

# New News of Yesterday

by E. J. Edwards

## Might Have Reached the Top

Daniel Lamont's Story of How Frederick P. Olcott Rejected Opportunity That Later Made Grover Cleveland President.

When Daniel S. Lamont, private secretary to Governor Cleveland, private secretary to President Cleveland, and one of the latter's secretaries of war, told me this anecdote he prefaced it with the statement: "I want to tell you how a man you know might have been president had he not deliberately and with his eyes open chosen another path."

"This man," pursued Mr. Lamont, then vice-president of the Northern Pacific railroad, "was comptroller of the state of New York from January 1, 1877, to November 4, 1879. As comptroller he gained great popularity throughout the state, and the highest respect of business and financial men generally, because of the efficiency and celerity with which he carried on the work of his department. So brilliant, indeed, were this man's services as comptroller that a flattering offer was made to him to go back into the banking business, which he had left to become a state officer.

"The comptroller went to Daniel Manning and told him of the offer. Mr. Manning at that time was secretary of the Democratic state committee, and then later a great power in the Democratic party. The two men had been close friends for years, and both lived in the same town—Albany.

"Fred," said Mr. Manning, when he had heard his friend out, "for many years events have shown that the office you now hold has been the stepping stone for a good many men to high political preferment in state and nation. One of your predecessors became president—Millard Fillmore—was comptroller when he was nominated for vice-president. Lucius Robinson, now governor, was comptroller. Ira Davenport was nominated for governor by the Republicans because of his record as comptroller. Governor Tilden told a young Democrat, ambitious to advance politically, to make his first mark in the public service in the comptroller's office.

"Fred, you have a splendid record as comptroller. You have gained wide

popularity and especially the good will and esteem of the business element of the state. Your father was a member of the Albany regency, which largely controlled Democratic politics in state and nation for so many years. You have been raised and steeped in the Democracy of Van Buren and of Tilden. You are not unaware of the present intention of your friends—myself among them—to put you forward for governor in 1882. In my opinion, if you remain in politics you will stand a very good chance of being elected. And if you should make as splendid a record as governor as you have as comptroller the eyes of the nation will be upon you, and no man can say what will then follow in your political fortunes."

"About this time," continued Mr. Lamont, "there was abundant evidence that the Republican party in the state was to undergo most serious factional disturbances during the next few years. The soras made by several old rows had not yet healed; there was an element in the party that was planning to bring about the nomination of Grant for president the following year, and there was an element equally determined to prevent that nomination. The comptroller, shrewd political observer that he was, must have realized that 'Dan' Manning was not talking without a full weighing of the situation; he must have realized the political possibilities that lay before him, especially as he

## Story About Whistler's Father

How He Found Base Line for the Gigantic Work of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The scientific organization of the United States coast and geodetic survey, which has for its original and principal purpose a survey of the coasts of the United States primarily for the benefit of commerce, dates from 1852. Field work was begun the following year under the superintendency of Ferdinand R. Hassler, the celebrated Swedish-American engineer,

was fully aware of the plan of Manning and others to work for his nomination as governor in 1882. Yet the comptroller reasoned in this way: "Politics, while fascinating, is uncertain. No one can tell how long personal or party popularity will last. On the other hand, as a banker there are, to be sure, great responsibilities, but very great and honorable opportunities. As a banker I should be free from the annoyances, vexations and uncertainties of a political career, and surely be able to gain a comfortable competence for myself and my family as long as I live. I will turn my back upon politics."

"That is just what he did—and you know the rest. Frederick P. Olcott, four years after leaving the comptroller's office, reached the presidency of a trust company and made that the greatest institution of its kind in the country. 'Dan' Manning was chairman of the Democratic state committee, helped greatly to bring about the election of Grover Cleveland as governor in 1882, and the very first year that Mr. Olcott became a trust company president the political astuteness of his old friend, Dan Manning, did wonders in securing the Democratic presidential nomination for Governor Cleveland.

