A writer in the Fortnightly Review thinks that 55,000 farmers, each with a 100-acre farm in Canada, could supply all the wheat England needs.

Rhode Island is said to be the only state which has a college where students, in addition to regular branches, are taught the art of road building.

Only 37,000 of the 32,000,000 of Prussia possess wealth representing an income of \$7000 a year, and only 14,000 own property to the value of

If the Salvation Army people succeed in making their wholesale farming scheme net them five per cent. upon their capital, some of our hardworking, life-long farmers will want to get Commander Booth-Tucker's recipe for the operation, predicts the New England Homestead.

Dr. Cumley, a Chicago dentist, has been made the subject of inquiry by the grand jury, because he locked his door on the mother of a boy who wouldn't have his tooth pulled, although the dentist and the mother did their best to persuade him. The woman refused to pay a dollar for the dentist's wasted time.

The Rev. Dr. H. W. Thomas of the People's church in Chicago is auxious for the formation of a vigilance committee to put down the highwagmen in that city, and says that he would like to be permitted to carry a shotgun in the streets. This minister of peace declares that the only way to stop the "hold-up" men is to kill a few of them.

It has always been a favorite and generally successful scheme of European rulers, when they find themselves in straits as to home matters, to awaken the loyalty of their people or to divert their attention from their | should say: grievances by real or imaginary foreign complications. This would seem to the New York Commercial Advertiser to be the present attitude of the Emperor of Germany, and the near future will record his success or his failure.

"The South is emulative in gallantry," notes the New York Commercial Advertiser. "One state after another is honoring its pretty young women, and the women like it, even if their new honors are subversive of that re- poetry. tiring delicacy so boasted of before the war. Georgia has a female colonel of militia, so has Tennessee and South of Arkansas made Miss Emma Whittington of Hot Springs honorary colonel of the reserve militia. The rank of colonel is the lowest, it appears, that the Southern girls will ac-

That statistics can be made to prove anything has been often said. Just what the honest statistics do prove, however, as to the relationship between crime and ignorance on the one hand, and between virtue and education on the other, is much disputed. A New York paper has opened its columns to the discussion of this question, with the result that some of its correspondents assert that crime and education are increasing together, while others insist that the more highly educated people become the fewer crimes are committed. And both parties to the argument make a plentiful use of statistics.

Once again England nervously is discussing the possible exhaustion of her coal supply, which forms the backbone of her commercial supremacy. Leonard Courtney, as president of the Statistical society, more than confirms Professor Jevons's view that the supply will be in peril within an ordinary lifetime. The output for 1896 actually was thirty per cent. less than it would have been if the rate of progress in Jevons's time had been maintained. While the British output has increased less than 2 1-2 times since 1860 the American ontput has increased ten-fold, and while the American cost of output has greatly declined the British has greatly ncreased. This strengthens the Spectator's belief that America soon will occupy a position of unchallenged supremacy in the industrial world. England must adjust herself to a smaller output of coal and iron and a adjustment of vocations. "If." adds the Spectator, "English supremacy be destroyed, it will not be ough the failure of coal, but brough incapacity to keep pace with electric development in America and Germany."

A FIELD FLOWER'S COMPLAINT.

If I had been a snowdrop, the first one of the year,
Would you have thought me beautiful, being the first, my dear?
If I had been a royal rose grown higher than your heart,
Would you have bent your face to mine and drawn my leaves apart,

We would you have gathered in your hand each fallen rosy leaf.
And said a gentle word for life so beautiful and brief?
But I that fain would be a rose and wear her royal red,
A field flower among field flowers, I lift my loveless head:

Would you have bent your face to mine and drawn my leaves apart.

Until they dropped about you feet, and all my heart lay here?

A broken heart, a golden heart, for you to leave or wear—

White campion shrinking faintly mid dock and silverweed?

—Nora Hopper, in Black and White.

