

A New York Judge has refused to decide between two songs in rag time. This is a sort of task that might have made Solomon himself take fright at the height of his judicial career.

In the fact that judgement has just been given in an English Chancery case involving the property of a testator who died in 1838, admirers of Dickens will find a curious corroborative detail.

There are more daily newspapers in Costa Rica than in any other Central American republic. The natives of the other Central American countries rely almost exclusively on weekly and monthly publications.

Investigation by the state veterinarian showed that the high death rate among horses in Maryland is due to cerebro-spinal meningitis. The disease is the result of poor food, bad drainage and generally unsanitary environment.

The Philadelphia Times notes as one of the "queer things" that law officers are at work in that city looking for children to go to school under the Compulsory Education act, when there is not room enough for the children who try to get into the schools of their own volition.

Knowledge and the higher education are worth acquiring for their own sake. If every college graduate in the land for a hundred years died without accumulating property, or even died poor in this world's goods it would not constitute an argument against college education. As a matter of fact, however, any training that disciplines, broadens and enriches the mind, as university or college training does, must supply a better equipment for grappling readily and successfully with the problem of existence, whether in the learned professions or in department of commercial endeavor. It is not the primary function of a college to show a man how to make money, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald.

In the history of medicine a great deal of space must be given to the disappointments of the most sanguine hopes. At frequent intervals a positive cure for some incurable malady is announced, and for a time the exalted hopes and confident expectations produce a happy effect on patients. In a great majority of cases, however, the benefits soon disappear, and the cure is consigned to the limbo of the useless. In the light of experience it would be foolish to base large hopes on the power of the shrub "tua-tua" to cure leprosy. Experiments with its effects have been few, and, although favorable, they warrant only the conclusion that the shrub should be given a more extended trial among the lepers at Tahiti and elsewhere, states the Philadelphia Record.

The New York Commercial Advertiser remarks that it seems as if enterprising Australia were to be the first country of size which will grant women equal rights with men in property and franchise. Premier Barton of the commonwealth government recently distributed prizes at the Methodist ladies' college in Melbourne, and in the course of his speech said that one of his colleagues had prepared a bill which would be presented at the present session of parliament which would put women on the same footing as men, and that, moreover, the bill would have the support of the government. In New Zealand and South Australia women already enjoy the franchise, and it has worked so well, said Mr. Barton, that its extension to the whole of Australia is regarded as one of the most important measures that is to be carried through this year.

A writer in the Forum says that punishment for crime has much to do with making criminals. This statement seems paradoxical, but it is an indisputable fact. Hundreds may be saved from a life of crime by the proper administration of the criminal laws. It used to be thought that severity of punishment was the wise course, indeed the only method to prevent crime. Fear, no doubt, deters many; but it is not fear that must be chiefly relied upon to save men from crime. Crime existed when men were drawn and quartered, and when death was the penalty not only for murder but for many minor offences. It existed when the death penalty was inflicted in public places, and when the plucking out of an eye, the cutting off of the hand, and various other kinds of torture were common punishments. No man was ever made better by being put in the stocks. Severity is useful only in cases in which reformation is hopeless, and in which absolute removal from all social intercourse is therefore necessary.



EGG SHELL ROOSTER.

When all is said and done, if it had happened in a large city like Chicago, where there are sometimes scores of people who have the same names, it would not have seemed so strange, but it was in a small town, and this is the way it happened:

On one of the streets where all of the houses were large and beautiful and all their owners rich, stood one house more magnificent than the rest. From the outside it looked like a palace, and the richness and beauty of the inside proved it to be one in truth.

Here lived a young woman, Nellie Graham, and her mother, father and two brothers. And here, too, her cousin, Frank Orr, made his home during his vacations from college.

On a very different street from the one where this beautiful home was lived another Nellie Graham, a little girl of eleven. Her home was a very small and humble one of only three rooms.



It was now the Saturday before Easter. Mrs. Graham was busy preparing a little supper, while in the front room in the snow-white bed lay that other Nellie. Her eyes were as blue as the pretty hepatica that is one of the first of the children of the woods to push its little head through the brown leaves and open its eye, and her hair was as yellow as the golden sunbeams that kiss the hepatica's blue eye. Before she was sick there was a red rose on each cheek, but they were faded now, and the little face seemed as white as the pillow on which it lay.

