

Spain has slowly but surely been forced to abandon its stand in consideration of "pride" and "glory."

The foreign demand for breadstuffs continues to be heavy, and the supply is still equal to the demand. A great country this, and the limit of its resources is not yet approached.

Apreros of England's warlike activity it is timely to recall Gladstone's famous reply in the House of Commons: "No, we are not at war; we are conducting military operations."

Coal mining is now one of Missouri's chief industries. The annual report of the United States' geological survey credits her with producing in 1897 2,665,626 tons, the cash value of which is placed at \$2,887,824.

The scheme of American popular education will not reach its highest development until every boy and girl shall be fitted, before leaving school, to use every power to its highest capacity to rightly perform the duties of family and civic relations, and to "make a living" by some handicraft the elements of which have been learned.

Time was when to have written a book gave a person some degree of distinction. Men and women were pointed out as the authors of certain books, and these books, once named in educated circles, were recognized. But that time has measurably gone by. To have written a book nowadays is to have done what thousands of others have done, and are busily engaged at this very hour in doing. The statement amounts to little more than does the statement that a certain person has designed an office building, has invented a labor-saving machine, has constructed a new kind of street-car rail, or a wagon.

While Porto Rico is densely populated, yet, in view of the great wealth of the island, there is still room for thousands of immigrants of the right sort. Under the stimulating effect of American ideas Porto Rico will soon begin to astonish the world with her growth. So long as she was fettered by the tyranny of Spain she could not do this, but now that she is permitted to inhale the atmosphere of freedom, she will speedily make up for what she has lost. We will miss our guess if Porto Rico within the next few years does not become one of the most coveted gems on the breast of the ocean, observes the Atlanta Constitution.

After struggling for a long time with the problem of over production, the butter makers opened a central warehouse at Sydney, New South Wales, where they sent all their butter, and whence it was sold at wholesale at certain fixed prices, varying according to the season of the year, but never falling below sixteen cents. What butter is not sold at that price is shipped in cold storage to London. In this way the price is kept up. Cooperation among farmers is admittedly one of the most difficult of social problems. Farming is generally carried on with insufficient capital, which makes the farmer a long-credit man, and places him largely in the hands of the middlemen. Farming really requires a liberal education and large executive ability. What the farmers of New South Wales have done, however, might be done by American farmers, especially since the London market is much nearer America than it is New South Wales. But it can't be done with cotton, for the obvious reason that the London market is glutted at the start.

The Abstract of Statistics of the Railways of the United States, for the year ending June 30, 1897, just issued by the interstate commerce commission, gives some interesting figures. There are 184,428 miles of railway in the country; of second, third and fourth tracks 12,705 miles, and of yard and track sidings 46,221 miles, making a grand total of 243,444 miles. One-third of the rails in yards and sidings are of iron, and 95 per cent. of all others are steel. There are 10,017 passenger locomotives, 20,398 freight and 5102 for switching; 83,626 passenger and 1,221,730 freight cars. There are 823,476 men employed by the railways; the amount paid them represents 61.87 per cent. of the total operating expenses. There were 489,445,198 passengers carried, and 43,168 casualties occurred, of which 6437 resulted in death; 1893 railway employes were killed and 27,667 injured. One out of every 2,304,708 passengers was killed, and one out of every 175,116 was injured; of employes one out of every 466 was killed, and one out of every 66 was injured.

MESSMATES.

He gave me all a goodly cheerily At the first dawn of day; We dropped him down the side full drearily When the light died away. It's a dead dark watch that he's a-keeping there, And a long, long night that lags a-creeping there. Where the Trades and the tides roll over him, And the great ships go by.

He's there alone, with green seas rocking him For a thousand miles round, He's there alone, with dumb things mooking him, And we're homeward bound. It's a long, lone watch that he's a-keeping there, And a dead cold night that lags a-creeping there, While the months and the years roll over him, And the great ships go by.

I wonder if the tramps come near enough, As they thrash to and fro, And the battle-ships' bells ring clear enough To be heard down below; It through all the lone watch that he's a-keeping there, And the long, cold night that lags a-creeping there, The voices of the sailor-men shall comfort him When the great ships go by. —Henry Newbolt.

A PACKET OF PATTERNS

HE was looking at May's portrait—a lovely little miniature—when the housemaid brought the packet to him. The girl entered timidly, with a furtive glance at her master, for whom her heart was bleeding. But if her timidity had arisen from the fear of seeing some exhibition of terrible sorrow, she had alarmed herself needlessly. No signs of tears, either past or present, was visible in the young man's eyes. They were hard and bright. Hard, also, was his face, and the clenched lips like adamant. He took the thick envelope off the salver, glanced at the clerical writing and at the back, upon which was stamped in blue letters "W. Robinson & Co." Then he flung it on the table, and as the servant left the room the sound of harsh laughter broke upon her astonished ears. She fled to the kitchen and with scared face whispered that she thought poor Mr. Ord must be going mad.

