

Chapters of Life's Oddities.

STRANGE STORIES GARNERED FROM DIVERSE SOURCES.

Essential Requirements for Matrimony.
The marriageable girl in Tunis is a trying ordeal to go through after her betrothal to the man of her choice, but whose choice she is. She has to be fastened to the required size before the ceremony can take place.

As soon as the betrothal takes place she is taken to a room and there cooped up till the fattening process is concluded. Silver shackles are fastened round her wrists and ankles, and the task of her parents and future husband is to increase her bulk till her wrists and ankles fill up the shackles. If the husband is a widower, or has "discharged" his first wife, the girl has the shackles of the first spouse placed on her and must fill them out.

It takes a long time to do this, as a rule, and sometimes it cannot be accomplished in spite of all efforts. It is then open to the future husband to cry off the bargain or waive the condition. In the case of a bachelor he takes care to see that the bracelets and ankles are not too large—that is, if he is fond of the girl—but if he is being forced into the marriage by his parents, he is a great stickler for custom. Stout girls are the more quickly snapped up in Tunis.—*Illustrated Magazine.*

African Pygmies.

The heads of the Pygmies were of the brachycephalic order, says Samuel P. Verrier in the Atlantic. The mean cranial index of the skulls of eight adult males was eighty-one degrees. The nose was small, but more aquiline than that of the real Negro. The mouth was large and the chin usually receding. The hair was of a lighter color—almost a shade of brown—and was kinky and woolly. The hands and feet of the Pygmies were small and well shaped, the hands in particular being delicately formed. In proportion to their size, the strength of the Pygmies far exceeded that of all the other Africans. Their powers of endurance on the march or in the chase were phenomenal. Fifty miles a day was an ordinary march for them, and they were almost as much at home in the trees as the monkeys themselves. The senses of the Pygmies were unusually acute. At quite a distance they could distinguish the chimpanzee from the foliage in which it was hidden, although the color of the little animal coincided with that of its hiding place. Much of their quarry was discovered through the powers of the nose, and it is no exaggeration to say that the Pygmy's sense of smell was as keen as that of his dog. They were such shots with the bow that I have seen one send an arrow through a rat at twenty yards, while it was running across the village.

A Topsy-Turvy Room.

A recent writer says: "An actual topsy-turvy room existed near Paris some years ago, and may still exist. I was the guest of the owner of the house from Saturday until Monday. He was a bachelor, very convivial in his taste, and we were a very jolly party of men. When we broke up, about 2 o'clock on Sunday morning, one of our number, sound asleep on the couch in the billiard room, was carried out like a log by a couple of servants. My host gave me a solemn wink, and told me that if a sudden summons came I was to rush from my bed-room, or else I might miss a sight worth seeing. I wanted nothing but sleep—and was relieved when the summons came to find that it was broad daylight. Yawning, I followed the valet, and found myself with four others, silently peeping through little holes in a wall. The scene was absurd, ridiculous. A dazed man, slowly waking to full consciousness, was lying on a plastered floor, looking up in horror at a carpeted ceiling. Two heavy canopies, an easy chair, chairs and table, securely fastened, stared down at him from above. The man's eyes at last rested on a flower pot directly over his head, from which a falling rose—apparently real—was blossoming. He gave a cry, and rolling over, grasped with frigid hands the stem of the chandelier which came up through the floor. The host burst into the room with a loud laugh: "They all do it," he cried. "They fear they will fall up to the ceiling."

Curious Circular Boats.

The accompanying picture shows one of the "goofas," or curious circular boats in use on the River Tigris. In spite of its clumsy appearance the goofa is eminently suited to the swift current of the river, and is, in fact, the only small craft to be seen at Baghdad. It consists of a wooden or wicker frame thickly covered with tar, something after the style of an ancient British coracle, and is propelled by one or two rowers who stand in the bow—if a round boat can be said to possess a bow. The passengers, as shown in our picture, either stand up or sit down on the gunwale. It is considered the height of luxurious goofa traveling to have a stool provided for the accommodation of passengers.

Queer Store-Houses.

During the summer months the Digger and Plute Indians may be seen at their camps near Indian Canyon, Yosemite Valley, the men engaged in raising and setting poles, and the women at baskets weaving of beadwork. In autumn, when the acorns ripen, they are eagerly gathered by the red men, who regard them as a great delicacy.

