

After all, even if the French solved the problem of getting into England, they would still be confronted with the other one—how to stay there.

The Oregon's great trip around the Horn cost \$47,987 and \$50,226 for coal. It was well worth the price, seeing that it proved what our ships could do in the matter of distance.

An American girl employed in one of the departments of the Paris Exposition received 177 proposals of marriage from men of fourteen different nationalities. The American girl is in demand wherever she is.

American exports in New Zealand are rapidly increasing, especially hardware. The American firms have wisely adopted the plan, which lies at the base of all successful export trade, of supplying what the colonies desire and not trying to force on them whatever the manufacturers wish to sell.

The thousands of sardine and other tin boxes that are thrown away every month form the basis of an industry which has reached vast proportions. These refuse tins are stamped by machinery into tin soldiers, and sold so cheaply that the poorest children can possess them; yet the manufacturer makes a fair profit, which he could not do if he used new material.

Frederic Harrison, in the North American Review, scathingly arraigns the low moral tone of British social life. "During the reign of the Queen," he declares "wanton extravagance in dress, in living, in gayeties, has never been so crazy as now, with such sordid devices to scrape together the means for extravagance, such open sale of rank and person by those who claim to lead society and to dictate taste."

To be naturalized in Great Britain an alien must have lived there for at least five years, or have served the Crown for a like period; and he must continue to reside in the British jurisdiction unless he continue in the government service in a foreign country. A naturalized citizen has all the "political and other rights, powers and privileges" to which a native born Briton is entitled, and is subject to the same obligations as is the latter.

A dispatch from London intimates that the British are becoming reconciled to American meat, and no longer demand that it shall be imposed upon them under the guise of a product of the United Kingdom. Some prejudices are hard to break down, but it will be admitted they are all liable to succumb to reason and other allurements when we find John Bull virtually surrendering the idea that there is no meat like "the beef of old England."

The University club of Baltimore, a capital of gastronomy, the other day treated itself to a muskrat supper. The muskrat is much prized by the French-Canadians, we believe, and by a number of Americans, but his merits as food are too little known in the United States. The University club steward served him in the Maryland style, stewed in his own gravy; in the New Jersey style, which offers him up whole; and in the Virginia style, which splits and broils him. According to the Baltimore Sun "the muskrat was declared by those present to be a most toothsome delicacy, almost, if not quite, equal to the diamondback terrapin and much superior to the rabbit."

Chicago papers do not tire of sounding the praises of the city's juvenile court, and of the good work it is doing in the reformation of wayward boys. The reports made are ample justification for the praise. In the last year six probation officers, aided by 16 policemen, 20 truant officers, and 40 volunteers, have handled 3300 cases of delinquents in the slums of Chicago. The fact that the juvenile court has jurisdiction in all such cases, with power to compel obedience, has a restraining influence on boys and a disciplinary influence on parents. In many cases the offender is not taken before the juvenile court at all. The probation officer—sometimes the principal of a public school—notifies the father that unless the erring boy complies with certain rules he will be taken before the court and possibly sentenced to the John Worthy school or to the reformatory at Pontiac. Then the boy is given a trial. No one in the neighborhood or in the school he attends knows that he is on probation. If the boy chooses to avoid the court he has the opportunity, and in nine cases out of ten, according to the Chicago Inter Ocean, he makes good use of the opportunity.

### LET US SMILE.

The thing that goes the furthest toward making life worth while, That costs the least and does the most is just a pleasant smile. The smile that bubbles from a heart that loves its fellowmen Will drive away the clouds of gloom and coax the sun again. It's full of worth and goodness, too, with many kindnesses blended— It's worth a million dollars, and it doesn't cost a cent.

There is no room for sadness when we see a cheery smile— It always has the same good look—it's never out of style— It herves us on to try again when failure makes us blue; The dimples of encouragement are good for me and you. It pays a higher interest, for it is merely "lent" — It's worth a million dollars, and it doesn't cost a cent.

A smile comes very easy—you can wrinkle up with cheer A hundred times before you can squeeze out a sorry tear. It rippled on, moreover, to the heart-strings that will tug. And always leaves an echo that is very like a bug. So, smile away. Folks understand what by a smile is meant, It's worth a million dollars, and it doesn't cost a cent. —Baltimore American.

### QUEER MISS MARIA.

By J. L. Harbourn.

NO one ever knew the exact cause of the estrangement between Maria Devlin and her distinguished brother, the Hon. Horace Devlin. The Devlins had always been wisely reticent regarding their family affairs. It was understood that there had been a violent quarrel over the large estate left by the father of the brother and sister, and that they had never spoken to each other since the division of the property. The estrangement must have been embarrassing to both of them, since they lived in a small town and could not help meeting frequently.

