Washington society is seriously rieved over the invalidism of Mrs. John Sherman, which continues, and which will probably hold throughout the winter, if, indeed, that popular lady ever recovers her full strength again.

To go to Washington without meeting Mrs. John Sherman has been for tears an impossibility, for she has been known as a great entertainer, administrations without end. Though never, endowed with the golden spoon of fabulous wealth, she has always kept open



MRS. JOHN SHERMAN. (For Years She Was a Shining Light of Washington Society.)

house in a most charming manner, and her gatherings have included all the nublic people of note who have ever belonged to society or politics.

hving statesman, Mrs. Sherman has er to use it. upheld her husband's hands in a very efficient way. Without being at all aggressive or progressive or assertive. only a statesman can tell what that

To Washington people she reminds one of Mrs. Gladstone, who has the same beautiful, economical, cheering qualities without any of the flamboyant notions of later days. All newcomers to Washington desire to get into Mrs. John Sherman's set, and the young of any kind, from a grand ball to a charity bazar, "without Mrs. John Sher-

Her stroke of paralysis of several weeks ago is said to have turned out more favorably than was expected, and she and her aged husband hope to be in fairly good health for some time to

In token of their great popularity in Washington circles it may be mentioned that they have been invited to no less than five Christmas dinners, and twice as many holiday entertainments. Mrs. Sherman has a table filled with invitations for holiday week, for the dear old couple will be the greatest drawing card a Washington hostess can have.

THE DEATH HELMET.

French Government May Determine to Have It Take the Place of the Guillotine.

more than likely that the raising of the and assure the proper resistance. question by Dr. Cinel will banish the machine which owes its origin to the reign of terror.

For months past the French government has had in its hands a machine superior to the guillotine in rapidity of action, which causes no distortion of visage and produces no scar.

The machine, which has been named "L'Executioner" by its inventor, M. Francois Esclangon, a well-known scientist and the editor of the Parisian



FRENCH DEATH HELMET. (Intended to Take the Place of the Guille-

Le Monde Scientifique, is like the helmet worn by a fourteenth century cavalier. From the top curves a long, hol-low bar of steel, dividing near its end into two portions which approximate closely two holes in the helmet near the

upper portion. In the cavity of this bar are placed two cartridges, run on grooves made in the curved bar and attached to long. curved needles. In the helmet are two holes fitted with disks which can be made to revolve until they come into apposition with the eyes of the victim. The apparatus is in communication with a battery on a table near by, which causes the cartridges to revolve and at the same time to plunge forward and bury themselves deep in the frontal lobes of the brain, destroying instantly a large portion of the white matter of

Death is instantaneous and painless, and only a simple prick at the angle of each eye shows how the dead man

A Valuable Heirloom. In Nagasaki, Japan, there is a fireworks maker who manufactures pyrotechnic birds of great size, that, when exploded, sail in a lifelike manner through the air and perform many movements exactly like those of living birds. The secret of making these wonderful fireworks has been in the possession of the eldest child of the family of each generation for more than

LIFE OF MODERN GUNS

Slight Deterioration in Ordnance Resulting from War.

The Mistaken Idea That the Great Cannon Are Worn Out After Boing Discharged One Hundred Times.

Commodore Charles O'Neil, chief of the bureau of ordnance of the navy department, who has considered all the reports of the ordnance officers on board the vessels engaged in the recent war, spoke freely and in an interesting way when asked to say what is "the life of a gun" as now understood in the navy, and what points were in dicated by the practice of the modern guns in the course of the months of the | brother." Spanish war.

"The life of a gun," said he, "is a very uncertain period to determine just now. There never was any ground for asserting that a gun's life was limited to 100 discharges from it, for at any time there would be differences in the weight of powder used in a discharge, and, of course, differences in the effects of charges of different weights of powder.

"From the experience of the last sum mer in the navy, and in the use of our modern guns, it may be said that an inappreciable amount of deterioration has been discovered in the pieces of all calibers. There has been no thought of withdrawing any gun because it had been fired a stated number of times and should therefore be regarded as unsafe to use. Trifling erosion has been noticed in the rifling at the breech, but not enough to impair the efficiency of the piece, and no indication of strain As the wife of, many say, the greatest to suggest that it would be unsafe long-

"To show you how mistaken any popular idea is that the gun is worn out or dangerous at the one hundredth she has been a comfortable woman, and discharge I may say that some of the largest guns, 13-inch, and 12-inch, have been fired as many as 300 times, in practice and in action, yet they are just as sound, practically, as they were when they were brought out of the gun factory. Of course the smaller pieces many of them have fired two or three times 300 rounds, and they are still sound and free from serious impairpeople never think of starting an affair | ment from erosion. This erosion is caused by the effects of gas developed in the powder chamber at the time of the discharge, and is shown in slight Mallet. scratches at first, then in deeper channels about the rifling, and eventually it might so destroy the rifling as to impair the accuracy of the piece in action without endangering life from bursting of the piece. That danger is very remote with all the guns now in use in the

