

THE HAND AND THE FOOT.

MRS. SHEERWOOD DEFENDS BOSTON FROM MR. RIDDLE'S IMPUTATIONS.

The Boston Foot Naturally small and Beautiful—Americans Notable for Shapely Feet and Extremities.

(Special Correspondence.)

We have had so much to do with hands this winter, they have been so mapped and described, that it is rather pleasant to have the feet mentioned, even if in so uncomplimentary a manner as that remark of Mr. George Riddle, which has gone round the world, that the "Boston foot is proverbially large." This is a queer statement for an artist to make who has gotten up so many Greek plays and who has done his costuming so well as has Mr. Riddle.

The Boston foot is hereditarily small, as are all American feet. On a glass case in Paris, where the best slippers and boots are made for the feminine foot, stands a very beautiful plaster model of the foot of a Boston woman, so small, so delicate, with an instep so high that the water runs under it. The ankle is especially admired by artists, as a sort of race-horse delicacy of articulation is combined with race-horse strength of tendon. It is the foot and ankle of a thoroughbred creature, and fulfills all the conditions of the sculptor's needs.

"The American foot is paved away beyond all the last," says a foreign shoe-maker, and he adds, "They are the most particular ladies to fit." We should think so, as we read what one bride demands for her trousseau—

Slippers of cream-colored kid stitched with pink silk, laced over the instep with pink velvet bows embroidered in pearls beads.

House slippers of brazen kid, with gold embroidery let in, looped over the instep with brazen bands and broad gold buckles.

Double-soled walking boots in kid, with calf uppers, buttons at the side.

House shoes of shell-figured velvet and silk matelasse, lined with quilted silk and fastened across the instep with tied bows of beautiful satin.

French kid walking boots, with laced uppers of black French Sicilienne, a box toe and a heel.

Ball shoes in white satin, with Louis XV. barette and heel, the barette trimmed with plisses and bows of satin; same trimming ornaments for the toe.

Slippers of glossy kid, trimmed with a silk Alastin bow and steel buckle.

Charles IX. slippers in glossy kid, with several barettes, the edges embroidered in white and lined with colored kid; Louis XV. heel.

Half a dozen pairs of black satin slippers, with Maria Antoinette heels and gold buckles.

Now, no woman who had not a very pretty foot would need so many different kinds of slippers. She would have no such contact with the ages, the reigns, the royal house of France if she had a "proverbially" large or heavy foot. Unfortunately, women of the present century are injuring their health—even their eyesight—by wearing too high heels, which the French appropriately call talons.

Those distinguished oculists, Dr. Loring Dr. Derby, will not treat a patient who persists in wearing high heels; they say that it throws out of place every organ of the body. Now the beautiful American foot is more frequently encased in a good, strong boot than formerly. Many women wish to preserve health and good complexion by taking out-of-door exercise; so the strong foot-covering is coming into fashion. "Hoops, farthingales and high-heeled shoes," together with tight lacing, have received the approval of physicians and caricaturists for ages without losing a particle of their popularity. Indeed, tight lacing in London is at its highest. No one can watch that procession which winds its way along the Park, the famous Rotten Row, of a Sunday without seeing that waist is tied in almost to breathlessness, and there is an unhealthy pallor, perhaps the result of this tight lacing, which spreads over the roses of England. The Journal of Health, has, however, a long article on the dangerous fashion of deadening the skin with bismuth powder. One of the first physicians of England writes that the "poor skin has been patched and rouged and stained with antimony and now is covered with bismuth." It is curious that amongst savages and also the highest class of civilized beings, the skin, that most important window of the body, is systematically stopped up with cosmetics.

Many moralists in England refer this passing fancy for pale faces to the pictures of Mr. Bunce Jones, to the "Greenery-gallery Grosvenor Gallery," morbid school of coloring; but one must despair in the attempt to detect anything like order in the sudden vagaries of fashion.

Beauty may be but skin deep, but in this thin covering lies much of the physical charm of humanity, and great is the crime of choking the pores with bismuth or any other foreign substance. There are still enough well-washed English faces and well-kept and comely English hands, and always the beautifully kept English finger-nails to keep up the tradition, at least, that the Anglo-Saxon people are the cleanest in the world.

