

SCOUTS OF THE AIR.

Part Airships Will Play In Warfare, Says Maxim.
TO BE NO BIG BATTLES ALOFT

Well Known Ornithologist, in Strong Appeal to Save the Birds, Describes Methods That Could Be Used to Create Sentiment in Their Favor.

Now that spring is here insects of all kinds will soon begin their destructive work on the farmers' crops. To offset this the following appeal to save the birds made by William Dutcher, chairman of the protection committee of the American Ornithologists' union, is of timely interest:
According to the census of 1900, there were in the United States the enormous number of 5,730,057 farms, with a total acreage of \$41,201,546. The valuation of these farm lands is placed at the sum of \$20,514,001,838. The labor of the farmer and fruit grower is repaid by products to the value of \$4,730,118,752 per year. It is said that insects and rodents destroy products annually to the astonishing money value of \$200,000,000, even with the birds as protectors. Try to imagine what the additional loss would be were all the birds destroyed.

They are rapidly decreasing in numbers, and unless the large and most vitally interested class of the population, the agriculturists, awaken to the gravity of the situation and absolutely demand that no more beneficial birds be killed for any purpose whatever they will soon feel the result in an increasing annual loss in actual dollars and cents. A difference of 1 per cent in the value of the farm products in the United States each year amounts to the enormous sum of \$47,301,157.

Birds are now killed by human agencies for three purposes only—for food, wootonily by men and boys and for military ornaments. For food only a very few are shot—that is, the game birds, and those only during restricted portions of the year—so they do not materially effect the result. That many birds are destroyed wootonily is undeniable. Men who claim to be sportsmen, but who are not, kill thousands each year simply for practice in wing shooting, and boys with their armament of air guns and pea shooters will kill a far greater number than is realized by the public.

There is no excuse for shooting the third class of birds, as their value as military ornaments is far less than their value as insect destroyers. Besides this, contrast the difference in the money value of the two interests that are opposed to each other. By the census of 1900 we find that the total capital invested in the millinery and lace trade is \$37,970,050 and the value of the manufactured goods in 1899 was \$97,959,496. Place the two interests side by side, \$20,000,000,000 as against \$38,000,000; again, an annual production of \$4,730,000,000 as against \$98,000,000. I ask and wish that I could shout my question in a voice so loud and clear that every man, woman and child in this broad land of ours could hear it.—Have the milliners, with their paltry interests, any right to jeopardize the safety of the agricultural interests?

A difference of only 1 per cent in the annual product of our farms and gardens amounts to more than the entire millinery and lace interest in the United States. Will the farmers and fruit growers remain silent much longer and permit the birds, their best friends, to be killed that a trifling interest like the millinery trade may make a few more dollars at the sacrifice of so much that is beautiful as well as of economic value?

The law should be very clear and explicit upon this point, that the possession of the body or plumage of any of our native wild birds shall be conclusive proof that the same was obtained in violation of the statute. This would stop the wanton killing and traffic in wild bird plumage at once and would afford the survivors absolute protection. Laws to protect birds, however, are useless unless they are enforced or unless there is a public sentiment in favor of bird protection. This sentiment is the very goal that all bird lovers are striving for, and it may be attained in many different ways.

For want of space I suggest only a few of the many methods that could be used to create sentiment:

First—Let the members of the women's clubs, the Christian Endeavor societies, the Epworth leagues and the Young People's Christian associations have an additional aim. It is to love God's wild birds as well as His human children. If all the members of these bodies will pledge themselves to refrain from killing their little brothers of the air and absolutely refuse to wear the plumage of any wild birds as ornaments, then a great advance will have been made toward the better protection of our birds.

Second—Let the true sportsman insist upon it that the pseudo sportsman respect the laws and refrain from putting game birds or killing non-game birds as a pastime.

Third—Have all of the vast number of school children in the country taught ornithology in the schools, from the kindergarten to the college, in order that they may know the economic value of birds and thus be made their protectors.

Fourth—Let the farmers' clubs and institutions take up the subject of bird protection, for it is of vital importance to them. There is no other class to whom the subject appeals so strongly from the economic side as to the agriculturist or the fruit grower. The farmers of the present day are much more advanced in their methods than were their ancestors, even those of a few generations back.

