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It is said that since the war there has been a marked increase of industrial and commercial activity in Spain.

A lot of good newspaper space is wasted by people saying that they didn't say what the stenographic copy-books show that they said.

The souther that back door on the Canadian border, through which, it is said, so many undesirable European immigrants are pouring, is attended to the better for the country.

The Chicago Theological Seminary, which is said to be the oldest of its kind in that very considerable part of the United States lying west of Cincinnati, has decided to open its doors to women on equal terms with men.

Governor Atkinson, of West Virginia, claims that his State leads the Union in the production of oil and lumber, and that it is second in coke and third in coal. And he says that the State is "just beginning to grow."

A combination of a rapid-fire gun and an automobile is being made out West. The gun fires seventy shots a second, and the machine goes the pace of a crack trotter, and the whole is designed to suppress street riots, which it undoubtedly would do.

One is continually surprised at the consideration given abroad to American styles. A sample number of an English fashion journal just received contains a New York letter as a regular contribution, and the Paris fashion papers are continually referring to American styles.

One of the marvels of our country is its extraordinary power to assimilate and amalgamate foreign elements. The Americans of the United States, augmented by a continuous inflow of all sorts of foreign stocks, have still the prospect of becoming one of the most homogeneous nations under the sun.

Fingers are valued at a high price in Australia. A Melbourne boy of eight had his fingers crushed in a gate at a level crossing, and one had to be amputated. An action on his behalf was brought against the State Railway Department. The jury awarded the full amount claimed, \$5000.

Hungarians throughout the United States are interested in an effort to remove from that State the Hungarians living in Pennsylvania. It is asserted that the Hungarians in Pennsylvania are not properly treated; that they cannot obtain justice in the State courts, and that mine-owners have combined to prevent them bettering their condition.

It is a remarkable proportion in the total gain in exported manufactures from the United States during the last fiscal year that is held by products of iron and steel. Out of the total increase of \$48,000,000, exports of iron and steel manufactures amount to \$33,000,000. It is an evidence, also, of the excellence of American workmanship that the greater part of this increase is in highly finished forms, such as locomotives, machinery, tools and steel rails. These are figures that tell significantly of such incidents as the building of a railway bridge in the Sudan and of a viaduct in India by American contractors.

The Most Wonderful.

From Harper's Round Table: Uncle Reuben had just returned from his Christmas holiday in New York, and his mind was a confusion of cinematographs, self-playing pianos, automobiles, phonographs etc. When he was asked which had impressed him most he solemnly replied: "By gosh, the horseless piano beats 'em all."

Sunken ships can be raised with little effort by the use of an Ohio man's apparatus, comprising air-tight bags of proper shape to fit the different compartments, the bags being inflated to accomplish the twofold purpose of expelling the water and increasing the buoyancy of the ship.



AN UNCONSCIOUS ALLY



HAVE always had a remarkably large number of friends of my own sex. Lest this should lead people to give me an undue amount of credit for amiability and sweetness of disposition, I may as well state at once that I have a marriageable brother.

Being possessed also of a fair amount of brains, I was never for a moment deceived as to the nature of the affection lavished upon me by most of my female friends. But when my dearest chum, the girl I really thought loved me for my self alone, told me she was engaged to be married to my brother, Fred, my grief and anger knew no bounds.

I had gone over to stay all night with Maud, and had laid awake till 3 a. m. exchanging confidences, and all the time the sneak never said a word about Fred. At last I dropped off to sleep and was just in the midst of a glorious dream, in which I was leading the cotillon with a magnificent man with soulful eyes and a bank account in seven figures, when Maud suddenly threw her arms about my neck, entirely shutting off my wind and scaring me almost into nervous prostration, and with a burst of tears confessed that she had been keeping a secret from me for two whole days, and that we were to be really, truly sisters, not just sisters in affection, as heretofore, etc.

