### CURIOUS WORSHIP.

### The Custom of Throwing Prayers a an Idol In Japan.

Along the sacred road of Nikko, in Japan, is an idol about which centers one of the most curious worships in the world. Upon Se surface of the statue are seen little pieces of what worshiper to come along, you will see scribbles a prayer on a bit of the paper. The wad he then chews up into a ball and hurls at the god. If it hits the face and sticks, the prayer is sure to be granted, and the pious pilgrim goes away happy. If the ball sticks to some portion of the body, the it falls to the ground there is absolute

ly no hope. Such a mode of prayer is even more curious than the praying wheels of the Buildhists, who set the wheel revolving and reel off prayers by machinery. As John L. Stoddard, the lecturer, said: "One sees, of course, numberless strange rites connected with religion in traveling about the world, but Japan is the only land I have ever visited where deities serve as targets for masticated prayers!"

### THE BAD RUPEE.

#### Bahram Got Rid of It, but Not th Way He Intended

"There lived in Rampur, India, vender of sweetmeats named Bahram. to see a friend at the bazaar, and he 'Be careful, mind you, about the change,' he said to her. But neverthe less when he returned home he found that she had taken in a bad rupee for rage and sorrow. In the morning rid of the bad rupee, he set out through the town. Soon he met a boy.

"'Boy,' he said, 'do you know sweetmeat shop of Ali?' (Ali was a rival vender.) 'Well, take this rupee, go to Ali's shop and spend a pice for sweetmeats there. The sweetmeats you may keep; I want the change.'

"The boy departed merrily and in a little while returned with his mouth

'So you got the change without trouble, eh? said the man as he counted it 'And did Ali make no examination of the rupee?

"'Oh,' said the boy, 'I didn't go as

## WHY WE TREMBLE.

## The Nerve Actions Superinduced by

Cold, by stimulating the sensory nerve endings in the skin, produces a corresponding irritation in the brain motor centers and by contracting the blood vessels in the skin produces a temporary excess of blood in the brain.

Of trembling from fear or anger Dar win gives this explanation: "Men during long generations have endeavored to escape from their enemies by flight or violent struggling. These cause breathlessness and trembling of the muscles. Whenever fear is felt the same results tend to appear through the force of inheritance and association Just as furious rage leads persons to make violent attacks on the object of their resentment, so in milder cases, though no such attack may be made the beginning of violent exertion namely, trembling of the muscles tends to show itself. But the chief cause of trembling from fear or anger is, according to the same authority the interruption or disturbance of the transmission of nerve force from the cerebro spinal system, due to mental agitation. Why or how these emotions affect the cerebro spinal system through the mind in this way is not

# A Delicate Refusal.

Levassor, the well known French comic singer, once took part in a char ity concert in Paris and after the performance was invited by the promoter: to supper along with the rest of the performers. When all were seated at table Levassor found under his napkin an Easter egg out of which five pieces of gold dropped on its being broken.

'Ah, I perceive you have got to know that I am fond of boiled eggs, the comedian gayly remarked to his entertainer, "but you are probably not aware that I only eat the white and must therefore ask you to give the yolk to the poor."

Barbarous Treatment of Ibo Women thing accursed, and the children ar taken from her and thrown into the bush to perish, while she is proclaimed an outcast and driven from the village. To hold up two fingers to an insult possible. They are very superstitious. They worship idols of wood.

#### Greatness and Smartness. "Which would you rather be-truly

great or really smart?"

"Smart, of course."

Well, you may be truly great and no one ever know it, but if you're smart you can make people think that you're great."-Chicago Post.

