THE HERMIT KNIGHT

in a shaggy forest I know a glen Where the were-wolf made his lair; Twas haunted of owls, but 'twas shunned of

For a demon dwelleth there. When the night was dismal, and wild, and

And yells were on the gale, I rode my black steed to the gien, and met That demon weirdly pale. sprang from my charger where he stook And I hailed the specter dire:

The ground was rank with the smell

And hot with a smouldering fire. I called him by his loathly name, Unmeet for a human ear, And I saw his face, by a sudden flame, Lurid with hate and fear.

I plucked the flend by his long right hand, As he sate on a corse, new slain, My voice was strong with a firm command: "I have sought thee once again. Show me to-night, show me to-night. What thou may'st not keep from ma Hiscoward eye was hellish bright

With a glare not good to see. My shivering steed, he pawed the mos His gasps began to fail: By a murdered corse, and a dying horse I heard that goblin's tale:

But nover a spirit that skims the sea, Or a phantom of the air, Must guess what the foul fiend whispered me Or dream what he showed me there.

I had power, I had power in that grewsome hour, And I read his spirit through: I made him cringe and I bade him cower. For my heart was brave and true. I chained him there with a new-forged chain,

Than the howling of the night. For ten long years on a mountain bare I had wept and faste I sore; I had worn the stones with my knees

By the side of the murdered wight,

And I le thim howling a wilder strain

To conquer a grace the more; And to weave a spell for a fiendish heart-A spell for a fiendish will-To baffle the spite of a demon's art I dwelt on the doleful hill.

He may harm no hapless passer-by; He may spread nor ban nor bale: I had strength and mast'ry from One on evitable.

And my courage did not fail. won my will, for my soul was pure, And the secret that I know Hath given me power great ills to cure As I journey to and fro.

Go not that way. It is haunted still; The wolf bath left his lair; The owls have flown to my barren hill: No living thing is there. A murdered corse by a blackened stone,

'Neath an old tree, gnarled and gray, And a frenzied demon, alone, alone, Till the earth shall pass away. -Danske Dandridge, in Cosmopolitan

Groom or Bridegroom?

BY WILL F. POND.

dear Jack, and put me down your debtor

The speaker was Tom Rainforth, a tle plot, hatched by the ferti'e brain of week of Octobor. the brilliant young journalist. The

facts of the case at issue were these: At the hunt ball recently held in the quaint old Lincolnshire village of Revesby, Tom Rainforth had the misfortune (or good fortune, according to the reader's opinion) to meet and fall desperately of Squire Everingham, who, being an eccentric gentleman, deemed every young

his friend and guest they had between could scarcely hold on, and the Squire, them matured a scheme of romance and in doubt, usually accepted his word. impudence unparalleled in these prosaic Nineteenth century days.

Squire Everingham was the right hand man and general estate manager to Lord Braintree, an office his family had held man from further disasters. for several generations; he was, besides, a landowner of no small extent, and a was daily teased by his flancee as to what magistrate; hence his popular title of he would give to be let off. "Squire." He resided some few miles Tom laughed, and said: away on the Lincolnshire coast, in a moderately sized village, which consisted of a single long, strargling street, a church, a chapel, and some venerable groom relics of the Saxon and early Norman eras. The Squire occupied the great white house at the corner of this road, patronized the entire village, and was, of course, looked up to with unquestioning reverence by the inhabitants. He, however, never mixed with them socially, and as his nearest neighbor, whom he honored by admitting to a questionable equality, lived some miles away, the Squire and his daughter lived a somewhat secluded life, broken only at rare

in the eyes of the hunt (to which he sub- mood and scarcely spoke. scribed liberally), and in those of the few county families in the neighborhood, wisely, but too well," and, as may be have undergone enough for me. supposed, he incurred serious censure "Nay! nay!" laughed Tom. "A barkitchen door was ever open to the hun- that now." reckless and irregular, and (greatest meet."

two the Sonire was severely handled. With increasing excitement and irrita. as my bridegroom." tion of temperament he grew discontented with the slow rate of speed obtain- who Tom was, and owing to Jack clover and put it into a shoe, the first able from his horses, and invested in Fortescue the secret leaked out. The gentleman or lady the person walked several fast trotters, and went whirling Squire only stipulated that Tom should with would be either their husband or from place to place, to the danger of still drive him, and gave his consent. | wife ?" every one he met. This was endurable in his sober moments, but when, after a asked the secret of his success with the court meeting at the neighboring town, Squire's horse. He laughed and said: my shoe this morning, and you are the he insisted upon taking the "ribbons" "Well, I trained him to stand the whip first one I have walked with. I wonder himself, thrashing the horse into a on that leather rug he always were at if it is true?"—Statesman

night, he drove over a stone heap and used, were buckled to the collar."
spilled himself and groom into a broad Of course a tremendous laugh was the

