

of editors or publishers in amply fulfilling these promises. "Aspects of American Life," by Charles Dudley Warner, "Is Universal Suffrage a Failure?" by Goldwin Smith, and "Working-men's Wives," by the anonymous writer whose striking studies of our social conditions have received so much attention, are all peculiarly noticeable articles worthy of serious consideration. Mr. Howells adds four delightful chapters to "The Lady of the Aroostook." "A Student's Sea Story" is in Mrs. Stowe's pleasantest vein, and Mr. G. P. Lathrop's "The Pines of Eden," shows both power and originality. Very charming and full of delicate humor is Mr. T. B. Aldrich's little sketch of his "New Neighbours at Ponkapog." Miss Harriet W. Preston's study of "The Latest Songs of Chivalry" is admirably done, and the illustrative poems are selected with exquisite taste.

NOVELTIES IN FURS.

Among the novelties in the shop windows in Broadway and Fifth Avenue are the Neluska variety of cloak, which took the prize at the Paris exposition. It is very long, clinging and slender, with sides folded over the arms. The Hortense cloak is of circular shape, and is provided with square Hungarian sleeves. Wide Oriental sleeves, bordered with chinchilla, are especially handsome, and Russian designs, with wide-flowing sleeves, are much sought after. Prices vary from \$350 to \$600.

Fur-lined cloaks, with a deep Russian collar, are either bordered or plain. Repped silk of heavy texture, armure and Sicilienne are employed in making up the outside of these garments. The Mercedes style, in black satin, is furnished with a cape, and is lined with fur and bordered with silver lynx. The Balsamo has elaborate trimmings in chinchilla.

Among the other varieties of exposition cloaks are the Rajah, Africaine, Dimitri and Medea. Squirrel fur is a very fashionable lining fur, partly gray and partly white being preferred. Sicilian circular cloaks with squirrel lining are for sale at from \$50 to \$75. Fine armure circulars can be had for \$100, while for \$125 the same with ermine linings may be obtained. The echarpe or scarf of fur is to be worn around the neck in the place of a boa. In the long fleece furs, such as blue or silver lynx, silver beaver, chinchilla, raccoon and black monkey skins, it is especially dressy.

Notwithstanding the popularity of fur-lined wraps the sealskin saque remains the great favourite. The new ones this season are from thirty-three to forty inches long, and are more closely fitted to the figure than those of last winter. The collar is broader than that of last year. For fineness of fleece and depth of colour the Shetland sealskins are preferred, but these are few and extremely high-priced, no Shetland seals having been taken for several winters. The strong Alaska skins are more durable. Trimmed saques, bordered with another kind of fur, and plain, untrimmed saques are both fashionable. Eight inches is the maximum breadth of the border. Renovated saques and saques made over should not be fitted too close to the hips, as in that case there will not be room for bouffant drapery. Darker colours are preferable this year. Untrimmed saques cost from \$50 to \$200, and those of fashionable length from \$100 upward. An excellent article can be procured for \$125. The fashionable borders are brown and silver beaver, unplucked otter, wool, seal, black marten or Alaska sable, coloured lynx and chinchilla.

In sets of furs, the long boa and muff of medium size retain their popularity. The plainest muffs are the most stylish. Alaska seal muffs cost from \$5 upward; Shetlands from \$10 to \$30; while boas are the same price. Mink sets are still in favour. Long round boas of black marten or Alaska sable are considered the most dressy of low-priced furs. The muffs cost from \$5, and the boas as low as \$8. The rich Russian sable sets are as much sought after as ever. Handsome dark sable muffs are \$40, but the light shades are made up in muffs for \$35. Muffs of silver-tipped sable are lined with white silk and made very dressy; the prices range from \$35. Chinchilla still continues the favourite with young ladies. The Arica is the best, escharpes costing from \$25 to \$50, while the boas begin as low as \$12. A Bolivia chinchilla muff costs only \$5, and looks very pretty, provided it is not worn with higher grades.

HEARTH AND HOME.

LOST OPPORTUNITY.—Opportunity is a swift runner. Those who are always waiting for a more favourable season than the present to engage in any enterprise, or postponing any effort until the time when they imagine they will be best qualified for the successful exertion, will probably die without accomplishing any valuable purpose, and waste their lives in procrastination. A Spanish proverb says, "The road of By-and-by leaps to the town of Never."