Miss Cutting - That dog of yours Softleigh-Yaws, indeed! I-aw-could Cutting-No, of course not.-New York-

of others, but a good life enables us to that cloud of morning gleses preach despise them.-Cate

In the last few months I have had ccasion to pass a beautiful residence day after day. People resided there, but there never seemed to be a sign of appears to be dried paper. If you stand life about the place. The window curby the idol for awhile and wait for a tains were always drawn down as if to obscure every ray of light for fear of otee halts in front of the image, then felt almost sure must occupy a prominent place in this mansion. The grounds about the place were kept up, the lawns velvety and green, yet you circled feebly from the chimney and omen is not quite so propitious, and if floated rapidly into space as if it was secrets by announcing to the outside world that the house was inhabited. One day there was a change, and it up as far as they would go, the winhold. The next thing I noticed was ers disappeared on moonlight evenings. that little window gardens had been made in front of the two big bay windows fronting the house where they would get the first warm rays of the morning sun. I watched them closely, thinking I could judge something of the character and, possibly, the nationality of the people from the flowers that were planted. I soon discovered whose wife had weak eyes," said the they were bulbs that had been buried story teller. "One day this man went in the rich brown loam. Days passed and up came the tender green leaves. day. Then came the buds. I missed

left his stall in the woman's charge. It seemed as if they grew inches every passing the house for several days and the next time I had occasion to go by piece. He could hardly sleep that night I found the window gardens had brought the owner a wealth of nahe arose early, and, determined to get ture's treasures. One window was filled with beautiful fragrant white hyaeinths, pure and spotless as a snowflake and the other was filled with quaint, old-fashioned yellow and red tulips. "The second window is in memory of the fatherland," thought Polly, and I smiled as I thought of the happiness the gaudy, lovely little tulips must have brought to the heart of som one hungry for a glimpse of the old home across the waters. It seemed to me the tulips had interpreted for me and proved conclusively the nationality of the dwellers in this beautiful home far as Ali's. I got the sweetmeats at I was right. The national hymn, "The Bahram's shop."—London Modern So-Watch on the Rhine," was as dear to them as "America" and "Columbia" are to us.

The flowers in both window gardens were in their perfection when one morning as I passed I discovered that every white hyacinth had been picked. glanced quickly at the window of tulips, but none were missing. One window was open and the lace curtains This interferes with the steady flow of floated in and out with the breeze; the nerve force to the muscles, so that the other curtains were drawn and the spasmodic action of these nerve cur- usually cheerful home looked thorrents produces the trembling due to oughly dreary. I felt depressed as I thought of the trouble that might have come to the inmates, and yet it might have been a wedding instead of a funeral that the lovely hyacinths had been gathered for. But when I passed again dainty streamers of white illusion and ribbon floated from the door and tied lovingly in the fleecy meshes was a bunch of the white hyacinths. Then I knew that a little child had grown tired and weary and had laid down to sleep only to awaken in the beautiful garden of sleep. I thought of the silence in that great house when the patter of the little feet would never be heard and the happy childish voice would never make music as she ran to open the door and greet the strong man she called "my fadder" as she sprang into his arms on his return home at evening. The curtains are drawn all over the house again, one by one the tulips have had their little day; the withered and the flower is dead until another spring rolls round and the tulips shall be resurrected. On one of the great ocean steamers that is breasting the billows like some graceful bird, is the casket containing the little child that is being taken back by the heartbroken parents to rest with other loved ones in the fatherland.

