

THE GATES UNCLASPED.

The gates unclasped, the gold side open'd to her, she entered trembling, with her white robe drawn across her shoulders, for the winds of fear swept o'er the pallor of the maiden dawn.

Railroads Are Troubled by Tramps.

Excepting the engineer, conductor and firemen, few people have any idea of the exaction and annoyance which those in charge of a train, passenger or freight, are compelled to submit to on account of tramps.

A Mystery of the Mississippi.

There is another boat that frequents the river, chiefly in the autumn. It is a rude cabin or hut built upon a scow; a stovepipe projects from the roof; long sweeps from bow and stern direct its course. It floats idly with the current. The people on the river call these house boats. River children, when they first see a Noah's ark, call it a house boat.

Costumes of Greek Women.

Though the Greek women in the pictures have almost entirely discarded their picturesque national costumes, they are still worn in the country. In some districts these costumes bear a great resemblance to those of the Bulgarians, though without their gaudiness of color.

Disposal of Sewage.

From time to time some local quid nunc rushes into print with the advice that Chicago should follow the foreign practice, and instead of seeking to dispose of her sewage by water carriage should utilize it for fertilizing purposes, "as they do in England and France."

Payment for a Poem.

Some publishers have their own ideas as to the manner in which compensation for literary services should be made. In a monthly edited by an acquaintance of mine appeared a poem. It was a very good bit of verse by a local literarian, rather given to negligence in the matter of attire. The editor marked it on his pay roll as being worth \$5.

Emerson's Greatness Criticized.

There was in Concord an excellent lady of the old school, who, having heard Mr. Emerson's greatness spoken of, said: "Yes, Mr. Emerson is a pretty smart man; he keeps his head up there in the moonshine, and he says things that nobody can understand, and folks think it's wisdom, and he writes it all down, and people buy it of him; but I guess if he'd 'a' turned his attention to the butter business he'd 'a' got along just the same."

Dry Rot Contagious.

It is said that dry rot, the enemy of builders, is a sort of contagious disease. Good authorities state that it can be carried by saws and other tools which have been in contact with affected wood, and that such contact and impregnation is often the cause of the mysteriously rapid decay of originally sound timbers.

A Collector of Idols.

S. M. Zahn, of Lancaster, Pa., is an idol collector. Among his collections are an Aztec idol, taken from the mound in Mexico, and supposed to be thousands of years old; a Hindoo idol, a Japanese god, Arizona Indian idols, and a sandstone god taken from the banks of the Susquehanna.

Cheaper to Move.

A stranger in Fort Worth, Tex., was struck by the sign, "Commercial Detective Agency," that was painted on the doors of offices all over the town. Speaking to a citizen of the place, he asked if this agency was not a large affair, saying that they seemed to have offices all over town. "Ah, that is old Bill Bowers," was the reply. "He finds it cheaper to move than to pay rent."

EUROPEAN JOTTINGS.

The cuirass is to be abolished in the German army. The council of the University of Cambridge has reported against giving degrees to women.

There are seventy-one "Champions of England" in games and sports of all sorts. The French and English military authorities have determined to prohibit all telegraphic correspondence from the field during the next campaign.

The population of France is decreasing, notwithstanding considerable immigration. The Belgians are coming in in considerable numbers, and Italians next.

A philanthropist in London has established a Spectacle mission, where poor printers, tailors, shoemakers and seamstresses can have their eyes tried and obtain spectacles for little or nothing.

A famous collection of bric-a-brac has just been sold in Paris belonging to Charles, first an errand boy, then a billiard marker, a crumpier, and finally a millionaire. He had an immense establishment, and finally went crazy.

Electric lights have been put in the Paris morgue, with an idea of increasing the effect produced upon murderers upon being confronted with their victims. Under the effect of the light the "confrontations" are expected to be much more effective.

The "advance trick" is a new thing in Paris. A hotel keeper is notified to prepare apartments for Mr. —, then to receive parcels for him, and the third feature is for boys to bring false parcels and be paid for them on delivery, presumably to await the arrival of the fictitious owner.

PLAYS AND ACTORS.

Charles Wyndham will come to America next year, when his "David Garrick" will be introduced.

W. J. Florence, having closed his season, is now preparing for his annual fishing excursion in the north.

For putting a colored woman out of the Chicago People's theatre the manager had to pay a fine of \$100 and stand a suit for damages.

The rumor and the hope of Joseph Joachim's visit to this country are growing. It is denied that the great violinist has been paralyzed.

