

GLOWWORM.

Glowworm is the female of one of the species of lampyris; the light is most frequently observable early in the summer when the animal is in motion. It can be withdrawn or displayed at pleasure by contracting or unfolding the body. When crushed in the hand this luminous substance adheres to it and continues to shine till it dries. This extraordinary provision of nature is for the purpose of attracting the male. The glow-worm is apterous or without wings. The male possesses elytra which cover wings longer than the body. The head and antennae are black, the former concealed by the broad plate of the thorax. The four last rings of the abdomen, which emit the light, are not so bright in the male as in the female, and are nearly destitute of that luminous quality which renders her so remarkable.

TIME TO PLANT GARDEN TULIPS.

There is one good use to make of the flower beds, and that is to fill them with Dutch bulbs of various kinds, and none give greater satisfaction than tulips. The time to do the planting is as soon as frosts have destroyed the summer flowers. This will usually be in October, but may sometimes be later. As soon as planted the bulbs at once begin to root and continue growing, except the beds become solidly frozen. By the time the beds are wanted again in the early summer the flowering of the tulips is over, and it has been proven that the bulbs, top and all, may be lifted, placed in some out-of-the-way place to ripen for the next year, and that this may go on for years. Here, then, is a famous chance to give a month of floral beauty from what would otherwise be naked beds of soil. All this class of bulbs show off best planted thickly, small bulbs like the crocus, as close as two or three inches, with hyacinths, narcissus and tulips not over six inches apart. Small bulbs should be planted three inches deep, larger about four. Any soil suitable for the summer flowers the bulbs will grow in, a preference lying in it being somewhat sandy. If there is any choice of location of the beds, select such as are sheltered from the trying cold spring winds. Not that the plants are not hardy, but to keep the early flowers from being beat about by the storms. If for the home use, select such spots as show well from some of the windows of the dwelling. As there is some little difference in the time of flowering and size to which they grow, plant such groups as ranunculus, tourmaline, and common garden tulips by themselves, the latter being the latest to flower of all. These latter are excellent for planting in and among shrubs.

WHAT A COIN DID.

A coin is in itself a history. There was once a lost city which owes its place to a coin. For over a thousand years no one knew where Pandosia was. History told us that at Pandosia, King Pyrrhus collected those forces with which he over-

ran Italy, and that he established a mint there; but no one could put their finger on Pandosia. Eight years ago a coin came under the sharp eyes of a numismatist. There were the letters Pandosia inscribed on it, but, what was better, there was an emblem, indicative of a well-known river, Crathis. Then everything was revealed with the same certainty as if the piece of money had been an atlas, and Pandosia, the mythical city, was at once given its proper position in Brutium. Now, a coin may be valuable for artistic merit, but when it elucidates a doubtful point in history or geography its worth is very much enhanced. This silver coin, which did not weigh more than a shilling, because it cleared up the mystery of Pandosia, was worth to the British Museum £200, the price they paid for it.

AN ARCTIC TEMPEST.

It is impossible, according to Arctic explorers, to form an adequate idea of a tempest in the polar seas. Icebergs are then like floating rocks whirled along a rapid current. The huge crystal mountains dash against each other, backward and forward, bursting with a roar like thunder, and return to the charge until, losing their equilibrium, they tumble over in a cloud of spray, with a noise like the hissing of a monster serpent. The sea gulls fly away screaming, and often a whale comes for an instant puffing to the surface. When the midnight sun grazes the horizon, the floating mountains and the rocks are enveloped in a halo of beautiful purple light. The cold is by no means so insupportable as is supposed. "We passed," says a recent polar navigator, "from a heated cabin at 30 degrees above zero, to 47 degrees below zero in the open air, without inconvenience." A much higher degree becomes, however, insufferable if there is a wind. At 15 degrees below zero a steam, as if from a boiling kettle, rises from the water. At once, frozen by the wind, it falls in a faint powder. This phenomenon is called sea smoke. At 40 degrees the snow and human bodies also smoke, which smoke changes at once into millions of tiny particles, like needles of ice, which fill the air and make a light, continuous noise, like the rustle of a stiff silk. At this temperature the trunks of trees burst with a loud report, the rocks break up, and the earth opens and throws off smoking water. Knives break in cutting butter. Cigars go out by contact with the ice on the beard. To talk is fatiguing. At night the eyelids are covered with a crust of ice, which must be carefully removed before one can open them.

ETIQUETTE OF WEDDINGS.

The bridesmaids precede the bride to church and wait for her in the church porch.

She goes to church alone with her father, or whoever gives her away.

A bride may be given away by her mother in default of male relatives.

The bridegroom with his best man should await her at the chancel rails or at the entrance to the choir.

As she enters the church the bridesmaids must fall into procession behind her, and follow her up the aisle.

On reaching the bridegroom's side she hands her bouquet and gloves to her first bridesmaid.

She should make the responses in a firm clear voice; it is ill-bred to look about her, or to behave with levity.

When the service is over the bridegroom gives her his arm to conduct her to the vestry for the signing of the register.

The bride signs her name in full—her maiden surname for the last time. The first bridesmaid signs as witness.

On leaving the vestry, the bride and bridegroom go first, arm-in-arm, leaving the bridesmaids and other guests to follow.

The bride's father provides the carriage to take her to church, the bridegroom that to take her from it.

It is unusual now to have a wedding breakfast. Afternoon weddings and receptions are far more fashionable.

The wedding cake must be cut by the bride; but the making of speeches and proposing of toasts is happily growing obsolete.

The bride retires to change her dress for a travelling costume before the guests have left.

Wedding favors are now confined to the horses' ears and the servants. They are small, and have a bunch of white flowers on them.

The bridegroom pays the fees, and arranges for all decoration of the church—carpets, awnings, &c.

RIDE ON A CAMEL.

The *Telegraph* Dongola correspondent writes: "A few days ago I had my first ride on a camel, and I thought it would have been my last. It was to go to our camp that I got cross-legged upon an Arab saddle, insecurely fastened by strings upon the back of a great, lumbering hump-backed brute. I no sooner attempted to take my place on the saddle than the camel, which was lying prone, into which position he had been forced began grunting like an old village pump violently worked. At the same time he turned his prehensile lips aside, grinned like a bull-dog and showed a grinning row of teeth, which he sought to close upon me. I got aboard without accident and had not long to wait for a rise. The first movement, as he lifted his fore-legs, nearly sent me over backwards; the next, as he straightened his hind legs, still more nearly tipped me over his head. I had been warned to hold tight, but it was only the clutch of desperation that saved me. After several lunges and plunges the brute got fairly on his legs. The reins consisted of a rope round his neck for steering and a string fastened to a ring thrust in his nostrils, to pull up his head and stop him when going too fast. My camel began to move forward, whereupon I oscillated and see-sawed as if seized with sea-sickness or cramps in the stomach. Involuntary as the movement was, an hour of it would, I am sure, have made as abject a victim of me as the worst sufferer on a channel passage. A heartless friend was in front of me on another camel, which he set trotting. Instantly I became as helpless as a child, for my camel disregarded the strain on his nostrils and my fervent ejaculations. My profane Arabic vocabulary was too limited to have the slightest effect. I