obstacany failing upon the dcuble sky-light.

One figure was already completed. A bright, brown-haired, brown-eyed woman, the pose of whose head, the very fold of whose dress, told of life and animation. If those painted lips could only open, one felt sure the dismal day would be forgotten in the stream of gay and witty words which would rush forth, so naturally had Jack portrayed her. But then, Jack was in love with the original, and had worked weeks and weeks, changing a bit here and a bit there, until not one line was needed to make it perfect.

perfect.

And the other figure was a weird sight And the other figure was a weird sight indeed; a fair, slight woman, languidly lying back on a wicker chair, her golden hair catching and reflecting the sunlight in a blaze of glory; but there the beauty ceased, for in the place of her face was but the suggestion of features, and even those suggested a ghost-woman more than flesh and blood. Every detail of the soft white dress was worked up to perfection. The tip of the little high-heeled slipper peeping beneath the dress, the lilly-like hands lying so restfully among the fluily folds of the draperies in her lap; the fan which has slipped from those hands to the ground, all standing out in perfect completeness from the canvas, while above it, stared that ghastly face—for Jack's model was ill, and without her he could go no further. "I must have a model, and cannot wait

further.

"I must have a model, and cannot wait for Louise," continued Jack, with a groan, "and I suppose I shall be disgusted enough before I can find one that will do"

But groaning wouldn't help it, and we set about getting a model, and we had some fun out of it after all. Such remarkable people called in the character of a pretty blonde. Women large and women small; women tall and women short; women fat and women lear; women old and women poung; women rich and women poor; women dark and women light; women who came for bread and women who came for larks; but never, oh, never, a pretty blonde! At last, when we had decided we must wait for Louise, there came a little woman—such as little woman—such But groaning wouldn't help it, and we

COME.

Because my sun of His hasset
Why yet the day is young,
Why idle stand and fret?
The world is full of woe and pain,
And I am only one—
An a tom in the total vast,
And I am only one—
I must find a pretiy
Hashet the days ship by:
At evening peace shall come.
—/Maudo Meredith

STORY OF A SEPARATION.

BY G. G. G. SOUTHMAYDE.

O'I'I is no use; I must find a pretiy
honde woman, and that at one, said
we sat working in our studio.

He was at working in our studio.

He was at working in our studio.

He was at work upon a summer seem wherein two girls, essentially modern in dress and style, said light studies in the studies of the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun half come and the properties of the care of the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun highly to relate distance on the figure was already completed.
Dight, brown-haired, bown-eyel won before the pith was not upon a summer seem wherein two girls, essentially modern in delay so the care of the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of wasen leaves upon hair and dress—sun high the camp of the camp

vices.
And now, in a few short weeks, he had no the hand, if not the heart, of the uty and belle of the season—the althy Miss Halliday. And so, aloud the cry from the mouths of less suesful rivals, "Who is Mr. Alfred Stirge?"

But all this mattered not to Miss Hallio Mr. Stirling's numerous friends, went gayly as a marriage bell the summer season, every one both lover and maid in their

f through the summer season, every one envying both lover and maid in their apparent happiness.

In the fall the society papers announced that a new firm of brokers would be announced upon the Exchange, i. e., Bradford & Stirling, and that Mr. Stirling would probably be married early in January.

And Jack? Well, Jack worked away like a Trojan, holding his head high and going about the same as ever; meeting his old love and her flance constantly, and bearing very friendly relations with both. Whatever he suffered—and he did suffer—he never discussed it, even with me, his chum and brother artist. We dined with Mr. Stirling at his club and in his rooms, and both voted him a mighty fine fellow, though I think both of us had an inexplicable feeling—apparently unfounded—that he was not just frank. I know I did. However, we never mentioned it, because, I suppose, we were ashamed to put a groundless suspicion into words.

And the little model? She never appeared again at the studio. Jack wanted her for a picture, and advertised as guardedly as he could, but to no end. Finally we gave it up and decided to stop worrying about her.

el forgot my pride, and left my home at midnight to come here," she said, in convolusion.

