

Soudan is to have a newspaper and all modern improvements. The principal improvement now in contemplation is the inability to get anything to drink.

Unique Japan, original in art, original in literature, original in thought, has conceived a cabinet the members of which are absolutely without party affiliations. And the world looks on with amusement tempered by amazement.

According to the methods of the present day militarism, it costs the powers across the water about \$950,000,000 a year to "preserve the peace" of Europe. Peace is a good thing, but it should be possible one would think, to find some shorter and easier road to it than that.

On European railways the practice of issuing free transportation is almost unknown. In England there is an interchange of passes between the chief officials of the road, but only to a very limited extent. On the continent of Europe even this practice does not prevail and cash payments are required for all forms of railway transportation.

A correspondent of the London Daily News notes the growth of the use of English on the continent. Wherever he went he was able to converse with statesmen and diplomatists in his native tongue. He found that as a rule the governing classes in Europe would understand and speak English. In the Russian royal family especially, English is the familiar language of conversation. The czar, for instance, invariably speaks English to the czarina and his little daughters.

The decline of population is said to have become almost as serious a problem in the Kingdom of Greece as it is in the French republic, and the patriots are offering all sorts of schemes for its solution. The most amusing of all, says the Westminster Gazette, is the suggestion of an Athenian journal that the constituencies should refuse to listen to the address of any candidate for a seat in parliament—whatever may be his virtues or whatever his party—unless he be a married man! This universal demand of matrimony as a qualification for legislation, our Greek contemporary thinks, would exercise a powerful influence upon the selfish bachelors of Hellas. What splendid opportunities it would give for "heckling," if it were only partially adopted, we need scarcely to say.

The United States has a higher reputation for locomotive building than any other country in the world, and the Baldwin of Philadelphia, the Brookings of Providence, the Schenectady Locomotive works, the Richmond (Va.) company and other builders are now shipping locomotives to nearly every country on earth. The Chinese government has recently ordered eighty-three locomotives from the Baldwins, who send them also to the British government roads in Egypt. The Richmond company has recently sent a shipload of locomotives to Russia, the Schenectady company has sold a great many in Japan, and there is scarcely a nation where the whistle of an American locomotive cannot be heard. Even the emperor of Germany was hauled by an American locomotive when he went from Jaffa to Jerusalem.

At a recent meeting of the New England Association of School Superintendents a report was presented on legislative enactments, by a committee appointed a year ago. This committee consisted of the highest educational officer in each of the six New England states, and one purpose in its creation was to initiate a movement for the extension to the smaller and feebler towns of the superior facilities as to education now at the service of the children in the cities. On this point the committee recommends that the state supplement local effort in providing such facilities, with due regard, however, to local interest in the schools, and to local self-reliance in maintaining and managing them. Other recommendations are that laws for compulsory school attendance should be more stringently enforced, that there should be some minimum standard of professional training for the teachers, and that school committees should be required to appoint superintendents of schools especially trained and qualified to exercise that direct educational oversight of the schools that experience has found to be so helpful to efficiency therein, such small towns as are unable independently to employ superintendents to be united into districts for such employment, and to be sufficiently aided by the state to insure the success of the plan.

THE LITTLE RED SLED.
It knows! and a bevy of rollicking boys
Are shouting their glee in the streets;
My heart, as it shares in their jubilant joys,
Starts up with a livelier beat,
But all in a breath it is heavy as lead
And speaks in a sorrowful tone,
As I think, with a sigh, of a little, red sled
That is up in the attic, alone.
Oh, that little, red sled and the tales it could
tell,
With the ruses it won, for a theme,
Ere the little boy captain, who guided it
well,
Had wandered away in a dream.
As swift as the wings of the wind was the
flight
Down the long curving courses they sped,
While as proud as a prince and as brave as
a knight
Was the boy on that little, red sled.
As it harks to his playfellows merrily shout,
The little, red sled must know
It is time the good captain comes, sturdy and
stout,
To welcome the coming of snow.
It is wondering why he is waiting so long
To portion his play with the rest—
That boy who was first in the frolicsome
throng,
And whose little, red sled was best.
And I know that good captain, wherever he
be,
Could I hark to his whisper, would say
'Tis his pleasure that marvellous racer of
his
Shall join in the joys of today.
I shall lead in the greetings are lusty and
loud
Where brawn and where beauty is bred,
And the bravest and comeliest boy in the
crowd
Shall ride on that little, red sled.
—Nixon Waterman, in L. A. W. Bulletin.

