

The largest proportion of single persons is found in Ireland and Scotland, and the smallest in the United States.

New London, Conn., has an eight-story hotel with the office at the top. If the prices compare with the altitude of the office the proprietors ought to do well.

The Temple of Fame will need to have some new stories built on it in order to hold the names of the Yankee lads who are demanding a place at the top of the illustrious list.

Italy is congratulating itself that there were only 920 duels fought last year in the whole country. Of these 103 had serious consequences, though only one duellist was killed outright.

So important are the indications afforded by the teeth of the general health and strength of the constitution of candidates for the United States Navy, that unless a would-be cadet can pass a creditable examination at the hands of the dentist he must make up his mind to look for another calling.

It is easy enough teaching Spain a lesson, but that lesson will be heeded by others who have been ready with their sneers. The schoolmaster has been a little slow, perhaps, but his ferule is long and his arm strong. We venture to say that when this war is done the American flag will have a new meaning the round world over.

There are 100,000 ranches and plantations in Cuba valued at \$200,000,000. Besides supplying food for the island these plantations yielded a surplus valued at \$90,000, for export. Sugar and tobacco are the main products and constitute ninety per cent. of the exports. The sugar product for the fiscal year 1892-1893 amounted to 815,894 tons; in 1893-1894, 1,054,214 tons; in 1894-1895, 1,004,264 tons, and in 1895-1896, 225,221 tons, all of which, except 30,000 tons per annum, was exported.

The International Commission of the Pyrenees, on the suggestion of the Municipal Council of the little canton of Aramis, has suppressed the annual ceremony known as the "Junte de Barretous" that has taken place on July 13 in that place for more than seven hundred years. The ceremony consists in transferring three heifers as a tribute from the French valley of Barretous to the Spanish valley of Ronal, with details that are considered humiliating to French amour propre, such as casting a lance and firing a gun at the French soil. In future the tribute will be paid with the omission of these acts.

Following the old principle that the lance must pay the fiddler the new war taxes are now operative upon the people of the country. It is safe to say that every person, whatever his age, sex or previous condition may be, will be called upon to pay directly or indirectly. Checks require a two-cent stamp, conveyances of real estate, quantities of other documents, life, fire and marine policies, all must be stamped; if one goes abroad the passage ticket is taxed; if he allows his note to go to protest a twenty-five cent stamp is a reminder; if he buys medicine or perfume, a graduated scale of tax; chewing gum pays a tax of four cents, sugar and petroleum refiners pay; if one buys a seat in a palace or parlor car, a tax of one cent is required, etc.; and if we receive legacies from near or far relatives or others, we will pay a tax and a heavy one.

The nation which governs almost one-fourth of the earth's population, and upon the whole governs well, spends over two hundred millions annually upon sport, and has invested in the same way an even greater sum, comments Outing. Perhaps there is no higher test of a man's all-round abilities than his power to govern wisely; at any rate, it is a truth to be borne in mind, in this connection, that the governing races of to-day are races of sportsmen. The people who play games are inheriting the earth, perhaps because it makes them meek. As a matter of fact, we think it does just that, among other things. The French do not play games, and Mr. Benjamin Kidd has shown how the population of France is steadily decreasing, the deaths having outnumbered the births there for several years past. The Spaniards do not play games, and travelers in and students of Spain, and the Spanish, agree that their two most salient characteristics are overweening pride and cruelty. The Chinese despise unnecessary physical exercise, and can scarcely be driven to fight, even for their country, and their lack of decision and their pulpy condition of dependence are now all too manifest.

TWO SOLDIERS.

With gallant step and flashing eye,
And swelling heart and courage high,
One marches gayly down the street
To martial music loud and sweet.

All is before him—naught he knows
Of deadly wounds from lurking foes;
Only the glory of the brave
He sees, in flags that proudly wave.

With flushing cheek and hopeful smile,
He waves his farewells, but the while
A sudden tear all quickly dried
Shows the warm heart he cannot hide.

The other, bent and old and gray,
Watches him gayly march away;
A down the scarred and wrinkled cheek
Unbidden treads slowly creep.

