The Fort Worth Gazette predicts that exacting to the census of 2000 Texas will be entitled to a larger representation in Congress than all the other States in the Union combined.

M. Zola, the French novelist, speaks lightly of the Anarchist movement in his country, and intimates that if the Anarchists continue much longer the people will resort to lynch law.

Epidemics may sometimes have compensating advantages undreamt of by sanitarians, moralizes the New York Sun. Thus we read that in consequence of the prevalence of small pox at Meltingen, in Switzerland, the local authorities have suspended legal proceedings for debt and fraudulent bankruptcy.

The Government of the Swiss Tyrol has passed a bill imposing heavy fines on persons who may be caught while selling samples of the beautiful and rare Alpine flower called edelweiss, which has been pulled up by the roots on the mountains to such an extent that there is danger of the plant becoming extinct. The people complain that tourists are rapidly killing out that and other Alpine plants, and persons beat on money-making have helped on the destruction by gathering the plants for travelers.

The odor of musk has been known to cause people with sensitive olfactory nerves to faint away, but it is most sur prising to learn, observes Harper's Weekly, that the perfume of flowers can affect a singer's voice. Madame Patti's maid, however, makes the statement that the perfume of violets causes a hoarseness in the diva's throat such as might be due a bad cold. Consequently no plants of any kind, and especially no cut flowers, are ever allowed to remain in the prima donna's bedroom.

Every year a novel flower show is held in Phila lelphia under the patronage of fue Germantown Horticultural Society. The exhibits are confined to wild flowers picked in the suburbs of Philadelphia. It is said that there are 700 species within the county limits, and in order to encourage the local study of botany, the society meatione ! offers prizes for the best collections of the flowers. That the specimens are common enough may be judged from the fact that 100 have been gathered by a party of amateur botanists in the course of a day.

The Detroit Free Press grows sarcastic at the expense of England. It says; "Magnificent as have been the donations of this country to the starving Russians Americans are not the only people whose hearts are touched by a tale of woe. There has been a terrible amount of suf-"fering in Newfoundland, owing to the short catch of fish, which is the main food reliance of the people. The British Government has, however, come most nobly to the rescue of the suffering ones and shipped them sixty barrels of flour. If there are not too many of the sufferers this timely boon will relieve them for twenty-four hours at least."

The Canadian census takers had trouble with their Indians. The Indians are described as being, not unnaturally, very chrious to know what the ceasus was for. At one place they would demand to be paid for giving their names, and at another the enumerator had to bribe them with tobacco before they would tell the names of children and others who were out hunting or berrying in the woods. At a village of Howqual-gate Indians, where a white man had seldom been seen, the whole population surrounded the party demanding explanations. The chief said the priest had told him that the Lord had raise! them out of the clay and given them the land, and he supposed that the Government was now trying to find out their numbers so as to do away with them and get their land. Only after an hour's hard talking through the Indian interpreters the chief was persuaded that nothing but good was in-

A report issued by the London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has caused a sensation by the statements it contains relative to the cruel and oft times inhuman punishments inflicted upon children. The society has interfered with clergymen, officers, barristers and other members of the gentry. who it had learned were treating their children inhumanly. Among the punishments people of this class inflicted upon the helpless children are mentioned sticking pins in them, placing lighted matches up their nostrils, burning wounds upon them with matches, breaking the limbs of two-year-old babies in three places, tying a rope around a sixyear-old boy and dipping him into a canal repeatedly untit he was exhausted, keeping a child in a cellar until its flesh turned green, tying cords around the thumbs of a child and then tying it to a bedstead and beating it with a thora-

"NASCENTE LUNA."

I see a stretch of shining sky Like some fair ocean sunset-lit, Peaceful and wide its spaces lie. And purple shores encompass it. A little slender silver boat Upon its besom is affoat.

This craft, nustaid by winds or tides, Slips out across the twilight bar: Through rosy ripples, soft she glides, Led by a single pilot star: With shadowy sails and fairy crow,

She drifts along the summer bine. the's filled from stem to stern with flowers, And Love and Hope and Happiness. Will ought of what she brings be ours?

Ah me! if we could only guess! She rides clusive and remote, This little slender silver boat. - Francis Wayne, in the Spectator.

WHO RANG THE BELL?

fold it to me, only altering the name of hatural thing. the chief actor in the terrible drama and suppressing that of the town. I may add that this suppression is not, in this case, the mere trick of the professional

Therefore, we will give the family name as Mildon, and their abode as the populous and gay town of X -.

