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are appreciated by a large number of people in this Dominion for its exclusive merchandising and courteous, competent, careful service.

Marshals of France.

A high degree of interest and approval has been aroused by announcement that Ferdinand Foch, generalissimo of the Allied armies on the Western front has been made a marshal of France. The title denotes the highest rank in the French army, and Foch is the only other officer who now holds it; but these facts do not suffice to account for the impression made by its bestowal upon Foch. The truth is that the Emperor Napoleon made the title famous by the great soldiers upon whom he conferred it; so that it has since come to be synonymous with all the attributes of supreme military leadership.

The marshals appointed by Napoleon were twenty-six in number, and the names of some of them—such as Ney, Murat, Soult, Lannes, Massena, Davoust, and Macdonald—are familiar as household words. Two of them became monarchs—Murat, King of Naples, and Bernadotte, King of Sweden. Two were tried by court martial and executed—Murat and Ney. Two were murdered—Bessieres and Mortier. Two lost their lives in combat—Bessieres at Lutten, and Poniatowski at Leipzig; while a third, Lannes, was mortally wounded at Aspern. After Waterloo, Grouchy visited America and was kindly received at Philadelphia by Stephen Girard, the merchant prince and founder of Girard College, who was himself a Frenchman by birth. Grouchy was not only a count of the empire, but a marquis under the royal regime; hence, he was ultimately enabled to return to his own country and regain his previous rank and station.

Under the Second Empire, the marshals of France varied greatly in character and success. Saint-Arnaud, the first French Commander in the Crimean War, had been an actor in early life, and owed his advancement largely to the assistance which he rendered to Louis Napoleon in the coup d'etat of 1851; nevertheless he was a brave soldier, and displayed heroic conduct at the battle of the Alma. Pelissier, Duke of Malakoff—so entitled after the principal fortification at Sebastopol—was chiefly known for having smoked six hundred Arabes to death in a cave where they had sought shelter, in Algeria.

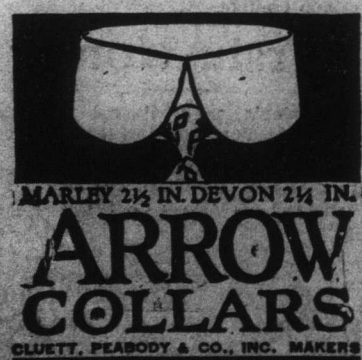
Between the two marshals who figured most prominently in the Franco-Prussian War there was the greatest possible contrast—Bazaine, discredited and disgraced for his too-ready capitulation of Metz and its garrison; and MacMahon, honored and esteemed for his administration of the presidency of the new French Republic, during a critical period when a misstep might have been fatal.

The lives of all the men who have been marshals of France would make an instructive series of biographies. For us, however, none compares in importance with the life of the newest marshal, as it is being lived from day to day—Munsey's Magazine.

An Insect like the Kaiser.

THE PREYING, PRAYING MANTIS.

Lord Buxton recently compared the Kaiser to the Preying Mantis, which "preys with an 'e' instead of an 'a,'" and there has seldom been an apter comparison in the history of oratory. Around this long-legged insect, com-



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50 bbls. Parker's
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mon in Africa, innumerable legends have gathered, and all because it walks along upon four of its six slender ambulatory legs, with its head up lifted and its two remaining forelegs outstretched.

From very ancient times it has been believed, that these insects indicated, by the gestures of their fore limbs, the road that a lost wanderer in the desert ought to take. Hence they were called Mantes, or soothsayers. But a still commoner view is that these insects are very religiously inclined. Hence they are known as praying or preaching insects, and are supposed to be habitually engaged in praying to or in praising the Deity.

According to a very ancient legend, St. Francis Xavier, on seeing a Mantis moving slowly along with forelegs raised as if in devotion, desired it to sing the praises of God, which it immediately did in a beautiful canticle.

The ancient Greeks invested this insect with supernatural powers; and the Turks and Arabs insist that it always prays with its face towards Mecca, and so is a devout Mohammedan.

Among the Provencals of southern France it is known as the Prie Dieu, and Hottentots regard its alighting on a person as a sure sign of sainthood. In other parts of the world it is variously known as the nun, the preacher, and the saint; but these wonderful notions have no foundation in fact.

On the contrary, the Mantis is an exceedingly voracious creature. The forelimbs are merely extended in readiness to seize its prey. Once seized, the victim has no power of escape. What those long arms enclose they hold. Their power is great and they are used not only for grasping prey but for fighting their own kind. One well-directed blow will often remove an adversary's head.

Fashions and Fads

Pilet collars are particularly attractive on dark one-piece frocks.

The heavy silk girdle is an interesting solution to the waist line. Solid bead bags and bead-trimmed bags become more and more fascinating.

A striped cloak with an immense collar is of gray on a darker gray ground.

Unsung Heroes.

