



# Your Boy's Life's Work

## What Shall It Be?

### CARPENTER?

He'll have to start in as a carpenter's helper of the crudest sort, and his pay will be small, but in the end he may be earning his thousands a year as a building foreman or building superintendent—Also he may be getting a comfortable living as a builder on his own hook—How he may advance up the ladder of carpentry, and what are his chances of doing this, together with the pay for each step taken.

BY C. W. JENNINGS.

If you watched some young fellow working in the cold on some half-finished building, driving nails with numb fingers and handling frozen, rough boards, and you heard that he was getting only about \$2 a day and was a carpenter's helper, there was every evidence to you that there was little more to carpentry than driving nails and putting boards together, eh, what? For you know that the plans of the building were prepared by an architect, and therefore, supposed that all the carpenter had to do was to follow them, which "anybody could do and know enough to handle a hammer and a saw." As for brain work being required in carpentry, you never imagined such a thing. It would be one of the last occupations, possibly, that you would choose for your boy.

But it is never safe to generalize, in this instance particularly; for that same carpenter's helper, if he possessed average intelligence and ambition would in all likelihood be foreman of carpenters within a very few years, and would have a big career in front of him. It all would depend upon his application. Given grit and ambition, a boy can work up through the carpenter's trade to comparative eminence, as well as through most better known lines of work. It requires hard work; but what occupation does not require hard work to reach success?

After you have thought over it for a while and learned a few things about it, you might do worse than start your boy in this trade. How to go about it and the requirements? Well, there are few preliminary requirements to speak of further than that the applicant should be a reasonably healthy boy of about 16 or more, and have had some rudimentary schooling. Go to a boss carpenter at work somewhere and ask him for a job. If you are successful, as you will be after seeing a few bosses, you will be put to work as helper at somewhere round \$5 a week. This work will not be carpentering. The boy knows nothing about it yet, you know, except that he can probably tell a hammer from a square, and he has to learn before he can become one.

And so, for the first year, he will be nothing more than the crudest kind of assistant to one of the carpenters, carrying boards and running errands, and after a while, probably sawing off the ends of rough lumber and nailing on joists and scantling. The work will be generally the same if the boy goes into a factory and does what is generally known as inside work, and in the latter he will be advanced at the end of the first year to probably \$7 a week, and be set at bench work, nailing moldings, putting window frames together, etc.

At the end of the second year there will be another promotion to probably \$1.50 a day (pretty good pay for a boy of 18 who is learning a trade), when he will be a sort of first assistant to one of the master carpenters and be doing pretty advanced things, practically the same work, except the most particular, that a master carpenter, thought of course, under the latter's direct supervision. His pay will go up a little, probably to \$1.75 a day.

Having served these three years he will be obliged to go into the carpenter's union. The union will be holding out persuasions before this; but, generally speaking, in most cities it is not necessary to join the union till after three years' preparatory work. Your boy's standing in the union will be that of apprentice, which will continue for two years. His pay will be \$2 a day, and his work, if inside, will be making doors, sash and blinds, mantels, wainscoting, etc., and outside, the general work of carpentry on buildings.

After these five years of preparation, your boy will have finished his course of training and be known as a full-fledged master carpenter, able to direct a gang of carpenters, and capable of that stage is capable of, and his pay will be around \$4 a day of eight hours for inside work, and \$1 more when employed on the outside. And all this by the time he comes of age at 21. There are few occupations that offer returns as large as this to young men.

Advancement from here on to higher positions depends, as a rule, on much more than has been learned in the routine work your boy has followed during his apprenticeship. He will have realized long before the end of his first five years that he must devote his time to outside study and practice if he expected to get into higher positions, and will have been burning midnight oil for a long while. There is a wide difference between a mere carpenter and a carpenter's foreman—so great a difference that one cannot become a foreman, except in most exceptional cases, without

ings, much more is necessary. A regular inside carpenter's foreman is paid from \$5 to \$8 a day; and after a very few years, if an opening occurs, he is apt to be made superintendent of the particular plant he works for at a regular salary of \$2,000 to \$2,500, or even \$3,000 annually. This position, however, is about the end of possible advancement at inside work, except he should become a member of the firm.

