CARTHAGE, MOORE COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1885.

I. To the men at work in the field Ruth came running and crying, With steps that staggered and reeled Dress, ribbons, and hair all flying
One hand pressed to her side:

"Little Mary is dying!

Ride for the doctor! Ride! She has eaten the poison paste Mixed for the vermin! Haste! Saddle the horses! Away! Death will not linger or stay! Ride!

While they bridle the gray, "Hurry!" Girth Knotted, buckle a-lack Black rearing, gray pulling back, (Hurry is often delay.) Richard ran straight to the hall Where, leaning against the wall, A horse that is always ready, He caught as he ran his wheel, Steed of rubber and steel, Silent, and fleet, and steady Set door-way and gate-way a-flying, Leaped to his seat at a stride, And was off like a bird on the wing! (Ride!)

While they saddle the black,

Seven miles off is the town (Ride')
The roadway, winding and brown
Smooth and bard as a stone, Runs the long valley down. The rider is riding alone, And his feet, like pistons plying Drive the pedals around, And, like an engine flying, He skims along the ground

(Ride!)
So rapidly, so silently
The slender wheel did glide That the gray line of the road Backward under him flowed, Like a freshet-swollen stream And the trees on either side Seemed floating in a tide His pulses throb and bound Like engine puffs of steam Is the panting of his breath; But he rides a race with death And his single thought is—
(Ride.)

Now he is rising the hill; Heavily go his feet. Driven by desperate will:

(Ride!)

His breath is a sob, and his heart
A hummer that strives to beat
His rocking ribs a part;
He reels and sways in his seat; His teeth gleam white and bare Where his lips are parted wide; The sweat drips under his hair; He cannot see aright For the black specks in his sight: But he will not pause or bide A moment's breathing space;

Sweet Ruth is his hoped-for bride; There's a double stake in this race! At last he is over the brow: The village below him is lying; Legs over the handles, now Down the long slope he is flying; Like skimming swallows that glide

Down the long slant of the wind. (Ride!) The swiftness of his pace Dashes the wind in his face; His sight is no longer blind; His cars have ceased their humming; His heart beats easy egain; He draws his breen without pain; And when he reaches the plain,

(Ride!) Lightly he sits in his seat, And the strokes of his rapid feet Are fast as the ceaseless beat And the wheel beneath him springs Like a bird to the strokes of its wings, Like a lover's thoughts to his bride. (Ride!)

The doctor's fast-trotting mares Is fleet, and her load is light; But the village people stare As he lashes her to flight. With a rush, a scramble, a scurry,

The dust spurns under her feet "Hurry!" But, ere she has covered a third Of her race, like a low flying bird Comes stealing beside her wheel The steed of rubber and steel, Forcing the mare to her stride Its rider sits lightly and straightly; Well over his bandle bar, Spinning the pedals greatly, As, leaning forward far, He shouts to the doctor:

Half way on the road they meet The galloping horsemen:-

"Hurry!" Pell-mell, worry and hurry, They follow with scampering feet! Now the house is in sight; at the gate Ruth waiting: "Thank God! not too late!" Oh, Richard: "As panting he stands. She clasps him with both her dear hands: And he knows as he catches his breath And looks in her tear-streaming face, Not in vain has he ridden his race, And beaten the champion, Death.

VIII. It is done! The race is over and won! The wheel still stands in the hall.

And gleams and glistens with pride As, leaning against the wall, Silent, tireless and steady,

A horse that is always ready, It seems to invite you to ride it: And it hears the bridgeroom and bride, In the twilight, standing beside it, The murmur of vows they repeat, The parting of soft lips that meet, hearts of lovers, that beat Like the patter of baby feet: But never again may it feel,

While rubber and metal abide, Such a thrill as ran through its cel; When Ruth to the startled men cried: -President Bate, in Outing.

MADAM WHIMS.

BY MARGARET EYTINGE.

A young girl, who had just arrived, was the center of a group of women on time has come when the truth should be the porch of the old-fashioned hotel in told. I cannot, in consideration for her, Wildgrapeisle, a little island the meditake the dreadful responsibility of keepcinal qualities of whose springs, especially in the case of nervous complaints, Ladies that splendid looking fellowwere just beginning to be known, one so bound to the side of his wife-would, lovely August evening. "And now," had it not been for her angelic love and said she, after the usual welcoming devotion, have been long ago the inmate speeches and complimentary remarks of a lunatic asylum. Don't be frightabout the becomingless of her traveling ened, he has never hurt any one but her.