Mrs. Potter began in Indianapolis her second contract with Manager Miner. This is for twelve weeks, and her tour will extend as far as San Francisco.

Rose Coghlan will sail for England in July and will remain until the latter part of August. Upon her return she will prepare for her tour with "Jocelyn."

The Valdis sisters, who do a perilous trapeze act and a long leap in "Maslin," kiss each other and their mother farewell before the scenes at every performance before they emerge in public view.

An orchestra of American girls organized in a New York town has been giving a concert in Canada. The troupe contains not only stringed instruments, like the orchestra conducted by Mayor Hewitt's daughter, but a clarinet, two cornets, trombone and French horn. A similar band has been started by young ladies in Allegheny, Pa.

The Art of Taking Leave.

Not a few people have still to learn the art of taking leave. Some will say, "It is time I was going," and then talk on aimlessly for ten minutes. They will even rise and keep their host standing; by an effort they may succeed in getting as far as the hall; then a new thought strikes them; they brighten visibly and stand for some minutes longer, saying nothing of importance, but keeping everybody in a restless state. After the door is opened, leave taking begins again. Very likely a last thought strikes the departing visitor, and his friend must risk a cold to hear it to the end. There is no need to be offensively abrupt, but, when you are ready to go, go at once—gracefully and politely if you can, but at any rate without tiresome delays.

Answers to Questions Often Asked.

In making an evening call in the city, unless upon persons intimately known, a gentleman should always wear a dress suit. It is perfectly proper and even to be expected that a young lady should visit the home of her intended husband's parents. To the lady is accorded the privilege of bowing first upon meeting a gentleman recently presented to her. Her doing so signifies a readiness to continue the acquaintance.

Half a ladleful of soup is served to each guest at elaborate dinners. In no case should the soup plate be filled.

At a formal dinner the host goes in first with the most honored lady, and the hostess brings up the rear with the most honored gentleman.

Graceful Speech.

The value of no other social accomplishment can be compared to that of a thorough knowledge of one's mother tongue. The most of us do more or less talking in the course of every one of our working hours, and we impress those that hear us, favorably or unfavorably—as far as our culture is concerned—according to the manner in which we express ourselves. How desirable it is, then, to cultivate all the graces of speech.

The Sources of the Nile.

The river Nile is formed by the junction of the Blue Nile and the White Nile at Khartoum, in the Soudan country. The White Nile is the main stream or true upper Nile. Lake Victoria Nyanza, a large body of water situated under the equator, 3,740 feet above the level of the sea, is the source of the White Nile. The Blue Nile has its source in the high mountains of Abyssinia, at an elevation of 9,000 feet, from which it descends with great force and carrying a great volume of water.

Diamond Tests.

A genuine diamond may be heated to a white heat in an air tight retort without the slightest injury. There are other tests, such as the application of strong acids. Many crystals will mark glass, but diamonds cut it most easily.

The Highest Steeple.

The highest steeple in the world are those on the Cologne cathedral, and are 511 feet high. This cathedral is the largest piece of Gothic architecture in the world.

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

Health of American School Girls—Skin Troubles—Benefits of the Bath.

A society of collegiate alumnae has issued some interesting literature on the subject of the health of school girls. Among some of the causes of the semi-invalidism and increasing number of nervous diseases that exist among even young girls, it enumerates the following:

- 1. Social dissipation and excitement. 2. Habitual loss of sufficient and healthy sleep. 3. Irregularity and haste in taking food, the omission of breakfast and the use of a stimulating, innutritious diet, such as condiments, pastry, etc. 4. Tight, heavy or insufficient clothing. 5. The ambition of parents and daughters to accomplish much in little time. It states that inquiries made in school health on the part of the pupils. In a New York academy a class of sixty girls between the ages of 12 and 18 years, who were asked by a visitor at what time they retired the night before. The average was found to be twenty minutes before midnight, but no surprise was manifested by teachers or regret by pupils. Out of ninety girls questioned one morning in a public school, twelve had eaten no breakfast; of these twelve six had brought no luncheon, the other six had cake, pie or similar indigestible food.

Pimples and Blackheads.

Pimples and blackheads on the face are occasional, says Herckl of Health; by the torpid state of the skin; or, in other words, by the inability of the skin to perform its proper functions. The cause of these spots is nothing more or less than an obstruction of the pores of the skin; the perspiration being allowed to accumulate, the mouths of the pores getting clogged, irritation ensues and a pimple or black head results. The only way to be rid of them is to allow the skin to do its own work, by preserving it in a healthy condition and by keeping the whole system in order. The following ointment is recommended: Take an ounce of barley meal (the finer the better), one ounce of powdered bitter almonds, and a sufficient quantity of honey to make a smooth paste, and apply this frequently.