A building foreman who occupies a still higher position should have a good working acquaintance with geometry and mensuration, excavating, foundations, the mechanics of carpentry, joinery, stair building, builders' hardware, roofing, mill design and also know something of building stone, stone masonry, concrete construction, lathing, plastering, tiling, brickwork, roofing, sheet metal work, fireproofing, etc.

All this sounds like a formidable list—reads like taking a college course, you may think, but will not be so difficult for an ambitious boy; for evening study and practical application of what he has learned at every opportunity during his work, if persisted in for years, will enable him to acquire it all and to be fully competent to take the responsible position when it is offered to him.

You can see the advancement from here on as straight and clear as can be; for the building foreman on large and important work who is paid \$3,000 or \$5,000 a year, is too responsible a man to be lost right of and will be given the first opening as superintendent that happens along, and before many years will find himself in a sort of general superintendent over other superintendents in charge of the construction of numerous establishments. He can take a specialty if he wishes and become a constructing engineer; for there are numerous routes to high success from responsible foremanships, and the pay is ample to satisfy anybody.

If he chooses your boy can get himself into business for himself; for a skilled carpenter is quite competent to take the erection of a small frame house, and this will give him his independent start. All building trades are pretty much alike in general features and pay and hours, and will bring the young worker to about the same position as superintendent. Some of the other trades are different, however, and will be taken up in future articles.

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### Unique Old French Village.

Lying so much off the beaten track, the village of Port Lesne in the Jura department of France is visited by but few from the outside world, and consequently this tiny community of men and women of color is but little known. It is not a large village, for its inhabitants number but little more than a hundred, but every one is either black, or of copper color or pallid yellow. It owes its origin to the fact that about a century ago the famous negro chief, Toussaint L'Ouverture, was brought from Hayti and imprisoned in Fort de Joux. Many of his friends, all negroes, followed him and encamped near his prison on the bank of the little river Loue. From that encampment grew the village of Port Lesne, and when Toussaint L'Ouverture died more than a hundred years ago his friends decided to remain in France. The passing of years and circumstances have transformed the settlement into a French village of colored folk, all of whom have the vote. Port Lesne is thus probably the most unique spot in all France.

### Making Salt Lake Fresh.

A remarkable engineering feat is being considered in Utah, the aim being to convert the eastern extremity of the lake where the principal streams that feed the body flow in. This dam is to be several feet higher than the present water level and the design is to divide the lake into two parts. The theory is that the water will flow into the first lake, rise to a level with the dam, and then tumble into the other section. The water in the first division will retain its freshness, while that in the lower lake will continue to be briny as at present. If the plan proves successful it is believed that the territory adjacent to the lake can be made highly attractive, giving it infinite possibilities as a summer resort.

### Government Dam in the Hudson.

The dam which the United States government is planning to construct at Troy across the Hudson river will wipe out a number of factories and mills in that region by using water power. The head furnished by the dam will be utilized to generate about 6,000-horse power, and this will be sold to the mills and factories at cost. However, the companies will be required to pay the cost of building the power house. It is estimated that the amount of power utilized will be three times as much as has heretofore been employed—Scientific American.

# New News of Yesterday

by E. J. Edwards

## Vanderbilt's Lost Chance

### Lost Opportunity For Which a Vanderbilt Grieved.

William H. Was Sorry He Did Not Let New York Central Show It Could Beat Pennsylvania's Fast Mail.

"It has always been my impression that William H. Vanderbilt grieved more over an opportunity which came to him and which he lost, and felt more greatly humiliated thereby by the sense that he had made a mistake, than over any other event in his experience as the successor of his father, the creator of the head of the Vanderbilt railways." So said to me the late George C. Bangs, who in the seventies became to all intents and purposes the creator of the country's fast railway mail service, and who had as his assistant in the work Theodore N. Vall, now head of the great Bell telephone system of the country.

"As the superintendent of the railway mail service, and especially the fast mail feature of it, which had been established practically under my direction," continued Mr. Bangs, "I was brought in very close touch with the managers of the important railway lines running from the Atlantic coast to Chicago. I knew better than the public did how intense was the competition between the New York Central and the Pennsylvania. The fast railway mail service was established at about the time rate cutting was at its height, the very time when, as it was afterwards proved, the Standard Oil company was getting very large rebates from the railroad companies.

