

IN MADAGASCAR.

INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS OF AN AMERICAN TRAVELER.

Queer Conveyance in Which White Men Ride—Quenching Thirst at the Traveler's Tree—Odd Ford.

THE observations in Madagascar of Mr. Frederick Taylor, F. R. G. S., who spent seven months traveling through the interior, warrant the belief that there will be a good deal more news from that very interesting island before the end of the struggle between the French and the native tribes. The occupation by the French of Tamatave and Antananarivo, the chief cities of Madagascar, did not by any means indicate the subjugation of Madagascar. The Hovas, the dominant tribe, who have

riars, who sometimes have to stagger scores of miles through the desolate interior under loads which would tax a best of burden. Of the fifty men I looked over I chose twenty-eight.

"Each one was to receive the equivalent of \$2.50 in Malagasy money for each 225 miles traversed with his load, and two shillings for rice en route. Four of them started out with my fianzana, a species of palanquin, four accompanied the fianzana as substitutes, and the other twenty carried the boxes and parcels of provisions and merchandise for traffic, which the Scotchman had put up in suitable shape. I noticed that the canned provisions I bought all came from England and France, American shipments to Madagascar being limited to cotton goods and lumber, for which we take raw hides in exchange.

"My costume was of Kahkee cloth, dust colored, of the kind the Indian troops are clothed in. The fianzana was an iron framed seat, covered with

ried in a bag. Some of the segments are scarcely bigger than a pea.

"I started inland with 200 five-franc pieces chopped up in this way. A single coin is sometimes cut into twenty-five bits. The natives eagerly took copper and brass wire and egg-shaped beads, tin cans and long-necked lime juice bottles, instead of the money, which is weighed out in light sheet-iron scoops almost as small as apothecaries' scales. Every householder, traveler and vendor carries these.

"Along the white sands of the Indian Ocean, on the first day's journey, I shot many snipe, similar to the American species. As we penetrated inland we came suddenly, here and there, on chained prisoners, roaming at large, one of the saddest features of Malagasy life. Some of these unfortunates would be so fettered that they could only step a few inches at a time, the weight of the chains being proportioned to the enormity of their offenses against the laws of the Hovas, which are excellent in theory, but wretchedly enforced. The condemned man is sentenced to wander in the mountains with an iron ring around each ankle, another around his neck, and others on his wrists, the rings being joined by fetters. It was pitiful to hear in the pathless brush the moan of some poor manacled wretch, helpless and starving, either on his way to report to his penal station or fallen by the way in an agonizing quest for food. The less severely punished are sometimes able to pick up odd jobs of some light work."

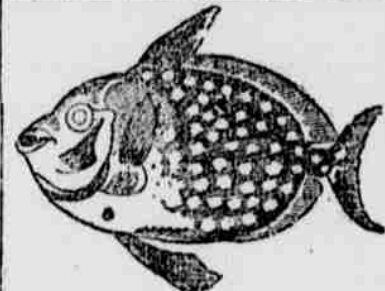
NEW FISH DISCOVERED.

Most Beautiful That Has Ever Been Noticed by Naturalists.

A new fish, unlike any other in many respects and of extraordinary beauty in coloring, has been discovered. It was found by Captain Jacobson, of the schooner Wenona, who caught a specimen while fishing on the banks twenty-eight miles south-west of Cape Flattery. The fish was 26 1/2 inches long, 17 inches deep and about 4 inches thick.

It was beautifully colored, and in its richness of shades surpasses any other fish which has yet been found. The top of the head is of brick red, the back of a metallic blue, shading to aluminum color on the belly. The meridian line is strongly arched and marked by a series of large scales. Pure round white spots are dotted over the whole of the fish.

In other respects the fish presents an uncommon appearance. Its fins are strong spined and extend nearly the whole length of the fish. The spines



THE NEW FISH.

of the dorsal are ten inches in length. The mouth is strong and toothless, the lower lip protruding and being of a vermilion color. Its eyes are large and round.

No other fish like it has ever been noticed by naturalists. Its nearest relative, however, seems to be the Zeus faber, of the Atlantic, which is known as the Dory. The Zeus faber is an excellent food fish, which is seldom met with in quantity. Scientific examination of the new fish, however, seems to indicate that it may be of the genus Lampris.