"Mamma," said a faint voice, "did you see any Easter lilies to-day?"

"Yes, dear," answer mamma, while

something fell from her eye onto the dish she had in her hand, for she knew how much Nellie longed for one of the beautiful plants for her own, and she also knew that Nellie's wish could not be granted, for the plants were so high-priced that year, and every dollar that she could save must be laid aside for the rent that was now over-due. Nellie knew this, too, so she tried not to complain.

"If I could only see one and touch and smell it, even if I couldn't keep it!" she said. And the brightest smile that had lit up the little thin face for weeks played around Nellie's mouth.

Her mother smiled, too, for she was thinking of the little surprise she had planned for her sick child. She had stopped at a florist's in the afternoon and ordered a small bunch of violets for Nellie; and thinking it would be a pleasanter surprise for her if they were sent, she did not bring them home herself, and so Nellie was not now expecting anything. It was a small bunch of very modest little flowers, but it was as much as her mother could afford, and oftentimes small gifts show more love than large ones.

While Nellie and her mamma were

both busy with their own thoughts there came a loud rap at the door, and, expecting to receive the violets, Mrs. Graham answered the knock.

But Frank Orr had also visited the florist that afternoon and had ordered the most beautiful Easter lily in the store to be sent to his cousin, the Nellie who lived in the beautiful house.

Toward evening the old colored man who worked for the florist was sent out to deliver the flowers that had been ordered. He had often before taken flowers to the Graham mansion for the beautiful Miss Nellie, and he also knew about the other Nellie in the little house. He had heard of her through his own little daughter, whom Nellie had once defended when some rude boys were teasing her, and he knew that she was now very sick.

"Uncle Moses," as he was called by everybody, had ideas of his own that sometimes surprised people. So now as he neared the house where the magnificent lily was to go he looked at it, then at the small bunch of violets. Something seemed to puzzle him, for he ran his fingers through his hair, then his face fairly shone as a thought came to him.

"Land o' massy! B'lieve I'll do it, suh. De names is jist alike, and Miss Nellie heah don no mo' need dis lily dan nothin'. She got all she wants an' mo' besides, while dat other little Nellie's so sick, and likes 'nuf never'll get well. An' if dey blame me I'll say dat it seemed to me it ought to be jist dis way I'm doin'."

So Uncle Moses left the violets at the big house, and when he knocked at the door of the little house, handed Mrs. Graham the beautiful Easter lily instead of the violets she expected.

"Why, Uncle Moses, this is a mistake,



Isn't it?" said Nellie's mamma.

"Donn dis card tied to it say 'Miss Nellie Graham?' asked Uncle Moses, chuckling to himself.

"Yes, but—"

"Den it must be for Nellie, an' yuh bettah take it."

So Mrs. Graham took the lily, thinking perhaps the florist had sent it purposely as a gift to the sick child, and on Monday she would go to the store and thank him for it, and if it was a mistake they could send the lily back, but Nellie could enjoy it all day Easter, anyway.

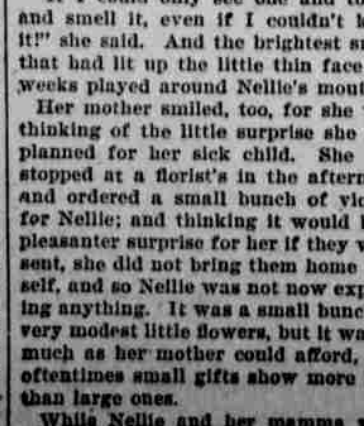
She carried the lily into Nellie's room. "Oh, mamma! Am I dreaming? My lily! My beautiful lily! And is it all my own?"

Mamma cut off one of the six white blossoms so Nellie could hold it in her hand, and in the afternoon, as the sun peeped in to look at the white face, it saw the most beautiful, happy smile on Nellie's face, while her thin hand clasped her loved lily.

From that day Nellie got better, and no one can make her believe that it was not the Easter lily that helped her get well, and Uncle Moses never regretted that there were two Nellie Gramahs in that town.—Mabel F. Scofield, in the Chicago Record-Herald.

Some happy suggestions as to decorating souvenirs of the coming feast day for distribution among your friends. You'll know to whom each design may appropriately be sent.

Power of Imagination.
"Harry, you were restless in church."
"Yes; some of the Easter hats looked so much like salads that I got awfully hungry."

