### THE EMPTY HOUSE.

The ancient apple tree that stands Beside the black, decaying caves Once more has both her crooked hands

Half full of Maytime flowers and leaves.
But the old gray house where the gold haired

children summed out from window and door At the early kiss of the warm May sunshine The old gray house will bloom no more.

In that old sppic tree again
Their loving nest the bluebirds fill:
They warble to the mild spring rain.
With music soft the recovery. With music soft the mornings thrill, But the old gray house with her vacant win

Where never a rosy check is pressed There all is silence and void and shadow.

No hirds come back to her empty nest.

—Irene Putnam in Good Housekeeping.

### WHAT FIREMEN FIND.

### They Pick Up Curious Articles Sometimes A Touching Incident,

"Well, sir," said a stalwart looking freman the other day, "we fellows don't have much time for looking about for finds when a house is burning and perhaps people's lives are at stake, yet we do come across things occasionally.

"A brother wearer of the brass belmet used to tell how he was once at a fireand a big one, too-and in making his way through the house positively saw bank notes burning away like so many pipe lights. He picked up as many as he possibly could, stuffed them in his pockets and went on with his work. After the conflagration had ceased the man who was left in charge picked up among the embers an old fashioned pepper box -black and charred-filled with silver dollars, and a further search brought him to a number of rare old silver

"I have myself found two or three checkbooks, and once a set of false teeth, which I popped in my pocket and soon after was able to return to the owner, who proved his right to possess ther without a doubt. I once brought out a genuine Stradivarius-a violin worth several hundreds of dollars-while diamonds and other jewelry have been saved in plenty.

'Indeed there are a thousand and one things a fireman finds and saves, though perhaps that which gave me the greatest satisfaction was an old rag doll. It was a touching little incident and quite true

"It happened at a big fire, and in the midst of the excitement—which I assure you few people realize-the word went forth that a little child was 'up stairs.' I don't want to boast, but away I went. I found her on the second floor, asleep in her little crib, with this old doll by her side. I caught the child in my arms and-she awoke. She looked up in my face and seemed to understand that I was saving her from the flames. "'Dolly! Dolly!' she cried.

"The next instant—aye, quicker than it takes to tell you—I had the old rag doll, and my pals told me that if any artist could only have painted us as we appeared-me with the youngster in my arms, and she cuddling up her treasure -why, there wouldn't have been another picture in the land to touch it!"-Boston Traveller.

## Wonderful Fecundity of Flowers.

A single seed of the common sweet pea of the Emily Henderson variety has been known to produce a stalk yielding from June 15 to Oct. 1. A record of the flowers cut from a row of these peas 60 feet in length, plants or vines standing at a distance of nine inches apart, shows that the first flowers were plucked on June 11 and the last on Oct. 20. Even though badly matted-which made close cutting almost impossible and allowed foot row exhibits the following remarkable record: Flowers removed during June, 20,000; July, 17,500; August, 26,000; September, 6,400; October (up to the evening of the 19th), 3,500; total, 73,400. As noted, a large num ber went to seed, besides the buds that were smothered out on account of the vines being so badly matted. There is scarcely a doubt but that the row would have yielded above 100,000 flowers during the season had conditions been more favorable. -St. Louis Republic.

# Packing Ice In Snow.

When I first began to put up fee, we were told to pound it up to pack between the cakes. That was very good. Then we were told to pour water over it and freeze it all solid. This I did once, but never shall again. It made hard work in getting it out. No shape or size to it. When cut perfectly square, all of one size, it will pack so closely that it needs no chinking, but that is seldom done. The last few years I have packed in snow. When a layer is in, throw on snow, take a broom and sweep the cracks full, leaving some on the surface for the next layer. When done, cover the whole with sawdust so thick that it will not melt. Every block will come out just as it went in, with no trouble to loosen it. Some pack sawdust between the cakes. This I do not like. It freezes to the ice and is hard to get off without cutting. Lay the cakes so the space between them will be large at the top; then cram in snow, and you will be more than pleased with the result .- Country Gentleman.

