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SONG.
I would that my love were a lily fair
And I would that I wore a sapphire bold,
Still to be dressing her every hair
All day long with my airy gold.
Or would that she were the dew that lies
In the rose and in the tree that grows,
To fold my red leaves over her eyes
And make my sweetness a part of hers.
Would I were a breeze that is where it will
And she a leaf in some lonely place,
How I would catch a hot wind to her till
She gathered me up in her green embrace.
Or would that she were a lily fair
And I within some lowly bed,
Where she were a lily fair would stray
And drape the turf above me spread.
Say, leave the sunbeam that has his
And leave the lily that has his,
And give me thy milk in just as she is.
To kiss and sing to, to keep and hold!
—New York Ledger.

SOMETHING ABOUT BEETLES
Their Strange Habits, Instincts and Means of Getting Food.
You are all familiar with the common black beetle known as the tumblebug, and perhaps you have seen it rolling a ball with its hind legs, pushing it backward. The ball contains the egg of the beetle, and the creature is taking it to a place of safety.
A green beetle spotted with white is called the tiger beetle. He is a clever fellow and very cunning in his manner of securing his prey. He will dig a hole a foot in depth and then crawl to the top and form himself into a bridge across the chasm, burying his head in such a manner as to appear like something inanimate, but he will be on the alert for the unwary creature that makes an attempt to cross on his back. In an instant the bridge will give way and the prey will be precipitated into the hole. The beetle will follow and quickly dispatch the game, when he will return, reform the bridge and slure another victim.
Old fashioned furniture is often completely ruined by the larvae of a beetle called the wood-borer. A peculiar sound like the ticking of a clock is made by these beetles when they call to each other, the noise being made by striking the jaws against their resting place, and often in old houses filled with old furniture the superstitious, when they hear this peculiar sound, imagine the place to be haunted.
Another beetle is found in dark cellars, where it thrives upon dust and trash. It is so difficult to exterminate it that it is looked upon as something uncanny, and the ignorant regard its presence as an ill omen.
The sacred beetle of Egypt is not unlike our own common beetle, and the female lays her egg in the same way, wrapped in a substance which is to protect it and furnish food. She rolls it up into a ball with her fore legs, sometimes carrying it a long distance upon her head; digs a hole in the earth, deposits her egg laden ball, covers it up, and leaves it to attain its perfect development.
The sexton beetle is a curious creature. He has a thick body and powerful limbs and a most acute sense of smell. No sooner does a small animal die than the sexton gathes about the body and begins to put earth upon it. In a few hours the dead animal has been covered and the beetle has laid their eggs in the carcass, which is to nourish the larva.
A remarkable creature is the bombardier beetle, and it is provided with a strange means of defense. It lives in a community under stones, and when disturbed discharges a fluid of a very penetrating odor, much like gas, which explodes as it comes in contact with the air and passes into vapor. Eighteen explosions can be made in succession by one bombardier, and while these are being thrown off like a volley of artillery the beetle effects its escape. The fluid is like nitric acid to the taste. It causes a sharp pain if placed upon the tongue and leaves a yellowish stain.—Our Animal Friends.

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WIVES OF GERMAN.
AN AMERICAN GIRL'S POSITION WHEN SHE MARRIES A BARON.
How She Has to Economize in the Use of Her Own Money—An Authority on the Subject Writes for the Benefit of Young Women in This Country.
Few questions have been put to me as a test to my foreign experience oftener than the familiar: "Ought American girls to marry German men? Are such unions happy? Do they turn out well? What class of men is it that step outside the beaten track of home matrimony to seek American wives and transplant them into the life of the fatherland?" writes Baroness von Wedel in Cosmopolitan.
In respect to the marriages of American girls with German men, they may be approved of safely in the cases of practical, worldly minded women and of very young or of very gentle tempered girls. Wives who possess little sentiment or only soft sentiments yield readily to their environment, the latter giving way unconsciously, and hence without pain, the former with foresight and with a purpose self enough, as we may suppose, to recompense them for their renunciations.
As for the class of willful, silly, pretentious women, they are happy nowhere. German society should not be called too harshly to account, therefore, if they are wretched in marrying into it. We must concede, if we are fair minded, that they would have been just as discontented in any other geographical position as in the fatherland.
The inquiry begins with our average girls. They represent American wives whose happiness is influenced by the specifically foreign traits in their husbands and their husbands' society and surroundings. However they may vary in character, they are alike in their Americanism, and it is republican principles which are opposed in them to the aristocratic education of the men of their choice.
It is a false prejudice to suppose that these or the titled gentlemen who take American wives are mere fortune hunters and degenerated specimens of nobility. They are often men, it is true, who could not marry women without dowries, for gentlemen on the continent, as it must be kept continually in mind, are excluded from the chances of making money.
Where cases of dissipation of the great fortunes of American wives occur and are duly reported, two or three things are sometimes overlooked. The first is that, if the cases were not rare, they would hardly be considered worth offering to the public as shocking facts. The second is that the fortune evidently was limited. The next may surprise us, for it is a truth that has not been realized by our home staying countrymen—mean the fact that foreigners lay the blame on the American wife. Why, the relatives ask, did she not bring more money into the connection?
What they mean, and what they feel justified by the usage of their class in meaning, is that young noblemen do nothing unusual in being extravagant. If the consort of such a man brings wealth enough for her to be luxurious, too, no objection to that is valid. But the head of the house is the member who is the representative of his rank, together with the munificence that is suitable to it, and where the mutual fortune is circumscribed it becomes the duty of the wife to retrench her outlays in order to allow him to continue representing their station without too much danger of bankrupting the family means. German wives economize the more in proportion as their husbands spend.
American town wives, on the contrary, have drawn the reputation upon themselves of being incapable of this sort of sacrifice.
I have learned to look for the real tragedies among foreign marriages in the silent cases. These women of character and ambition, united in a fervid temperament, keeping their post like soldiers, are admirable wives often of admirable men, yet they endure the constant realization of the chosen places of their thoughts being foreign to the ways and thoughts of their husband and the world about them. There are modern women of strong and distinct lives whose inner principles are supreme powers against the systems of living which their marriages unknowingly drew them into—exiles from the soil, and, above all, the soil of republicanism.
Both law and custom grant men authority over women. The bride passes from the parental control into the control of her husband, and, if she live to be a widow, into that of her son.
Our girls know theoretically before marriage that they must be subservient to their husbands as German wives and that the obstacles to happiness lie in the path of wifely independence. The gentle foothold of submission is free from hindrance.

