

FOR COUNTRY RIDING.

A Smart Outfit of Black and White Plaid for the Daring Woodland Cyclienne.

The costume of this woodland cyclienne is worthy a paragraph in the most conservative of fashion articles. It is specially adapted for long trips through shady groves and also for rough-and-tumble riding.

It is developed in lightweight Scottish goods trimmed with bands of bright silk poplin, which in their turn are finished with narrow strips of braid. The writer recalls one particular woodland cycling suit of royal brown plaided with Prussian blue and a generous tracing of crimson.

The skirt was the ideal rainy-day length, very flaring at the hem and close-fitting about the hips. The fullness was laid in plaits at the back. Around the foot was a plain band trimming of white brilliantine headed



FOR THE WOODLAND SPIN.

with an inch-wide band of Prussian blue silk braid.

The waist had a blouse effect, front and back, and was box plaited, the front plaits being overlaid with bands of brilliantine like that which embellished the skirt. The collar was high, finished with a narrow linen ruching, and the sleeves, which were full enough to allow perfect freedom to the arms, were plain, relying upon their neat finish for their beauty.

With the woodland cycling suit a short white sailor was worn with a curled quill and band to match the suit.

GEMS POSSESS LIFE.

Including Them in Their Cases and Giving Them a Rest Adds to Their Luster.

Real jewels, scientists now assert, possess organic life. It has long been known that opals and pearls grow dull when worn by invalids, and latterly rubies and the turquoise are found to share the same sensibility. Pearls are more indicative of the condition of the wearer than any other gem. Though this delicate stone lives longer than a flower, it seems to have a form of life, which, like that of the flower, loses color and brilliancy and actually dies. Nor is this property unfounded in reason. Science has latterly learned much concerning gems and their influence in the propagation of health and disease. Those invisible emanations which surround the person wearing gems penetrate the interstices of the jewel and actually increase or decrease its brilliancy. The inference is a true one that rings and pins should be laid aside by the invalid. Even in good health, it is better to give them an occasional rest. To include them in their cases and put them away is to insure an access of luster. Even clothing should be treated to rest. It freshens up wonderfully the frock or wrap, to shake and brush the garment and hang it in a dark closet.—Good Housekeeping.

**The Neck Chain is Gone.** Definitely the chain is gone. Too great popularity killed it. In its place the bangle ventures to put forth, but the result is in doubt, and by determiningly putting off their watches women have ceased to make themselves the slaves of time. In truth, never was so little jewelry worn as in this summer of grace, and the fancy for oriental patterns is as marked as ever. At night in the coiffure very charming wreaths of small, clear green enameled leaves, ivy, myrtle, laurel, bay and grape foliage, fasten among puffs and braids, and sometimes a row of leaves forms the top edging for a tucking comb.

**Cotton Hangings Are Useful.** For some time the special value of cotton fabrics for country house service as hangings and draperies has been known. Their growing excellence in manufacture, which has brought design and finish almost to perfection, has promoted these fabrics to quite general town house use. The fact that moths pay no attention to them makes them popular with housekeepers. It would, perhaps, be a surprise to one who has not given the matter recent attention to discover what excellent effect can be produced in hangings, furniture coverings and even rugs that are made of cotton.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Review, or Optional Lesson, for December 31, 1899—Thanksgiving to the Eternal King—Psalm 103.

GOLDEN TEXT—Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.—Psalm 103:2.

THE LESSON TEXT.

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.  
2. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:  
3. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;  
4. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;  
5. Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
6. The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.  
7. He made known His ways unto Moses, His awe unto the children of Israel.  
8. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy.  
9. He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger forever.  
10. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.  
11. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.  
12. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.  
13. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.  
14. For He knoweth our frame: He remembereth that we are dust.  
15. As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.  
16. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.  
17. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children:  
18. To such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them.  
19. The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all.  
20. Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word.  
21. Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts, ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure.  
22. Bless the Lord, all His works in all places of His dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.

NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

1-5. Perowne says: "This beautiful psalm is the outpouring of a full heart in thanksgiving to Jehovah for His grace and compassion, both as experienced by the psalmist in his own life and also as manifested to his nation and in their history." As such, it is especially appropriate in summing up the Divine blessings given to Israel, even through Israel's sufferings, blessings that speak of grace and mercy, of God's patience, and of His deliverance from the great evils that had been brought upon the people by their sin. "O my soul!" The Hebrew title assigns the Psalm to David, and the Syrian assigns it to David in his old age. But the authorship is entirely uncertain, many linguistic signs seeming to separate it from the Davidic psalms. Whoever wrote it, probably some author after the return from exile and in celebration of the mercy that had once more opened the temple to the worshiper, appealed to his innermost being, his very soul, his whole nature, to bless God. Chief of these blessings was the forgiveness of all personal iniquity, "thine iniquity," and then the healing of "all thy diseases," both of body and soul, completes the redemption for which the devout Israelite gives thanks. "From the pit" means from the dark underworld, hades, the grave, in which the dead were supposed to dwell. "Satisfieth thy mouth with good things" is made symbolical of all bodily nourishment by which the strength is sustained and the youthful elasticity, the spring and buoyancy of life fitly symbolized by the eagle, is preserved even beyond the years in which it might naturally be expected.

6-12. "The Lord executeth righteousness," etc. The thought here seems to pass beyond individual benefits, and "all" who are oppressed, as the nation had been in exile, are made the subjects of Jehovah's just deliverance. Personal blessing is only a part of the experience that calls for gratitude. Righteousness and judgment, literally, righteousnesses and judgments, on many occasions, have been experienced. "He will not always chide," for His anger is not unreasoning, to be kept forever, but it is just and lasts only so long as the sinner is obstinate in his sin. "Not" (even) "according to our sins" has God punished us; every sinner rightly feels that the pardon he receives is not deserved; even if he repents, his past sins can be forgiven only by free grace.  
13-18. "As a father;" No comparison is more common either in the Old or the New Testament. He "pitieth" us, for, as our Creator (Gen. 2:7), God remembers how He Himself made us, "our frame," literally, "our fashioning," being of dust. Such a body is like the grass and flowers of Palestine, that wither in an hour if struck by some sudden hot wind from the deserts. The wind passes over a green field, and "it is gone" suddenly, and the life of man is like this. In contrast, the "loving kindness" of Jehovah is from everlasting to everlasting, and His "righteousness," or promise-keeping truth, His mercy, to all who "keep His covenant."  
19-22. Such mercy is consistent with the power of God. For "His throne" is established in the heavens, so far above all earthly power that it can never be successfully assailed, and it is the seat of such wisdom that He infallibly executes justice and determines when He may rightly forgive.

The slight that can be conveyed in a glance, in a gracious smile, in a wave of the hand, is often the ne plus ultra of art. What insult is so keen, or so keenly felt, as the polite insult, which it is impossible to resent?—Julia Kavanagh.

The slender vine twists around the sturdy oak, for no other reason in the world but because it has not strength sufficient to support itself.—Goldsmith.

The Promised Land is the land where one is not.—Amiel.

A LOANING COMPANY

Which Government Officials Declare Is a Swindling Game.

INSPECTOR SNOW'S STATEMENT

Declares That Roper's Scheme of Roping in Was Far and Away Better Than Miller's Franklin Syndicate—Even Lawyers Taken In.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 12.—Osmer W. Roper, of this city, was arrested yesterday by United States Marshal Gar-side, Postoffice Inspector W. B. Snow and several deputies, and committed to jail in default of \$5,000 bonds.

The charge was based upon an allegation that he was using the mails for swindling purposes. The authorities claim that his scheme was far and away better than Miller's Franklin syndicate, in that he took in plenty of money and seldom or never paid out any except for running expenses. They have 50 complaints drawn up against him, and say 50 more are filed, and that they can get thousands of them if needs be. The swindle, as they say it was, has been in operation for three years. Roper's business required a large force of clerks, stenographers and typewriters, and he did an enormous mail business.

It is claimed that Roper is the Realty Corporation company of New Jersey, the Realty Loan and Trust Fund company, the Realty Loan and Title company and the Four Per Cent Mortgage company. The authorities say the companies existed only on paper, although regularly incorporated, and that in each Roper was the only person concerned.

Inspector Snow says that Roper's scheme was alluring, and that his victims are in every state in the nation and embrace all classes. He says that even churches and lawyers have been taken in by Roper.

According to the inspector, who has had personal charge of investigating Roper's affairs, the four concerns were worked in pairs. The inspector says the Realty Corporation company sent out alluring circulars all over the country. The stationery was most elaborate, and so gotten up as to deceive even business men. The body of each circular stated that the company was in a position to obtain for any person with property a loan of any amount of money at 4 per cent, or even less. When persons applied for loans they were required to send a fee of \$10 to cover appraisal costs. Then it was necessary to furnish a certificate of search from the Realty Land and Title Fund, which would cost \$40 to \$60 more, and then the loan would be approved.