# He Changed Ris Mind.

A gossiper in the Washington Post tells the following story: "My friend, Mrs. B-, is one of those good natured women who are always wanting to make other people comfortable. happened to be in the railway station the other day when a man she knew came in. He said he was going to Pitts burg. Now, it happened that Mrs. B .... whose husband is a director, knew the conductor of the Pittsburg train. He passed through the waiting room just then, and Mrs. B--- called to him. 'Conductor,' she said, 'this is my especial friend, Mr. Smith. He is going on your train and I want you to show him every attention possible. The conductor of course said he would, but when he went away Mr. Smith turned to Mrs. - with a sickly smile. 'I did intend to go to Pittsburg today, and I was in an awful hurry, but, on the whole, I think I'll wait for the next train.' And he handed the kind hearted woman a slip of paper. It was a pass, but it was made out to one Jones.

"Facts are stubborn things" is an aphorism first enumerated by La Sage in "Gil Blas." It has since become pro-

# CUPID HAS AN ENEMY

PERSISTENT SOLICITORS WHO DETER WOULD BE BENEDICTS.

Matrimonial Ventures Made Extra Hazard ors by the Hunt For Business -A Hair Raising Warning From a Life Insurance Man.

When the young man walked into the pewspaper office and timidly asked the society editor if she would kindly insert a notice of his approaching marriage, he little thought of the trouble he was bringing down upon his head.

The announcement was printed Sun-When he reached his office Monday, he found a stack of letters waiting for him, every one addressed in a handwriting he did not know. He whistled when he opened the first, ditto the second, looked a bit surprised at the contents of the third and swore fluently through the balance of the pile. At noon there were more. At night there were

Despite the evident curiosity of his fellow laborers in the office he did not take a soul into his confidence until the Then he remarked to his

"Say, the great American life insurance man isn't overlooking any bets these days, is he?"

"Wherefore this outburst?" For answer the groom to be went to a drawer and produced a stack containing 147 letters-he said that was the exact number, though his friend did not count them-the accumulation since that fateful Sunday morning.

"Every blamed one of them is from some agent for some life insurance company who wants to insure my life. Each one represents the best company on the face of the earth. Each pays the largest dividends. Each invests the money of its patrons to the very best advantage. Each moralizes on the uncertainty of life and seeks to impress upon me the solemn duty I owe to my wife that is to be to get my life insured for a million or two of dollars. And each blessed one has come since the announcement of my approaching wedding was printed."

The young man paused a moment, then he dug into the pile and after a few moments' search produced a document which he shoved at his friend, simply saying:

"Just look at the devilish ingenuity displayed in the construction of that

The "thing" was about the size of a theatrical poster known as a three sheet, in other words, three of them will paper the side of a barn. Down the center, at regular intervals, were a lot of mottoes and warning exhortation printed in type three times the size of the context, and in red ink. Here is one choice extract from the document: "In the midst of life we are in death."

"Let us call your attention that it is every husband's duty-his solemn duty -to provide for those dependent upon him. No one knoweth when the angel of death may knock at the door of hovel or mansion and how can one be prepared for his coming unless time is taken by the financial forelock? Think of the ray of hope which breaks through the clouds of bitter bereavement when the sorrowing ones reflect that by the careful forethought of the dear departed poverty has been prevented from adding its horrors to those of the grave. It is your duty to provide for your loved ones. Do not put 2,000 flowers per month during the it off until tomorrow, for in the lanflowering season, which generally lasts guage of the poet, 'Tomorrow never

There was another paragraph in the document that showed the touch of a master hand. It ran something like this:

"Our policies are devised and designed to meet the wants and needs of all people desiring insurance. They are liberal. They are honest. They bring many thousand to go to seed-the 60 the very best returns. We have ideal policies which we can safely recommend. We can and will guarantee endowment results at much less than endowment rates. And again we pledge ourselves to furnish paid up policies at far below the usual cost. Our dividends are often five times as large as those of other companies on similar policies. We also make specialty of making liberal loans to onr clients on their policies. We are in the field for business and we mean to get it. And don't you forget it."