"Oh! the old set," answered two or three of his friends together. "With over them he is sane as you or I. For the exception, "added two or three more, several weeks past these attacks have

arrival. "What a very odd name." "Oh! It isn't her real name," ex- Miss Dutton, something

me while the others remain silent," in and then he sinks into a profound slum- world in 1830. errupted the girl laughingly. "It's ber from which he awakes, utterly uner confusing, you know, listening to conscious of what he has done, to laugh

you narrate and oblige yours truly, Bell

Morrison.' "There isn't any story to tell, Bell, my dear," replied the southful, bright-eyed she came about three weeks ago-whose name is Mrs. Eleanor Halpin, but whom whimmen. Pun intended-hope you all

"I recognized it at once," said Bell, having met it many times before, notably in the old verse which, if my memthis way:

"When Eve first wooed with love so kind Her Adam called her wooman; But when she brought him grief and woe, Why, then he called her woeman. Since then the men declare the sex

With follies overbrimmin', And so they're changed the name again, And now they call them whimmen."

"Am I to go on, or have you any more verses to repeat?" asked Mistress "You are to go on and go on quickly," answered her sprightly friend, "for I haven't had my supper yet and I shall

soon be awfully hungry. You said last she was the 'whimmiest of whimmen,' Pray tell me what shapes her whims "Oddities of dress, principally. When we first beheld her, two days after her arrival-she had kept her room in the interim-she wore a sort of turban, apparently evolved from a large, soft, crimson silk handkerchief, tilted rather rakishly

over the left eye. It was not altogether unbecoming, but it was extremely queer. In a few days the turban was discarded and she appeared in very long, very loose gloves, morn, noon and eve, breakfast, lunch and dinner, for nearly a week. Then she came down with a cane, a handsome one, and walked with an aftected little limp for another week. Then a lace scarf graced her head, tied down over her ears, my dear, with a big bow under her chin. And to-night. warm as it is, she has several yards of white illusion twined around her throat and standing up at the back of her neck in a manner that strongly suggests an Elizabethan ruff."

lady's vagaries seem to last for several self, Maud. Is she pretty? Is she clever? Is she wife, widow or divorcee? If wife, what kind of a husband has she?"

"Well, she is not ugly, rather pretty, in fact, and somewhat clever; so we infer from what conversation we have had with her, which is very hittle, for it is one of her whims to have her husband hard it is for women to talk to each other when there is a man round. By the by, we also infer from the nevervarying brightness of her face that she must be a very happy, very sweet-tempered woman. "And her husband?"

"Oh! ves. I was coming to him. He is a splendid-looking fellow (though Kate Dutton, who is given, you know, to finding resemblance to animals in human beings, declares there is a hint of a tiger about him), but we are not particutruth, my dear, he hasn't shown the slightest interest in any of us." "And how does he appear to regard

his wife's whine?" "With extreme indulgence. I see him looking at her peculiarities of dress, sometimes, with the kind of smile with which a fond parent regards the trick of a spoiled child.

"Spoiled child, indeed!" here joined in a sharp-nesed, thin-lipped elderly dame, who had evidently thus far been holding her tongue with great difficulty. "I have no patience with him. Why don't he make her take off these fal-deinfluence over her, might prevail upon her not to make a show of herself."

"Perhaps she is the sort of a person who can't be prevaled upon," said Bell. "I guess you are right," acquiesced Mistress Maud, with emphasis. about her mouth, though it is a small fiantly.

