AT A BICYCLE SCHOOL.

HOW THE GIRLS ARE TAUGHT TO RIDE A WHEEL PROPERLY.

A Young Man Who Patiently Instructs Them-How He Does It-The First Vault on the Safety and a Sudden Curve to

"Do come with me this morning," ex. claimed a slender young woman, as she excitedly greeted a friend on Wabash avenue yesterday morning. "I am going to take my first lesson in bicycle

siding. "What, you ride the bicycle?" The emphasis on the you was inde-

"Yes, I," replied the slender one, with a dramatic wave of the arm, "even I." "Please don't say anything," she added quickly. "I know I've said all manner of awful things about women who

Tide the wheel, but I am willing to forget them now and I wish you would too. Consistency may be a jewel," she went on. "but it is not progressive. The woman that clings to consistency never gets on, and I am bound to progress if I have to mount a bicycle to do so. Besides, it's quite the proper caper now. The very swellest girls are riding, and I am not going to be left out of all the road and nutting parties that will rage next month. They say it is hard to balance oneself at first, but if the other girls can keep on, I can. Do come.

Here we are now." The two young women stopped for a moment to inspect the shining wheels in the big show window before disappearing down the basement stairway beneath. It was rather dark in the room they entered, the electric lights seeming dim after the brilliant sunshine outside. "This is lovely, isn't it?" said the beaming enthusiast as she viewed the padded walls and the mattress-wrapped posts down the centre of the room. "Just see; you can bump into everything and never get hurt."

"But the floor." suggested her more conservative companion; "I should imagine that that would be the most likely to trouble me in case of a

"The young lady will not fall, miss," interposed the dark-eyed instructor as he took a wide belt from the back of a chair. "I will see to it that there will be no falls if the young lady will put this around her waist and then follow my instructions closely."

The enthusiast donned the belt with the help of her friend, who tugged at the stiff leather strap to bring it snugly about the small waist.

"Now the first thing I want to say," began the instructor as he slipped one hand through the long loop stitched to the outside of the belt and held a bicycle with the other, "is never to let go the handle-bar."

"That will be easy enough, I am sure," remarked his pupil, "but perhaps I could hold it better if my gloves were

off." Then finger by finger the yellowish gloves are removed, the instructor meanwhile patiently clasping both belt strap and bicycle. The last little finger is uncovered and the gloves are finally tossed to the friend.

"Now I am ready," announces the

young woman. "Remember, please, never to let go the handle bar," again admonishes the instructor. "Put your right foot on the pedal first, at the same time carrying your dress skirt over as far as you

can. There, now you're all right.' The pupil vaults into the saddle and

the wheels begin to revolve. "Where is the place for my other foot?" she shrieks, pawing the air wildly with the unsettled member,

"It's there all right. Put your foot on the pedal as it comes up. Whizz! bump! crash! Deathly silence for a second.

quires the alarmed witness of the encounter between post and wheel. "I think not," dubiously replies a

"Are you hurt, dear?" anxiously in-

faint voice from the confused heap on the floor. The disentanglement of post, wheel, pupil and instructor begins. The last

does not look particularly amiable as he helps the future bicycler to her feet and brushes the light dust from his coat. "How stupid of me," apologized the pupil, but, growing technical, "where was that other pedal? Are you sure it

is on?" examining the recumbent wheel. "Yes, it is here all right," shortly replies the young man. "Now please do as I tell you. Hold on to the handle-

bar no matter what happens." "Why, of course I can do that if the pedal will only act properly. It always goes down at the wrong time and comes up when I am not looking for it."

"Don't mind the pedal, I say, just hang on to the handle bar." This admonition is given very emphatically. The bicycle is placed upright, the young man slips his hand

through the strap at the slender waist and the young woman mounts again. This time there is too much skirt flying to the left, for which compensation is found in a three inch view of tan silk stocking on the opposite side "It is running away with me," cries

the rider as the machine, under a mild push from the instructor, takes on increased speed.