I managed to wriggle out from under Maud's arm, and then I sat up in bed and said things. I don't remember exactly what they were, but they must have been pretty bad, for Fred didn't speak to me for a week (of course Maud had to tell him), and Maud herself went around looking like a suffering martyr whenever we chanced to be under the same roof.

I was convinced that I was the most miserable girl in the world after that, and the worst of it was that everybody, including Maud herself, thought that I was only mad because she was engaged first, an imputation which I need not say was entirely unjust.

I'm sure I could not see what Maud had done that was so wonderful anyway. Fred is anything but brilliant, and I never considered him even good-looking, while as long as mamma lives he hasn't a penny to his name except his salary, which is by no means princely.

But Maud! You'd have thought she'd landed a Vanderbilt or a post-laureate the way she acted.

I pretended not to notice her airs and nursed my grief in proud silence, but I had no doubt that I was the most wronged and unhappy creature that ever lived, until subsequent events taught me that our affairs are arranged by an all-wise Providence in whom we may safely trust, no matter how dark our way may seem at the time. I shall never doubt the wisdom of Providence again.

To begin with, I found I was likely to get a lot of amusement out of this engagement. Fred was madly jealous of Maud all the time, though anyone could see with half an eye that she was simply mad about him and in deadly fear of losing him herself.

He would come home at least three times a week, pale, haggard and wild-eyed, a man bereft of hope. The rest of the time he was madly joyful and talked about Maud as if she was several degrees higher than the seraphim. It was enough to make a St. Bernard dog laugh just to see him.

I also found further consolation in the fact that his state of mind interfered seriously with Fred's appetite, and I got all the extra pudding and things that had always fallen to his share (Fred was always a greedy thing), and then Perceval Jones came from abroad.

Perceval was a millionaire's son, with a face too beautiful for words and a taste for Ibsen.

Of course all this made him desirable beyond most other men, but I must say the way the girls of Ashevilleville made different kinds of fools of themselves about him was enough to disgust even a woman's rights advocate with her sex.

I need hardly say that I was smart enough to treat Mr. Jones with marked coolness. The first time I met him my behavior seemed to puzzle the pampered youth. The second time he appeared distinctly grateful. On the third he asked permission to call, and I went home at peace with all the world, even Fred.

For five consecutive afternoons after that I sat by the tea table in the back drawing room, attired in my best gown, expecting Perceval—in vain.

On the sixth he came.

"What a delightful surprise," I said gushingly. I was a trifle nervous from waiting so long.

"Ah, thanks," he remarked, looking disappointed.

And then mamma came in, and in spite of my previous warnings finished things by treating Mr. Jones as if he were Albert Edward or Mark Hanna or at least a royal duke. Mamma never could resist a millionaire.

Our visitor took his leave in less than half an hour, and I knew that

unless I adopted desperate measures Perceval Jones was lost to me forever.

But I'm not one to give up easily, and after thinking hard thinks all night I finally hit on a plan and went to sleep at daybreak and slept till noon as sweetly and as innocently as a child.

Early in the afternoon I telephoned to Maud and asked her to go with me out to the golf links at 4 o'clock. Then I telephoned to Fred to meet us there and proceeded to make a fetching toilet with a light heart. When we reached the links there was Mr. Jones (he had mentioned that he was going the day before).

He was looking bored as usual, but cheered up when I treated him with haughty coldness.

I eluded his attempts at conversation, however, and threw Maud in his way whenever I could.

I was rewarded by seeing him seat himself by Maud's side and commence a disquisition on Ibsen as Fred came round the hill on his bicycle.

No sooner did Fred's eye light on the couple than he commenced to glare like a madman, and in spite of my innocent efforts to keep him away he wound up by being so outrageously rude to Mr. Jones that that gentleman was confounded and Maud went home in tears.

As for me, I went to bed happy. My plan was working to a charm.

A day or two later I got mamma to ask Mr. Jones to dinner and managed to have him take Maud out. That settled it; Fred treated Perceval in such an insulting manner that even he could hardly overlook it, and he left early, to mamma's distress and my secret joy.