Farming is now done largely on scientific principles, helped by study and research in chemistry, etc. During the year 1899 the farmers of the United States paid for labor alone the sum of \$28,365,341 (taken from twelfth census, 1900), but the most important help that the farmer has, those that work without pay and lighten his labor, or, rather, permit his labor to be rewarded, are rapidly being destroyed simply because the farmer has not made himself acquainted with the good they do him.

The birds protect the farmer. They work for him more faithfully and continuously than any other helper he can get. Let the farmer recognize this and in turn let him protect the birds. It would be a wise investment in actual dollars and cents for every farmer's club and institution in this land to employ an ornithologist to teach the names of the birds about them and the part that each one takes in the preservation of nature's balance. I believe that when the farmers

A DOLEFUL DILEMMA

The Tearful Tale of the Perplexed Princess.
HER UNSOLVABLE PROBLEM.

A Most Puzzling and Lamentable Situation That Fortunately For the Peace of Mind of Womankind Is Not at All Liable to Recur.
Now, when it was the thousand and thirty third, said Duznyazod to her sister, Shahrazad. "Allah upon me, O my daughter, recite to us some new story, delightful and delectable, wherewith to while away the waking hours of our latter night."
"With joy and goodly will," answered Shahrazad, "if this pious and auspicious king permit."
"Tell on," quoth the king, who had freely partaken of the dish termed by the Franks "the rabbit of Wales" and was sleepless and restless. So Shahrazad, rejoiced with the prospect of talking, thus began on the thousand and thirty third night "The Tale of the Perplexed Princess."
Afar in the realm of Gurind, which lies within the land of Hindustan, once reigned a mighty king who had one daughter of such exceeding beauty that all who beheld her became poets and warriors, which was well for the national fame, but ill for the royal treasury.

Now, the loveliness of the princess being such, it may seem strange that she had attained her eighteenth year unmarried, yet so it befell, for in his hesitancy because of the great multitude of eligible suitors the king, who, though otherwise respectable, was a wholly devout heathen, made a vow that he would give his daughter in marriage only to that man who should receive the indorsement of his idol, an image of exceeding ugliness housed in a golden temple adjacent to the palace. So it was that many princes from many lands came to bow before the idol, offering splendid sacrifices and rich gifts of treasure for the desired sign of favor, yet ever the idol remained silent.

At length there came from the island of Lanka a prince of great power, and so deeply smitten was he with love for the princess that he bowed before the idol, saying, "Great lord, grant but that the princess may become my bride, and then shall I without delay return to thee and cut off my own head as a thank offering."
And the next day when the king and all his court came to worship in the golden temple the evil spirit that was within the idol caused the hand of the image to stretch forth and point to the prince and caused the stone lips to open and say to the king, "Behold thy son-in-law!"
Forthwith was the wedding of the prince and princess celebrated with great pomp to the palace, and straightway thereafter, in fulfillment of his vow, the prince hastened to the temple, bowed before the idol and cut off his own head.

Then entered the priest of the temple and in his grief, horror and fear for what had chanced and for what might well come to him in consequence likewise cut off his head.
Then entered the princess, seeking her husband, and, seeing but the two headless bodies, raised the prince's sword and was about to sever her own lovely head when the idol spoke again, saying, "Hold! Take the heads and set them upon the men's shoulders."
And the princess did even so. And the heads grew fast to the bodies, and the bodies rose upon their feet.
But now it appeared that in her haste and tumult of mind the princess had set the priest's head upon the shoulders of the prince and the prince's head upon the shoulders of the priest, so that in a way each was the other, yet neither was either, and each claimed her as his bride, and many shrewd arguments one way and the other, yet could neither prevail.
And so was the princess sore perplexed, and in truth, never have I learned how logically to conclude the tale.

"In sooth," said the king, "might she not have obtained a divorce?"
"Nay, sire," replied Shahrazad, "for from whom? And which must she with her head married in accordance with the word of the idol?"
"Then," proposed the king, "why might they not have matched dinars to decide which should have her?"
"Ah, my lord," said Shahrazad, shaking her head, "that would have been in accord with the easy, unscientific method of the far west, which would still have left the problem unsolved."
"Surely, then," urged the king, "they might have fought for her?"
"And would that have determined the truth?" responded Shahrazad, "and would not the victor have been either a murderer and a suicide? Alas, my lord, the insoluble perplexity of this fair princess hath caused me much sorrow, and glad am I only that such sad dilemmas do not often occur."
New York Times.

