

THE RATTLE OF THE SEXES.

The new woman is not gallant. She has laid that poor creature called man low in the dust. She has taken his work, his manners, even his cigars, his hat, his coat, and looked with a furtive glance at other items of his clothing.

But who doubts her capabilities? Who doubts that she has high ideals of life? Why, she has hundreds of them. She starts with one in the morning, and if she finds it does not work well out for her own advantage, this poor ideal is sent about its business, and a new one adopted. And so on, till dewy sleep shuts up the sweet eyes, and the low plaintive voice is heard no more.

Yet we love the new woman. And why? Well, because the world has made a bound forward since her advent. Everything has improved. Look at the moral tone of the world. Ladies tell us that men won't now propose. This must be owing to his new sense of culture and refinement! Perhaps he has become a little dazed with this brilliancy on the part of women, and may be afraid that he is not worthy of such a being. Or perhaps he may be waiting till the women, if not the world, improve a little more, and are able, with the help of a sandglass, to boil an egg correctly.

But we cannot doubt that the world has been mightily improved by the new woman. To do so would be to doubt her own word. Why, of late our very homes seem, even on their outside, to be wreathed in smiles. This is most noticeable in the evening or when it is dark. But enter if you wish to see happiness! Think of eating a dinner cooked by the latest developments of science, and punctual to the fraction of a second. The very cat is purring with delight, and can be easily heard—that is, when the new woman is not speaking. Is it any wonder that the "gudeman" leaves his shoes just inside the door?

At present, however, the new woman is wrestling with a mighty problem. It is one in dynamics. Man is a force, but is far too much diffused, and not under proper control. If she could only get him into a cylinder, so to speak, all might be well; she could then stand in bloomer costume and pull the levers as she liked. But the evil is, man won't go in! He generally gives her a wide berth. She has argued with him, and tried to educate him, and crowded occasionally, but all in vain. Man is still at large. This almost makes her weep, a thing she has seldom done since the day, now long ago, when she found out that she could not lick her big brother.

THINGS HERE AND THERE.

The city of Cofon, Honduras, is the oldest American city.

The British make of bicycles will be as heavy as usual next year.

Oranges, limes, bananas and cocoanuts grow wild in Costa Rica.

Foaming or frothing is not possible with a liquid of pure constitution.

An electric flame has been created of sufficiently intense heat to melt a diamond.

In China horses are mounted on the right side and ships are launched sideways.

In Costa Rica canary birds, bullfinches and parrots are special table dainties.

The spoken language of China is not written and the written language is not spoken.

In England gas, water and electric plants are obliged to make financial reports to the Government.

Lord Rayleigh, of the Royal Institute, London, maintains that the foam of the sea is caused by seaweed.

The temperature for December, taking the average for ten years, in the Klondike, is 40 degrees below zero.

Holi-in-the-Day, a North Dakota Indian warrior, traded his bronco for a bicycle and is now a proficient rider.

The United States arsenal at Philadelphia was established in 1816. The Allegheny arsenal was established in 1814.

The Finland women have the right of suffrage, but they also work as carpenters, paper hangers, bricklayers and slaughterers.

The noon gun in the Parliament grounds at Ottawa, Canada, is to be fired direct from the Montreal Observatory every day.

The Smithsonian Institution has just come into possession of what is believed to be the original first telegraph instrument constructed by Morse for actual use.

PAPER CANNON.

To add to the number of curious uses to which paper can be put, it is interesting to note that Krupp, the great German manufacturer of cannon, has recently completed a number of field pieces of this material for the use of the German infantry.

Their calibre is a little less than two inches, and the pieces are so light that a single soldier can carry one easily. At the same time resistance is greater than that of a field-piece of steel of the same calibre.

It is not expected that these paper guns will replace those of metal. They are intended for use in the positions where the movement of field artillery would be impracticable.