"Defiantly! Impudently I call it," resumed the sharp-featured lady; "and I'm sorry for her husband, I am, for spite of her pretended devotion, of at-

"That is false!" said a voice from the moment Mrs. Gregg, a tall, pale woman

the porch. " False " echoed the unlovely spinster. "Yes, 'false;' and to my mind the ing my mistress' secret any longer. costume had all been made, "tell me For years he has been subject to insane paroxysms whose fury he vents upon the "of Madam Whims," chorused all the been much more frequent than ever before. But no one has suspected them, "Madam Whims," repeated the new even in this crowded hotel, for having. as you have already suggested,

teller in our school days, and that isn't bruised hands and arms, the scarf was far enough away for your tongue to have tied about the swollen cheek and the forgotten its cunning, and so suppose yards of illusion wrapped around her slender throat to-night hide the marks of cruel fingers. 'Madam Whims!'
Madam Saint, I say! 'He only hurts
me, she prays, when I threaten disclosmatron thus singled out. "The case is ure. 'He only hurts me and does not simply this: A lady is stopping here- mean to do it, as you well know, Gregg, for he loves me dearly and I adore him. What he does in the wretched moments our circle with common consent have that he is not himself I can bear, but to dubbed Madame Whims, because, my be parted from him forever-oh! that I dear, she really is the whimmiest of could not bear.' She came here in the hope that the waters might do him good, but he has, as I have told you, grown worse, and after to-day's experience it would be crime for me to remain silent any longer. 'Give me the name, please, ory serves me aright, runs somewhat in of the best physician in the-my God! what was that?' she broke off suddenly to exclaim, as a pistol shot rang out upon the air, and then she fairly flew back through the drawing-room, out into the hall, and up the stairs that led to her mistress' apartment, followed, almost as swiftly, by the horror-stricken women who had been listening to her story. Throwing open the door of the sitting-room she entered, leaving the others huddled together in the threshold. 'Too late! too late!" she cried; look there. And there on the floor, beside a couch which held the form of his wife, lay the lifeless body of Luke Halpin. "He has killed her in one of his insane moments," continued the companion in a shrill, unnatural voice, "and finding her dead on awaking has taken his own life with the pistol I thought I had so carefully hidden from him. And see, see, wringing her hands while the tears rolled down her cheeks, oh! what a pitiful sight-she played 'Madam Whims' to the last." And pressing silently forward they saw that the dying woman, with some wild idea of hiding the act that had cost her her life, and shielding him who was far dearer to her than that life, had with her last strength draped a gauzy shawl over the knife-wound in her

Kamchatka.

Detroit Free Press.

breast, but the tell-tale blood had drip-

ped through and stained the white silk

dress she wore with spots of vivid red!-

The hills are covered with forests of fir, larch, cedar, birch, etc., and in these are found numerous wild animals, such as the fur sable, the otter, foxes of all "Which suggestion of an Elizabethan | colors, and the bear, which latter, on ruff I suppose I shall have the pleasure account of the great supply of food, of seeing," said Bell, "as each of my attacks neither man nor the domestic animals. It is curious to note that the days. But tell me something about her- squirrel, which is universal in Siberia, is not found here at all. Swans, wild ducks, etc., are found in great quantities in the lakes and marshes in the interior, and their eggs, as well as the birds themselves, are taken in great numbers by the people. The fish, which throng the rivers in enormous numbers in the summer, form the principal food always at her side, and you know how of the natives. For the most part they are salmon, and are dried and stored up for the winter, but owing to the scarcity and dearness of salt the fish frequently become rotten, and the people suffer great privation. The rigor of winter is much softened by warm ocean currents, which create those thick continuous fogs that render the coast so dangerous to navigation. The total populalation of both sexes is put down at only 6,500 souls, but owing to the total absence of agriculture, and to the primitive methods adopted for preserving food for larly interested in him, because to tell the | winter, these are frequently in a state of semi-starvation. For all except bare food they have to look abroad-clothes. utensils, tea, tobacco, etc., and all these they purchase by means of their fur sable, which is unequaled in any other part of the world. About 5,000 of these skins are sold each year at fifteen or twenty rubles each. At the beginning of the present century cattle were introduced from lakutsk, and, owing to the excellent grass and water, would have thriven well, but on account of the lack of industry or energy on the part of the natives, it was found impossible to lay in sufficient stores of fodder in winter. The lals (Maud hasn't told you about half of | question whether agriculture is possible them) and dress like a Christian? I in the peninsula has never yet been would, mighty quick, if I were he. But answered Markets exist in the ports of as he don't I should think that compan- Eastern Siberia, which are at present ion of hers -Mrs. Gregg-who seems to be a sensible person and to have some supplied with such articles as salt meat, butter, cloth, and hides from San Francisco. The main obstacle to agriculture is the excessively damp and constantly foggy climate. The sun seldom shines, and does not, therefore, give enough warmth for the growth of rye and wheat. The trade is almost wholly with Califorhas a very determined look at times nia, and as there is little or no money there it is carried on by a system of exand smiling one. And her big, dark change, the natives offering their sable gray eyes meet your gaze almost de- skins in return for such goods as they require. - Nature.

