

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A COLUMN OF GOSSIP AND HINTS FOR OLD AND YOUNG GIRLS.

What Women all Over the World are Talking and Thinking About.

In olden times it was considered the privilege of the bridegroom's friends to pull the garter from the blushing bride's knee, immediately after the wedding ceremony, and the man who was lucky enough to obtain it was looked upon with envy by his fellows. In those days garters were frequently adorned with precious stones, but this custom also fell into disuse, and the garter sank into insignificance, until now fashion has again decreed that it shall come into prominence once more. Garters of the most costly and extravagant style are now all the go, and the windows of the leading jewelers in Paris are gorgeous with displays of unique and costly designs of garters and garter-buckles. The fashion garters were some time ago, and the responsibility for it is laid at the door of ex-Queen Isabella of Spain. That lady has been one of the leaders of fashion since she gave up the business of running a government, and the news is that she had given an order to a prominent jeweler in Paris for a pair of garters so studded with diamonds as to conceal the ribbons, set all the fashionable ladies agog. Immediately afterward they flooded the jewelers with orders as elaborate as their purses could afford, and now the garter-fever is all about. A Sun reporter called upon the leading jewelers recently, to ascertain the latest and newest styles. At Tiffany's, the manager said that orders for garters had been recently received which would rival in expense those reported to have been given by the European ladies. A number, he said, had been filled at a cost exceeding fifteen hundred dollars a pair. A great many garters have been sold for one thousand dollars, and a few for double that amount. He showed the reporter fifty different styles which he selected at random from the large stock. Some were quite moderate in price, but all were beautiful. "We have all sorts of customers for them," he said, "from tottering patriarchs to bashful young bridegrooms. Among the purchasers are many persons prominent in society. Some of the orders have entailed upon us a great deal of trouble and work, as we have had to employ special artists to get up the designs required. The old style of dividing a pair of garters is gaining ground again among betrothed couples. The young lady wears one and her sweetheart the other. The latter wears his, I believe, upon the arm." The garters are made with gold or silver buckles, and decorated to suit, or sometimes they are made of metal altogether. The ornamentation consists in engraving, flange work, and precious stones. Diamonds, rubies, and sapphires are the favorites, but pearls, emeralds, and the golden topaz are also used frequently. Appropriate mottoes, often understood by the giver and his lady love only, and declarations of love are among the inscriptions, which are often embellished with gems. One of the most beautiful and most expensive of those shown to the reporter, was so cunningly made that the words of adoration were unnoticeable because of the sparkle of the diamonds unless closely scrutinized. The portrait of the lover is among the designs. Antique coins, appropriately set, with inscriptions on the reverse side, and laughable but artistic reproductions of insects are not uncommon. The most royal of all the designs seen by the reporter was made of small blocks of the purest gold, bound together by links of flexible gold. The links allowed the garter to be stretched to fit. Each block was a half-inch square and a quarter-inch thick. The lower side was smooth, with pretty bevelled edges. The top was worked into a mass of crusted gold, and contained three brilliant gems of largest size and purest water—a diamond, a ruby, and a sapphire. There were just a dozen blocks, and the links that connected them were sufficiently large to fill out the required length. Where the ends of the garter fastened together, a smooth shield of gold bore the monogram of the owner set in diamonds. The garter struck the top-most notch of beauty and artistic effect. It was also the most expensive the reporter saw. Crests set in diamonds are among the orders received from the select few who are supposed to be the leaders of New York society. The oldest and most unique affair is, however, the "Campanile bell." This is cut out of a block of gold. The tongue is frequently formed of a large gem. The gold is sufficiently hard to give out a distinct and clear tinkle when the bell is jostled. The idea is that the ring of the bell can be heard when the wearer moves about, and that will make it apparent to the initiated that she has on one of those costly garters, without her having to explain.

THE HARBOR QUESTION.

A REVIEW OF AID. ROBERTSON'S HARBOR STATEMENT.

The Harbor of St. John a Valuable Asset, but a Constant Bill of Expense to the Taxpayers.