And Alfred's story was equally one of hasty judgment and consequent suffering. The ocean voyage cooled his anger, and he immediately returned by the next steamer and hastened to his wife. She was gone—had been gone for days, they said; and no one had tried to find her. Distracted, he sought her high and low; advertised everywhere and traveled for weeks; but in vain. She was surely dead, they said, and in despair he left his mother and his home and settled in New York to forget, if possible, in its noisy whirl, his irreparable loss. When he called on Mrs. Van Buren he had not the heart to recall to her mind his lovely dead wife, with whom he had been so overpoweringly in love at Bar Harbor, and seeing Mrs. Van Buren had forgotten all the details, he thought it best to let her believe him a bachelor, and so spanning the personal hissoff needless pain. That accounted if for his universal reticence concerning his personal history, and we, that is Jack and I, felt the twinge of a guilty, suspicious conscience. When he met Missing the surface of the southed had and so he drifted into an engagement, though he was troubled occasionally by the conviction that Ada was not dead. But why, if alive, had she not answered his loving appeals to her in the advertisements? was troubled occasionally by the convic-tion that Ada was not dead. But why, if alive, had she not answered his loving appeals to her in the advertisements? And why could he not find her? No; she must be dead. So matters drifted on.

of soing about the same as ever; meeting his old love and her finance constantly, and bearing very friendly relations with both. Whatever he suffered—and he with Mr. Stirling at his club as might fine fellow, though I think both of us had an inexplicable feeling—apparently unfounded—that he was not all his forms. I know I did. However, we never mentioned it, because, I suppose, we were ashamed to put a ground—less suspicion into words.

And the little model? She never apparently again at the studio. Jack wanted the for a picture, and advertised as guardedly as he could, but to no end. Finally we gave it up and decided to stop worrying about her.

One morning, late in November, Jack and I went down to Stirling's office to see him about some club matters. Mr. Bradford was in the office and Stirling, if he had been in Boston a day or two, and was coming over by Fall River last night, and ought to be here now, but of course the boat was liable to be late this season. So we sat and chatted while we waited.

Suddenly the door opened, and in walked a little woman. "Ada, by the week of the work of the watewens!" I heard Jack whisper; and open the work of the watewens!" I heard Jack whisper; and open the work of the watewens!" I heard Jack whisper; and open the work of the watewens!" I heard Jack whisper; and open the work of the watewens!" I heard Jack whisper; and open the work of the watewens!" I heard Jack whisper; and open the work of the work of the watewens!" I heard Jack whisper; and open the work of the work of the watewens!" I heard Jack whisper; and open the work of the wor on.

But about one week ago he came for his

media, the pretty should, a New could's account of the manufacture of the pretty either for the model, as worth of the manufacture of the pretty either for the manufacture of the county of the manufacture of the county of the

### THE JOKER'S BUDGET.

JESTS AND YARNS BY FUNNY

The Terrors of Bankruptcy—Heavy Bread-Awfully Lonesome-Habit -He Got a Petition, etc., etc.

THE TERRORS OF BANKRUPTCY. First Merchant—Met Snodgrass last ast evening entering Delmonico's. He was dressed in the height of fashion, and large and juicy cigar was between his

lips."
Second Merchant—Snodgrass? Oh,
yes; he failed two months ago, and is
trying to settle at ten cents.—[Jewelers'
Circular.

Mr. Charley Younghusband—Why, what's the matter?
Mrs. Youngbusband (in deep anguish)—I gave—a—tramp—a p—p—piece of my fresh home made bread and—and—he gave it to Rover.
Mr. Charley Younghusband (consoling-ly)—Well, I wouldn't cry about a little thing like that.

y)—Well, I wouldn't cry about a little ling like that. Mrs. Younghusband—You don't u— —understand. I'm crying about Rov —he is dead—boo—hoo—hoo!—[Life

### AWFULLY LONESOME.

AWFULIY LONESOME.
The man who promptly pays his bills Is lonesome;
Who never felt the poor man's chills Is lonesome;
Who can always meet his debts,
And who never, never bets,
Who flirts not with the girls—the pets,
Is lonesome, awfully lonesome.