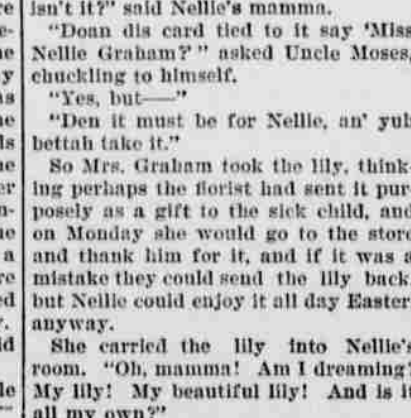


frail materials. A writer in the Ladies' Home Journal gives the following direction: To make the candlestick place upon a piece of cardboard three eggs, and fasten to cardboard and to each other with sealing wax. On top of these three fasten another egg, and on this again a stick about five inches in height. Upon the top of this stick fasten a "half-shell," which has been previously scalloped, and place in a dainty candle. The illustration shows exact-



pend with delicate wire a scalloped "half-shell," and on top of the egg place another. Set the whole upon the bottom of an inverted tumbler. If rightly made it will balance perfectly upon the tack point. Place pieces of candles inside of scalloped shells and light. Wire may be fastened to the egg shells by boring a hole with the point of a penknife and then passing through wire and fastening on the inside.

slender piece of tallow, taken from the side of a candle for the neck, and on top of this place a small chunky lump of the same material for a head. The pieces of tallow may be easily jointed together by first slightly melting the ends where adherence is desired. The rooster's bill is made of two small fragments of shell stuck into the tallow head. The eyes are two tiny drops of sealing wax. The comb is a piece of flattened sealing wax, and the



tail is a ragged piece of egg shell. The feet may be made of sealing wax drawn into shape while it is still soft. Night lilies may be made by first soaking a number of "half-shells" in warm water for twenty minutes. Then scallop the edges of these with a pair of sharp scissors. Fasten a small piece of candle in each with sealing wax and float upon the water. A most enchanting scene is produced by floating these in an aquarium containing goldfish. All other lights in the room must be turned out.

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Evening Fun With Egg-shells

EGG shells, that are usually thrown away in the kitchen, can be used for the purpose of making the loveliest, daintiest little objects. For both girls and boys nothing could be more interesting than building candlesticks of these



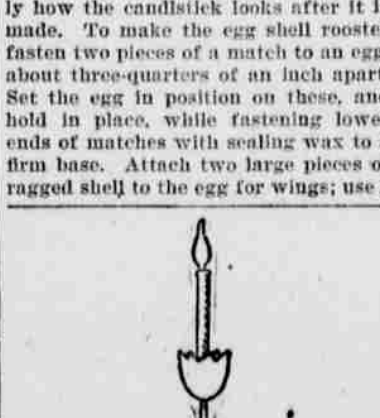
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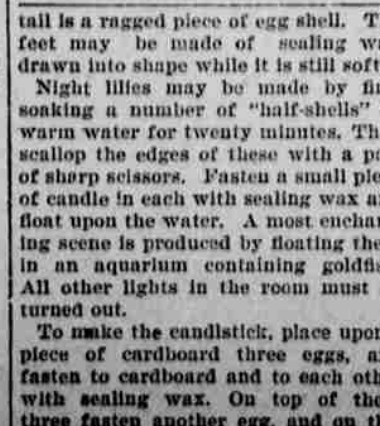
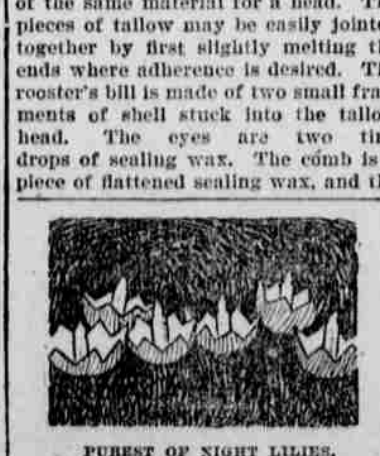
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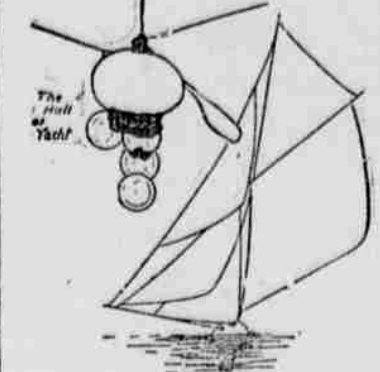
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again a stick about five inches in height. Upon the top of this stick fasten a "half-shell" which has been previously scalloped, and place in a dainty candle. The illustration shows exactly how the candlestick looks after it is made.