"Personally," concluded Mr. Lamont, "I have always believed that Mr. Olcott might have been president in 1884 had he not decided to turn to banking in 1879. And 'Dan' Manning was of the same belief. He told me so himself."

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who for many years was at the head of this important work, and who, for two years, beginning in 1816, conducted coast survey operations in the vicinity of New York. But it is from 1822 that the present survey of our coasts really dates; and according to two authorities in the railway world it was due to a suggestion made by the father of Whistler, the artist, that a satisfactory baseline was found for the present survey, which has resulted in the accurate mapping of our entire coast line, both east and west. The story was originally told me many years ago by the late James D. Layng.

"You probably know that, in order to make a survey, it is necessary, first of all, to fix upon a base line, or starting point," said Mr. Layng, at that time vice-president of the Big Four system. "Having got that, you can then measure with your instruments the distance between the starting point and some prominent object—a mountain, for example. Thus, you obtain two sides of a triangle, and geometry teaches us that if you know the length of two sides of a triangle you can at once find out what the length of the third side is.

When the coast survey had at last been scientifically organized and thus born anew, a party of engineers was sent out to find a convenient and good starting point for the survey—that is to say, a base line. They were engaged in this task for quite awhile—a number of months, in fact—and in the course of it they fell in with an old friend, Maj. George Washington Whistler, of the United States army, a distinguished engineer.

"Come with me and I will show you what you want," said Maj. Whistler, who constructed the first long railroad in the country, the Boston & Albany. They were willing, and the next day he took those federal surveyors to a point on the Boston & Providence railroad—then under course of construction—near the town of Mansfield, Mass. He led them up the railroad track a little way and then pointed to the north.

"There," he said, "is a stretch of railroad ten miles in length, by careful measurements absolutely straight, and with no grades. It ought to be the best kind of a base line for you."

"It didn't take the coast surveyors long to decide that Maj. Whistler was right. They accepted that ten mile stretch as a starting point of their work and from it reached a point with their instruments some 60 miles away. The gigantic task of surveying the coast line of the entire country was at last under way on a scientific basis, thanks to a kindly suggestion on the part of 'Jimmy' Whistler's father. And it may be interesting to note that the first measurement given by the surveyors' instruments was found afterwards by field measurements to be so nearly correct that the deviation was only about two inches in the 60 miles."

"That's been a well-kept secret," replied General Tyner. "Do you suppose that if I knew, I would tell you? But I will tell you now that overnight we brought about the combination necessary to make Hayes the winning candidate. I was in the thick of the fight. I persuaded delegates from other states besides some from my own to enter into the combination, so that at the beginning of the balloting on the morning Hayes rushed forward magnificently to victory.

"At last I felt I had paid off James G. Blaine. But I wanted to let him know it, and I hunted him up some time later in Washington. 'Well, Blaine, we're even now,' I said. 'Yes—yes, you did it,' he answered without exhibiting the slightest resentment. And my heart was touched. And I have always felt a little regretful that I carried my resentment so far."

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## Story of Political Resentment

Because of Broken Promise James N. Tyner Helped Defeat Blaine for Presidency, and Always Regretted His Revenge.

This story was told to me by the late James N. Tyner, who served in congress from Indiana from 1869 to 1876, was postmaster general during the last year of Grant's second administration, afterwards becoming assistant attorney general of the department, resigning therefrom in May, 1903. I met General Tyner when he was an old man—in fact, shortly after his resignation from the department, when he was under accusation for improprieties in office.

"I have learned to expect ingratitude and false friendship—indeed, my experience in public life has very strongly disposed me to doubt the sincerity of any political friendship," he said. "It is due to betrayal of friendship that I am now under false accusation.

"An too old a man, and perhaps have learned too much, to justify me in looking forward to the time when I can get even with those who have attempted to ruin me. But there was a time when I got even with a betrayer, and I have always more or less regretted it."

