

going kind of fashion; and far away around the white coasts the blue sea was idly murmuring in; but it may be doubted whether in all the length and breadth of that fair land there was any fairer sight than that of the wit of a young woman had devised. She herself was pleasant enough to look on (and she was always particularly attentive about her attire when her father was at home), and now she was half laughing as she thought of her forthcoming revenge; she had dressed her little niece in her prettiest costume of pink and white, and pink was the colour of the silken reins; while the great slow-footed Don bore his part in the pageant with a noble majesty, sometimes looking up at Judith as if to ask what he was going in the right direction. And so the procession passed on between the white-laden cherry-trees and the redder masses of the apple-blossom; and the miniature Ariadne, sitting sideways on the back of the great beast, betrayed no fear whatsoever; while her aunt Judith held her, walking by her, and scolding her for that she would not sing.

"Tant sing Aunt Judith," said she.

"You can sing well enough, you little goose, if you try," said her aunt, with the unreasonable impatience of an unmarried young woman. "What is the use of your going hunting without a hunting song? Come along, now:

'The hunt is up, the hunt is up,
And it is well-nigh day;

try it, Bess!"

"Hunt us up, hunt us up," said the small rider; but she was occupied with the reins, and clearly did not want to be bothered.

"No, no, that is not singing, little goose. Why, sing it like this, now:

'The hunt is up, the hunt is up,
And it is well-nigh day;
And Harry our king has gone hunting,
To bring his deer to bay!"

However, the music came to an abrupt end. They had by this time almost reached the summer-house. Saturnine Matthew, gardener, who still stood there, blocking-up the doorway, had not heard them approach, but his master with-in had. The next instant goodman Matthew suddenly found himself discarded, dismissed, and treated, indeed, as if he were simply non-existent in the world; for Judith's father, having paused for a moment to regard from the doorway the pretty pageant that had been arranged for him (and his face lit up, as it were, with pleasure at the sight) was the next minute down beside his little granddaughter, with one knee on the ground, so that he was just on a level with her out-stretched hands.

"What, Bess?" he said, as he caught her by both hands and feet. "You imp, you inch, you elfin queen, you—would you go a-hunting, then?"

"Send away Don—me want to ride the high horse," said the small Bess, who had her own ideas as to what was most comfortable, and also secure.

"And so you shall, you sprite, you Ariel, you moonlight wonder!" he exclaimed, as he perched her on his shoulder and rose to his feet again. "The high horse, truly; indeed, you shall ride the high horse! Come, now, we will go see how the King's mulberry thrives; that is the only tree we have that is younger than yourself, you ancient, you beldame, you witch of Endor, you!"

"Father," said Judith, seeing that he was going away perfectly regardless of anybody or anything except his granddaughter, "may I take the Don with me for an hour or so?"

"Whither away, wench—whither?" he asked, turning for a moment.

"To Shottery, father."

"Well, well," said he, and he turned again and went off.

"Come, Bess, you world's jewel, you, you shall ride with me to London some day, and tell the King how his mulberry thrives; that shall you, you fairy, you princess, you velvet-footed maidiekin! To London, Bess—to London!"
—From *Wm. Black's Novel, "Judith Shakespeare,"* in *Harper's Magazine* for February.

A TERRIBLE MAIL SERVICE.

In the February *Century* appears the first of a series of illustrated papers on the mainland and islands of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, entitled "The Cruise of the *Alice May*." The papers are the record of an expedition in the interest of the magazine. S. G. W. Benjamin, now United States Minister to Persia, contributes the text, and M. J. Burns supplies the pictures. Of the winter mail service between the mainland and Prince Edward Island, Mr. Benjamin says: "From January until May, at least, Northumberland Strait is frozen over. The mails are carried across at the narrowest part, near Cape Tormentine, or Jourimian a distance of nine miles. The carriers drag a boat over the hummocks of ice which is provided with runners like a double keel. When they come to open water they cross in the boat. It is a dangerous and arduous journey, and few undertake it besides the hardy mail-carriers. For two or three winters past the passage has been made sometimes by the steamer *Northern Light*, constructed especially for the service. She has a frame of enormous strength, somewhat of a wedge form, with a solid shoe of iron at the bow; everything about her was planned to enable her to crush her way through the ice, which is often from two to four feet thick. Her course is from Pictou to Georgetown, a distance of some eighty miles, although she often has to go over two or three times that distance to reach her port. In all the annals of steam navigation there is no such packet service recorded as this of the *Northern Light*. Sometimes the ice is so dense that she can make no headway, but is jammed fast for days and weeks, or carried to and fro by the combined fury of ice and storms. The passenger who starts in her for Prince Edward Island in March has before him the horrors of polar solitude and hazard. In the spring of 1882 the *Northern Light* was three weeks making this brief passage, fast locked in the ice-packs. Sometimes she was carried close to the shore, but