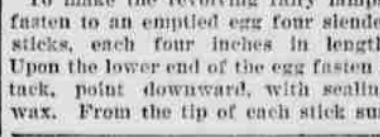
To make an egg yacht, first empty an uncooked hen's egg. Do this by making a small hole in each end, when the contents may be blown out easily. Then close up both openings with sealing wax; join a number of coins together for the keel, fasten this firmly to the egg—all fastenings to be made with sealing wax—and your yacht is ready for launching. If it floats properly cut out the mast and spars from very light wood; fasten these to hull and to each other with sealing wax. Place the delicate wooden rudder and bowsprit in position, and proceed to make sails of tissue paper. Fasten the main and top sails in place with prepared glue—the jib sails first to long pieces of thread, and these, in turn, to mast and bowsprit. Flaps and pen-



RACE FOR THE EGG-CUP.

nants may be made to adhere with mucilage or glue. The exact dimensions of mast and spars cannot be given, as so much depends upon the lightness of the material used and the size of the egg hull. Select as large an egg as can be procured for the hull; make the mast and spars as light as possible, and see that your yacht always sets perfectly even upon the surface of the water.

To make the revolving fairy lamps, fasten to an emptied egg four slender sticks, each four inches in length. Upon the lower end of the egg fasten a tack, point downward, with sealing wax. From the tip of each stick sus-

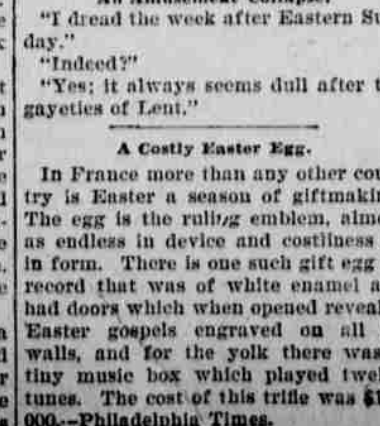
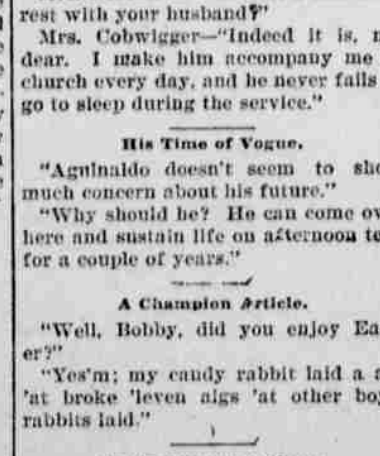


REQUISITE FAIRY LAMPS.

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OLD IDEAS ABOUT GEMS.

Some Beliefs That Prevailed Among the People of Ancient Days.

The Indians called rock crystal an "invincible diamond," and until the beginning of the eighteenth century India was thought to be the only land which produced that precious stone. It was not, therefore, until the discovery of India that the diamond was known to us. Yet as far back as 500 B. C. a "Didactic History" of precious stones was written, and in Pliny's time the supply must have been plentiful, as he writes: "We drink out of a mass of gems, and our drinking vessels are formed of emeralds." We are also told that Nero aided his weak sight by spectacles made of emeralds. But it is very difficult to determine whence all the gems came, as discoverers took care to leave no record. The nations who traded in them were afraid of their whereabouts being known, and even the most ancient merchants would not disclose any definite locale. All sorts of myths have, accordingly, sprung up concerning the origin of gems. "Diamond" was the name given to a youth who was turned into the hardest and most brilliant of substances to preserve him from "the ill that flesh is heir to." Amethyst was a beautiful nymph beloved by Bacchus, but saved from him by Diana, who changed Amethyst into a gem; whenupon Bacchus turned the gem into wine color, and endowed the wearer with the gift of preservation from intoxication. The pearl was thought to be a dewdrop the shell had opened to receive. Amber was said to be honey melted by the sun, dropped into the sea, and congealed. According to the Talmud, Noah had no light in the ark but that which came from precious stones.

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