The squares glued the meat of the units in stone mortars, converting it into a sort of flour which, perhaps, would be unpalatable to American tastes, but to the Indian it tastes quite as good as our best roller flour.

The visitor to the far-famed valley occasionally runs across a group of acorn store-houses or granaries, like the ones shown in the illustration. Their construction is most interesting and ingenious. At a little distance they have a grotesque appearance, resembling somewhat some fantastic figure. Strictly speaking, they are large baskets supported by a section of a tree trunk, or stump, and three or four upright pine poles. The skeleton work of the basket is constructed of long,



QUEER STORE-HOUSES IN THE YOSEMITE.

flexible willow twigs. These are banded together by wild grapes twisted about them and securing the baskets to the uprights. The side of the basket is lined with fir boughs, and the top thatched with yellow pine and sometimes a bit of birch. Occasionally they are further protected from the rain and snow by a square board. The miniature photograph or the painter or they effect a charming subject, as the color effect of their wild setting of rocks, shrubbery and mountains forms a "bit" that every tourist likes to carry away with him as a souvenir.

To Wed the Ugliest Men.

Extremes meet in the delicate feminine fancy. The attractiveness of the Adonis for women is not to be compared with that of the man who is so fearfully and wonderfully ugly as to serve as a living confirmation of the truth of the Darwinian theory regarding the descent of man.

A bevy of lovely American girls have formed a society, the object of which is to search the land for the ugliest men to be found outside a museum, and, when found, to marry them as soon as possible.

Ever since the time when Mirabeau the ugliest of all Frenchmen, had his host of female admirers ready to hideous men have worship by women.

Moors Indifferent to Life.

Of all the Oriental races there are none more callous and indifferent to human life than the Moors. A traveler who has recently returned from Morocco related the following anecdote in proof of this fact. The grandfather of the present Sultan was one day beating on the lake in the gardens of the palace, the boat, by the way, being a small steamer launched given him by Queen Victoria. By some accident the boat capsized, and the Sultan and two of his wives, by whom he was accompanied, were thrown into the water. A soldier on guard in a part of the palace out of view heard the cries, and running up, sprang into the water and rescued the Sultan's favorite wife; the ruler himself scrambling out unaided. Later in the day the soldier was sent for and presented himself joyfully before his monarch, convinced that his reward would be great. "You are the soldier who rescued the daughter of my eyes?" asked the Sultan. The soldier bowed. "Did you dare to look at her?" "I did, your highness," replied the soldier, taken off his guard. The Sultan turned to an officer, murmured a few words, and a moment later the soldier was on his way to the bedside. "This was his reward!"—*Family Herald.*

Peculiarities of Twins.

A teacher who during many years of child training has counted among her pupils more than one pair of twins has interesting facts to tell about them. They may look, she says, as much alike as two peas in a pod, so far as face and figure go, but it is seldom their dispositions are alike. Of twin boys she once taught, one was an earnest student, the other was a typical tomboy, hated lessons and would not touch a book, except under compulsion. In spite of their dissimilarity they were inseparable companions with the usual bond of love between them which seems to exist when children are born into the world together. They went to college together and graduated on the same day, one with high honors, the other barely good through his examinations, although he had won fame as an athlete. Twin girls, who were under the instruction of this teacher, again were wonderfully alike in face, tastes and minds. They both had a love for music, and their progress, their touch, their voices, was as much alike as if they had been one instead of two.—*Good Housekeeping.*

One firm of clockmakers in the Black Forest, Germany, employs 2500 men who make 8000 clocks daily.

FACTS AND FANCIES FOR THE FAIR

New York City.—Mercedized ginghamams are produced in a large variety of colors and designs, making ideal fabrics for summer waists and sep-



FANCY GIBSON WAIST.

arate blouses. They retain their high lustre after they have been laundered, and are often elaborately trimmed with ribbons or laces.

The illustration shows a Gibson waist of Du Barry pink gingham, with a vest of white linen embroidered in pink. It is made over a fitted body lining that closes in the center front.

In the neck three pleats extend from shoulder to belt in V-shaped outline. There is also one deep pleat that extends over the shoulders to belt in V-shaped outline. These pleats are stitched and daily pressed.