"Now, one of the things which might serve to advertise these railroads, and to aid them in their competitive struggle, was the ability they showed to maintain what in those days were very fast railway mail services between New York or Philadelphia and Chicago.

"In the spring of 1878 I happened to learn that the famous theatrical managers, Jarrett and Palmer, had made contracts with the Pennsylvania, the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific by which those railroad companies pledged themselves to haul a special theatrical train from New York to San Francisco in three and one-half days' time. It also came to my knowledge that the attempt was to be made to deliver by the same train a mail which left the New York postoffice in the early morning in Chicago on the evening of the same day.

"Immediately I made an appointment by telegraph with William H. Vanderbilt and ran over from Wash-

ington to New York to see him. 'Mr. Vanderbilt,' I said to him when we met, 'do you know that the Pennsylvania is to take a mail at Jersey City at one o'clock in the morning, on the special theatrical train, under contract to deliver that mail in Chicago by nine o'clock in the evening of that day?'

"They can't do it," said Mr. Vanderbilt. "Yes, I think they can and will. 'Mr. Vanderbilt,' I replied, 'of course, it's going to take some very fast running. It'll be a magnificent feather in the Philadelphia railroad's cap.'

"I saw that Mr. Vanderbilt was intensely interested, and that he realized how great a card it would be for his powerful rivals if they were able to fulfill the contract.

"Now, Mr. Vanderbilt, I went on to say, you can beat them by three hours. I will see to it that a special mail is made up and delivered to you if you will have a train ready at four o'clock in the morning, and will promise me that you will deliver that mail in Chicago at nine o'clock in the evening."

"The thing is impossible," Mr. Vanderbilt exclaimed.

"I beg to differ with you," I replied. "If the Pennsylvania, with its heavy grades, is able to make the

run between New York and Chicago in twenty hours, you could certainly do it in three hours better time. We will keep it a perfect secret; nobody shall know anything about it until we deliver a mail by your road in Chicago at nine o'clock in the evening. Then we will announce that our train left New York three hours later than the Pennsylvania's."

"Mr. Vanderbilt got up and paced nervously back and forth; once he went and looked at the map. Then he made a computation of the running time. For an instant he seemed about to be ready to accept my proposition, but at last shook his head.

"It would be a great thing, but I don't quite feel like taking the responsibility," he said. "No, I won't do it, and I don't believe the Pennsylvania will make Chicago in twenty hours' time, either."

"But when Mr. Vanderbilt learned that the Pennsylvania did it, and after he had talked with some of his operating force and found that they had no question but that the New York Central could have made the run in three hours' less time, he felt deeply chagrined and humiliated. And long after he said to me, the thought of the lost opportunity still ranking in his breast:

"Bangs, I am sorry I did not accept your proposition. If I had we would have taken a feather from the Pennsylvania's cap and put it in our own."

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## Astounded Grover Cleveland

### Democrat Who Astounded President Cleveland.

How Frank H. Brooks Refused to Accept Places in the American Diplomatic Service Offered Him as Election Reward.

In the presidential campaign of 1884 the Democratic party received some very excellent assistance from a corps of comparatively young men who had been trained thoroughly in newspaper work. Daniel S. Lamont himself had been a newspaper man before becoming private secretary to Grover Cleveland, and it was doubtless a thorough training of this sort that he was able accurately to judge of the quality of the service rendered by the various newspaper men who were associated with the Democratic national committee throughout the campaign. Among this class of assistants was Frank H. Brooks, whose wild Col. Lamont had noted.

Due to a suggestion from Col. Lamont, then secretary to the president, or to other friends of Mr. Brooks, who know of his important work during the campaign, President Cleveland was persuaded that there should be official recognition of what Mr. Brooks had done, especially as he seemed fitted to become a valuable public servant. So, in due course, Mr. Brooks was offered the appointment of consul to Trieste.

"I appreciate the honor," said Mr. Brooks, "but I cannot accept the appointment for reasons that are entirely personal."

"But," he was told, "the United States is to have largely increased commerce with Trieste, the only Austrian seaport, and there will be fine opportunities for good work there, such as will surely lead to promotion in our diplomatic service."

Still Mr. Brooks declined, and when President Cleveland was told that the offer would not be accepted, he inferred that it might be that Mr. Brooks felt that the salary was insufficient.