The Hon. Horace was much more popular than his sister Maria. She had always been somewhat eccentric, and this eccentricity had become more marked after her quarrel with her brother.

Her father had been a man of very simple tastes, and had lived all his life in the plain old red house that had been his father's and his grandfather's. It was a great and bitter trial to Maria when her brother, not long after their father's death, tore down the old house and built on its site a very large and pretentious modern mansion.

Miss Maria had her father's simple tastes, and her associations of the old house were very dear to her, even when it was no longer her home. The big, showy mansion was an offence to her eyes every time she passed it. In marked and striking contrast to her brother's house was her own. It was as much an eyesore to her brother as his house was to Miss Maria.

When the Devlin estate had finally been divided, Miss Maria moved into a tiny old house once occupied by her father's gardener. It was hardly tenable, and Miss Maria made few repairs before moving into it. It stood directly across the road from her brother's fine home, and was a decided blemish on the landscape seen from his spacious front piazza. He had, through his attorney, made his sister an offer to buy it at a price far more than its value, but the offer had been so promptly and so decidedly rejected that it had never been repeated.

It was thought that Miss Maria allowed the old house to remain in a state of neglect, and the premises to be in a state of continual disorder, for the sole purpose of adding to her brother's annoyance and mortification. She also added many irritating traits to her many eccentricities of character, and was nearly always spoken of by the people of the town as "queer Miss Maria."

Her sister-in-law was an extremely fashionable lady, while Maria went about in the shabbiest and most antiquated of garments. She was far from being scrupulously tidy, and seemed to take delight in setting aside the ordinary conventionalities of life. It was known, however, that she was very good and kind to the poor, while her brother was by no means noted for his generosity toward them.

The Hon. Horace Devlin entertained lavishly, while his sister never entertained at all, and did not go into society. It was regarded as scandalous that Miss Maria should have chosen to spend the afternoon in her front yard with a man's hat on her head and her skirts pinned up about her waist on the day of her brother's grand lawn party, when he had a carload of guests out from the city.

So the breach between the brother and sister widened until there was no probability that it would ever be bridged over. When they met they stared at each other in stony silence.

Wenfield, the town in which the Devlins lived, was a small manufacturing place. Most of its inhabitants worked in the mills. Many of them were thrifty men and women, who saved as much as they could of their earnings, and deposited them in the one savings bank in Wenfield.

The Hon. Horace Devlin was cashier of the Wenfield savings bank, and never had there been such wild excitement throughout the town as on the morning when a placard appeared on the bank door bearing the two ominous words:

**BANK CLOSED.**

Men and women left their work and

hurried to the bank with eager and anxious faces. Many had in it the savings of a lifetime, and they stared at the portentous words with wildly beating hearts. There was the most outspoken indignation when the truth became known. The fact was that the Hon. Horace Devlin had brought shame and disgrace on an old and honored name, and privation and possible poverty to many homes by becoming a defaulter.

It was discovered that he had for years been speculating with money belonging to the bank, and his defalcations were sufficient to embarrass it. It was feared that its doors must be permanently closed, and that the depositors would lose all, or at least the most of their savings. The Hon. Horace Devlin was missing, and no trace of his whereabouts could be found.

A week after the closing of the bank another notice appeared on its doors. The second notice was as follows:

Notice—All creditors of the Wenfield Savings Bank are hereby requested to meet in the town hall on Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Many who were not creditors of the bank crowded into the town hall with the bank depositors on Friday evening. Indeed, the hall was filled to overflowing, and no one seemed to have any definite idea of what was to be done.

When 8 o'clock came no one had yet appeared on the platform, but a few minutes later a door at the rear opened, and to the amazement of all present, Miss Maria Devlin walked forward and faced the people.

There was an instant hush. One could almost hear the breathing of the spectators, Miss Maria herself seemed calmer than any of them. Her voice was perfectly steady when she began to speak. Every word could be heard in all parts of the hall.

"My friends," she said, simply, "I am here to make reparation for the wrong done you by my brother, Horace Devlin. The Devlins have always been honest people. No man ever had a higher or a more deserved reputation for honesty than my father. He owed no man anything, nor do I. I feel that I owe it to my father to make full amends for his son's wrongdoing, and to do all that I can to remove the shame and disgrace he has brought on a good and honorable name.

"Now I am here to say that I will pay every dollar due the depositors who had money in the Wenfield Savings Bank, and—"

"Hooray for Miss Maria!" shouted a wildly excited man in the rear of the hall. "Hooray!"

The crowd took up the cry and the hall rang as it had never had before.