The skirt is made with seven well-proportioned gored fitted smoothly around the waist and over the hips without darts. The fullness at the center back is arranged in an underlying pleat at each side of the closing. These pleats are daily pressed.

The blouse is circular, shallow in front and graduating to a considerable depth at the back. It flares widely at the lower edge, providing that graceful sweep which stamps all fashionable skirts this season. Narrow bands of white finish the seams and a broader one covers the joining of the blouse and skirt.

Stylish waists in this mode may be made of pique, linen, cotton cheviot and madras, with braided or embroidered

The plain collar is finished with a lace protector and black cravat. The sleeves are regulation bishop models, shaped with inside seams. They fit the upper arm closely and flare at the lower edge, where they are arranged on narrow cuffs. These are trimmed with lace turnovers to match the protector.

The mode may be developed in etamine, ann's veiling, canvas, wool ground or serge, with taffeta or moire bands for trimming.

To make the Eton in the medium size will require two yards of forty-four-inch material.

To make the skirt in the medium size will require two yards and one-half of forty-four-inch material.

A Novelty in Brooches.
The tortoise brooch is the latest novelty of the jeweler. The back is formed of an irregular pearl encircled with diamonds and diamond-mounted appendages. The body of another of these ultra-modish gemmed tortoise brooches is a mass of small olivines mounted in gold, with a surrounding circle of diamonds, the brilliancy of which contrasts effectively with the rich green of the olivines. Diamonds form the appendages and rubles the eyes.

Linen Dresses Favored.
Linen dresses are receiving the most attention just now, and there can be no wiser selection than the pure white linen, as its laundering qualities are perfect.

Severely Plain, But Stylish.
Severely plain, but stylish, is this shirt waist of blue and white striped brilliancy. It is mounted on a glove-fitted feather-boned lining that closes in the center front.

The back is plain across the shoulders and drawn down close to the belt where the fullness is adjusted in tiny pleats. Three deep tucks are arranged in the full back and fronts, extending around the body and providing a smart tailored finish.

The fronts are fastened invisibly under a box pleat of white satin that is decorated with small turquoise buttons applied in clusters of three. There is no fullness at the neck, but the fronts blouse over the black satin belt. A stock and tie of the same material provide a stylish finish.

The bishop sleeves are shaped with inside seams only, fit the upper arm closely and are gathered at the lower edge where the fullness is adjusted on narrow wristbands. These are completed with flaring cuffs of satin to match the box pleat.



BLOUSE ETON WITH CAPE COLLARS, SEVEN GORED SKIRT.

vests. It is also appropriate for French flannel, pea crepe, satin, Henrietta or albatross.

To make the waist in the medium size will require two yards of thirty-six inch material, with five-eighths yard of all over embroidery.

Smart Outing Suit.

Very smart outing suits are made of heavy wash fabrics in strong blues, pinks, reds and greens. They are usually accompanied by fine white shirt waists, and trimmed with stitched bands in tailor effect.

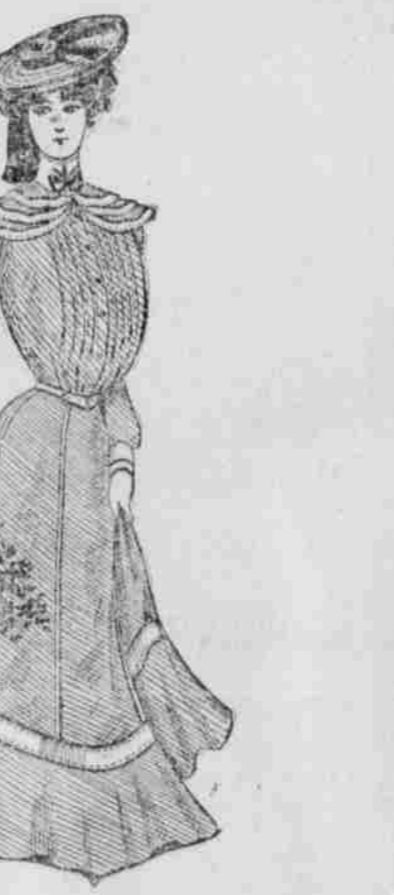
The costume shown in the large drawing is developed in bright red cotton cheviot and trimmed with straps of white linen. The Eton is adjusted with shoulder and underarm seams, the back fitting smoothly from neck to belt.

