

THE BOWSER FAMILY.

Epistles which turned the "Old Man's" Wrath into Confusion. Some time since I referred to the fact that I had carefully preserved, arranged and filed all of Mr. Bowser's love letters, and I advised every bride to do the same thing. I now desire to reiterate that advice. I really don't know how I could get along with Mr. Bowser if I did not have this leverage on him. Like all other husbands he has his sudden fits and his hours of forgetfulness. He wanted a pair of pincers to use for something, and because they were not right at hand he made a gesture of despair and exclaimed: "O, of course, I must get used to it, I suppose. Such a housekeeper as you are Mrs. Bowser!" "Here they are. You left 'em on the lounge yourself last night."

base forgeries, of course, and you are holding them over me as a menace. Is that witty?" "Why, Mr. Bowser, do you deny your own hand-writing?" "I haven't seen the writing and don't want to. Don't threaten me, Mrs. Bowser. I can be coaxed, but not driven. Cases have been known where husbands walked out and never returned."

TOQUES AND TURBANS. The Various Styles in Which They Are Made by Fashionable Milliners. Toques, turbans and walking hats are made in various styles for young ladies to use for general wear, and are adopted for morning hats by those who are older. Paris milliners are sending over round toques in contrast to the long oval-crowned toques imported from Regent street, which English women of fashion adopted at first merely to wear with tailor gowns, but which they are now using with their handsomest costumes. The round French toques are made of velvet or of cloth in three soft puffs around the head, separated by folded bands of gros grain ribbon, and have a soft wrinkled crown which is covered and flattened on the right side by a very large rosette of the ribbon, with its longest loops coming forward almost to the front. This style is youthful, and is excellent for hats of a single color, the velvet and ribbon being all brown or all black or gray, as best suits the gowns of the wearer, a black rosette being now appropriate with dresses of any color. Other velvet toques have fur tips for their only trimming, as short tails of sable with a miniature sable head set in the front of the soft crown. Ribbon toques are also new, and are in the long English shape; two kinds of ribbon are used, velvet in one row draped along the brim, and ending in two rosettes in front, while the crown is covered with three lengthwise rows in loose folds of the new satin ribbon that has raised cords in it, or else gros grain ribbon, these forming standing loops in front between the velvet rosettes. Black velvet ribbon with a green ribbon crown makes a stylish toque, or cream velvet with fawn ribbon crown, brown with cardinal, or olive with red, matching the two colors that are combined in the costume. The handkerchief turban is a pretty caprice, with the crown draped with a square of black velvet on which white gros grain is set like a hem or binding half an inch or more in width. Rosette turbans have soft rosettes of doubled silk thickly gathered set in front of shirred velvet crowns. Other velvet turbans have a frill falling on the lower edge, with a gathered band, and above this a soft puffed crown. Embroidered cloth turbans may be merely scalloped on the edges, but many are covered with embroidery. There are also very rich embroidered cloth leaves and bands that are used to trim the sides of velvet and plain cloth turbans. Braiding and cording are also fashionable on these small hats. Long slender oxidized silver pins, daggers, and clasps are fashionable ornaments. Ribbon bows are very tightly strapped with long loops, and these rival rosettes in popularity.—Harper's Bazar.

Fish That Annoy the Diver. As to the fish the diver sees, they are legion. They swim all around him. Windows and grins horribly into his eye-voids and grin horribly into his snake-like eels glide over his feet and squirm round his legs, and crabs and lobsters claw at his clothing and make themselves familiar in a cordial manner that would make anyone except a stoical diver go out of the water. But it's the simple, every-day perch, the little fish that the boys catch at the wharves that bother the divers the most. They seem to think his fingers are bait, prepared by an overruling providence for their special appetite, and accordingly they nibble and gnaw the bare flesh with the same persistency that they employ in devouring angle-worms sent down on fish-hooks. You see, it's not fashionable among divers to wear gloves when diving in warm water. Gloves would greatly decrease the delicacy of touch with which the diver examines the slimy pile in search of worms.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Queer Analogies in Nature. The cocoon is, in many respects, like the human skull, although it closely resembles the skull of the monkey. A sponge may be so held as to remind one of the undressed face of the skeleton, and the meat of an English walnut is almost the exact representation of the brain. Plums and black cherries resemble the human eyes; almonds and some other nuts resemble the different varieties of the human nose, and an opened oyster and its shell are a perfect image of the human ear. The shape of almost any man's body may be found in the various kinds of mammoth pumpkins. The open hand may be discerned in the form assumed by scrub-willows and growing celery. The German turban and the egg-plant resemble the human heart. There are other striking resemblances between human organs and certain vegetable forms. The forms of many mechanical contrivances in common use may be traced back to the patterns furnished by nature. Thus, the hog suggested the plow; the butterfly, the ordinary hinge; the tooth-stool, the umbrella; the duck, the ship; the fungous growth on trees, the bracket. Any one desirous of proving the oneness of the earthly system will find the resemblances in nature a most amusing study.—Scientific American.