"No it isn't, either; you are going all

A sudden curve to the right, the right nd deserts the bar and clutches blind. for support. Over goes the machine the young woman lands on her left Then she tactfully busies herself sting her tilting hat and crumpled while the dark-eyed instructor is ats limply over his left shoulder. strange words in a low voice the charming pupil blandly ig-

queerly that front wheel s the first observation that is a bank of deposit.—St. Louis Globepainful quiet. "If it wasn't Democrat.

for that front wheel I know I could ride splendidly. Is that really necessary?" The question is put with a most win-

ning smile. "Not at all, miss. It is only a question of knowing how to balance yourself. See here is a single wheel, and I'll keep it going."

A tall wheel with short pedals is rolled away from the wall and the instructor leaps lightly across it. He whirls around a post several times in short circles, sawing the air with his arms in order to keep his balance.

"Oh, I never could ride one of those; it would be so horribly ungraceful. I think the two-wheeled ones are prettier when one is on the right kind of terms with the front one. But didn't I do well for a first lesson?" this to her friend who begins to unfasten the leather belt. "I suppose I'll feel stiff and queer tomorrow; the girls all say they do the day after the first lesson. "Thank you so much," to the young man. "I hope I didn't tax you too much. But now I come to think about it, where were my feet? I don't remember much about them; you only talked about that absurd handle bar."

"The handle-bar is the main thing to understand, miss; your feet will take care of themselves.'

The young man bows the chattering enthusiast and her observant friend up the stairway. Echoes of "green short skirts," "tan leather leggings," "close caps" and "tan leather vests" come back to his ears as he straightens out the practice wheel for the next fair rider.-Chicago Tribune.

THE HANGMAN OF PARIS.

A Much-Hated Individual, Who Is Master

of His Business. Deibler, the Parisian hangman, or 'Monsieur de Paris," as he is often called, is naturally unpopular among his countrymen, although on one occasion he was received courteously and welcomed by the citizens of the place where he was about to show his expert ability as an executioner. This was at Rouen, where he went to guillotine a man named Gamelin, who had brutally murdered a little girl. The feeling against the scoundrel was so strong that Deibler was respectfully saluted by the populace as he went from his hotel to the place of execution. "Monsieur de Paris" is a thorough master of his grewsome calling, and says he never felt at all nervous on the scaffold except when taking part in the execution of Ravachol, the anarchist. After this noted criminal had been bound he was put into the hearse to be conveyed to the place of execution, some distance in the town. Though perfectly livid, he began howling a vile song and kept it up till sembled, but the assistant executioners forced him on the bascule. The howls and imprecations of the anarchist continued with such fury that Deibler for a few moments became unnerved, but he speedily recovered himself. He released the knife, and as it whizzed down the groove the crowd heard the anarchist shout: "Vivela repu-" The official standing by the guillotine affirmed that as the head dropped into the basket the lips distinctly emitted the concluding syllable "blique." The assertion gave rise to a good deal of controversy among the French savants, but it was generally conceded that the guillotine severs the head with such terrific suddenness that it was possible the sound which the fellow was uttering was emitted after the knife had actually performed its deadly

M. Deibler has a fortune of about \$80. 000, and receives for his work as executioner \$300 per month. He lives quietly and is generally believed to be saving over one-half his salary.-Chicago Tri-

Kept His Promise. Richard Vaux, the venerable ex congressman from Pennsylvania, has never been to a theatre in his life to see a theatrical performance, says a Philadelphia Times. An interesting incident is given of his boyhood days over three score years ago. His father, a highly respected and prominent Friend, resided on Arch street, and believed it was best for his children to be trained within the rules of the good old Quaker habits. At that period Ned Forrest was the brilliant young American tragedian and had captivated all the boys of Philadelphia in his character of the Roman Gladiator and big Indian Metamora. Young Vaux naturally desired to see the great actor play, but shrank from going without his father's consent, so one day he ventured to ask his father for fifty cents to get a ticket. The old gentleman kindly replied in Quaker accent: "Richard, I don't begrudge the money, but thee knows I don't approve of playhouses, and wish thee to promise me not to go to a theatre without my permission." The promise was given and his father died suddenly soon after without giving the permission. Richard Vaux has conscientiously refrained from going the theatre

America's First Saving Bank. The first savings bank in America was the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, organized in 1816. It is still in existence. Later, in 1816, a savings bank was founded in Boston and in 1819 one was started in New York. A savings bank is a bank in which savings are received-small amounts, waich the bank will not pay out except on presentation of the bank book. A national bank is one which, besides its ordinary powers, rights and duties as a bank, has the right to issue bank notes. National banks were authorized by various acts of congress in 1863, 1864 and 1883. The plan of the government was to get the banks to buy government bonds, and to do so it gave them the right to issue notes to the amount of 90 per cent of those they had bought. A savings bank is not a bank of deposit; apart from its character as an issuer of notes, a national bank

OBSERVATIONS BY KITES. Securing a Better Knowledge of the Air's Upper Currents.