The Business Way.

about. Jack swore she was the very daintiest, sweetest, loveliest girl on earth, added a great deal more of tree. I didn't hear the first part of it, love's hyperbole, and entre nouseven soared into poetry occasionally, when he read to Christopher Colum-

bus, her pet bull terrier.

But as Christopher wrinkled his nose decidedly and his tail did not show the least intimation of a wag,

Jack tore it up—the poetry, I mean.
The trouble was Jack wanted to propose and couldn't. For never did he bring up the eventful subject but Lady Mary would go off at a tangent, possibly because Jack was using roundabout ways.

As Jack confided to his chum (who ahall be nameless for various reasons):
"Do you know, H., if I speak of sunsets, she will immediately have a wild desire to discuss ethnology or irreg-ular Greek verbs, and if I should ever mention love-not that I ever have, you know-but if I ever should, hang me if I don't believe she'd ask me how my liver was."

By which it can readily be seen that Lady Mary and Jack were on the best of terms, and the very intimacy seemed to preclude the possibility of anything

One afternoon I was lying on the river bank industriously fishing, while Jack sprawled upon the grass alternately reading and scribbling. Then he looked up and observed complacently: "Now, I flatter myself that's rather good. Listen, H.:

"The weary sun has sunk to rest, And with him fades the dying day. Come night, come hour I love the best, Fit time love's winning words to say.

"Good? Oh, Lord! You want to change those last two lines, You

"Tretty good, ch?"

"Alas! still lives a love-struck crank, Who can't say what he wants to say.

"Besides, 'best' isn't good grammar, if you're comparing day with night.

"Hang it all, H., Tennyson himself could not please you." Then a long silence which he at last broke with: "Say, do you think she would have

"Oh, take a run around the block! How do I know? There she comes now, and I give you fair warning if you two stay here and scare my fish away I'll tell about the

Divinely tall and most divinely fair was Lady Mary. She came tripping sedately over the tender grass, the mountain winds kissing a delicate Carolina, and recently the governor peach blossom into her cheeks. Jack, with his customary facility, rose to his feet and the occasion to play the gal-lant. Neither of 'em paid the slight-est attention to me. I was supposed

"Jack," she said, sweetly, "I want you to row me up to the store. Will you?

Of course Jack acquiesced, and the two of them got into the boat and

Jack is a finished oarsman, at least he generally finishes it in about ten minutes. I knew it was to be inter-esting, so I gave up the fishing and watched them.

(Mem. later: They have drifted down the river, both behind Lady Mary's parasol.)

Now, Jack being one of those fellows who believe in never losing an opportunity calmly rowed the boat out in the middle of the river and then, as I predicted, shipped the oars and opened the conversation.

"How well we get along together in a boat," he remarked, gazing sentimentally at the cliffs. "Yes," abstractedly, "but I wish

you'd row up to the store. I don't want to waste the whole afternoon drifting like this."

"No, of course not," waking up suddenly. Two strokes. Then, "I wish we could always..."

"There are a lot of new people com-ing tonight," she broke in. "Mr. Eg-gleston told me so."

"Did he? H'm!" Then with a brilliant idea, "Are you ever inter-ested in other people?" He asked in his most beguiling tone. "Oh, yes-now, there's Christopher

Columbus. I'm interested in him. I wish I had him here this very minute. I'd kiss his dear little nose. "If I were only Christopher Colum-

bus," insinuated Jack.
"I wish you were sometimes," she cried, wickedly. "Then I could shut

you up occasionally, couldn't I?"
Now, what could anybody do with a
girl like this? The end of it was that Lady Mary took the oars and rowed to the store herself.

Jack came to me disconsolately. "I wish I was dead," he said. told him how annoying it would be to me to have him lying around dead. He said I talked like a fool,

He said I talked like a fool,
"Jack, my dear boy," I said, patronizingly (I am two mouths older than he), "the next time you try to pop
the question be like a bottle of ginger
ale. Go off with a bang and let all the
fixile come afterward."