"Do not leave your wife and babies

dependent on charity." The elecutionary effect the benedict to be threw into the reading of these extracts gained him a round of applause from his companions. It also brought to him the knowledge that every other man in the office who was married-in Chicago-had been similarly afflicted. But that brought no balm to his soul, and he continued to kick. He didn't think it the proper thing to do and he announced his intention of writing a circular letter to the various individuals who had importuned him to "take a risk" and informing them of his feel-

"Don't do it, my boy," said the head bookkeeper. "Wait until after you are married. You will get forty of these things then to one now, and then you'll have to get out another letter. Wait till then, and then you can address yourself at one and the same time to the life insurance agent, the furniture dealer, the grocer, the man who has a second hand sewing machine to sell, the philanthropist who wants to see young people get along and who offers you a lot way out in the suburbs that will make you rich in five years, the rental agent, the iceman, the milkman, the cockroach exterminator, and all their kith and kin. You'll hear from them all, for they all read the society columns of the daily papers and the newly married are their legitimate prey. "-Chicago Tribune.

Lepers In the World. According to Malhall, leprosy is far more prevalent in Europe than most people suppose. He says that there are now 3,000 lepers in Portugal, 1,770 in Norway, 6,000 in Russia and about 2,000 all told in other European countries. In India there are 131,000 and in Canton, China, not less than 10,000. He does not give figures for other countries and islands, but it is estimated that the leper population of the world is but little, if any, short of 1,000,000.

#### A Railroad Advocate. "I'm in favor of railroads," said the

had my leg cut off on one, and got tion a black powder is the first step in \$5,000 damages and a pension for life. the manufacture, being produced by rub-If it had only been my head I'd have bing mercury together with corrosive owned the road!"—Washington Star.

### A BACHELOR MAID.

Once there lived a bachelor maiden, Years and years ago (?), And her mind with truth was laden, But her heart was cold as snow. For she thought, with good old Plato. She could live alone, So she smiled on many a suitor,

But her heart was hard as stone

Came a bachelor man a suing For her friendship true. This, alas, was her undoing, As it might have been with you For her friendship still he sued her— Such a simple thing— Till before she knew he wood her.

Wood her with a friendship ring Now, although she's fond of Plato, Her cold heart's grown warm, And her theories of living Have imbibed a wondrous charm,

For she says: "Tis human nature, Spite of Plato's pen. Men were made for loving women. Women made for loving men."
-Mary W. Siatter in Kate Field's Washington

# BUYING SOCIAL POLISH

## An English Couple Who Instruct In the

Art of Being Fine. A new profession for "gentlefolk" has been discovered in London by two impecunious members of the class. They have discovered that there is a livelihood to be obtained by "polishing off" the nonveaux riches and others whose manners "have not that repose which stamps the caste of Vere de Vere." They are a well born, well bred married couple who are still sufficiently young to be adaptable. They have been used to the ways of the leisure class, and they are clever enough to teach them. Anything from the cure of the cockney accent to the proper way to entertain a duke is

taught for a "consideration." The wife describes her share of the work thus: "I generally," she says. 'undertake to engage the services of all specialists, such as superior maids, who know what is what and can give judicions and useful hints to their mistress also manicurists, teachers of deportment and sometimes teachers of elecution, 1 have cured one very bad case of mere ontward vulgarity in three weeks for 10 guineas, and I have corrected a cockney accent in three mornings for 3 guineas, while, on the other hand, a certain city man, who never aspired to anything better than heavy British dinners, Fri days to Mondays at Brighton, and Mansion House balls until he married the daughter of a west end restaurant manager-she knew nothing of life beyond her own narrow sphere-gave us carte blanche to make 'fine folks' of them.

"Not much could be done for him beyond keeping him quiet, but she lent herself to our process. Now they have a very pretty place in Hampshire and entertain some rather nice people in the summer. We ourselves received 100 guineas for our advice, but the husband must have spent over 25,000 in adopting our hints as to mode of living, and he tells us that what he has got for it is worth double as much. "-Philadelphia

## SUPERSTITIOUS RUSSIA.

### The Cruel Murder of a Woman Supposed to

Be the "Cholera Devil." Another form which the devil assumes in Russia pretty often of late is that of the cholera, who, of course, is a female. In the district of Barnaul the other day the peasants were determined to make short work of the "cunning one" in that odious role of his. They clubbed together and lay in wait. One day they descried the spirit of evil on his way to kill people with the terrible epidemic. He was riding in a tarantass -a sort of springless cart covered with canvas-disguised in the form of a female

The watchman refused to allow the tarantass to enter the village of Prasloukha. The woman inside protested, but had to turn back. The peasants assembled, gave chase to the tarantass, surrounded it and called out to the "cholera devil" to disappear. The poor woman said she was human like themsolves and could not vanish miraculously, but they shouted, prayed and closed around. A few shots were heard, followed by a piteous moan and then a deafening shout of triumph: "Pray to God, brothers, and thank him. have killed the cholera." The woman's name was Kondratieff. Her corpse was and offensive, of American inventive not allowed into the village. - London Telegraph.