— Boston Herald.

### Groughter-I want to get some socks

Groughter—I want to get some swith holes in them.
Salesman—What's the idea?
Groughter—I've been a bachelor
orty years, and they are the only l
can wear.—[Clothier and Furnishe

### HE GOT A PENSION.

Commissioner-Were you wounded in the war?
Pension Seeker—Yes, sir.
Commissioner—Where?
Pension Seeker—In my vanity.
didn't get a promotion I expected.

### A TRUE BILL.

Jones—I don't think you ought to go round saying that Robinson is the big-est coward alive.

Brown—Why, he shows in every way e's afraid of me.

Jones—So? Well, you're justifiable.

### PLAYING AT STORE.

"Mamma," asked the next to the youngest girl, "Eddie and I are going to play grocery store. Won't you give as something to start business with?" "Here's my spool of thread and the button bag and—" "Oh, we don't want them," inter-upted Eddie, "why don't you give us pie or something so if trade is bad we can eat up the stock and keep it from going to waste?"

### TURN ABOUT.

At a Scotch fair a farmer was trying to engage a lad to assist on the farm, but would not finish the bargain until he brought a character from the last place; so he said, "Run and get it and meet me at the cross at four o'clock." The youth was up to time, and the farmer said, "Well, have you got your character with you?" "Na," replied the youth, "but I've got yours, and I'm no comin'"

### FICKLE PHYLLIS.

She thought it wrong for him to shoot The birds along the coast, But, while poor Strephon paid his suit, She ordered quail on toast.

Mistress-What's the matter in there, ary? Nurse— Shure the children won't mind

One of the governors of a grammar school complained to the head master that on the previous evening he had seen one of the top-form boys filtring with a young lady. The head master according spoke to the occupants of the said form in severe terms on the impropriety of such conduct, and wound up his harangue by saying that out of consideration for the parents he would not name the culprit, but invited him to come into his private room at the close of the lesson. That the governor's acuteness of observation was considerably below the mark was evident to the head master, when six crestfallen top-form boys presented themfelves at the private interview.—[Humor-felves at the private interview.]

RECKONED HE COULD.

Parent—Say, teacher, do ye reckon ye kin make my boy smart?

Teacher—Wal, I reckon I kin, if this birch rod of mine holds out.—[Epoch. THE POOR, OVERWORKED BURGLAR.

Hanx-Who is that elegantly-dresse

man?—Who is that eleganty-dressed man?

Cranx—That is Col. Booke, the great criminal lawyer. He makes \$10,000 a year out of Browny, the blacksmith burglar, alone.

"And who is that poor chap with him?"

"Why, that's Browny, himself."—

[Texas Siftings.

AN EXCUSABLE ERROR.

"Did you call me a rich loafer?"
"No, sare. I vas not ackgwainted
vith ze American tongue. I meant to
say you were a rich baker."

### AN APPROPRIATE GREETING

Dashaway—Let's go to dinner. What do you say to a broiled lobster? Cleverton—If I met one I should probably say, "Hello, stranger!"—[Mun-sey's Weckly. A DIFFERENCE.

The years like endless currents flow
And bring a change to me,
At twenty-two she told me no—
'Twas yes at thirty-three.

LEFT AND RIGHT. Bowles-My eyesight is affected doctor.
Optician—Let me see. You are in a natural state. Your sight has left the left eye, but your right eye is all right.
LIGHT GENEROSITY.

# "We are making a collection for wood and fire for the poor this winter. Would you kindly contribute?" "Why, certainly. Here's a box of matches."

MORE BUSINESS-LIKE. Oldboy—The grandest rule for huma conduct is simply this: "Do your duty. Newman—Oh, that's the old-fashior ed style. Nowadays, the rule is, "D your neighbor."—[Light.

