-stream depends on whether the river is open or closed, whether the ice is rough or smooth, and on the whim of the first traveler, whom the rest follow like sheep. Suppose the trail passes a road-house on the other side. It does this to one out of every four. The proprietor sees his egg and tomato money going, so he goes out into the woods with his little hatchet. He chops down many hundred little spruces, and going a mile or so back and a mile or so forward on the trail diverts it gently to his side of the river with an avenue of trees. Then he puts up a sign so only the traveler approaching his house can see it: "½ mile to Smith's," and another so only the man going away can see it, "2 miles to Smith's." Any one who has traveled much in the north gets a fairly good idea of how far he goes at his customary gait in an hour, and can estimate distances fairly well. But the tricks of the road-house break him all up.

"How far to the next house?" you ask after dinner of Smith.

"Oh, it's putty good ways, fifteen miles, I guess," drawls out mine host; and your partner adds: "We can't make that to-night." Then the host ventures, "Now, I tell you one thing, boys, you'll be doing the wise thing if you stay here and get a good early start in the morning. There's nothing like a good early start. I've traveled a bit myself up in this country," etc., etc. Then partner remembers something some one has told him once, and says, "Hain't the Jones boys from Hunker got a place about eight miles on?" and mine host scratches his head, and says, "I believe there was somebody camped on an island there, but they've only got a wood camp." After believing this once, and staying, when you hear of the wood camp, you run for it. At the "wood camp," Jones may laugh at Smith's story, and he may say unkind things, but depend upon it, he will treat Williams, at the next "wood camp" just as Smith treated him.

The houses advertise on the timber: "Hotel Savoy, Selkirk, best horse and dog feed on the river."

"Hotel Seattle, Indian River; spring beds, mattresses and pillow-shams."

The bunks are built all around the wall, in tiers three high. Sometimes the bottoms are of canvas, very yielding to the body; sometimes of strip-lings and very well ventilated. It is unwritten law that no man shall remove his boots. The blankets are always dark blankets, no matter what color they were once. Not excepting the smoking compartment of a transcontinental limited, there are more empires overthrown, more cruces of religion, politics, economics, solved as the Delphian tripod solved things; more of those funny little anecdotes about Adam and Eve, told before and after lights out in a Yukon roadhouse than in any parliament or senate chamber on earth.

It is a long, long march, and when the fellow they have lodged with sees the gossipers putting on their parkas—which are simply hooded nightgowns of scarlet-striped bed ticking—and drawing the fur-edged hood around their faces, and filing out into the pure starlight of 8 in the morning, his heart sinks as he stands in the doorway and knows that his ham and his bread will suffer that night twenty miles nearer salt water.

CURIOUS FACTS.

A fifteen-year-old girl in Chapman, Kan., tried to commit suicide the other day because her mother would not let her marry a widower, forty-seven years old.

The largest ivory tusk ever known is now in the British Museum. It measures ten feet two and a half inches on the outside curve, has a circumference at the solid end of twenty-four and a half inches and weighs 226½ pounds. The museum bought it for $1750.

A marriage has taken place at Bois Colombes, France, which certainly shows a new departure. As a rule the bride is given away by some one of the masculine gender, and the bridegroom has his best man. At the wedding referred to, a lady gave away the bride, and the bridegroom had no best man. All the witnesses were ladies.

The old carved wooden figures of a lion and a unicorn on the gable of the famous old Massachusetts State House were recently replaced by figures made of beaten copper, the lion being covered with gold leaf and the unicorn with platinum. These heraldic animals were originally borrowed from the British coat-of-arms for the great seal of Massachusetts.

A curious discovery was made in Concord, Mass., recently. In the attic of the Thoreau homestead was found a quantity of lead pencils all bearing the stamp "Thoreau and Son." The naturalist and his father once made lead pencils for a living, and for years a great store of their completed product was hidden away just under the ridgepole of the homestead. Those pencils to-day are in demand for other purposes than writing.

William Brigham, of Chardon, Ohio, is the owner of a gander goose more than 100 years old, that is as lively to-day as the large flock of youngsters which he proudly leads about Mr. Brigham's farmyard. The bird was brought to this country by Mr. Brigham's father nearly a century ago, from the East, and has been in the family's possession ever since. There are many accounts of the old fellow's sagacity in eluding foxes and other enemies, and he was the playfellow of many of the old men of the township when they were boys years ago.