A NEW ENGLAND CONSCIENCE.

Miss Hannah Davis sat in her accustomed rocker and began to sway gently to and fro. Rocking was helpful to thinking, and just now she was perplexed.
It was a question of conscience—a New England conscience at that; moreover, it began with a capital C. "I've got it in the house, and I might as well make it up," she mused.
"It" was a dress—a silk dress—a relic of days gone by.
"It's been lying there all these years," she went on, "and it seems real kind of sinful packed away there and not doing a soul a mite of good. It isn't right to have things put away 'where moth and rust doth corrupt.'"
She quoted this Bible authority with satisfaction.
"And 'twill look awful handsome made up, I guess 'twould be becoming, too."
She blushed guiltily, as if the thought were too vain for contemplation.
"And it would save me buying, too," she added, hastily. "My old alpaca isn't very good. I've turned and washed it till it really ain't decent, and 'twould cost considerable to buy a new one. And this dress all right in the house and costing nothing. I s'pose folks would think I was terribly extravagant, but then, I don't care. I guess if I give the money I'd take for a new black dress and give it to the missionary society, and wear the silk instead, nobody can find fault; but then, I ain't obliged to tell 'em anyway. They don't know how much I give to church purposes, and they couldn't say nothing even if I bought the silk outright. But then I ain't doing that. It's really saying. And it's awful handsome, too," she added in an undertone.

Miss Hannah surveyed herself in the small mirror. She readjusted the light, and then moved it from one side to the other, that she might see the image reflected more clearly. It was a very neat little figure that she saw. A somewhat wrinkled face, yet with a touch of youth and a pleased light in the steel-blue eyes.
"I shall look better than any one there," she said half aloud.
"As well as any one," she corrected.
"And I shan't tell any one that it's an old silk made over. That ain't necessary. You needn't tell all you know, Aunt Jane used to say, and I'm sure she was a very good woman."
She smiled happily as she gave one parting glance and turned away.
There was a perceptible stir when Miss Hannah Davis, closely followed by her sister-in-law, entered the parsonage.
"Hannah Davis's got a new dress," some one whispered loudly as she passed through a little knot of women on the way to the bedroom to lay aside her wraps.
"And it's a silk one, too."
The eyes of the entire assembly were on her as she emerged from the little room and sank down into the nearest empty chair without making the usual round of handshaking.
"She feels stuck up," one woman whispered to her neighbor. "Well, I guess a silk dress don't make her any better 'n the rest of us." The speaker reared her head and spoke across the intervening workers to Miss Hannah.
"We were just talking about a subscription, Miss Hannah," she said in a very audible tone. "It's for the Leavitt's. You know them. They've had awful luck lately, and there's a lot due on the mortgage, and we thought if we could just give them a little lift it would be real Christian like."
"I think 'twould be real nice," Miss Hannah assented warmly. "I'll be glad to give something, though I can't give much, you know."
She blushed as she spoke. All eyes were on her in the most uncomfortable way. Why did they kind of smile?
They must know she didn't have much money.
Could she afford to give fifty cents, she wondered.
"Well, how much will you give?" The voice came with startling distinctness.