The leading part in the little drama it played by one Charles Mildon, a fashion. able young gentleman, mixing in respectable society, of popular manuers and many accomplishments, but also, unfortunately, of extravagant habits, and, it seems clear, of those darker shades of vice which frequently underlie these

times he got into debt, he presently got out of it, owing to the good offices of an ome to his rescae; but whose patience, comeg Mildon felt, was fast wearing out. attended by a fuithful old housekeeper, who had been with him for many years.

inhabitants of the dwelling. There came a time - it was rather late stairs. one evening when people passing by the abode of Mr Mild n. Sr., became aware of signals of distress from the first floor window. Having succeeded in arresting semebody's attention, the old h s lower premises, and to request that true state of matters. A curious and of the proper functionaries. They proseeded to break open the hall door, think

astations of a bungling burglar. But a single glance round the interior changed the aspect of things. Faces grow pale and solemn, and defensive missives were grasped, the excited crowd to provoke enmity of the violent kind was pressed back, and further help sum-

whisper: 'Murder!

my sterious tragedy had been enacted in the house of old Mr. Mildon. His house a large sum of money on the premises, behind the hall door, and farther up the able house property in X . and as it was passage, at the head of the kitchen just after quarter day his rent receipts caution might have done. stairs, lay the corpse of another person, had been large and he had delayed to readily identified as a respectable old Mildon's housekeeper

old gentleman's nephew was speedily on room. It was found intact, and the old the scene. The succor of his aged and gentleman himself could testify that infirm relative, so awfully left alone, there had been to attempt on the part

naturally demanded that

information to volunteer. had himself visited his uncle. He rethen he had noticed little, going straight | would scarcely have been reteated in ng which time he had observed no unusual sound in the house. Some sounds, of the apartment. however, he observed, might easily pass unnoticed, owing to the roar of traffic in he street below.

But he had further to narrate that his visit had been brought to a premat tionaries who met in conclave with the

night shed some light on the mystery While he and his uncle had been conmight be, and they had both listened for the opening of the door, or, rather, for its closing, as it shut heavily, reverberating through the house. They had listened in vain, and young Mr. Mildon thought he would go down stairs and see if the summons had been attended to. He had gone straight to the street ment which set him in the line of susdoor, had opened it. only to find nobody! Thinking that the ringer might have retired a few paces, young Mildon his uncle had forgotten or overlooked his said he had stepped out into the street and looked to the right hand and to the the house and he would have been called left, but in vain. While he was doing upon to account for it." this the hall door had suddenly closed behind him, banged as he had then believed absence of apparent motive became, in by a draught of wind. His hat had been the case of young Mr. Mildon, an ab-

without leaving her master alone; therefore any ring n ; on his part would be as futile as the runaway ring had been, se he had decided to go quietly and batless to his own lodgings, which were, fortuwately, not far off, intending to return in the course of the evening, when the housekeeper would have resumed het and He had actually been on his way back when the excitement in the street con enterted in his uncle's house.

Young Mr. Mildon's communication was certainly important. It opened up two or three matters:

Had the housekeeper really been absent from the house at the time of the run (way ring? If not what had been the hindrance

to her answering it? Young Mr. Mildon was asked why he had not called her instead of answering the door timself: Was it because he One of the strangest stories I have had thought it likely she was out? He heard was told me by an aged gentleman | answered at once that he had not thought who had spent his youth in the provincial about it. The bell had rung and it city where the event related by him had bad been n gleeted. He had gone to occurred. I will give the history as he the door simply as the most direct and

Another question was, "Who rang the

Was this mysterious runaway the same who subsequently returned and commitfictionst. The actual name of the crim- ted the dreadful crime? Had his heart mal and the bare facts of bis crime, may failed him on the first occasion? Or had be found in any catalogue of famous be grined an inkling that the house just trials. But the man belonged to a re. then had a stalwart, guest as well as its his day a fashionable litterateur and popular divine found it advisable to medify windows during his visit. His uncle had his own cognomen to veil so sad a con- sat in his accustomed chair by the winnection, and it is possible nay, prob dow, a watcher outside might have obable that some of the line still survive served the old gentleman turn to speak turning of this dark page of their rec certainly been nothing to show that this vant