# May and Matrimony.

The pagans had a myth that "only bad women marry in May." They had another, that if the marriage did take place the couple would live most unhappily, and children born of the marriage -if it was not hopelessly rendered barren by thus slapping the fates in the face-would be deformed or imbecile. With prizes like that in prospect, it is not much wonder that the ignorant and superstitions taboo May marriages, but there is no excuse yet for this idiosyn crasy of thinking people-at least, no

Ovid was a firm believer in the superstition and said that no widow or oung girl would marry in May unless she wished to invite the displeasure of the gods, and that the impredent wonan who braved their wrath would fill an early grave. Ovid pinned his faith to rosy June, the birth month of June, and when he got ready to launch his daugh ter on the matrimonial sea he studied the stars and all the superstitions to make sure that he would not run upon Scylla in steering off Charybdis.

Resolved to match the girl, he tried to find What days unprosperous were, what moon After June's secred ides his fancy straved-

Better One Way. In North Carolina lately a case was tried in which, the defendant's character having been impeached, it was sought to bolster it up by showing he had reformed and joined the church The witness, who belonged to the same church, insisted that as the defendant was now a Christian man of course his character was better. Counsel asked him, "Doesn't he drink just as much as he ever did?" The witness, who was colored and evidently embarrassed by the inquiry, slowly raised his eyes and said with much deliberation, "I think he do, but he carries it more better. "-

### San Francisco Argonaut. Calomel.

Calomel was discovered by Crollins in the seventeenth century, and the first directions for its preparation were given by Beguin in 1608. Its name is derived from two Greek words, signifying "a "Yes; they're a great institution; beautiful black," because in its prepara

# HE KNOWS THE ROPES

ALSO ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT MODERN SHIPS OF WAR.

Philip Hichborn, Chief United States Naval Constructor, Is a Thorough American and an Up to Date Shipbuilder, and His Job Is Not Easy to Fill.

A more burdensome responsibility than that which rests upon the shoulders of Commodore and Chief United States Naval Constructor Hichborn cannot well be imagined. It is his business to build Uncle Sam's warships. Congress can appropriate the money and in general terms designate the type, displacement, cost and desired speed of any given craft, but that is all. When and don't want them." these things are determined upon, the work of the bureau of construction begins.

From start to finish this work is of the most complicated nature. Human ingenuity has never planned, human hands have never built, a more complex structure than a modern warship. The amount of computation necessary in working out the details, after the will of congress has been declared with regard to a given ship, is almost beyond belief. It may be said that the earliest stage of a man-of-war is virtually a figuring match, for the purpose of determining the under water lines, the



amount of power necessary to drive the vessel through the water at the required speed, the weight of boilers, engines and appurtenances necessary to develop that speed; the amount of weight that can be given to hull, armor, top hamper, guns, etc.; the space that may be allowed for coal room, storeroom and other necessary divisions of the ship, and so on almost without end

Of course the chief constructor does not have to actually perform much of this ardness work, but he must be able to decide with unfailing accuracy when the figures are presented to him wheth er they are accurate or not, since no one but him will be held responsible in case of miscalculation. In the matters of strength, seaworthiness and stability he can do no better than to figure out the necessary proportions for himself, and as a matter of fact he goes over all the figures furnished by his subordinates, often radically changing and revising them, for the purpose of getting a little more room here, of increasing the space there and of adding strength in another place, so that when the final plans for a warship are completed sufficiently to leave Constructor Highborn's hands they may properly be considered his individnal work.