"I never thought of that," he answered thoughtfully. "I wonder how

Jack wanted to, but Lady Mary it would work? By George, H., you're didn't, and that's the way it all came a trump. I'll try it." a trump. I'll try it.

That evening they were both down by the spring, and I hid behind a but I got there just in time to hear Jack say: "Lady Mary, I love you, Will you be my wife?"

"With pleasure," she answered, gayly. "You silly boy, why didn't you say so before?

"Just what I told him," said I, com-

ing from behind the tree.
"Did you? You dear boy, you may kiss me for that. Keep still, Jack." And I did.

SENATOR MILLS' STORY.

Abraham Lincoln's Sweeping Pardon John L. Helin.

Senator Mills has a new story about lincoln. It was told to him by a son of John L. Helm of Kentucky, who lives in Corsicana:

"Old John L. Helm," said the senitor, "was a famous character in Kentucky. He was, if I remember rightly, a governor of the state, but at any rate his position was a most prominent one. When the civil war came on Helm was a rabid secessionist. He could not praise the South too highly and could not heap enough abuse npon the North. He was too old to go into the war with his sons and remained at home, doing all he could to help the confederate cause and harass the Yankees who invaded the state. Finally he became so obstreperous that the federal general who was in command near Helm's home put him in prison. The old man's age, the high position which he occupied in the state, his wide connection and especially his inability to do any harm, were all pleaded in his extenuation, and he was released. Instead of profiting by the warning, the old man became more persistent than ever in his course. Once more he was clapped into jail. This happened two or three times, and finally, while he was still locked up, the matter was brought to the attention of the federal authori-Even President Lincoln was apties. pealed to and asked to commit the ardent southerner to an indefinite confinement in order that he might be curbed.

"Lincoln listened to the statement of the case with more than usual interest. Then he leaned back and began to speak with a smile upon his 'You are talking about old man John Helm? Well, did you know that I used to live when I was a boy in Helm's town. He was kind to me. He seemed to like me as a boy, and he never lost an opportunity to help me. He seemed to think,' said Lincoln, with another of his almost pa-thetic smiles, 'that I would probably make something of a man. Why, when I went out to Illinois, poor and unknown, that man gave me the money to pay my way and keep me until I got a start. John Helm? O, yes, I know him, and I know what I owe to

him. I think I can fix his case." "Lincoln went to his desk and wrote a few words. The bit of writing is treasured in the Helm household to this day. This is what the president

wrote: " 'I hereby pardon John L. Helm of Kentucky for all that he has ever done against the United States and all that he ever will do.

> " 'ABBAHAM LINCOLN.'" -Washington Post.

Candle Fish-Food, Medicine and Light

With the discovery of the Klondike, with all its winter privations, comes also the practical discovery of a fish found along the Alaskan shores which it is said will furnish food, light, heat and medicine to the prospectors who have gone into the new El Dorado. This fish is of the smelt variety, but larger and fatter. They are caught in nets easily, and on being caught, are found to be of a rich green color on the back variegated with blue, and with golden reflections on the belly. On being caught these fish are dried and stored. When the Alaskan is snowed in and without a light, he simply inserts the tail of one of these fish in a crack in the table and touches a match to its nose. It gives out a clear three-candle power light. The back-bone is largely formed of phosphorus, which not only causes it to ignite easily, but also accounts for the strength of the flame and heat developed. The substance of the fish, argely fat, retards the rapid burning as the tallow acts in an ordinary candle. The fish is also valuable as food. Still another use to which it may be put is as a substitute for cod-liver oil, which, aiding the natural heat of the body, serves to protect against the severe cold. It is to be hoped that scientists will discover a way by which the skin of this fish may be made into clothing, and its backbone sharpened into min-

Mountain climbers frequently find butterflies frozen on the snow, and so brittle that they break unless care-fully handled. When thawed the

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND EYESIGHT. Gray and Blue Eyes Are Most Succepti-ble to Injurious Effect,