"Five dollars, say?"
Miss Hannah started visibly. What were they thinking of? Her hands fell into her lap. They touched the smooth silk. It must be the dress.
"It's an old"—she started to say, but the words died on her lips.
"What did you say?" her tormentor leaned forward.
The minister's wife was standing in the door, smiling.
Miss Hannah shut her lips tight.
"Yes, you can put me down for five," she said in a metallic voice.
A thrill seemed to pass through the room. Then some new comers entered, and eager attention was turned to them.
"I hope you realize that you are properly punished for your sinful pride, Hannah Davis," she said, as she locked the door of her little room that night, and hastily took off the offending dress.
"It was vanity all the time that made you do it, and you knew it, but tried to save your conscience with saying it was economy."
She spoke rapidly.
"If you was so terribly anxious about being economical," scornfully, "why didn't you make over that magenta delaine? 'Twouldn't have been half as becoming, but 'twould have been just as economical. But you didn't think of that, did you?" A pause.
"And then you tried to hush your conscience by saying you'd give the money a new dress would cost to the missionary society."
"And now—now you've gone and given \$5 to that woman for her subscription, and it's a sin to spend money you can't afford."
She stared hard at the dress.
"And then you are scared into it because you was so proud, and pride is another sin. You didn't want them to think but what you could buy the dress and give away money, too. That makes three sins."
She closed her lips tight, then resolutely crossed the room and wrapped a clean piece of cotton about the neatly folded dress.
Then she went to the little davenport and wrote two notes.
Into one she slipped a five dollar bill, and directed it to the treasurer of the missionary society, then she directed the other to the minister's wife and went steadily across the room and pinned it on the bundle.
"I shall send it over the first thing in the morning," she said.
A happier light crept into her eyes as she blew out the candle.
"I guess my conscience will rest easier now," she said.—Commercial Tribune.

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S FAD.

He is Regarded as a Fashion Plate for the American Navy.
If there is any one thing which pleases Admiral Dewey it is neatness in dress. He has never been known to get a bad example in this respect, and is regarded by his subordinates as a fashion plate for the American navy. One of the standing orders following the establishment of routine duty in the fleet when there were no more Spanish ships to fight was one requiring all officers to wear their white uniforms.
One day a certain paymaster named Martin, who is afflicted with an abnormally bushy growth of red whiskers and a figure of pronounced rotundity, visited the Olympia on business connected with his department. As the paymaster mounted the gangway he was seen by Admiral Dewey, and a frown gathered on the brow of the autocrat of the fleet. Paymaster Martin was a sight to provoke a laugh from a ship's figurehead. He was arrayed in a dnn-colored suit of duck, a loosely woven undervest resembling a sweater shined beneath his jacket, and on his head was one of those enormous cork helmets with a circumference equal to that of an umbrella.
"Orderly, tell Paymaster Martin I wish to see him at once," said Admiral Dewey, and the orderly sought the paymaster with a grin on his face. A few moments later and the paymaster, very much pleased with being accorded the honor of visiting the quarter-deck, stood before the admiral and executed one of his very best salutes.
"Paymaster Martin," said the admiral in his chilliest tones, "I think you are drunk."
"I beg your pardon, admiral—I assure you I am not drunk—I am perfectly sober," stammered the paymaster, staggering under the blow his complaisance had received.
"I still think you have been drinking," continued the little man in spotless white, "for I can't believe you would come aboard this ship sober wearing such an outlandish uniform. Go back to your ship, sir, and don't let me ever see another violation of orders like this."

Advanced Education in India.