"In the British navy, where cordite is used, the destruction of the core of the gun by erosion is much more rapid than it is with the guns in the United States navy, which have been using old powder until now. The use of smokeless powder may wear the guns more quickly, but that is to be ascertained. But in the British navy the precaution is taken to make the guns so that their life may be indefinitely prolonged. This is done by building the guns with a core that is to be bored out when the erosion has been so great as to indicate Whether or not the stroke of the the necessity for replacing the core, and guillotine causes instant death, it is a new core is put in to secure accuracy

Lieut. Col. Shaler, of the ordnance department office of the war department, said that it would be difficult to say what the life of the modern guns of the army will be, as the army has not had the opportunity to put the new guns to business tests to ascertain their long-

"The old cast-iron guns, it was the tradition, were unfit for further use after about 100 discharges. Then it depended upon the weight of powder charges used whether the life was to be shorter or longer. The guns now provided for the army are much more durable and capable of resisting destructive influences than the old ordnance. I understand that in the British army the calculation is that modern guns of large calibers are only used for about 100 rounds as they are built. The rapid erosion of the piece by the cordite used in that service deprives the gun of its efficiency, without, I should say, making it dangerous to those who might use it. To protect the piece from the erosion the core is made with the idea that it shall be bored out when the erosion is so great as to indicate the need for a renewal of the part, and thus I suppose the 'life of the gun' may be prolonged indefinitely. With the eightinch gun the limit of usefulness is considered passed when 250 rounds have

been fired from it. "There is small danger of accident from the bursting of guns from overuse. The strains are observed, and when the channels of erosion become well marked the gun would be withdrawn. The probability is that most of the guns now in use or in position to be used will be withdrawn because they have become obsolete or out of the fashion, rather than because they have become worn out by service. At the enjoying it, and securing the close of the war of the rebellion we considered our ordnance as good as any-thing in the world. Now it is comparatively harmless, fit only to adorn grave- ufactured, at prices which of Women," may be seen in New York yards and to be set up here and there to protect positions that can never be reached by ships carrying heavy or iong-range guns."-N. Y. Times.

High Old Times. Tommy-Didn't the ancients have

pretty high times? His Father-Why, my son? "The book says they set their watches on the hilltops."-Jewelers' Weekly.

Swell.

Jabbers-Swell? Why, I didn't recnize a single thing I ate, except the water!—Puck.

THE CHILD WIT.

Little Nettle accompanied her paand after being out a short distance she began to get seasick. "How do you feel, Nettie?" asked mamma. "Oh," was the reply. "I just feel like I wanted to unswallow my breakfast."

"No. thank you, I don't care for any," said little Marie, as her papa passed the take. "Why, dear," said he. "I thought you were fond of cake?" "So I am," she replied. "but I heard mamma say it wasn't quite perfect, and when she says that it must be something awful."

"Now, Tommy," said the teacher, can you tell me what a propaganda s?" The little fellow looked at the ceiling and wrinkled his brow as he bravely wrestled with the problem, and finally replied: "I don't know for sure, but I think it must be a proper goose's

"Oh, look what a pretty little moon!" exclaimed four-year-old Edith to her little brother, as she looked from her grandma's window at the small crescent in the western sky. "Pshaw!" replied the unappreciative brother, "I don't think it's half as pretty as the big round noon we had at home two weeks ago."

Johnny, aged five, had a habit of using in his conversation every big word he happened to hear, regardless of its meaning. One morning he and his older brother were trying to wash from the same basin, to Johnny's detriment, and he ran into the kitchen, exclaiming: "Mamma, Charley's metropolizing the whole laudatory!"-Chicago Daily News.

FLASHES OF THOUGHT.

Virtuous men alone possess friends .-Voltaire. Delay in vengeance gives a heavier

olow.-John Ford. To be proud of learning is the great-

est ignorance.-Colton. The knowledge of thyself will pre-

erve thee from vanity.—Cervantes. There is small revenge in words, but words may be greatly revenged .-Franklin.

Friendship is a plant that loves the sun and thrives ill under clouds .-

Whatever makes men good Christians makes them good citizens.-Daniel Webster. Who hath not known ill fortune,

ever knew himself or his own virtue .-A wise man neither suffers himself

to be governed or attempts to govern others.-La Bruvere. Mankind in the gross is a gaping mon-

ster that loves to be deceived, and has seldom been disappointed.—Mackenzie. You cannot give an instance of a man, who is permitted to lay out his own time, contriving not to have tedious hours .- Johnson.

Were we as eloquent as angels, yet should we please some men, some wom-

The Mifflinburg

mountain water from the new borough plant is now in use. If you were pleased with the work, better give the laundry a trial now, and note how clean and have become.

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en and some children much more by

listening than by talking,-Colton. Try to be happy in this very present mement and put not off being so to a time to come, as though that time should be of another make from this, which is already come, and is ours .-

PRODUCTS OF THE SOUTH.

It is only recently that any attention has been paid to the rice erop of Texas, but it is demanding notice. An acre of rice returns about \$50 a crop.