Popular Superstitions. Speaking of Governor Cleveland's altogether I've no doubt he has a pretty luck, the thought occurs that there are hard time of it. I'm sure if I were a undoubtedly lucky men and unlucky man I shouldn't want my wife tagging ones. One of Girard's rules was never round after me every step I took, especially if I had a wife like Madam Whims, lucky man. The Rothschilds will not eternally devisin' ways and means, in employ a man who has a reputation for ill-luck. Most people are believers in ill-luck. History is full of it. Cromwell trusted in September 3, Napoleon drawing-room window, and the next in December 2. Many great men have worn trinkets to give them luck. clad in black robes, stepped out upon Many a woman who puts on her stocking wrong side out will not change Few care to be one at a table of thirteen. In Russia they will not pass the salt. Men hate to do anything important on Friday. Millions believe in the virtues of the horseshoe. Even the most sensible people have little confidence in the ultimate success of a man who has been the victim of an extraordinary run of ill-luck. A man's in telligence and integrity count for nothing in the popular estimation, when people have seen his enterprises fail one after another. There is a general disposition to believe that it is better to be born lucky than rich.-Atlanta Constitution.

The statistical account of the production of wool throughout the civilized world shows that in the year 1830 it was plained several of the group in one tiger about him, it is but a stealthy to the United States alone the probound, a noiseless, heavy blow, or two duction of wool was 320,000,000 pounds, "Suppose one of the party enlightens or three-received without a murmur— or as much as was produced in the whole

on a subject of which the as you do at his wife's whims. The fan blood in the head may be overcome by Sleeplessness caused by too much You, opens to be in total ignorance. tastic turban concealed a wound in applying a cloth wet with cold water to used to be a capital story- the left temple, the long gloves covered the back of the neck.

TIMELY TOPICS

An interesting feature of the world's exposition at New Orleans will be a united encampment of veterans of the war, embracing the soldiers of the Union and Confederate armies. The board of managers of the exposition have voted \$10. 000 for this purpose, and 1,000 tents will be constructed for the free accommodation of the veterans.

Four hundred and fifteen new one dollar United States notes, from actual test, are equivalent in weight to one pound avoirdupois, and the number of notes should be the same of any denomination. It is not, however, perfectly reliable, as the paper upon which the notes are printed often varies in thickness to the extent of 100 notes in a package of 1,000.

The municipal authoraies of St. Louis have recently been investigating the sanitary condition of women employed in the mercantile and manufacturing establishments of that city, of whom there are over 1,500. The result of the examination was the passage of an ordinance requiring employers to furnish them with seats, and to permit their use to a reason

Terrapin was introduced into England | United States government has any inby Wormley, the deceased Washington caterer, while steward to Reverdy Johnson when the latter was minister to England. Poker was afterward introduced by minister Schenck. No wonder Englishmen try to recover the money they have lost through indulgence in these expensive luxuries by marrying rich American girls.

There are twenty-four gaming-houses and gambling clubs in Paris, and between \$30,000,000 and \$35,000,000 are computed to have been lost there during | channels, missionary stations and trading the last five years. The minimum profits of the banks in the clubs are put down and with the money of the assoat \$1,200 da'ly, and in less select ciation. Until Mr. Stanley degambling houses at \$200. Taking the voted himself to this labor of exploration average at \$400 per day the total for the the country was a dark continent, supfive years comes out at the respectable figure of \$17,500,000. Nearly \$12,500,-000 are set down as the year's "pickings" of the croupiers and preteurs.

a half feet. Yet the stalks are small, already doing an immense business. also the roots, but they are so solid that | a report submitted by Lieut. Drake, U. a wind could not blow them an iota S. N., the capital invested is shown to from the perpendicular. But in the fall and winter this growth becomes stiff, with a strong fibre, and, with proper application-there are many acres of itwould make better paper than straw or

Howdon, a dirty, desolate, unsavory rillage on the river Tyne, is setting at defiance all the theories of sanitation. Its inhabitants live and thrive with open gutters running through the center of the streets, with an inadequate water supply, and with houses condemned at wholesale as unfit for habitation. As an illustration of the longevity of its people under adverse conditions, the fact is noted that a boy was born the other day who had four grand-parents and five great grand parents alive, each of whom was in active work, earning his or her own livelihood.