Mr. Mildon, the uncle, confirmed his urphew in every respect. There was he had left it. The old gentleman had Mr. Mildon. little to add. After his nephew had left him to attend to the ringing possession for some time befere the bell he had heard the street door slam murders. sharply, and, looking from the window, had seen his nephew go off, bareheaded, and had guessed accurately enough at He lived alone in quiet, genteel lodg | the apparent state of matters. He had he maintained was fairly good. If at had not troubled himself further for some time. Then it occurred to him that his housekeeper was late in bringing up his old bachelor oncle who had repeatedly to and he had rong his bell had rong it again and again, with as little effect as the runaway ring had produced! At This oncle, Mr. Mildon, St., inhabited last he had managed to hobble out of his a small house in a lively, well frequented room and as far as his stairbead, whence slightly crippled and otherwise so in a glimpse of the skirts of the woman bevalided that he never left the upper floor | hind the hall door. His only idea had of his abode, where he was s rved and been that his old servant had been seized the house alone. with a fit, and he had at once given the alaym. From the stairhead it was im-She had her aged master were the sole possible for him to see the other pros-

Young Mr. Mildon expressed the liveliest interest in the mysterious ringing of the bell. He seemed to lay great importance on that point

Another difficulty was presently found gentleman, in a very excited manner attaching to this tragedy. It was improceeded to explain that he felt sure possible to gain any conclusive idea as had produced such deadly results. assistance should be fete el to his res. In the case of each woman the fatal the to enter his house and discover the wound had been a blow on the skull - sq said direct, so well aimed, and so incisive eag rerowd soon secured the presence that it had needed no repetition. But doctors differed as to what instrument was likely to effect its purpose in the ing, probably, to come upon nothing peculiar way manifest. It seemed that worse than an inebriate cook or the de- no chie to the identity of the criminal was likely to come from this direction.

Another moot point was the possible motive for the crime. Its two victima were respectable old women, little likely The motive could scarcely be plunder, for nothing in the house had been re-From month to mouth went the grim moved or even tampered with. Spoons and other silver table articles lay on the In less than half an hour it was noised kitchen dresser, just in the order in abread all over \ that a terrible and which the housekeeper herself had evikeeper's dead body had been found just for the elder Mr. Mildon had considerbank them, a fact which might well. body who had occasionally visited Mr. have been suspected by many people This money was kept in an old-fashioned It was only to be expected that the bureau, at the back of Mr. Mildon's of any stranger to enter his apartment But young Mr. Mildon had also some If anylody had entered the house with this object why had be not effected iti whence any deed of violence might have opened the door as usual. He had been seen by passersby. But ano her noticed nothing special about her, but replied that such a murderer as this up stairs to his uncle. With him he this way, since a few ingenious sounds had sat chatting for nearly an hour, dur. on the stairhead would certainly have easily decoved the old man to the door

"Gentlemen, said the younger Mr Mildon, "the great question is Who

rang the bell? Among the detectives and legal functure conclusion, and he thought that this very few witnesses who had any testimony to offer, there was one young man who tilled such a subordinate place that he ersing, the doorbelt had rung violently | had scarcely any right to speak in the His uncle had wondered who the ringer councils of his seniors and superiors; and certainly he received very little encouragement when he ventured to suggest that he had his own doubts as to the innocence of young Mr. Mildon himself. The others scorned him. Had not

young Mr. Mildon come on the scene of his own free will and volunteered a state picion? "He could scarcely help that," murmured be of the doubt; "for, even if visit, his hat would have been found in

It was further urged that the singular

shut within the house, left, in short, on a chair in his uncle's room. He had, he had, he had, he had, he had, he had he house had hould do. He presumed the house had marketing, possibly taking advantage of his visit to do so thing there had been at this mercy, and thing a drink."

**South of all the house had declared. "You know where he bettles and glasses are hept. It is part of your abominable idleters that any active young fellow like you should sit there asking a poor old cripple to hand him a drink." still the invalid was safe and his store inwhom we will call Talford, could find no himself to some beer. Then he had reanswer; yet he did not say he surrendered sumed his seat. To wait for his uncle to

Mouths passed on and the great crime already risked were too terrible to allow committed in the little house in X - of any impatience. Leaving personal inseemed likely to be relegated to the list | erest aside, he had striven to divert and of unsolved mysteries. Talford himself interest the old gentleman in local gossip peris d him of the borror which had bad ceased to take any active interest in and political debate and was flattering the matter; and the impression which had once been so strong upon his mind was wearing faint, so that probably, it ner, when he had been suddenly concredulous of it

looking for this minor implement he re- nor readily give up. marked by the way that he did not see his best hammer either. Talford, who caught at his uncle's wonder who it was standing idly by, was aroused by the could be, and reiterated it. Then he woman's answer, which came in the form made a feint of listening, and remarked of this inquiry:

"Have you ever had it since you lent it to young Mr. Mildon?" Her busband thought not, now he

ame to think of it. Talford struck inte speciable family; a relative of his in usual feeble and aged occupants? He the conversation: "What was the ham-

"O, not an ordinary hammer -a watchmaker's Lammer like this," and the get quit of the malapropos guest. To shopkeeper produced a tool which Tal ford saw at once was well adapted to who might be pained by any public re to somebody in the room. But there had produce those fatal .d peculiar wounds shook even his iron nerve, for, instead of which had aroused so much speculation. asked carelessly.

> "Not very much, or I should have missed my best one sooner. I should young Mildon's hat on the chair, where think it is nearly a year since I lent it to That signifies that it had been in his

Talford took leave of the friendly thopkeeper and hastened away. His old impression was now as vivid as ever. and he had something more tangible to ngs, where it appears that the charac er returned to his newspaper reading and back it. He was resolved on a bold stroke. He would take counsel with nobody, but would venture a great deal and

win or lose all. He put a pair of handcuffs in his pocket and made a contrade accompany him on a piece of important business, They wended their way to the street where the younger Mr. Mildon lived in part of the town. He was an elderly man looking over the banister he had caught lodgings which he had occupied for a long while. Talford left his comrade to wait on the pavement, and repaired to

> he was at home in his own room. Then trate figure at the top of the kitches | the visitor would go to him there; he need not be announced; when Mr. Mildon was him he would understand. Young Mildon rose from his writing desk on the entrance of his unsuspected guest. His face was perfectly uncon-

of the woman who opened the door. Yes,

scious, without either surprise or alarm. For one moment the two men looked at each other in silence. If Talford's conthere was something grievously amiss it to what had been the weapon which viction wavered, certainly his determination did not.

Laying the "darbies" on the table he

"Mr. Mildon, I am prepared for violence, but you will oblige me if you will quietly produce the watchmaker's hammer with which you murdered your gosy. uncle's housekeeper and her friend.

Whether it was the sudden revelation of the discovery of the much-debated weapon, or an idea that Talford would ne er have acted as he did without some strong evidence to justify him, cannot be explained. But young Mildon, without a word of protest turned on his heel, ling twenty-five cents of any number and displayed to Tatford the terrible im- desires to deposit less than one shilling and neckties. He had never even paste them on a c rd, and when the num-Yet what seemed such an utter careless. deposits in the Postal Savings Banks of ness had come nearer to achieving Great Britain in the ver 1891, amounted security than any amount of restless pre-

account was proved to be perfectly money deposited increased from year to He had only omitted its most impor-

tant parts! It was true that the old housekeeper peared just as usual.

stantly felled her to the ground with a of the transactions are made in this manblow which needed no repetition. That ner. The employers of labor encourage During the afternoon of that day, he The crippled invalid upstairs would have he had next been startled by the appear. the use of the Postoffice Savings Bank been even more easily disposed of thas ance of another old woman coming up In Italy the postal savings bank membered the exact hour of his arrival. the old woman below. One detective the kitchen stairs, but that his surprise system was established in 1876. In for while awaiting admittance he had suggested that the old gentleman had had not unnerved him for the prompt 1889 the number of deposits was over casually glanced at the clock in a neigh | u ver left his chair by the window, commission of a second murder, which | 2,000,000 and the amount deposited 181,had formed no part of his original plan.

Then he had passed by the two dead

women and gone to his ancle's apartment. He had found the old man scaled at the deposits made during the year was window as usual, but on this he had 1,277,805, amounting to 21,048,026 reckoned, and had laid his plot second- floring. ingly. Af er a little conversation be had asked for a small money loan. His uncle had so often been complaisant ful operation. In nearly all of these cupboard at the back of the room.

and your severity is such a disappointment to me I real'y feel quite faint. You effort." - St. Louis Star-Sayings. won't give me any more help you say? I will not ask it. I will only ask for a drink of something-even a glass of water. You wi'l not refuse me that?" "You may take it for yourse f." the orange blossoms.