The American hand is smaller than the English hand, but the nails are not

as handsome. The English nails are almost universally rosy and shell-like, and, cut to a rounded, slightly tapering point, kept always scrupulously clean. The skin at the base is pushed back to show the onyx, a little white half-moon. This onyx is carefully cultivated and polished by the creoles of New Orleans, to show that they have no black blood in their veins. No matter how fair the complexion, the valuable insignia of pure blood is wanting to the octroon if the onyx is clouded. With persons who employ a manicure the onyx develops every day more and more.

With those who are careless of this precious gem of a beautiful hand the onyx is sometimes completely hidden. It is always observable in a well-kept English hand.

The American nail suffers from the dryness of our climate, as a foreign picture painted on panel suffers from the same cause.

Since the science of reading character by handwriting has come in it is said that the care taken of the finger-nails affects the handwriting. The long, almond-shaped nail is a great support to the middle finger, which guides the pen. It is said that people with imagination are apt to have long-taper fingers and beautiful finger-nails. They have a handwriting in which the long up-strokes cut into the lines above and beneath them. The heads of their capital letters are large. This handwriting shows order and impulse. When it has a marked downward movement this handwriting shows a tendency to melancholy. An aptitude for criticism is shown among people who bite their nails. These people are cynical and severe, uncharitable and bitter; they write a small, cramped, illegible hand. The good-natured critic is said to possess small, well-shaped nails, and their handwriting is somewhat angular.

Diplomacy has a long, supple hand and a beautifully kept finger-nail. The handwriting of a diplomatist looks like a snake crawling away.

The Chinese have finger-nails so long that they could write with them. The tenacity of the Chinese nail, which does not easily break, would indicate that they have more time in their bones than we have.

White hands with rosy palms, so beloved of our grandmothers, have gone out of fashion. There are those, however, who still prefer the pretty hand to the brown and knobby hand, of which our sportsmen, like gay ladies, are so proud.

The fashion of playing games, without gloves, such as lawn-tennis, archery, boating, rowing, tell the habit of walking gloveless through the country in a hot summer, the exposure to the salt sea air, has brought the feminine hand, once so carefully cared for, to the complexion which Shakespeare derides when he says: "She hath a leathern hand"—would think that her old gloves were on it."

At the same time that these leathern, brown hands are fashionable and the palm hardened, even corrugated with the callouses caused by use of the mallet and the ear, great attention is paid to the nails which the modern manicure cuts, polishes, roses, and adds to them a gem-like polish.

One would think, since the science of palmistry has become so favorite a pastime, and if there be only a step between divination and prophecy, that the cicating formed by an ear or a ball but would confuse the lines of long life, large fortune, one husband or more, so that the old fashion of sleeping in chicken-skin gloves would come back again.

A soft hand is very comforting to the sick, and a child who is alling loves the cool hand of his mother on his head. It is a marvellous poultice for his aches and pains.

As an object to kiss a white and well-kept hand is very important. The kiss of respect should be imprinted on the hand. It is a Continental fashion still and might be well introduced on our shores. The hand is, after all, the natural member to salute. The nerves that are most highly developed in the fingers, and the charm of the hand is its grasping power, which enables the giver to denote every shade of cordiality, to vary the salute at pleasure. There is everything in the hand. It has a cunning freemasonry. If only two fingers are extended, if no prehensile thumb completes the manoeuvre, farewell to cordiality. If a strong hand catches a weak one and gives it a grip which mashes the bones, farewell to friendship. Let the hand shake be warm, cordial and gentle—the just milieu of salutation.

The French rarely shake hands and only with intimate friends. They often give the left hand as nearer the heart, "la main du coeur" they call it. On the Continent the etiquette of hand-shaking is observed with delicacy. No man should assume to shake hands with a lady unless she extends her hand first. It is the privilege of a superior to offer hand. In a ballroom there is no shaking of hands. The more public the place of introduction the less hand-shaking takes place. Still among effusive foreigners, both hands are frequently extended to old friends.

The Irish hand among the peasantry who labor from the cradle to the grave is almost universally small and well-shaped. It is a Milesian trait; whether potatoes, bogstrutting, poor living, political disturbance, shillalahs and damp climate improve the hand we know not, but the Irish lass has a pretty hand. No matter

how much they cook, wash or dig, the knuckles seldom grow to be large and prominent as in the English hand.

The American hand is sinewy, and, as we have observed, does not follow the example of the American foot in being beautiful. No doubt the accomplishments are somewhat trying to the hand, such as playing the harp, the zither, the guitar, the banjo. The nails of a musician are apt to betray him. There is an eccentricity peculiar to the handwriting of executive musicians as witnessed in that of Beethoven. But this need not be attributable wholly to the use of the use of the hand.