Then the victim would be informed that the money was put up at auction and loaned to the highest bidder, and more cash was demanded with the bids. After the passing of the date when the sale of the money was supposed to take place the victim received a note. The company was sorry, but he had been outbid by others, and every dollar sold had been disposed of at a better rate than he had offered. The name or names of those who were supposed to have bought the money were given. The company would hold the percentage paid in and bid the same rate again unless the customer wished to increase the amount he would bid, in which event enough money to make up the additional 5 per cent of the whole must be forwarded. Usually this brought in some more money.

This went on month after month until the victim made a demand for the return of his money. He then received blanks, which he had to fill out. He would not get the fees back, but a percentage of the 5 per cent deposit would be returned, usually 10, 15 or 20 per cent, at the expiration of 12 months, from the receipt of the blanks and so on.

The inspectors say the applications for loans ran into the thousands, and that the profits to the prisoner have been very great.

Alarming Conduct.

"When I kiss you, Edgar, you are not afraid I am going to ask for money, are you?"

"No, dear; but I'm afraid you have already cleaned me out while I was asleep."—Chicago Record.

Should Be a Great Success.

"I'll make a fortune out of my new music box. You put a penny in the slot and—"

"And the thing plays a popular air?"

"No. It stops playing one."—San Francisco Examiner.

A Failure.

"Did anybody ever try to civilize you?" asked the stranger.  
"Once," answered the heathen, "but he was a near-sighted tenderfoot with an out-of-date gun. He couldn't shoot worth a picayune."—Washington Star.

A Family Secret.

"Doesn't your son inherit his fighting qualities?"  
"Yes, but don't refer to that; he got them from his mother."—Chicago Record.

Seasonable Sports.

"Anything interesting out at Campbell Tomkins' last night?"  
"Interesting? I should say; we had a strawberry shortcake walk."—Detroit Free Press.

Excusable.

Young Mother—Horror! Here's an account in the paper of a woman who sold her baby for ten cents.  
Young Father (warily)—Perhaps it was teething.—N. Y. Weekly.

Just Girls.

Juliet (yawning)—Dear me! I feel 30 years old to-day.  
Angelica—Why, what have you been taking to rejuvenate yourself?—Chicago Daily News.

She Didn't Ask It.

Lady (to her legal friend)—You won't charge for a question, I hope?  
Lawyer—Oh, no; only for the answer.—The Rival.

Christmas.

For little children everywhere  
A joyous season still we make;  
We bring our precious gifts to them,  
Even for the dear child, Jesus' sake.  
—PHOENIX CARRY.

SHADEL.

R. S. Meiser and Riley Weaver bought a tract of timberland from Samuel Bickhart and will begin making ties this month. David Hafler, Henry Bickhart and Jacob Inch and Albert Heimback do the work. . . . The hunting season is now over. Quite a number of rabbits have been caught in this vicinity. . . . The talk of building a new railroad from Millin to Selingsgrove is still among the people. . . . Mrs. T. T. Reichelbach was at M. Miller's at Kantz buying goods and visiting her daughter at Freiburg. The school house was improved by putting on a new porch. . . . The eclipse of the moon was noticed by many people on Saturday evening. . . . Rev. J. H. Maize will leave for other parts on Tuesday. . . . Nora M. Bottiger of Freiburg is visiting her grandparents over Sunday. . . . The United Evangelicals will hold their communion on Sunday, Dec. 24, at the Alice church. . . . Mrs. Jacob F. Reichenbach was on the sick list last week, but she has recovered again and is doing her own house work. She is eighty-three years old. . . . Boys and girls are looking for Santa Claus next Sunday evening. Hang up your stockings.

ADAMSBURG.

Jas. Specht, Assistant Postmaster, cancelled 11,704 postage stamps last week. . . . Mrs. Hiram Siegfried of Selingsgrove was entertained by her parents on Sunday. . . . Miss Esta Youngman spent Friday and Saturday in Sunbury. . . . Prof. Webb, State Supt. of Education, Ohio, delivered a highly interesting address in the high school last Thursday. . . . J. Ernest Zimmerman of Susquehanna University is spending the holidays at home. . . . Mrs. Rev. Spahn is visiting friends in Lancaster. . . . A very interesting Xmas service will be rendered in the Reformed church Sunday, Dec. 24, and in the Lutheran church on Monday, Dec. 25th. Our public schools will have a vacation between Christmas and New Year.

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