In many ways Constructor Highborn. two years ago, has given evidence of decided originality. He has not, it is true, failed to recognize points of excellence in warships built abroad, but he has introduced some new things which have in the main met with unqualified approval on the part of those competent to judge. As far as possible he has proffited by the experiments and experience of foreign constructors, but at the same time he has made it a point to work on lines tending to the evolution, within established types, of ships that are distinct embediments of the most admirable features, constructive, engineering

skill. Commodore Hichborn is one of those who believe it possible to "overgun" warships. He does not think it wise to load a vessel with all the artillery she can carry. "I deem it best," he says, for us to avail ourselves of a marginal buoyancy in providing protection for quick firing guns, which, in all probability, will be most important in coming naval engagements. The more limited the variety of guns on shipboard,' be adds. "the more effective the ship is likely to prove in the unavoidable din and confusion of action."

Philip Hiehborn was born in Charlestown, Mass., March 4, 1839. He was graduated from the Boston high school in 1855, and was then indentured to the government under the tuition of the late Melvin Simmons, U. S. N., master shipwright of the Boston navy yard. Young Hichborn showed himself so apt while there that he was given a course of theoretical training in ship designing and calculation. In 1860 he went to sea on a clipper ship bound for California. then entered the employ of a Pacific Mail company, and then went back to the government at the Mare Island navy yard, San Francisco, where in two years he became master shipwright of the station. In 1869 he was made an assistant naval constructor, with the relative rank of lieutepant. In 1870 he was transferred to the Portsmouth (N. H.) navy yard. After that he went to League island, Pennsylvania, was prominent during the Centennial exposition of 1876, was sent to Europe in 1874 on special duty and later was made an assistant chief of the naval construction burean. His last promotion, to the head of the bureau, came in 1893,

Commodore Hichborn has passed through three distinct stages of shipbuilding practice-wood, iron and steel. He believes that metal will be the shipbuilding material of the fature.

# Always on Time.

worthy of imitation, and one of them was rigid punctuality. This was well illustrated by an incident during his visit to Boston 100 years ago. Having appointed 8 o'clock in the morning as the hour at which he should set out for Salem, he mounted his horse just as the Old South clock was striking that hour. The company of cavalry which was to escort him did not arrive till after his

MET THEIR MATCHES.

### Two Californians Who Larned the Pair Regulations a Moueut Late. Frank Happersberg, the sculptor, and

Jim Yung, the restaurateur, were out viewing the remains of the Midwinter fair a few days ago, when both found themselves with cigars and without matches.

"Ah, I have it," remarked Yung. "Come over to the Manufactures building. I have a friend there who has a match exhibit, and we can get what we want."

They walked to the booth, and as the proprietor wasn't there Jim took the liberty of helping himself to the great

pile of wax matches. "Take all you want, Frank," he remarked. "He's got a wagonload here

Happersberg commenced filling his pockets. "I'll need some at my studio, and he filled his trousers pockets. "Ought to have some at my room, tho. and his vest pockets were leaded. "Wo always need them on my naphtha launch." and his coat pockets commenced to bulge.

"Guess I'll take some home, " remarked Jim as he commenced loading his clothes. "A few wouldn't come amiss at the restaurant either."

Then they walked out looking like a pair of smugglers loaded for a customs officer. At the door they met the owner of the booth. Happersberg had been scratching matches on his trousers the whole length of the building, but they wonldn't light. Yung had also worn a slick streak on his pantaloons.

"What's the matter with these matches?" he inquired if the exhibitor. "What matches?"

"Why, yours. We helped ourselves to a box or two, as you weren't there." Those are just painted wax."

### HUMAN COMEDY IN STONE. The Busts Which Will Adorn the New Library Buildings at Washington.

Nine busts in granite have been finished for the exterior decoration of the new library of congress in Washington. The worthies who first come to the front are Walter Scott, Dante, Demosthenes Nathaniel Hawthorne, Emerson, Irving Goethe, Benjamin Franklin and Macaulay

Judging by newspaper cuts, a great variety of expression has been obtained by the respective artists who have made these nine busts.