### CERTAINLY. Philosopher-What induces men to

Cynic—The girls do. NO SECOND FIDDLE. Lovett-Miss Flirtett has taken up the riolin; so I don't go there any more. Skipit—What's that got to do with it? Lovett—She can scrape along with one

Parent—Do you think my son has any particular bent? Teacher—Oh, yes; lots of them—bent

FRAIL CRAFT. Friend-How did you happen to up

t? Canoist—I sneezed,—[Good News. NO ; LIKE A FISH. NO; LIKE A FISH.

"Oh, no; he doesn't drink like a fish,"

"Why, I've known him——"

"That's all right. But fishes, you know, drink by gills."—[Philadelphia Times.

### THE REASON FOR IT.

"That man," said the proprietor, "is as rich as Crœsus, yet he kicks like a mule every time he pays his till."
"Still, it's natural enough to kick that way when he's well heeled, you know."
—[Philadelphia Times.

### ALTERNATES.

I bought a suit; then came the bill;
The sum I could not pay;
So then there came a suit-at-law—
I did not win the day.
Soon after came another bill
My lawyer sent—I owe it still.
—[Judge.

Mr. Huntington, the millionaire rail-way magnate, in speaking to a New York reporter recently of his successful busi-ness career, remarked: "When I was a

way magnate, in speaking to a New York reporter recently of his successful business career, remarked: "When I was a boy I worked in a store, and one of the first rules I learned was that whenever I saw a ten-penny nail on the floor it was my duty to pick it up and take care of it." Tradition tells a story of Stephen Girard to much the same effect, except that pin-picking seems to have been his specialty.

Few young men have escaped having some such thrifty moral pointed at them at some period in their careers. Thousands of young men who have given the fortune-making specific what they honestly believed to be a fair test, have concluded that in point of tangible results of a legal-tender character it is a bald sophistry; and when, on the other hand, they note that the average \$10,000 baseball beauty was never known to demean himself by picking up anything, and would scarcely pick up a living if he should have to undergo the exertion of stooping for it, they are apt to drift into a state of mild agnosticism as to the economic value of nail-picking and pingleaning recipes.

Nevertheless, the pin stories bear useful lessons—but only at the point. The mistake of most youths is in taking them literally, instead of typically. They look only at the spirit of acquisitiveness, forgetting the higher lesson of attention to detail, of care in the small concerns of life. With a few men that capacity for detail is a gift. With all it may be more or less cultivated. But whatever the field of business activities, he is more secrain to be a successful man who has that faculty in its highest development.

[Philadelphia Record.

### A Pensioned Army Horse,

"Do you know," said Corporal Moore, of the Newport barracks, to the delegate. that there is a horse in the United States Army on the retired list, drawing a pension? Well, it's a fact. The horse belonged to Captain Keogh, a near relative of General Custer, and is the only horse that escaped the massacre in which that general was killed. His name is Comanche, and he is stationed at Fort Riley, Kan., with the 7th Cavalry—Custer's old regiment. His pension is sufficient to cover his transportation wherever he goes and to pay for his forage. He is seared for by a man detailed for that duty, and who does nothing else. He is saddled, bridled and equipped and let out for inspection, yet no one dares sit in his saddle. He has been much sought after by enterprising showmen, but Unele Sam says no. He will be kept as long as life lasts, and after that will probably be prepared and sent to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. When found Comanche was many miles away from the scene of the battle. He had seven wounds, and was nearly exhausted from loss of blood."—(Cincinnati Times-Star.

What is called authracite coal in paying mantities has been discovered in Mexico,

## YOUTHS WHO PRESS THEIR

All Love-Making is Done Through Mediators—Babies Who Are En-gaged—Celebration of the Honey-

Married life in Japan, writes Shotara Dzawa in the New Orleans Times-Demorat, is a most interesting subject for American readers, because of the many peculiar customs and usages concerning it. The common people, before entering into a contract of marriage, usually are engaged to each other by the consent of their parents and the help of the mediators, who also serve as witnesses and advisors. Usually the mediators are selected from the near relatives or friends and they have no compensation. These marriages are a very different kind from what are known as brokerage marriages, which are unlawful. The marriage age is usually eighteen in the female and twenty-one in the made.