Did you ever realize the good a flower garden could do in this world? You might not be fortunate enough to have one of your own, but possibly your neighbor has, and haven't you caught yourself watching with intense interest The Ibos have a barbarous custom of the little seed your neighbor had plantdestroying twins. A woman who gives ed as they pushed their way through birth to twins is regarded as somethe brown mold like magic; and haven't not you stopped to inhaie the fragrance of roses, violets, mignonette, carnations, etc., and at the same time feasted your eyes on patches of exquisite little Ibo woman is to offer her the greatest forget-me-nots as blue as the dome of heaven? Haven't you fairly reveled in your neighbor's fernery and forgotmud and iron, which are regarded as ten the trials and cares of the day for protectors to be propitiated at various the moment as the lacy, fragile fiveperiods, and slavery exists among all fingered ferns, maidenhair, the goldenbacks and various other members of this delightful family in plant life, nodded in the breeze from their own mossy corner to you? Haven't you watched the little winged beauties, the sweet peas, as they clambored over un- the servants' golden cross for having sighly places covering them with a lived forty years with one family. Only mantle of charity that shut out the one was found in Berlin. coarse and uninviting sight? Haven't you seen morning-glories in your neighbor's yard covering an entire porch or an ugly old fence, and hundreds of able to walk if their diseases were seems to be remarkably intelligent. flowers from royal purple to exquisite treated in time. pink, blue and white turning all their not begin to tell you all he knows. Miss little trumpets to the sun and drinking in the rays, reveling in the wealth of golden light for a few hours and falling hew blocks with a razor. We cannot control the evil tongues asleep with the setting sun? Didn't

you not to be content to remain down in the shadow, but you must reach out and grasp everything that would lielp you to climb higher and higher? Oh, there is a world of ermons in all the swaying bells of your neighbor's morning glories.

Ichave a world of respect for the man who planted a hedge of heliotrope, roses and ivy geranium all around his beautiful home in San Diego so as to furnish flowers for those who were not fortus nate enough to have gardens of their own. On a placard was printed, "Help what these bits of paper are. The dev- fading carpets and tapestries that you yourselves to flowers, but please do not break the branches or pull up the plants." As a result the hedge was never spoiled by passers-by who hastily jerked off a handful of blossoms, taking never saw the gardener at work. Oc- large branches with them which were casionally a little pearly plume of smoke discarded and thrown into the street as they glanced quickly around to see if their act of pilfering another's flower afraid it would be giving away family garden was observed. This man's generosity was in striking contrast to the had a huge placard posted conspicuwas for the better. The curtains were ously warning people not to trespass on penalty of arrest. His hedge was not dows were open as if to let in all the exempt from pilferers in spite of the pure wholesome air the place would warning, and many an armful of flow-

# BRIEF REVIEW.

## Authorship in America.

We should like to call the attention of home-market clubs and infant-industry nurseries to the condition of the authorship business in the United States, says Leslie's Monthly. During 1902 the total production of this hustoutput seems small enough in compariother commodities, but so long as it is Telegraph. large enough to keep our evenings and holidays busy we have no general right to complain. The trouble comes when we analyze the figures. During 1902 the United States published but 7833 volumes, barely worsting England, which follows us with a total of 7700, and losing to Germany's 26,900 to the ladies'-literary leagues and home cul-Where is Kentucky now, and where is 8049 newspapers and periodicals. The United States 21,000.

## Islands and Vegetation.

Nature in her slow leisurely way is acquire their vegetation. Just twenty years ago the most stupendous volcanic eruption of modern times destroyed all life, animal and vegetable, in the island of Krakatoa. Three years later Dr. Treub visited the place and found some lowly microscopic algae settling on the pumice and lava. These, it seems, acted as a decomposing agency, and prepared the way for ferns, which soon began to appear. Then followed a few flowering plants, probably from drift seeds. Five years ago there had settled sixty-two species of vascular plants, fifty of these being flowering species and representing twenty-one natural orders. All these, Botting Hemsley of the Kew Gardens, London, thinks, reached the island independently of man. He computes that about 8 per cent were carried by birds, 32 per cent borne by the wind, and over 60 per cent cast up by the sea waves. In time, without man's aid the island, twenty miles from its nearest neighbor, will be again covered with vegetation.

Hangman's Town. Since Joseph F. Heine has been clerk and chief deputy in the office of the Sheriff of Baltimore city he has learned that there are persons who believe that petals have fallen, the leaves have the black gown used to enshroud malefactors when hanged is efficacious for the cure of diseases when doctors and medicine fail. Heine gained the knowledge in question when several men called on him and asked for one of the black gowns that have been used in hangings. The men told Heine they belonged to a fraternal order and that they wanted the gown to put on one of the members who was dving. They said they had been told that such a garment would cure their friend. Heine gave the men one of the grewsome gowns in the Sheriff's office. He has not heard from his visitors since and does not know the result of the treatment.