no one could bring aid to the starving passengers, owing to the threatening condition of the ice. It was only after burning all the woodwork in the cabin for fuel, and being reduced to the last biscuit, that the worn-out and hopeless passengers reached the destined port. Think of the civilized and enlightened people, in this age, shut off from the rest of the world by such a frightful selge of ice and tempest and snow! Nor is this an occasional thing. As regularly as the winter comes around, the islanders look forward to this long hibernation and isolation. Were it not for this drawback, the island might be a paradise."

LIFE LILIES.

I wandered down life's garden,
In the flush of a golden day,
The flowers and thorns grew thickly
In the spot where I chanced to stray.

I went to choose me a flower
For life, for weal or for woe;
On, on I went, till I stayed me
By the spot where lilies grow.

"Yes, 'I will carry a lily,'
I said in my manhood's pride,
'A bloodless, thornless lily
Shall be my flower!' I cried.

I stretched my hands out quickly
To where the pale blossoms grew—
Was it the air that shivered?
Was it a wind that blew?

Was it my hands that scorched them?
As I touched the blossoms fair,
They broke and scattered their petals
On the sunny noontide air.

Then I saw a great, bright angel
With opal-coloured wings,
Where the light flashed in the feathers
In golden glimmering.

He said: "Thou has sinned and suffered;
Lilies are not for thee,
They are all for the little children,
Emblems of purity."

"Shall I never carry a lily?
Never?" I bitterly cried.
With his great eyes full of pity,
The heavenly one replied:

"When the heat of the day is over,
When the goal is won," he said,
"Ah, then I lay God's lilies
In the hands of the stainless dead!"

ONE DAY.

We peer into the darkness and find naught
But darkness, great, impenetrable, still;
Immensity past any finding out, until
Each one alone into its midst be brought
Perhaps to know the fullness of it all
In one short moment. Many times a year
We at our work pause awe-struck, when a call
From out the Unseen bids some worker near
Obey and come. This darkness will be spanned
One day by light—we too shall understand.

—*Laura M. Marquand, in Harper's Magazine* for February.

HOME-MAKING.

The woman who is to be happy and useful as the maker and mistress of a home must know the art of home-making and home-ruling. Yet how very small a place is given to the teaching of these arts in our schemes of education for girls! We should call that man a fool who hoped to see his son successful as a merchant or banker, but neglected to have him instructed in the principles of arithmetic and book-keeping. But thousands of girls are married every year, who do not know how to make a loaf of bread, or to set a table, or to iron a napkin, or to make a bed becomingly. Is it expected that servants shall do these things? So the young man, who is to be made into a merchant or banker, will have his book keepers to write out his accounts and make his arithmetical calculations for him; but he must understand these processes for himself, or he will be at the mercy of his servants. Moreover, in the woman's case, there may not always be servants or the means with which to command their services; and their incompetence, at best, needs the supervision of a mistress skilled in all their arts. This seems a homely matter, doubtless, to those persons who see the complete salvation of women in university education; but it is a matter which touches the happiness of women themselves, and closely concerns the well-being of a world whose whole life centres in and is founded upon the home. It is not too much to say that no girl ought ever to come to maturity without having acquired both skill and taste in every art of the household, or that no woman deficient in this particular can marry without serious risk to her own happiness and to that of the persons about her. It does nobody any harm for the mistress of a household to know how to calculate an eclipse, but it is disastrous for her to be herself eclipsed by her Bridget.—*George Cary Eggleston, in Harper's Magazine.*

At Berlin a new church, which has been built at a cost of \$75,000, voluntarily subscribed as a thanksgiving for the Emperor's escape from two attempts at assassination in 1878, was consecrated last Thursday.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

TEN thousand seamen in the British navy are abstainers. The Rev. John McTavish, of Inverness, has applied for an assistant. He has been a minister for forty-four years.

A GREAT Swiss marine and pocket chronometer competition is now going on at Geneva, to last over eighty-three days.

NEARLY 12,000,000 barrels of petroleum that had no existence except on paper changed hands in Pittsburgh one day lately.