Grooms soon grew scarce; finally, no ing been killed in the hunting field, and one could be found to take the place; a brass tablet records his manifold virtues then, for some time the Squire drove in the village church - Journalist. himself, and after having been several times fined for furious driving by his brother magistrates, they determined to put a stop to the growing scandal by declaring to him their intention of sending him to prison for a mouth if he appeared before them again, This had the desired

Such was the state of affairs at the time of the hunt ball; and the intention of Tom Rainforth, as declared at the opening of our story, was to offer himself for the post, drive the Squire, keep him, if possible, sober, and, most important of all, do his best to win the planes or sails of very moderate extent—

After some preliminary correspondence an engagement was contracted, Tom entered into his duties, and became the Squire's shadow. If any one took offense at the Squire's unseasonable remarks he was always on hand to smooth matters down, and for a time all went well. Gossips noticed, however, that Miss sary for changing the direction of flight Edith took a greater amount of horse has been sufficiently extended. Yet Mr. Edith took a greater amount of horse exercise than usual, and that the new groom was invariably in attendance. whilst it was said that her latest "fad" was always to see her horse cleaned every

morning. Truth to tell, she recognized Tom the very first morning, and threatened to denounce him to her father; but Tom overcame her scruples, and of their mutual misunderstandings, love-makings, and its attendant pleasures and pains, I am no envious chronicler; suffice to say she was pleased to keep his secret, but woman-like, delayed her happiness, and, notwithstanding all he had undergone to win her, declared capriciously she would never accept him unless he accompanied her as groom to the opening meet of the season.

Poor Tom! he had not counted upon a girl's mischievous fancy, and sorely against his will he bowed to the in-

Downward steps are not easily retraced so the conduct of the Squire proved; for a ter a brief period of good behavior he gradually grew worse and worse, until he was nearly, if not quite, as bad as ever. Do all that he could, Tom could ing one of the meetings, he drank rather guidance, which may be obtained by the not keep him sober. Once after attendmore heavily than usual, and insisted upon driving himself home, which he did at a gallop, escaping injury by little short of a miracle. This resulted, however, in a brief illness, which gave Tom a chance to think the matter over, and evolve a scheme to put an end to these midnight dangers.

He had a brown-tanned leather rug made for the horse, which extended from the saddle to the tail, where it was fastened to the crupper and loosely girthed the horse, a casual observer at night traverse the land more swiftly by underneath; being nearly the color of "By Jove, I'll do it! there is no would not notice it. He then took the other way of wooing her; so to the horse out every night to exercise, instead winds with common sense and propriety. of in the morning, and by the time the Recommend me for the post at once, Squire recovered Tom was ready for

During these weeks Jack Fortescue made one or two surreptitious calls, and hair-brained young journalist, and the in his quiet way had much fun with person addressed was Jack Fortescue, Tom; but he only received his rallies Esq., landed proprietor and gentleman at with a grim smile, saying: "Let those large. Tom and he had been diving at laugh who win, and the game is in my the Savage Club, and, retiging to the own hands if I have but patience. You smoke room, had been elaborating a lit- shall dance at my wedding in the third

"And see you as groom to the Lady Edith at the opening meet-eh, old will get no laugh at my expense, I prom-

ise you." From this time, strange to say, no in love with Edith, the pretty daughter further accidents occurred when the from either shore, with three suspension Squire rode home; the horse went quiman a fortune hunter, and systematically ous jerking of the reins, or vigorous closed his doors in the face of the nutrashing, beyond a slight jump to left longing to a bridge now being constructmerous admirers attracted by his daughor right as the whip struck its head or longing to a bridge now being constructed in Scotland. Its length is 1,700 feet. Tom had fared no better than the not galloping, Tom declared that it was others, but on confiding his sorrows to galloping at full speed, and that he rather favor a tunnel than a bridge, ow-

> Meanwhile, the horse grew more and more steady, as though it had taken its master's character in hand, and was in to enter this city, could be constructed league with Tom to save the old gentle- at a much smaller cost than the number The opening meet drew nigh, and Tom

"Nothing! You keep your promise to marry me the third week in October, and I will ride to the meet as your cost of construction for the bridge alone.

Edith looked wistfully at him, half regretting her bargain, but too high once imposing it.