Small wonder, perhaps, if he were! He had written a few days before to William Robinson for those patterns that he might choose the materials for his wedding suit. What a weighty matter that choice would have been! May was so particular about what he wore. He used to be a little careless about his dress once—going about in coats with creases in them, and farmer's boots. Then, in his endeavor to gain May's approbation, he had overdone it in the opposite direction, sporting collars of absurd height, and impossible ties, enduring like a martyr the pinch of patent leather shoes a size too small for him and getting himself a little chaffed by appearing in suits unmistakably in advance of the fashion.

May, with gentle tact, had changed all this. Never hurting her ardent young lover by open condemnation of his apparel, but by artful suggestions had first roused him to an interest in his attire, then toned down his somewhat crude tastes, and finally schooled him into that quiet perfection of dressing which is the attribute of a gentleman. He had written for the pattern from Robinson's a few weeks before the important suit should be needed, as he wanted to have May's opinion with regard to the materials. Already the little, laughing, gay girl had begun to be more than a mere piece of loveliness for his admiring eyes to rest upon. He consulted her about everything. He had no sisters, and until the last year—when the death of an uncle and the inheritance of a fortune had made him his own master—he had lived a solitary life in a remote country town with the relation by whose sudden death he was enriched. May Carden, one of the first young ladies he came across in town, had taken his heart by storm. The mixture of frivolity and sound practical sense in her nature was exactly what he needed. The one broke the crust of a certain moroseness born of an unloved life, and the other steadied the propensities to extravagance of taste and living which unexpected wealth had not unnaturally aroused.

After that laugh of harshness, which had so startled his servant, Laurence Ord went back to the study of May's portrait. It was indeed a veritable "May" face. Cheeks like young roses, hair brown as hawthorn twigs, lips which were akin to the deep pink buds of the apple blossom, and eyes tinted with azure, like two crystal wells that drink the blue complexion of the skies.

These latter laughed back as if in mocking merriment to the hard gray ones which were looking down on him. A sob of anguish broke in a groan from Ord's lips. He tried to realize that these dancing eyes were closed forever. Tried—tried as many and many a bereaved one had striven in vain to do—to grasp the fact that the dear lips would never speak again; that no more until the day of resurrection would so much as the faintest color tinge the still white face. The picture before him, bubbling over as it was with life and mirth, gave the lie to such a thought. The idea of May—May, the merriest little person in the world, lying cold and silent was too much for the young man who last had seen her having a wild game with a kitten on the deck of a friend's

He had dreaded that little cruise more than he could say. He had all but asked her not to go; but from this he had refrained, deeming it mere selfishness.

"You don't mind me going, Laurie, do you?" she had asked, when the trip had been suggested, and with a little pleading look in her eyes which was irresistible, especially as he had not yet the absolute right to give or withhold permission. "I'll only be gone three weeks, dear, and then—if you still have a mind to—you may take me and keep me forever, and forever! A large order, Laurie! Shall you want me for so long, do you think?"

Ord, never a backward lover, had answered that question by a quietus to the sweet lips which spoke it. He had gone to see her off on board the Orchid; and she had stopped in the middle of one of her airy whirls with the kitten and a piece of scarlet ribbon, to whisper, "Mind you have the patterns ready by the time I come back!"

The patterns were ready, but never more, thought poor heart-broken Laurence, would May come back to him again. The yacht Orchid, which was wrecked last night on the dangerous reef outside Alwyn Bay, is the property of a Mr. Griffiths, of London. All on board were saved except the unfortunate, whose body was washed ashore early this morning. It has been identified as that of Miss May Carden.

This was the paragraph which had caught the eye of Laurence Ord as he had run over his morning paper at breakfast. Afterward he had come upon the first and longer account, but this was evidently a little paragraph inserted when further information had been received.