More accurate weather prediction will probably result from a closer and better knowledge of the upper air currents, and with this and other objects in view efforts have been made for some time to obtain reliable observations of the upper air. In April last H. H. Clayton, of the Bluehill Observatory, at Mass., began some experiments with kites at the suggestion of Professor Langley, of the Smithsonian Institution, in the endeavor to reach an altitude of 10,000 feet. Mr. Clayton, in an article in the Scien-

tific American, says the following: There are several obstacles to the use of kites which I found it necessary to overcome. First, the instability of the hexagon kite with a tail. It is an ordinary characteristic of the wind to increase from a calm to 20 miles an hour in two hours. These variations cause the tail kite to dive and become totally unmanageable, as every school boy knows. Professor C. F. Marvin, of the Weather Bureau, found by experiments that gusts may suddenly increase the pressure upon a flat disk 35 per cent.

E. Douglas Archibald, of the Royal Meteorological Society, revived the scientific use of the kite in 1884, and contributed an account of his experiments to Nature in 1886. By means of two kites, diamond shaped, respectively four and seven feet in diameter, covered with Tussore silk, he achieved an altitude of 2200 feet, and carried up anemometers registering the wind velocity at various heights on the kite string. The kites flown by Archibald were placed one above the other on the same string, but the upper one was probably attached to the back of the lower, because he speaks of the movement of the lower kite being injured in its freedom of movement by the pull of the upper, a result which I verified by experiment at Bergen Point, N. J., in

In the summer of 1890, while experimenting with hexagon tail kites at Bergen Point, I found that the best tandem system was not to fasten one kite to the back of other, but to give each kite its individual string and allow it to branch which it is impossible at present to eluciupward from a main line. This method was so successful that on May 9, 1891, at Bergen Point, with a 10 or 12-mile wind from the west and with five hexagon tail kites to lift the main line, the top kite became a very distant speck, estimated at 4000 feet high by those looking on, although no triangulation of the altitude was made. I have since became convinced that the probable altitude was 6000 feet, but, as it was not measured, I have not so far included it in my records of altitude. The hexagon tail kites carry up a wonderfully steep the guillotine was reached. He endeav- string, but they call for long individual ored to address the enormous crowds as- lines to each kite to prevent the kite tail from becoming entangled with the line below. Very high altitudes and valu- licate of Prince Bismarck himself. The able meteorological records can be made resemblance between the two men is most with them, but the Malay tailless kites excel them. I have Malay tailless kites that fly with a steeper string than the hexagon and require no hauling down bushy eyebrows. His neck is thick, his which would bring to the ground a tail

> Since the Malay kite has only two light sticks and can be built of very light paper as well as cloth, it is at home in mild winds of from four to eight miles an hour. Especially thin kites, without even the weight of cord at the edges, will rise to a great height in a dead calm, if the person holding the line walks at the rate of about three miles an hour. The cloth-covered kites are much heavier, for use in strong

I carried to the observatory, which is at the summit of Blue Hill, 640 feet above sea level, fifteen tissue paper kites, to be flown with silk thread. My object was to reach an altitude of 5,000 feet with the top kite at Blue Hill, with small tissue paper kites, and then to place these light kites above a heavy tandem line at Bergen Point, N.J., which had already a record of 5,595 feet on November 7, 1893. The two tandem lines, one above the other, ought to reach a height of two miles, with not over twenty kites. But I found the construction of small kites far more difficult than the large ones, and that in ten days it would be impossible to per-

fect the apparatus. The highest altitude was made by the topmost of seven kites, on August 1, when a height was triangulated of 3,540 feet above the hill, or 4,180 feet above sea level.