His Crime.
A popular actress recently visited Chicago's Ghetto seeking a samovar. In that strange section of cosmopolitanism she heard a "new one." "As I turned a corner," said the lady, "the boy's mother had him by the ear, and in her uplifted hand there was a menacing barrel stove. 'I'll learn ye to tie the kettle to the cat's tail!' she yelled in wrath. 'It wasn't our cat!' cried the frightened boy. 'No, it wasn't our cat,' almost shrieked the enraged mother. 'but it was our kettle!'"

Two Ways.
Jack—in the oriental world a girl never sees her intended husband until she is married. Floss—How odd! In this part of the world she seldom sees him afterward.—New York Globe.

Lent.
By the word Lent is understood the fast of forty days preceding Easter, kept after the example of Moses, Elias and Christ himself in order to prepare the faithful for the great festival of Easter. The Greek and Latin names for the fast, Tessarakoste and Quadragesima, indicate the number of days. The Italian Quaresima and the French Carême come from the Latin. The German Fastenzeit and the Dutch Vasten denote the fast, while our own word, Lent, from the Anglo-Saxon Lencten, means spring—I. e., spring fast.

Danger to Fordwych's Ducking Stool.
The pretty Kentish village of Fordwych, near Canterbury, in England, is in danger of losing its ducking stool, for which a large price has been offered by a transatlantic millionaire. This is one of the very few remaining examples left in England of the instrument formerly designed for the reformation of scolding or otherwise unsatisfactory wives. This distinction of course, is shared with the now similarly rare scold's bridle. It is said, by the way, that the ducking stool at Fordwych was even used in the punishment of so called witches after the barbarous fashion of those times.

WHITMAN'S WILDRIDE

It Was Worth Three Stars to the American Flag.
SAVED US VAST TERRITORY.

The Perilous Journey of Four Thousand Miles From Oregon to Washington Made by a Brave Man and the Results Which Followed in Its Wake.

The ride of Marcus Whitman was over snow capped mountains and along dark ravines, traveled only by savage men. It was a plunge through icy rivers and across trackless prairies, a ride of 4,000 miles across a continent in the dead of winter to save a mighty territory to the Union.
Compared with this what was the feat of Paul Revere, who rode eighteen miles on a calm night in April to arouse a handful of sleeping patriots and thereby save the powder at Concord?
Whitman's ride saved three stars to the American flag. It was made in 1842.

In 1792, during the first administration of Washington, Captain Robert Gray, who had already carried the American flag around the globe, discovered the mouth of the Columbia river. He sailed several miles up the great stream and landed and took possession in the name of the United States.
In 1805, under Jefferson's administration, this vast territory was explored by Captains Lewis and Clark, whose reports were popular reading for our grandfathers, but the extent and value of this distant possession were very slightly understood, and no attempt at colonization was made save the establishment of the fur trading station of Astoria in 1811.

Strangely enough, England, too, claimed this same territory by virtue of rights ceded to it by Russia and also by the Vancouver surveys of 1792. The Hudson's Bay company established a number of trading posts and filled the country with adventurous fur traders. So here was a vast territory, as large as New England and the state of Indiana combined, which seemed to be without any positive ownership. But for Marcus Whitman it would have been lost to the Union.

It was in 1836 that Dr. Whitman and a man of the name of Spaulding, with their young wives, the first white women that ever crossed the Rocky mountains, entered the valley of the Columbia and founded a mission of the American board. They had been sent out to Christianize the Indians, but Whitman was also to build a state.
He was at this time thirty-five years old. In his journeys to and fro for the mission he soon saw the vast possibilities of the country, and he saw, too, that the English were already pouring into the territory, and were rapidly pushing the frontiers westward. Under the terms of the treaties of 1818 and 1824 it was the tacit belief that whichever nationality settled and organized the splendid territory would hold it. If England and the English fur traders had been successful in their plans, the three great states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho would now constitute a part of British Columbia. But it was not destined to be.

In the fall of 1842 it looked as if there would be a great pouring of English into the territory, and Dr. Whitman took the alarm. There was no time to lose. The authorities at Washington must be warned. Hastily bidding his wife adieu, Dr. Whitman started on his hazardous journey. The perils, hardships and delays he encountered on the way we can but faintly conceive. His feet were frozen, he nearly starved, and once he came very near to losing his life. He kept pushing right on, and at the end of five terrible months he reached Washington.