One effect of the advent of the X ray has been to direct closer attention to the influence of the electric light on the eyesight. It has recently been stated, says the Pittsburg Dispatch, that sailors suffer much in their cye-sight from the brilliant electric lights used on shipboard. Gray and blue eyes are the most subject to injury, not being heavily charged with pig-ments. The men who work the search lights already wear dark blue glasses, but it is found that these only mitigate the intensity of the light, and do not absorb the source of the trouble, the ultra-violet rays. These rays, however, can be intercepted by gog-gles or screens of uranium or yellow glass, and with these, it is understood, the sailors of the French navy are soon to be provided.

Another interesting case bearing on this subject is reported from a British warship. It seems that two stokers on the ship, having a little spare time, became engrossed in the operation of an electric drill, which was burning out holes in a hardened steel plate. Both men declared they only watched the arc for about three minutes, and at the time felt no ill effects, except that all objects appeared to be of a deep gold color. At night, however, both men were aroused by intense pain and par-tial blindness for the time being, but both recovered quickly after treatment. The electric drill acts by fusing a hole through the steel, and the intensity of the light is greatly increased by the rays of light thrown off by the molten metal. The fact, too, that the work is carried on chiefly in the daylight is apt to deceive the casual onlooker as to the degree of brilliancy of the light, and it is not until the after effects begin to assert themselves that he is aware of anything out of the common. Dark glasses are now used by all the men on the electric drilling shifts. A singular feature of this affection is that it is analagous to snow or desert blindness, and, as in them, the pernicious effects of the electric light are proba-bly due to the ultra violet rays of the

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

It is calculated that the yearly amount of food, water, and air which a man receives in the aggregate, comes to about a ton and a half.

The lightest known solid is said to be the pith of the sunflower, with a specific gravity of .028, or about one eighth that of cork.

The forests of the United States cover one-quarter of the entire country, and over \$1,000,000 worth of timber is cut every year. Durham Bull is the name of a farmer

in Greenwood county, Mo., whose mother's name was Ann Durham and his father's Jonathan Bull. Fifty of every 100 school children in Munich have their homes elsewhere in Bavaria. The cost to the city is

\$27 for each pupil per year. Birmingham, England, turns out every week 300,000,000 buttons, 4000 miles of wire of different sizes, five tons of hairpins, 500 tons of nuts and

20,000 pairs of spectacles. The Vienna Medical society has awarded the Goldberger prize of 1000 gulden (about \$400) to Dr. Ruhemann of Berlin for his pamphlet on the question, "Is Catching Cold a Cause of Disease?"

In the state of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, the government has ordered that the pupils in all the official schools shall be taught to write and perform all manual tasks as well with the left hand as with the right.

Of the 250 stamps which have been issued the values have ranged from one cent to \$5000. Five dollars is the highest value among postage stamps, but newspaper stamps reach the \$100 mark, while a revenue stamp may represent \$5000.

A refugee hut on the Zugspitze, the highest mountain in Germany (10,000 feet), near Garmisch, in the centre of the Bavarian highlands, has been opened. It stands on the Grat, between the east and west peaks, affords accommodations for twenty-two guests, and has been erected at a cost of

Chimneys are very fickle. You can build one all right in theory, but when it comes down to practice that is another matter. Build two chimneys side by side in precisely the same manner. Employ the best skilled labor and construct them exactly on the same principles. One may draw all right, while the other smokes like

a pipe. The great wall of China was re cently measured by Mr. Unthank, an American engineer. His measurement gave the height at eighteen feet. Every few hundred yards there is tower twenty-five feet high. For 1200 miles the wall goes over plains and mountains, every foot of the foundation being of solid granite and the rest of the structure solid masoury.