Courtship is carried on in many different ways, but the most usual one is by mediation. The duty of the mediators is to investigate and inform one party in regard to property, reputation and character of the other. After this investigation there is a meeting of the persons intending to marry, and they are introduced to each other. They may promise to marry at this time, but before the final consent is given each one must investigate the other's character. If both are satisfied the marriage ceremony will be performed by the help of the mediators, and the names of the contracting parties must be recorded in the official register. This is considered as a civil contract.

The above is a prevailing custom among the common people, or middle class; but there is one custom which is a peculiar one in our country. When a child is born the parent makes an engagement between it and a child of some other family. This is usually called a pure engagement, but of course it is voidable when the child becomes an adult. The origin of such an engagement between reading this. The only defect of this custom is the oppressiveness of the advice or consent of the parent, and although it has a powerful and influential enforcement, it has no legal power.

In comparison with this oppressive way the manner of courtship—free courtship—which prevails among the Western peo

form of courtsnip necessary is to gain the consent of the parents and the adviser.

The employment of mediators is a necessary one. If they are not employed and the consent of the parents obtained it would be considered an animal-like marriage by our people. Therefore all the people in Japan are obliged to follow this method notwithstanding their rank in society. The service of the middleman is considered very honorable, and the Japanese term for this is "Musubueno-kami," which means a god of connection of the opposite sex.

Among the common people in a strict sense, there is positively no courtship between the parties themselves, and, on account of such a custom, there are very few bastards or illegitimate children.

Another form of courtship is by poetry, which is found among the higher classes. There are two kinds of this poetry, "Shi" and "Uta." The gentleman sends poems to the lady, and she replies in poetry. The following is a celebrated answer, with its translation:

repute,
I shall be proud that such a report
spreads abroad.
The opinion is held among men that our
love is inexplicable
What then? I have even come to think
of giving myself to him."

Here is a fine love conceit:

'Though the sparrow can find a resting place on the slender spray of the bamboo, Alas! I can find no resting place near thee."

COURTSHIP IN JAPAN. ple could not do such a thing, they are always endeavoring to preserve their always endeavoring to preserve their reputation on account of their social standing.

Our marriage ceremony is also distinguished from that of other nations. The

Our marriage ceremony is also distinguished from that of other nations. The celebration of a marriage ceremony is required not by law, but by society. There are several forms, but usually the first step is "yuino," or the exchange of presents at the time of the espousal, customarily fish, belt, fan, money, etc., which consists of seven articles, as the number of seven is considered a fortunate one among all classes. After the exchange of presents of "yuino," a few days are suffered to elapse and then is celebrated the marriage ceremony. This is not to be performed in the chutch, but takes place in the house, as the people think the church is a place for funerals and not for merry-making. The expense of the ceremony varies according to the social standing of the parties. At the present time the ceremony is to be performed by the minister or public notary and attended by the relatives, friends and large numbers of other people.

After the ceremony refreshments are

After the ceremony refreshments are served, at which time an oath is taken by the betrothed couple before the mediators, such an oath being called "san-san-kudo," which literally translated means three times three is nine. This oath is said to be purified by the drinking of a certain wine called sacred wine. The gentleman takes the first swallow, then the lady the next, and so alternating until all the wine is drunk, the gentleman taking the last drink, drinking in all nine times. The quantity, one cupful, is equal to a tablespoonful.

The bridal party do not take the honey-moon until two or three days after, the wedding day. The wedding dress of the lady is quite interesting. It is white, this signifying purity and chastity. After the ceremony the dress is changed for a black one, which signifies that similar to black it can be changed to another color, and that she will always remain true to her husband until death. In the ancient times some curious customs prevailed, among them shaving the eyebrows and breaking the teeth, but these are gradually being abolished. The wedding costume of the men is almost uniform.

