

preventing a young and lovely girl from becoming a sad and neglected old maid is deeply impressed upon him. He doesn't dare make a joke, for fear of being considered a monster, nor of looking grave, for fear of being thought an ingrate. He is compelled to wear boots two sizes too tight for him, and to look divinely happy.

But the bride also is not without her anxieties. Besides the lurking dread that the bridegroom may dodge the ceremony at the last moment, by taking the early train for the far west, she has to give some thought to her personal appearance. However appropriate it may be for a bride to appear in soiled wrapper and crimping pins a few months after marriage, it is considered bad form on her wedding day. It frequently happens that a bride who, when she is married, looks in the eyes of her fond lord "sweet enough to eat," will, a few years after date, look sour enough to eat him. This is an *eternal* mystery. In her appearance the bride should strive to mingle the grave and gay, the lively and severe. If too serious people will think she is old, and may imagine that this is her last chance. If too frolicsome they may fancy that she is unbecomingly glad to get married. In this, as in all other affairs of life, the main consideration is what other people will think.

Wedding presents vary from a house and lot down to half a dozen dish-cloths, with a red monogram emblazoned on one corner. If you are the father of a real bride, something handsome will be expected of you, but if you are only the father of a bride in a novel, all you need do is to give her your blessing. This, while it is always a graceful thing to bestow, is comparatively inexpensive. Congratulations may also be showered upon the young pair, but it is not the correct thing to wish them many happy returns of the day.

Rice and old shoes are the most appropriate articles of diet to throw after them on their departure, as they beautifully typify the insipid and leathery quality of the food which will probably be their portion after the honeymoon is over.

It is generally supposed that a bit of bride cake placed under the pillow will produce remarkable dreams. Experience proves that the same piece eaten just before retiring will be much more efficacious.

REFORM !

JUDGE MACDOUGALL'S report pronounces Mr. Waterworks Venables guilty of fraud and mismanagement. Now let the City Council carry out the good work so well begun—by reinstating Venables at an increase of salary. It is just what the public expect.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

"WHAT is the best English Dictionary?" is sometimes a poser even to the omniscient journalist. The true answer must depend upon various considerations, such as those of size, price, the occupation and object of the questioner, the time at his disposal, etc. If he will modify the conundrum and make it read, "What is the best English Dictionary for ordinary use by the largest number of persons, and for the greatest variety of purposes—the best one-volume dictionary, convenient in size, moderate in price, thoroughly comprehensive, reliable and up to the age and date in every respect," we think we can answer him. We know of no such work equal to, or even in many respects comparable with *The Concise Imperial Dictionary*. While retaining all the

best features of the original three-volume work, it has been rewritten by the editor, Charles Annandale, M.A., LL.D., with a view to retain everything necessary to the general reader or ordinary scholar, and at the same time to reduce it to a size and price suitable for the general public. This has been done with admirable skill and judgment. The result is a work which should be on everybody's table. The market in Canada is controlled by J. E. Bryant & Co., of Toronto.



WE HOPE CANADA WILL NOT "CATCH IT."

John Bull.—I'm doubtful of your success at Washington, after all, Mr. Chamberlain. I'm afraid of that *rashness*!

"MUCK !"

"MRS. AIRLIE," says I, the ither mornin' just as the nock clappit six, "it's time ye were up. The milkman has been ringin' on ye this half oor an' mair, an' there's ye lyin' there as soon' as a tap. Ye needna expect that a special miracle is gaun tae be workit in yer favor in the way-o' lichtin' the fire an' bilin' the kettle, unless ye get up betimes an' start it in the ordinary manner. Habit, Mistress Airlie, is a very gude servant but a hard maister, an' ye ken what Solomon's description o' the sluggard's kail-yard is weel enouch tae tak warnin'," an' wi' that I gied her anither dig wi' ma elbow tae keep her frae doverin' aff again, an' then I waited wi' becomin' dignity for ma answer. I got it. Turnin' her head roond on the pillow she opened ae' half 'ee, an' wi' a curl o' her lip, snortit oot—"Muck!" Tae say that I was surprised wad be faur ower mild a description o' ma feelins' at that meenit, in fact ye cad hae knockit me doon wi' a feather. Sae great was ma miscomfishment that I crap oot o' bed an' had the fire lichtit an' the kettle stoofin' awa like a steam engine afore I cud tell whether it was ma head or ma heels I was staunin' on, indeed the first thing that brocht me tae me senses was the door bell ringin' like as somebody was haulin' the hale concern oot by the roots. Up tae the door I flew, ma suspenders flappin' ahint me like a torn tapsail in a hurricane, an' richt in the act I catch the paper laddie wi' his twa feet up again the wa' haulin' for a' he was worth on the bell wire. "What the deevil dye mean, ye imp o' Sautan," says I, makin' a grab at him; but missin' the supple rascal. "Wot the devil dye