At last the day arrived, and at 10 A. M. Tom, duly attired in a green coat with the termini .- New York Observer. brass buttons, a broad leathern strap round his waist, cords and boots, and hat with a cockade, was to be seen holding intervals by visits from lady friends to habit. Edith was lifted to the saddle, enough to see the eight trained mamher, and by his journeys to the market and, with Tom riding decorously in the moths at the winter circus in the Amerirear, passed out of the gate. Once, can Institute, New York, go through the Popular as the Squire was in the vil- however, in the green lanes, he ranged intricacies of a quadrille. The "act," lage, he had one blot on his escutcheon alongside, but Edith was in a dejected however, occupies but a few minutes, and

At last she said: and that was, he had become accustomed Go back and put on your own clothes; I elephants is \$125,000. In addition to the (since the loss of his wife) to drink, "not will not make a public show of you; you double quartet there is the clown ele-

for a habit not tolerated in these days, gain is a bargain; you might want to cry phants consumes one hundred and fifty In other respects the Squire was still the forfeit to your own stake; and dear," cheery, open-handed man as of yore; his lowering his voice, "I cannot let you do

gry. The only other change was in his "No, no! indeed, I will not! I will worth of hay daily, and oets at 44 cents appearance; the tall lithe figure became keep my word! But if you will not per bushel brings the total daily cost of slightly bowed, the hair tinged with ride back and change that hateful suit I feed per elephant up to \$1.64. This gray; his riding in the field became will turn back myself and forego the makes the total yearly cost of feeding

erime of all in a hunting country) he "Is that so?" said Tom; "then here terest upon \$125,000 at six per cent., commenced to "crane" at his fences and goes!" and taking off his hat he drew which is \$7,500. By adding the cost of kno k his horses about for faults due to out a velvet cap, and unbuckling his feed, interest and wages of trainers and himself. He also grew quarrelsome, and belt and throwing off the green coat, he keepers together, the brief amusement new-comers, not feeling the same amount sat revealed in the Melton Hunt colors. which the elephants daily furnish to the of respect, or being under the same ob. Tossing the coat and strap after the hat, public costs annually the sum of \$17,ligation as the old inhabitants, several he lifted her hand, and kissing it said: 197.40 .- Ne v York Herald. brawls had taken place, and in one or "And do Istill ride as your groom?" "Yes," said she, with a merry laugh:

At the meet speculation was rife as to that if a person found a four-leaved

On one occasion, returning home at and the other pair, which the Squire

and deep drain that can by the roadside; result of this disclosure, and although on another he collided with his own gate- against himself, the Squire joined in it, post, smashing the cart to matchwood and proposing his son-in-law's health, and breaking his groom's ribs, being asked: "Who shall say the days of himself dragged into the yard in con-sequence of having become entangled in the reins, whilst the horse was kicking and plunging in all directions.

chivalry are past?"

Tom and his wife still live happily to-gether, but the Squire was shortly after the marriage gathered to his fathers, hav-

Man In Mid-Air.

Richard A. Procter, writing in the Philadelphia Press, says: I believe that athletes such as those who first obtained mastery over the problem of the bicycle effect, and set him seeking for a steady, to descend, to ride upward, to soar, and so forth, in a way which would very decisively indicate the possibility of a flight later on. Experiments which have been already made prove decisively that a man's weight can be supported by heart of the fair Edith, who was already body than an eagle's wings—if only there author and publisher." . is either rapid motion of advance or a strong current of air against their slightly slanted surface. But these experiments have not yet been so carried on as to show fully what can be done when p:actice in the art of balancing in the air and in making the adjustments neces-Charles Spencer, a teacher of gymnastics in England, was able, after attaining no greater velocity than would be given by running down a small incline, to sustain flight by the supporting action of wicker wings for a distance of 120 feet. Besnier, indeed, toward the close of the last the body by pinions, which enabled him, after a sharp run, to fly across a river of considerable width. It is certain that very little is to be ga ned from the attempts which have been made to direct balloons. The velocity which can be given to a balloon in still air is very small. A very moderate breeze would carry a balloon one way despite all me hanical attempts to direct it in another, let the balloon be shaped as i may. Moreover, all such attempts are dangerous, for the wind has a great hold on the necessarily large surface of a balloon, and going against the wind would subject the balloon to destructive influences. Whenever man attacks the problem of flight, seeking real advantage from its mastery, he will aim at much more than such mere floating power as the balloon gives-at mo e even than the rapid floating motion, with power of experiments suggested above. There must also be a power of energetic propulsion while still in the air. This might be obtained by suitable adjustments of levers to be worked by a man in actual flight. But while I believe flight to be possible for man in this way, I consider the only kind of flight which is likely to be really useful to men to be that of flying machines propelled, balanced and directed by some one or other of the natural forces man has brought under his control. That man who has learned to mechanical means than its most active denizens, and to make the wide seas his highway by similar devices, should be unable to travel in the ar, which by natural selection alone has become the home of creatures descended from reptilian forms, is to me unthinkable.