Melvin McCann, a vaudeville actor, proved to a Pittsburg (Penn.) magistrate that he had "iron hair," thereby securing his liberty. The actor had been arrested on suspicion. McCann's hair is several inches in length and stands straight out at the front and sides of his head. The magistrate asked him why he didn't have it cut. McCann explained that he was an actor, and that he could carry three men around a room, letting them take hold of his hair. "Let's see you walk out to liberty with two men hanging on," said the magistrate. Two big policemen clung to McCann's hair at the sides of his head, and McCann calmly proceeded to walk out of the police court with them.

Relative Cost of Public Lighting.

New York City will pay $5.22 each minute for its street lighting this year, which means seventy-eight cents for each inhabitant, or $2,745,000 in all. A big bill, the largest of its sort in the country, but not the largest in proportion to population.

Of the great cities of the country, Baltimore comes next above Chicago, and pays sixty-eight cents for each of its 509,000 inhabitants, or $350,000 in all. Then comes San Francisco's 343,000 population, paying $245,000, or seventy-one cents for each one. Next above that is New Orleans, where each of the 287,000 inhabitants pays eighty cents, or $230,000 in all.

Washington follows with eighty-three cents for each of its 279,000 residents, which equals $233,000. Each Cleveander pays two cents more than each Washingtonian, or $333,000 for the 382,000 inhabitants. We then jump to $1.10 for each of the 561,000 Bostonians, or $650,000 in all. Another jump makes the 324,000 persons in Cincinnati pay $425,000, or $1.30 for each one.

The Remains of an Old Indian Village.

Mr. J. A. Udden has recently printed the results of his investigations of the remains left by an ancient tribe of Indians of the Siouan stock who formerly inhabited a village in McPherson County, Kansas. A series of circular mounds were opened, each of them being about twenty feet in diameter, and none of them more than three feet in height. Fifteen such mounds constituted the village, and it is noteworthy that their distance apart was 125 feet or some multiple of this number. No human remains were discovered, but a quantity of domestic utensils, bones of animals, pottery, tools, arrow-heads, pipes, etc., were found. The most remarkable item was a piece of chain-armor, which is presumably of European armor, and which may have come from the expedition of Coronado, who passed through this region in 1542.

English Law of Libel.

The English law of libel makes profanity a money-saving vice. If you call a man a thief, and cannot prove your assertion, you commit libel. If, however, you garnish your description with any of the adjectives usually deemed unfit for publication, any libel action brought against you will fall through, for the law says your profanity proves that you have lost your temper, and therefore you are not actionable for your words.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

International Lesson Comments For April 28.

Subject: Jesus Appears to the Apost'es, John xx., 19-29 -- Golden Text, John xx., 29.-- Memory Verses, 19, 20--Commentary on the Day's Lesson.

19. "The same day." It is still the resurrection day, Sunday, the Lord's day. "At evening." The events of the day had been many and important, but now, at the close of the day, Jesus appears to all the disciples. He would have appeared to them in the morning had they been assembled then. "Doors were shut." And probably bolted. "For fear." There is nothing to show that the Jews designed to molest the disciples, but because they had put Christ to death they had reason to fear that they might be the next victims. "In the midst." He evidently entered miraculously. In verse 20 John refers to the fact that the doors were shut in a way to leave but little doubt that he intends to convey the impression that Christ entered by His own power while they were shut. "Peace be unto you." His usual salutation and benediction. May every blessing of heaven and earth which you need be granted unto you.

20. "Has so said." Luke makes mention of several things that took place before He showed them His hands and side. See chap. 24: 37, 38. Here we see how terrified they were, supposing they had seen a spirit. All these references to the great difficulty with which the disciples accepted the fact of the resurrection of Jesus are given to strengthen our faith in the fact. There was no collusion among the disciples to show that Jesus was alive, but they themselves were convinced against their wills, against their prejudices, against their expectations. He then gently reproved them by asking why they were troubled and why they permitted anxious reasonings and questionings to arise in their minds. "Shewed unto them." The wounds were probably all perfectly healed, but the scars remained. "His hands and His side." Luke says hands and feet. This leaves no doubt that Jesus was nailed to the cross and not tied on as many were. Jesus told them to handle Him (Luke 24: 39), which they probably did. "Glad." They were terrified at first, but when they knew Him they were glad. There is great joy in the resurrection for every one. "When they saw." A sight of Christ will gladden the heart of a disciple at any time. It was at this time that He gave to them another proof that He was the same Jesus whom they had known. He called for food (Luke 24: 41—43) and did eat before them. Afterward the apostles called attention to what now occurred as a proof of their Lord's resurrection. Acts 10: 41. He ate before them, not because He had need of food for the body, but because they had need of faith for the soul. There is a great mystery in connection with Christ's resurrection body. There are several opinions concerning it. 1. That after His resurrection He had a spiritual body, similar to what our bodies will be after our resurrection. 2. That He had a body the same in substance as before the crucifixion, but endowed with new properties and powers. 3. That He had a body the same in substance and attributes as He had before His crucifixion, and that this was changed into His glorious resurrection body at the ascension.