# His Drink Recipe

A Dodge City, Kas., bootlegger admits that he made most of the stuff he sold as whiskey. His formula, was: One gallon of alcohol, two gallons of vater, one pound of prunes, half pound of tobacco and one ounce of glycerine. Boil the prunes and squeeze the juice out, and the same with the tobacco and thoroughly mix. "This," he says, proudly, "makes a fine drink, and is warranted to do its work." He used to keep it in kerosene cans to avoid sus-

There were 144 German domestic servants last year who were awarded

A noted doctor states that 85 per cent of erippled children could be at least

To endeaver to work upon the vulgar with fine sense & like attempting to

08

A man who shows no defects is & fool

THE AMERICAN HUSBAND.

Study of Itis Traits From an Eng lish Point of View.

An American young man does not as

a rule look forward to marriage nor prepare for itoby saving any consider able portion of his antenuptial income. When he marries it is usually on short notice and because he has fallen very desperately in love with some one and in the ungodly sport of prize fighting to cold caution declares the venture ad- was stationed in the Cleveland bar visable. Even when an engagement is a long one he usually squanders so acquired its present standing. Money much on gifts and entertainments for his flancee that there is only a very moderate amount to begin housekeeping on. Thus before his marriage the young American of the middle class begins to give evidence of what is to almost improvident generosity.

The middle class husband in America rarely interferes with the affairs of the ousehold. He hardly knows the cost of staple articles of food. As a rule he man who lived in the same block, and does not make his wife a regular allowance either for household or personal expenses, but gives her as much as he can spare, freely, but with a lack of system that is not conducive to the best outlay of their income.

The young American husband is also very indulgent to his wife's fondness for fine clothes. He would far rather have an extravagant wife than a dowdy one, and, although he grumbles occasionally at a millinery bill, in reality he glories in the resplendent appearance of his wife in her fine feathers. The American husband is rare who does not concede his wife's right to expend a much larger sum with her dressmaker than he does with his tailor. Indeed he often leaves his tailor altogether and cheerfully repairs ling world was 200,000 volumes. The to the ready made clothing house in order that his wife may have more son with the world's annual stock of money for extravagant finery.-London

## CANINE MEMORY.

#### The Story of a Pet Bull Terrier That Did Not Forget.

A gentleman who is a great traveler and who is always accompanied in his wanderings by a bull terrier, to which he is much attached, arrived one day tune of 1 to 3. What becomes of our in the city of Florence. His dog was for some reason intrusted to the care ture clubs in the face of hard figures? of the porter at the station, and in the excitement of the crowd and under the unusual experience of being separated Indiana? Shall three Americans go from his master, who generally kept down before one German? Shall each the animal with him, Bruno was million Germans have 354 books each | moved to make his escape. The most year while a million Americans are con- careful search was made, and before tent with eighty-one? Reverse the going to his hotel the traveler went to shield. Last year Germany published the police station to notify the gendarmes of his loss. It was more than an hour before he reached his hotel. When he got there he spoke of his loss, so that if anything was heard of the dog it would be understood that the animal belonged to him. To his astonishment making a highly instructive experi- the porter said: "But your dog is here, ment for us to show how islands may sir. He came before you, and we did not know to whom he belonged." "The dog is here!" repeated the gentleman in surprise. "How came he here?" "He ran in, sir, about half an hour ago and, after snuffing about the office for awhile, he ran upstairs. I gave orders to have him driven out, but the boys have been busy, and he is up there somewhere now." The traveler, of course, went upstairs at once, and numbered 44 lay Bruno, who sprang up with the most frantic demonstrations of delight at finding his master again. The gentleman remembered that two years previous he had been with the dog at Florence and had stayed at this hotel. He did not remember that he had occupied this particular