Swiftly the years sweep back, and lo!
A vision of the long ago.
The same gay throng, the crowd, the cheer,
The martial airs, the flags, the tears.

Himself so brave and young and strong,
One of the noble, gallant throng;
A rude arm jostles him—and then
Back to to-day he comes again.

And nobly forcing back the cry
Of longing "but to do and die!"
With trembling voice he weakly cheers,
And turns aside to hide his tears.

God bless the young! God bless the old!
For patriot hearts of purest gold!
And o'er them both, the noble brave,
Our Flag of Freedom ever wave!

—Kansas City Star.

THE DOCKFELT CASE.

By Ward Macaulay and James Buckham.

HE senior partner, Mr. Paul Dockfelt, of the firm of Dockfelt & Freeman, No. 126 and 128 — street, Buffalo, N. Y., sat in his private office engrossed in the affairs of one of the largest retail grocery stores in Buffalo. He was a tall, spare man, and to an ordinary observer his appearance was very prepossessing. His clear-cut, kindly face displayed character in every line—the face of a shrewd yet strictly honorable and thoroughly sympathetic man. Indeed, Paul Dockfelt was a man of high and sincere aims, as well as of public spirit, and his numerous friends were contemplating a movement to nominate him for alderman from his ward.

At the moment when Mr. Dockfelt had dipped his pen to write an important business letter, he was interrupted by a loud commotion in the main store, the character of which he could not determine, as his office was enclosed. After listening impatiently for a moment, he rose and strode out into the store. As he entered the main room, he observed that the disturbance proceeded from the cashier's office. An altercation seemed to be going on between the cashier, Fred Thomas, and the head clerk, Edward Balfour.

Fred Thomas, although he had been in Mr. Dockfelt's employ but six weeks, was already a great favorite with his employer. Indeed, it was whispered among the clerks that, in time, the firm name would be Dockfelt & Thomas; for Mr. Dockfelt had no junior partner at that time, Richard Freeman having died some time before. For the sake of long standing, however, Mr. Dockfelt retained the old firm name.

Mr. Balfour was also quite a favorite with Mr. Dockfelt, in whose employ he had been about three months. It was with great surprise and regret, therefore, that Mr. Dockfelt saw the young men engaged in a quarrel. He walked up quietly behind the engaged clerks, who were so furious at each other that they did not notice his approach, and tapping Mr. Balfour on the back, said, in a stern voice:

"What's the trouble here, Balfour?" "Trouble enough, sir," replied the head clerk, wheeling around and addressing his employer. "I sent a check for twenty-five cents down here, together with a ten-dollar bill, and now Mr. Thomas is abusing me for sending him an empty carrier."

"How's this, Thomas?" demanded the astonished grocer. "I'm sure I don't know, sir," said Thomas. "All I know is, that just now, Mr. Balfour's cash-carrier came along the wire. I took it down, and finding it empty, thought Mr. Balfour was playing a trick on me, so I sent the carrier back—empty, of course. A minute later he comes rushing up and angrily demands the cause of my sending him no change. That's all I know about it."

"Mr. Thomas," said the merchant, sternly, "give Mr. Balfour his change. Mr. Balfour, you may take it to the customer. Then return immediately, until we settle this affair. Hurry!" Briefly, the cash system used by Mr. Dockfelt was as follows: Each clerk was provided with a small blank book, opening at the top. Each page was perforated in the middle. On each side of the perforation the clerk wrote the amount of the sale. He would then tear across the perforation and send the lower half to the cashier's desk in one of the small cash cups or carriers commonly used in a retail store. Together with this check, or "tip," as the detached slip of paper is called, the salesman would enclose the money. The cashier would put the tip on a bill file or spindle; and thus the amount on the spindle belonging to each clerk should tally with the total of the "stubs" in his book. This is the method in general use in retail stores.

When Mr. Balfour returned, the merchant said, sharply: "I suppose you have no objection to being searched?" Each of you may first describe the contents of your pocket-books, Balfour?" "Mine contains three silver dollars, a \$5 bill, some small change, and six car tickets," answered the head clerk. "Thomas?" "Mine contains two fives, one silver dollar, some small change, two postage stamps and three car tickets."