21. "Hath sent Me." As I was sent to proclaim the truth of the Most High, and to convert sinners to God, I send you for the very same purpose, clothed with authority and influenced by the Spirit.

22. "Breathed on them." Intimating by this that they were to be made new men; for in this act He evidently alluded to the creation of man when God breathed into Him the breath of lives and He became a living soul. "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." Out of His fulness their minds and hearts were to be filled, and thus they would be prepared to carry on the work after He had left them.

23. "Ye remit," etc. See Revised Version. Compare Matt. 16: 19. One thing is certain, God only can forgive sins; to declare anything else would be blasphemous. But Christ gave power and authority to the apostles in the establishing of His church that has not been transmitted to the church. Since the church could not be organized or the full gospel preached till after the death and resurrection of Jesus, He must have some authoritative representatives on earth to whom, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, could be committed the decision of all questions and interpretations that would necessarily arise. They who believed on the Son of God, in consequence of the preaching of the apostles, had their sins remitted; and they who would not believe were declared to lie under condemnation.

24. "Thomas." This was His Hebrew name, and Didymus His Greek name; both meant "a twin." "Was not with them." This was one of the principal causes of the unbelief of this apostle. He should have been at his post with the rest, then he would have seen and heard Jesus, and would have received the blessings and encouragement that the others received.

25. "Except I shall see." Thomas would not believe the testimony of the ten apostles. He is most unreasonable and obstinate in his unbelief. "I will not believe." Thomas is so certain that it can not be so that he is determined not to be convinced; he will not accept ordinary evidence.

26. "After eight days." One week from that time on the next Lord's day night. Again they were met for religious worship and this time Thomas was with them; probably encouraged to be present by what the other apostles had told him. "Then came Jesus." Jesus will always be present with those who meet in His name.

27. "Reach hither." Our Lord meets him in His own language, and this was a rebuke to Thomas, showing him that Jesus, though not present, knew all the hard, unbelieving things he had said. "But believing." There is evidence sufficient. It will be well for every one to heed these words of Christ to Thomas; let us "have faith in God."

28. "Thomas answered." Overwhelmed with the fact of Christ's presence, he did not hold out an instant. "My God." I confess Thy divine knowledge and power and prostrate myself before Thee as the great God. Thomas was the first who gave the title of God to Jesus. The slowness of Thomas to believe ought to strengthen our faith. The disciples were cautious and accepted nothing that they did not know was founded on fact.

29. "And yet have believed." The faith of Thomas would have been more pleasing to Christ if he had believed at once. Let us receive the testimony of those who have seen Him, remembering that there are peculiar blessings in store for those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Learn to Protect the Birds.

Italy is the first country in the world where a systematic effort has been made to enlist the children in the work of protecting the wild birds from harm. Dr. Vitelanio Tonta recently pointed out to the leading Italian teachers that litle children could easily be taught to love birds and that this lesson, once learned, would never be forgotten, whereas, if the lesson were not taught until the children were grown up litle heed would be paid to it except by those persons who were naturally sympathetic and fond of dumb creatures. In Germany, France and England, he said, there are many persons who are interested in birds and who are doing what they can to prevent them from being killed for the sake of their plumage, but in order to do really effectual work a more thorough crusade is needed and it is only from the ranks of children that crusaders of the right type can be obtained. The doctor's suggestion has attracted a good deal of attention and many think it would be well for teachers throughout the country to carry it into effect, which they could easily do by simply impressing on their pupils the fact that it is wrong to be cruel toward birds or other innocent creatures.