

## WHISK BROOMS.

### Sharing the Corn Stalks in the Fields.

### The Bristly Product Deftly Made Into Brushes.

Room corn, from which brooms are made, comes principally from the Western States, says the Scientific American. The seeds are sown in May or June, about one foot apart, in rows. In about three months' time the stalk reaches to the height of from eight to twelve feet; the top ends, which contains the whisks, are then ready for cutting. The stems are first bent over about one foot below the whisks and then cut off and packed into wagons and carted to the barns to be scraped and dried. After drying it is packed into bales weighing from 350 to 400 pounds each and shipped to the broom manufacturers.

The first operation is sorting or selecting the stock, the finest and greenest being used for the best brooms. After sorting the material is scraped. The scraper consists of a circular revolving cylinder nineteen inches in length and twelve inches in diameter, the surface of which is covered with iron pins. These pins are placed in V-shaped rows about six inches apart, each row containing about fifteen oar-shaped pins two inches in height and about one inch apart. The operator presses a bunch of the whisks containing the seeds against the revolving cylinder, the teeth of which, traveling at the rate of 350 revolutions per minute, tear through the material, scraping off the seed from the whisks. If the material is old, having lost its green appearance, it is dyed. The stalks are then clipped off and the whisks made of an even length. The best and straight whisks, which is called hurl, grows in the center of the stalks. It is kept separately from the rest and is placed on the outside when forming the brush.

The next operation is winding or forming the brooms. A circular piece of wood about three inches in length and about three-quarters of an inch in diameter is fastened into what is called the broom barrel. Connected to the machine is a reel of No. 22 iron wire, the end of which is tacked to the circular stick in the barrel. The operator then takes a quantity of the poorer quality of whisks and places them around the stick, starting the machine in motion, which causes the barrel to revolve, which in turn, wraps the wire tightly around the whisks to the stick. After two or three turns of the wire have been taken the shoulder of the broom is then formed by putting a bunch of the material on each side and wiring and tacking them down as before. The hurl is then fastened on the outside in about the same manner. The rough edges are then trimmed with a knife and the broom sawed off from the barrel. A good hand can form about 150 brooms in about ten hours.

The brooms are then taken to the sewing vise to be stitched. A broom is fastened securely in the jaws of the vise, the top part projecting above about three inches. The operator then takes a flat, oval-shaped steel needle threaded in the centre with fine linen cord or silk and passes it through the brush, securing the end. The cord is then wrapped tightly around the outside of the brush and the needle pushed through back and forth, each stitch passing over and under the outside cord, which is drawn taut, securing the whisks and giving shape and form to the broom.

Brooms are sewed with from one to three strings. The needles are six inches in length and double pointed, having the eye in the center. From ten to twelve stitches are taken in every seam, taking up about thirty-six inches of cord. A good hand can stitch about 600 single seam brooms per day. After sewing they are rescraped and then clipped into sizes. The ends are then sheared and curried to free the brooms of surplus seed. The handles, which are made of bone, ivory, wood, etc., are then glued on and the brooms stood up to dry. They are then packed into boxes and are ready for market. Twenty hands can turn out about from seventy-five to eighty dozen brooms per day. The green stock is the best for broom making, it bringing from five cents to six and one-half cents per pound by the ton wholesale. If too ripe, the color of the material being reddish, the stock loses in value about three cents per pound.

**Surprising Circumstance.**  
Reggy—Anything unusual happen while I was out, James?  
James—Yes, sir; your tailor didn't call.—Tid Bits.

## Wild Animals No Longer Rare.

According to Mr. Jamrach, the dealer in wild beasts, the competition for rare animals is not so keen as it was once upon a time. In former times he has had to send all the way to the Lizard to intercept ships with animals on board, and the men would hang about there in all weathers in open boats. No animals are rare nowadays in the same sense that they used to be. Steamships are arriving every day from all parts, and the moment an animal or any foreign product becomes rare, it becomes worth the while of some seaman to take the trouble to bring it over. It was different in the days of sailing ships, when so long a period as six months would elapse after one came in before it could be expected that another would arrive from the same country.

To a correspondent of Cassell's Saturday Journal Mr. Jamrach has been telling some of the secrets of his strange trade. His father, he says, once bought a mummy, which was examined by Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Frank Buckland. It was discovered that there was a rattling sound inside it, and Mr. Buckland wanted to open it, as the ancient Egyptian kings, he said, used to have their treasures wrapped up and embalmed with them. To pull the mummy to pieces, however, would ruin it, and perhaps it would be found that there was no treasure at all. They all three agreed to go shares in the venture, and to risk the destruction. When the mummy was opened it contained nothing more valuable than dried-up pieces of interior. Among Mr. Jamrach's customers is the Prince of Wales, who has bought pets from him, but his principal trade is with zoological gardens and menageries.