FLOWERS AND SENTIMENT.—Violet is analogous to friendship, blue to love, as suggested by blue eyes and azure sky. A bunch of violets would therefore tell a lady's suitor that friendship is all he has a right to expect. Yellow is paternity or maturity; it is the yellow rays of the spectrum which causes the germ to shoot. Red figures ambition; indigo, the spirit of rivalry; green, the love of change, fickleness; white, unity, universality. In addition to the seven primitive colours, gray indicates power;

brown, prudery; pink, modesty; silver gray (semi-white), feeble love; lilac (semi-violet), feeble friendship; pink, false shame.

ON CHIDING A FRIEND.—When thou chidest thy wandering friend, says Feltham, do it secretly, in season and in love—not in the ear of a popular assembly; for many times the presence of a multitude is the cause of a man making an unjust defence rather than fall in a just shame. A man had better be convinced in private than be made guilty by a proclamation. Open rebukes are for magistrates and courts of justice; private are for friends, where all the witnesses of the offender's blushes are blind, deaf, and dumb. Even the concealment of a fault argues some charity to the offender, and, when we tell him of it in secret, shows we wish he should amend before the world comes to know his amiss.

THE RING FINGER.—How often are we asked the reason for the ring being usually placed upon the fourth finger. The ring-finger is more or less protected by the other fingers, and it owes to this circumstance a comparative immunity from injury, as well, probably, as the privilege of being selected to bear the ring in matrimony. The left hand is chosen for a similar reason; a ring placed upon it being less likely to be damaged than it would be upon the right hand. The ancients, however, are said to have selected it from a notion that the ring-finger in connected with the heart by some means or some particular nerve or vessel, which renders it more favourable for the reception and transmission of sympathetic impressions, the left hand being selected because it lies nearer the heart; but of course the anatomist finds no structure to account for this strange impression.

FOR GIRLS.—Many young girls do not understand the witchery of bright eyes and rosy lips, but set off their beauty by all the artificial means that lie in their power, never reflecting that by so doing they destroy their principal charm—that of innocence. The rounded cheeks, the bright eyes, the waving hair of a girl in her "teens" need only the simplest setting. Rich fabrics and sumptuous adornings are more for the matron, her dress gaining in simple fold and graceful sweep as she puts on the dignity of years. The seasons teach us something here, if we go to Nature for an object-lesson. How different her charm from the deep, maturing summer, when the hues are decided, and the air is loaded with the perfume of a thousand censurs! The school-girl is only on the threshold of summer. She has not crossed it yet. Let her copy the sweet grace of the spring on her graduation day and discard artificiality.

SILENT MEN.—Silent people get through the world as well as their talkative neighbours; everyone talks for them; their nod is interpreted where another man would have to make a speech; and everyone is willing to excuse them, as the sailor excused his parrot, for, if they do not speak, they think the more. Foote, the actor, boasted of his horse that it could stand still faster than some horses could trot; and the silent man is often enabled, by the value attached to his rare utterance, to say more by his silence than a voluble talker by a string of phrases. No doubt the silence of quiet people often resembles that of the chimpanzee, rather than that of the parrot. They are not talkative, because talk may involve them in further exertion. But it is not easy to pry into their motives of action, or rather of inaction. The Ulster folk have a proverb which illustrates this. It runs, "Nobody can tell what is in the pot when the lid is on."

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS.—A treat which has not yet become general, but which is strongly recommended to parents as something new and surprising, is to let the hero or heroine of a birthday order his or her dinner. The result will, as a rule, be less extravagant and less indigestible than might be supposed. One little girl always orders mince-veal and plum-pudding; another's hobby is fowl and rice and apple-fritters, and she was recently heard to declare that she would never, as long as she lived, invent anything nicer for her birthday. Perhaps with boys the experiment might be more dangerous. They are liable to overeat themselves and then the glories of the birthday would turn to dust in their mouth. Still, as an additional morsel of enjoyment, as another proof of how entirely the birthday child is master of the situation on that one day, a trial should be made. Days of unalloyed pleasure are few indeed, and, as years roll on, they become yet fewer. So let the children have theirs, at least on their birthdays, as long as they can.

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

WHEN a woman begins to refuse to tell her age—that's a symptom.

MANY girls make fools of themselves by the aid of a looking-glass.

"Six into four, you can't," as the shoemaker mildly suggested to a lady customer.