A Monster Bridge.

At a meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Professor Gustav Lindenthal read an exhaustive paper on "The North River Bridge Problem." It outlined a gigantic scheme for constructing a suspension bridge across the Hudson at a point between Fourteenth and man?" responded the imperturbable Jack. Twenty-eight streets, for the purpose of "Well, yes, I suppose so! But you bringing all the great railroad lines into this city. The plan of the bridge consisted of two wrought iron towers on sunken stone piers, at equal distances spans, the middle one being 2,850 feet etly along, taking no notice of his furl- long. The largest single span ever deneck. When the Squire railed at it for The professor argued that the great width of the river has made engineers ing to the many difficulties involved in the construction of the latter. Still a bridge with six tracks, which would accommodate all of the railroads desiring of tunnels that would be required for the same purpose. Besides, it would be much safer. A bridge built according to his plan, he sa'd, would be capable of transferring 50,000 passengers an hour in one direction, and would thus meet the demands for at least fifty years. The including anchorages and abutments, would not exceed \$15,000,000. This estimate did not include the outlay which spirited to let him off his penance after would be involved in the purchase of the necessary amount of land at either approach, nor for the tracks and stations of

Elephantine Figures.

The cost of keeping elephants is an two horses at the front door. The Squire | item of expense to the proprietors of had an attack of gout and could not go. | circuses and menageries that is scarcely Daintily attired in a dark blue riding- appreciated by the public. It is amusing by this means. few people stop to consider how much the divertisement costs the proprietor of "Tom, dear! it's no use, I can't do it. the show. The combined value of the phant "Jack."

On an average each of these nine elepounds of hay a day, besides a bushel of oats. With hay at \$16 a ton (the present price) each elephant eats about \$1.20 nine elephants \$5,396.40. Add the in-

A Leap Year Conversation. "Charlie, did you ever hear it said

round to the back of the cart where I sat; California's most profitable industries.

WOMAN'S WORLD.

FEMININE READERS.

Shoes For Fashionable Women. It has always been a difficult thing to get shoes for fashionable women, that shall be exclusive in character one, too, to solve the question as to how this should be done. Now the perfectly dressed lady has the tops of her var-

Women in Literature. women who have made a place for themselves in literature and journalism, to culties, but practical ones also, and to un- brim being of the plain velvet. In much fuller mastery over the problem of derstand the business affairs of their front is a cluster of stiff upright loops not much greater proportionally to his of contracts, copyrights and duties of John Hoey is said to wear the most ex-

A Noble Work Carried on by Women. | tirely laid to the milliner, because the part of the British Empire where a Gir's' to thrust in her hair at the back to hold r riendly Society may not be found. In the bonnet in place. It is not conspi u-Eguland alone there are 150,000 members ous-looking, and yet it cost a lot of of such societies springing from a cen-tral institution, or which Lady Grey is tortoise shell crusted with diamonds. the President, and which is carried on The gems are small and the cost of the entirely by women. Temporary lodg- workmanship was greater than that of ings are provided for girls suddenly the diamonds. The head of the pin is thrown out of situations, and recreation cut in scroll work as delicate as lace, and rooms are established for members set- in all these fine convolutions of shell are tled in towns. In days when, to the set thousands of tiny diamonds. The credit of the society, the welfare of result is charming, but the labor and care women, and especially the care of friend- expended to produce it was immense. century, devised a method of supporting less girls, are objects of an increasing Mme. Julia Valdi, the prima donna, concern of conscience, facts like these wears black mostly to the theatre and a deserve to be made widely known, very small black lace bonnet showered whether they relate to this particular with tiny golden drops, and two little institution or others founded with similar designs. Girls' homes and girls' on small wires and thrust into the thick friendly societies, a contemporary thinks, flutings of lace over the front, so delimight with advantage keep themselves cately poised that with every movement permanently before the public eye by bold advertisement, especially in the light. Another who wears a black railway carriages and other public con- lace bonnet is Selina Delara, the author veyances, waiting-rooms, the "wanted" of "Fashion." Mrs. Steele Mackaye columns newspaperes, and in all other shows that her husband's new play is places where the persons for whom the paying well by the beauty and style of kindly aid is intended may learn that it her headgear. The other night she ap-