The Bath.

Every human habitation should contain some convenience for a complete bath in water. In the long catalogue of diseases, says a well known physician, scarcely one can be named in the treatment of which a bath is useless.

To those blessed with good health, a bath gives thrift and growth to healthy functions, a brightness and delightful serenity, a clearness of mind and buoyancy of spirit. It is certainly a blessing to both mind and body. For the mental worker it is a nerve tonic. A thorough application of water of proper temperature will calm and give tone to his whole system. The indoor laborer, who gets but a scanty supply of fresh air, needs a bath to obtain the skin invigorating elements of open air.

Over Stimulation of Young Brains.

The practice of giving tea and coffee to young children cannot be too strongly condemned. Childhood is the period when nervous activity is very great. The brain is ever busy in receiving new impressions. Reflex action, co-ordination of the muscles, and the special senses are all under a constant course of training. The nervous system is pushed to its utmost capacity, and long is the list of victims that follow its over stimulations. In little people nothing but harm can come from the use of such cerebral stimulants as tea or coffee.

Remedy for Sleeplessness.

A physician prescribes one simple remedy for sleeplessness: Compose the mind as much as possible and confine the thoughts to one subject, or a number, or individual, and close the eyelids, rolling the eyes continuously in one direction. In a short time consciousness will be lost and you will be in the blissful land of dreams.

One Thing and Another.

Juniper berry tea is good for sick headache.

A diet of frogs is considered advantageous for those suffering from pulmonary complaint.

To make a soap for whitening the hands, mix thoroughly two ounces each of eau de Cologne and lemon juice, with six ounces of powdered brown Windsor soap.

As much bicarbonate of soda as one can put on a five cent nickel, dissolved in a small glass of water and taken before breakfast once or twice a week, sweetens the breath and relieves dyspepsia.

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

Manners and Customs Practiced in Polite Society.

A gentleman always lifts his hat when offering a service to a lady, whether he is acquainted with her or not. It may be, says one authority on the social etiquette of New York, the restoration of a dropped kerchief or fan, the receiving of her money to pass it to the cash box of a car, the opening of her umbrella as she descends from a carriage—all the same. He lifts it before or during the courtesy if possible. She bows, and, if she chooses, she also smiles her acknowledgment; but she does the latter faintly and does not speak. To say "Thank you" is not an excess of acknowledgment, but it has ceased to be etiquette.

When a gentleman accompanies a lady upon whom such an attention is bestowed, he always lifts his hat and says "Thank you." If it is in the giving up of a seat to the lady, he will not rest himself while the obliging stranger is still standing, but will call his attention to the first vacant place should he be unobscured of it.

A gentleman opens a door for a strange lady, holds it open with one hand and lifts his hat with the other while she passes through in advance of him. He always offers her the precedence, but he does it silently and without resting his gaze upon her, as if he would say: "You are a lady and I am a gentleman—I am polite for both our sakes."

A gentleman always raises his hat when he begs a lady's pardon for an inadvertence, whether he is known to her or not.

The Philadelphia Park.

Fairmount park, Philadelphia, is nearly four times as extensive as Central park, New York, having an area of 3,000 acres, while the latter has 834 acres.

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

Vegetable Poisons—Treating Whooping Cough with Sulphur.

There is a curious superstition in the mind of many that all vegetable remedies are comparatively harmless, while mineral substances are much more injurious to the human economy. According to The Medical Record the prejudice is entirely without foundation. At the present time a list of poisons will show a great preponderance of the vegetable kingdom. We have, for example, such universally consumed substances as alcohol, tea, coffee and tobacco. These purely vegetable substances do a hundred fold more to poison and deteriorate the human system than does the whole mineral pharmacopoeia. But beside these we have opium, Indian hemp and the whole seductive list of purely vegetable narcotics. By far the most powerful poisons are of purely vegetable origin. Such, for instance, is strychnin, of which a solution containing one part to ten million of water will kill the exposed heart of a frog. The most subtle and evasive of poisons is the active principle of the "purely vegetable" digitalis purpurea, while strychnin has probably poisoned more animals and human beings than any drug but arsenic. The mineral drugs which cause harm are few in number, and, if we except arsenic, are not especially violent poisons. In fine, it is the purely vegetable drugs that are the most dangerous. We wish, says The Record, that the public could be made to understand this, when confronted with alluring notices of the perfect safety and harmlessness of "purely vegetable" drugs.

