NOBLESSE OBLIGE. .

If I were you and had pink shells for ears, and eyes like violets dipped in dew; of having my love's love l'd have no fears. If I were you.

MI were you, with such flower like face, And all a flower's own grace to hold it too; Pu keep my heart as flower pure in its place, MI were you,

If I were you and looked to be a queen, I'd keep myself, as though I knew, That what's beneath should equal what is

If I were you, and God had made me fair. So fair that I seemed made to woo; I'd be as gracious as my graces were, If I were you.

If I were you but no, alas! I see-I could not love you as I do; Nor tell you all I'd strive to be, If I were you.

The Oldest Pamily.

in matter of antiquity Mohammed at yield precedence to the Chinese philer, Confucius, who died 479 years sfore the Christian era. There is no known race that can boast of an antiquity like his. On the occasion of the death of the Chinese statesman, known in Europe and America as the Marquis Tsang, we arned that his title of noblility was dese, not to any connection with Conone of the four chief disciples of the west teacher.

There are, however, very numerous living descendants of Confucius; and alagh he has been dead 2,370 years. China solely from their relationship to im. Moreover, when Confucius was bera, 550 B. C., his family was already among the most ancient of the empire, and had a recorded history of more than three centuries. Tradition goes still further back, extending the probable duration of the family to little less than 2,000 years.—Chicago Times.

Vespucius' Descendant.

It is rather remarkable that so many men identified with the early history of this continent should have living dedants. Many of us remember the lady who visited New York some years ago who claimed descent from Americus Vespucius, and had a conviction on her mind that the Congress of the United States ought to bestow some kind of pecuniary recognition on the name. ngress was not in a pensioning frame mind and she returned home no richer than she came.

Her visit, however, led to a close investigation of the career of her ancestor, which resulted in the discovery thatthe word America originated in a name given by the natives to a portion of the coast which he visited. Nevertheless the lady is believed to have been lineally escended from Americus Vespucius, or rather the person whose name was Latmed into that form.—Chicago Times.

The Page of the Czar.

Little Kapioff had made a bet with his fellow pages that he would pull the Emperor Paul's pigtail (which was held in respect by the highest persons in the realm) like an ordinary bell rope at the ment court banquet. Accordingly, when rounded by the members of the imperial family and the dignitaries of state, Kapoff took hold of the queue and gave it a jurk as if he were pulling a bell. The emperor uttered a cry of pain and turned sund in a desperate rage. Everybody rembled; only the little page stood there "Who did that?" inquired his majesty

in a passionate tone.
"I did," said the youth; "that queue always awry: I put it straight down the middle.'

Why, you scamp, couldn't you do it without pulling so hard?" and there the matter ended.—Le Petit Moniteur.

How Flies Multiply.

From where do all the flies come? The question is often asked, and seldom resives so satisfactory an answer as has been given by a contemporary. The mmon fly lays more than a hundred eggs, and the time from egg laying to maturity is about two weeks. Most of us have studied geometrical progression. Here we see it illustrated. Suppose one by commences "to multiply and renish the earth" about June 1. June 15, if they all lived, would give 150. Sup-July 1 would give us, supposing no cruel e seventy-five of these are females wasp or other untoward circumstance to interfere, 11,250. Suppose 5,625 of these are females, we might have July 15. \$13,720 flies.—Rarebits.

A device is used by traveling men for the name strap on their valises. A card searing their name and address is slipped into the leather card pocket in the usual way, but now in addition a piece of mica is slipped in on top of the card, keeping it neat and clean, and at the same time permitting it being read by reason of its transparency.

A grim relic of the Maxwell murder, erved at the Four Courts in St. Louis, is the dilapidated trunk in which the rer stored the remains of his murdered friend Preller. The interior of the trunk is covered with bloodstains.

The first gun made for the Confederacy is now in the possession of Mrs. H. l. Miller, of Chattanooga, whose father made it at Holly Springs, Miss., in 1861. It originally had a rifled barrel, and is still in good condition.

The royal standard of Persia, it is said. is an apron. Stout old Gao, the Persian blacksmith, raised a revolt that proved cessful, and his leathern apron covwed with jewels is still borne at the van Persian armies.

The best talking parrot is the gray bird with scarlet tail that comes from the Congo. A few of these have a scarst as well as tail, and are known king birds. They are very rare.