> Dressmaking as a Fine Art. deprecates the engagement of ladies of moire ribbon for garniture and a jet education as dressmakers and milliners aigrette. - N. Y. World. and speaks of it as being detrimental to those who have fewer educational advantages. I myself would like to see dressmaking regarded not merely as a learned profession but as a fine art. To construct a costume that will be at once rational and beautiful requires an accurate knowledge of the principles of proportion, a thorough sense of color and : quick appreciation of the proper use of materials and the proper qualities of pattern and designs. The health of a nation depends very largely on its mode of the kilt suit. dress; the artistic feeling of a nation should find expression in its costume heavily braided. quite as much as in its architecture, and just as the upholstering tradesman has to give place to the decorative artist, so the ordinary milliner, with her lack of taste and her lack of knowledge, her foolish fashions and her lack of inventions, will have to make way for the evening bonnets. scientific and artistic dress designer. Incourage women of education from tak- ful workmanship. ing up the profession of dressmakers, it is exactly women of that class who are as shown in the dainty notes of fashionneeded, and I am glad to see in the new able correspondence. technical college for women at Bedford millinery and dressmaking are to be taught as part of the ordinary curriculum. There has also been a Society of Lady Dressmakers started in London for the purpose of teaching educated girls and women, and the Scientific Dress Association is, I hear, doing very good work in the same direction.

A Budget of Womanly Hints.

That unsightly excrescence commonly called a wart can be remo ed by touching it several times a day with castor oil. This is the simplest known remedy.

If you would keep your face and hands unwrinkled use tepid water; very hot or | tion. cold water is injurious. Also avoid burying the face in a soft pillow at night, which always produces wrinkles around

Keep your combs and brushes sweet containing a few drops of ammonia. The young ladies, and many pretty varieties grease and soil will disappear as if by magic. Place the brushes bristles down to dry and delicate celluloid handles will

A wash which will remove the sunburn acquired by out-door sports is made and six drams of powdered borax; ap- fur reaching to the waist line. plied to the skin it will make it as clear and soft as a baby's.

To remove a foreign body from the eye. wrap dry white silk waste around and thoroughly over the end of a wooden toothpick, brush with this carefully over the part of the eye where the substance is lodged, and it will become entangled in the silk. Bits of steel or any other sharp substance which may become imbedded in the eyeball may be removed

By using the following preparation for cleaning kid gloves, ribbons, and laces you can keep the above-mentioned articles in the "pink of perfection" with little trouble: To two quarts of deodorized benzine add two quarts of sulphuric ether, two drams of chloroform, and four drams of alcohol. Pour the fluid in a bowl and wash the articles as if in water, rinsing in a fresh supply.

If you use powder of any kind on the face, never go to bed without washing sales are well attended and buyers plenty. it off. Fanitary reasons as well as clean. A New York firm held their eightyliness require this. To keep your skin from roughening, find by trial what kind of soap suits you best, and use no other. Frequent changes of soap are bad for the complexion. Beware of those which are highly scented; as a general thing finest ever sold at auction. The next

ingredients used. attend the concert or party of the season, brought \$21; a \$60 one, \$26; two St. and feel that pricking pain and see the Louis stamps sold for \$35 and \$40 refatal little spot of red on the eyelid that spectively; a Mobile, Ala., 2c. black surely foretells the ecming of the sty, stamp, Confederate, brought \$30.50; a have no fears for the result, but put in a 500c. Bolivia of 1871 went for \$24; a small bag a teaspoonful of black tea, on British Guiana of 1855 at \$40; a Natal, which pour enough boiling water to td., at \$26; a Newfoundland, 1s., at the eye and let it remain until morning. paras, at \$29. Among the large pur-The sty will in all probability be gone; chasers were William Thorne, R. R.

tain to remove it. look as pretty as you can you neglect one owned by J. W. Scott. The best in the of your duties. It is worth while to world is in Paris, while the next is the make the most of all the good looks you property of a gentleman in London. The possess; but that does not mean that majority of collections comprise but from you should revel in powder and 300 to 500, this being about as large a

clear skin remember that you must have good health, and to have good PLEASANT LITERATURE FOR wear thick-soled shoes, and spend a part of every day out-of-doors .- Harper's

Some Notable Women's Bonnets.

Mrs. Berry Wall, the new-made bride of the King of the Dudes, wears to the It took a dressmaker, and a maje which is an odd combination of sage green and primrose yellow. This bonnet is stringless and made of velvet, the velvet being shirred in the loose, careless nished leather walking shoes made of folds now fashionable, over a small the same material as is her walking dress. frame cut into a shurp point behind,

-New York Times. she wears her hair. It is pointed in front also, going up very high directly Louisa M. Alcott says: "It is wise for over the face, and the inner edge of the omen who have made a place for them- front is lined with yellow. The sagecolored velvet which forms the crown is tivate not only their intellectual facul- embroidered with little gold leaves, the craft. The ignorance and helplessness of the vellow ribbon, in which is set an of women writers is amazing. The brains aigrette of green heron plumes. It that can earn money can understand how sounds odd when described, but is in to take care of it, by a proper knowledge reality pretty and very becoming. Mrs. pensive bonnet found at any of the theatres, but this charge should not be en-There is, according to Lady Grey, no most costly part of it is the pin she uses is at hand when desired. - C. icayo Times. peared in a lovely thing made of cream and made with a brim of black ostrich I am sorry to see that Mr. Fawcett feather trimming. It has loops of cream

> Fashion Notes. Fans are of medium size. Turbans are very popular.