Mr. Balfour then produced his pocket-book, and it was found to contain exactly what was enumerated. Mr. Dockfelt searched the clerk's pockets, but nothing suspicious came to light. He then went through the same operation with Thomas—with the same result. Next, Mr. Dockfelt examined the cash-desk, and ascertained that there were no \$10 bills in the drawer. After instructing Mr. Thomas to charge the missing sum to loss and gain, the merchant retired to his office to ponder the mystery. How could it have happened? He had searched both the clerks, but he could not resist the conviction that, if the money had been put into a cup, it must have reached the cashier's office. Either Mr. Balfour or Mr. Thomas was the guilty party; but to determine which was no easy task. To be sure, of the two men, Mr. Dockfelt preferred Mr. Thomas; still, he could not help seeing that his favorite had the better chance, not only to take the money, but to secrete it as well.

Again, if Mr. Balfour wished to steal, how much better it would have been to sell the goods and pocket the money. This was a strong point against Thomas. The only possible reason why Balfour should have sent the empty carrier to Thomas was to create a suspicion against the latter, in case either was suspected of theft. Whoever the thief was, Mr. Dockfelt said to himself, he was certainly the most daring, as well as the slickest of rogues.

for you, you have always been the kindest of employers. I also think that I have tried to serve you well and faithfully. Therefore, it grieves me sorely to see that you must now suspect me of dealing dishonestly with you. In this matter, however, you are mistaken. I am innocent."

"I wish from the bottom of my heart, Fred, that I could believe you," answered his employer. "But how can I? You say you are innocent. Then who did steal the money? You surely don't accuse both Balfour and myself of conspiracy against you? You evidently did not know I was clerking when you secreted the money."

"Then you believe me guilty, Mr. Dockfelt?" "Yes, Fred, it is not possible for me to come to any other conclusion."

"Well, then," said Mr. Thomas, "what do you propose to do with me? Have you already sent out for an officer to arrest me?" "No, Fred, no. I called you to give you another chance. Surrender the stolen money, apologize to Balfour, and all will be well."

"Did I not tell you I was innocent?" cried Thomas. "What, then, have I to surrender or apologize for?" "Well, Fred, I'll leave it open," said Mr. Dockfelt. "If anything more is stolen, I'll discharge you. You may go back to your desk now."

The next morning Mr. Thomas came down as usual, and was at work in the desk, when, as on the previous day, Balfour's carrier came along the wire, this time in company with two others. A minute later Mr. Thomas called Mr. Dockfelt, saying that three empty cash-cups had been sent him, while, at the same time, the clerks for each carrier were clamoring for change. Naturally, Mr. Dockfelt flew into a towering passion. "Leave my store," said he. "You are by far the most brazen rascal I have ever seen in my life. Leave at once!"

"But nothing. What you have stolen will more than pay the amount of your salary now due. Go or, I swear, I will have you arrested!" Thomas saw that it would be worse than useless to expostulate with Mr. Dockfelt. Nevertheless he was greatly pained to think that his employer and friend should consider him guilty of petty stealing. He took down his hat and overcoat and left the store.

On the following morning Mr. Dockfelt arrived early, as he was to be his own cashier. In fact, he was the first man in the store, with the exception of the shipping clerk. An unexpected customer came in, and Mr. Dockfelt made a sale, and, forgetting that there was no one in the cashier's desk, sent the carrier along. He quickly remembered, however, and, making change for the customer from his own pocket, followed the cup, which had barely passed out of his sight. He advanced into the desk and took the carrier down. Marvelous! Could he believe his eyes? Both tip and bill were gone.

If Mr. Dockfelt had ever been bewildered in his life it was at this moment. He was positive he had put the money in the carrier, and equally sure it was not there now. He shook the cup, and hunted carefully about the desk, but in vain. Then he muttered, half audibly: "There is but one thing to do in such a case as this. I will see my friend, John Garner, the detective, and let him straighten out the mystery, if he can."