Local Antidotes for Snake Venom.

Drs. Mitchell and Helchert have pursued some very original and valuable researches upon the venoms of poisonous serpents, including rattlesnakes, moccasins, ground rattlesnakes, copperheads and coral suckers. They find that all fresh serpent venoms are more or less alike in appearance, being fluid varying from the palest amber tint to a deep yellow, and that the active principles of the venom are contained in its liquid parts only. They arrive at the conclusion that potassium permanganate, ferric chloride in the form of the liquid or tincture and tincture of iodine seem to be the most active and promising of generally available local antidotes. The search for a chemical antidote which can prove available after the poison has reached the circulation is considered almost hopeless.

Disinfecting with Sulphur.

Dr. Mohr, of Christiana, reports the following plan of treating whooping cough by disinfection with sulphur: The patient is robed in clean linen and taken out of the sleeping room in the morning, where are left all the bedding, linen, clothes and things that cannot be washed. Sulphur is then burned in the room in the proportion of twenty-five grains to every cubic meter of space in the apartment. After five hours the room is aired and the patient is returned; the atmosphere is purified and medicated, and breathing it over night usually effects a cure of whooping cough within twenty-four hours.

An Objection to Capsules.

It is claimed that capsules cannot be advantageously used in administering medicine to persons whose stomachs have been rendered irritable by excesses in strong drink. The capsules are not likely to be dissolved if there is any form of alcohol in the stomach; for alcohol acts upon the gelatine of the capsule, rendering it insoluble.

Baking Soda for Burns.

Cloths dipped in a thick solution of common baking soda in water and applied to the injured surface are excellent for burns. They must be kept wet by squeezing more soda and water on them whenever a dry spot begins to appear.

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

Manners and Customs Practiced in Polite Society.

Constant politeness saves the temper. We are all disarmed by an attempt to please us, and politeness outlasts all other virtues, is the experience of one as well versed in society's ways as Mrs. John Sherwood. This gentle politeness has a charming effect on domestic life. Harmless and graceful optional civilities are a part of the grace of foreign manners. In France when a gentleman takes off his hat in a windy doorway, and holds it in his hand while talking to a lady, she always says "couvrez-vous," "I beg you not to stand hatless." A kind hearted woman says this to a coachman, a boatman, a man of high or of low degree.

We do not yet sufficiently appreciate the value of manners. The bad manners of Americans are really from want of thought. There are no more generous, chivalrous, kindly men in the world than Americans. They might, however, study optional civility. They should not only have good manners but better manners. Let a cordial bow, a gracious smile, "make sunshine in a shady place." Civility oils the wheels of our domestic machinery, and American women might mend their manners, particularly as to optional civilities. Optional civility does not in any way include familiarity. Perhaps it is the best of all safe graces from it. Well bred women never say anything to hurt a person's feelings. To tell one of disagreeable things said behind one's back is neither good taste nor optional civility. It is apt to be an expression of individual spite. It is doubtful taste to warn people of their faults, to comment upon their failures, to carry them disagreeable tidings under the name of friendship. This is very often optional civility.

Not Contented, but Aspiring.

"Contentment is better than riches." That sounds like the despairing wail of a disappointed man. It is a patent medicine, intended for those who have tried for success and have failed. It is warranted to have the same soothing effect that the conclusion about the grapes had on the fox. If taken in sufficiently large doses it will make a man a helpless nonentity. It is a narcotic that does more harm than good. It puts to sleep the very ones who need waking. The fact is, contentment is satisfied laziness. Those who better themselves and get the grapes do not think they are sour. A true man is not necessarily discontented, but he is ever aspiring. He would do more—be more—get more. He does not care for absolute contentment. The utmost he will admit is that contentment, with riches, is better than without them.—Walter Gregory in North American Review.

DAUGHTERS OF EVE.

Queen Victoria is learning Hindostani. Queen Christina of Spain wears an eye glass.

Mrs. Oscar Wilde is a most charming hostess. Mrs. Cleveland has a great fondness for diamonds.

Queen Olga of Greece usually wears dresses of blue and white silk. Miss Louisa M. Alcott never answered requests for her autograph.

Mrs. Helen Campbell has gone to Paris to study the condition of the poor. The new empress of Germany has an independent personal income of \$80,000 a year.