A grain of fine sand would cover one midred of the minute scales of the hu-me skin, and yet each of these scales in

THE PAIRONS OF INDUSTRY

An Association Which Bas Much Influ-

ence in Politics and Business. A farmers' association which has grown to immense proportions in many of the western states is known as the Patrons of Industry. In Michigan, whereit was born, it has such a large membership that it absolutely controls the politics of the state, and at least 150,000 names appear upon its



lists. At a recent national convention there were delegates from twelve states who represented a membership of nearly 400,000. The association was started three years ago, and has for its aim the relief of the farmers. At the stores belonging to the Patrons all goods are sold at a profit of only 10 per cent. Its constitution and by laws are secret, and its lodge business is also kept dark.

The chief man in the order is U. R. Lake. He was born in 1836, at a little town called Phillips, Franklin county, Me. In the winter of 1842 he went to the wilderness of Aroostook county and allowed his parents to go with him. Later he moved to New York state, and there earned his first wages, which were forty eight dollars for seven months' work. He continued to labor at this rate for five years, attending school whenever there was nothing else to do. Then he decided there was more money in teaching, and he signed as the instructor in a little district at a salary of seventeen dollars a month. He kept this up for about five years, and then with what he had saved and a very large amount of mortgage he bought a \$7,000 farm. This he sold in 1867. He next moved to Rose, Oakland county, Mich., and there bought a 180 acre farm. This is where he now lives. He was one of the original founders of the order and helped frame the constitution.

The supreme vice president is F. M. Ames, who tills the soil at Brooklyn, Wis. He is not handsome, but he has a head full of brains. He is posted upon polit-ical affairs, and knows all about the farmers' burdens and taxes. He was born at Oregon, Wis., fifty-four years ago, and he knocked clods into fallow soil until he was twenty-eight years old, earning a few dollars as a country pedagogue when the summer crops were light. He married Alice Main when he was twenty-nine, and the couple bought a 250 acre farm, where they now live. They went into debt for it, and the supreme vice officer says he knows



all the ins and outs of hard times. But the mortgage is now paid, and seven children have been raised and educated. He has a big heart for the men of his class, and is willing to spend the rest of his life in work ing for what he thinks will help their con-

A Moslem Weds an "Intidel."

What a mellowing influence time has on prejudices and creeds! In the days of Mo hammed one of his followers would have thought as soon of eating pork as of wedding with an "infidel," according to Christian rites, but the flerce fanaticism of that era of conquests is gone. Recently a barrister at London, who is a Turk and a Molem, married an Englishwoman. A Protestant ceremony was first performed at a South London church, and the happy pair then traveled at once to Liverpool to be spondent all the blessings of the season, united by the moulvie, or vice president of and," if he is on the road to honor, "all the Moslem congregation. The ceremony was very simple. The couple stood upon a carpet facing Mecca, while the bride re-peated after the moulvie the terms of the marriage contract: "I stand here in the presence of God and all who are assembled to unite my heart to your heart and my destiny to your destiny, and to be called by your name. Your sorrow shall be my sor row, your happiness shall be my happiness." The bridegroom made similar promises, after which the moulvie preached a sermon bidding the wedded couple copy Adam and Eve, Mohammed and Khadija, Fatima and Ali, and the putting on of the ring concluded the service, which was partly conducted in Arabic.

An Editor's Startling Headlines. his American confrere so much affects. But occasionally he crawls out of the rut of the commonplace, as witness a story re-cently told at the Sheffield Press club by Sir Algernou Börthwick, proprietor of the London Morning Post. Sir Algernon has a fine place in Aberdeenshire—Invercauld House, which is close to the Prince of Wales' Highland home. Seven days' fish ing with his son, Mr. Oliver Borthwick. ilted in the big kill of fifty-five salmon. The information was sent to his paper, and a "live" sub-editor, in acknowledging the receipt of the news, wired to Sir Algernon that it was proposed to head it, "Miracu lons Draught of Fishes! Peter's Record

A Pension for Nasby's Mother. For years David R. Locke (Petroleum V. Nasby) was one of the foremost men who wrote humorous articles from a political Yet he left but a small estate when he died, and his aged mother has just been saved from absolute destitution by receipt of a pension granted because her bushend was a soldier in the war of 1812.

CHINESE URBANITY.

CIRCUMLOCUTION THEY DISPLAY IN LETTER WRITING.