Walter Scott has the intent, forward gaze of a college sprinter waiting for the word "go." Dante looks as if Dr. Chauncey M. Depew had just refused to accommodate him with a pass to Buffalo. The model who sat for Demosthenes was Puck's Weary Waggles. Benjamin Franklin is slyly chuckling over his success in lodging a big charge of electricity in Nathaniel Hawthorne's back hair. Macaulay has put on a beautifully and symmetrically curled wig. Raiph Waldo Emerson has got the railroad pass which Dante missed. Washington Irving is listening to the Hon. Amos J. Cummings' latest and best anecdote, and Goethe has just caught through his alert left ear an invitation to drink from a man whom his soul loathes.

For picturesque animation the work of the seven sculptors seems meritorious. If this is only a beginning, the front of the new library buildings bids fair to be a human comedy in stone. The appearance of the second nine will be waited with great interest. - Washing-

### ton Letter. WONDERFUL NERVE.

#### A Man Who Looked on Caimly While the Surgeons Cut Off His Foot.

Thomas E. Byrnes, a molder, had a portion of his right foot crushed by being run over by a Lake Roland car yesterday morning, which necessitated the amputation of about one-half of the foot. During the amoutation Byrnes gave one of the most stolid exhibitions of nerve and impassiveness to pain ever witnessed. Drs. R. F. Blake and Geer made preparations to put their patient under the influence of chloroform for this purpose, but when Byrnes was informed of what they were about to do he amazed them by telling them to go ahead with the cutting, but that he didn't want a narcotic. The physicians feared he couldn't stand it, robust as he is, and plainly told him so, but Byrnes was firm and said he would get through it

all right. Then the surgeons proceeded as gently as possible. The pain must have been terrible. Just imagine taking a knife and sinking it down into the flesh, severing bones and joints! "It's enough to make one shudder," said a bystander, a surgeon, too, accustomed to the horrors of a surgical hospital. But Byrnes never even winced. He sat in the chair with folded arms, braced himself against the back of the seat and watched the movements of the knife. There was no moan, no rolling of the eyes, no twitchingabsolutely no indication of the terrible pain except the pallor of his face. The operation over, Byrnes thanked the surgeons, who seemed to be far more concerned and anxious that the job come to an end than the heroic patient. - Baltimore American.

# DUCKED IN SACKS.

# But the Sultan's Affection Made the Opera-

tion a Mild One. Odd stories are coming from Constantinople in connection with the recent earthquakes. One has been told of Gjussuf Block, physician to the sultan. The earthquake damaged the part of the palace in which he lives, and suddenly two favorite wives of the sultan were precipitated through the ceiling into the doctor's room. All three fled from the building before it collapsed and found the sultan himself in the courtyard.

The stern practice of Islam left the sultan no choice but to tie up his two wives in sacks and plunge them into the Bosporus, they having been gazed upon Washington had many admirable traits by a profane giaour. Fortunately the sultan cherished affection for both of them, and having consulted the grand mufti he saw his way to have them punished symbolically. They were put into sacks which were properly sewed up and duly taken to sequestered spots on the banks of the Bosporus, and in the presence of a number of praying imams gently dipped into the soft, blue waters, after which the women were deemed to departure and did not overtake him till be purified. They were then removed to he had reached Charles river bridge - a new home and restored to their coningal rights -London Truth

# FLOOD OF THE NILE.

THE GREATEST EVENT OF ALL THE YEAR AT CAIRO.

undignified appellation the foreign resi Impressive Ceremonies at the Cutting of the Bank to Allow the Water to Flow Into the Canal-The Ancient Nilometr on the Island of Rods.

The tourist who only comes to Egypt to shun "winter and foul weather" knows nothing of the majestic glories of the Nile flood. The ancient Nilometer a the south end of the island of Roda, jus above Cairo, is one of the most interest ing sights of the place. The water enters from the river by a culvert into a well about 18 feet square, with a graduated stone pillar in the center. On each side of the well is a recess about 6 feet wide and 3 feet deep, surmounted by a the isle of Man. Professor Milne probpointed arch, over which is carved in relief a Kufic inscription, and a similar inscription is carried all around the disturbances is his fad, and he has de well, consisting of verses of the Koran voted years to making interesting experi-A staircase goes down the well, from the steps of which the initiated may read the height of the water on the pillar, but they are few in number, and the hereditary sheikh of the Nilometer, whose duty it is to keep the record, is a person of some importance. The Nilometer dates from A. D. 861, and I be-

lieve in the archives of Cairo may be found the daily record for 1,000 years. I need hardly tell you that when our English engineers took the river in hand we established a number of gauges at Wadi-Halia, Assuan, Cairo and many other points on more scientific principles than the venerable Nilometer of the Roda island.