To keep up appearances young Mildon

his suspicions. He was sil need but not more, could be, of course, but a question of time, and the stakes he had l imself that he was allaying his uncle's irritation in the most satisfactory man-

time, he himself would have grown in founded by a brisk, peremptory ringing of the street door bell. His uncle This Mr. Talford had a watch which had at once vaguely wondered who it gave him a good deal of trouble, and at was likely to be, coming at that particuast he took it to a friend, a skilfo lar hour, when he was seldom disturbed, mechanician, who, he thought, might The nephew had wondered far less ture its aberratious. The man looke | vaguely what course he had better purat it carefully - said he thought he saw | si e, since he knew too well that there what wrong—a rather peculiar defect - was no living person below to attend to and proceeded to rummage in a drawet that bell. Of course, he expected a repefor a tool be needed to remedy it. He tition of the ringing. There had been a did not readily find it, and summoned sound in the first as if the person prohis wife to his aid. While they were ducing it would not brook long delay In his desperation, Young Mildon

> that as the housekeeper did not seem on duty, he would go and attend to the door himself. Accordingly he rushed away, past the two corpses in the hall, and had opened the door warily, that the caller should not catch a glimpse of the horfible sight within. He had trusted to some dark inspiration of the moment to his astonishment, nobody stood on the deorstep. Probably this somewhat retiring again, with the sufficient ex-

planation of a ronaway ring, he had tepped out upon the street to reconsoitre, not, however, forgetful to draw the door behind him fairly close. Then it had una countably slammed, and rereat, hatless and utterly defeated in his acfarious objects, had been the only Wurse left him. It had, at least, given im opportunity to consid r his position, and assume the part of an innocent wit-

Once fairly at bay, under the energetic promptitude of Talford, he dropped his mask forever. And his subsequent passage to execution was very straight and

There is much to reflect on in such a story. Did the door bell ring only in young Mildon's guilty imagination, and was his idea vivid enough, to cording to som molern theories, to impress his uncle's mind with a similar idea? A taught will often close a door left slightly ajar. There is nothing unnatural or even unusual in that. Some will le inclined totally to dismiss our telephonic suggestion and to fall back on Was Mr. Mildon at home?" he asked the simpler one of a mere runaway ring. Admit this, and we have at once, in its time and circumstance, a marvelous coincidence with the needs of the occa-

And then we have to admit another coincidence in the slamming of the door. Neither that nor the ringing of the bell were in the least remarkable in themselves. They were the most commonplace of occurrences. All their wonder is in the part they played in this trag-

Does not the multiplication of coinci dences tend to suggest the exist-nce of a law not fully manifests. A whole philosophy may underlie the answer to the Question, "Who rang the bell?"- Ar-

Foreign Postal Savings Bank.

The British postal savings banks are open for the receipt and payment of mozey daily to depositors, and one shilwent to a chest of drawers, unlocked one, of shillings are received. If a person plement. It lay among his handkerchiefs he may purchase penny stamps and cleaned it. Dry blood was on it, and ber reaches the amount of one shilling there were one or two adhering hairs, they make the deposit. The number of to 8.716,566, the amount so deposited being more than \$100,000,000. The The who's of Charles Mildon's original number of depositors and the amount of year. In England and Wales, one individual in every seven makes deposits, the average balance due to each depositor being about \$75. The regulations had admitted him and that she had ap- permit persons depositing at one Postolice, to drew against their deposit at He had omitted to say that he had in- any other Postoffice, and thirty per cent

In Austria the number of depositors in 1890 was 63,775 and the number of

In Hungary, Russia and Finland post

office savings banks are also in success

that he had little fear of a rebuff. Had small deposits may be made by purchasthe uncle left the window to take a few ing stamt's and affixing them to a card. sovereigns from his bureau his nephew | The officials of nearly all countries | a ladder, broke a mirror, raised umbrellas, would have felled him to the ground and where postal savings banks are in operapossessed himself of the whole hoard, tion state that they do not interfere in chestra to play thirteen pieces. But to his surprise and discomfiture the any way with other banks, but on the old gentleman proved utterly obdurate) contrary, are generally found helpful to instead of lending the money he gave them. In nearly all cases a low rate of him a lecture loading him with re- interest of from two to three per cent, proaches. The nephew showed a sub- is paid. The Director-General of Posts missive front, wondering all the while of France says: "Far from interfering what other didge he could invent to en with private savings banks, this law tice his uncle from his window seat. One contains a number of provisions by occurred to him at last. An anxious and which these banks have benefited. despondent man is often thirsty. He Postal savings banks have not been knew his uncle kept divers liquors in a established to compete with the private banks, but with a view to giving savings "Well, uncle," he said, sadly, "you banks to localities where they do not can't think how your words upset me | exist and where they probably never would have been established by private