"I will appoint him consul-general at St. Petersburg," the president said. So once more, the offer of a place in the diplomatic service, so important as consul-general at the Russian capital, was made to Mr. Brooks, yet he felt compelled to decline for reasons which seemed to him imperative.

In the presidential campaign of 1892, when Cleveland was again a candidate, he appeared at a public meeting in New York City. After the great throng which had assembled to hear the former president had departed, and while Mr. Cleveland was waiting on the platform for his carriage, Mr. Brooks, who was present, approached him.

"Mr. President," he said, "I am very glad to see you again."

"I recall your face very well, but I cannot recall your name," Mr. Cleveland said, looking quizzingly, earnestly, at the man who had greeted him.

"My name is Frank H. Brooks, and you may remember me as one who was associated in an humble way with the presidential campaign of 1884."

For an instant Mr. Cleveland continued to look with intense inquiry and question at Mr. Brooks, and then of a sudden recollection coming to him, he seized both of Mr. Brooks' hands with his own.

"Of course, I recollect you now," exclaimed Mr. Cleveland, "and I have never forgotten the unprecedented assistance which you rendered me as an inexperienced man. I had with you after I became president. Mr. Brooks, I have known many Democrats who have refused the offer of one office, but I have not known, with the exception of yourself, any Democrat who declined an offer of two important offices. I shall never forget that circumstance as long as I live; I have had no other like it in all my experience. I am very glad to have met you, and I want again to congratulate you as the only Democrat, of whom I have knowledge, who declined two political offices, one after the other."

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## Reason for Excusing Him

## Wouldn't Associate with Gould

### Man Who Refused to Associate With Jay Gould.

John Duff of Boston Declined to Serve as Official of the Union Pacific After the "Little Wizard" Got Control of It.

One of the great bankers and financiers of Boston, indeed of the entire country, a generation ago, was John Duff, who, as I told recently, saved the credit and solvency of the Union Pacific railroad during the panic of 1873 by pledging over \$300,000 worth of his own private gilt-edge securities for a like amount of money with which to pay the coupons of the road's land grant bonds, then due.

It was about 1866 that Mr. Duff became a director of the Union Pacific, and for about seven years thereafter he was a power in the affairs of that company. Towards the end of that period he began to suspect that Jay Gould was attempting to secure control of the Union Pacific.

"With a man of that character," said Mr. Duff, with all the positiveness of his nature, to his son-in-law, Dr. William H. Bullard, who had personal knowledge of many of his father-in-law's business transactions, "I will have no business dealings whatsoever. I have had none in the past, and I will keep clear of any in the future, no matter what comes to pass. I should be afraid of my own reputation if I were associated with a man who tried to make a fortune by wrecking railroad properties."

Gradually the signs became more and more certain to Mr. Duff that Mr. Gould was doing all he could to secure control of the Union Pacific. Finally there came a day when Mr. Duff felt fairly well satisfied, so far as his personal and unofficial knowledge went, that Mr. Gould had accomplished his object, that a majority of the stock of the Union Pacific rested in his hands. And one morning not long thereafter, Mr. Duff received from the banking house of Norton, Bliss & Co., in New York, a telegram which read practically as follows:

"Will you accept the presidency of the Union Pacific railroad, or will you accept the vice-presidency, with full power to act?"

Mr. Duff did not doubt the authority of the banking house to make these offers; it was the official banking house of the Union Pacific. But before answering the telegram he determined not to let anybody, privately whether or not Jay Gould had secured a majority of the road's stock. This within the course of a few hours he learned to be the fact, and then, as Dr. Bullard recalls it, his father-in-law sent this answer:

"I decline to accept either proposition, because I refuse to stretch hands across a directors' table to take the hand of a man whom I believe to be a thief."

Mr. Duff's next act was to resign as director of the Union Pacific, as he said he would do if Jay Gould secured control of the Union Pacific; and from that day he had nothing more to do with the property whose credit and solvency he had once saved. (Copyright, 1910, by E. J. Edwards. All Rights Reserved.)