The citizens of St. John are certainly indebted to Alderman Robertson for an exhaustive statement of the income and expenditures of the harbor of St. John. It is a pity that the chairman of some other civic departments would not also take the public into their confidence and give them the details of the expenditures and receipts of their departments. The evident intention of Alderman Robertson's array of figures is to convince the citizens that the harbor of St. John is a revenue producing asset, and consequently it is not advisable to put it into commission. Aid. Robertson is an accountant, and a man of intelligence. In attempting to prove that it is in the interests of the citizens to continue their ownership of the harbor, he must show that from a civild standpoint, he is simply making himself ridiculous. In 1882 he was convinced that it was in the best interests of the harbor and the city that the former should be put in commission. He voted for a commission and accepted the plan upon which the Dominion Act of 1882 was based. After the act had become law, he opposed the report of the delegation, who had obtained the passage of the bill through parliament on the very slim ground that the bill provided for the appointment of only one commissioner by the City of St. John, instead of two as the resolution of the council instructing the delegation stated. The report passed however, by a large majority. Looking over Mr. Robertson's past record, it is plain that he has changed his mind. Mr. Robertson makes the statement that the harbor paid the city last year the sum of \$10,404.20. That the surplus was this no one will question. But how was this surplus obtained? First by doubling the wharfage dues of every vessel entering the port. Mr. Robertson may credit into the same hole that some other anti-commission aldermen do and say the harbor dues have not been increased. True, the legal dues have not been increased, but prior to 18 months ago, when the council only changed half the wharfage dues allowed by law. By doubling the wharfage rates the City of St. John has been enabled to get \$2,500.00 more out of its property than the year previous. If these rates prevailed in 1882, the revenues of the whole harbor including fisheries and west side properties, which Mr. Robertson omits, would not exceed \$23,000 or \$25,000, less than in 1882. In other words the revenues of the harbor kept up by doubling the wharfage rates, and is not due to increased trade. Mr. Robertson omits to mention this fact. It will be generally admitted that the temporary benefits of such a plan will be not nearly equal to the trade of the port. It is also unfair for Aid. Robertson to omit from his review the west side wharves. Strictly speaking these properties are directly under the control of the city, and are common lands of the harbor, but the wharves are part of the harbor, and no account of harbor revenues is complete without them. Were they omitted because they would show a declining revenue, or was it because they are not directly under the control of the harbor committee? In this connection it is just as well to point out that while the expenditure for repairs in the harbor was less than \$1,500, it was in 1885 in the neighborhood of \$10,000, and further, that the average yearly expenditure for repairs in the past three years has been over \$3,000. Therefore had the wharfage rates not been doubled last year, and had the average amount been expended in repairs, then Aid. Robertson's balance of \$10,000 would have been reduced to less than \$2,000. At the best the apparent balances are fictitious and deceiving inasmuch as the taxpayer gets no direct benefit from it whatever. It may be of benefit to some generation away in the future, but the present tax-payers and the generation which follows will still have to go down into their pockets every year to help pay the bills of the harbor. Aid. Robertson says the net revenue of the harbor last year was \$24,005.57. Let us examine the statement and see how much the direct benefits are. Reed's Point wharf paid \$6,631.59. This money is held in reserve by the chamberlain to pay off city debt bonds accruing each year, the balance going to swell the Pettengill wharf sinking fund. Public wharf and pier, \$4,225.45. Every dollar of this money goes to pay interest and sinking fund. None of it is presently available to reduce taxation. North and South wharves \$820.52. This money goes into the general revenue account to pay interest and sinking fund on bonds issued on account of these wharves. This amounted last year according to Aid. Robertson's own statement to \$1,500, showing a dead loss on this account alone of upwards of \$675. Aidan's wharf \$926.85. Mortgaged to pay a special loan of \$2,870. The other revenues of the harbor are: Charlevoix... 478.57; Sydney Market wharf... 11.09; North side... 11.09; Acheberg dues... 3,583.84; Quebec wharf... 225.00; Retail... 410.16; \$10,156.02.

