

THE HOME TOILET.

Useful and Comfortable Garments That Can Be Made with a Little Ingenuity.

One of the most comfortable and useful garments in a woman's wardrobe is a pretty and becoming dressing sacque, and such garments possess many points of merit and economy, says the Troy Times.

In fact, one can have a lovely little sacque without buying anything new. Some pretty old silk or velvet may be turned into an attractive yoke, and a girl can indulge her love of color in this article or dress as she can in no other.

HIGHEST TYPE OF GIRL.

The One Who is Fine Mannered and Always Keeps Within Herself.

Julia Ward Howe, famous the world over as the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and for her prominence in women's activities, writes in Success her conviction that the representative twentieth century American girl will be the highest type of girl the world has seen.

In this matter of manners, we have not advanced during the last half century. We Americans do not give manners the attention they deserve. Abroad, we are acquiring the reputation of being the best dressed people in the world; but about our manners, which are even more important than dress, there is often a polite but significant silence.

Fashions in Wrappers.

Time was when the wrapper played such an important part in the comic papers and was such an untidy garment that it was banished from any correct outfit; but the dainty wrapper of to-day and the pretty matinee dress and one that is comfortable and appropriate.

Scalloped Salsify.

Scrape the roots and cut them in small pieces; boil until tender; place a layer of bread crumbs in a pudding dish and cover with the boiling salsify, season with butter, salt, pepper and parsley, continue with these layers until the dish is full, having a layer of bread crumbs last. Pour over a quart of sweet milk and bake for an hour and a half in a moderate oven.—Ladies' World, New York.

QUICK ON THE TRIGGER.

Strange Duel Between Two Bad Men of Colorado Who Hated Each Other.

"The most affectionate-looking two-handed gun play that I ever saw," said a Colorado gentleman in one of the house committee rooms, "was one that happened at La Junta, in my state, between 'Big Divide Jim' Bratton and George Gannon, as pizenish a pair of real bad men of the type that has now passed away as ever fanned a .45 or twisted a bowie.

"That same night Bratton sent word to Gannon that he meditated shooting him up some on the following day. Gannon wasn't a man to take to the cliffs or the cactus, having plenty of notches on his gun barrel himself, and he walked around the next afternoon like a light battery of artillery. 'Big Divide Jim' Bratton bulged him, however, by turning a corner suddenly as Gannon paraded down the main street, and then it was Gannon's hands that went up, for a change. Bratton had two guns covering him, and Gannon knew his gall.

"It was up to Gannon to comply with this peculiar request. 'Big Divide Jim' Bratton jabbed his guns back into his belt, and then he clutched Gannon's left arm and passed it through his right. The disadvantage of this arrangement accrued to Bratton. It left Gannon's gun arm free, while in case of argument Bratton would have to use his left gun. But 'Big Divide Jim' wasn't selfish.

"The population of La Junta was amazed to see 'Big Divide Jim' Bratton and George Gannon, who had always been more or less sore on each other, and who had had a quarrel that meant the death of one or both of them on the night before, walking arm in arm up and down the main street of the town. It looked like a peripatetic love feast between the two of 'em. But they were watching each other like cats. At the end of the street Bratton, still with his right arm linked to Gannon's left, stopped suddenly and said:

"George, I ain't much on the blow about any gun-suddenness that I may possess, but I sure want to give you a chance. You thrung it into me last night in a way that's eat up so much of the atmosphere around here that there's not enough air left in this neighborhood for both of us to breathe at one and the same time. I'm a-going to count 'three.' It's a breakaway and a finish. You've got a loose right arm, but I ain't no hog. One—two—three!"

"The event proved 'Big Divide Jim' Bratton the quicker man and the better marksman. He got Gannon through the heart, whereas Gannon's ball lodged in Bratton's right wrist. Bratton had to suffer his right hand to be cut off that same night.

"The last time I saw him was about seven years ago in Creede. He was sitting on the edge of a bunk in his own cabin, close to a claim he was workin'. I hadn't seen him since he'd lost his hand.

"'Jim' said I 'it's too bad you should have lost that right hand. If the fellow that plugged you had only gotten the left hand, why—"

"'Oh, I don't know,' said Bratton, philosophically. 'If I'd ha' lost my left I wouldn't have been able to play the fiddle any more.'

"He reached under his bunk and brought forth an old violin. Then he rigged up an attachment he had for holding the bow in his right stump, and he played the instrument real sweetly for me for half an hour.

"I couldn't have done no fingenin' if I'd ha' lost my left hook, you know," he said, simply, when he put the old fiddle away."