## Deadliest of Known Poisons.

To the best of our knowledge, says the Brooklyn Eagle, the most deadly poison is that which was discovered by Professor Frazer, of Edinburgh, Scotland, and known as shophanthidin. He separated it from the African poison plant, shophanthus hispidus, by means of ether and alcohol. As little as a one-thousand-millionth part of an ounce of crystallized shophanthidin produces a distinctly injurious effect upon the heart, and a very small quantity is fatal. Another deadly poison is cyanogen gas, the principle ingredients of hydrocyanic or prussic acid. At ordinary temperatures it is simply a gas, but can be condensed by cold and pressure into a thin, colorless liquid and becomes a solid at thirty degrees Fahrenheit. The inhalation in its gaseous state of a most minute quantity would cause instant death. One of the most deadly poisons is arsenic, which is formed by decomposing an alloy of arsenic and zinc with sulphuric acid. It is a colorless gas, possessing a fetid odor of garlic, and acts as a most deadly poison. Adolph Ferdinand Gehlen, a chemist born about 1775 at Butow, in Pomerania, was the discoverer of it. While experimenting with it at Munich, on July 15, he inhaled a single bubble of the pure gas and died in eight days from the effects. The accident occurred through his smelling at the joints of his apparatus to discover a flaw. Others engaged in chemical operations have died from the effects of this poison in three days.

## Healthiest City in Europe.

This is, according to the latest statistics issued by the German imperial health department, Berlin, whose death rate is only 16.3 per 1,000. The unhealthiest in the world is Alexandria, which, despite its unvarying fine weather, its three hundred fountains, and its soft sea breezes, has a death rate of no less than 52.7 per 1,000. London occupies a favorable position with a rate of 20.3; but Stockholm and Christiania are better off, with rates of 16.9 and 19 respectively. Rome, on the other hand, prepared for the advent of the doctors by running up a death rate of 27.6, and Venice emulated this example with a rate of 30.1. A bird's-eye view of the sanitary situation of Europe shows that it is the damp, chill, cloudy North which is healthy, and the dry, warm, sunny South which is unhealthy.—New York Recorder.

## Cattle Surrounded by Wolves.

While crossing the country in the neighborhood of the Cheyenne River Friday, Deputy Sheriff Williams came upon a bunch of cattle surrounded by twenty-eight gray wolves. The cattle were in mortal terror, and bawling so as to be heard a mile. Mr. Williams scattered the wolves with a Winchester, killing two, and the cattle followed the buggy for miles, evidently realizing that they needed protection.—Douglas (Wyo.) Budget.

## FALL FASHIONS.

### FULLER SKIRTS AND LARGER SLEEVES FOR DRESSES.

### Reappearance of Round Waists in Numerous Ways—An Adirondack Maid's Hunting Costume—Quaint Divan Pillows.

**T**HE first autumn dresses brought over from Paris and London, according to Harper's Bazar, have fuller skirts and even larger sleeves than those now worn. The skirts are gored rather closely about the hips, but are very full in the back and wide at the foot. They are lined and interlined, but fortunately are of light weight wools, and are very little trimmed. A bias satin fold an inch wide headed with a narrow band of jet is around the foot of very handsome cloth gowns. Others have merely a fold of the wool, camel-hair or basket cloth below the edge, between the outside and lining, and held there by three or four rows of stitching, which give a neat finish. Three back gored, pointed at the top and spreading out in fan pleats to the foot, are on many skirts, some of them completed by the little projecting basque introduced in the spring with silk gowns.

Bias puffed sleeves are enormously wide at the top, and are caught up or draped by choux or bows. They taper to the wrist, but are often left rather large below the elbow and wrinkled around the arm, which adds to the effect of great size.

Round waists reappear in many ways—box-pleated, slashed, with a yoke, or with a guimpe of contrasting material, the lower part carried up above the bust in vandyke points and

woods a brown corduroy suit, shooting jacket, with ten pockets, cap and short skirt, reaching just to the top of her extremely high shoes. If she were thirty years of age, instead of fifty, writes a correspondent of the Chicago Record, I think she might wear knickerbockers, though, as yet, I haven't seen a pair of these bifurcations in the woods. Yet they are a deal more necessary for camp life and roughing it than they are for bicycling. A brown corduroy is unsuited to some complexions. What say you then to a suit in big English checking of any tints you want, the skirt made to clear the ground by four or five inches, the head covering a checked fore-and-aft, with checked gaiters over tan shoes? One of the prettiest woods dresses I have seen is so made, and its complete success emphasizes the value of accurate fitting and tasteful details, even in the simplest dress.