It was evening now, and as the slow hours passed young Ord began to writhe beneath the weight of anguish which crushed his heart. His senses had at first been blunted by the shock. Now they were awakening to full consciousness of the immeasurable pain. He laid the miniature down and began to walk about the room. He moved things here and there. He wound the clock—then his nerveless fingers dropped it with a crash. He let it lie where it had fallen. He pulled up the blind and looked up at the starry heavens. But it was of no comfort to him to think of May as dwelling among their mysteries. The sight of them did not bring tears to his scorching eyes, or soften one atom the hard agony which held him in its merciless grip. He had a sort of feeling that little May would rather be with him. He began mechanically to settle the things on the table, to fold up the newspapers and open his neglected letters. He was fighting his pain. The letters were read without his being a whit the wiser as to their contents. The pocket of patterns was the only thing that remained. With another of those pitiful laughs he ripped open the envelope. The laugh changed into an indescribable cry. There was no pattern in the envelope. Instead there were three thick sheets of note paper, each of which had "Walter Robinson & Son, Solicitors, Alwyn Bay," printed upon it. The writing was a penciled scrawl—a dear, familiar scrawl. Laurence read it on his knees, sobbing out his thanks to God. Three sentences and the signature will sufficiently explain.

"I was brought ashore half-drowned. . . Mr. Robinson, a lawyer, has kindly given us shelter. . . Mr. Griffiths is addressing this . . . Your loving May."

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Money is the root of the manufacturing plant.

Gossip is always short lived unless it is properly ventilated.

Wise is the famous man who doesn't overwork his popularity.

The present is the child of the past and the father of the future.

The more vanity some people possess the easier it is to make them happy.

Time may be a success as a wound-healer, but it seldom removes the scars.

An old bachelor says the average wait of women is until they are asked to marry.

Money brings happiness to some men because of the interest they derive therefrom.

We never heard of husbands and wives quarreling about which loved the other most.

The bigger the bore a man is the smaller the hole he leaves when his days are numbered.

The courting of an heiress is a business suit, but the courting of a flirt is merely a masquerade suit.

Making a man who wouldn't think of marrying a wife of his cook has no scruples about making a cook of his wife.

An old bachelor says there is but one thing sweeter than love's young dream, and that is to wake up and find yourself still single.

Nothing disconcerts a girl more than to brace herself to meet the shock of a marriage proposal and the shock falls to materialize.—Chicago News.

The Child's Candid Opinion.

A widower, says the Chicago News, who had a five-year-old son, married a second time, and his choice was a rather plain woman of about fifty. After the wedding they came home, and the father introduced her to the little fellow, saying: "Charlie, this is the new mamma I promised to bring you." After taking a long and steady look at her Charlie went over to his papa and exclaimed in an audible whisper: "Papa, you've been swindled—the lady's new at all."

NEW YORK FASHIONS.
THE LATEST DESIGNS FOR WINTER COSTUMES

New York City (Special).—There never has been a season when so many different styles were in fashion, particularly for cloth gowns, according to Harper's Bazar. It would almost seem impossible for a woman to be unfashionably dressed, provided the sleeves of her gown are small, and the skirt has no particular fullness except at the back. Velvet and cloth are combined in many of the new gowns with very satisfactory results. A



LADIES' AFTERNOON TOILETTE.

favorite combination of color is the light wood-color with dark brown, and a very charming gown of wood-colored cloth, the cloth with a satin finish, is quite odd in design, and is trimmed with deep brown velvet. The cloth is in an over-skirt or polonaise, while the under part of the skirt and the upper part of the waist and sleeves are of velvet. There are four rows of narrow velvet ribbon outlining the cloth. There is apparently no way of getting either in or out of this costume, but the gown is fastened at

at the top to round yoke depth with the plaid. A standing collar of plaid completes the neck. The Bertha is interlined with light-weight canvas and finished at the lower edge before it is applied around the yoke outline. A belt of velvet finishes the waist, over which the front pouches slightly, and three decorative buttons are set at evenly spaced distances on the box plait. The closely fitting sleeves of plaid have a gathered puff of the plain goods gracefully disposed at the top, the wrists being completed with bands of velvets and frills of ribbon.

The skirt shows the very popular graduated circular flounce, a favorite with girls as well as with their mammas. The skirt is somewhat of circular shape and may either reach to the lower edge or terminate at the top of flounce. The front and sides fit smoothly, gathers causing a pretty fullness in centre back. The skirt is sewed at the lower edge of waist and held easy at the front and sides; it closes with the waist in centre back.

Possibilities for remodeling dresses that have been "grown away from" are suggested by the mode; the dress may also be all of one material in silk or wool and trimmed with velvet, gimp, insertion, braid or ribbon, plain, ruffled or frilled.

Fine tucking or all-over lace may be used for yoke, or the dress may have a low, round neck and short puff sleeves to wear with or without various styles or gimpes.

To make this costume for a young girl will require three and one-half yards of material forty-four inches wide.