The polonaise is gradually coming into Blondes are wearing light colors this Button boots are the popular style for

At four years of age a boy is put into

Woolen dresses for little girls are The first short dress put on baby boys

is a yoke slip, the same as is worn by girl babies. White and gold and pale blue and silver are the favorite combinations for

Large buttons enter into the trimming deed, so far from it being wise to dis- of many costumes, and are of very beauti-Very pale blue ink is the latest agony,

A bar of pale blue enamel engraved in lines of gold with graduated pearl pen-

dants is a pretty lace pin. Beige, tan, bronze, golden brown and all the tawny yellow shades are very fashionable the present season. New cloth bonnets matching cloth dresses are covered with passementerie

like that used to trim the dress. Bridesmaids who follow the newest fashion carry walking-sticks of ebony and silver, to which bouquets are attached. Laces and passementeries are used to

trim costumes of plain velvet, and sometimes striped relvets are used in combina-The girls will be glad to know that

a fashionable engagement ring at present is a large, perfectly-shaped pearl set soli-The short, jaunty sealskin jacket is the and clean. Wash them in tepid water fashionable wrap this season for dressy

> Fine broadcloths and ladies' cloths are said to be used in Paris for bridemaids' dresses, and sometimes even for bridal dresses.

Russian coats of velvet heavily wadded by adding to twelve ounces of elder- are very stylish and are made exceed flower water, six drams of common soda ingly warm by having a pointed cape of French brocades are extensively used

for very dressy toilets. The patterns are exquisite and the grounds are changeable and beautifully isluminated. We are threatened with a revival of

flowers. Already they are seen in panels, and sometimes pleated ones form a front, with plain side draperies. A fold of lisse, on white moire ribbon,

or the new metal-edged ribbon alone, is chosen for the neck and wrists upon occasions that approach full dress.

Some Rare and Costly Stamps. Stamp dealers say collecting is on the increase. The craze extends even to the

very rich. Jay Gould's son Edwin visits

the stores occasionally and makes a few purchases to add to his collection. The widow of Stewart, the waalthy sugar man, is an enthusiastic collector, as are also many members of families who are in the best New York society. Auction second sale a few nights since. There were sixty present, and high prices were realized. R. R. Bogert paid the highest price for any stamp-\$226 for a Brattle boro of 1846. It is one of the rarest and they are poor quality, the scent being highest figure, \$86, was paid for a New used to destroy the odor of the other York of 1846. This was the first officially used postage stamp on the American When you are paricularly anxious to continent. A \$48 newspaper stamp moisten; as soon as cool enough put it on \$25; a Roumania-Moldavia of 1858, 54 if not, one more application will be cer- Bogert, E. B. Starling, Mr. Elverson, C. B. Corwin and H. N. Terrett. One of If you do not try to make yourself the finest collections in New York is gallop, going over or through everything in his way, it became no joking running from the bit along the shafts running from the bit along the sh

WILL BREAKERS.

FIERCE : EJAL STRUGGLES FOR DEAD MEN'S WEALTH.

Lawyers Who Feed Fat on Bid Estates in Litigation-Diverting Millions From the Purposes Its Owners Intended.

A New York correspondent, writing to the Pittsburgh Dispatch, says: Surrogate Rollins had 334 wills contested before him in his three years' term. He admitted all but fifty of them. It would be impossible to estimate the amount of money involved in these contests, but \$500,000,000 would not o er estimate it. for they include the estate of Samuel J. Tilden, the \$10,000,000 of James Hokes, the \$11,000,000 of Jesse Hoyt, the \$2,-5000,000 of Louis Hamersly, the \$5,000,-009 of Sarah Burr, and the \$3,000,000 of Paran Steven, besides the great fortunes of A. T. Stewart and his widow. Twen'y-five men are paid by the city to look after the proper distribution of dead men's estates, according to their wishes, but Surrogate Rollins said there ought to be 100 employed in the work. growing greater every day.

Scarcely half a dozen wealthy men, or women either, for that matter, have died here in the past ten years without leaving a legacy of endless litigation among their heirs. The late William H. Vanderbilt and Miss Catherine Wolfe are the only exceptions I recall at present. Even Miss Wolfe, though, had to make the terms of her will in such explicit and iron-clad terms that it was plain that she feared the humiliation of a contest before the Surrogate. In fact, it has grown to be the prerogative of kinship to grab for other people's money, and the flimsiest pretext serves the purpose, even if it only results in bagging a few thousands for hush money and counsel fees.