During the course of the afternoon, in response to Mr. Dockfelt's message, a thin, awkward-looking man entered the merchant's private office. Mr. Dockfelt held out his hand cordially. "Well, Garner," he cried, "I can truthfully say that I was never more glad to see you in my life." He then gave Garner a complete history of the affair which had so perplexed him, and concluded: "I have prepared a statement of points, which you can study at your leisure." He then handed Garner the following:

1. Theft always occurred on the first sale in which a bill was tendered in payment.
2. Theft always bills, never silver.
3. Theft was generally between Balfour and Thomas.
4. On the last morning several cups were stolen from.
5. Dockfelt himself put money in carrier, which reached its destination empty.

Mr. Garner put the paper in his pocket and asked abruptly: "Who opens the store in the morning?" "Somewhat surprised at the question Mr. Dockfelt replied: "Charles Hurst, the shipping clerk."

"That is all for the present," said Garner. Then he arose and left the office. During the next few days there were repeated consultations between Garner and Dockfelt, each time the detective being in disguise. The third day the disguise was so complete that Mr. Dockfelt greeted the entrance of an apparently ill-bred and boorish fellow with a sharp—"Well, sir?" The detective bent forward. "Garner," said he.

clerk, is the cause of all this trouble. He and Thomas are in love with the same girl. Thomas has been accepted—Hurst burns for revenge. I suppose I was the only person who knew the secret of the powerful composition you see in that bottle. But it seems that Hurst has discovered it also. Watch the effect of the stuff."

Garner took a small piece of paper from his pocket, laid it on the table and uncorked the vial. He poured a small quantity of the liquid on the paper and in ten seconds all that was left of the paper was an almost impalpable gray ash.

"The effect," said Garner, "of the composition upon the wood bottoms of the carriers is to render the wood soft, so that it immediately absorbs the ashes of the paper. Hurst, every morning, put some of this liquid in Balfour's carrier—a very small amount indeed. The money was, of course, destroyed. I think I can explain the counts in your statement," he added, taking from his pocket the slip of paper which Dockfelt had handed him a few days before.

"Theft always occurred on first bill sale of the morning because the liquid used was only strong enough for one bill. The loss was always in bills, because any metal is proof against this strange composition. The theft was always between Balfour and Thomas, because Hurst wanted to make a mystery about it in the beginning and then suddenly convict Thomas by having several cups stolen from. This also explains count number 4. It is needless to explain why the money did not arrive which Mr. Dockfelt himself put in the carrier. Hurst had not provided for this contingency."

The grocer was both astonished and delighted at the unraveling of the mystery. "You are a decidedly clever man, Garner!" he cried. "Now tell me how on earth you got the facts, so far as Hurst is concerned." "Easily enough," replied Garner. "As you know, I am interested in chemistry, and have often experimented with the stuff used by Hurst. I saw immediately how the deed was done. The next thing was to determine who did it. I learned who opened the store every morning, and finding that it was Hurst, I at once began to pry into his private affairs—as a detective must, you know—and learned that he and your cashier were in love with the same lady. The case was easily brought to a conclusion when, by carefully searching the shipping room, I found two bottles of this liquid."

The sequel is not hard to guess. The firm name of the great Buffalo grocery house is now Dockfelt & Thomas; and the lady for whom Mr. Thomas was unjustly and mysteriously persecuted is now his admired and devoted wife. Hurst was not prosecuted for his villainy, but it is unnecessary to say that he is no longer shipping clerk under Mr. Dockfelt.—Detroit Free Press.

BOILING WATER WITHOUT FIRE.

It Can Be Done by Stirring With a Paddle For Five Hours.

It is possible to make a pail of water boil without putting it on the fire and without applying external heat to it in any way. In fact, you can make a pail of water boil by simply stirring it with a wooden paddle. The feat was recently performed in the physical laboratory of Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, Md., and any one may do it with a little trouble and perseverance. All you have to do is to place your water in a pail—it may be ice water if necessary—and stir it with a wooden paddle. If you keep at it long enough it will certainly boil. Five hours of constant and rapid stirring are sufficient to perform the feat successfully. The water will, after a time, grow warm, and then it will grow hot—so hot, in fact, that you cannot hold your hand in it, and, finally, it will boil. Professor Ames, of Johns Hopkins, annually illustrates some of the phenomena of heat by having one of his students perform the trick in front of his class. It is a tiresome job, but it is perfectly feasible.