The fronts fasten in the centre with small pearl buttons. Four backward turning tucks on each side are attached down below the bust, the fullness forming a stylish blouse over the white kid belt.

Triple shoulder capes complete the neck and extend over the sleeves, giving a becoming breadth to the figure. They are all edged with narrow white bands.

The sleeves are shaped with inside seams only, fit the upper arm closely and are full at the lower edge, where they are arranged on deep white cuffs. These are finished with narrow turn-overs.

The vest is permanently attached to the right lining and closes invisibly on the left. The fronts are pleated to correspond with the backs and blouse stylishly over the black velvet belt.



TAILOR-MADE SHIRT WAIST.

six-inch material with five-eighths yards of all-over embroidery.

WOMAN'S REALM.

WOMEN RANCHERS IN NEBRASKA.

Incess of Two Orphan Girls in Managing Their Own Section.
Two Pennsylvania girls who went to Nebraska as children lost their parents by death, and then, after a precarious existence spent in trying to teach school, determined to turn farmers. Miss Libbie Scott and Miss Alle' Fish now own the best ranch in Blaine County, Nebraska. In an interview they are reported as saying:

"After carefully thinking the matter over, we determined that school teaching did not bring in as much money as we needed, and we decided to buy a farm. From our fathers we inherited half a section of land. We each took up a homestead of 160 acres. In the spring of 1890 we bought a later and twenty-four bushels of corn, and began work by planting eighty acres. With four horses on our farm we made the ground dry."

"When our corn was ready to cultivate, all our plans were under way. We took our teams out at 4 in the morning, and kept hard at work until the sun began to get torrid, when we went in for dinner. About 2 we took fresh teams and started in again. We raised 1800 bushels of corn on those eighty acres."

"Then we harvested 100 tons of hay, and now, owing but thirty head of cattle, we decided to take cattle from the stockmen and winter them."

"Securing sixty head in this way, our herd numbered ninety, but in November twenty-seven of them died of contagious disease. Of these fourteen were our own cattle. Then we took 200 head from another stockman, fed, and took care of them ourselves. We kept them during the following summer and increased our herd to 400."

"Fearing a drought, we bought a gasoline engine to run our windmill. The second summer we listed eighty-five acres of corn, but, on account of drought, got nothing. Were we blue? Well, I think we were. But we were not discouraged. The second summer we put up 200 tons of hay without any help, and the only trouble we had was in grinding our stables. After haying, we began to put in improvements on our ranch: fenced eight sections; changed our minds about wintering cattle, and took only 150 head."

"Our plans for the future are to plant 100 acres of corn, and run a fence through our pasture, having one for summer and one for winter grazing."

"We have found ranch life the happiest, most free and easy that a woman could wish."—*Philadelphia Public Ledger.*

Woman's Bump of Locality.

Why is it that a woman's bump of locality is so much more feebly developed than a man's? asks the Baltimore News. Put a man down on a country road, and the probabilities are that he will find his way wherever he wishes to go without having to ask at nearby farm houses for directions. Instinct seems to guide him. Put a woman in the same position and she will irrefragably lose herself in ten minutes, and have to be sought for by resolute men for hours before she is finally brought back to civilization.

Perhaps it is that the weaker sex is unobservant. Even in cities many of its members do not notice buildings closely enough to permit them to find their way about, and certainly they would not notice in the country the big barn tree that they pass here nor the hay bush that marks the intersection of the two roads there. With the sun low in the west there are many women who can't tell the points of the compass, and if they could would not know in which direction their homes lay. When it comes to noting the details of a costume few females fail to observe even the thinnest bit of braid or the smallest bow, but trees and houses are different, and less interesting things, and so in a strange town or the woods the fair travelers lose themselves in no time, and have to be rescued and set again upon the path by some one with a better sense of location than they can boast.

Rhinoceros a Woman's Pet.