Capitalists are trying to get Florida farmers to go into cassava raising. Starch will be manufactured from it. Three tons to an acre at \$20 a ton is the golden promise held out.

From Southern Pines, N. C., during the past season there were shipped by express 2,548 crates of blackberries, 12,-203 crates of peaches and 7,565 crates of

The pineapple crop in one district alone of Florida is estimated at \$50,000 before January 1. Owners of pineries realize as much from the sale of suckers as from the fruit. Each pineapple plant produces from five to six of these a year, and, separated from the parent plant and planted, they grow into new, strong plants. They sell for ten cents

SHOOTING STARS.

Stars are light but not very alry things.

The dog star may be said to be a pretty Sirius affair.

Why are not the pointers in the Dipper known as dog stars?

There is but one star that adds to the beauty of the sky at the same time it Mars it.

The "music of the spheres" grinds on day after day and still no one has been heard to complain, possibly because no Wagnerian stars have yet been known to execute it.

Our Hibernian friend recently remarked that we didn't need the light of the moon or stars in the day time while we have the sunshine, but that is surely | service. all moonshine.

RULINGS OF THE COURT.

An unrestricted guaranty of payment ndorsed on a negotiable instrument is held, in Commercial bank vs. Cheshire Provident institute (Kan.), 41 L. R. A. 175, to be negotiable and it is also held that it passes with the title to the instrument.

The "heirs" who are entitled to a right of action for the death of a person under 2 Hill's (Wash.) code, section 138, are held, in Noble vs. Scattle (Wash.), 40 L. R. A. 822, to include the widow and children only, and not to include the parents of the deceased.

Game killed on an Indian reservation by a tribal Indian and transported by wagon to the nearest railway station off the reservation and there delivered to a carrier to be shipped out of the state is held, in Selkirk vs. Stevens (Minn.). 40 L. R. A. 759, to be subject to the game laws of the state.

The duty of an operator or agent of a coal mine to employ a competent mine boss being imposed by statute is held. I I in Williams vs. Thacker Coal & C. com-Is fitted out with the latest and fully performed by the employment of very best machinery. The pure such a mine boss, and for the latter's negligence the operator or agent is held not to be liable.

An undisclosed gold clause in a mortgage subject to which real estate is white your shirts and collars bought at auction, is held, in Blanck vs. Sadlier (N. Y.). 40 L. R. A. 666, not to be a defect for which the purchaser may decline to complete his contract, which was silent on that subject, where there is no probability that the policy of the government to keep all its funds at par at your door without any extra will be changed before the mortgage comes due.

CONCERNING ASBESTOS.

Mountain paper is blue asbestos. Mountain wood is asbestos which exremely resembles wood.

Mountain leather is a very light, thin and flexible asbestos.

Mountain cork is an asbestos light enough to float on water. Amanthus is a kind of asbestos in which the fibers are so exceedingly

long, flexible and elastic that they may have been woven into cloth. Common asbestos has fibers much less flexible than amanthus, it is heavier, a dull green in color, sometimes pearly in luster and oily to the touch. Asbestos is found in nearly all parts of the globe, but there is probably no product of inorganic nature about which there is so much popular mys-

markable product is that it cannot be consumed by fire. STARS AND FOOTLIGHTS.

tery. The principal claim for this re-

Mrs. James Brown Potter has scored a great success in "The Three Musketeers" in London.

E. S. Willard has left for the south of France for the winter and may go as

Mrs. John Drew and Mrs. Henry Miller will spend the winter in Dresden, where their children are at school.

J. M. Barrie's new play, "Two Kinds at special matinees to be given after the holidays. Olga Nethersole will produce a new

play by Max O'Rell during her tour in this country. Wilton Lackage will star again this season in "Charles O'Malley," in which he won exceptional praise when he pro-

Johanna Gadski recently accom-plished the unusual task of learning three heavy grand-opera roles in Italian
—a language with which she is not familiar—in ten weeks' time. She will
alternate with Melba during the grand
opera season, beginning in Philadelphia December 1.

GRAPE HARVEST IN PORTUGAL.

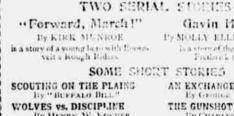
THE PORT GRAPES CARRIED TO THE TREADING VATS. Scene at the Vineyards of Boa Visto, valley of the Douro: Women cut the bunches of grapes into small baskets, carry them a short distance and fill large baskets holding near 100 pounds. Then men with sheepskins thrown over their backs, and plaited straw knots on their heads, shoulder the baskets and move off in single file down the rugged winding paths and flights of steps to large vats, where the grapes are mashed for wine. The soil containing a large amount of iron.



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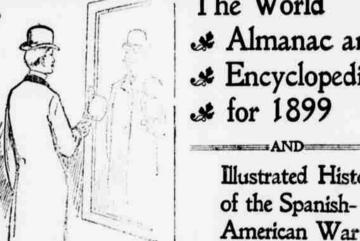
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