Chaucer commends his gentle Princess for her white hand and taper fingers and the cleanly fashion in which she dined. Now-a-days the modern belle has the finger-bowl to help her, and she can cleanse her fingers after an olive in a bowl of rosewater.

It is a curious contradiction that a man takes care of his hand as he drives, runs or plays ball or cricket, wearing a thick dogskin glove. The Prince of Wales covers his hand from sun and wind, then goes to a ball with his rosy fingers uncovered, except by rings.

A young woman, on the contrary, exposes her hand to wind and sun and rain. She hardens it with the recklessness of a prize-fighter, and when she goes to a ball she covers it with a glove. This is not the way her predecessor belle has done in the past ages of the world. "The hand of a duchess" has passed into a proverb. The old novelists always give their heroines white hands; the poets are devoted to white hands and rosy palms.

Expressive hands are, perhaps, better than pretty hands, and useful hands are better than either; but young girls who are poetry and romance combined should not allow their hands to grow too brown and rugged. It is a strange freak of fashion, for if they were Joan of Arc, and had to labor in the fields, they would look regretfully at those brown and callous hands. However, work is what you are obliged to do, and amusement, however hard, is what you choose to do, so there is all the difference in the world.

As it is, however, the brown hand of an athlete is worth a dozen of the creamy hands of an idler, so we prefer the present habits of our athletic girls. If they cannot be both healthy and happy and have white hands, too, we throw up our hands.

We must ask Mr. Riddle, however, to rescind his remark. The Boston foot large! The Boston foot heavy! The Boston foot unjust! Why, how does the graceful girl know on whose foot he may be treading? It is a widespread injustice, a thing all at "sixes and sevens" when Boston women rarely exceed "three and a half!"

"What number do you wear?" asks Chicken Hazard, in Punch's travesty of "Foul Play."

"Eighty in the shade!" answered the young lady mistaking his question.

Let Mr. Riddle confine himself to hexameters and Alexandrines, but let him lay paragon of those feet to which he should be addressing sonnets—those feet which he must now forever kneel in graceful fiction for forgiveness.

Mrs. JOHN SHEERWOOD.
The Belles of Janeville.
(Chicago Herald.)

In Janeville, Wis., the other day, said a commercial traveller, "I saw on the streets two beautiful young women. Their forms were perfect, their costumes tasteful, their features almost classic and their complexion immaculate—those feet which he must now forever kneel in graceful fiction for forgiveness."

"Who are they?" I inquired of the landlady.

"Everybody asks that question," he replied. "Those girls create somewhat of a sensation every time they appear on the street. They are the belles of the town, and have been pronounced by many of the handsomest women in Wisconsin. They are sisters, and their father is a negro as black as a lump of Lackawanna coal."

Progress of Social Reform.
(Philadelphia News.)

The proposition of the Society for the Protection of Cross-eyed, Knock-kneed and Freckled-face Girls to found a College for Typewriters, to which none but its proteges shall be admitted, commends itself to every benevolent mind. It is time pretty girls, who can get plenty of husbands to earn their livings for them, stopped trespassing on the perquisites of their plainer sisters. And masculine human nature can but be grateful for this merciful provision against the temptation every man feels at some time or other in his literary career to kiss his pretty typewriter when she laughs at just the right moment.

A Real English Tandy.
(London Society.)

A Birmingham resident has purchased the cup and saucer used by Her Majesty at table on the occasion of her late visit. The price he paid was, of course, a fancy one, and the now sacred crockery has been on view in New street, where crowds have flocked to see the simple white and gold relics which the silly purchaser is said to have handed down to his family and which are to be carefully kept unwashed, since they were sanctified by the touch of royal lips and fingers. A dirty cup and saucer sacred! What are we coming to?

Read The Saturday Gazette.

FEMALE BLACKMAILERS.

Bad Women Who Prey Upon the Fears of Men.

Men who have been blackmailed by disreputable females do not publicly complain, and thus women of that class prey on society almost with impunity, writes a New York correspondent.

A clergyman up town paid blackmail for a long time before he invoked the aid of his friends. A merchant paid blackmail once when a woman thrust herself into his private office and threatened to scream if he did not. He never paid again, for he gave strict orders not to admit the woman. Many merchants and bankers refuse to see a woman until she has stated her business in full to a clerk.