## STUDIES IN CREPON.

We learn from the great importers that crepons will be among the favorite materials. And this is not to be wondered at when we consider that crepon appears in so many forms and designs. Those of this season thus far are varied and beautiful. The greater number of them show a groundwork of one color, over which are thrown stripes or designs in raised mohair or soft chenille effects.

One of these latter is particularly beautiful. The ground is an uneven stripe of black crepon and black silk, then black and blue silk. Over this is a dotted effect in cut chenille or plush, in shades of golden brown, shading from a delicate yellow into rich sea tints. The whole is most brilliant and soft withal. Another crepon has a dull heliotrope ground, with a black chain stitch in mohair, forming a



TWO AUTUMN GOWNS.

edged with jet galloon. Pleated waists have two box pleats down the back, starting from the shoulders, where they are two inches and a half wide, and tapering an inch narrower at the waist line. They are folded in one piece, with the middle space being plain. A side form begins under the pleats, so that the only seams shown are those under the arm. The fronts are much fuller than the back, having two similar pleats and a full gathered plastron. The slashing of waists is confined to the front, like those described in the summer.

Silk waists with wool skirts will remain in favor, and are of very rich fabrics—brocades, moire, satin and velvet. A novelty for waists is silk and wool moire, a similar fabric to bengaline, but very soft and prettily watered. The richest brocades for waists are also soft, some having a basket-woven ground, others armure of two colors and the brocade a third color, as a blue and brown ground with large green leaf design as glossy as satin, yet sunk in the surface. Soft collars with belt to match are of satin ribbons, or of the new supple moire cut bias from the piece. Liberty satin waists will be worn the color of the skirt or in contrast to it. Thus a mother and daughter just returned from Paris have waists of the simplest fashion of this pliable satin, the daughter wearing a corn-flower blue crepon skirt with a mauve satin waist, and also with a blue waist of satin.

## A HUNTING COSTUME.

One of the projectors of the Adirondack Railroad left to his daughter, a



HUNTING COSTUME.

lovely woman, a good many square miles of forest land, which she herself knows by heart. She wears in the

## SELECTIONS FOR SOLDIERS

### SIDELIGHTS OF MILITARY LIFE.

Stories, Anecdotes and Articles of Interest to Old and Young.

## SHERMAN RECOLLECTIONS.

On the march and in the camp Sherman's life was simplicity itself. He had few brilliant uniforms and useless aids about him. The simple tent "fly" was his usual headquarters, and under it all his military family ate together. His dispatches he wrote mostly with his own hand. He had little use for clerks. But Dayton, his Adjutant-General, was better than a regiment of clerks. When he halted somewhere in the woods for the night, General was the busiest man in the army. While others slept his little campfire was burning, and often in the long vigils of the night I have seen a tall form walking up and down by that fire. Sherman slept but little.

He did not seem to need sleep, and I have known him to stay but two hours in bed many a night. In later years a slight asthma made much sleep impossible for him. After the war, when I was at his home in St. Louis, he seldom retired till 12 or 13 o'clock. It was a singularly impressive sight to see this solitary figure walking there by the flickering campfire, while the army slept. If a gun went off somewhere in the distance, or if an unusual noise was heard he would instantly call out to one of us to go and see what it meant. He paid small attention to appearances; to dress almost none.

"There is going to be a battle to-day sure," said Col. Anderson, of the staff, one morning before daylight.

"How do you know?" asked a comrade. "Why, don't you see? The General's up there by the fire putting on a clean collar. The signs don't lie."

A battle did take place that day, and Cheroke, with 40 cannon, fell into our hands. It was more a run than a battle. He shared all the privations and hardships of the common soldier. He slept in his uniform every night of the whole campaign. Sometimes he would get into camp until midnight. I think every man in the army knew the General's face, and thousands spoke with him personally. The familiarity of the troops at times was amusing.

"Don't ride too fast, General," they would cry out, seeing his horse plunging along in the mire at the roadside, as he tried to pass some division. "Pretty slippery going, Uncle Billy, pretty slippery going." Or, "Say, General, kin you tell us, is this the road to Richmond?"

Every soldier in his army had taken on the enthusiasm of the general himself. They would go anywhere that he might point to. Often as he approached some regiment a wild huzza would be given and taken up and repeated by the troops a mile ahead. It almost seemed to tell the boys when there was any loud shouting anywhere whatever that Uncle Billy was coming and they joined in the cheers till the woods rang. It was a common thing for the general to stop his horse and speak words of encouragement or praise to some subordinate officer or private soldier struggling at the roadside.