> A small tuft of white toses are fre quently used in place of the regulation



Heliotrope is the favorite perfume. Red is extensively used in millinery. Never was there a season when so

much lace was worn. The faddish maiden is now making

collection of belts. Black lace scarfs are worn, tied with long ends at the back. Grecian women had longer feet than

the average man has now. Fine cotton fabrics are coming to the front more and more every day. A Kentucky Episcopal church has

elected two women as "vestrymen." A patent has been issued to a woman for an improved fastening for shirt but-

Portraits of six American women hang in the present exhibition of the Paris

A summer school for female students is to be established in the Eiffel Tower.

This summer lace dresses will be worn by many women, as they have been in the past.

Fashion has set her foot upon the graduating dress and kicked off every article of lace.

The girl bachelors of New York are mostly artists, writers, editors, doctors. and designers. The square-toed shoes and slippers are

avoided by ladies who do not take kindly Lady Malet, the wife of Sir Edward

Malet, has a collection of 1000 pairs of shoes of all kinds. The Russian blouse is made up for children of all ages, from well-grown

girls to tiny tots. Satin will be worn by most brides, and aiready the modistes have fluished some most exquisite gowns.

White alpaca as a material for dressy gowns has been brought to the fore by no less an authority than Worth. Linen cuffs have been recalled into

the ranks of fashion, and will be worn with link buttons with tailor gowns. It looks very much as if our young women college graduates of the near

future will wear the "mortar board." A brown straw hat trimmed with blue is about as pretty and serviceable an anything that can be selected for a child.

The woolen and flannel blazers are to the front again. They will be worn over a muslin or wash-silk skirt and a leather Two ladies only have obtained the de-

gree of Mus. Doc., namely, the Princess of Wales and Miss Annie Patterson, of The Punch of Melbo srne, Australia, is edited by a women, Miss Murphy,

who is said to be both brilliant and Black is still worn in preference to colors in underwear by many American women, and hoisery in black has the largest sale.

Doucet, Worth, Felix and the rest of the Parisian designers are using green in light and teader shades in all summer gowns and bonnets. Abram Gaac, a wealthy manufacturer

of agricultural implements in Indiana, gave his daughter a check for \$100,000 on her wedding day. Very high effects of puffed hair, with the wavy part of the front hair drawn up

over these puffs by being held up by small ornamental combs, are now seen. A pretty gown for light mourning recently seen was of white serge. A band of wide black ribbon was on the bottom

of the skirt, and the jacket was trimmed with black ribbon. In a recent parlor lecture which she delivered in Chicago, Mrs. Custer, widow of the ill-fated cavalry General, said that she was the first woman in this country

to shoot a buffalo. Chiffon is so generally the covering for parasols that some women who want to have a pretty one, and who also have skill, are covering their old parasols themselves with the chiffon.

It may interest the extravagant young woman of small means who sighs for silk findings in her dress to know that some of the very best customers of the uptown modiste prefer cotton linings for their street suits. For summer gowns, the most fashion-

and stripped grenadines. They are to be made up very plainly with trimmings of embroidery, guipure or velvet and more especially with some light tint near the face. Thirteen girl gra lunter from Mount

Aubura (Onio) Yazaz Lales' Institute bauqueted defying in every possible way the omens of crit. They walked under had thirteen wasters and caused the or-Mrs. Celia Thaxter, the poetress, is

dfty-seven years old. She is a tall, handsome woman, with dark face, dark eyes and snow white hair. Appledore, Isle of Spoals, was her home when she was ten years old, and it has been her summer home ever since she was sixteen.

Christian Nileson, the prims donna, is a clever wo man of business. Mme. Modjeska, the Polish actress, plays Chopin and speaks a half dozen languages. Patti is very proud of her needlework, especially of her darning. Albani, the singer, cultivates the domestic arts and writes entertaining letters to her friends.