He arrived there a worn, bearded, strangely picturesque figure, clad entirely in buckskin and fur, a typical man of the prairies. He asked audience of President Tyler and Secretary of State Webster, and it was accorded him. All clad as he was, with his frozen limbs, just in from his 4,000 mile ride, Whitman appeared before the two great men to plead for Oregon.

His statement was a revelation to the administration. Previous to Whitman's visit it was the general idea in congress that Oregon was a barren, worthless country, fit only for wild beasts and wild men. He opened the eyes of the government to the limitless wealth and splendid resources of that western territory. He told them of its great rivers and fertile valleys, its mountains covered with forests and its mines filled with precious treasures. He showed them that it was a country worth keeping and that it must not fall into the hands of the English. He spoke as a man inspired, and his words were heeded.
What followed—the organization of companies of emigrants, the rapid settlement of the territory and the treaty made with Great Britain in 1846 by which the forty-ninth parallel was made the boundary line west of the Rocky mountains—are matters of history.

The foresight and the heroism of one man and his gallant ride had saved three great states to the Union.—Omaha World-Herald.

Microbe Proof Furniture.
"Furnish in bright, warm colors and you will have less sickness—you will keep the microbes out," said a physician. "You know how deadly the sun is to microbes? Well, so in a lesser degree all bright, warm hues are deadly to them—bright wall paper, bright upholstery, bright rugs. Bright, cheerful houses are seldom visited by me. They are to all intents and purposes microbe proof. It is the gloomy house, with its dark paper, its heavy, dark upholstery, its squalid carpets, that my team is continually stopping at."—New York Press.

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"I solemnly vow that I will not wed until I have earned with my own hands a dowry of \$500."
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Two years must elapse, according to their optimistic calculations, before they will be able to marry, and several of them, it is admitted, are engaged now. They have agreed that marriage nowadays requires that the bride shall have money besides beauty, and so they intend to silence the wedding bells until the entire \$500 is amassed.

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"I suppose most folks will think we are a lot of spinsters who have hit upon this plan of buying husbands," said Miss Brown the other day to a reporter of the New York American, "but that isn't true. There isn't a girl among us who couldn't be married tomorrow if she were willing."

"It is a matter of principle with us. Why should a young woman rush into wedlock with a rash young man when neither has any money? It is ridiculous. A husband cannot support his wife on her good looks. He requires hard cash. In Europe they discovered this long ago, and when a girl becomes a wife she takes to her husband a dowry, or, as it is commonly called, a dot."

"That is what we intend to do. When one of us is married she will be able to furnish her home and start in without a mountain of debt on her shoulders. I suppose we shall insist that the young men have some money. That would not be any more than fair. But each girl will have to settle that for herself."

"We are all very serious about the matter. We expect the society to live long after the original members have married."
"To a certain extent the colony will be socialistic. Each girl will be required to work eight hours a day for the society. The proceeds will go into the general fund, from which the dots will be apportioned. But during the rest of the time the money they earn by doing other work will go to the account of each individually."

"What will we raise on our farm? Well, chickens—that involves eggs—and flowers and mushrooms."
"Will we run the farm entirely by ourselves? Certainly. From the time we take possession the sign 'No Admittance' will meet all men who come along. Oh, yes, we're quite able to protect ourselves. Our ages run from about eighteen to twenty-three, and we're quite out of the childhood state."
"We can't be frightened out of this thing. We've bound that we're going to have our dowries, and we've bound also that the Dot society shall go right on as a New York institution. Just as soon as one girl drops out to get married we shall admit another."

A Rat Killer Warship.
In view of the movement in England for the extermination of rats, it is of interest to know that the Hamburg harbor authorities have a veritable "battleship" engaged in the campaign. The specially built steamer Disinfecter is employed primarily for the destruction of rats on ships that have arrived from plague suspected ports. The system used—poisonous gases, which do not damage property—was devised by Professor Nocht. A mixture of 5 per cent carbonic oxide gas, 18 per cent carbonic acid and 77 per cent nitrogen is conveyed from the Disinfecter by pipes into the holds of the ships being treated, and after thorough fumigation currents of fresh air are blown through. Many vessels have been successfully cleaned and countless thousands of rats destroyed. As many as 900 dead rats have been counted after one disinfection.

Society of Royal Descendants.
The National Society of Americans of Royal Descent, composed of men and women, has been organized in Washington. The only persons to be charter members of this society are the presidents of the different colonial organizations. The honorary president is Mrs. Beverly Kennon of Tudor place and the founder and president Miss Lally Somervell Mackall of Georgetown.