# ROCK FORMATION.

room, but on reference to the hotel reg-

ister such was found to be the fact

In One Sense Stones Do Grow, and In Another They Do Not. Rocks do not grow in the sense that plants do. They may increase in size by means of accretion, and they may

also undergo other changes. Old sea beds, lifted up and exposed for ages, become stratified beds of sandstone o limestone; volcanic ashes and lava strewn over hills and plains become tufa, hard enough for building stone and the pebbly shores of rivers and smaller streams may sometimes change into conglomerates. The simple mineral, however, does grow, especially when it takes upon itself the form of a crystal. A sparkling prism of quartz increases from an atom monster crystals of varying length and size by what geologists know as a process of addition and assimilation. This process is wonderfully slow, but with a mathematical exactness that is a surprise to persons even "well up" in the science of geology. In one sense stones grow; in another they do not The crystal may become longer and larger, but the bowlder on the roadside will not increase a hairbreadth in length or width in the next 10,000

# Most Horrible of All Dreams.

No words are strong enough to point out the danger of slow poisoning by drugs which are often taken to procure sleep, whether it be an alcoholic night cap, morphine, opium, chloral or any other. The medical man has recourse with reluctance to these as a last and temporary resort, and only he can tell how many lives are wrecked by the ill timed use of them and their subsequent abuse. Of all horrible dreams none is so awful as those which assail people who habitually use these false comforters. Better than all the drugs in the world for procuring sleep are simple food, a regular life and a calm mind.-Cassell's.

#### What She Lacked. A superintendent of a Sunday school

relates the following true incident: The title of the lesson was "The rich roung man" and the golden text "One thing thou lackest." A lady teacher in the primary class asked a little tot to repeat the two, end, looking earnestly in the teacher's face, the child unblushingly told her, "One thing thou lackest-a rich young man."

"Forget yourself and be a gentle man," may not been now phrase, but it is a good one to easte in somebody's own.-New York hat-maybe your you a little sermon? Didn't they tell or a hyp. cote who we should do trust | Press.

## NEW SHORT STORIES

Hanna and the Husky Solicitor. Adjutant William A. Turner, the Sal vation Army's commander in Binghamton, N. Y., tells how Senator Han na came to be one of the organization's

best friends. Soon after he ceased laboring as an ironworker and gave up his inclinations cannot find it in his heart to wait until become a religious worker Mr. Turner racks. The army at that time had not was scarce and contributions far between. For several days Turner made at-

tempts to see Mr. Hanna to solicit a contribution. Each time he was informed by the bookkeeper in the outer be his chief national characteristic as office that the great business man could husband-his unfailing, unselfish and not be seen. Assuring himself that Mr. Hanna was in his office one day, the adjutant paid no heed to the stereotyped refusal, but continued on his way toward the door of the private office. The bookkeeper started to interpose, but the adjutant seized him by the collar, threw him out of the way and entered.

Mr. Hanna was provoked at first. but when he saw his discomfited bookkeeper and looked upon the husky Salvationist he saw that the only way to get rid of the visitor was to listen After the adjutant had explained the work of the army the future senator called his cashier and said:

"Give this man \$10. Don't let him bother me again, but whenever he calls always give him \$10."

#### A True Criticism. George Dalton Morgan, who recently brought from the orient a Japanese bride, tells this story about the Japa-

nese sea fighter, Admiral Uriu: "In Tokyo Admiral Uriu is regarded as a kind of Haroun al Raschid, They declare there that he investigates per sonally-sometimes even in disguiseevery detail of the workings of the Japanese navy. Hence many odd ad ventures befall him.

"Once Admiral Uriu got wind of ce tain complaints that had been mad-



"THIS IS NOTHING BUT DIRTY WATER." boat in his squadron. He shot from his flagship in a launch one day at mealtime and boarded this torpedo boat just as the sailors came from the kitchen carrying a huge and steaming caldron.