Life Sustaining Fruits, In replying to the query of whether there are any fruits which of themselves are sufficient to support healthy life an exchange says: There are many such, among which may be mentioned the date, banana and plantain, figs when dried, the bean of the caroh, or locust tree, and the fruit of the boababor monkey bread tree, which is eaten by the negroes in West Africa. All these contain sufficient fat, sugar, starch, pecten, gum and nitrogenous matter to support healthy life. Of all these preference must be given to the banana, which supplies to many millions a per manently nutritive food, and to the fruit of the date palm, or Phenix dactylifera, which serves as an exclusive article of

aliment in parts of North Africa, Arabia and Persia. "In all Fezzan," says one authority, "the date is the staple food not only for men, but for camels, horses and dogs. Nineteen-twentieths of the population live on dates alone during nine months of the year." In hadji or pilgrimages the price of dates at Mecca and Medina forms the first question asked between the Arab pilgrims going to and returning from the sacred city. Cakes of dates pounded and kneaded into a solid mass constitute the main nutriment of the caravans crossing the Sahara. From the fresh juice of the date wine and also vinegar are made and spirit distilled, while the stones or seeds are roasted and largely used instead of coffee -Pittsburg Dispatch.

HOUSEWIFE. KAISER'S

A CHARACTER SKETCH OF EX-CHAN-CELLOR VON CAPRIVI-

Blood, but No Iron in Him-The Salient Points in the Personality of a Statesman Who Has Just Stepped Down and

"Meine Herren, Wir gehen einer sehr lang Weiligen Zeit entgegen." ("Gentlemen, we have very dull times ahead of us.") So said General Caprivi soon after his appointment in 1890 to a circle of legislative friends. Germany's exciting period, her birth throes and precarious childhood had passed away. The ship of state had weathered the storms and danger of her early voyages, and had at last reached a broad expanse of placid water. Freed from their long struggle with the elements, the crew were now able to turn their full attention to cleaning and trimming the

"Sir," thundered Dr. Johnson, "knowledge is of two kinds-what you know yourself or what you know where to find." The young Emperor had, like his father, an instinct for the man who could best serve him and the state. Such a man he found pre-eminently in Von Caprivi. "Er ist vornehm, klug und mir ergeben, und was wollen Sie mehr?" (The man is of high breeding, clever and devoted to me, and what more could one want?) Since his appointment the German nation has watched his career with ever-increasing appreciation. He has reaped nothing but golden opinions from all. When he stepped into the shoes of "The Man of Iron and Blood," he was a "novus homo," and even more of a mystery and risk than his Imperial master, but now his reputation

as a statesman is secure. Now comes the startling announcement that the Emperor has accepted the resignations of both Chancellor von Caprivi and Count zu Eulenberg and has appointed Prince Hohenlohe as Chancellor of the German Empire and Premier of Prussia the officers from which these two have re-

spectively stepped down and out. There is reason to believe that an unavailing attempt on the part of the Emperor to compose the differences between the Chancellor and Count zu Eulenberg was one of the causes that determined his momentious decision, but it can hardly be doubted that there were other causes, date, that led to the resignations. His fight to prevent the adoption of the views of extremists in regard to measures to repress Socialists and Socialism is of too recent date to need extended mention. He insisted upon the adoption of a moderate policy, and it is said the Emperor agreed

Count zu Eulenberg is reported to have strenuously opposed anything but radical measures, and several times it has been reported that the difference of opinion between himself and the Chancellor would lead to the resignation of one or both. The prediction has proved to be true.

A Pen-Portrait of Caprivi. In personal appearance Von Caprivi is & Teuton of the hugest and most impressive type. He might very well pass for a dupof the two. And then he has the same if the wind increases from eight to head square and solid, his glance shrewd thirty-five miles an hour-conditions and penetrating. His air is that of unquestionable command combined with the polished suavity of a "fin de siecle" statesman.

Bismarck treads mechanically and heavily like a trooper. General Caprivi's gait is deliberate and elegant, while not lacking in "verve" or emphasis. The whole appearance of the latter proves him to be a man of great force of character and will, blending sagacity with patience, resolution with good humor, and southern fire with a German thoroughness and exactitude. He combines in an unusual degree the "suaviter in modo" with the "fortiter in re."