He had his humorous side with them, too. When the army reached Goldboro half the men were in rags. One day a division was ordered to march past him in review. The men were bare-legged and ragged, some of them almost hatless.

"Only look at the poor fellows with their bare legs," said an officer at the General's side sympathizingly.

"Splendid legs," cried the General with a twinkle in his eye, splendid legs. Would give two of mine for any one of them."—McClure's Magazine.

## PENSION OFFICE RULINGS.

Former practices of the Pension Bureau are reversed by a ruling of Assistant Secretary Reynolds announced at the Interior Department. Judge Reynolds holds that the terms of section 4703, Revised Statutes, applies to pensioners under the act of June 27, 1890. Accordingly the \$2 per month for each child of the deceased soldier under 16 years old, by a former wife, will be paid to the widow where the step children are being educated in whole or in part at the expense of a State or to the public in any educational institution or in any institution organized for the care of soldiers' orphans. A large number of claims will be affected by the new practice.

## THE OLDEST PENSIONER.

Among the veterans who received pensions from the Topeka agency in September was Andrew Franklin, of Burlington, the oldest pensioner on the rolls of that agency. He was born on Christmas Day in 1791, and is therefore 100 years old. He fought in the War of 1812, a couple of Indian wars, the war with Mexico and was a teamster in the war of the Rebellion. Congressman Curtis secured the passage of a special act last Spring granting Franklin a pension of \$50 a month. The veteran drew his first full quarterly allowance a short time ago.

## THAT HARDACK.

Comrade Albert Merrill thought, perhaps he was the only man who had one of the original pieces of hardack with which Uncle Sam fed his boys during the war, but there are a few of them left. Here are some more comrades who possess these venerable relics: E. B. Luffkin, Co. E, 13th Me., Weld, Me., William A. Crane, Co. D, 23d Ohio, Ash, O., Solomon F. Carter, Co. A, 30th Ind., New Castle, Ind.—National Tribune.

## LAST HERO OF BALAKLAVA.

Among those who attended the recent G. A. R. encampment at Pittsburg was Captain Thomas Morley, of the Twelfth Pennsylvania cavalry, who was the last survivor in the United States of the famous "600" who entered the "mouth of hell" in the battle of Balaklava during the Crimean war. He is also a survivor of the notable Ford's theater accident at Washington, June 29, 1893.

## FISHING WITH DOGS.

South Sea Islanders Employ a Unique Method.

"One of the most unique methods of fishing I ever saw or heard of," said an old-time sea captain, "is that employed by the natives of the South Sea Islands, in which their dogs take the most prominent part. I happened to touch at one of these islands several years ago to take on board a supply of fresh water, and was just in time to witness the operations of a large fishing party, which interested me not a little. The party was divided into two groups, each of which consisted of about fifty men and thirty dogs. These groups were stationed on the beach, about 200 yards apart. At a given signal the dogs were started from their respective points and swam straight out seaward in single file in two columns. At a sharp cry from one of the men on the beach, the right column wheeled to the left and the left column wheeled right, until the head of each column met. Then another signal was given, at which they all turned and swam abreast from the shore. As soon as the dogs neared the beach increasing numbers of fish appeared in the shallow water, frightened forward by the column of advancing dogs, which, as soon as their feet touched bottom, pounced upon the fish and carried them to their masters. The fishes' heads were at once cut off and each dog given his share of the catch. The dog who caught nothing got nothing.

## KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS

### FIRES AND FELONIES.

The Pittsburg Lutheran Synod—A Farmer Dies From a Bee Sting.

## REWARD FOR MONEY.

Bernard Toker was murdered and his wife Mary fatally wounded, Wednesday afternoon, about 4 o'clock at Rich Hill, six miles north of Connellsville in the mountains. The husband died was committed by Frank Morris, a boy 16 years of age, who had been staying at the Toker home since Sunday. His father's home is only a half-mile away, but young Morris pretended such great friendship with Toker that he stayed there much of his time. He was arrested the next day and confessed to the crime. He has been a great reader of cheap novels and became seized with a desire to achieve notoriety.

## PITTSBURG LUTHERAN SYNOD.

The Pittsburg Synod of the English Evangelical Lutheran Church began its annual session Tuesday in Pittsburg. The number entitled to participate in the convention is 125 ministers and 111 lay delegates. Nearly a full representation was present. Rev. M. Kammerer, of Pittsburg, opened the session with devotional exercises, after which Rev. J. Q. Waters, of McKees Rocks, president of the synod, delivered the synodical sermon. His theme was "Self-sacrifice as Opposed to Self-seeking."