No many women have owned more strenuous pets than the baby rhinoceros which amuses Mrs. Cook, wife of the Governor of North Borneo, a British possession. The Governor's house is near a jungle which is filled with wild animals. Out of this range of undergrowth a baby rhinoceros strayed one morning to frolic in a comb-over fashion on the well kept lawn which surrounds the house. Native servants captured him without much difficulty, and when they had tamed him presented him to Mrs. Cook. At first it was a problem on what and how to feed the youngster. Cows' milk and an improvised milking bottle were the solution. Sixteen quart a day was the amount the hungry baby usually demanded, and on it he has thrived and grown fat. This child of the jungle looks very little like the full grown rhinoceros which can be seen in the Zoological Gardens. If it were not for its single horn, one might take him for a peculiar species of hog. He is about the same size and covered with a shaggy coat of black hair. Mrs. Cook completed the taming process begun by her servants, and the baby rhinoceros now follows her about like a faithful dog. It will not be long, if he keeps on growing, before he becomes too cumbersome even for a North Borneo pet.—*St. James Gazette.*

Alexandra's Coronation Gown.

Queen Alexandra's coronation robe, which she was so unhappily prevented from wearing, excited great interest among those permitted to see it in the shop of the Parisian couturiere who made it. The foundation of the gown is of cloth-of-gold, covered completely with a transparent tulle of a faint amber hue, decorated with Indian embroidery of towers and foliage in the gold, picked out with pearls, rubies and diamonds. The corsage, cut low and square, forms in front a wide fold, ending in a point at the bottom. It is finished at the top with a large Elizabethan collar, alluring

The favorite material for modish, velvet is not.

Novelty dress fabrics include shot damasks and groundlines.

An Alexandra clasp of oxidized silver is set with a large purple amethyst in the centre.

The vogue of the collarless bodice is making its way slowly into the realms of fashion.

A striking combination is a white bouffant blouse jacket worn with a skirt of black and white plaid cloth.

White embroidery and lace are much used as trimming on pink and blue linen gowns, while lace of a deep coffee color is used on white organdies.

Green and black are distinctively the colors which are combined with white gowns, and these appear in the girdle. The white hat which is worn is also allowed a slight touch of color.

A portion of the newest goods are woven to imitate tucking and hem-stitching, others have French knots or silk or satin dots, but, above all else, they are given tone and variety by narrow but solid colored stripes.

The bon has in a great degree given place to the frilly shoulder cape finished with very long scarf ends of handsome lace, or of accordion pleated net or chiffon tied with velvet bows, or brightened here and there with clusters of roses or soft fluffy silk tuinnies.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

General Trade Conditions.

Bradstreet's distributive trade, and stimulated by really brilliant crop prospects, fall business has begun to expand. Buyers are arriving in large numbers at all markets, and this week promises to see demand further increased. Manufacturing industry, which has been more than usually active this summer, continues well employed. Failures are few and liabilities small; prices are steady. July railway earnings returns show 7 per cent. gain over last year. Bank clearings continue to show gains over last year.

Advices from the boot and shoe trade are irregular. Business at the West is active and at Philadelphia the jobbing trade is brisk and manufacturers are busy on orders. At Boston shipments, though larger than last week, are still far below those of last year, the decrease being fully 12 per cent. Leather and hides are very active, however, and skins of all kinds are taken as fast as received.

The weight of imported iron is pressing on domestic sentiment, though no perceptible effect is yet seen on prices for pig iron, which is still in active request for next year's delivery.

Steel rails, plates, bars and sheets are active at the West, but the edge of the demand for plates and sheets appears to have been taken off at Pittsburg. Western rail mills are all sold up for the first half of 1903. Structural material is active at Chicago and at Pittsburg, where sales have been very large this week. Shipbuilding interests have taken 40,000 tons of plates at Pittsburg. Hardware, as predicted, has had no dull season this year and business is as active as ever.

Business failures for the week ending August 7 number 150, as against 138 last week and 183 in this week last year. Wheat, including flour, exports for the week ending August 7 aggregated 1,244,353 bushels, against 1,383,334 last week and 883,199 in this week last year. Wheat exports since July 1 aggregated 22,398,203 bushels, against 35,323,27 last season. Corn exports aggregated 30,671 bushels, against 23,405 last week and 99,714 last year. For the fiscal year corn exports are 553,421 bushels, against 8,718,361 last season.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Flour—Spring clear, \$3 10a3.30; best Patent, \$4.00; choice Family, \$3.75.