Dictionary Fun.
"Rob," said Tom by way of the busy bee, "which is the most dangerous word to pronounce in the English language?"
"It's stumped," said Tom, "because you are sure to get a tumble between the first and last letters."
"Good!" said Bob. "Which is the longest English word?"
"Valitudinarism," said Tom.
"No; it's smiles, because there's a whole mile between the first and last letters."
"Oh, that's nothing!" said Tom. "I know a word that has over three miles between its beginning and ending."
"What's that?" asked Bob faintly.
"Beleaguered," said Tom.

FORETOLD HIS FUTURE.

The Message Carl Schurz Received From Spirit Land.
An extraordinary experience with a medium is given in the Carl Schurz memoirs in McClure's.

After receiving what purported to be a message from Schiller, General Schurz asked that the spirit of Lincoln be summoned to tell why President Johnson had called Schurz to Washington.

"The answer came, 'He wants you to make an important journey for him.' I asked where that journey would take me. Answer, 'He will tell you tomorrow.' I asked further whether I should undertake that journey. Answer, 'Yes; do not fail.' (I may add, by the way, that at that time I had not the slightest anticipation as to what President Johnson's intention with regard to me was.)
"Having disposed of this matter, I asked whether the spirit of Lincoln had anything more to say to me. The answer came, 'Yes; you will be a senator of the United States.' This struck me as so fanciful that I could hardly suppress a laugh, but I asked further, 'From what state?' Answer, 'From Missouri.' This was more provokingly mysterious still, but there the conversation ceased.

"Hardly anything could have been more improbable at that time than that I should be a senator of the United States from the state of Missouri. My domicile was in Wisconsin, and I was then thinking of returning there. I had never thought of removing from Wisconsin to Missouri, and there was not the slightest prospect of my ever doing so."

"But, to forestall my narrative, two years later I was surprised by an entirely unsuspected and unexpected business proposition which took me to St. Louis, and in January, 1869, the legislature of Missouri elected me a senator of the United States. I then remembered the prophecy made to me at the spirit seance in the house of my friend Tiedemann in Philadelphia."

CLEVER FISHERMEN.

Odd Methods of the Indians on the Sault Ste. Marie.

On the Sault Ste. Marie the Indians have a novel method of catching whitefish. Two Indians go with a canoe into the rapids. One occupies the bow and the other the stern. The latter uses a paddle to keep the boat's head upstream. The former has a pole with which to steady the boat, standing upright in his place.
They take with them a dipnet four feet in diameter attached to a pole or handle fifteen feet long. This is placed ready to the hand of the Indian in the bow. The fishing is done at the foot of the rapids, where the water boils and tumbles furiously.

With his pole the Indian in the bow holds the canoe or lets it float steadily sidewise, now up a little perhaps and then down, but always under perfect control. The Indian gages constantly into the water, which is often ten feet deep where they are fishing and the depths of which no white man was ever yet able to school his eye to penetrate.
Suddenly he seizes the net by the handle with one hand, still manipulating the boat with the other, and plunges the net into the water, perhaps ten feet away, thrusting it to the bottom. Then he gives it a peculiar twist, draws it up and turns out into the boat often as many as half a dozen whitefish weighing from three to five pounds.

These Indian fishermen are unerring in casting their nets, and it is not an uncommon thing for them to capture 300 whitefish in a day. How they are able to see the fish in the bottom of the rapids is a mystery no one has yet been able to fathom.—Pearson's Weekly.

OBEYED ORDERS.

The Lady Knew Just What to Do When a Fire Started.

Mrs. Wilcox had boundless faith in the wisdom and general effectiveness of her husband's advice, and consequently he had primed her with instructions for any emergency that might arise when he was absent. Among other things, he had repeatedly warned her in case of fire to spread a rug on the blaze and then telephone for the engines.
So deeply was this advice impressed on her subconsciousness that her actions the day of the fire in her home were purely automatic.
She had bought a new hat, and the room being rather poorly lighted, she used the gas jet over her bureau as an aid to studying the new millinery achievement. Suddenly as she was slipping the lace cretion off her head it slipped and fell directly upon the blazing gas jet.
The expected happened. The hat was soon burning fiercely, still on the top of the gas pipe.
Mrs. Wilcox, mindful of Jack's advice, grabbed a valuable Persian rug on the floor and, spreading it carefully over the lit gas jet and flaming hat, rushed out to the telephone.
At the doorway she collided with her maid, Estelle, who, hearing the rapid movements in the room, was coming to learn the cause.
Running over to the bureau, the girl turned out the gas and, throwing the rug on the floor, stamped out the flames, which had burned a hole through the valuable tapestry.
"Why, Mrs. Wilcox," she asked, "why didn't you turn out the gas?"
"Turn out the gas?" answered her mistress. "Well, aren't you bright! I never thought of that. Jack has always told me to put a rug on a fire."—Youth's Companion.