## AN EXTENSIVE FIRE.

The most extensive fire, in point of loss, that ever visited Scranton, broke out early Saturday morning in the business section of the city. When the flames were brought under control at 10 o'clock the loss had reached a conservative estimate \$250,000. For a time it looked as though the entire business section of the city would surely be destroyed.

Misad Skorz, the Polish peddler, who was found in an unconscious and terribly mutilated condition in an abandoned railroad cut about half a mile above Whitford Station, Chester county, died Friday in the University Hospital, Philadelphia, without having regained consciousness. He had been attacked by footpads, robbed, beaten and left to die.

Emma Martin, aged 22, the colored woman of Pittsburg who shot and killed Charles Johnston, also of Pittsburg, at the Central Coke works at Greensburg on July 4, has been on trial for her life last week at Greensburg and been convicted of murder in the second degree.

At Kittanning, W. C. Phillips and W. M. Grim, convicted of assault with intent to rob and burglary, were sentenced each to five years in the penitentiary. Phillips is said to belong to the Ward gang which had headquarters in Westmoreland county.

Messrs. Wareham and Hughes, of Beaver Falls, have contracted for \$200,000 to build in six months the Benwood, (W. Va.) & Southern Electric Railway to extend from Benwood to Moundsville, W. Va., a distance of fifteen miles.

Calvin Crossman, of Harrison City, was re-arrested at Greensburg, on a charge of horse stealing preferred by M. H. Hassock, of Indiana, Pa. In his possession were found two other horses belonging to Indiana county farmers, several buggies, harness, etc.

The cigarette habit, which superinduced heart failure, killed Harry Johnson, at Columbia, superintendent of the agencies of the Anglo-American Savings and Loan Association.

A coke train on the Fayette county branch of the Baltimore & Ohio road was wrecked at Watt station. Twenty cars were destroyed.

Thomas B. Young, of Wellsboro, swallowed two ounces of carbolic acid by mistake. He died, leaving a wife and five small children.

The coroner's jury in Beaver county, found a verdict of accidental death in the case of William Rihelmer, who was mysteriously killed at Beaver last Saturday.

David Foy, an actor, is under bonds for a hearing at Philadelphia, being charged by his wife, Etta Bartolet, with desertion and non-support.

Beaver Falls property owners refuse to pay more than 5 mills, the borough council having made a tax levy of 9 mills, which, it is asserted is illegal.

Harry Siebold's house, store and stable and Al St. Peter's dwelling at New Kensington, were burned Sunday. Loss, \$6,000; insured.

An information charging desertion has been made by his wife against Richard Rockingham, of Beaver Falls, formerly of Pittsburg.

Forty-six tramps, some of them being well supplied with money, were arrested by Pennsylvania railroad detectives near Greensburg.

The shutdown of coal mines near Fayette county, owing to low water in the river, has left the miners and other workmen in distress.

The Reading firebrick works resumed operations Tuesday, after having been idle for several months. Large orders are coming in and trade is brightening.

John Dry, of New Castle, was beaten almost to death by highwaymen Sunday night.

Monongahela has decided to ask for the Pittsburg Methodist Episcopal conference in 1895.

The house of John Goodman, near Madison was burned Sunday night at a loss of \$1,500; no insurance.

Beaver Falls borough council has authorized the building of water works at a cost of \$124,000.

Mrs. Henry Werley, a widow, died of apoplexy while sleeping at her home in Meadville Monday night.

The Knights of Maccabees are holding their state convention in Warren. They hope to organize a "state tent" at the convention.

A wealthy farmer named Greenlee, living near Waynesburg, died Tuesday as a result of a bee sting on his arm.

James B. Ledlie, thrown from a buggy Monday evening and suffering from concussion of the brain, died at Beaver Falls.

Tampin & Seavey's grocery store at Sharon was looted by burglars Monday night.

Work on the McKeesport and Wilmerding street railroad has begun mills.

The New Castle tin plate mills declared a cut of from 20 to 25 per cent in wages.

Gilbert F. Myer, McKeesport's new postmaster, took charge Monday morning.

**Wine Hauled in Tanks.**

The railroad tank is introduced in France for the conveyance and distribution of wine from the vineyards, after the manner in which petroleum has in this country been conveyed from the wells to market. The vintagers would be lucky if they could likewise adopt a system of pipe lines, as the oil producers have done, and so diffuse their cheering product with the maximum of celerity and at a minimum of cost.—New York Tribune.

**'THE true hero is the one who has the courage to do right.**