After the river has begun to rise its height is daily chanted through the "Oh, there is no phosphorus on Cairo streets until it reaches 16 cubits them. The fair managers wouldn't al- on the gauge. At this point the Khalig low genuine matches in the building, el Masri, the old canal that flows through the heart of Cairo, is opened-up to this Yung and Happersberg stole down to point it is dry, and full or empty it is Stow lake and unloaded.—San Francis- little more than a sanitary abomination at present, but in former days it occupied an important place, and when the Nile water was high enough to flow down its bed it was looked on that the flood had fairly set in, and that the kindy fruits of the earth might be duly expected.

> The head of this canal is on the right bank of the river, just south of Cairo. The water enters a channel some 30 feet wide, with a high wall on its left and a sleping bank on its right or southern The water then flows under the pointed arch of an old stone bridge. The bed of the canal is cleared so that it would flow in at a gauge of about 141/2 cubits, but an earthen bank is thrown across it about four feet higher.

> There is no more interesting ceremony in Egypt than the annual cutting of the khalig, as the opening ceremony is called It takes place between Aug. 5 and 15. Days before preparations are made for the festival. Tents with innumerable lamps are placed along the wall on the one side. Frames for all manner of fireworks are erected on the sand bank on the other side. All the notables are there in full uniform or in canonicals. The khalive himself or his representative, the Sheikh ul Islam, the highest dignitary of the Mohammedan faith; the Sheilh el Bekri, the Sheikh el Sadat, all the learned scribes of the great university of the Azhar, the cabinet ministers and under secretaries, the sirder of the army and his staff, the judges and the financiers.

the masses crowd round the frames for became great friends. the fireworks, the street is lined with harem carriages full of closely veiled versity, inished at the very head of his figures, though it is not much that they class and then took a postgraduate course can see from their broughams. Out in and received the degree M. A. He left the river just opposite the canal's mouth | the college pretty thoroughly conversant is moored an old hulk of a certain sea- with Latin, Greek, French, German, going ontline, which has been towed up | Spanish and Italian, and for some time from Bulak during the day and is an taught the languages in southern colemblem of the time when the great re- leges. His ambition, however, was to public of Venice sent an envoy to wit- do something worth doing in literature. ness the ceremony. This boat is full of lamps, and fireworks too. As the night deepens the excitement increases. The populace on the bridge and opposite bank are shouting, yelling and dancing

wildly round the fireworks.

On the other side are the gay uniforms and lighted tents, from which we can look over the wall down on the dark water, where you see brown figures plunging in and, waist deep, digging with their hoes at the embankment that blocks the canal's mouth. Long before midnight the fireworks have gone out and left the splendid stars to themselves: the grandees have all gone to bed, but the people keep up the revelry, and in the morning, by 7:30, every one has come back. Then but little of the bank is left uncut, and a few more strokes of the big hoes will do it, and the brown skins and brown water reflect the bright sunlight from above. Then the Sheik hu Islam solemnly thanks the Almighty, Allah the all powerful, the all merciful. He implores his blessing on the flood. and at a signal the bank is cut, the waters rush in, and with them a crowd of swimmers. A bag of silver plasters is scattered among them, and the ceremony is at an end .- Nature

# Brummel and Byron.

Byron, while walking along Piccadilly one bright summer morning, encountered Beau Brummel who was returning from his tailor's.

'How are you, Brummel?" said the "Pretty well, thank you," returned the beau. "I've been reading 'Don Juan.

"Yes?" said Byron, with a smile. "There is some clever rhyme in it." "So?" observed Byran, with affected

'And some pretty good versification.' "Ah?" returned the goet. "Why don't you try your hand at poetry, Byron?" asked Brummel

The two never spoke to each other

### again. Followed Orders.

"Confound it!" exclaimed Jackson. What a stupid fellow that jeweler is? "How so?" inquired his friend.