The Sword of the Shah. A Sheffield firm has been by special

firman appointed goldsmiths and silto his imperial majesty and to the court of Persia. They are exe-cuting for the shah an imperial sword, designs of which have been approved. The blade is double-eged, of the finest steel, inlaid with gold. The weapon has a broad flute down the centre and has a broad flute down the centre and is of scimiter shape, terminating in a fine point or clif. The scabbard is of royal scarlet Persian leather, with mountings in gold fligree, while the hilt is of ivory, inlaid with gold arabesques and inscriptions in Persian text. The cross-bar and head of the hilt is studied with dispense. hilt is studded with diamonds, rubies and other precious stones. — Paris Mes-



Skirts and Sleeves

Sleeves seem to have settled down o their limit in size, for the season at least, and the comfortable fulness at the top still remains, but the skirt is gradually diminishing in width, two and a half yards around being the size of the latest model.

There is a perfectly new fad and it emanates from London, Beautifully arched eyebrows have always been considered a mark of beauty, but it is the latest fad to have the eyebrows trained in a pointed arch, even exag-gerating the Japanese style. It is called the "Curzon eyebrow," named for a famous beauty of Great Britain,

It is claimed that the first class in this country in wood engraving was formed by Mrs. Peter, wife of the then British consul in Philadelphia, in 1850. Her class consisted of 25 pupils, whom she taught the simple elements of the work, and many of them became practical engravers. An to women engravers at that time, Mrs. Peter says that the only one of any note was Mary Ann Williams, who belonged to a family of skilled English engravers. She is said to have done work which was little inferior to that of her brothers. - Exchange.

Colorado's Richness in Women's Clubs. The annual directory of the Color-orado Federation of Women's Clubs, just issued, shows that 32 of the towns and cities of the state have their women's clubs, where last year there were only 21. The membership in

the aggregate this year is 4039, where last year it was only 2602. Denver leads with the largest number of clubs, having 24; last year it had 15. Before the biennial meeting of the general federation in this city next summer, every village in the state promises to be represented in the state federation. - Denver Republican.

Popularity of the Velvet Gown

Every woman who can afford it is investing in a velvet gown for evening wear this winter. Age is a matter of entire indifference in the wearing of this style of toilet, and the debutante of 20 wears it indiscriminately with the dowager of 60. Of course, the material is a specially favored one with those very youthful married women who desire to look "matronly." This is a desire, by the way, that does not last long, for the bride of 20 who will insist upon wearing stiff silks, thick velvets and dark colors, is more than likely, ten years later, to break out into the tulles and muslins, the pale blues and the spotless whites of extreme girlhood. The color that seems to be particularly popular at present for velvets is that warm reddish-violet hue that shades into such exquisite tints when the light strikes This color velvet, trimmed narrowly about the square decolletage and around the edge of a long train with chinchilla, is perfectly exquisite. -New York Mail and Express.

Making Jokes for a Living.

One by one the traditions handed down by the descendants of Adam are being disproved by the "up-to-date" granddaughter of Eve.

One of the last to disappear relater to woman's lack of humor. But even that, it seems, has been shattered effectually by a mere slip of a girl.

She is Miss Annie Partlan of New

York, and her success as a joke writer is almost beyond belief. There is scarcely a studio of any prominence in New York that does not count Miss Partlan among its frequent visitors, Her name is well known to all the editors of the comic weeklies, and she bravely holds her own with competitors of the opposite sex, although some have been in the business for

Miss Partlan came to New York city from Kingston some five years ago, and has since fought bravely to achieve the success she now has.

She is of Irish extraction and the proverbial wit of her native land has certainly not slighted her. Her jokes are full of originality, and those touching society and social questions are particularly piquant. In appearance she is extremely modest, with a charming friendliness of manner, and is not in the least the "new woman," as each gesture and accent is distinctly femi-

When asked how she thought of adopting so unusual a calling, she said: "It came quite naturally to me. I have written since I was a child. Of course I never thought of selling my stuff to the artists until about a year ago. The first joke was suggested by my seeing a little boy brushing flies off a horse in a blacksmith shop. gave it to the editor of a Kingston paper, who published it and several others which I wrote afterward.