Political Prisoners. Under the recent British Crimes act, many Irishmen—notably a number of Irish members of Parliament—have been sentenced for political offenses, and committed to prison. Their treatment while in prison has been the subject of excited discussion in England. They have complained not only of unhealthy cells and bad food, but also of being forced to wear the clothing prescribed for ordinary criminals, and to mingle with those criminals in hours of recreation. Not long ago a prominent Nationalist, named John Mandville, who had been imprisoned, died a short time after his release, and the coroner's jury declared that he had died from the effects of ill-treatment by the prison authorities. Mr. Gladstone and his adherents declare that such treatment of men who have been found guilty, not of social crimes, but of inferior and purely political offenses, is not in accordance with the practice of civilized nations. The Liberal leader, on a recent occasion, went yet further than this, and asserted that not even the barbarous and cruel King "Bombas" of Mexico placed political criminals—at least, those convicted of a less offense than high treason—on a footing in prison with murderers and rapists. It is quite true that civilized nations in modern times have been in the habit of making a clear distinction between political and other captives; and even a London paper, friendly to the present Tory Cabinet, declares that, in the treatment of the imprisoned Irishmen, "England stands on a level, not with the advanced nations of the world, but with the most backward States."

After the civil war in this country, the Confederate statesmen who were captured—notably Jefferson Davis—were held in mild confinement, lodged and fed well, and kept entirely separate from the ordinary criminals. It is a fact, moreover, that, in their intercourse with each other, modern nations deal with the cases of political prisoners as if they stood on a different footing from felons. The extradition treaties provide for the return of fugitive forgers, thieves and murderers, from the land which they have escaped, to that in which they have committed their crimes. But this is rarely, perhaps never, done by treaty in the case of political refugees. Most countries give to the political offenders of other countries what is called "the right of asylum." If they once escape, they may live without fear of danger, in a land of their adoption. The instance of the late Marshal Bazaine, who has just died, affords a striking example of this. He was tried and convicted of high treason, he was at first sentenced to death. His sentence was then commuted to imprisonment for twenty years in the fortress of Sainte Marguerite, famous as the prison of the Marquis de Lafayette. In a short time, by the aid of a heroic wife, the Marshal succeeded in making his escape from the fortress, and repaired to Spain. There in Madrid he lived in perfect safety. The French Government did not demand that he should be given up. It sometimes happens that, out of friendship, a nation will give up to another a political refugee. But this rarely happens. Switzerland is to-day a secure place of refuge for Russian conspirators and officers against the Czar's crown; and England has for many years been the asylum of Italians, Russians, Poles and Frenchmen who have been guilty, at home, of political offenses. Notable instances of this were Mazzini, who plotted to overthrow the Austrian Government at Venice, and was received with open arms by many eminent Englishmen; and Victor Hugo, who lived in serene exile for many years on the Island of Guernsey. Ill-treatment of political prisoners is usually bad policy as well as contrary to modern usage, or, as the London paper already quoted says, "petty and degrading conditions of punishment will only help those to whom they are subjected to be elevated to the position of martyrs."—Youth's Companion.

HOTEL BLACK LISTS. A Tourist Keeps Track of Rooms Where Suicides Have Occurred. "Front, show this gentleman to room 406. Go with the young man, please." That is what the clerk in a popular downtown hotel said to a timid, pale-faced stranger who had applied for accommodations. "One minute, boy," ejaculated the guest. "I wish to understand matters fully," and he hauled from an inner pocket a long, black book which he opened with great precision. After scanning a few of its leaves, he said: "No, sir; not me. You can't get me into that room. I'm paying for the privilege, Mr. Clerk. What's the matter?" Well, that room is marked, put on this black-list, now. See? What does it mean?" "I'll tell you in a very few words. I may not be as practical as some of you New Yorkers, but up my way I am considered a practical business man. I am a great lover of newspapers and as my business requires a great deal of travel I make a point of noting all the hotel suicides. The papers usually publish the number of the room in which a suicide or murder occurs. Well, I keep track of these particulars and enter them in this book. I find that room 406, to which you now wish to be put, was the scene of a suicide last fall. I possess a little nerve, but not sufficient to occupy a room that is marked. If you have no other I'll try some other hotel. All right, sir. Good day." And as the practical business man started out the clerk muttered something about cranks and the newspapers.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

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