"Why, I told him the other day that wanted engraved on the engagement ring the letters 'from A. to Z. '-'from Arthur to Zenobia, ' you know-and the idiot went to work and put in the whole alphabet!"-Elmira Telegram.

### Concealment No Longer Necessary. Mrs. Oldun-Why, my dear, you look en years older since you were married. Mrs. Youngun-And I am. You know I have been only 22 for the past ten

rears. - Detroit Free Press.

who has long been in charge of the department of mining, metallurgy and mining machinery at Tokyo university. Japan, and

dents of Tokyo

have bestowed upon the famous seismie sharp. Professor John Milne, F. R. S.

EARTHQUAKE JOHNNY MILNE.

He Is an Expert on Seismie Shocks and

Has Married a Japanese.

Earthquake Johnny is the somewhat

JOHN MILNE.

who recently left there to take up his residence in ably knows more about earthquakes than any other man. The study of seismig ments and to inventing machinery for the measurement of carthquakes. His book on "Earthquakes" has had a large sale and is considered an authority on the subject. During his investigations in Japan he has had 900 observers scatsered about the kingdom and the gov-

ernment has aided him in various ways. When he went to the Land of the Rising Sun, Professor Milne was looked upon as a confirmed old bachelor, but a pretty Japanese girl won his heart, and they were married not long ago at the British legation in Tokyo. Mrs. Milne is a charming young woman and holds a diploma for her skill in artistically combining and arranging flowers.

There is one building at Tokyo university that is expressly devoted to fine apparatus designed to record the motions of earthquakes, and there are experimental structures crected for the purpose of learning by actual experience what sort of a building will best withstand the seismic convulsions. At one time Professor Milne recommended that buildings in the earthquake centers of Japan be built upon cannon balls so arranged that they could move an inck or so, but the experiment was tried and proved a failure.

Professor Milne has invented a machize for indicating the slightest vibra-Each shock, he betion of the earth. lievs, is preceded by premonitory tremon which are registered by his machine, but these tremors have little valne ar indicating an approaching earthquake, for the reason that he cannot tell whether they presage a shock or are merely the effect of shocks in other parts of the world. He has learned that objects deeply and firmly imbedded in the ground withstand shocks better than those on the surface.

# A KENTUCKY ROMANCER

### James Lane Allen and His Notable Work In the Field of Fiction.

One of the shining literary lights of the new south is James Lane Allen, a young Kentuckian who rejoices in the possession of a very commendable literary past and gives promise of even a more commendable literary future. Allen is a blond young giant with a magnificent head and a strong, kindly face. He was born several years before the beginning of the civil war on a blue grass farm near Lexington, and not far remover from the spot where many generations of his family had lived size The Egyptian troops are turned out, the first unigration from Virginia One salutes are fred, and about 8 o'clock in of his arcestors, Colonel William Payse the warm summer night the classes all once strick George Washington during emble under the gayly lighted tents, a quarre, but the two men afterward

Allen was educated at Kentucky uni



and as college work grew more and more distasteful to him he turned to literature, making his field of fiction

his native state. The rewards of literature in a pecuniary sense are ver, small, especially to a beginner, and as he studied fiction be also studied laward was admitted to the bar. While in Omaha he wrote his first book, "Allen's Handbook of the Nebraska Code." In 1870 he began the practice of his profession in Chicago and soon attracted considerable attention because of his legal talent and cloquent public addresses on social, politi-

cal and educational topics. He loved law, however, less than he loved college work and steadily continuing his literary labors soon began to make a name for himself in literature. His short stories have been published in the leading magazines, and "The White Cowl," Sister Dolorosa and others have plainly demonstrated that he possesses rare talent for the production of fiction of a high class. of his best known boxks are "A Kentucky Cardinal" and 'Flute and Violin." As a public reader he has been very successful throughout the south-

The Illinois river was to termed from thee Illini, a tribe of ladians on its banks. Another derivation is suggested in Isle aux Noix, island of Nuts. Ser eral derivations more or less familial are suggested by the etymologists and geographers.

The frequency of storius in Nebraska is due to the fact that not only do many originate there, but the sterms of Da kota move southeast, and those of Kansas and Texas northeast, generally pass ing through Nebraska on their easterly

SOUTHS.