This rule protects many millionaires from the wiles of these sharks. In smaller offices such a rule is not so practicable. Broken have often been victimized. These women do not attempt to extort money at once. They act modestly at first and merely endeavor to sell the book or picture, but after a few visits have been made they try to wheedle money out of the broker for alleged family necessity, or they threaten to put themselves in compromising positions and scream if money is not given to them. They threaten to go to wives and sweethearts, and marriage, it is well known, have been broken off where the blackmailers have borrowed a child, and thus presented seemingly indisputable evidence against her victim. Innocent men pay blackmail the most readily. The man of loose morals often proves a hopeless case to the would-be blackmailers. He laughs her to scorn, and threatens to kick her out of his office if she does not leave at once. She leaves. One of the most hard-faced cases of blackmailing that I ever heard of was that of a Wall street broker, who received a note apparently in the handwriting of a business associate to call on him at his room in one of the most fashionable hotels of New York. He entered the room, and the door was at once closed and locked by a man of stalwart build, compared to whom the broker was a sign to a Titan. A woman in a dishevelled state a few feet off. "This will cost you \$15,000," remarked the swindler coolly. The stock operator, who moved in good society, surrendered at once. He had \$5,000 with him, and wrote a check for \$10,000. Then he left. He paid the check. After the door closed on a man and woman alone it is in the power of the woman to make any assertion which she pleases; society is ready to believe the worst, and thus the blackmail flourishes.

ARISTOCRATIC CRIMINALS.
How Chloroform is Used by High-Toned Parisian Thieves.

The chloroformists are justly considered the aristocracy of the French criminal classes. They are generally recruited from the ranks of the best and most highly educated classes of society, and their favorite fields of operation are the railway carriages and the hotels. They hang about the ticket office of one of the long railway lines until they catch a sight of the traveller who displays a well-filled pocket-book when he pays for his ticket. Then the chloroformist buys a ticket for the same place, enters the same compartment, gets into conversation with his victim and either invites him to partake of a lunch, which he produces from a well-stocked basket, or offers him an excellent cigar. "This will cost you \$15,000," remarked the swindler coolly. The stock operator, who moved in good society, surrendered at once. He had \$5,000 with him, and wrote a check for \$10,000. Then he left. He paid the check. After the door closed on a man and woman alone it is in the power of the woman to make any assertion which she pleases; society is ready to believe the worst, and thus the blackmail flourishes.

As these delicacies have all been "prepared" the victim soon drops off to sleep, when the chloroformist opens a vial, which he generally keeps in his hat, hold it under the man's nose, and at the same time gently applies a sheet of fine parchment, the shape of a carnival mask, to exclude the fresh air. The victim being thus rendered entirely insensible, the operator empties the pocket-book of all money except a few notes of small value, leaving also coins and jewelry. Then he removes the parchment mask and leaves the train at the next station.

When the traveller awakens—he often dies under the operation—he instinctively looks to see if his watch, chain and coins are all right, on finding himself alone, and does not usually take the trouble to examine his bag-bills, so that the thief has a chance of remaining undiscovered for several days.

All that the authorities can do when they find a corpse in a compartment with his coin and jewelry untouched is to attribute the death to natural causes, and, as a rule, they do not even insist on an autopsy.

It is a very startling fact that cases of sudden death in railway compartments have become exceedingly numerous during the last two years, and it is thought that this form of crime will continue to increase from year to year, owing to the immunity from punishment which the clever operators enjoy.

A case of this sort furnishes a portion of the foundation for Miss Florence Warden's readable tale. "A Prince of Darkness," though the chloroforming in the story was done in so clumsy a manner—in so impossible a manner, in fact—that any one but an idiot would have seen through the business on the spot.

Dealer: "Would you like to have a French clock?"

Mrs. Mulchay: "No, indeed, I don't want none av yer French clocks. It's an Irish clock that I can understand, that I want."

ROYAL BAKING POWDER!

Absolutely Pure.

This powder never varies. A marvel of purity, strength and wholesomeness. More economical than the ordinary kind, and cannot be sold in competition with the multitudes of low test, short weight alum or phosphate powders. Sold only in cases. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., 100 Wall St., New York.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR COATS!

This is an entirely new garment; is elastic and warm; adapted for a business, office or house coat, or to wear under an overcoat, and is made by the Knights of Labor.