What a revelation there would be for the rich men of the land if they could come back to earth and listen to the fight over the results of their toil! Here's A. T. Stewart, the greatest dry goods merchant this city ever saw, pictured as mentally incapable of disposing of the millions he had gathered; his widow is in her grave less than a year before two dozen heirs are pounding on the doors of the law courts to upset her bequests; Jesse Hoyt's \$11,000,000 have opened the doors of his family closet, and the skeleton stalks out in the glare of publicity; Sarah Burr died four years age, but her \$5,000,000 were made the ob ect of bitter litigation, and her eccentricities paraded before the world. Samuel J. Tilden, keen lawyer as he was, made a will that his nephews are the drop on everything-Duluth Para determined to break, and his great grapher. scheme for a free public library here is thus postponed, and perhaps baifled.

The Paran Stevens case was only settled permanently a short while ago after 15 years of litigation and personal abuse of the worst sort from the widow to her sonin-law, and vice versa. Paran Stevens was one of our great Bonifaces, and his estate still holds an interest in the Fifth Avenue and Victoria Hotels here and similar property in Boston. He died in 1869, leaving his widow, a married daughter, and son-in-law to manage his estate and divide the property among about twenty heirs. Mrs. Stevens and her son-in-law never did get on together, and the breach widened after the old man died. Early in 1872 she denounced him and began suit to have him removed as executor. Mrs. Stevens, it will be remembered, created a sensation at Newport last summer by entertaining the Duke of Mariborough. Her fight to oust her son-in-law cost \$250,000 at least.

Who of those who knew Daniel R. Lyddy would have thought that he would be put forward by his brothers after death as a subject of undue influence? He was as sane as any many that ever lived, and yet he was hardly in his grave before his brothers-the ones who made themselves notorious by accepting \$12,000 from Sharp-declared war upon his widow for his estate. The ludicrous part of the story is that Liddy hadn't a penny until he married Madame Connolly, the famous dressmaker here, who not only owned all the Long Branch property but had a good sized bank account as well. Of course that wealth greatly increased under Mr. Liddy's shrewd management, but where would he have been if he had not married thousands? Now his brothers have begun a fight to keep those thousands on their side of the house, and they declare the will bogus that gives back to the widow the property that was originally

An array of high-priced legal talent has begun a long contest over the Widow Stewart's estate, which ex-Judge Hilton has rightfully or wrongfully appropriated. Mrs. Stewart's niece is not satisfied with her \$50,000, but wants the will set a-ide as having been fraudulently obtained; one of the nephews, a brother of the present contestant, entered suit for the same purpose, though on different grounds, six months ago. It would not surprise many people if the two Stewart wills were still in litigation after Judge Hilton's death, for he is getting on in years now. Meanwhile the big white marble mansion at Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth street is closely curtained and shuttered, and no one goes in or out but the old butler. It is literally ahouse of death-a marble grave. How every dream of A. T. Stewart's later days has been dissipated. His marble mansion is as he hastily entered a hospital; "I've nothing but a gloomy tomb, the work- just shot three of my fingers off!" "I'm ing women's home that he planned and sorry, my friend," replied the superinset afloat thousands for has been turned tendent, "but you'll have to grin and into a fashionable hotel, in which a single meal costs as much as he meant to charge for a full week's board. His scheme for | ings. a grand cathedral seat and educational centre at Garden City is all but a flat failure, and the dry goods house that he made known the world over is now merely a reminiscence. Even his bones, weary after a lifetime of drudgery, are hidden no one knows where. There is rest in the grave for the weary, but not for the wealthy.

The Wily Red Man.

Near Montour, Ia., is an Indian reservation, where a large number of the Sac and Fox tribes find a home. Last Thursday their annuity was paid. Fifteen thousand dollars in gold was distributed—each member of the tribe receiving exactly \$39.99 as his or her share. In order to avoid the trouble of in France, or from the sugar cine, as in making change a proposition was made the West Indies. Now, do you think to some of the chiefs to pay them \$10 you can rember that?" "Yes, sir,," reand for them to return the odd penny. plied a sharp boy, "I think we can re-This they refused to do. They are ex- member the connection between the cane ceedingly suspicious of the Government agents and demanded the exact change.

The suspicion seems to be mutual, for the captured in one of the streets of this city agent, instead of paying out the money, gave each Indian a check, after which he was escorted to a bank, where the exact change was handed to him. This city whose growth is as rapid as that of was done to prevent the wily Indian from getting two annuities—the strong family resemblance making that trick good once before.—New York Granhie good once before. - New York Graphic.