A LAD WITHOUT GUILE.
How Grant Impressed the Contrabands at a West Point Cadet.
"He was a lad without guile," testifies General Longstreet. "I never heard him utter a profane or vulgar word. He was a boy of good native ability, although by no means a hard student. So perfect was his sense of honor that, in the numerous cadets which were often formed, his name was never mentioned, for he never did anything which could be subject for criticism or reproach. He soon became the most daring horseman in the academy." He had a way of solving problems out of the way by the application of good, hard sense, and Rufus Legals ends by saying: "When our school days were over, if the average opinion of the members of the class had been taken, every one would have said: 'There is Sam Grant. He is a splendid fellow, a good, honest man, against whom nothing can be said and from whom everything may be expected.'"
One of the keenest observers in his class, for a year his roommate, perceived more in him than his instructors. "He had the most scrupulous regard for truth. He never held his word light. He never said an untruthful word even in jest."
"He was a reflective mind and at times very reticent and somber. Something seemed working deep down in his thoughts—things he knew as little about as we. There would be days, even weeks, at a time when he would be silent and sullen—not morose. He was a cheerful man, and yet he had those moments when he seemed to feel some premonition of a great future—wondering what he was to do and what he was to become. He was moved by a very sincere motive to join the Dialectic society, which was the only literary society we had. I did not belong, but Grant joined while we were roommates, with the aim to improve in his manner of expressing himself."—McClure's.

Unauthentic Portraits of Franklin.
It seems the height of absurdity to look upon the so called "Gammer Portrait of Franklin at Twenty," belonging to Harvard University, as an authentic portrait. Where did Franklin, who was grubbing for fumes to carry him home at the time this picture is supposed to have been painted, get the money for the "purple and fine linen" in which he is arrayed, let alone to pay the artist for his work? Aside from Franklin's circumstances being against its authenticity, his "Autobiography" is silent upon so important a subject as this portrait, and its history is purely mythical.
Another picture that has no better claim to be considered a likeness of Benjamin Franklin hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and was painted by Stephen Elmer, an English still life painter. There is nothing to show that it was given the name of Franklin until 1824, when a plate engraved by Ryker and published in 1782, as "The Politician," was relettered and issued with the name of Franklin.
The last picture to be mentioned in this expurgated list is of the first importance as a work of art. It was painted by Thomas Gainsborough and is in the collection of the Marquis of Lansdowne, but it is clearly not Benjamin Franklin. It is, in my opinion, the portrait of Governor William Franklin.—Charles Leary Hart in McClure's Magazine.

The First Steam Power.
The power of steam was known to Hero of Alexandria, who exhibited what seems from the description to have been a small steam engine to Ptolemy Philadelphus and his court about 150 B. C. Hero describes a small boat, built by a "Syracusan" of Rome, which moved by means of a wheel, "driven by a pot of hot water." Watt's invention of a rotary steam engine was patented in 1769. The first railway locomotive was built by Trevithick in 1804. The first practical locomotive was perfected by Stephenson in 1825. As early as 1767 Denis Papin built a model of a steamboat, which was destroyed by a mob of boatmen. The first practical steamboat was built by William Symington in 1802. In 1805 Robert Fulton, in connection with Chancellor Livingston, built a steamboat which was tried on the Seine. In 1807 the Clermont began trips from New York to Albany.

Mysteries of Helium.
As further experiments are carried with the new gas called helium—which was recognized in the sun before it had been found on the earth—the more remarkable it appears. Many chemists believe it consists of two gases, yet they have not been able satisfactorily to divide it. Professor Ramsay, one of its discoverers, has failed in every attempt to make it enter into a chemical combination. Lord Rayleigh has found that it possesses by far the lowest refractivity ever observed in any gas, and surprise is expressed at the astonishing distances traversed by electric sparks in darting through helium.
Reparation.
John Butts, Sr.—I want to leave my property to my two sons—our teeth to my youngest son, John Butts, and nineteen tenths to my eldest son, Royal Chesterfield Chumney de Poyter Butts.
Family Lawyer—H'm! Do you think that's quite fair?
John Butts, Sr.—Yes I want to make some kind of reparation to Royal for allowing his mother to give him such a crack jaw name.—London Tit-Bits.

Did He Have a Favor?
Pedestrian (to footpad)—Money or my life, I'll live wondering how I was going to live through this week. Now I won't have to. Very kind of you. Shoot away.—Boston Transcript.
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