It is asserted that, notwithstanding all the grand new telescopes, the palm for size still belongs to Lord Rosse's in Ireland.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., has risen against the milk dealer, and subscribed \$1,200 of the \$20,000 required to buy 1,000 cows for co-operative milk distribution.

AT Glasgow on a recent Sunday a concert of sacred and classical music took place under the auspices of the Sunday society. There was a crowded audience.

AN exhibitions illustrative of the art of cookery opened at Vienna on Jan. 7th, under the presidency of Count Kinsky, chief of the kitchen department of the court.

THE Munich Academy of the Fine Arts includes among its 512 pupils for the winter course forty-two from the United States, a larger number than from any country save Prussia.

IN the diocese of Durham it is proposed to build twenty-five new churches at a cost of \$375,000. At a meeting presided over by the Marquis of Londonderry \$100,000 were subscribed.

THE Rev. Dr. Kennedy of Dingwall is improving in health at Rome. He has been writing home that he has been greatly delighted with the services conducted there by Mr. Gray.

MRS. WILLIAMS, of Staunton, Pa., crossing Mr. Creamer's farm, saw an eagle attacking one of his turkeys, and as she drew near she herself was attacked. She killed the eagle with a fence stake.

AN Edinburgh united evangelistic choir has been formed to assist at local evangelistic and Gospel temperance meetings. Mr. Sankey telegraphed, "Put me down as a member. Read 2 Chronicles v. 13, 14."

SEVERAL widowed ladies of the Barclay congregation, Edinburgh, raise \$400 a year for the salaries of four vernacular evangelists in Chingleput district around Madras. They have now undertaken to raise \$400 more for other four catechists.

BARNUM's white elephant is reported to be a magnificent specimen of its kind, of a pale ash colour, with livid markings. There is no such thing as a white elephant pure and simple. The present specimen is as near an approach to the colour as has yet been met with.

THE elasticity of gas, or rather of the price of gas, is illustrated in Sunbury, Pa., where it has been reduced from \$3 to 75 cents a thousand feet, and in St. Louis, where on one side of Washington avenue the price is \$2.50, and on the other side of the avenue \$1.50 a thousand feet.

ENGINEERING in China has achieved a notable triumph in the construction of the bridge at Lagang, over an arm of the China Sea. It is five miles long, built entirely of stone has 300 arches seventy feet high, and the roadway is seventy feet wide. The pillars are seventy-five feet apart.

FIVE hundred vessels at a time have found protection in the Harbour of Portsmouth, N. H. The channel is 900 yards wide at the narrowest place, and there is never less than seven fathoms of water at any stage of the tide. The harbour is never frozen, so swift is the current of the Piscataqua.

SEVERAL smokers swore off in Lisbon, Dakota, on New Year's Day, and pledged themselves to give the Church \$25 every time they smoke this year. And now the good deacons of Lisbon go around with their pockets full of cigars, which they offer gratis to the men who are under pledge.

THE quaint Epiphany custom of presenting gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh on the part of her Majesty took place on Sunday Jan. 6th, in the Chapel Royal, St. James', in London. Formerly sovereigns presented their gifts in person; but since the illness of George III. the custom has never been revived.

TEN Prime Ministers were educated at Eton, to which Lord Coleridge recently compared Yale—Sir Robert Walpole, the Earl of Chatham, Lord North, Lord Grenville, C. J. Fox, George Canning, Earl Grey, Viscount Melbourne, the Earl of Derby, and Mr. Gladstone—six Liberals and four Tories. Lesser Ministers have been contributed in about equal numbers.

THE Italian Government has been evincing in various ways a sensible desire to preserve a pacific policy; while feasting Fritz it did not forget France, but sent her a very acceptable New Year's gift and greeting in the shape of a formal and final settlement of the vexed question of consular jurisdiction at Tunis, a proceeding which has given great satisfaction.

THE ship canal between the Baltic Sea and the German Ocean will, it is estimated, save a journey of 600 miles for a vessel making a trip between either of those waters, as the circumnavigation of the peninsula of Jutland will be unnecessary. In all, the proposed canal will be only some fifty miles—or about half that of the Suez Canal—extending from Gluckstadt to Kiel.

OF all Oriental carpets the Persian are by far the best, and the test of a true Persian carpet is that used by the natives themselves, namely, to drop a piece of red-hot charcoal upon it. This leaves a singed round spot. If the carpet is a good one of the first quality, the hand can then brush off the singed wool without the least trace of the burn being afterward discernible.