"I was in congress when James G. Blaine was speaker of the house. He was very cordial toward me, and at the time of his second election as speaker I had just reason for expecting that he would appoint me chairman of the committee on post offices and post roads. I went down to him and told him that I would be very glad if he would make me chairman of the committee. 'Tyner,' said he, 'there isn't a member of congress who is better qualified for the place than you, and I shall be very glad to appoint you.'"

"But when the committee was announced, to my humiliation and chagrin, I discovered that Mr. Blaine had not kept his promise. I was a younger man than I am now and did not control my temper as well as I should. In the heat of anger I sought out Mr. Blaine in the speaker's room.

"You have betrayed me. You have

## Boxes Sent to Ministers

These Here Referred to Are Given by Churches Better Able to Provide.

"We make a specialty of filling orders for missionary boxes," the announcement said, the boxes here referred to being such as are sent throughout the year, but more particularly perhaps at Christmas time, by societies or members of churches here to pastors and their families of smaller churches elsewhere.

"These boxes contain clothing. These are not charity gifts, but things willingly, gladly given by churches better able to provide to pastors of churches not so well able to pay salaries that would enable their ministers to provide for themselves and their families as well and comfortably as might be. Thus a church here might take upon itself the duty of assisting the pastor of some smaller church of its denomination in some smaller, distant place where money was less plentiful.

broken your promise to me," I shouted in his face. 'And I tell you now that I shall oppose your nomination for president. I shall fight you in the convention. And if it is in the books, I shall beat you.' And all he said in reply was: 'Well, that's fair fighting, Tyner.' He did not even explain why he had broken his promise to me.

"I went to the Republican national convention, held in Cincinnati in 1876. Blaine, Conkling and Benjamin H. Bristol, of Kentucky, who had been secretary of the treasury under Grant, were the leading candidates. The Ohio Republicans—some of them, at least—were holding back Governor Rutherford B. Hayes as a dark horse. It seemed to me that there was a splendid chance of a successful combination in favor of Hayes, provided we could get the time to effect such a combination. Well, we gained that time when the gas suddenly gave out in the convention hall, and the convention had to adjourn, because of darkness, until the next morning, to the great dismay of the Blaine men, who saw Blaine's nomination almost within their grasp just before the light failed."

"Do you know who played that historic trick on the convention?" I interrupted.

"That's been a well-kept secret," replied General Tyner. "Do you suppose that if I knew, I would tell you? But I will tell you now that overnight we brought about the combination necessary to make Hayes the winning candidate. I was in the thick of the fight. I persuaded delegates from other states besides some from my own to enter into the combination, so that at the beginning of the balloting on the morning Hayes rushed forward magnificently to victory.

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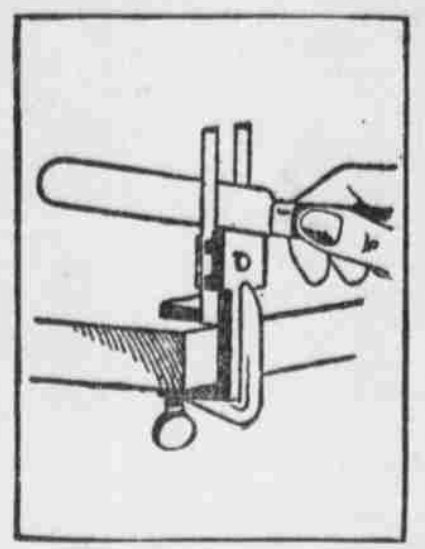
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## INDUSTRY AND MECHANICS

### KNIFE SHARPENER IS UNIQUE

Blade is Drawn Back and Forth Between Two Triangular Steels Held by Thumbcrews.

A novel and effective knife sharpener has been devised by a New York man. It is more pretentious than the ordinary sharpening stone used in most kitchens, but is said to give more satisfaction. A small iron vice clamps to the edge of the table, and



Novel Knife Sharpener.