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Therefore of the total net revenue of the harbor of \$24,000 there only went into the coffers of the city the small sum of \$10,156, and of this sum a part of the purchase money of the Sydney Market Wharf of \$800 is chargeable to this year's account. The balance sheet of the harbor and the annual assessment would be something like this: Net Revenue of the Harbor, \$10,156.02; To be deducted: Cost of Management of Harbor, \$2,754.81; Loss on Market Wharf, \$973.42; \$6,427.79. This way of figuring makes a decidedly different showing from that of Aid. Robertson, but it is nevertheless the correct way in which to view harbor finances. It is not disputed that the harbor of St. John is a valuable property not that the revenue last year was in the neighborhood of \$35,000. The point we desire to make clear to the citizens is that no matter how much the revenues of the harbor amount to they are all absorbed to pay interest, and that instead of being a source of revenue to the city the harbor in reality costs the taxpayers at least three thousand dollars a year under the present system of management. It would be otherwise if the harbor were put into commission. The city would of course lose the revenue but the purchase money, when invested, would go to the sinking fund that the assessment could be reduced by EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS immediately, and in the course of three or four years the reduction in the annual assessment would be upwards of \$25,000. This statement can easily be proven correct, and we challenge Aid. Robertson to prove otherwise, or to gain say what has already been said in this Gazette. There is not the slightest doubt that the harbor commission would be the greatest boon the taxpayers of St. John could obtain, and the sooner the question is taken in hand by the citizens and galvanized into life again the better for the future of the harbor.

Literary Notes.

Lord Brassey is preparing for the press the last journal of his late wife, Lady Brassey.

Mr. E. C. Steadman has been enabled to devote a few spare hours to verse lately, and he contributes to the current number of the Independent a poem in commemoration of Lord Byron's hundredth anniversary.

Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson enters the lists against the realistic writers in the February number of Scribner's. His arguments against realism in fiction are similar to those used by John Burroughs in a recent issue of The Epoch.

The first English daily paper ever published in St. John is now ready for its appearance in that city. The name of the new journal is the Morning News.

Mr. Ruskin has written for the Magazine of Art an article on "The Black Arts." It is to be illustrated with reproductions of three of his own original drawings.

In spite of what the Alibonnet calls "the patent absurdity" of the theory, Messrs. Sampson, Low & Co. intend to bring out an English edition of Mr. Donnelly's volume, and the author is going over to London to defend his views in person.

The author of "Margaret Kent"—who is reported to be Mrs. Ellen Olney Kirk—has published a new novel which Ticknor & Co. will publish immediately. It is entitled "Queen Money" and is a study of society in New York city. Another story just coming from the Ticknor press is Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward, 1887-1887." It is understood that it is a weird in character.

Sir Frederick Pollock, when visiting Tennessee one day, asked the poet which he preferred of his two poems, "Enoch Arden" and "Aylmer's Field." Tennyson frankly replied "Enoch Arden," which he thought was very perfect and a beautiful story. "Aylmer's Field" had given him more trouble than anything he ever did. At one time he had to put it aside altogether for six months; the story was so intractable, and it was so difficult to deal with modern manners and conversation. The Indian relative was introduced solely for the sake of the dagger which was to be the instrument of the lover's suicide.

Pretty Kitchens.

There is no objection to a pretty kitchen, or to a girl filling one up with bric-a-brac, if she keeps it free from dust. A kitchen, to those who do the work in it, is a living room, and why should it not be made convenient and pretty? If the kitchen is a comfortable, cheery room, most girls will take a pride in keeping it so. Give them pink colored tissue paper for the shelves if they wish it, and a fancy lamp shade to rest by after the kitchen is tidied up for the night. See, too, that they have convenient utensils to cook with, a good clothes wringer and plenty of cloths, and a good stove. It will pay you well to look after these things in the girl, wholesome dishes that will come out to the table well cooked. Many girls have to do with makeshifts that you would not think possible for you to see. A broken wringer, a tub without handles, or a wash-boiler or a tea-kettle with a rag run through a hole to prevent leaking. No girl likes to ask for repairs, and oftentimes the mistress is too careless to look well after the little things in the kitchen. I would add, let the girl's sleeping room be a pleasant, attractive place. Many a horse has better quarters for rest than our servants have. If not appreciative at first, they may learn to be so.—Detroit Tribune.

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