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Not many years ago and within the memory of this generation the Scandinavian peninsula was regarded as being quite out of the world, and to suggest going there seemed almost like a proposition to visit the north pole would now, but the great ocean grey hounds have brought that picturesque land near, and a trip to the Land of the Midnight Sun is regarded with no more fear than a run over to Paris was 15 years ago.

All travelers who have visited the Swedish capital bring most happy accounts of the American minister and his wife, who contribute generously to the entertainment not only of American



MRS. WILLIAM M. THOMAS.

can residents at Stockholm, but those passing through there on their travels Mr. Thomas, by the way, is a great friend of King Oscar, who recently abdicated in favor of his son, and in his book "Sweden and the Swedes," pays many tributes to that monarch, with whom he has many traits in common.

Mr. Thomas' chief claims to the king's admiration are his knowledge of the Swedish language, his admiration for its literature and the good taste he displayed in selecting a Swedish wife. Mrs. Thomas, who bears the picturesque name of Dagmar Elizabeth, is the daughter of Ragnar Tornebladh, member of the upper house of the Swedish parliament and manager of the National Bank of the Kingdom of Sweden. Like her Scandinavian sisters, Mrs. Thomas has light hair, blue eyes and fair complexion, and her figure is lithe and graceful. But she has all the enthusiasm of the daughters of the south, and her winning manners and social talents have added much to her husband's prestige in Stockholm.

She Supplies Delicacies.

Mrs. Harriet Brainard has long been known as one of the foremost teachers of literature in Chicago, but it only recently transpired that for several years she has been at the head of an association that supplies all sorts of delicacies for the largest tearoom in the city, caters to many of the swell clubs and furnishes the buffets of most of the railroads running out of Chicago; moreover, that she was its sole originator and promoter, and, while retaining her position as teacher of literature, has managed the entire financial side of the association—not only so, but no new dish is ever added to the list but that Mrs. Brainard first makes it with her own hands, tests it and personally teaches it to her assistants. In other words, Mrs. Brainard is the association.

From no capital and no commercial prestige, her business has grown until now the whole upper floor of her large and beautiful home is given up to the manufacture of home delicacies, and no less than 50 people are employed in its various branches. Indeed with the new year Mrs. Brainard found herself obliged to add to this equipment a large down town office in one of the handsome buildings on Michigan boulevard, and has begun to add private catering to her list of successes.

A graduate of Cornell college and for three years a fellow in the Chicago university, Mrs. Brainard drifted into teaching literature as in the direction of her most strongly marked tastes. Born and bred to a rather luxurious way of living, she was unwilling, when the business depression came and much of the family revenue was found to be tied up in real estate, that any change should take place in their accustomed way of living, but determined that the usual establishment, with its servants, horses, carriages, etc., should remain intact—Philadelphia Press.

Husbands For Uncle Sam's Girls.

"The number of male infants born yearly exceeds that of female by 1 to 4 per cent, the proportion varying slightly from year to year," writes Professor D. R. McNally of "The American Girl's Chances of Marriage," in the Ladies' Home Journal. "The mishaps of boyhood, however, reduce the number of boys to some extent, but not so much as to make the adult females outnumber the males. For every American woman, therefore, there ought to be a husband in posse if not in esse, and the fact that there is a large percentage of unmarried adult women in the country, and a greater proportionate number in some sections than in others, is attributable to causes which have disturbed the balance of population. In all new countries—and compared with Europe the United States is a new country—there is a larger proportion of males than of females. The aggregate population of the United States, so far as the latest official figures show, is 62,622,250, of which 32,067,880 are males and

30,554,370 are females. Thus the preponderance of males over females would seem to make it comparatively easy for the American girl to secure a husband, but in certain sections this is evidently not the case, else the proportion of adult unmarried women would not be so large. If men would remain in the neighborhoods where they were born the proportion of men and women would be nearly equal all over the country, but men find work hard to get in the older and more populous communities, and go to the newer states. The young women are left behind, and the young men, after settling in their new homes, forget the companions of their youth and contract alliances among their new friends in the west; hence some of the eastern states show a surplus of females."

Questionable Financiering.

There are people who say that women are not financiers, but there are others who take a different view of the subject. There is in Greater New York a clever man who does the fine cabinet work in expensive yachts and could mention as his patrons many people whose names, on account of their great wealth, are household words. It need not be supposed that on this account he is specially to be envied. The great middle class of people with fluctuating incomes are not the least desirable patrons or the millionaires the most desirable.

One woman on whose yacht the fine cabinet worker had been employed was worth many millions, and she might be called a financier. It is just possible that the master cabinet worker calls her by a less complimentary name. The work done had been completed for several months, and the man was beginning to be anxious for his money. It was "good" undoubtedly in a commercial sense, but, all the same, that knowledge would not keep his workmen from starving. So he wrote the woman, told her that he needed the money and asked if she would not be kind enough to send a check.

There was a telegram in response from the millionaire financier, which read something like this, "If I send check, what discount will you make?" "Have waited six months for my money, can make no discount," telegraphed back the man. At last accounts the Boston woman—she was a Boston woman—had not sent the check.—New York Times.

London Women and News.

The first number of what is claimed to be the first woman's newspaper ever produced in Great Britain was published recently. It is called The Woman's Weekly. C. J. Tibbits, the editor, had this to say of the venture: "Although the female population of Great Britain and Ireland considerably exceeds the male, there is not a single newspaper in existence that caters exclusively to women readers."

"Of course there are scores of excellent magazines and papers devoted to fashion, the home, social and kindred subjects, but so far as the countless events of the day are concerned that appeal with special force to women, no paper has as yet been established to record them."

"The Woman's Weekly will thus be absolutely unique in this country. It consists of 16 pages. News of all kinds of interest to women—general law, society, social, etc.—will find a place in its columns, which will be illustrated by a corps of clever artists. The news will be written in a bright, attractive manner, and will contain tidbits of information supplied by the cleverest women journalists of the day."

Dishwashing Made Easy.

A friend of mine said she grew rebellious because of having to cook; that she grew irritable and unhappy over it. It was the after cleaning of the cooking vessels that was the most distasteful to her. She determined to take herself in hand and subdue the ugly spirit, as she termed it. She studied over the problem, trying to make the work less irksome by adopting means to enable her to do it more quickly and also to save her hands and not to come in contact so often with the greasy iron vessels. She made mops with long handles and bought her a half dozen linen crash towels and made a soap which cuts the grease and also purifies and cleans quickly, taking about half the usual time. The soap is made thus: Dissolve three ounces of borax in two parts of warm water. Add two bars of good white soap shaved fine, and stir all together in a jar until it is melted. When cool, it will form a jelly. A tablespoonful of this will make a strong lather in a gallon of water and will be good for cleaning any iron or porcelain lined vessel. It is also excellent for washing windows and general housecleaning. She persevered in trying to overcome the dislike to cooking and cleaning, and by making the work attractive and easier saved time to devote to more pleasant pursuits. The homemaker must study to be with her family all she can. She must study to overcome petty dislikes and to learn the lesson of sweet submission to the inevitable.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Women of the Legion of Honor.

It is interesting to note, in connection with the fact that one of the nuns attached to the naval hospital at Cherbourg, France, has just been decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor by the minister of marine, that she is the sixty-eighth woman who has been received into the famous order since its foundation in 1802.

A glance at the list reminds us how female valor has become recognized side by side with charity and devotion, talent also not being overlooked. Thus,

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