A native of Bombay, bearing the name of Tata, has just devoted a large part of his estate to the promotion of scientific research. To a provisional committee he has offered landed property sufficient to yield 162,000 a year, or the par equivalent in rupees which have the same local purchasing power. He means this to form the nucleus of an endowment of a post-graduate university like the now famous Johns Hopkins university of Baltimore. Mr. Tata seeks to realize, or at least to make a notable beginning in realizing this ideal. Even men like the Bengali physicist, Mr. Bose, have shown what technical science can make of Asiatics trained on right lines. Mr. Tata's offer is the outcome of careful observation and the consulting of experts in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe. In Lahore, also, the late Sir R. Dyal Singh has left \$400,000 in rupees at par for a college.—Brooklyn Citizen.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.
Space has a temperature of 200 degrees below zero.
Fish with white flesh are more easily digested than fish with reddish flesh.
It has been proved, as the result of experiments, that the circulation of the blood is affected by music.
A method of producing iodiform by the aid of electricity has just been invented, and is said to yield satisfactory results.
Corundum is composed of the oxide of aluminum (Al₂O₃), but traces of the oxides of other metals are generally present as coloring materials.
Since the passing of the first vaccination act in England, in 1841, the death rate from smallpox has fallen from 576 per million to 20 per million.
A French statistician has calculated that the human eye travels over 2000 yards in reading an ordinary sized novel. The average human being is supposed to get through 2500 miles of reading in a lifetime.
Electrical horticulture, Professor S. Leinstron assures us, is now practicable, although not fully understood. In his experiments of last year, the application of the electric current increased the yield of seeds at least 40 per cent., and of roots from 25 to 75 per cent., the results varying with the kind of plant and the nature of the soil.

HOME LIFE IN PUERTO RICO.

Reading Not a Strong Point of the Island's Population.
The native early morning meal is a cup of coffee with milk—addiction to the black coffee habit does not exist on the island—and a piece of bread. Breakfast is served at 11 or 12 o'clock, and is seldom elaborate, unless guests are in the house. Boiled eggs, bread and coffee satisfy the ordinary man, but the hungry man eats his garlicky beefsteak in addition.
Dinner is the meal of the day, and is eaten between 6 and 7 o'clock. This is the native's only full heavy meal, and this fact may account for his ability to eat a quantity of food which leaves the average American a victim to indigestion and remorse.
The positions of honor at a dinner table are, among the older and non-traveled residents, in the following order: The head of the table to the most distinguished guest; the rest, in the order of their rank and importance, ranged around to the right, the host occupying the last seat after his guests. The women sit at the left of the table, altogether. Among the more cultured classes the host occupies the head, the hostess the foot, the seats of honor being to the right and left of the host.

Fishwives Win From the Mayor.

The wives of the boatmen and mussel-gatherers living in the highly picturesque little town of Conway have just come off with flying colors in a municipal contest fought on novel lines. It appears that it has been their custom for a long time past to hang their weekly washing out on lines hung along the quay frontage, causing an eyesore to the mayor, who is a gentleman of aesthetic tastes, and others jealous of the reputation of their pretty little town. The mayor tried in vain to bring the good fishwives to his view of the matter, and then warned them that unless the eyesore was removed he would do it himself. The next washing day he was as good as his word, and on proceeding to the spot cut down the lines. An exciting municipal contest was in progress at the time, and the wives of the quay cottagers went on the warpath. They used their eloquence against the Conservative candidates on the mayor's side to such good effect that Radical members were returned to all the seats with overwhelming majorities; and the prospect is that for some years to come the esplanade of Conway will be adorned with its weekly display of laundry work as heretofore.—Liverpool Post.

The Fighting Maoris.

Some three hundred Maoris were shut up in trenches at a place called Orakau. Without food, except a few raw potatoes, without water, pounded by artillerists, and under a hail of rifle bullets and hand grenades; unsuccessfully assaulted no less than five times—they held out for three days, completely surrounded. General Cameron humanely sent a flag of truce, inviting them to surrender honorably. To this they made the ever-famous reply: "Enough! We fight right on, forever!" Then the general offered to let the women come out, and the answer was: "The women will fight as we!" At length, on the afternoon of the third day, the garrison in a body charged at quick march right through the English lines, fairly jumping over the heads of the men of the Fortieth regiment as they lay behind a bank. Half of them fell; the remainder got clear away. The earthworks and the victory remained with us, but the glory was theirs.—From "The Long White Cloud," by W. P. Reeves.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Modes That Are Popular For Coats, Gowns and Wrappers.