After that I began to meet Perceval every time I went out of the house. No matter whether I walked or drove or rode a wheel, I was sure to encounter him before long, and he would escort me on my way, leaving me always on our return at the end of the street leading to our house.

"Since your brother, who is your guardian, dislikes me so, I cannot go to your home," he would say regretfully, and I would blush and stammer an apology. "But I must see you in spite of him." Perceval would add with a melting glance, and I would go home in the seventh heaven.

At last, after three weeks of such surreptitious courtship, Perceval could stand it no longer.

"Be my wife, Rosamond," he cried one day. "Never mind what they say at home; I must have you—I never knew what love was before."

Poor boy, he had never known the bliss of trying for what he wanted. Before this it had always dropped into his lap.

"Oh, no," I said timidly. "I dare not, Fred would kill you if he thought of such a thing."

"Let him try," said Perceval valiantly. "I'll have you in spite of him. See, here is the minister on his porch, Rosamond. Come, darling, he will give me the right to claim you from your brother."

And before I knew what I was about I found myself in the minister's parlor being married in a bicycle skirt and pink cotton shirt waist.

Ten minutes later I walked into Fred's office, leaving Perceval waiting outside, looking a little pale about the gills, but with a combative gleam in his eye.

"Fred," I remarked coolly, as I looked my brother square in the face, "I want to thank you for what you've done for me. I'm Mrs. Perceval Jones, by your leave."

Then a smile of incredulous relief spread over his face.

"Gosh!" he ejaculated. "To think that the fellow actually wanted you!"

How the Corset is Made.

Women have no hand in shaping the corset which she and her sisters are to wear. A rough draft of it is put on the model, and the man designer indicates the length and the curves by marks. When it fits to his satisfaction a plaster cast is made of her figure with the corset on. From this cast iron "forms" are made. A pressure of 600 pounds is brought to bear upon the corsets which are fitted to the "forms." This enables them to mould the forms of their wearers to prevailing fashions, and leaves not a trace of a chance for personal idiosyncracies.

The sheath fitting skirts are responsible for several devices for obtaining snugness at the hips. Corsets are rather longer than last year, but still easy above the waist.

The Russian Minister of Education is said to have prohibited the use of corsets before the age of confirmation.

The manufacturers receive a great many applications from fine looking girls who desire positions as models for fitting and photographing, but they find it difficult to secure girls who are willing to have their faces photographed for advertisements. This accounts for the advertisement pictures which have gained spread before the face, the face turned away, hidden in the arm or concealed by a fan. Many of these girls pose for artists.

Dealers pay from \$25 to \$100 for the privilege of fitting and photographing, in addition to the usual time rates paid by artists.

Late to Bed and Early to Rise.

Queen Wilhelmina goes to bed at eleven and gets up very early. Her first toilet is a quick one, for it is merely a preparation for a good, brisk walk in the park. On these excursions she wears a rough woolen "maute" made like those of the Freeland peasants. When she comes in from her exercise she has a cup of chocolate in her room and then makes an elaborate toilet.

DEMANDS ON SILVER.

EASY TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT LEGAL RATIO.

There Would Be Widespread Demand for the White Metal for Paying Debts Aggregating Twenty Billions of Dollars.