The Boston Journal is authority for the following: "The waste of money in the printing of congressional documents and speeches in this country which are never read is notorious. The same evil exists to fully as great an extent in England. The list of papers issued at the last session of the British parliament- a pure catalogue, closely printed on folio paper -takes up 152 pages! More than half, says an English paper, are useless, and of the remainder one-half are spun out to double their needful size. The taxpayer pays, and windy orators and writers continue to pour out their endless store of words.'

Mr. Copeland, of Brookland, has nearly completed the machinery which is being placed under the Union Fish company's wharf, Provincetown. This is an invention of Mr. Copeland's, in which the rise and fall of the tide is the motive power. The work is only experimental, but everything is successful thus far. The apparatus consists of a float gliding up and down on studding, which turns a wheel, making only four revolutions a tide. This wheel is connected by means of shafts and bells to a series of wheels, and in such a way that the terminal wheel makes 240 revolutions

A quaint little machine was recently out in operation at large postoffices in England. It was intended to be laborsaving. A penny dropped into a little hopper released a delicate spring which shoots up a postal card. A postmaster might put in a thousand cards in the morning and pick up his thousand pennies for them when the supply of pasteboard was exhausted. Sometimes, however, the postmaster leaves the machine out after the cards are all gone. Old ladies and bustling business men rush up, drop in their money, and, to their astonishment, no card appears. course, there is no reclamation. Who can prove that his penny has gone into the capacious maw? So Brother Bull may "gather them in."

Senator Don Matias Romero, the Mexi-320,000,000 pounds; in 1871 it was tion to its producing power; it must in- Hastily tying his two lassoes together, nearly 2,000,000,000 pounds, while in crease the production of extraction of the man threw the noose over the woman prejudice to the right of proprietorship the woman survived is not stated. and of patent.

pening is related by the Philadelphia equal to the imported article.

Dubois's jewelry factory, was cutting a piece of gold from a breast-pin, when the piece suddenly flew upward, cutting a deep slit in his eye. Although the ac-cident was not painful the sight of the injured organ was destroyed. The piece gold was 1-64 of an inch thick and of an oval shape, its greatest diameter being about a quarter of an inch. It could not be found at the time of the accident, and was supposed to have been lost. Three weeks ago Mr. Simpson's eye began to give him intense pain and became greatly swollen. For relief he applied to it a bread poultice, which was frequently renewed. When he removed the poultice he was astonished to find clinging to it the piece of gold which had cut his eye more than a quarter of a century ago. No one had supposed that the missing piece of gold had embedded itself in his eye, and

the discovery was as great a surprise

to the patient as to his friends. The

sharp edge of the gold had cut its way

There is a scramble for the possession of the Congo country between France and Germany, both of which governments seem to ignore the fact that the terest or authority in the master. But the appointment of Hon. John A. Kasson as delegate to the Berlin conference is a reminder that the rights of this nation will be insisted on. The later exploration and development of the Congo valley has been carried on by Mr. Stanley in behalf of the African International association, of which the king of the Belgians is the head, as a private under-

mated at 50,000,000, consists of roads, posts. This work has been done by posed to be inaccessible by sea or land. The Congo is so deep that soundinglines have failed to determine its depths, and a complete chain of communication has been established by means of its trib-At La Canada, in Los Angeles county, utaries and adjacent banks with a vastly Cal., what is known as "corn grass," a rich and productive region. The exports wild kind of pampas, is very abundant. | are ivory, palm oil, ground nuts, rubber, During the spring and summer it is and a great variety of articles, the list green, fresh and abundant, growing to a being capable of expansion by cultivation. straight height of from nine to ten and | The Dutch traders along the Congo are return the enormous percentage of from 300 to 400, as the exchanges are on the

> naturally attracts not only the attention of individual speculators but nations as well. Busy Scenes at the New York Postoffice.

basis of barter. The money of civilized

nations is not employed. English im-

portations already aggregate \$3,000,000

annually, and regular lines of British

steamships are running to the mouth of

the Congo. The exports reached the

sum of about \$10,000,000 last year.