The fish is now at Seattle, Washington, where it reposes in the museum of the Young Naturalists' Society as the gem of its collection.

Not the "Irish" Potato.

"The peculiarity of the Irish potato, so called, is in the fact that it is not Irish," observes one of the potato experts of the Agricultural Department at Washington. "The potato originally grew wild in the fields of Chile, Peru and Mexico. Sir John Hawkins did not take it to Ireland until 1565. Sir Francis Drake took it to England twenty years afterwards. It did better, however, in Ireland than anywhere else, and got its name, no doubt, because of its

STYLISH AND WARM

FASHIONABLE DESIGNS IN SEASONABLE GARMENTS.

Handsome Cape-Collar and Muff—Dressy Adjunct to a Walking Gown—Becoming Waist With Bolero Front.

THE handsome cape-collar and muff pictured in the first large engraving forms a stylish adjunct to a walking gown that may be used in connection with a plain coat or worn independently, showing to advantage the hand-

cluded in the shoulder and under-arm seams, being of the conventional bolero shape, now so immensely popular. The back is smooth-fitting across the shoulders with the additional fulness of material laid in close overlapping plaits on either side of the centre back where the closing is effected with buttons and button-holes. The stylish sleeves are arranged over coat-shaped linings and are but moderately full, after the prevailing fashion. A standing collar finishes the neck. Neat and serviceable waists, adapted for home or school wear, may be developed from this design.

The model affords charming facilities for remodeling last season's dresses.



HANDSOME CAPE-COLLAR AND MUFF.

some bodice beneath. The yoke portion, shaped in slightly pointed outline is provided with a stylish and protective storm collar, both of which are fashioned in Persian cloth, Astrakhan or a wide border of mouflon fur decorates the free edges, and the closing in centre front is concealed with black marten head and tails. The dainty muff also of Persian cloth or Astrakhan to match the collar, is ornamented with a deep border of mouflon that flares perceptibly at the outer edge and is decorated with a quaint head and tails to correspond with one worn at the neck.

The Parisian capote is of violet velvet, surmounted by a graceful bunch of white ostrich plumes which is held in place by two large velvet roses. The edge is outlined with jetted sequins.

The collarette and muff may be constructed of velvet, plush, electric seal, Astrakhan or cloth, while the deep ruffle may be either an entire border of fur or made of the material and simply decorated with a narrow band of krummer, chinchilla, sable, mink or any one of the fashionable furs now in vogue.

To make this cape-collar in the medium size, writes May Manton, will require two and one-quarter yards of forty-four inch wide material. The muff will require three-quarters yard of the same width goods.

BECOMING WAIST WITH BOLERO FRONT.

This simple and becoming waist, depicted in the second large illustration, is made of gray-brown lusterine. The full vest is of plaided tulle silk in brilliant hues. The free edges of the bolero are decorated with silk braiding, and dark green satin ribbon is

The bolero front, requiring very little material, may be really placed over some well-worn bodice to smarten it. The full front may be on plain or fancy silk, or any of the pretty woollens in plaid, striped or figured effect.

To make this waist for a miss of fourteen years it will require one and one-half yards of forty-four-inch wide material, with one and one-fourth yards of silk for vest.

POPULAR DRESS DECORATION.

Lace applique is one of the popular and rather expensive dress decorations since it must be arranged to suit each gown. It is sewn on net with a gold thread all around the edge of the design for full vests and boleros with a silk foundation, and bands of satin and velvet for various modes of trimming. One pretty gown of brown tulle, patterned with blue, has the soft net vest, and a blue silk bolero covered with this lace and gold thread embroidery and finished on the edge with a fringe of narrow lace. The color band is of plain blue, spangled with gold and lace fringe at the back.

EXTREME USE OF FUR.

The use of fur is running to an extreme. While it is eminently appropriate in combination with velvet, cloth or, indeed, any heavy material, it is incongruous and out of place when mixed up with chiffon, lace and tulle.

GIRL'S WINTER PROGS.