WHOLESALE ONLY.
Warehouse: Masonic Building, 94 and 96 Germain Street.

A. EVERITT.
London House Retail.

WE HAVE RECEIVED OUR FOURTH DELIVERY OF—

Black Astrachan Curl Cloths, Which, being somewhat late in coming to hand, we are prepared to offer at lower rates than our previous parcels.

BEST VALUES THIS SEASON

ALSO, ONE CASE OF All Wool Dress Suits

From 32c. to 45c. per Yard.

LL USEFUL SELF AND MIXED COLORINGS IN Checks, Stripes and Fancies.

J. W. BARNES & CO.
Market Square and Cor. Charlott and Union Sts.

SHEFFIELD HOUSE, Market Square.

Silver Plated and Solid Silver Ware.

Gold and Silver Watches, Gold and Silver Jewelry, Gold and Silver Head Cases, Marble Clocks, Bronzes and Parian Ware, Cutlery and Fancy Goods.

1 CASE FRENCH FANS & OPERA GLASSES JUST OPENED.

An Inspection of the Stock Respectfully Solicited.

RICHARD THOMPSON.

The National Assurance Company, of Ireland.

ESTABLISHED 1832.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Empowered by special Act of Parliament.

CAPITAL, ONE MILLION POUNDS STERLING!

HEAD OFFICE:—3 College Green, Dublin.

FIRE RISKS

Accepted of Buildings, Stocks, Furniture, Mills, Lumber, &c.

IN ALL PARTS OF THE PROVINCE AT CURRENT RATES.

Limit on Approved Risks, \$30,000.

B. G. TAYLOR, AGENT FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.

Connecticut Fire Insurance Company, OF HARTFORD, CONN.

Cash Capital, \$1,000,000.00

Cash Assets, \$1,974,749.83

Having lately been appointed agents for this company, with special facilities for carrying large lines, we are now prepared to accept Fire Risks at lowest current rates.

E. McLEOD, C. A. MACDONALD, } Associate General Agents.

JAMES T. GILCHRIST, } Sub-Agents.

FRED. G. KNOWLTON, }

COSTUMES. COSTUMES.

AT SPENCER'S Standard Dancing Academy.

New Classes for Beginners meet every Tuesday and Friday evening. Afternoon class meets Tuesday and Saturday. Call at the Academy for information and terms.

Private Lessons given day and evening to suit pupils. Violin Lessons given on reasonable terms—a capital opportunity for beginners. A fine list of

COSTUMES TO LET, or made to order. Also, will let to responsible parties out of town.

Veils and Strings for sale. Best quality always on hand.

NUDE ROOMS to let for Balls, Assemblies, Parties, Tea Meetings, Bazaars, and all respectable gatherings.

Chairs, Tables, Dishes, Knives and Forks, Spoons &c., all at low prices, to let.

A Good Supper Room in connection with the Academy for those wishing the same.

Planes to Let by the night, or moved at low rates, as I have on hand the Slings and competent men to discharge this duty.

COME AND SEE ME.

A. L. SPENCER, Next door to Turner & Finlay's Dry Goods Store

P. S.—Violins and other Musical Instruments selected for those wishing to purchase. No pains will be spared to have the rooms in good order at all times.

BOYS' AND YOUTHS' BOOTS!

We are now showing the Largest and Best Assorted Stock of

BOYS' AND YOUTHS' BOOTS!

TO BE FOUND IN THE CITY.

CONSISTING OF BOYS' CALF TAP SOLE BALMORALS, Head Made.

BOYS' CALF DOUBLE SOLE BALMORALS, Brass Nailed.

BOYS' GRAY BELL-TONGUED BOOTS.

BOYS' KIP TAP SOLE BALMORALS.

BOYS' BUFF TAP SOLE BALMORALS.

YOUTHS' GRAY TAP SOLE BALMORALS.

YOUTHS' CALF DOUBLE-SOLE BALMORALS.

YOUTHS' TAP SOLE BALMORALS.

BOYS' AND YOUTHS' EVENING SHOES

Boys' and Youths' Long Boots OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Francis & Vaughan,

WANTED.

WANTED. 50,000 MEN to have their Collars and Cuffs laundered at UNION'S STEAM LAUNDRY.

IT WILL PAY YOU

To have your CLOTHES CLEANED AND DYED at the St. John Dye Works.

C. E. BRACKETT & CO.

94 PRINCE STREET.