Mrs. A. H. Holloway has been given a five year contract to clean the streets of Buffalo. Maria Mitchell, the celebrated professor of astronomy at Vassar college, is 79 years old.

Mrs. Ellen Keats Peay, who died in London the other day, was a niece of John Keats, the poet. Miss Emma Abbott says thirteen is her lucky number, and she expects some day to be killed in a carriage accident.

The widow of Gen. Thomas F. Meagher took a jubilee present to the pope from the Catholic North American Indians. Mrs. Sarah P. Bartlett, of Hope, Mo., is 92 years old, and has just taken her first spoonful of medicine. She has decided not to be a centenarian.

Mrs. Mackay, writes a London correspondent, looked remarkably well in white velvet frappe, sprinkled with tiny silver spots, at a recent reception.

Professor Hattie Allen, who has just assumed an important chair in the medical department of the University of Michigan, is only 30 years old and is a Vassar alumna.

Mrs. Ritchie, the daughter of Thackeray, has put up a memorial tablet in Holy Trinity church, Ayr, Scotland, to her father's step-father, who was the original Col. Newcombe.

Mme. Carnot is said to have transformed the Elysee, having beautified the former old interior of the palace and made its reception more sought after than they were in Mme. Grey's time.

Mrs. Mary E. Bird, colored, who died recently, was for many years a missionary in Africa. While there she several times had as her guest David Livingston, the great English explorer.

The actress Lotta attributes her youthful spirits in a great part to her invariable habit of taking a nap between 3 and 6 every afternoon. She usually rises at 9 o'clock, and, no matter how busy she may be or how much there is to do during the day, she always manages to get aside three hours for the customary sleep.

Mrs. Belva Lockwood, of Washington, who once ran for president and is again spoken of as the female suffrage candidate this year, is giving out some idea of the policy of which she approves by publishing her views upon the fisheries treaty, the foreign relations of the government, commercial reciprocity and international arbitration.

Mme. Patti contributed \$4,000 to the hospital for children in Lisbon, and in return received from the queen of Portugal a full length portrait, accompanied by an autograph note, reading: "Greatly touched at your having, with your great talent, come to the aid of our creches, kindly accept this souvenir." Signed, "Rainha, Maria Pia Brazanza."

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Louis Kossuth is very ill at Turin. The czar of Russia is building a castle near Kasha in Finland.

Congressman McKinney, of New Hampshire, reads Hebrew. Congressman Knute Nelson, of Minnesota, is a Norwegian by birth.

King Humbert, of Italy, drinks nothing but water at state dinners. W. K. Vanderbilt has spent \$300,000 among London bric-a-brac dealers.

Bismarck seldom retires before 2 o'clock in the morning. He gets up at noon. Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's home, has been let to a Liverpool ship broker.

Mr. Gladstone is going to "have a try" at Col. Ingersoll in one of our magazines. John L. Sullivan once drove a street car in Boston for the paltry sum of \$2 per day.

Richard Mansfield, the actor, speaks English, French, German and Italian with equal ease. Minister Bragg has made a hit in Mexico so far he has defied all efforts of the radical air to shake his nerves.

Lord Dufferin, late governor general of Canada, is to be raised a step in the peerage for his services in India. Ex-Senator Bruce is visiting his mother in Kansas. She is 95 years old, and she was formerly a slave in Virginia.

Dr. Schliemann has set out for the east with the firm determination of finding the real tomb of Alexander the Great. The Marquis of Londonderry, lord lieutenant of Ireland, has had conferred upon him the vacant knighthood of the garter.

WHAT THEY WEAR.

The Bernhardti shoulder cape and collar, all in one piece, is one of the new things from Paris sure to be fashionable.

Fur lined and fur trimmed overcoats do not signify a great deal these days. Often they inclose the most important men.

Straw hats appear in two colors, as a brim of ecru, with a crown of dark green, and are trimmed with short ribbon in the same tint.

Too many silver trinkets and knickknacks dangling about a girl in public soon get her the reputation of not having the most refined taste in the world.

Beaded lace and jet shoulder caps are to be as much the fashion this spring as they ever were, according to the bulletin in front of fashionable headquarters.

Velvet will again be used for collar, cuffs, vest, revers and half girdle of wash dresses—notably sateens—while moire is preferred for the new and expensive gingham.

Word comes from Paris that the tournee grows smaller by degrees and beautifully less, and though we dare not hope for its extinction before another season, we exclaim: "For this relief, much thanks."

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