The frocks of babies from one to two years old come an inch or two above the shoe-top—enough to avoid any risk of the tot's stumbling and



BECOMING WAIST WITH BOLERO FRONT.

chosen for the stock collar and crush belt that finishes the neck and waist. Over a glove-fitted lining, provided with single bust darts, the pretty full front is arranged, drooping perceptibly at the waist-line in the soft, blousy effect so extremely becoming to youthful figures. The jacket fronts are in-

falling over its skirts. At three years of age they are now shortened to the jaunty proportions, and come barely to the knee, and from then on they are gradually lengthened, until at fourteen they fall flush with the shoe-top, while at sixteen they are carried down to the ankle.—Harper's Bazar.

A NOTABLE DEBUT.

Elders Daughter of Nellie Grant Sartoris Enters Washington Society.

Miss Vivien Sartoris, the handsome eldest daughter of Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris, will be introduced to society this winter at a large reception to be



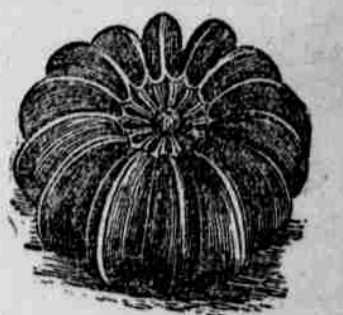
MISS VIVIEN SARTORIS.

given at Mrs. Grant's house in the National Capital. It is an affair that is regarded with much pleasing anticipation, says the Chicago Times-Herald, and will be, no doubt, followed by a large number of entertainments in honor of the fair debutante. Miss Sartoris was born in London nearly eighteen years ago. She is a pretty brunette, with chestnut hair and a rich olive complexion. She is of medium height, with a tendency to plumpness. Educated abroad, she is one of the best informed girls in her set. Her mother looked after Miss Vivien's education with her own eyes, and the result is seen in the womanly character of the daughter's mind and education. Miss Sartoris has a voice of good volume and native sweetness, and it has not lost any of its power by an enforced cultivation. She will be given some vocal training during the winter. Miss Sartoris speaks perfect French, but has not studied other languages than that and her own. Her sister, who is just fifteen, promises to rival the eldest in personal attraction. Mrs. Sartoris herself looks more like an older sister with her charming daughters than she does like their mother. The portrait of Miss Vivien Sartoris here shown is reproduced from a photographic copy of Hall's London painting of the subject. Miss Emily Mew, of Washington, is the photographer.

AN EXPLOSIVE NUT.

A Peculiar Fruit Which Opens With a Loud Report.

In the vegetable kingdom we find several varieties of fruit that are explosive by various natural processes, and they belong to several families. In the wise economy of nature, says the Scientific American, the object of this bursting is to disseminate the seeds. Probably the most peculiar explosive fruit is that of the sand box tree (Hura crepitans) of the family of Euphorbiaceae, which opens its fruit with a loud report, scattering the pieces in all directions. The tree is found in tropical America, the particular example under con-



THE EXPLOSIVE NUT.

sideration coming from the Amazon River valley. The tree grows to be from seventy to 100 feet high. The bark is smooth and yields a milky sap when tapped. The twigs are sometimes spiny and the leaves are often six inches broad. The trees are often cultivated for ornament, from the West Indies to Brazil. If left to ripen on the tree, the nut explodes with a sharp report, when each of its curious compartments, numbering sometimes as many as sixteen, dies asunder, so that its seeds, which somewhat resembles a pumpkin seed, drops out. Our engraving shows the condition of the ruptured cells. The nut has a dense woody fiber. The nuts stand exporting, and occasionally do not explode for several months. The pieces are thrown several feet when the explosion takes place. If the nut is kept in alcohol or water, it can be preserved for years.

Microbes Devour Sewage.

A novel disposition of sewage is made at Exeter, England. The method consists of four tanks, a fourth of the sewage passing into each. Light and air are excluded from the tanks; putrefaction and decomposition are rapidly set up; the microbes multiply and the solid portions of the sewage are consumed and the outflow from the tanks is nothing but slightly colored water, which, after passing through filter, loses all color and taste. No chemical is used, and no attention to the tanks of any sort is needed. Each filter bed automatically cleanses itself by being out of use for a short time.