"Hooray for the Devlin name!" shrieked some one else, when partial order had been restored. "Hooray for old Judge Devlin, as good and honest a man as ever walked the earth! Three cheers for him and his honest daughter, Miss Maria!"

Again the hall resounded with the plaudits of the multitude. When order was finally restored, Miss Maria said quietly:

"My lawyer, Mr. Dawson, will take charge of the matter of making the payments due. That is all I have to say, except to express my deep regret that this shameful thing has happened. Good night."

Queer Miss Maria left the hall amid the renewed applause of the great crowd.

"She is her father's daughter, that's what she is!" said Dr. Hale, as the people were going out of the hall.

"You couldn't say a better thing about her," said Dawson, the lawyer.

From that time forth Miss Maria had a new place in the affections and respect of the people of Wenfield. She was still "queer Miss Maria," but the people knew that her heart was right.—Youth's Companion.

### No Library For Architects.

"The architects of New York City," remarked one of them, "are handicapped in one respect, as are the members of no other professional class. In this entire metropolis there is no such thing as a working reference library on architectural subjects; no public library, I mean, nor any similar collection, outside of those obtained and owned by individuals. Your lawyer, desiring to refer to a rare book, has several places to turn to and can carry out almost any course of investigation right here in town. What with clubs and other organizations, he is well supplied. Even physicians and the clergy are fairly well off. But where can an architect find any reference book beyond those of the most popular or rudimentary sort? He must buy his own. My partner and I have this year put \$1100 into a library for our office, and there is hardly anything to show for it. A small bookcase against one narrow wall-space is not calculated to impress either clients or clerks with our stored-up learning. And when our draughtsmen take out a book of valuable plates and throw it around the work tables there's no telling how much of the book will ever get put back in place. So our \$1100 is as good as lost in advance. If we had \$11,000 to spend, we might get a library that would make a good show for an architectural office, considered as furniture merely. But it would melt away as the books were put into rough-and-ready use. The New York architects need not only the books for a public or semi-public library, they need a house for it, too, and the surroundings and special care to make the collection permanently serviceable."—New York Sun.

The people of Detroit register more letters than those of any other city. Chicago ranks next.

## FARM TOPICS

Farm Work in Winter.

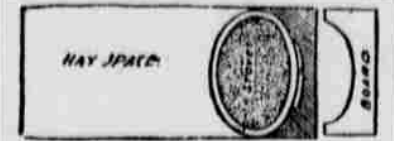
All work that can be done in winter is so much gain. To cut the food for stock may be laborious, but labor that cannot be employed entails as heavy a loss as when no remuneration is received for that devoted to matters on the farm.

### Efficiency of Cheap Fertilizers.

Cheap fertilizers are a treat for some crops. It is possible that the land may be well supplied with nitrogen from the growing on the soil of clover or cow peas. The farmer will then need only potash and phosphoric acid, which can be purchased at about five cents per pound. As nitrogen sells for about fifteen cents per pound, its cost is three times as much as the other substances. The cheap fertilizers are therefore the most efficient according to circumstances.

### A Feed Manger.

To make a durable feed manger get the base of an old base burner stove, wire the doors together and set it in



A HANDY FEED MANGER.

place. Cut a circular piece of board and let it lap one inch around the top of the iron manger, to keep the feed from falling around the outside.—American Agriculturist.

### How to Keep Out the Wind.

It costs something to shingle or clapboard an old barn so as to keep the wind and cold from reaching the stables, but some have sealed the stables by light boarding inside the studding, not quite to the top, but so as to cut off direct draughts from the animals, while forcing fresh air to enter at the top of the stable. Others have lined the walls with straw, held in place by battens, and some have covered all cracks with tarred paper or even several thicknesses of newspapers to keep out the wind. These are but cheap makeshifts, but they are better than having cold stables.

### Proper Food For Growing Animals.

The growing animal requires more lime in its food than one that is matured, as the bones are composed of phosphate of lime. Corn and oats contain but very little lime, while clover, bran and linseed meal are rich in that mineral. A strong and vigorous animal cannot be produced from an exclusive grain diet. In some sections where hogs were fed almost exclusively on grain investigations resulted in the discovery that disease was due to a lack of the foods rich in the mineral elements. Many cases of supposed "swine cholera" have been traced to the feeding of corn to the exclusion of other foods.