This fertile field of adventure and profit

While the rush of New York's outgong mail is at its height, and men are working tooth and nail to make some progress against the inundating flood hat comes in from the busines; houses, he rumble of the heavy wagons comes faintly in through the open doorways at the northern end of the building, and a growl of pardonable profanity passes around among the hard-worked men as they think of over 100,000 extra pieces suddenly to be dumped upon their hands. This is a "smash" in the vernacular of the postoffice. It is like a break in the levce to the inhabitants of a Mississippi town, and can be conquered only by the most herculean efforts. It differs from the western flood chiefly in the frequency of its coming. It is at such times as this that the

splendid efficiency of the New York postoffice is shown to perfection. The magnificent spectacle of a regiment of trained men working together with the precision of clockwork, and a keen intensity which causes the great mountains of paper to dle away into a thousand receptacles, is worth going a great way to see. But few are privileged to see it. The postoffice is a hard nut to crack. It is a nut with two shells. All can penetrate the outer husk, but when it come to cracking the inner shell, the penetralia of this hive of industry, one must have uncommon good luck to make a success of it.

Exactly how big a "smash" it would take to overwhelm the office is one of these problems that have never yet been solved, for the reason that the office has always come out triumphantly from the and a quarter millions, and the run of mail matter is always more or less irregube large and flexible -that is to say, some thread. must be qualified to move from one place to another whenever stress comes upon a regular work is brought into consideration, one cannot help wondering that the office should be capable of performing the tremendous spurts which so frequently is recorded by it .- New York Herald.

A Tough Snake Story.

lated that a woman going to bathe in the the velvet binding. can minister, has transmitted to the secre- lake laid her child down under a neightary of state, at Washington, a decree boring tree and walked down to the issued by the State of Yucatan, Mexico. water. A gipola, however, which was offering a prize of \$20,000 to the inventor on the lookout for prey at the shore, of a machine which shall successfully ex- sprang at her and seized her before she tract the fibre from henquin, under the could escape. Soon afterward a horsefollowing conditions: It must be auto- man passing near heard some cries, and matic, and not require skilled and expe- on examining around saw the child alone rienced workmen to manage it, it must under a tree. Suspecting some disaster, be entirely free from danger to the opera- he rode down to the lake and there saw tors; it must require less motive force the huge snake swallowing the woman, than the machines now in use wi h rela- who was already in up to the waist. the fibre within a given time, diminish under her arms, and spurrying his ufacturers can possibly manage to make ing its loss, compared with the various horse succeeded in drawing the unfor. it, is only a box plait, with about two water was reached and drank, for a while machines in use. The reward is to re- tunate woman, s still palpitating body inches of the outside cut away at the it was vomited up as fast as it was swalmain open for three years and is without from the throat of the monster. Whether hem, and the under sides of the fold

Experts have pronounced South Caro-The following very remarkable hap- lina tea, cured in a fruit evaporator, time and trouble. The English skirts

Press: Twenty-six years ago Samuel G. FOR FEMININE READERS.

Craze for Jewelry.

All the people in Ceylon, from the babes "feeling their feet" to old men and women, their steps tottering on the brink of the grave, wear gold and silver ornaments. They even invent new places for carrying them and it is no uncommon thing to see a Cingalese belle with the top of her ears covered with gold plate or wire, a large pair of rings pendant from the lobes of the ear, a gold or silver circlet around her hair, her nose adorned with rings, bracelets on her wrists, rings on her fingers and silver plates on her toes.