SAID a newly-made widower, gravely, "I am satisfied that she took a sudden cold."

THE whisper of a beautiful woman can be heard further than the loudest yell of duty.

MISS Nancy Bonham, of Chatham, Canada, stands six feet eight and a half inches in her hose.

MANY a sweetly fashioned mouth is made hideous by the fiery and untamed tongue within it.

AN old lady being asked to subscribe to a newspaper, declined on the ground that when she wanted news she manufactured it herself.

IF women are really angels, why don't they fly over a fence instead of making such a fearfully awkward job of climbing?

FIVE thousand dollars for breach of promise is quite encouraging for the girls, but it will scare the men out of the market.

WITH powder on her face and bullet-buttons on her gown, the girl of the period is a dangerous character.

"DIPPED into a weak solution of accomplishments," is the term now applied to those of our girls professing to be highly educated.

IT is the opinion of Miss — that males are of no account from the time ladies stop kissing them as infants till they kiss them again as lovers.

SOME wretch has the audacity to remark that the ladies deck their hats with flowers in memory of the men who have been killed by milliners' bills.

JEALOUSY is said to be the offspring of love. Yet unless the parent makes haste to strangle the child, the child will not rest till it poisons the parent.

IF a Japanese husband tells his wife she must remain at home, and she goes out notwithstanding, he can smite her one hundred times with the bamboo.

THREE sisters living in Dyer county, Tenn., have given birth to sixty children. Three other sisters at Somerset, Ky., have each brought forth twins thrice.

LADY to her friend: I didn't forget that it was your birthday, and so I embroidered you this pocket-book. Isn't it just lovely? Take it, and whenever you take it out, dearest, think of me.

IT is observed that with the increasing attention of women to calisthenics and gymnastic exercise generally, that the men have taken to practising and improving their speed in running.

AN old bachelor at a wedding feast had the heartlessness to offer the following toast: "Marriage—The gate through which the happy lover leaves his enchanted regions and returns to earth."

"Do you think a little temper is a bad thing in a woman?" asked a young lady of her lover. "Certainly not," he replied; "on the contrary, it is a very good thing, and she should be careful never to lose it."

"It's all very well," said a hen-pecked husband when told to "look after the children"—"it's all very well to tell me to mind the youngsters; but it would suit me better if the youngsters would mind me."

THE first fifteen minutes following a marriage engagement may be turned from ecstatic bliss to bitter gall by the girl remarking that she can tell a Brazilian pebble from a diamond in a ring with her eyes shut.

MANY a man who is yearning in his inmost soul for buckwheat cakes of a morning has found the simple statement, "My dear, I priced some seal-skin saques on my way home to-day," to act like a charm.

THE relationship of a man and woman in rainy weather is easily discovered. If they are lovers, the woman will have all of the umbrella, and a man won't care a fig how wet he gets; but if they are married, it is just the opposite.

A YOUNG man, having been turned out of doors by his sweetheart's father, being asked if he didn't intend to resent the insult, said, "No; I did feel a little put out at the time, but I'm of a forgiving disposition. Besides, I married the girl the next day."

"Do you know," remarked a rather fast youth the other day, to a stuttering friend to whom he was slightly indebted,—"do you know that I intend to marry and settle down?"—"I do-don't know anything about it," was the reply;—"but I think you had b-b-better stay single and set-settle up."

At a Dubuque wedding the other day, among the wedding presents ostentatiously displayed, was a \$1,000 bill, a present from the doting father to his darling daughter. After the guests departed the old man coolly rolled up the bill and that was the end of it.

The Albany Times thinks that babies should neither be carried nor admitted to the theatre. We have always thought that the moral atmosphere of the theatre has a tendency to agitate the baby mind, and we have known old babies to blubber most heartily over an emotional play. Babies are best at home.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

We have received the Christmas number of the above weekly journal and are pleased with its appearance. The illustrations are as excellent as the NEWS has become famous in the past for producing. The scene relating to this happy occasion are gems of taste and art. "Christmas at Court" is a handsome picture, representing a Court scene in "ye older tyme." The articles, editorials, and general letter-press are able and attractive.

THE CANADIAN is destined to become a rival of our great American weekly illustrated papers. —East Kent Plaindealer.

FOOT NOTES.