CONVICTS IN MADAGASCAR.

inhabited the central province of Imerina since they came over the sea from nobody knows where, perhaps Malaysia, apparently acknowledge French sovereignty. But they form a small proportion of the Malagasy people. Some of the tribes have armed their fighting men with muskets; many of them still use the original native weapons, the spear and the shield. In the dense forests the blow gun is used with patient skill.

When Mr. Taylor, who comes of a New York family, landed at Tamatave in 1891, he had already, at the age of thirty-seven, seen a good deal of the far corners of the world. His desire for travel had been strong since he left New York and joined Red Cloud's band of Ogallala Sioux at the age of fifteen. From Dakota he roamed to the edge of the Arctic Circle, and was next heard of in the Society and Hawaiian Islands. Japan, Ceylon, the West Indies and South America came next in his itinerary. Strange adventures fell to his lot in the Chaco region, in particular, hundreds of miles inland from Buenos Ayres, and by the time

canvas, fastened to a couple of light seven-foot poles of strong wood, held together by iron rods with screws and nuts. There was a leather back and foot rest of wood suspended by two leather straps. This is the National carriage of Madagascar, a country destitute of roads and of pack animals. Oxen are sometimes saddled, but not often.

Starting from Tamatave, Mr. Taylor's route lay at first along the sandy shores of the Indian Ocean. The country was open, and twenty-eight miles were made the first day. He headed for Antananarivo, the Hova capital 225 miles inland, and was eleven days on the way, though the journey can be made in seven. While travel in the remoter parts of the island is not unattended by peril from crocodiles, roving bands of murderous outlaws, and the fury of tropical storms, he had no difficulty in traversing the distance from the coast to the capital—which the French invaders found later, starting from the west coast, not so difficult as had been expected.

"We always stopped about 11 o'clock in the morning," he says, "for a meal. At first we had bread, which soon became very hard, and then crackers. I eat very little fruit in the tropics—the mango and the coconut in the morning and late in the evening, but never while the sun is up. When we found a traveler's tree I inserted my knife in the fibre between two leaves and would drink, after straining, the water which came out. I found the groo groo worms, or grubs, taken between the leaves at the top of the palm tree, to be delicious when fried to a crisp. They taste like the fat of a lamb chop with a soupçon of coconut flavor.

"My men chopped down young cabbage palms and ate the heart of the fruit, uncooked. It is white, and tastes like cabbage. The Malagasy are not squeamish. They devour egg



SCENE IN THE FOREST JOURNEY.

he had reached Madagascar he was case-hardened to experiences of the ordinary.

"I knew nobody in Tamatave, on the east coast of Madagascar," he says, "when I landed there. I called on John L. Waller, the recently arrived American Consul; it's the right thing, of course, for a traveler to pay his respects to the representatives of his country wherever he finds them. My own regret has been that American Consuls are not, as a rule, up to the consular standards as set by other countries. They are not respected, in my experience, as they should be by the people among whom they discharge their duties.

"I found Tamatave a very unimpressive town. The single unpaved main street and the lanes that intersect it are covered with loose sand. When I purchased my provisions for the journey up the country to the capital I gave it out that I wanted bearers. The proprietor of the store was a Scotchman, carrying a limited stock of general merchandise. Natives soon began to offer themselves. I inspected them in groups, rejecting all those who were fleshy or unhealthy looking. They averaged five feet seven inches in height, I should say. Their tongues had to be examined to see if their digestion was good; their feet, to see if they would make good ground gainers; their legs, to see if they had been strained by heavy burdens. Tall, spare men, who could throw their shoulders out and their calves back, were the ones I looked for. They must have shoulders free from the scars so often found in Malagasy car-



THE WHITE MAN'S CARRIAGE IN MADAGASCAR.

shells and chicken bones. At a native hotel not far from Antananarivo I had for the first course a strange, half-burnt compound of fat, gristle and oil, or flesh, roasted with the hide and bristles on. The crust of the bread had hair and feathers in it. The second course was better, consisting of wild pigeon with green peas. Money in Madagascar means French five-franc pieces chopped into segments and car-

early and extensive cultivation in Ireland. Botanically it was originally known as the Batata Virginiana, but in after years it was properly identified and classified as the Solanum tuberosum.—New England Homestead.

"Walking has been a pleasure to me ever since I can remember." "Yes, the painful part of it was before you could remember."—Chicago Record.