The point which Professor Ames wishes to illustrate is what is known as the mechanical equivalent of heat. By turning the paddle in the water at a regular speed it is possible to find out just how much work is required to raise the temperature of water one degree. The best measurement so far made, and, in fact, the one which is accepted as the standard of the world, is that which was measured in Johns Hopkins college.

Heat is developed in almost any substance which is subjected to continuous or very violent action. It is an old trick for a blacksmith to forge without fire. Long continued and violent hammering on two pieces of wire will heat them to such an extent that they can be welded together. A lead bullet, if shot directly at a stone wall, will develop heat enough by the contact to melt and fall to the ground a molten mass. There are many other occasions wherein this mechanical development of heat becomes manifest.—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

Mules Up a Tree.

A team of four mules of the Fifth Illinois recently performed the seemingly impossible feat of running over a tree twenty-five feet high at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga. The mules were running away, and an army wagon was trailing on their heels. The front pair split around a pine tree six inches in diameter and twenty-five feet high. The second pair crowded on, shoved the first pair literally up the tree, which bent under the weight until the top touched the ground, and the wagon passed over without injury. The tree was barked to the top and bears ample evidence that this tale is true. It is vouched for, however, by Colonel Culver, Lieutenant Colwell and Chaplain Davis.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.



Warm Weather Gloves. Gloves with perforated finger sides are a very new and useful addition to the warm weather toilet. They are based upon the fact that perspiration of the hand usually starts between the fingers, and if these are kept cool the hand remains cool and dry. They come in both silk and kid.

A Useful and Dainty Pin. A new pin is a violet clasp, with dainty arms of flagree silver, which open by operating a spring at the back. The silver or gilt arms are wide, and open for the stems of these delicate flowers, clasping them closely, but not so much so as to crush the stems. Lovers of these sweet flowers are able to wear them at least twice as long as when fastened by the harsh, cutting pin, which hastened their drooping. The clasp itself is highly ornamental, as well as novel and useful.

A Novel Veil. One of the latest novelties is a veil of cream applique. This is quite an unusual style, yet one likely to take well with the season's hats. Finely spotted veils are popular. A new one of fine volentine, and it has a very fine mesh. It is soft, with tiny dots. This veil is extremely becoming to the maiden with a bright color. Black and cream chantilly veils have delicate little sprigs scattered over the surface, with the edge finished with a border. For the season's service no veils are so serviceable as the ones "that will wash." The white tulle is also worn, as well as the black, with tiny dots in black and white.

Russian Clubwomen. The women of St. Petersburg, Russia, have recently established a club known as the Russian Women's Mutual Help Society, with a membership of about fourteen hundred. It is only lately that any movement in this direction could be made, as the Russian law forbade the formation of women's clubs, and it is only through strenuous efforts and numerous appeals to the Empress that permission has been granted. A letter received by Lady Aberdeen from St. Petersburg recently said that the Russian women were developing a lively interest in clubs, which is due largely to the growth of the club idea in England and America.

The Mushroom Hat. The mushroom hat has struck an appreciative chord in woman's breast. It is made out of mill or similar tissue and comes well down over the face, protecting it from the direct rays of the sun. It is exquisitely stylish, but soils so rapidly as to render a cleansing a necessity every fortnight. While most of these hats are worn plain a few are decorated with pearl trimming or pearl beadings to give the impression of dewdrops, while others have loosely stitched across the crown a web in pale gray silken wire. Prettiest of all in this field of decoration was the design of a modiste who had embroidered on the top several rose leaves, and perched upon the stem a butterfly with outstretched wings.—New York Mail and Express.

Pin Money From a Flower Bed. Two young women, who would rather earn an extremely modest sum of money by doing work that can be carried on at home than exhaust their energies by traveling back and forth on trains and standing behind counters or sitting behind desks, are engaged in raising slips to be sold in the fall as decorative house plants. The growing of them costs nothing, and every penny earned will be clear gain. If the gardeners will be content to earn \$3 or \$4 a week they will find that, deducting carfare, lunches, wear and tear on clothing, etc., they will in the end have as large an accumulated sum as if they were receiving a good weekly salary and had all the expenses to bear.