By virtue of the marriage the women take the name of the husband, unless a man marries an only daughter of an ancient family. Then in order to keep up the family name, he assumes that of the wife. All the personal property can be transferred to him, but not the realty. However, there is no equitable settlement or dower right, but the courts will oblige the husband to support and maintain the wife according to his social standing. The liability of the husband and wife is fixed by the usage or equitable justice of our country.

The duty of the wife is to do the housework and support his or her parents according to our customs. The married couple very seldom separate from the parents, but live near them, but not in the same house. When the parents become old and feeble, the children are obliged to make them a comfortable home called "Inkio," which literally translated means a resting place. To:

At this

### Good Way to Bathe Baby

which is found among the higher classes. There are two kinds of this poetry. "Shi" and "Uta." The gentleman sends peems to the lady, and she replies in poetry. The following is a celebrated answer, with its translation:

"Que-shiu dati echi no mume, Konya kimiga tamemi kiraku. Hana-no sin-e o shirano-to hossoba. San-ko tsuki-o funde kitare."

The translation is:

"The translation is:

"The first plum blossom of the isles of Queshiu, This night shall ope, my Lord, for you. Should you long to know all the charms of this flower,
Come singing to the moon at the hour of midnight."

An allusion to the moon or flowers always stands for the word love. The following is a fine conceit attributed to agay young lady:

"Parted and from thee, I gaze upon the heavenly vault. How delightful were it to me, Could but the moon turn to a mirror."

For modern popular use read the following from the "Hauta," known as thove song:

"My desires are like to the white snow on Fugi (The most celebrated of the high mount tains in the three provinces,)
Which ever accumulates and never methy leading and the bottom of the bath together with a little pillow of folded flannel just high cough to lift the tiny head above the water. King Baby is then laid comfortables without let or hindrance—and he does one only it, the bonny wee man! After a good bath he is taken out with the scribed above. This seems a very practical way of bathing, as there is no strain in the position as there is when the head is placed on the bath together with a little pillow of folded flannel just high cough to lift the tiny head above the water. King Baby is then laid comfortable and the provinces, of the bath to a delicate infant is to lay a small blanket in the bottom of the bath tup and wrap to the warm water. In this way he can feelicate infant is to lay a small blanket in the bottom of the bath tup and wrap title with the bottom of the bath tup and wrap the little one in a warm shirt, slip off the warm big Turhish towel and dry and ruby and most comfortable. A large

### A Fan for an Empress.

The latest eccentricity of Viennese fashion is a passion for fans of mountain cock feathers. The last question the young Austrian belle asks her admirer before he goes on a hunt is: "Won't you try, please, to bag me a fine fan?" An ideal fan of this kind must contain only feathers from birds brought down by the most expert shots, and every feather must be the lone representative of the giver's skill. Consequently such an ideal fan may record the admiration and skill of sixty or seventy hunters. It is also not unusal to have cut in the ribs of the smaller fans a brief account of the circumstances under which the giver of the attached feathers shot the bird. The German Empress, Augusta Victoria, is said to have expressed a wish last summer to have such a fan, and ever since that time the young bloods of the Austrian Alas! I can find no resting place near thee."

Among the lower classes flirting is practiced by the use of the fan or the handkerchief, or with a wave of the fright hand, with palms downward, or by the fair charmer waving her long sleeves.

Instead of winking, they convey the same meaning by twitching the left corner of the mouth or rolling the cyclails to the right or left. Jealousy is expressed by creeting the two foreingers in allusion to the monster.

The courtship of the lower class of young men and women is on Hanami, or picnic day, and on that day one can hear whispering behind the trees or flowers, but no kissing or shaking of hands. If they did such a thing they would be disregarded or excluded from society as following animal-like conduct. The above is an extreme exception among a particular class. Common peo-