"'Halt,' the admiral shouted, 'Set that caldron down.' "The sailors, with wondering looks

obeyed. "'Now,' he said, 'bring me a spoon, "An officer hurried forward.

"'Rut, admiral'— he began, "'Never mind, sir. There's a complaint from this boat, and I'm going to settle it now,' said Admiral Uriu. "He lifted the lid from the caldron

ladled up a spoonful of its contents, and after blowing on the liquid he swallowed it. Then he made a wry "'You call this soup?' he exclaimed

'Why, it is nothing but dirty water.' 'Yes, sir,' said one of the sailors; 'we have just been scrubbing the galley floors."

A Spreckels Story. John D. Spreckels, son of Claus Spreckels, is the proprietor of a San Francisco newspaper, says the Cincinnati Times-Star. To an editor one day Mr. Spreckels was talking about per sistence, and in the course of his re

"My father is a great believer in persistence—in patience. Once, when I was a boy, I abandoned in despair some childish task that I had under taken, and my father reproved me.

"'Persistence will do anything,' he said. There's nothing you can't ac complish with patience.' And then he smiled and added, 'You could even carry water in a sleve if you would have the patience to wait long enough.'

"'How long would I have to wait?

"Till it froze,' my father answer-

# Any Excuse

I said.

This story is told of Mr. A. J. Cas satt. It happened at one of the Farm ers' club dinners, at which a discussion as to the future of America arose. Everybody took a most optimistic view of the question. One of the guests. turning to Mr. Cassatt, exclaimed: "By Jove! How I would like to re

what a grand country the United States has become!" "I can really believe," replied Mr. Cassatt, "that you will be glad of any pretext to return."-Philadelphia Press

turn fifty years after my death and see

Worth the Money.

"Tommy," said the economical moth er to the boy with the loose tooth, "I'll give you 10 cents if you'll let me pull that tooth." The boy thought it over and then went to his bank. "The fur of doin' that is worth more'n 10 cents." he said. "I'll give you 15 if you'll let

me pull one of yours."-Chicago Post. Mice Share-I celebrate my twenty fourth birthday tomorrow. Miss Oldage-Inded! and-in'toit singular?so do I. Mise Chappe-Oh, but I cele

brate mine ful the first time.

## BAD MABITS.

#### The Wasen Who Bidn't Want Then In Hersalf or Others.

Mes. Jennings looked through her glasses at her sister, Miss Sprawie, with considerable severity. ways the last few years, or else I notice it more as I get further along," she said, "and lest I should get into me now and then, Mary.

Lucy White, that had better look to time the delegates came, or long windyou should tell me frankly.

"And that's not all," said Mrs. Jennings as Miss Sprawle opened her mouth to speak. "If you find me getting inquisitive like Helen Lane, that's day comes and what year I was born is losing its Gallic atmosphere.—New after my having to go to the town York Letter in Pittsburg Dispatch. records to find out her age, I want you to mention it freely, and I shall do the same by you.

"If folks don't help each other, what's the good of being set in fam flies? You've got a little habit of interrupting, Mary, that's growing on you, and I'm going to do what I can to help you break it up."-Youth's

# A TOUCH OF NATURE.

#### Pathetic Story of a Mother of Labrador Coast.

Writing of the people of the Labraman Duncan tells a pathetic story of

bor hospital: "'He've always been like that,' she said. 'He's wonderful sick. I've fetched un out here t' get the air. He doos better in the air, zur,' she added; 'much, much better.'

"'He'll be getting better,' said I Here in the hos'-

"I was glad that he was to die. It would be better for him and for her. She would forget his deformity; she would forever have the memory of him lying warm upon her breast, warm and lovely; for, in this, memory is kind to women. "'You have-another?"

"'No, zur; 'tis me first.' "The child stirred and complained She lifted him from her lap, rocked him, hushed him, drew him close rocking him all the time.