### Economy in Feeding.

Economy in feeding is to sell all produce that brings a fair price in market and buy the cheaper by-products. Corn at fifty cents per bushel may be sold to advantage if bran, middlings, linseed meal, cottonseed meal and gluten meal can be purchased at \$15 per ton, as the corn would give a profit on such an exchange. A pound of linseed meal is worth more than two pounds of corn as food, as the linseed meal contains more protein and mineral matter. The same may be claimed for bran and middlings. They are more complete as foods than corn or oats, though corn and oats may also be added to the ration for some kinds of stock. Where the farmer makes a large gain by the exchange, however, is in the increased value of the manure. The by-products being in a fine condition require no grinding, and when fed in connection with hay, straw or corn fodder, cut fine, effects a saving in food and gives a greater variety to the animals. Such foods may be used every month in the year.—Philadelphia Record.

### Loss by Grazing.

There seems to be much truth in the following statement made by Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson at Canton, Ohio, not long ago: "With regard to meat-producing animals, the prices are high and will continue high, because the people west of the Mississippi River who graze their stock on the range country have been destroying the grasses so systematically that they are not able, in many of the States, now to maintain more than fifty per cent. of the meat-producing animals found there a few years ago. The meats of the country in the future must be produced on the farms of the country." There is, and always must be, a loss by grazing, and probably the acreage that will feed one animal running at large would feed three as well if the green product were cut and fed under suitable conditions. There is a loss of fodder when grazed, by its being trod down by animals lying on it and by their evacuations spoiling or covering it. When we have machines which will cut and gather the grass and take it to the barn cheaply enough while the animal has only to eat and digest it, we shall be able to keep three or four times as many as now, and the saving of all the manure at the stables will enable us to make our land much more productive.—American Cultivator.



## THE EDICTS OF FASHION.

New York City.—The demand for fancy waists increases month by month. The May Manton model illustrated exemplifies the latest features and is suited alike to the entire cos-



WOMAN'S FANCY WAIST.

time and the odd skirt. Panne velvet, satin sultan, taffeta and still newer panne plush, are all suitable for the latter, all dress materials for the former; but as shown the waist is made from soft-finished white taffeta in combination with cream gaiter over white and pale yellow panne velvet. The foundation is a fitted lining that closes at the centre front and should

stylish ulster or automobile coat.

The back is seamless, but curved to the figure with ease and grace and is joined to the fronts by means of under-arm gores. The box fronts are loose, and lap one over the other in double-breasted style, a generous patch pocket being placed on each side. Over the shoulders fall two circular capes and the neck is finished with a deep turn-over collar. The sleeves are two-seamed and comfortably snug without being tight.

To cut this coat for a woman of medium size six yards of material forty-four inches wide, or four and three-quarter yards fifty inches wide, will be required.

### A Fine, Flimsy Affair.

The single-mesh veil, a fine, flimsy affair, is in demand just now in Paris and London. It will be right welcome on this side of the Atlantic if it supplants the ornate fancy tissues and fish-net caprices which make for ladies an effectual disguise.

### Woman's Breakfast Jacket.

The breakfast jacket that is stylish and comfortable at the same time has become essential to every complete wardrobe. The May Manton model illustrated complies with all the requirements both of fashion and of the wearer and is smart at the same time that it means ease and comfort.

The back is seamless, but, together with the under-arm gores, curves to fit the figure gracefully. The centre fronts are laid in narrow tucks at the upper portion and fall free below the bust. The fronts proper are also tucked at the shoulders and are joined to the centre portions beneath the trimming, which can be embroidered



A STORM COAT.

be carefully boned. The back proper fits smoothly across the shoulders and is drawn down in fulness at the waist line. The lace plastron is attached to the right lining front included in the shoulder seam and hooks over into place at the left. Single box pleats are formed on the edges of the fronts, a second being invisibly applied at evenly spaced distance. The trimming of velvet-edged insertion passes around the back at round yoke depth and finishes in pointed ends over the pleats in front. Soft decorative straps of velvet in graduated widths hold the fronts in position as illustrated. The sleeves are in bishop style, finished with pointed cuffs. At the neck is a stock collar that curves upward in stylish points.

To cut this waist for a woman of medium size three and a quarter yards of material twenty-one inches wide, or one and three-eighth yards forty-four inches wide, will be required, with three-quarter yard eighteen inches wide for plastron, and two and three-quarter yards of insertion and one yard of panne velvet to trim as illustrated.

### The New Storm Coat.

The value of the coat that covers and protects the gown is too completely self-evident to require urging. The exceedingly smart May Manton model shown in the large cut has the merit of being absolutely simple and practical, as well as in the latest style and can be made to serve for a general utility garment, or a wrap to wear over evening gowns, as well as for stormy weather. As illustrated the material is waterproof cloth and the cloak is adapted to damp days; but made from broadcloth and lined with wadded silk it becomes an entirely satisfactory "sortie du bal," and made from covert cloth or other suitable material is again transformed into a



BREAKFAST JACKET.

and a quarter yards thirty-two inches wide, or two and a half yards forty inches wide when only is used.