

## SUMMER DRIFTWOOD FOR THE WINTER FIRE.

There are 700 laundries in New York, the labor of which is carried on entirely by Chinese men and women.

About 110 ships are annually engaged in the tea trade. Of this number about 70 are steamers and 40 are sailing vessels.

Egypt, as far as we can learn, appears to have been the first nation in the world that maintained a standing army. It was founded as a military caste in that country by the famous Pharaoh Sesostris, 1,600 years B.C. The earliest standing army of Europe, and the second in the world's history, was that of Macedonia, which was established about 358 years B.C., by Philip, the father of Alexander the Great. In England there was no standing army proper till Cromwell's time.

The Queen's pet dog is a Yorkshire terrier that weighs 2¾ lbs. and cost £15. She saw the dog a good many times before it was purchased. It was the property of Ravenscroft, of St. Martin's Lane, but as other dealers heard that the Queen was looking for a pet, they would go to Ravenscroft and say, "I think I have a chance to sell that dog. Lend me him for a few hours." This occurred several times, till application was made to Ravenscroft himself. He, too, brought out the inevitable Yorkshire terrier. "Why, I have seen this dog several times before," exclaimed Her Majesty. The reason was explained to her, and she became possessor of the smallest dog in the market.

It is said that the illustrations for the American magazines the *Century* and *Harper's* cost on average £1000 a month. A careful estimate of the money spent in illustrating the Christmas numbers of *Harper's* and *Scribner's* puts the sum at £1400 each, as both magazines contain about 70 pictures, the average being £20 for each engraving. Many of the full-page blocks cost £60 each, and some of the half-page illustrations, which readers often pass by unnoticed, cost from £40 to £50 each. The cost of articles and stories, a large proportion of which are prepared to order, is on an average £5 a page. The fixed charges for literary artistic matter alone is from £600 to £2000, enough to eat up the profits of 100,000 copies.

Some unfortunate Post Office official has had a wigging over an awkward mischance for which he was only in a minor degree responsible. A tradesman went to London recently on business, which necessitated his having an interview with a well-known fruit salesman. The absence of the latter compelled him to postpone his return for a day, and he wired the following message to his wife: "Home to-morrow. H. out. Letter to follow." The word "out" was mistaken for "cut" by the telegraph operator, and when the message reached its destination the recipient jumped with feminine quickness to the conclusion that the well-known salesman had failed and absconded. She promptly made the news public, and serious inconvenience to the salesman resulted. A complaint to the Post Office authorities earned a severe reprimand for the telegraph clerk, but the mischief was really caused less by his mistake than by the lady's tongue.

The Queen (says a fashion writer) has a large hand. She takes seven-and-a-half in gloves. Her fingers are extremely short, and out of proportion to the size of her hand. The Queen will wear nothing but black gloves: generally they are of kid, but sometimes she wears Swede gloves. These also must be died black. Her Majesty commenced to wear one-button gloves at the beginning of her reign. To-day, when no shop-girl thanks anybody

a real lady without six buttons, the Queen has only got to four. She refuses altogether to conform to fashion. She only wears about two dozen pairs of gloves a year. Each pair costs 8s. 6d. In fact, the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India is decidedly economical in her glove bill. There are a great many fashionable women who think nothing of a glove bill if it only comes to £100 a year. Many women will spend £20 on gloves during the six weeks of the season by wearing two or three pairs a day.

## BEAUTY SPOTS.

The fashion of wearing patches is said to have come from Arabia. Wherever it came from, English ladies took to it heartily. An old authoress says "Old and young, the maiden of sixteen and the grey-haired grand-mamma, covered their faces with these black spots, shaped like suns, moons, stars, hearts, crosses, and lozenges; and some even carried the mode to the extravagant extent of shaping the patches to represent a carriage and horses."

A poem of the Commonwealth period says:

Her patches are of every cut,  
For pimples or for scars;  
Here's all the wandering planet's signes,  
And some o' the fixed stars;  
Already gumm'd to make them stick,  
They need no other sky,  
Nor stars for Lilly to view,  
To tell your fortunes by.

## LEGENDS ABOUT THE ROBIN.

A good many superstitious ideas are prevalent in different localities with reference to the robin. In some parts of Scotland the song of this interesting little bird is held to augur no good for the sick person who hears it, and to those superstitiously inclined much anxiety is sometimes caused when its notes are heard near a house where any one happens to be ill.

There is a legend connected with the robin which I have somewhere seen. It is said that far, far away there is a land of woe, darkness, spirits of evil, and fire. Day by day does this little bird bear in his bill a drop of water to quench the flame. So near the burning stream does he fly that his feathers are scorched, and hence he is named bron-phuddn ("burnt-breast.")

There is also a legend which attributes his red breast to his having tried to pluck a spike from the crown of thorns with which our Lord's head was encircled.

## NO HARM IN KNOWING.

I have a tip for those aristocratic people whose purse permits them the luxury of a butler. Always remember that it isn't good form to call a butler James, and no butler with any professional pride will stand it for a moment. In the first place, "Jeems" has passed into a nickname for footman. In the second place, there are these well-established rules:—The butler is called by his surname, all the other men servants by their Christian names, the housekeeper is called by her surname, with the prefix of Mrs.; the ladies' maid by her surname, without the prefix; all the other women servants by their Christian names; the head coachman is called by his surname, and all his aides by their Christian names; the cook is always "cook" or "chef."