A great deal of lace will be worn this season, and many are the devices resorted to to make Lew styles out of the multitude of old and familiar lace dresses with which we have so long been deluged. But a lace dress is too comfortable and convenient to be dispensed with, and the feminine fair must have them whether

Alice M. Bacon, of New Haven, Conn., has for nearly ten years taught without a salary in the Normal School for Indians and colored children at Hampton, besides caring for a little motherless Japanese girl, supervising the new Dixie Hospital and training school for colored nurses, which she has founded, and doing editorial work on the Hamp-ton school paper.

Not a few wives of prominent Americans of to-day have been schoolmarms, A nowble instance is that of Mrs. John W. Mackay. Mrs. Mackay spent her earlier years in Virginia City, Nev., as a school teacher before she met the "Bonanza King." Doubtless she is indebted to that period of her life for the consummate tact in her social affairs which has made her the leader of the American colony in Paris.

Origin of Our Weeds.

Most of our weeds, like much of our

vermin, have come to us from beyond the sea. Just how they emigrate in every case will never be known; some came as legitimate freight, but many wers "stowaways." Some entered from border lands upon the wings of the wind, on river bosoms, in the stomachs of migrating birds, clinging to hairs of passing animals, and a hundred other ways besides by man himself. Into the New England soil and that south along the Atlantic seaboard the weed seeds first took root. Also the native plants, with a strong weedy nature, developed inte pests of the farm and garden. Many of the native weeds are shy and harmless in comparison with the persistent and pugnacious ones that have like vagabonds emigrated to our shores. Why should it be that plants of another country not only find their way here, but after arriving assert themselves with a vigor far surpassing our native herbs? Dr. Gray, in writing upon this point, says, "As the district here in which the weeds of the Old World prevail was naturally forestclad, there were few of its native herbs which, if they could bear the exposure at all, were capable of competition in the cleared land with emigrants from the Old World." The European weeds had through long ages adapted themselves to the change from forest to cleared land, and were therefore prepared to flourish here in the rich forest soil that was suddealy exposed to the sun and subjected to other new conditions by the felling of the trees. - Popular Science Monthly.

Are Plants Degenerating?

The curious theory is advanced by Professor W. R. Lazenby, of the Ohio Experimental Station, that cultivated plants are degenerating. To this degeneracy he ascribes the increased losses from blight and insect injuries. To a limited extent this is probably true. Defect of nutrition caused by impoverished soil exposes trees to diseases that on well fertilized land they escape. It is known too that our climate does not develop the heaviest weight in spring grains, so that seed oats have to be brought to this country from Europe every year to renew its vigorous growth. Where potatoes are grown for a long series of years from sets the plants inherit less and less vitality, and the cror is belped by renewing varieties from the seed ball. But in the corn crop, where more care is taken than in any other in selecting the best ears for seed, there is a constant tendency towards improvement. It shows that this is largely a matter of careful seed selection and good farming. -Boston Cultivator.

A Grim Fate.

A native diver descended into the water to see whether one of the piers, then in course of construction, had set. While he was engaged in this work, a great iron cylinder subsided a little, crushing his hand between it and the masonry. When, on a signal being given, another diver came down, he found his unfortunate comrade imprisoned under water without hope of ea-

After a few moments of mute despair and harrowing uncertainty, a speechless decision was arrived at, and the new comer proceeded with chisel and hammer to hack off his unhappy companion's hand at the wrist.

The prisoner was thus liberated, but died, soon after reaching the surface, from the shock. Never, I think, has an opium eater in his dreams imagined a more pitiful spectacle of hopeless human suffering. - Travels in India.

Becoming Extinct.

The pinnated grouse are now confined to the island of Nantucket, Massachusetts, where, under the name of "heathhen"-or "heathens," as described in the precismation just issued by the Government printers—they are preserved, The Carolina parrot, the one indigenous parrot of North America, is also vanishing, and will soon become extinct, like the Pallas cormorant in the islands of Bering sea. The last survivors of this, the largest of the cormorants, are thought to have perished, like the last of the garefowl, by the destruction of their island by a volcano, and their disappearance can hardly be laid at the door of American seamen. - Chicago News.

The Cubit.

The length of the ancient cubit, so often referred to in sacred and other writings of early date, varied according to the race. Strictly, it was the distance from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger. Recent investigation proves that the Roman cubit was 18,47 inches in length. The Greek, 18.20. The Hebrew varied from 24.34 to 22.08, the variations being due to age and locality. Some biblical scholars believe that Nosh's ark measurements were cubits of about three feet,-St. Louis Republic,