Bismarck rarely went into general society and rarely, if ever, appeared in the streets. General Caprivi entertained freely and even promiscuously and accepted invitations unrestrictedly. Berlin society knew him well and felt that he was of, as well as among, them. He was noted for his wide range of acquaintances and his familiarity with all his subordinates. Although he never married and was even shy of ladies when a young lieutenant, he was as polished and fastidious in his manners as if he had always lived under the refining influence of women. His polish was one which is never acquired in German camps and barracks.

As a speaker Caprivi was superior to Bismarck. The latter had personal weight, the witching spell of a great name, grand carnestness. His words were winged, his patriotism lofty, his loyalty ardent, his power of repartee instantaneous and crushing. But as an offset, his voice was poor, his manner far from suave or polished and the construction of his sentences interminable. His temper was abominable. Caprivi was one of the very best speakers in the Reichstag-terse, cultured, insinuating, forcible, perspicacious and

convincing. Von Moltke founded the great modern school of prose writers in Germany. These pupils were taught to speak as they wrote and to write as they spoke. Not the professional writers of the nation, but its professional soldiers—their general staff training bestowed upon them the art of narration in its clearest, simplest and most effective form.

Such soldier-orators, and Von Caprivi was "facile princeps," blended diffidence with audacity and deference with authority. They paid disarming compliments instead of downright cuts, and pleased where

they failed to persuade. Bismarck piled up his matter Cyclopswise -Pelion upon Ossa. Fence and humor and memorable phrases were the dialectical architecture of his successor. In his debate on the East African question before the Reichstag he proposed a "Bullet and Bible" policy as the most efficacious in exterminating the slave trade-the "open

sore of Africa." Caprivi's power of continuous work has been greater than Bismarck's. His judgment is as sound and his knowledge as comprehensive. He had always good taste and fine tact.

Bismarck was a mighty fighter and lived in an epoch of battle. Caprivi's battles have been those of diplomacy and peace. Bismarck was the great general of the period of combat. Caprivi, the unassuming statesman of the period of consolida-

Caprivi has had no "old scores" to pay off. Instead of pristine stress and storminess oil has been poured upon the troubled waters of old German Parliamentary war

Caprivi has been an excellent stavet

home, political housewife for his master— "the Hadrian of the nineteenth century" -William, the Kaiser.

Bismarck's Opinion. "Prince Hohenlohe is a safe man," Prince Bismarck is quoted as saying when the news of the change in the Chancellor-ship reached Varzin; "but he lacks initia-

"I knew this would be the inevitable result. Count zu Eulenburg was right in regard to the anti-Socialist measures. But Gen. von Caprivi disagreed with him, and one or both had to resign."

Little Curious Things.

In all Europe there are 51,801 breweries. and they produce 4,980,000,000 gallons of malt liquors annually. A cubic foot of average newly fallen

snow weighs five and a half pounds, and has 12 times the bulk of an equal weight Astronomers say that if a cannon could be fired on the equator of Jupiter the ball would travel 46 times faster than if fired

at our equator. Waves 20 feet high exert a force of about one ton to the square foot and are strong enough to move bowlders of 15 cubic feet. In 1635, during the great "tulip craze," in Holland, a single bulb of the "Semper Augustus" sold for a sum equal to \$2,200. A temperature of 220 degrees below the zero of Fahrenheit has been produced by mixing carbon bisulphide and liquid

nitrous acid. During a great eruption at Cotopaxi, in the early part of the century, a mass of rocks 100 cubic yards in volume was hurled nine miles.

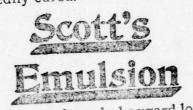
According to Muller the total number of words, or rather ideas, expressed by Chinese characters is 43,596. The age of the earth is estimated from the increment in the temperatures as we penetrate its crust. From data thus produced, Sir William Thompson says that it

is at least 200,000,000 years old. As Good a Hint To-Day as Then. Sixty years ago the incumbent of a church in Hull used to be called Vicar Bromby. Just after the passage of the first reform bill, in 1832, he preached a sermon in which he uttered this wholesome Socratic passage: "In these days we hear a

great deal about reform. Let me give you a piece of advice: The best reform is to make one person better. I need not say who that person should be."

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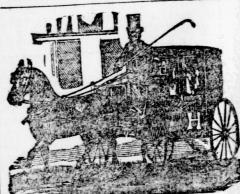
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