Postal Cards to Raise Church Debt.
Postal cards have been put to various uses, but the very latest original idea is being carried out in Findlay, O., to raise funds with which to lift the debt on the parsonage of the First United Brethren church. Thousands of cards have been printed upon which is a handsome picture of the church and the pastor, Rev. O. E. Laughlun. The cards sell for 5 cents each, and many are being disposed of. It is expected that the debt will be raised in this way within the next six months.

Septuagenarian's "Health Cereal."
Henry Clarke, seventy years old, an employee of the water department in Providence, R. I., has taken a new lease of life and cured many of his bodily ills by a steady diet of from four to six ounces of sand daily. He has taken this medicine for four months and says he has eaten in 100 pounds of this latest "health cereal."
A very simple remedy to cure a wart is to bathe it several times every day with a strong solution of bicarbonate of soda.

SOMETHING NEW!
A Reliable TIN SHOP
For all kind of Tin Roofing, Spouting and General Job Work.
Stoves, Heaters, Ranges, Furnaces, etc.
PRICES THE LOWEST!
QUALITY THE BEST!

POSTAGE STAMP CHEATS.

Foolish Persons Who Run the Risk of Going to Prison.
"You would be surprised," said a postoffice clerk, "at the efforts people make to avoid the payment of postage. And quite often it is not the work of children either. The most common trick is to take the stamp that has been canceled by hand and the impression just touches the edge of the stamp. After pricking the marked edge with a pin or cutting it with a pair of shears to resemble the punctured edge of the stamp or tearing away that part the stamp is put on an envelope for another voyage. All these are placed in the hands of postal inspectors for investigation."
"Others try to give the impression that a stamp had been put on an envelope and become loose and lost in transit by sticking a stamp on the envelope and then pulling it with part of the envelope sticking to it off again. These as well as underpaid letters, unless they have a foreign destination, where postage is then collected, are marked 'Returned for postage' and sent back to the sender. Second class matter, as a roll of newspapers, is often sealed against inspection by having the stamps overlap the cover. Whether the stamps or not it is returned for postage. When it again shows up, the mistake rectified, upon inspection it is usually found to contain written letters, photographs (uncanceled), jewelry, merchandise of all kinds, making the package underpaid; hence it is again returned."
"But the limit of foolishness comes when a person tries to efface the indelible ink from the stamp and with half the features of the stamp missing or rubbed away and some of the ink still remaining affixes it to an envelope, with the address of the sender upon the back to facilitate investigation."
"This, though, is stretching it a little too much: A postcard that had been put through a canceling machine and delivered to the addressee had the canceling impression and the address scratched off with the aid of a sharp knife and a new address substituted and a written message pasted on the reverse side."—New York Sun.

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"What will we raise on our farm? Well, chickens—that involves eggs—and flowers and mushrooms."
"Will we run the farm entirely by ourselves? Certainly. From the time we take possession the sign 'No Admittance' will meet all men who come along. Oh, yes, we're quite able to protect ourselves. Our ages run from about eighteen to twenty-three, and we're quite out of the childhood state."
"We can't be frightened out of this thing. We've bound that we're going to have our dowries, and we've bound also that the Dot society shall go right on as a New York institution. Just as soon as one girl drops out to get married we shall admit another."

A Rat Killer Warship.
In view of the movement in England for the extermination of rats, it is of interest to know that the Hamburg harbor authorities have a veritable "battleship" engaged in the campaign. The specially built steamer Disinfecter is employed primarily for the destruction of rats on ships that have arrived from plague suspected ports. The system used—poisonous gases, which do not damage property—was devised by Professor Nocht. A mixture of 5 per cent carbonic oxide gas, 18 per cent carbonic acid and 77 per cent nitrogen is conveyed from the Disinfecter by pipes into the holds of the ships being treated, and after thorough fumigation currents of fresh air are blown through. Many vessels have been successfully cleaned and countless thousands of rats destroyed. As many as 900 dead rats have been counted after one disinfection.