Old Notions Concerning Bridemaids. Importance was formerly attached to the colors which the bride wore on her

wedding day. Thus, It as old book entitled "Fifteen Comforts of Marriage," a bride and her bridemaids are represented conversing together respecting the colors to be used for the decoration of the bridal downward and come through the skin dress. It was finally decided, after vari-just below the lower eyelid. ous colors had been rejected, "to mingle ous colors had been rejected, "to mingle gold tissue with grass green," this being considered symbolical of youthful joi-Again, that the office of a bridemaid

> was in times past not altogether a sine qua non may be gathered from the fact that during the period of the wedding festivities, which are often extended over a week, the bridemaids were expected to be in attendance, and to do whatever they could to promote their success.

Then there was the custom of "flinging the stocking," at which the bride maids took a prominent lead; a ceremony to which no small importance was attached. It has been made the subject taking. The improvements of the vast of frequent allusion by our old writers. region, which contains a population esti- and one rhyme, describing a wedding,

"But still the stockings are to throw; Some throw too high, and some too low, There's none could hit the mark."

Misson further informs us that if the bridegroom's stocking, thrown by one of the bridemaids, fell upon his head, it was regarded as an omen that she herself would soon be married, and a similar prognostic was taken from the falling of he bride's stocking, thrown by one of the groomsmen. It was the bridemaids' duty, too, to present the bride with the "benediction posset," so called from the words uttered over it; a practice thus noticed by Herrick, in his "Hesperides:"

"What short sweet prayers shall be said, And how the posset shall be made With cream of lilies, not of kine, And maiden's blush for spiced wine." Suckling thus alludes to this custom: "In came the bridemaids with the posset, The bridegroom eat in spigte.'

Once more, the bridemaids were supposed to look after the bride's pecuniary interests. Thus, at the church porch, when the briddgroom produced the ring and other articles relating to his mar-riage, the chief, bridemud took charge of the "dow-purse," which was publicly given to the bride as an installment of her pin money. Horace Walpole, writing to Miss Berry in the year 1791, speaks of the dow-purse as a thing of the past, and writes as follows:

Our wedding is over very properly, though with little ceremony, and nothing of ancient fashion but two bridemaids. The endowing purse, I believe, has been left off since broad pieces were called in and melted down.

It has been pointed out, however, that a survival of the usage is preserved in Cumberland. The bridegroom provides himself with gold and crown pieces, and when the service reaches the point, "with all my worldly goods I thee endow," he takes the money, hands the clergyman his fee, and pours the rest into a handkerchief which the bridemaid holds for his bride.

In Scotland, the bridemaid is popularly known as the "best maid," and one of her principal duties was to convey the bride's presents on the wedding to her future home. The first article generally taken into the house was a vessel of salt, a portion of which was sprinkled over the floor, as a protection against the "evil eye." She also attended the bride when she called on her friends, and gave a personal invitation to her wedding .-Cassell's Family Magazine.

Fashion Notes.

Very beautiful are the white felt hats brought out for little children. The fur-lined circular remains in favor,

but it is not a fashionable cloak. Persian lamb, Astrakhan, and gray krimmer are all popular cheap furs.

In lieu of sealskin jackets short mantles of sealskin will be worn this season. Among rew lining furs comes a long, crinkled, white fleecy fur called Chinese. The Chinese dragon, very fierce and severest trials. Considering that the scaly and very bright in coloring, is daily average of pieces handled is two painted on some of the new pearl but-

A new sort of ribbon is made to imilar, the working force at the disposition tate a network of twine lace thrown on a of Postmaster Pearson must of necessity satin ground and outlined with gold

New French envelopes have square flaps, with the monogram on a scal. particular department. But when, on the contrary, the constant pressure of set in the corner. set in the corner.

> One of the prettiest devices for beautifying wedding gowns is the use of satin panels, embroidered with orange blossoms and their leaves in the natural size. New York fashion says that the veil,

whether of plain or dotted net, shall fall almost to the lips this winter, but shall In Paragua, at Guaza Cua, it is re- not cover any part of the bonnet except Astrakhan cloth is one of the mid winter novelties; it is of pure wool, with a

rough, curly surface in imitation of Astrakhan fur, and comes in black, brown, gray and dark green. The waistcoats of the velvet polonaises imported from Paris are often covered with the same embroidery which borders the skirt panels. It is curved gracefully

at the sides and makes a pretty connection between the skirt and the waist. The Greek plait, which is to succeed so that they grew suspicious of each the accordion skirt, if the English man other. On the fourth night they were sloped to the point where they touch.