Wilhelmina's First Love.

Although romantic writers have made much "copy" out of the Dutch queen's approaching marriage, it is well known at The Hague that Duke Heinrich is not the young man who originally caught the royal fancy of the young queen. The first favorite was Prince Adolf, Heinrich's elder brother, and a very good-looking young officer. 'Willful Wilhelmina' smiled most amiably upon him, and in due time the proper authorities were commanded to sound the prince on the subject. But Adolf was coy and too fond of life and gaiety to consent to become the consort of the imperious young person who rules over the most peaceful but also the dullest court in Europe. Adolf refused to be wooed, and it was an open secret at court that the queen's disappointment and enragin were the cause of the prolonged delay in the announcement of her engagement to the younger brother. At the same time, the good Hollanders tell each other, with much satisfaction, that Heinrich is beloved of Wilhelmina, or she would never wed him—not if a hundred ministers were to ask her to.—N. Y. Commercial-Advertiser.

First Inspection.

"Your doom is sealed!" said the sheriff solemnly. "Doesn't matter," responded the prisoner, absently. "My wife will open it."—Chicago Daily News.

A BIT OF BACKWOODS LIFE.

Portable Sawmill Erected Near White House to Prepare for the Inauguration Ceremonies.

Some little glimpses of backwoods life as it was being enjoyed by people around the capitol just now, for a tolerably good-sized sawmill is running full blast between the war department and the white house grounds. This is evidently relished by members of the cabinet and of the presidential household, for the former never pass without stopping to inspect it, and the other morning Mrs. McKinley appeared at the window and stood looking at the comical primitive looking little shack or some time.

The sawmill is not for the purpose of exploiting some new paving company, as was suggested the first day of its appearance, nor is it the new addition to the white house, as was remarked by a pedestrian, but it is for the purpose of expediting the work of erecting seats for viewing the inaugural parade.

"Hobo, roosts," as the local police term the tiers of seats, are springing up opposite the white house, and the executive family will have almost a month in which to miss the pretty winter view of Lafayette park.

President McKinley is the eighth president who has had the pleasure of watching inaugural preparations from the white house windows, Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Lincoln and Grant being the other second-term presidents, and it is not likely that Jefferson could have stood the jar of the elaborate obstructions that are beginning to rise up about the capitol, while the portable sawmill would have been altogether an imposition.

MUST PAY INHERITANCE TAX.

Heirs of Cornelius Vanderbilt Served with Notices to Pay \$324,000 to New York State.

Heirs of Cornelius Vanderbilt have been served with notices calling upon them to pay into the state treasury the amount of their inheritance tax. The total tax on the personal estate agreed upon between representatives of the state controller, Surrogate Fitzgerald, and attorneys for the Vanderbilts amounts to \$324,000. This is exclusive of the residuary estate, over which a contest is threatened. The surrogate has decided in favor of the estate and excluded the residuary estate from present taxation.

If this decision is sustained Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, the residuary legatee, will be benefited by the interest for seven years on the one per cent. tax on the residuary estate of \$23,489,961.

Through C. D. B. Hasbrouck, attorney for the state controller, an appeal will be taken from this decision and payment of the residuary tax demanded at once. Attorneys for the Vanderbilt estate maintain that this payment should not be made until Alfred gets control of the property, when he reaches the age of 30.

POWERS OF REFLECTION.

William A. Eddy Continues Experiments to Discover Power of Mirror and Snow Flashes.

William A. Eddy, at Bayonne, N. J. the other day continued, and, in a measure, completed, his tests of the reflecting power of mirror sun flashes as compared with sunlight and cloud-shaded snow. Mr. Eddy found that mirror sun flashes were about 14 times as bright as cloud-shaded snow and eight times as bright as sunlight snow. Mr. Eddy considers these experiments important in that they bear upon the visibility of army signals from snow-capped mountain peaks.

Mr. Eddy thinks it is highly improbable that the light flash seen from Mars at Flagstaff, Ariz., could have resulted from the sudden lighting up with sun rays of snow at the poles, which had previously been cloud-shaded.

He also calculates that, supposing the Martians to be using mirrors to reflect the light, it would be a stupendous undertaking to effect the result described. It would require mirrors, he calculates, covering over a hundred square miles to produce the shaft of light.

A RARE PAINTING.

A Genuine Velasquez Secured at Great Cost by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The Boston Museum of Fine Arts now possesses one of the finest examples of the old masters in this country. It is a Velasquez, a portrait of Little Prince Carlos and his dwarf playmate, painted about 1632, when the son of Philip IV. was 2 1/2 years old. The picture is hung in the Lawrence room of the museum, carefully raised off.