The Educated Chinaman Can Give the American Points on Politeness and Refinements in the Conduct of Epistolary

most of us to have met people who. without the excuse of an unconscious habit, have the knack of asserting unpleasant truths, and who value the ungracions practice as a sign of honesty. There are others, such as the Quakers of bygone days, who regard every expression which may not be in strict accordance with absolute truth as a sin against their consciences. To such people the ides of subscribing themselves "Yours truly," or of beginning a letter to a casual acquaintance, "Dear So and So," is abhorrent. But public opinion has been too strong for them, and we continue, and shall continue so long as society holds together, to address one another in terms of endearment and respect which are not required to correspond with our sentiments.

Orientals have surpassed us in this regard as much as the brilliant sunshine to which they are accustomed excels the murky atmosphere of Europe. The descriptions of ourselves and of our correspondents pale before the glowing expressions of objective admiration and subjective self abasement which adorn eastern epistles. We are content to confine our wishes and compliments to the present life; but such a limit is far too narrow for an Asiatic, who delights in wishing that his friends may live forever and ever, and that the ancestors of his enemies may be condemned to everlasting disgrace.

We are satisfied to speak of "I" and "You," but an oriental loves to heap adjectives of contempt upon himself and of glorification upon his correspondents. ELEVATING AND DEMEANING SIMILES.

In all cases he avoids the use of the personal pronouns. By a system of circumlocution necessitated by this omis-sion, he describes himself as "Your younger brother," the character representing his expression being written small, and partly at the side of the columns of words, and he designates himself and others conjointly as "We ants." But the person he is addressing figures as "Your excellency," "My benevolent elder brother," or "Your bonor." literally, "You who are at the steps of the council chamber." His own house is "a mean dwelling," or, as the parts of the character signify, "a stricken and broken dwelling;" but he is unable to think of his correspondent's habitation as anything but "an honorable," literally "basket-of-pearls palace." In the same spirit of self abasement he feels obliged to wind up his epistle with the phrase. "Your stupid younger brother, So-and-So, bows his head to the ground." The character for "stupid" is drawn for us by two hieroglyphics, meaning "mon-key hearted." To bow to his friends is also pictorially expressed by a colloca-tion of "a head" and "turf," suggesting

the act of bowing the head to the earth. If his correspondent proposes to call upon him he hastens to assure him that 'at the appointed hour, with bowing hands, he will await the time when his excellency shall abase himself by driving his chariot to his office." His friend's etter is "the revelation of his hand," and he takes pains to make him aware that holding it "with washed hands he

had chanted" its contents. On expressions of thanks emphasis is laid by the Chinese, and with true Oriental instinct, in their effort after hyperbole, they are accustomed to give a physical interpretation to their mental feelings

POWERFUL HYPERBOLE.

For instance, a correspondent who wishes to say that he is profoundly grateful, writes, "Your kindness is very deeply engraved and enveined in my heart." he hears of the illness of a friend "he cannot help being hung up in suspense," and the symbol he uses shows to the eves the heart of the writer tied up, while at the same time he urges him "to take care of his person as a pearl." And on the receipt of better news he breaks out, "How shall I bear the joy and pleasure!" Having finished expressing the object of his letter, he winds up by "availing him-self of the opportunity to wish his corre-

the promotion he deserves." But, if not ferocious, a sufficient latitude still remains to a Chinaman for the development of much plain speaking. It is as possible to "slit the thin spun life" with a stiletto as with a broadsword, and in the most finished periods a Chinaman finds himself quite able to express either withering contempt or remorseless hate. But he has other ways also of giving vent to his ill humors. The very punctilious rules of letter writing enable him to convey his dislike by omission as well'

as by commission. Chinese is, it may be explained, written in vertical columns, beginning on the top right hand corner of the page. The English editor is rarely given to the In ordinary circumstances each column ensational "heading up" of news which is completed to the bottom of the page; but long usage has established the custom that, if the name or attributes of the person addressed occurs, the column is cut short, and the characters representing these subjects of honor begin the next column at an elevation of the space of one or two characters, as the case may be, above the general level of the text. It will now be seen what a ready weapon lies to the hand of a Chinese letter writer. To write "Your Excellency" or the name of the correspondent's country or sover-eign in the body of the column is to inflict a dire insult upon him, and is equiva-lent to the expression of the bitterest contempt in European epistolary style.— London Saturday Review.

> He Is Dead. Mrs. Scriblets-I see that the Aristotle manuscript has been published.
>
> Mr. Scriblets—I fear that the payment for it will be too late to do Mr. Aristotle any good.—Puck.

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