Any box plaited skirt may be transformed into Greek plaits by the expenditure of are made by machinery.

THE CHRISTMAS STOCKING.

"Dear Santa Claus," wrote little Will in letters truly shocking, "I'se been a good boy so please fill a heapen up this stocking. I want a drum to make pa sick and drive my manma craey. I want a doggie I can kick so he will not get lazy. I want a powder gun to shoot right at my sister Annie and a big trumpet I can toot just awful loud at granny. I want a dreffle big false ecare in fits our bapony I can some e grand pias mamma go I want a nic ber ball to into fline great big in the half lots an' lots winders. An candy that'll make me sick so ma all night will hold me an' make pa get the doctor quick an' never try to scold me. An' Santa Claus, if pa says I am naughty it's a story.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS

-H. C. Dodge.

Jus' say if he whips me

I'll die and go to king-

A crying evil-The baby next door. A bone of contention-The jaw

When is a farmer a tailor? When he ows a corn-patch. The popular dentist is in everybody's

nouth. - Siftings. Oscar Wilde has invented a new style of hat. Flat, probably, so as to fit his head perfectly. - Hawkeye.

"This is my engagement ring"-said the dashing equestrienne as she surveyed the saw-dust circle under the circus tent.

The young man who would scorn the idea of being a farmer, is the very one who is apt to be an expert in sowing wild oats. - Pretzel's Weekly.

Now doth the stylish woman feel

Cold chills run down her back. And straightway runneth she in haste To get a seal-skin sacque.

-Merchant-Treveler. The average size of the American family is 5.04. The decimal probably rep-

resents the dude, but the statisticians have got it rather large. - Boston Transcrip'. Oh! soft is the glance of a maiden's eye. What heart can its witching power with

stand? Her voice is the strain of a melody. And light is the touch of her soft white hand.

But the maiden remains not a maid for aye-And the matron's voice can raise a din. And her hand is heavy, so Benedicts say, When it wields a broom or the rolling pin. -Boston Courier. The New York Post states that bees do

not begin to gather honey until they are sixteen days old. Now we know the origin of the flowery phrase, "sweet sixteen."- Boston Courier.

IT SURELY IS. Sings the winter cold and drear, Chri-tmas is here; Sighs the leafless trees sere, Christmas is here; O'er the gloomy brake and mere— Christmas is here; And recalls the mad career-Christmas is here; Of the youn; swell cavalier-Christmas is here: Who said to his girl, "My dear,

Christmas is here."

Christmas is here; And I'm nearly broke, I fear—

The muscles of the body, says the Youth's Companion, are about threefourths water; the cartilage, three-fifths; the brain and nerves and blood, each four-fifths. The lymph is nearly all water (ninety-seven hundredths). Even the bones are one-tenth water. Of the body, as a whole, sixty-eight parts out of one hundred are water. Moreover, water, not only constitutes the larger part of all the secretions, but it holds in solution all the various elements out of which the body is renewed, and is a flowing stream to receive again and carry away the waste which is as constantly thrown off at every point. Further, without it the chemical changes in constant progress in every tissue would be impossible. Now the water of the body is more fixed than are its solids. Like the latter, having done its work once, it enters into the great waste current, and is thrown from the body through the skin, the kidneys and the lungs, at an average of ten pounds a day.

Keeping these facts in view, the reader will see why water is so much more essential to life than food - a man being able to live several times as long without the latter as without the former. The following facts, condensed from the American Journal of Medical Science, indicate the sufferings consequent on a orief withholding of this fluid:

In 1877 forty American troopers in pursuit of Indians lost their way, and for three days failed to find water. The second day, some fell from their horses exhausted. The third day, the most loathsome fluid would have been hailed with delight. The salivary and mucous fluids had utterly failed, and the men were unable to swallow their bread. All were affected with vertigo, dimness of vision and deafness. Many were delirious. Their breathing became difficult, and they had a sense of suffocation. Their fingers and palms were shriveled and pale. Their minds became affected, unable to sleep. When, the lowed, and the thirst remained insatiable until the remotest tissues of the body had obtained a supply.

One third of all the banking done in the world is done in England.