Wheat—New York No. 2, 74½¢; Philadelphia No. 2, 72½¢; Baltimore No. 2, 69½¢.

Corn—New York No. 2, 65¢; Philadelphia No. 2, 68a8½¢; Baltimore No. 2, 66¢.

Oats—New York No. 2, 62½¢; Philadelphia No. 2, 75¢; Baltimore No. 2, 55¢.

Hay—No. 1 Timothy, \$19.00a19.50; No. 2 Timothy, \$18.00a18.50; No. 3 Timothy \$17.00a17.50.

Green Fruits and Vegetables.—Beets, Native, per bunch 1c. Blackberries, Eastern Shore, per quart. 4a5c. Cabbage—Native per 100 \$1.00a1.50; Wakefield, per 100, \$3.00a5.00.

Antiques.—Florida, per crate 50c. \$1.00. Cucumbers—Charleston, per basket 12a20¢; do North Carolina, 13a20¢. Eggplants, Native, per basket 55a90¢. Huckleberries, per quart 6a7c. Lettuce, Native, per bushel box 30a50c. Onions, New, per basket 30a90c. Peaches, Florida, per carrier \$1.00a1.25. Pineapples, Florida, per crate, \$1.75a2.50. String beans, per bushel, green, 30a50¢; wax, 30a40¢. Tomatoes, Potato, per six-basket carrier, fancy, 30¢ a35¢; do, fair to good 20a25¢.

Buttows, Norfolk, per lb. No. 1, \$1.00a1.25; do, second, 75a90¢; do, culls, 50a90¢; do, North Carolina, per lb. No. 1, \$1.00a1.25.

Butter, Separator, 23a23½; Gathered cream, 21a22½; prints, 1-lb 25a26½; Rolls, 2-lb, 20a22; Dairy pts. Md., Pa., Va., 23a24c.

Eggs, Fresh-laid eggs, per dozen, 17½a18c.

Cheese, Large, 60-lb, 10½a10½; medium, 35-lb, 10½a10½; slices, 25-lb, 10½a10½.

Livestock, Hens, 11½a12½; old roosters, each 20a30; spring chickens, 12a12½; young stags, 12a12½. Ducks 11a12.

Hides, Heavy steers, association and salters, late kill, 60-lb and up, close selection, 12½a12½; cows and light steers 9½a10c.

Provisions and Hog Products.—Bull clear rib sides, 12½¢; bulk shoulders, 10½¢; bulk bellies, 13¢; bulk ham butts, 10½¢; bacon clear rib sides, 13¢; bacon shoulders, 11½¢; sugar-cured hams, 11½¢; sugar-cured California hams, 11½¢; hams uncured or uncured, 12 lbs and over, 14½¢; refined lard trolsers, bris and 50 lb cubs, gross, 11½¢; refined lard, second-hand tubs, 11½¢; refined lard, half-barrels and new tubs, 11½¢.

Live Stock.

Chicago, Cattle, Mostly 10a15c lower, good to prime steers \$5 00a8 90; medium \$4 75a7 75; stockers and feeders \$2 50a3 25; cows, \$1 50a3 75; heifers \$2 50a3 50; fat calves \$3 75a7 75; Hogs, Mixed and butchers \$3 75a7 75; good to choice, heavy \$7 40a7 70; Sheep, steady and lambs slow to lower; good to choice wethers \$3 50a4 00; Western sheep \$2 50a3 75.

East Liberty, Cattle steady; choice \$7 50a7 80; prime \$7 00a7 25. Hogs, prime heavy \$7 80a7 85, medium \$8.00; heavy Yorkers \$7 75a7 80. Sheep steady, best wethers \$4 15a4 30 culls and common \$1 50a2 00; choice lambs \$5 25a5 60.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

There is a strike of bricklayers at Kiel for an increase in wages and a reduction in working hours.

Differences between the Carriage Workers' Union and the employers at Albany, N. Y., have been settled.

At Oakland, Cal., the Southern Pacific Company has acceded to some of the demands made by the machinists.

Bricklayers at Glasgow, Scotland, have secured an advance of 1-2d an hour, which they had to give up about a year ago.

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