

The Democrat.

THE EFFECTS OF TIGHT CLOTHING.

Now that rational ideas as to dress have acquired a definite place in public esteem, it may be imagined that the practice of tight lacing and customs of a like nature, if known at all, are not what they used to be. A case of sudden death lately reported from Birmingham proves that it is still too early to indulge in such illusory ideas. The deceased, a servant girl of excitable temperament, died suddenly in an epileptoid fit, and the evidence given before the coroner respecting her death attributed the fatal issue to asphyxia, due in a great measure to the fact that both neck and waist were unnaturally constricted by her clothing, the former by a tight collar, the latter by a belt worn under the stays. We have here certainly those very conditions which would lead us to expect the worst possible consequences from a convulsive seizure. There is no organ of the body whose free movement is at such times more important than the heart. Yet here we find, on the one hand, its movement hampered by a light girdle, so placed that it could with difficulty be undone at a critical moment; on the other, a contrivance admirably adapted to allow the passage of blood to the brain, while impeding its return. This is no isolated case as regards its essential character, though, happily, somewhat singular in its termination. Minor degrees of asphyxiation we fear are still submitted to by a good many self-torturing children of vanity. The tight corset and the high heel still work mischief on the bodies of their devoted wearers. Taste and reason, indeed, combine to deprecate their injurious and vulgar bondage, and by no means unsuccessfully. Still, the evil maintains itself. Cases like that above mentioned ought to, if they do not, open the eyes of some self-worshippers of the other sex, who heedlessly strive by such means to excel in a sickly grace. We would strongly impress on all of this class the fact that beauty is impossible without health, and would advise them, in the name of taste as well as comfort, to avoid those methods of contortion, one and all, by which elegance is only caricatured, and health may be painfully and permanently injured.

EASTERN BEGGARS.

Beggary throughout the East is a thriving profession. There are guilds of beggars, besides the numerous communities of dervishes who are semi-religious mendicants. Many families have been beggars for generations, and are mendicants from choice. Some of these professional beggars are actually wealthy. Four-and-twenty years ago the writer well remembers a case. The Chief Beggar, (the title was not conferred in derision,) gave his daughter in marriage to a substantial farmer. The girl's dowry consisted of two frechold houses, the rooms of which were entirely filled with dry pieces of bread, and the sales of these begged crusts subsequently realized a considerable sum, being disposed of as food for cattle. It must be remembered that in the East there is no organized charity, that most Mussulmans are exceedingly charitable, many giving away a fifth and some even a third of their income. Under such circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the professional uggai thrives.

Referring to certain newspaper statements that during the months of July and August this year the public debt had been increased over seven millions, while during the same months in 1888 the debt decreased over eleven millions, Secretary Windom said these statements convey an entirely erroneous impression. The fact is, as shown by the books of the treasury that on the 30th of June, 1889, the total amount of the public debt, including bonds of all kinds, was \$896,388,957, and on the 31st day of August it was only \$875,478,809, showing a reduction of \$20,910,150 during those two months. The reduction during the same months last year was only about one third of that amount. The erroneous newspaper conclusion above referred to arose doubtless from peculiar form of monthly statements of the public debt issued by this department, but nevertheless the expenses of the two months exceeded the revenues by over seven million dollars.

When Foraker, of Ohio, heard of the removal of Tanner he made a violent attack upon Secretary Noble, whom he charged with the responsibility for Tanner's discomfiture. He referred to the Secretary as an "obscure member" of the Cabinet. Afterwards he denied it and was confronted with a stenographic report of his speech. He is still trying to explain matters. The trouble with Foraker has always been his untruthfulness. He is about as reckless as Tanner in his statements and possesses if anything less dignity of character.

It is somewhat amusing, as well as edifying, to find our republican neighbors of the press chuckling over the fact that their party has three confederate soldiers on its state ticket in Virginia. It is only when these "brigadiers" and their subordinates are taken up by the other party that they appear to become obnoxious or dangerous.

The Gentile victory in recent municipal elections in Salt Lake City is an encouraging sign of the times. The Mormons are not yet in a minority, but for business improvement, which an anti-Mormon victory would surely give the city, many of the younger Mormons turned in and voted the Gentile ticket. The Mormons see the handwriting on the wall, and are now seeking new places for settlement in Mexico. When Utah is rid of this incubus it will become a great American State, as it has important agricultural and mineral resources that only need Eastern capital and enterprise for development.

The lightness of snow flakes is the result of their surface being so great when compared with their volume, and is accounted for in some degree by the large quantity of air amid their frozen particles. Snow flakes contain about nine times as many volumes of air, entangled, so to speak, among their crystals, as they contain water. Very fine and lightly deposited snow occupies about twenty four times as much space as water, and is from ten to twelve times lighter than an equal bulk of that fluid.

It is estimated that with average weather this year's cotton crop will reach 8,000,000 bales, worth nearly \$400,000,000, or five times the value of all the gold and silver produced in the United States in one year.

Pennsylvania last year produced over 16,000,000 barrels of petroleum and Ohio 10,000,000. Five years ago the production of the latter State was not worth mentioning.

Robert P. Porter, superintendent of the census, estimates the country's population at 65,000,000.

This year's wheat crop in France is estimated at twelve per cent above that of 1888.

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