The reported price paid by the board of directors of the museum is \$90,000. The selling price was advertised at \$90,000, but though the directors will not say what was paid, it is understood that they secured a slight reduction.

Gen. Charles G. Loring, director of the museum, said: "I have no hesitation in declaring it is the finest picture in this country. We secured it from Castle Howard, the seat of the earl of Carlisle, in the north of England, where it has hung for 150 years." The portrait is life-size and in a splendid state of preservation.

Human Eccentricities.

Mr. William C. Whitney has just paid \$60,000 for a horse, announces the Chicago Times-Herald, in spite of the fact that he might have purchased one of the best automobiles in the market for \$2,500.

ALARMING DECLINE.

Great Falling Off in the Metal Industry of Great Britain.

Last Year Began with Enormous Activity But Closed with Practical Stagnation in This Most Important Trade.

A report received at the state department from United States Consul Fleming at Edinburgh, Scotland, sets forth an alarming decline in the metal industry of Great Britain, calls attention to the lamentable lack of thorough technical education among British engineers, and discusses the mooted question as to whether the heavy exportation of coal from Great Britain should continue.

To describe the difference in the condition of the metal trades at the beginning, and at the end of last year," says the consul, "would be to contrast enormous activity and practical stagnation." The depression is attributed in part to a fall in prices on metals all along the line, but chiefly to offers of American iron and steel at reduced prices which the consul states, came upon the market last autumn with crushing effect. What made the difficulty worse for British producers, he continues, was that Germany, having bought largely from America in the spring and summer, became alarmed and resold in England at reduced figures, also placing iron and steel on the market in competition with American manufacturers.

As indicative of the general acknowledgment of the crisis in the metal trades Consul Fleming quotes from Edinburgh papers, which state that "the iron and steel trades have gone from us;" "the outlook is appalling;" "the question of foreign competition in the metal trades is the most serious industrial problem before the country in the new century," and other expressions of alarm at the outlook.

The press in general, says Mr. Fleming, blames the manufacturers for not adopting labor-saving machinery in all branches of production where it can be introduced, and blames the workmen for their undisguised hostility to all labor-saving devices.

As to the lack of practical instruction in the industrial arts, the consul states: "It is the accepted opinion here that in the matter of technical education, Great Britain is far behind the United States and Germany." On this subject also the consul transmits newspaper articles eulogizing the liberality of rich American citizens in the foundation and indorsement of institutions for the acquirement of such an education, and declaring that this generosity on the part of wealthy Americans is a potent factor in the educational development of the United States.

NEWPORT IS PURITANICAL.

Board of Police Commissioners Is Enforcing the Sunday Closing Laws.

Newport, the queen of summer resorts, is going back to the Puritanical laws adopted by its forefathers, or at least a step in that direction was taken the other Sunday. Although the city has a mayor, the management of its affairs is largely vested in a police commission, and at one o'clock on the Sunday in question the police shut up all news stands, cigar and candy stores, and the police were given orders to keep everything shut. It is understood that the commission will enforce this order at the beach the coming summer, and even Sunday excursionists may be prevented from landing.

Although many are in sympathy with the movement, a large number are opposed to it, and several mean to test the constitutionality of the law in this regard. Should the action of the commission be upheld by the courts, even the Sunday evening concerts at the Casino will undoubtedly be suppressed, and the running of the street cars may be stopped. It is understood that Mayor F. P. Garretson is not in sympathy with the movement, but he is powerless to act.

RICH WEDDING GIFTS.

Present Sent to the Princess of the Asturias Valued at \$800,000 Shown in Madrid.

Wedding presents given to the princess of the Asturias were exhibited the other day in the royal palace at Madrid and formed a truly marvelous collection. Among those most admired was a pearl necklace, given by the queen regent. The Infanta Isabel's present is a saltire of diamonds and a necklace of pearls, rubies and diamonds, valued at 200,000 pesetas (\$40,000). A brooch in the form of a fleur de lis, of diamonds and rubies, is the gift of Queen Isabel. Presents have been given by all the princes and princesses and the Spanish nobility and the list of them is simply endless. The value of the whole is estimated at not less than \$800,000.

Peddlers in Liverpool.

Nearly 1,200 boys and girls are licensed by the city council of Liverpool to sell newspapers, matches, boot laces, etc., upon the streets. Before the licenses are granted consent must be obtained of parents and guardians, as well as of the local school officials. "One age limit for girls is from 11 to 16 years and for boys from 11 to 14 years. No child is allowed to peddle in the streets after nine o'clock in the evening. All must be decently clad and free from physical defects. No business must be done during school hours.