Society of Royal Descendants.
The National Society of Americans of Royal Descent, composed of men and women, has been organized in Washington. The only persons to be charter members of this society are the presidents of the different colonial organizations. The honorary president is Mrs. Beverly Kennon of Tudor place and the founder and president Miss Lally Somervell Mackall of Georgetown.

Dictionary Fun.
"Rob," said Tom by way of the busy bee, "which is the most dangerous word to pronounce in the English language?"
"It's stumped," said Tom, "because you are sure to get a tumble between the first and last letters."
"Good!" said Bob. "Which is the longest English word?"
"Valitudinarism," said Tom.
"No; it's smiles, because there's a whole mile between the first and last letters."
"Oh, that's nothing!" said Tom. "I know a word that has over three miles between its beginning and ending."
"What's that?" asked Bob faintly.
"Beleaguered," said Tom.

SOMETHING NEW!
A Reliable TIN SHOP
For all kind of Tin Roofing, Spouting and General Job Work.
Stoves, Heaters, Ranges, Furnaces, etc.
PRICES THE LOWEST!
QUALITY THE BEST!

POSTAGE STAMP CHEATS.

Foolish Persons Who Run the Risk of Going to Prison.
"You would be surprised," said a postoffice clerk, "at the efforts people make to avoid the payment of postage. And quite often it is not the work of children either. The most common trick is to take the stamp that has been canceled by hand and the impression just touches the edge of the stamp. After pricking the marked edge with a pin or cutting it with a pair of shears to resemble the punctured edge of the stamp or tearing away that part the stamp is put on an envelope for another voyage. All these are placed in the hands of postal inspectors for investigation."
"Others try to give the impression that a stamp had been put on an envelope and become loose and lost in transit by sticking a stamp on the envelope and then pulling it with part of the envelope sticking to it off again. These as well as underpaid letters, unless they have a foreign destination, where postage is then collected, are marked 'Returned for postage' and sent back to the sender. Second class matter, as a roll of newspapers, is often sealed against inspection by having the stamps overlap the cover. Whether the stamps or not it is returned for postage. When it again shows up, the mistake rectified, upon inspection it is usually found to contain written letters, photographs (uncanceled), jewelry, merchandise of all kinds, making the package underpaid; hence it is again returned."
"But the limit of foolishness comes when a person tries to efface the indelible ink from the stamp and with half the features of the stamp missing or rubbed away and some of the ink still remaining affixes it to an envelope, with the address of the sender upon the back to facilitate investigation."
"This, though, is stretching it a little too much: A postcard that had been put through a canceling machine and delivered to the addressee had the canceling impression and the address scratched off with the aid of a sharp knife and a new address substituted and a written message pasted on the reverse side."—New York Sun.

NOVEL AID FOR CUPID

Seventeen Girls Join In Incorporating the Dot Society.
A SMALL FARM PURCHASED.
Young Women Will Raise Hens, Flowers, Etc., to Earn Downies—Vow Not to Wed Until \$500 Is Set Aside as Start in Married Life.
"I solemnly vow that I will not wed until I have earned with my own hands a dowry of \$500."
The above is the pledge seventeen fair maids of New York have taken. As evidence of sincerity they have incorporated under New York state laws as the Dot society, have purchased an acre of land at Northport, N. Y., and have made arrangements to become farmers.
Two years must elapse, according to their optimistic calculations, before they will be able to marry, and several of them, it is admitted, are engaged now. They have agreed that marriage nowadays requires that the bride shall have money besides beauty, and so they intend to silence the wedding bells until the entire \$500 is amassed.
Miss Abba Newlin Brown of New York city is the originator and president of the Dot society. The financing of the movement has fallen to her and Miss Charlotte M. Robson, who lives in Boston at present, and Miss Elizabeth Gardner Phillips, who is living in Philadelphia temporarily. Each contributed a third of the \$500 paid for the land, and they will supply the funds with which to erect the house in which the fourteen young women will live.
The other fourteen young women will be asked to pay a certain sum, but this will be necessary to purchase farming implements and other accessories and to maintain the group until they are able to put their produce on the market.
Parental objection has been strong in the cases of all seventeen maidens, but they have succeeded in having their way.<