They say that to have the plants in good condition by the autumn the slips should be put in in the spring and kept well watered. When they are potted the pots should be sunk in the earth and if well moistened all summer the plants will be found when taken up for sale in September to be well grown and perfectly healthy.—New York Tribune.

The Dress of Our Great-Grandmothers. I dare say that our great-grandfathers were delighted with the belongings of our great-grandmothers. But for comfort one would hardly select the eighteenth century strait-laced corset. Above it was a corsege all lined with buckram and whalebone. The hoop-expanded skirt was garlanded with artificial flowers or other fall-bals. It was hard to sit down properly in it. When once the wearer sat down, she liked to remain seated. A bold upright position was obligatory. The hair was expected to remain undisturbed for several days. Hence the necessity, when one retired for the night, to be propped up with pillows. There was really no other way of enjoying a little comfort. The covers and pillow cases were considered adjuncts of the bedgown, a most luxurious object for the time. There were bath coverlets of embroidered flannel.

Many, indeed, most of the combs and hair-pins worn by women of the present day are of celluloid. Indeed, so excellent an imitation is it of shell that in the finer grades the only infallible test is that of fire, a test injurious to shell and destructive to celluloid. The London Lancet, that staid and sober journal which has never been accused of sensationalism, warns its readers of the dangers of a new comb which has recently been patented in London and New York. It is double, being two combs which are joined by a hinge, and which, when closed, hold the hair tightly in position. A physician, writing to the Lancet, reports a case in which the comb, when fastened in the hair, came in contact with the hot curling iron, with which the hair was being waved, and caught fire, emitting dense fumes, producing severe burns and practically destroying the hair.

The explosive and combusive properties of celluloid are undoubted, and it would be well that women should bear them in mind. The heat of a curling iron at the point requisite to curl the hair is quite sufficient to ignite celluloid, and the Lancet asserts that the material burns much more readily in hair than when out of it, as was proven by experiments with a wig. Severe concussion is also sufficient to produce combustion, and an instance is given where a blow on the head by violent contact with an open door ignited an ornamental comb, which, however, was easily detached, so that the results were not very serious.

Some years since a bride, who was on her wedding tour, arriving at a hotel, on opening her trunk, found her trousseau practically destroyed by fire, the only possible source of which must have been the explosion of a set of celluloid brushes and combs. It was conjectured that the explosion was caused by its rough handling which the trunk received from the baggage-men en route. Under ordinary circumstances celluloid may be used with safety, but care should be taken to keep it, like other inflammable substances, at a safe distance from fire, and also from concussion, while ladies who make use of curling irons must be careful not to bring them into contact with celluloid hairpins or combs.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Fashion Fancies. Chemises with shoulder flounces of lace or edging are pretty. Cloth walking gowns are being equipped with ribbon in bowknot effects. Cloth gowns trimmed with straps of the same material are still stylish and pretty. Beading with ribbons run through it makes a nice trimming for gowns of wash material. Lace flounces finished with beading and ribbon make a nice trimming for a chemise or waist.

White chiffon, decorated with black lace applique, is used in veiling taffeta flounces of petticoats. Short corsets with lace and ribbons for trimming are the styles which the stores display at present. A lovely petticoat is made of bright red taffeta silk, and has a trimming of black lace flounces, edged with narrow red satin ribbon. A new and pretty style of trimming for light-colored silk skirts is of narrow black velvet ribbon formed into great points, tabs or wavy stripes. It is predicted that light colors will not be as much worn in the fall as at present. Brown will be one of the fashionable shades for the season's gowns.

Rough straw sailor hats with narrow brims and wide blue or black ribbon bands are already much worn. Bands of two shades of ribbon are used on "sailors." Effective bicycle hats are of the Alpine shape and are decidedly stylish when trimmed with stiff crepe and upstanding wings, or draped with a plain silk scarf. Hats of mixed straw, prettily trimmed with loops of net and jaunty wings, and the sailor shape, with a plain black band, are much in favor for both bicycle and street wear.

An accordion-pleated wrap which hangs from the shoulders to the waist line, with cape sleeve effect, and trimmed with many rows of lace, is one of the chic garments for the season's wear.