Farm Labor Scarce.

Farm hands are so scarce in Germany that difficulty is experienced in raising enough sugar beets to supply the demands of the factories.

FILIPINO LEADER TALKS.

Senor Benito Legarda Declares His People Want Peace with American Sovereignty Thrown In.

Senor Benito Legarda, a wealthy Filipino cigar manufacturer, who was at one time secretary of the treasury in Aguinaldo's cabinet, is in Washington. He has been on a trip around the world. He expects to spend a month or two in travel in the United States before returning to his home in Manila. With him is Theodoro Santos, the 18-year-old son of a rice planter in the province of Pomponga, Luzon. Young Santos expects to stop at Berkeley, Cal., where he will attend the University of California.

Senor Legarda is a firm believer in the necessity of American sovereignty in the Philippines, and at the same time he is loyal to his own people. He does not think they are capable of governing themselves, but he does believe that with a just administration they will eventually become just as good citizens as this country has anywhere.

Senor Legarda said: "The vast majority of the people want peace, and they want it with American sovereignty. Much of the trouble which has been caused out there is due to the constant talk in the United States of the ability of the Filipinos to govern themselves. They are encouraged in this delusion. If the United States were to withdraw its forces there would be turmoil and revolution. Without support we would drift backward instead of forward.

"The Filipinos are a capable people. They want to do the right thing, but they have much to learn. Give them the opportunity and they will learn, and they will become loyal Americans. They are willing that American sovereignty shall be maintained, but they do not want a continuance of a military administration. They want the establishment of a civil administration, backed up by military force as far as may be needed. Without a civil government, with a continuance of military government, a great many soldiers and a long time will be necessary before pacification."

Senor Legarda said the people above all things wanted the friars done away with.

TO CHEAPEN AUTOMOBILES.

New Concern Hays the Properties of the American Bicycle Company.

Cleveland men formerly conspicuous in the manufacture of bicycle parts and accessories have organized the Automobile and Cycle Parts company with an authorized capital stock of \$5,000,000, and purchased from the American Bicycle company the following properties: The saddle factory at Elyria, O., formerly operated by the Garford Manufacturing company; the saddle factory at Westboro, Mass., formerly operated by the Hunt Manufacturing company; the saddle factory at Westgate, Wis., formerly operated by C. J. Smith & Sons; the steel stamping factory at Chicago, formerly operated by the George L. Thompson company; the chain factory at Indianapolis, Ind., formerly operated by the Indianapolis Chain & Stamping company; the ball company at Cleveland, formerly operated by the Cleveland Machine Screw company; the pedal factory at Cleveland, formerly operated by the White Sewing Machine company, and the sheet steel factory at Chicago, formerly operated by Hart & Cooley.

The new company will have its headquarters in the American Trust building, Cleveland, O. It claims that the manufacture of automobiles will be greatly expedited and their cost materially reduced to the purchaser by the combination formed from the above named companies.

INCOME VS. A FORTUNE.

Morton B. Plant Declares He Would Rather Have \$30,000 Yearly Than \$15,000,000 Outright.

Morton B. Plant would rather have an income of \$30,000 for life than to receive \$15,000,000 or \$16,000,000 outright. He so stated at New York the other day. Mr. Plant is the only son of the late Henry Bradley Plant, the steamship and railroad man, over whose estate of \$20,000,000 a contest is being waged before Justice Leventritt in the supreme court by Mrs. Margaret Plant, his widow and second wife. Morton Plant is a son by a former wife. By the terms of Mr. Plant's will he leaves his widow \$30,000 for life. Morton Plant also gets \$30,000 a year for life, and the residue of the estate is to go to the children of Morton Plant's son, five years old.

Under the laws of New York a bequest of this nature is invalid, since not more than two lives can intervene. The will has been filed for probate in Connecticut, but Mrs. Plant is endeavoring to have it transferred to New York.

When Lawyer Parson brought out the fact that if the proceedings brought in Connecticut were illegal, Morton Plant would receive two-thirds of the estate, the witness looked bored, and said that he preferred \$30,000 a year for life, and was satisfied with the action taken by the executors in Connecticut.

Herd of Twenty Thousand Caribou. J. M. Bell, of the Canadian geological survey department, has just returned to Ottawa after an absence of about 18 months, during which time he traveled across Canada from the arctic to the boundary. He saw immense bands of Caribou. There must have been, Mr. Bell says, over 20,000 of them in one band. He never saw anything like it.