## Reason for Excusing Him

### Thomas Nelson Page's Colored Office Boy Really Could Note Come, For He Was Dead.

Thomas Nelson Page was telling of an office boy named Eugene, and colored, whom he had when he practised law in Richmond. The boy was of much of a help about the office, but with proper persuasion, he could be induced to sweep out every morning. One day, however, he did not appear. Page went to the office, saw it was not swept, and went out and waited around for an hour and came back. No boy had been there. He waited another hour, and still no boy. He waited until 3 o'clock in the afternoon and no boy; so, very angry, he decided to go out and interview the boy's father about it.

"That rascally boy of yours hasn't been at my office at all today," exclaimed Page.

"I am telling you. He hasn't been there all day."

"That's very strange," commented the father; "but I reckon yoball hafter 'scuse him this mawnin'."

"Excuse him? Why?" roared Page. "Well, Massa Tom, he's dead."

### Favorite of the King.

One of the American women who is being received with favor by the king and queen of England is Lady Lister-Kaye, whose sister was the dowager duchess of Manchester, and who is the youngest of the three Yang sisters. Her friendship with the king and queen dates back many years. She was one of the three persons who were sent for just after King Edward died. The friendship between Queen Mary and Lady Lister-Kaye has been keen. In no other American woman's house have the present king and queen dined

men who were popular with King Edward, there is no doubt Lady Lister-Kaye will grow even more prominent socially in the new reign. Sir John Lister-Kaye, who was a groom-in-waiting on King Edward, is a close friend of King George.

"The Lawyers Won." Askitt—Old Skinner left quite a large estate, did he not? Nott—Yes; but some of his relatives contested his will. Askitt—Was there much left after it got through the courts? Nott—Nothing but the heels.

The Contest. "All men," said the earnest citizen, "are born equal." "They are that," replied Mr. Rafferty. "But they don't stay equal after they're big enough to get together in the school yard."

Her Modesty. "Do you read Browning?" asked the

## TIMELY SUGGESTIONS THAT WILL HELP THE HOSTESS

### A Cup and Saucer Shower.

A charming entertainment was given recently for a December bride-to-be. The hostess enclosed a pink card board heart with her invitations, tied with a knot of pink baby ribbon put through a hole pinched in the center of the heart. She asked each guest to write an appropriate sentiment on it, either original or quoted, and return it tied to the handle of the teacup to be presented. All to be sent to the home of the hostess before the day of the party.

When the guests assembled at three in the afternoon they gazed upon a perfect wilderness of pink hearts. All portieres and draperies had disappeared and in their place were delightfully pretty curtains made of pink hearts strung on baby ribbon. The lace curtains were veiled in hearts, and chandeliers fluted from gas jets and chandeliers. The stair banisters were covered and made a fine background for the rose colored love symbols. After the exclamations of surprise subsided, beribboned hearts with pink pencils attached were passed, the hostess explaining that the conglomeration of words (twenty-five in all) would tell the contents of the bride's trousseau when properly put together. All worked busily for twenty minutes, then rewards were given to the fortunate and unfortunate ones, consisting of a hat pin, needle book and card case. Then the hostess led the way to the dining room, where the bride-elect was given the place of honor in a great high back chair at the head of the table, her bridesmaids handed her the shower cups and saucers, from which she read the verses inscribed on each card. Heart shaped cakes, chocolate and a dainty apricot ice served in heart ice cups, surrounded with tissue paper petals to look like a pink rose, were the refreshments with hearts shaped candies. Every one said it was the prettiest affair of the season.

### A Sale for Dolly.

A club composed of ten girls from the ages of ten to fifteen, managed and made ready this bazaar which they gave for a charity devoted to children. The affair was given in the afternoon at the home of one of the members, the room was arranged like a department store, with all articles belonging to dolls most attractively displayed. Now that there are patterns for dolls so that complete wardrobes may be made, the girls found it great fun to make the clothes, hats, muffs, etc., and orders were taken for all articles for doll houses, such as sheets, pillow cases, even with the doll's monogram embroidered, wee towels, wash cloths, etc. The mothers and big sisters of the girls served light refreshments or rather donated them and the girls served. Quite a sum was realized and the girls had a fine time many weeks before in happy anticipation and preparation.