NO DIVORCE IN FRANCE.—It is known that divorce does not exist in France. The nearest thing to it is the *separation de corps*, equivalent to the English judicial separation. From 1846 to 1850 the average of separations was 1.080. This gradually increased until 1876, when the number was 3.251, or exactly three times the number in thirty years. Strange to say, only fourteen in every hundred are asked for by the husband, the wife thus having eighty-six per cent. to her credit. Seventeen out of the total number do not wait for the twelvemonth to expire before trying to rid themselves of their bonds. One-third of the 3,000 live together from five to ten, and another third from ten to twenty years before they ask to be separated, and upward of 500 only do so when the silver marriage approaches.

THE GIRLS OF SLIGO.—The girls of Sligo were not exactly pretty, and not quite the reverse. They were fresh, wholesome and hearty-looking, broad-shouldered and ruddy-faced, by no means to be passed by with coldness or indifference. It may, indeed, be said that the heart of the traveller of whom we have thus far been speaking, warmed towards them, and he watched them with no little interest going in and out of the shops making their purchases, for it was Saturday evening and market day. Their bonnets would have made the queen of Sheba green with envy—bonnets of great height, a foot at least, towering up above the head like a main-sail, and bedecked with ribbons of red, yellow, and other quiet colours. Some of these ribbons were white, like a bride's, and great was the contrast between the covering of the head and the rest of the attire. The taste of the Irish peasant girl does not seem to run much to bonnets as a general rule, but when it does she makes up her mind that there shall be no mistake about it.

THE ACACIA.—The acacia, sometimes a mere shrub, but frequently a large tree, was brought from Australia. There are probably now more than twenty varieties in California. The eucalyptus family, generally known as gum trees, embracing now as many as twenty varieties, have all been imported from Australia. Aside from the great value of some of these trees for the purpose of forestry, no tree has ever been introduced in California which can be used with such advantage to change the whole aspect of a landscape. It will grow on bleak and barren hillsides, and will assume almost any desirable shape for ornamental purposes. In three or four years a homestead may be so changed by the judicious planting of this tree as to present little of its original aspect. Its sanitary influence has been much discussed of late, especially abroad, and the conclusions generally are that it is a tree of great value in this respect.

FASHION NOTES.

PRETTY little ulsters are made for the little folk.

FEATHERS have entirely replaced flower trimmings.

UNCUT velvet and plush are used for reception and evening hats.

SQUARE necks and Pompadour fronts are seen on the imported dresses.

REVERSIBLE fur-lined circulars have become the style for winter wear.

BLACK gloves have sprays of flowers embroidered on the outside.

LIZARD-green is one of the many shades of green so popular this fall.

NEW vails are of black thread net and look as if they had been dipped in gold dust.

CHUDDAH cloth is pretty for young girls. This goods comes in plaids of various hues.

THE "Henry II. togue" is one of the newest and most stylish bonnets of the season.

LAST winter felt bonnets carried all before them; this year there is no favouritism of the kind.

CEREMONIAL and regulation toilets exhibit beautiful coruscant effects in the association of colours.

Plush is much used as a trimming for evening toilets. It is too perishable for street wear, as water utterly spoils it.

THE Australian cloth is fast becoming popular for mourning wear. It is similar to crepe and is an all wool double fold material.

MRS. J. H. BRYANT, of Benton, Ala., during the prevalence of the yellow fever cut her hair, forty two inches long, from her head, and sent it to New York city to be sold for the benefit of the sufferers.

A LADY in Milan seeing her child run over by a carriage, fell insensible to the ground. When restored to consciousness she found that her hair had turned perfectly white. Her child was picked up unhurt.

ADMIRABLE imitations of points rageuse, de Brabant, Mechlin and de Paris, with the genuine Bretonne lace, will be seen on dresses, fichus and other toilet arrangements, and will distinguish the mode of the winter.

A GREAT effort is being made to revive the camellias for evening wear, but white roses are preferred because of their more graceful appearance. The camellia suits only a stately lady, and is not becoming to small people.

THE Japanese pelisse is the height of fashion in Paris. It is a long black silk night dress, lined with fur, with loose sleeves which have a deep velvet cut at the wrist. The collar is likewise of velvet, and the clasps are of oxidized gold or silver.

THE Cyprian serge is, perhaps, the newest. It is thick and fleecy-looking, warm and soft, without being heavy. Then there is the Imperial and the Windsor Castle, both of which have been worn by royalty and are therefore esteemed more highly.