It may be of scientific interest to know that a wife with a cold can make it very warm for her husband.

VALENTINES.

MAMMA'S. Baby came toddling up to my kneo His chubby features all aglow "Dess I'se doin' to be oor beau-See what oo dot f'om me!"

A valentine from my baby boy!

A crumpled sheet and a homely scrawl In a baby hand-that was all, Yet it filled my heart with joy.

Broken my heart and white my hair, And my mother's eyes are used to weep-My little boy is fast asleep In the church-yard over there. What shall be mamma's valentine? The spirit touch of a baby hand-

A baby voice from the spirit land Singing a song divine. -Eugene Field.

Little Robert Robin sat on a leafless vine; He said: "Dear Ruby Robin, may I be your

Pretty Ruby Robin sat on a leafless spray; She said: "Oh, tell me how, and then perhaps you may."

Said little Robert Robin: "Oh, we would build a nest. And you should live with me, and love me

true and best." Little Ruby Robin said: "It might be very pleasant," But she flew off gayly, singing, "Not at

present! Not at present!

-M. B. C. Slade. THE BABY'S, The rose is red, the violets blue, Pinks are pretty, and so are you.

The rose is red, my rosy dear; But that you hardly yet can know, Since you have only been with us, Four of the times when roses blow.

The violet's blue, my blue-eyed love; Yet that, perhaps, you hardly knew, ? Since you have only passed four times The violets in their hoods of blue.

The pinks are pretty, baby queen, And so are you; but that, also, From being here so short a time, Perhaps you've hardly learned to know.

PITH AND POINT

-Mary E. Wilkins

A stronghold-The bull-dog's. cople of the Territory of Dakota believe in a future State.

Many a homely, unattractive girl gets a husband on account of her pa value. The prescription clerk generally get

It is the fellow who can't write who is bound to make his X mark in the world.

The Treasury Department uses 18,000 towels a month, and still the surplus is not wiped out .- Washington Critic. Many a broadcloth husband owes his

prosperity to the fact that he married a

gingham girl .- Sm Francisco Bulletin. Every time a lady physician calls on a gentleman patient she shows plainly that she's Mr. calling .- Dansvills Breeze. "I presume you are skating for the first time." "No," for the last time," replied the disgusted female." -- Siftings. Scientists say that the savage has a more acute sense of smell than civilized people. They have more material to

practice on. When ice is thick and deep the snow, And winter days are drear O! Man wants little here below

-Boston Courier. Wife-"Woman are often criticised for wearing loud colors. What would you call a loud color?" Husband-"Yeller, I suppose."-Boston Courier.

Agent (to lady at front door)-"Is the mistress of the house in?" Lady-"1 think so, sir. Will you be kind enough to inquire at the kitchen door?"-New York Sun.

Nurse-"Doctor! Doctor!! By mistake I gave the patient No. 17 a spoonful of ink instead of medicine." Doctor-"Well, make him eat a blotter, right away." - Waterbury. If you want to dream that you are a

boboggan slide rushed with business, and that the electric is right over your stomach, just eat a lot of hickory nut cake for supper. - Dansville Breeze. The latest complaint of a discontented

generation is that there is not enough

gumstickem on the postage stamps. Do

people expect to get a whole meal of mueilage for two cents?-Buffala Courier. Cashiers, from a med cal report, Are seldom very strong; Their longest ages are but short—

Their short ages are long. Dick Tinto (pathetically)-"When will you love me, darling? When will you smile upon an ambitious but struggling artist?" Miss Flip (cheerfully) - "Why, just as soon as you can produce something to hang on the line besides one shirt." - Omaha Republican.

A California widow had plans for a fifty-thousand-dollar monument for her late departe l, but when the lawyers got through fighting over the estate the widow was doing housework at \$2 per week for the man who draughted the monument. - Detroit Free Press. "I want a surgeon at once." he said,

bear it for a while. The surgeons are all over to the toboggan slide."- Texas Etift-"Mr. Fangle's watch won't run at all. and he doesn't know what is the matter with it," observed Mrs. Fangle. "Well. I heard him tell Mr. Cumso that he'd had it in soak," replied Mrs Cumso, "and I know it just ruins watches to get

any water in their works."-San Antonio "For your sake I'd slay dragons Did you order me to, I'd battle with giants Were it but to please you." She said: "I'd not ask you Such vast deeds to do.

But suppose we go muse o'er 'An oyster or two." "Sugar," said the schoolmaster to his class, "is either made from the beet, as

One hundred and fifty-two persons were killed in Chicago last year by the railroads entering that city.