" 'And does he talk?' I asked "She looked up in a glow of pride and answered me, flushing gloriously, while she turned her shining eyes once more upon the gasping babe upon her breast:

"'He said "mamma," once!" "And so the Labrador 'livevere' in with the whole wide world."

### GOT AS GOOD AS HE GAVE. How Philanthropist Corcoran

The late W. W. Corcoran, the millionaire philanthropist of Washington, what a lot of pencil highwaymen there who gave to the city the magnificent art gallery which bears his name, was very fond of telling how he was once overmatched by a wealthy maiden lady from whom he desired to purchase

a piece of property. Mr. Corcoran was the owner of the the articles you buy is made of paper. Arlington hotel, at the corner of Vermont avenue and H street. Adjoining the hotel property on the H street side was a handsome brownstone mansion. owned by the maiden lady. The lot upon which the house was built extended back to I street, a distance of four hundred feet, and abutted on the

rear of the hotel property. Mr. Corcoran found it necessary to this end in view desired to purchase the rear end of the lot owned by the maiden lady. As she was very wealthy, he knew that a large price would not be any special inducement and for a time was at a loss to know exactly how to approach her. He final ly concluded to go straight to the point, and therefore addressed her the following note:

Dear Miss C.-How much will you take for your back yard? We wish to enlarge the Arlington hotel. Yours sincerely, W. W. CORCORAN.

Promptly came the reply: Dear Mr Corcoran-How much will yo take for the Arlington hotel? We wish to enlarge our back yard. Yours cordially,
A. C.

When Trees Go to Sleep Trees and plants have their regular times for going to sleep. They need to rest from the work of growing and to repair and oil the machinery of life. Some plants do all their sleeping in the winter while the ground is frozer and the limbs are bare of leaves. In tropical countries where the snow never falls and it is always growing weather the trees repose during the rainy season or during the periods of drought. They always choose the most unfavorable working time for doing their sleep, just as man chooses the night, when he cannot see to work.

# What "Charm" Really Means

The word "charm" is from the Latin "carmen." Originally it meant incantation. To charm a person is to be witch him. In "Julius Cæsar," act iii. scene 1, "I charm you," seems to mean "I adjure you." When we speak now of a charming woman we do not imply that she sings an incantation to us, but there is a pretty figure of speech in our use of the word. We mean that she has the same command over us as if the incantation were sung and we were bewitched.

#### Bending Matters. Mistress-Did any one call while

was out? New Girl-Yes, mum. Mrs. Wayupp called.

"Did she seem disappointed when rou said I was not at home?" "Well, she did look a little queer, bu wid her she medn't get mad about

'cause it was really true this time.' New York Weekly. Talismaa

# CHOICE MISCELLANY

### New York's Frenchmen.

Most of the Frenchmen who come New York are waiters and skilled "This artisans, like tapestry weavers. From neighborhood has got into strange that they range up to the lordly chef. with a salary bigger than a college president's. There are great numbers of French teachers and musicians, coif the same way I want you to remind feurs and modistes and a body of French importers, business and pro-"If you find me backbiting like that fessional men never thought of as hateful, stingy Annabel Powder or French, so much are they a part of the community. It would seem as if there her own saucy, bad mannered girl, and should be a French colony in New her boy, that's the poorest scholar in York, since French Huguenots were No. 1, or if you catch me growing among the earliest settlers of Manhatclose fisted like the minister's wife, tan, and the Church of the Holy Spirit, that has never returned the cupful of in East Twenty-seventh street, is the granulated sugar she borrowed that lineal descendant of the one built by the French newcomers in 1688. But ed like Jane Larkin, who interrupted there is really no French colony here. me in the very midst of my telling her although there are some 6,000 French about Sally's twins and went on about people mingled with the rest of the her spindling grandson for most fif- 4,000,000. South Washington square teen minutes without stopping, I want for many years had a French flavor, but that has mostly faded away, although the French Sisters still have a school in that neighborhood. More recently there was an east side French colony between Seventy-second and asked me three times when my birth- Eightleth streets, but even that region