It has been estimated that there are between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000,000 of long-time indebtedness, consisting of national, state, county, city and corporations, bonds, and individual promissory notes owed in this nation. Over one-half of this is payable in lawful money of the United States. Under free coinage, silver dollars become legal tender for the payment of all that ten or fifteen billions of debt. It is a principle recognized in all political economies that if one dollar is cheaper than another, that all the obligations payable in lawful money will be paid in the cheaper dollar and thus if silver should ever go to a discount compared to gold there would be that enormous demand created for silver by the debtors who owe the \$10,000,000,000 or \$15,000,000,000. With such an enormous demand upon the limited quantity of silver available for coinage, is it possible that anyone would part with silver at an appreciable discount? You must remember that this silver dollar is not only a legal tender for the payment of private debts, but it is also a legal tender for the discharge of state, county and city taxes, which aggregate \$500,000,000 a year. It is a legal tender for the payment of all import duties, internal revenue duties, and postage dues of the national government, and you must remember that the national government raises by those duties the enormous sum of \$500,000,000 a year. The premiums contracted to be paid in lawful money each year in the United States upon life insurance policies is \$323,902,327, and upon the fire insurance policies is \$58,819,388. The total amount of life insurance in force in the United States, all of which is payable in lawful money, is \$13,742,495,426. According to the report of the comptroller of the currency for the year 1897, the amount of deposits, payable in lawful money, in our Savings banks is \$1,939,376,035. National banks is 1,863,349,128. State banks is 723,640,795. Loan and trust companies is 566,922,205. Private banks is 50,278,243. The amount of loans, consisting mostly of thirty, sixty and ninety-day paper, all of which is payable in lawful money, in favor of our Savings banks is \$1,066,507,686. National banks is 2,066,776,113. State banks is 669,973,556. Loan and trust companies is 445,629,725. Private banks is 50,278,243. The total amount payable on shares in public associations is \$450,667,594. The amounts agreed to be paid in lawful money at periods of from one to five years, on contracts for construction of buildings, railroads, ships, canals, and other improvements in the United States, must aggregate several billions of dollars. The desire on the part of all the people and corporations owing these enormous amounts to pay in the cheaper money would make such a tremendous demand upon silver should it go to a discount of even 1 per cent as to immediately restore its parity with gold. No one would part with silver dollars or silver certificates at a discount when he could utilize them at par for so many purposes and to such enormous extent. It is claimed by the gold standard people that there can be no parity maintained between the metals, because there is a variation in the amount of each produced. They seem to lose sight of the fact that in addition to the question of production there is an increased demand made for the cheaper metal by reason of the legal tender quality given to the money coined therefrom. Under free coinage the minute one metal becomes cheaper than the other all the demand is taken from the dealer and transferred to the cheaper metal. That demand is so great compared to the difference in annual production that it almost immediately restores the value of the cheaper metal. It is on that account that bimetallic acts as an automatic regulator of the value of the metals. From the years 1800 to 1841 there was three times as much silver produced in the world as gold, and from the year 1850 to 1873 there was more than three times as much gold produced as silver, and yet during all that time, while the mints of France were open to the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold, the variation between the market price of both silver and gold did not exceed the difference between the coinage ratio of the various nations.—J. F. Shafer.

Annie Gravenstock's Case.

Annie Gravenstock died of starvation in Chicago the other day. Like her husband, who barely escaped the same fate, she was old, infirm and almost helpless. Yet she had done nothing to deserve death, unless old age and poverty are to be accounted crimes. She perished in the midst of plenty. What answer can society make to the indictment for homicide? The story is a distressing one. Mrs. Gravenstock was stricken with typhoid fever two months ago. Her aged husband performed the functions of both, and by so doing lost the employment through which he gained a scanty livelihood. When the fever had run its course there was no food in the house. The pitiful stock of furniture went piecemeal, and when it was gone the woman starved to death. That is the substance of the story. The fact that stupidity or indifference at the