New York City (Special).—No feature of the season is more marked, says May Manton, than the variety shown in the coats, which are short, long or of three-quarter length, but—



A CHIC LADIES' COAT.

toned down to the edge or are finished in cutaway style as preferred. The example given in the illustration runs to no extremes yet is genuinely stylish and chic at the same time that it is useful and practical. As shown the material is tan colored cloaking cloth with a frill of satin ribbon as finish, and two handsome buttons used as fastenings for the collar but both smooth and rough-faced cloths with both velvet and velours are equally suitable and are all in vogue.
The backs fit snugly to the figure but the fronts are slightly loose and terminate in the fitted flounce that is so conspicuous in wraps as well as

front. At the neck is a deep collar cut with points that rest against the hair just back of the ears and serve as a setting for the head and face. The sleeves are snug and long as are all those of latest cut, and are finished with small roll-over cuffs.
The skirt is gored and fits smoothly about the figure, no fulness being shown at the waist, but flares stylishly at the bottom and touches at the front while it lengthens to form the slightest of trains at the back.
To make this waist for a lady of medium size two and three-fourth yards of material forty-four inches wide will be required.
To make the skirt in the medium size five yards of material forty-four inches wide will be required.

Both Serviceable and Picturesque.

No one of the many good things brought to us from the East is at once more serviceable and more picturesque than the Japanese Kimono which we have converted to our own use and adapted to Western needs. At home in its native land it becomes formal as well as informal dress, difference being made in material rather than in cut, but with our somewhat more restricted ideas its use in this part of the world has been confined to the hours of ease and relaxation and to the masquerade which makes all things allowable.

As shown it is worn with the sash or obi as is the custom of the little ladies to whom it belongs by right, and as it should always be when the entire costume is to be preserved, but for lounging use it can be left to fall free if preferred. The material chosen for the model is figured Japanese silk with bands and sash of plain color and the combination makes a most satisfactory as well as characteristic effect. But the blue and white chijimi cloth and innumerable inexpensive cotton stuffs can be substituted even where

the national characteristic is to be maintained, while for use within one's own room it is perfectly correct to use the form in conjunction with any material that gives a satisfactory result. The long, flowing sleeves, the perfect adaptability to the figure, combined with the little width mean comfort,



A STRIKING AFTERNOON COSTUME.

gowns. The sleeves are snug and are fitted with darts after the latest style while the wrists are finished with deep circular frills that fall well over the hands. At the neck is a deep collar also furnished with a fitted frill that in turn is edged with the ribbon which makes a becoming as well as smart trimming for the coat. Being of heavy cloth no interlining is required and only satin of the same shade as the cloth is used, but thinner materials demand more warmth and call for wool wadding between the lining and the outside.
To make this coat for a lady of medium size four yards of material fifty-four inches wide will be required.

First Hint of Spring Modes.

In spite of the popularity and the convenience of the odd waist there is a certain inherent elegance found in the entire costume and well dressed women aim to possess one such at the least. The model shown in the large engraving is stylish and simple at the same time and includes the important features to be looked for in simple spring gowns which fact makes it eminently desirable both for new gowns and those that are to be remodelled during the long winter days. All light weight wool stuff and such silks as taffets and bengaline are both fashionable and suitable, but the model is made from Henrietta cloth in Cuban red, vest with revers of white satin including polka dots of the same deep color, and a belt of black velvet which adds the final touch.
The waist, which is full but not bloused, is tucked diagonally across the fronts and the upper parts of the sleeves and is arranged upon a fitted lining which closes at the centre

case and grace without encumbrance, in addition to which the Kimono is simplicity itself and requires absolutely no skill beyond that possessed by any woman who has learned to sew.



KIMONO FOR A LADY.