"When I finally decided to become a professional joke writer, the first thing I had to learn was that puns were no longer in vogue, a fact which caused me to fill a waste basket. I get from \$1 to \$3 for each joke, and from one to two cents a word for my comic sketches and fillers.

"I map out my day, using certain hours for my joke writing and others for the sale of ther. No, it does not seem difficult to me, as I think any woman who would keep her eyes ope and reflect on what she sees could write jokes. I see them in every thing, and seldom meet a person, who, first or last; does not suggest one." Chicago Record.

A Royal Maid of Honor.

It is a great distinction to be chosen as one of Queen Victoria's maids of honor, but it entails obligations. The position is strictly one of birth, for the maid must be either the daughter or granddaughter of a peer. When appointed the maids receive the title honorable, which they retain through life, Each maid of honor has three

months of waiting every year, and often her young friends are apt to regard her as being very fortunate receiving \$500 a month for her actual ime of waiting. But it is quite a mistake to suppose that the duties are trifling or that the post is in any sens a sinecure. Nothing save severe illness can allow a maid of honor altering or postponing her term of waiting. She has to be literally at the beck and call of her royal mistress, and though no objection is made to each young lady bringing with her a pet—at the present moment the Hon. Miss Cadogan possesses one of the most valuable dogs in the world - even the permission to receive a call from a friend or relation must be asked and obtained before a maid of honor can be "at home" to any of her acquaint-

Only two maids of honor are in waiting at a time. They each have a pretty suite of rooms, including a sitting room, and it is there that they are expected to spend most of their time when not actually with their royal mistress. The maids' working day may be said to begin at 11, for, as soon as her majesty has dismissed her private secretary, she sends for one of her maids of honor to read to her selections from the morning papers. Then comes a drive, during which the queen is generally accompanied by the other maid. Luncheon is generally taken with the household, although occasionally one of the two young ladies will be asked to join the royal party. Unless she actually knows that her majesty is out driving or, as occasionally happens when the court is at Balmoral, away for a long expedition likely to occupy many hours, the maid of honor must on no account absent herself from the eastle. for fear her presence should be required. The most fatiguing point about a maid of honor's work is that she never sits down except when specially asked to do so by her royal mis-

Till camparatively lately each maid of honor received at her marriage a wedding gift of \$5000 from her royal mistress, but this, oddly enough, ended by causing considerable inconvenience to the queen. She found that no sooner was a maid of honor appointed than she immediately announced her engagement, and, accordingly, the rule was made that this much-coveted dowry should not be given unless the prospective bride has held her appointment for a certain number of years. - Chicago News.

Fashion Notes.

Draped dressing tables are seen in all up-to-date bedrooms.

Hyacinths and maidenhair ferns make lovely table decorations.

A charming theatre wrap has a yoke of ermine, with cape effect in white Script letters on stationery have be-

come even more popular than the tiny monogram. The Eton jacket of fur is no longer worn by smart women. In velvet, however, it is quite correct.

There is no perceptible difference in the shape of sleeves. They fit the arm closely from wrist to shoulder, and

have puffs, ruffles, caps, epaulettes and what not, according to fancy. Plush spot and velvet spot effects are being produced for early spring wear in both worsted and cotton dress goods. The spots are several inches apart and the fabric is made on the

welt pile principle. Plain velvet makes up into stylish garments that give excellent wear.
Puffed velvets in red and green tones
and checked and plaid velvets are
popular and pretty and make stylish
blouses and bodices.

There are many waists with little basque skirts. These are scalloped, cut in battlement points or left open at the seams and bound. It would apat the seams and bound. It would ap-pear that every style of finish had been employed upon these little frills.

A handsome picture hat recently seen was made of white satin, with what is known as a Russian crown.
Around the crown green rep ribbon
was arranged in pretty wavelike loops.
The trimming decreased at the left
side, but the right showed an immense bunch of ribbon loops and ends, heron feathers and white lace and a pink chrysanthemum.