county agent's office hastened the tragedy is of minor consequence. The indictment lies against society itself—against society which maintains a system that renders the stupid county agent necessary. There is something radically wrong in a condition which permits a poor, innocent, helpless human being to perish for the lack of sustenance which would cost no more than is paid for a cigar or a drink of whisky. It is monstrous. Within a mile from the spot where Annie Gravenstock was done to death at the hands of society are the greatest cattle yards in the world. Within a stone's throw of her deathbed are towering elevators filled to bursting with grain enough to feed the armies of all nations. Yet, with abundance on every side of her—with countless trains laden with food rattling past her door every day—Annie Gravenstock perished of starvation within sight of the world's granary. With her feeble old husband holding her hand her soul went out in quest of a better world than this. She could not find a worse one. What has society got to say about it? What have the fashionable churches, the professional philanthropists, the civic federations, the municipal leagues, and all the other organizations which teach us morals—what have they to say about this case of Annie Gravenstock, sentenced to death because she was old, poor and friendless? Will they say, "We would have saved her had we known of her necessity?" Why should she have been reduced to any such necessity? Why should a human being formed in God's image be so utterly wretched as was Annie Gravenstock in a professedly Christian land—a land flowing with milk and honey? The case hinges not upon the fact that Annie Gravenstock was denied succor, but upon the fact that she stood in need of succor. The world—the great Christian world—owned Annie Gravenstock a living. What has it accorded to her is a grave in the potter's field. And we continue to send moral handkerchiefs to the inhabitants of heathen lands and talk about spreading the blessings of American civilization among eastern peoples. God help the eastern peoples.

The Campaign in Nebraska.

Mr. William J. Bryan is a bold leader. The Nebraska election this year is not of great importance. One judicial office and two regents of the university are to be elected. Such campaigns usually pass off without incidents and the elections go by default. Of itself the Nebraska campaign would have no national interest or significance—not so much as a municipal election in a great city like Chicago or New York. Nebraska is naturally a Republican state, although Mr. Bryan carried it in 1896 by a majority of 13,576, and the "fusion" candidate for governor was elected last year by a majority of 2,751, the Republicans carrying the legislature. But Mr. Bryan this year adopted the policy of forcing the fighting. He determined that the Nebraska election should be clothed with a national character. He made himself and his platform the issue, to be determined by the election or defeat of a candidate for chief justice nominated in a fusion convention, or, rather, in three simultaneous conventions, by bodies of delegates representing himself as a presidential candidate and advocating the platform of 1896 with his own most recent construction and with new particulars and details. The Republicans understand, or pretend to understand, the brilliant audacity of Mr. Bryan's policy as asking the judgment of his own state on his candidacy for president on his special platform. It is probable that the country will so understand it. If Mr. Bryan carries his state triumphantly in this off-year with only a judicial candidate in the field, he and the platform of 1896 being the avowed and real issue, no doubt he will be much nearer the Democratic nomination for president than he would have been without the advantage of so decisive a personal victory. The Republicans are acting on their explanation of the issue. They will put up the biggest fight that the state has ever seen. Speakers of national fame will be heard on every stump. McKinley will incidentally appear on the scene as a second-term candidate to meet his opponent of 1896. The people of the whole country will regard the result with extreme interest.—Chicago Chronicle.

Railway Passes and Public Officials.

From the Indianapolis News: The public conscience is becoming quickened more and more to the incongruity of public officials accepting of such courtesies, such money-saving devices, such evidences of obligation, such pensions as railway passes are, and the public conscience will, in no long time, let us hope, reach the point when it shall make it an offense for any public official to have a pass of any kind. Already this condition has been reached in some states concerning legislators. Speed the day when it shall become universal!

Why the Philippines Fight.

From the Hartford, Conn., Times: The "rebels" in the Philippines never thought of "assailing" our flag until we sent armed men to command them to submit absolutely to our rule, and then they gave us months of notice before a gun was fired. Had we made any such demands upon the Cubans as we made on them (with far smaller justification) we should be fighting half a million "rebels" in the island of Cuba to-day. It is better to stick to the plain facts while we are talking about this business.



NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Designs For Costumes That Have Become Popular in the Metropolis.

New York City (Special).—A superb house toilet or morning gown suitable for any time of the year is a successful creation of a New York

pushed close to the throat, leaving the ends of the ribbon to hang in two long scarflike ends.

Wide winged bows of white silk muslin edged with imitation Mecllin lace are becoming to every one and smarten up a very plain waist.