The Silver Lining.

Steve Brodie is dead, but remarks the Chicago Times-Herald, he succeeded in outliving Chimmie Fadden by several seasons.

MALE TIGER KILLS FEMALE.

Fight to the Death in Winter Quarters of a Circus Attributed to Jealousy.

In the death of a handsome tigress at the Robinson circus quarters at Terrace park, Cincinnati, the other day, a tragic love romance among fierce animals of the jungles was ended.

Two weeks ago six Bengal tigress were received from New York at the winter quarters. It was intended to exhibit the six in one cage, a thing that has never been done, and all were placed in one compartment to become accustomed to each other before the road season opened. There were four females and two males.

One of the females, a particularly sleek, graceful and beautiful tigress, immediately captured the affections of the two males, and so fascinated them that they entirely neglected the other three, who pouted and dejectedly crouched in a corner. But the handsome female also had her preference, and with one of the male tigers would have nothing to do. The other she appeared to be fond of.

These relations between the six continued for several days, the keepers looking constantly for a fight between the two males. But the jealousy of the tiger scorned took the form of rage against the female, and culminated in an attack upon her the other morning at sunrise. The fight was furious. The tigress made a desperate struggle for her life, but the male finally caught her by the throat with his powerful jaws, and she sank to the floor dying. Jealousy was the cause. The tigress was valued at \$1,000.

MIDST BUDS AND FLOWERS.

Magnificent Setting to the \$20,000 Dinner and Dance Given by Mrs. Belmont.

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont gave a dinner dance at Sherry's the other night. There were 225 invitations, and the dinner dance cost \$20,000. All the second floor was Mrs. Belmont's, and the palmroom downstairs. At eight o'clock the guests began arriving. When all had assembled Mrs. Belmont gave the signal, the music struck up a march, and downstairs to dinner fled the 191 who had accepted, the hostess leading.

Here came the first surprise, a tropical garden all abloom, with flowers and echoing with the notes of many birds. Trees stood about; there was a gravel walk down the center, and greenward beneath the feet. Here the tables, 16 in all, were spread. High in the air hung huge baskets filled with growing greens, through which shone Japanese lanterns. At one end was a green summer house. Lanterns hung from its rafters and vines clambered over it. In the grove of the trees were hung a hundred cages, each with a songster behind its bars.

The menus were hand painted on paper made to look like pieces of bark. There were 100 couples in the cotillon. Harry Lehr led with Miss Eleanor Jay, in whose honor Mrs. Belmont invited her guests.

A PROMISING OUTLOOK.

Development of Agricultural Possibilities of Samoan Islands Likely to Make Rich Returns.

Encouraging reports as to the development and exploitation of the Samoan islands have been received at the state department from United States Consular Agent Harris at Hilo, Hawaii. German plantation experts, says Mr. Harris, claim that the Samoan islands have a great future in coffee, tea, tobacco, cotton and like products. Upou island, in particular, it is said, is especially suitable for the culture of these products, possessing, as it does, favorable position, a fruitful soil and a good climate. A company is being formed in Germany for the exploitation of this island. Plantations are to be laid out, narrow gauge railways constructed and the development of the land generally promoted. The enterprise is headed by men of practical experience, who have acquired their knowledge of plantation life in East Africa and in Brazil. Work is expected to begin this spring.

WINS AFTER MANY YEARS.

The Marriage of Old Couple in Columbus, Ohio, Like a Book Romance.

One of the old story-book romances was enacted at Columbus, O., the other day when Rev. H. H. Barbour made Benjamin Valentine, a prosperous merchant of Cumberland, Md., and Mrs. Amanda Henry, of Columbus, man and wife. More than 36 years ago the two were lovers and had plighted their troth for better or worse. A lover's quarrel left each to seek a new love. Ten years ago Mrs. Valentine died. Three years later Amanda's husband was gathered to his fathers. The two met last summer in Pittsburgh. The recognition was mutual and the meeting led to a heart-to-heart talk on the good old days. The old flame was rekindled and the courtship renewed.

Danger in Cigarette.

A Chicago landit says he was driven to it by cigarettes. There seems to be no limit, exclaims the Chicago Times-Herald, to the damage the nasty things may do.

Mexican State Fair.

A permanent state fair will soon be established at Chihuahua, Mexico, for the special purpose of developing agriculture and cattle raising. Area of United States and China. The area of the United States is 3,501,000 square miles; that of China is 4,218,401, of which China proper has 1,336,941 square miles.