### A Japanese Tea.

Nothing makes a more effective decoration than Japanese lanterns, parasols and fans. By stretching cords from the four corners of the room to the center chandelier and hanging lanterns of varied size and shape from them, a very striking overhead effect is gained at very small expense and labor. A good sized Japanese umbrella with tiny lanterns suspended from every rib is also very pretty. Chrysanthemums, mustard and cherry blossoms are the favored flowers, they may be made of tissue paper, if not in season. The iris or common "flag" is a Japanese flower, also the lotus which resembles our water lily. The Japanese flag in silk may be purchased by the dozen at small cost, and one given each just makes an appropriate souvenir. Serve tea in cups without handles—to be truly "Japanese." To give novelty to this "tea," here is a recipe for a Japanese salad:

Select even sized beets, boil until tender, scrape off the skin, hollow out the center with a spoon. Stand in weak vinegar on ice for two hours. Cook boiled potatoes and celery into dice, chop pecan nuts and a few sprigs of parsley, season these with a few drops of onion juice, salt and paprika. Fill the beet cups with this mixture, put a spoonful of mayonnaise dressing on top and serve on head lettuce.

Candied ginger and orange peel should be passed. Rice or fish is also correct if one desires either of these dishes. The hostesses should wear kimonos with the hair loaded with ornaments.

MADAME MERILL

## Fancy Boxes



ONE of the chief characteristics of modern dress is the extraordinary number of trifles by which it is supplemented. No woman who values her appearance, and wishes to be well dressed, can contrive to do without them. Collars, ribbons, laces, veils, handkerchiefs, gloves, all play more or less important roles as adjuncts to the toilet, and all are indispensable. But, unfortunately, as our list of requirements gets larger and larger, so do houses and flats display a decided tendency to grow smaller and smaller, and how and where to dispose of her many belongings is a problem which faces many a girl as she looks round a small bedroom, which she is obliged, very possibly, to share with a sister. In such a case she will find it the wisest, as well as the tidiest, plan to keep all these multifarious odds and ends in separate boxes, which need not necessarily be unornamental, but which clever fingers may easily convert into things of beauty.

Cardboard boxes of various shapes and sizes are quite easy to obtain. Those in which shoes and corsets have been sent home will prove exceedingly useful. The covering of these with chintz, muslin or silk is not at all a difficult matter, and they can be transformed into remarkably pretty articles, which may not only ornament the maker's own particular sanctum, but be given away as very welcome presents.

### For the Home Milliner.

In sewing trimmings on a hat it is hard for the home milliner to knot the ends of the threads, but if you will leave one end loose, instead of drawing the knot close to the hat, and, after securing the trimming, tie the two ends together, the effect will be better.

### A New Material.

A new material for little folks' coats and caps is washable velvet. It comes in an exceedingly soft, silky thick pile velvet, light and warm and very useful, as it does not easily crease. It is not to be thought of as an imitation fur cloth in any sense, but more as a "harmless" velvet.

### Fancy Straw Baskets.

Fancy straw baskets which so many of us accumulate can be put to a gracious use by filling with fresh fruit and sending in an invalid or to a

To cover a cardboard box it must, first of all, be taken to pieces, carefully slit along at the corners, keeping the edges thus made as smooth and even as possible. The material is then cut out, each piece being twice the size that it is intended to cover, and half-an-inch being allowed for turnings. It will be found easiest in all probability to double the material before cutting it out. If, however, the box is to be lined with a different material from the cover, lay the material and the lining one on top of the other, and cut to the shape and size required, allowing half-an-inch all round for turnings, as before. Fold the material carefully round the cardboard, arrange the turnings, and then neatly overlap the two edges together with strong thread. When all the pieces are carefully covered, sew them together firmly, according to the original shape of the box with oversewing. The lid may be fastened by oversewing along one side, or, if preferred, hinges may be made of ribbon, by means of which it is attached to the back of the box. A layer of wadding placed on the lid helps to give a slightly padded effect to the material, which greatly improves its appearance. The box may then be edged all round with fine cord or very narrow passementerie, which will cover all the seams and give a neatness and finish which is sometimes greatly

### Simple Markings.

Simple markings on watches and lockets are in favor. If the clock letter with or without a circle or oval is not used, old English initials are the next favorite.

### Scaling Her Down.

Mrs. Goodale—Have you seen Mr. Highsome since her return from Europe? She says she went everywhere and saw everything that was to be seen.

### Mrs. Chillon-Carver—Yes; but she's not quite the traveler her trunk label her.