It will not be the fault of the Paris hairdressers if finger puffs are not worn this winter. One of the models they show has the hair arranged a la Pompadour over the forehead, with three small finger puffs above the ears. The hair will be dressed high, as it has been, which gives another chance for the use of the finger puffs.

Plain Skirts Favored. Already the reaction has set in in favor of plain skirts. Some of the most eminent fashion designers and autocrats have emphatically declared



GIRL'S COSTUME.

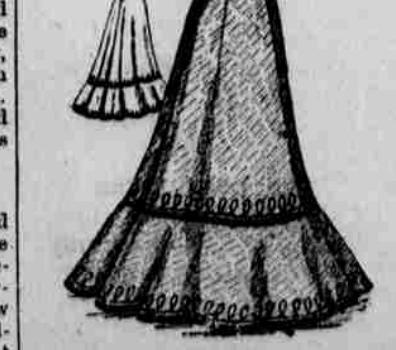
the left side with invisible hooks and eyes. The sleeves are small, with a cuff of the velvet at the wrist, and are cut so as to give the effect of a very long shoulder seam.

A smart cloth gown that is simple in design is made of blue Venetian cloth. The skirt is cut with a circular flounce effect, fitting very closely over the hips. The flounce is not scant, as is generally the case, but, on the contrary, is exaggeratedly full. It is made in clusters of pleats at equal distances apart, and the pleats are only fastened a short distance, leaving the flounce to flare out above the foot. The waist has three rows of tucks put on to give the effect of pleats below a plain square yoke of the deepest blue velvet that is finished with a stock-collar and side tabs. The sleeves are very nearly tight-fitting, but have some fullness at the top, with rows of tucks across the fullness. There is no finish at the wrists and the sleeve is very long. The belt is of fancy metal.

A Favorite With Girls. The pretty combination of plaid and plain dark blue serge, shown in the large engraving, is attractively decorated with rich ruby velvet, a coloring shown in the plaid. A narrow frill or satin ribbon matches the velvet edges of the graceful Bertha that flare apart in front and back. The stylish waist has a full front that is gathered top and bottom on each side of a centre box pleat. The backs are gathered in like manner, and close in centre with buttons and buttonholes. The front and backs are arranged over comfortably fitted linings faced

against so much trimming and the consequence is that the death knell of the ultra-elaborate skirt is sounded. We may indulge in a moderate amount of frills, but the line must be very sharply drawn, and under no circumstances is fashion to tolerate anything that has the appearance of fussiness.

There is also some objection to the skirt that is made in two lengthwise sections. Very few women, and surely no practical ones, like to cut handsome material into such shape that it is absolutely worthless after the style



A SKIRT WITH CIRCULAR FLOUNCE OF UNIFORM DEPTH.

of the moment has passed by. Therefore, the cut-in-two skirt is always short lived; indeed, it has scarcely attained the prominence with which it has been accredited.

THE MARKETS.

PITTSBURGH.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

WHEAT—No. 1 red.....	60 7/8	74
No. 2 red.....	58 3/4	69
CORN—No. 2 yellow, ear.....	36 3/8	37
No. 2 yellow, shelled.....	35 3/8	36
Mixed ear.....	34 3/8	35
OATS—No. 2 white.....	22 3/4	23
No. 3 white.....	22 1/4	23
BYE—No. 1.....	50 00	50
FLOUR—Winter patents.....	3 91	4 09
Fancy straight winter.....	3 50	3 69
Best flour.....	3 25	3 45
HAY—No. 1 timothy.....	6 75	6 90
Clover, No. 1.....	7 50	8 00
FEED—No. 1 white mtd., ton.....	16 50	17 00
Brown middlings.....	13 00	13 50
Prime, bulk.....	12 75	13 25
STRAW—White.....	12 75	13 00
Ont.....	6 75	6 90
SEEDS—Clover, 60 lbs.....	2 50	3 00
Timothy, prime.....	1 30	1 40

Dairy Products.

BUTTER—Eggs creamery.....	24 00	25
Ohio creamery.....	22 1/2	23
Fancy country.....	14 15	15
CHEESE—Ohio, new.....	9 10	11
New York, new.....	10 11	11

Fruits and Vegetables.

BEANS—Lima 1/2 qt.....	15 00	16
POTATOES—Fancy White, 1/2 bu.....	39 00	40
CABBAGE—Per 100 heads.....	1 00	1 10
ONIONS—Choice yellow, 1/2 bu.....	25 00	40

Poultry, Etc.

CHICKENS—Per pair, small.....	45 00	50
TURKEYS—Per lb.....	13 14	14
EGGS—Pa. and Ohio, fresh.....	21 22	22

CINCINNATI.