In these days we hear much of the military exploits of armies from different portions of the Empire and high praises are given to officers and men. This is natural and right, but there is a class of heroic men who brave the greatest dangers with a calm courage that is amazing but concerning which we hear but little. These are the men of the engine-room and stokeholds both of our merchant and military marine. Down in the bowels of the ship working in comparative darkness, exposed to intense heat, often amid escaping steam, and disabled machinery, while storms rage with such fury as to threaten to engulf the ship, these dauntless heroes work wonders in repairs which save ship and crew from destruction. Exposed to danger and death from mine and torpedo, these men, whilst all others in the ship have a fighting chance for life, in case of the ship being struck, keep on with their arduous work in confined, under deck, spaces from which escape in case of disaster is almost a miracle.

The captain of a great liner on the Pacific relates the following as an instance of the courageous daring of these unsung heroes: A certain steamship had been sent out from her home port with some of her boilers out of commission. In mid-ocean one of the few boilers capable of being fired got leaky tubes, and it became necessary, in order to keep the ship under any sort of headway in a hurricane-swept sea, to repair the boiler immediately. The fire was pulled out from under it, the manhole lid was unscrewed and removed, and the first engineer, wrapped from head to foot in a thick coating of asbestos, crawled into the red-hot boiler, and with chisel and hammer began tearing out the defective tubes. For two minutes he worked, and as he worked held his breath, for a single gasp of the fiery air in his lungs would have killed him. Then he crawled to the manhole, and was pulled out by the stokers. Five minutes later he again went into the boiler. This time, after nearly two minutes' work, he succeeded in cutting away two tubes. On the third entry he removed three, and after that he spent another five minutes resting. Then came the task of reaming in new tubes, and to do this he was compelled to enter the boiler five times. In each case he stayed inside nearly two minutes, and as he crawled out the last time he barely had breath and strength enough left to say to his chief before he fainted clean away, "It's done, sir."—The Wesleyan.

Spanish Influenza!

A gargle which has been approved of by the most eminent authorities as a safeguard against infection of the germ and also a curative and preventative combined—if systematically used about four times a day—can be obtained at Stafford's Drug Store, Theatre Hill.

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Dresses of black silk are mysteriously draped and trimmed with monkey fur.

The Heart of Rachel.

(Manitoba Free Press.)

There is a beating in the air these days; it is the beating of the wings of the Angel of Death. Hard beside is another beating, that of the heart of this nation in great sympathy with those who mourn. It is a grief and a sympathy that knows no creed, no caste, no necessity of personal acquaintance.

Canadians in general are a quiet people. Those left at home read and try to realize the truly wonderful part which their own men are taking in Armageddon. It is right that we should try to realize it. It is recorded that the British troops who relieved the Canadians who held the awful trenches during the first gas attack came on with the cry of "Canadians! Canadians!" That stand of our men has been repeated again and again. It is being repeated now. It can never be exceeded. Yet even as we throb with pride at the knowledge that these our own men have, proven true to their British breeding, that they have placed the flag of Canada where the glory of the maple leaves forever enshrine it; that it twines its folds on the equality won of service with the meteor flags of our kindred, yet even at that moment of exultation, a whisper comes, "The price, what of the price?" The price is the casualty lists.

Shall the casualty lists do for those who wait what the foe never can do? Try our men at the front? Do we mourn as those without hope? It is not exactly for the golden youths that we sorrow. We haltingly realize that in their inheritance of the "vasty halls of death," they have come through a great life in that they gave everything for a great ideal, and their passing is more glorious than anything perhaps that the narrow confines of the common round can offer.

Our men had their day of counting the cost. They had also the vision of the entities of freedom and of righteousness which they were to be permitted to buy. And their decision was swift and true. So is the decision of those who wait. No little peace shall dishonor this Canada, whose enduring fame has been bought at an inestimable price.

Mistake not our grief. We would not have our men less heroes. We would grope forward rather and touch their warm, ever-living hands reached out to us from the intimate new eternity. It is but in the frail hours that we cry, "Absalom, my son Absalom, would God I had died for thee!" The rush of the wings of dawn brings the message that they went ahead trusting us.

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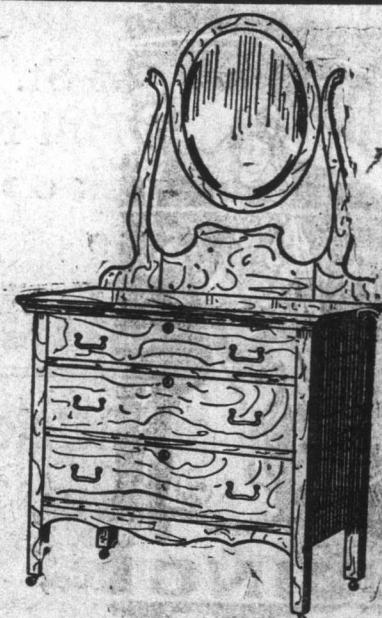
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