A New Set of Colors.

Paris is inaugurating a new set of colors, and judging from the titles given the various shades considerable attention is being given the question by the experts. A deep cream is called "Cream of the Meadow," as its shade is exactly that of the wild flower of that name. "Eventide" describes a new gray, and really the color is deep, mysterious and misty. A shade of pink is described as "poppy bud," as it gives one the idea of the silvery sheen seen on the poppy bud.

Black Dinner and Reception Gowns. For dinner and reception gowns black velvet will assume the precedence, over even the black spangled net affairs of the past season.

Strings on All Headwear.

Strings are appearing, both on hats and bonnets.

A Lounging Robe.

The woman who likes a kimono, but who feels how impossible it is out of her bed-room, can make something very similar, so far as comfort and coolness are concerned, and yet have a gown she will not mind wearing about the house, in the morning, at any rate. To fashion it, take two pieces of some pretty cotton material that is at least a yard wide (crap cloth is good), having first cut them about ten inches longer than the distance measured from your neck to the floor, and make a round hole four inches in diameter in the middle of each piece about four inches from its end; this is to be the arm-hole. A gore as large as seems necessary should then be added to each piece, and the resulting diagonal edges stitched together to form the back seam, while the opposite or front edges are neatly closed up to near the waist-line, and



SIMPLE MORNING GOWN.

(It is made of white pique or duck, with bands of black or dark blue linen duck. From Harper's Bazar.)

house. The material is a brilliant-iridescent Persian chiffon, of the softest, richest coloring. The whole dress is applied over with black-thread lace in graceful conventionalized floral figures, the lace in turn being outlined with rucked baby velvet ribbon the shade of Parma violets. There is a V from the throat to the point of the bust of heavy cut white lace over satin, a white satin belt and very long



BOX REEFER FOR A SCHOOL BOY.

slightly shirred sleeves. As will be noted, the skirt trails all around and is very clinging, falling below the rich satin underslip on which it is mounted.

Boys' Box Reefer.

The popular school coat for a boy is the box reefer of a style similar to the one shown in the large engraving. After twelve or thirteen years of age, boys more frequently wear trousers than knickerbockers, except, of course, when cycling. In England they give up the form earlier, or, at any rate, the knickers are worn with stockings. A boy of from eight to ten years of age, clad in short knickers and socks, such as one continually sees here, would be the laughing stock of his comrades on the other side of the channel.

A sailor costume with long trousers and Jersey may at a pinch form part of the wardrobe of a boy from thirteen to fourteen years of age, especially in the country or at the seaside. But the dress just described, short jacket and knickers of drab or gray, are generally preferred here for boys up to thirteen or fourteen.

May Tie the Bonnet Under the Chin.

Are strings to hats and bonnets really coming again? It seems like it, at any rate, for tulle strings are seen on all the new hats. They are becoming as a rule—they are worn twisted round the throat—and the effect is soft and pretty.

Pretty Neckwear.

The white or cream maline neckties that have been fastened in a bow at the throat are now brought twice around the high, straight stock, fastened half way between throat and belt with a pretty pin, and tied in a bow there.

Another pretty fancy is to bring a satin ribbon twice around the stock, put its ends through a small buckle of rhinestones or paste jewels, which is

from there left open to the neck. The neck itself should be gathered with more fullness at back and front than at the shoulder, and then bound, wide lace or embroidery being sewed in to form a collar and jabot. For the sleeves a shirt-waist sleeve is the best guide as it has but one seam; they may be shaped precisely like it at the top, but allowed to hang straight to the wrists instead of having the fullness gathered into a cuff, and then faced and turned back, which gives a Japanese look to the gown. Its owner ought to ask some one else to turn up the hem around the bottom while she stands properly belted, and it is complete. Worn with the belt white she is visible, and without when she wishes



TYPE OF LOUNGING ROBE.

to lounge in solitude, she will find this simple production of her hands exceedingly satisfactory.