FLOUR.....	3 10 1/2	3 20
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	60 7/8	70
BYE—No. 2.....	58 3/4	69
CORN—Mixed.....	34 3/8	35
OATS.....	22 3/4	23
EGGS.....	19 19	20
BUTTER—Ohio creamery.....	24 00	25

PHILADELPHIA.

FLOUR.....	3 60 1/2	3 65
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	72 7/8	73
CORN—No. 2 white.....	43 3/4	43
OATS—No. 2 white.....	33 3/4	34
BUTTER—Creamery, extra.....	23 23	23
EGGS—Pennsylvania firsts.....	25 25	25

NEW YORK.

FLOUR—Patents.....	3 80 1/2	4 00
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	74 7/8	77
COIN—No. 2.....	70 7/8	70
OATS—White Western.....	32 3/4	32
BUTTER—Creamery.....	15 23	23
EGGS—State of Penn.....	25 25	25

LIVE STOCK.

Central Stock Yards, East Liberty, Pa.

Prime, 1200 to 1300 lbs.....	4 80 1/2	5 00
Good, 1200 to 1300 lbs.....	4 40	4 70
Tidy, 1600 to 1750 lbs.....	4 31	4 50
Fair light steers, 1000 to 1200 lbs.....	3 43	3 70
Common, 700 to 900 lbs.....	3 43	3 60

HOGS.

Medium.....	3 45	3 65
Heavy.....	3 00	3 60
Roughs and stags.....	2 75	3 00

SHEEP.

Prime, 95 to 105 lbs.....	4 40	4 50
Good, 65 to 90 lbs.....	4 25	4 30
Fair, 70 to 80 lbs.....	3 80	4 10
Common.....	3 00	3 25
Veal Calves.....	6 00	7 20

TRADE REVIEW.

Surprisingly Few Failures in November—Gross Demand for Steel Rails.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade reports as follows for last week: The report of failures for the month of November is extremely gratifying, because it shows not only a decrease in number and a smaller amount of liabilities than in any month, excepting three summer months, since the monthly record began, but because careful analysis shows a striking improvement both in the small and in the large failures, which are stated in classes of industry and trade. Considering that failures are usually smaller in summer months than in November, the monthly return may be considered about the best ever made, and shows a condition of financial soundness rarely surpassed.

Nobody can estimate the gain for the iron and steel industry which will result from the past week's transactions in steel rails, which are stated to exceed 700,000 tons. The makers having failed to agree, and to complete the consolidation under which a single selling agency was expected to sell all the rails for domestic use, or for export, the western works entered into an agreement by themselves and fixed their scale of prices at \$17 for Pittsburgh, \$18 for Chicago and \$19 for Colorado, and the Illinois steel works are said to have taken orders in a single week covering much the greater part of next year's capacity.

But eastern concerns have not been idle and have taken such large orders that the output of the year is now expected to exceed 2,000,000 tons. Bessemer pig iron is stronger at Pittsburgh, where purchases of 20,000 tons have cleared out stocks held outside the association, but is selling at \$10 40 there, while the association demands \$10 at Valley mills. Gray forge is steady, and other pig is in better demand at Chicago and Philadelphia. Finished products of iron and steel are unchanged in price, although plates and bars are in remarkably heavy demand, especially for car building.

Sales of wool have been large in November, 29,875,800 pounds in five weeks against 24,125,000 pounds last year and 26,821,000 pounds in 1897, but they have been effected by important concession in price. Manufacturers have some what larger orders and are more hopeful, but a considerable share of the machinery must inevitably remain idle until material is cheaper in comparison with the cost of wool and goods in other countries.

The rise of cotton to 6.2c, which has no other basis than an impression that cold weather and storms late in November might do much harm, reacted a sixteenth, but rose Friday and closed at the top price, with improvement in the goods market. While prices of print cloths are unchanged the price of some heavy goods and bleached shirtings are a trifle higher.

The wheat market has been weaker with heavy western receipts, and has declined 1/2c. Atlantic exports have been 6,123,956 bushels, flour included for the week, against 5,187,633 bushels last year, and Pacific exports 1,810,000 bushels, against 1,857,959 bushels year, and for five weeks the total exports have been 23,304,862 bushels against 22,122,709 bushels last year. Within the same time corn exports have been 14,490,283 bushels, 12,881,522 bushels last year, and price has risen 1/2c. It is a significant fact, which all interested keep well in mind, that export wheat about equal the greater known in any crop year this are accompanied by corn exports but slightly exceeded in the year greatest movement heretofore. possibility that foreign dependence American food supplies is permanent increasing may be worth consideration.