### A "Holy Railroad" In Canada

In these days, when railways are run more for what there is in them for a favored few than for the accommodation of the general public, it may be interesting to recall the fact that there is right here in North America a "holy railroad." This is a little line twentyone miles long from Quebec to Ste. Anne de Beaupre. It is sacred because it claims to run "especially for the accommodation of pilgrims" and above all because at its opening a few years since it was formally blessed with all its belongings by Cardinal Taschereau. dor coast, in Harper's Magazine, Nor- Every Sunday the trains are crowded with devotees in search of the blessing a poor mother whom he met sitting of the good St. Anne, who is credited with her child outside the Battle Har- with the miraculous power of healing. and on July 26, St. Anne's day, the road cannot accommodate the enormous crowds which flock to her shrine Think of riding on a holy railroad! But those who have traveled on it know that they must not expect the comforts of paradise. It may be called "holy," but it seems to be run, none "'He'll die,' she interrupted quickly. the less, with an eye to dividends. The charges are high and the service poor

# Honorable, but Dishonest.

-Boston Transcript.

An uptown auctioneer whose patrons include many successful business men has introduced the system of having purchasers sign a card instead of paying the customary deposit when

they have bid in an article. At the beginning of each day's sale the auctioneer explains that he trusts to the honesty alone of purchasers, but that those who sign the card and afterward fail to redeem their promises will be sued. One of the auctioneer's attendants goes to the purchaser after each sale, hands the woman or man a lead pencil and a card to sign. The auctioneer was asked the other day if the new plan worked well. He re-

"Fine. Away ahead of the deposit plan. You see, we leave it entirely to their honor. But, say, there is one drawback. We have a dence of a time getting the pencils back. Surprising are in this world."-New York Press

# The Land of Paper.

The Japanese use paper at every moment. The string with which a deft handed "darling of the gods" does up The handkerchief (thrown away after use) is paper, the partitions dividing the houses are paper, and the pane through which an indiscreet eve looks at you is paper! The pane is certainly wanting in transparency, but there is a simple remedy, says Home Notes. One finger is passed through the paper that is all! Afterward a small piece is stuck on the opening with a grain enlarge the hotel property and with of rice. The men's hats, the cloak of the porter who carries his burden, singing a cadence, through the rain; the garment of the boatman who conducts you on board, the tobacco pouch, cigar case-all are paper! Those elegant flowers ornamenting the beautiful hair of the Japanese ladles and those robe collars which are taken for crape-paper!

# The Rat's Good Points

A successful rat show was recently held at Cheltenham, England. There were sixty exhibits of black, gold, gray, white, piebald and tan rats Some agricultural journals commenting on it maintain that the rat has an economic future and may become a table dainty in England, as it is in China. To many people the show is the first correction of the impression that rats are all alike, whereas the varieties of them, all more or less alike in characteristics, are quite numerous. The first display having been a marked success, others will no doubt follow and the rodent be studied with increasing attention, the prospect, however, of finding out anything good about him being not at all promising.

# A Large Cottonwood.

One of the largest cottonwood trees ever in Missouri grew on the farm of Anson Merrifield, near Hardin, Ray county. It was felled last fall and has been sawed into more than 5,000 feet of lumber. The first knot on the tree was sixty-five feet from the ground, and three logs more than twenty inches in diameter were sawed from its limbs. Mr. Merrifield sold his lumber for \$1.75 a hundred feet and got an average of 375 each for thirteen cottonwood trees, all of which stood on

# torty acres.-Kansas City Journal.

Suburbanite-You don't think they ever lived in the suburbs before? His Wife-Oh, no. When their cook threatened to leave they treated the matter as indifferently as though they could get another one without any trouble.-Exchange.

No matter how bright and sunshiny the day, it will appear dark and gloomy to the men who looks at everything "through blue glasses." - Maxwell's