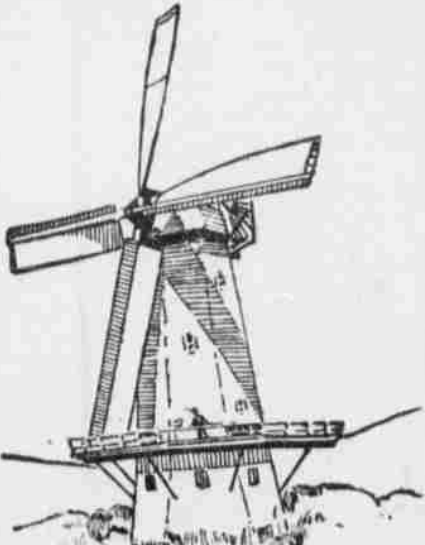
is held in the vise are two triangular sharpening steels held by thumbcrews. The knife is drawn back and forth between the steels, thus being sharpened evenly on both sides at once. The steels being triangular, different edges may be brought into use as others become dull, and it can easily be seen that the life of the device at this rate will be a long one, more especially as the sharpening process wears down the knives rather than the steels. Furthermore, when the upper half of the steels is worn, they may be turned end for end and a new surface provided.

### BIG WINDMILL IN CALIFORNIA

Giant Wind Propelled Machine Located in Magnificent Golden Gate Park Near Ocean.

San Francisco, Cal., enjoys the distinction of possessing the biggest windmill in America. This giant wind propelled piece of machinery is located in the extreme western borders of the magnificent Golden Gate Park, not far from the beach of the Pacific Ocean.

The windmill is used to pump water up into several large reservoirs that are placed in different locations about the center of the park grounds. The immense vane has a capacity of from 75 to 100 horsepower. The extreme ends of the vanes describe a



A Great Windmill.

circle 200 feet in diameter and swing around rapidly and with great force. The total cost of erecting this great windmill was about \$30,000.

**Removing Grease from Metal.** Electricity is used in Germany for removing grease from metallic objects. When the metal is used as negative pole in a hot solution of potash or soda lye, sheet iron or pieces of carbon forming the positive, the oil is driven away in a few minutes. It was at first supposed that the alkali transferred the fatty matter into soap. Investigation by Barth, however, has shown that paraffin and other oily substances that cannot be saponified are removed very quickly by the electric current, and the explanation seems to be that the bubbles of hydrogen set free act mechanically to drive off the particles of oil. The action takes place only when the fatty matter is liquid.

**Testing Propellers.** The testing apparatus for flying machine propellers erected by the Vickers company at Barrow-in-Furness, England, consists of a whirling arm, 166 feet long, mounted on Ball-bearing in a cast iron column. Mounted at the longer end of the arm, the propeller, 110 feet from the mast, is driven, through gears and shafting, by a 100-horse power electric motor. The propeller, revolving 350 to 1,000 times per minute, can drive the arm 70 miles an hour.

**Strength of Nickel Steel.** A test of nickel steel riveted joints made from four different kinds of commercial nickel steel showed the strength of nickel steel to be about two and a quarter times as high as that of joints riveted with wrought iron or mild steel rivets. The advantage thus gained more than counteracts increased cost.

**Substitute for Celluloid.** "Resinite" is the name of a new substance invented in Germany, useful as a substitute for celluloid and ivory. It renders wood, paper and pasteboard impervious, and makes pine, for example, so hard that it rapidly dulls a planer.

### ODD WAY TO SECURE COPPER

Tin Cans and Old Iron Junk Utilized to Catch Valuable Metal Going to Waste in Water.

There are many kinds of mines and numerous inventions for saving precious metals, but perhaps the strangest method ever devised came to light in Butte, Mont.

When mines were discovered in Butte, it was found that the water contained in the fissures was strongly impregnated with copper, so much so, indeed, that iron cages, cars and tools, of all kinds were quickly destroyed by the affinity of the copper for the iron.

Only a few weeks' immersion in the water reduced a mass of iron to pulp, a fact that made it necessary for all material used in the mine and composed of iron or steel to be replaced at frequent intervals.

For a long time the water pumped out of the mine went to waste, as no method was known of extracting the copper from it. After a while, however, a discovery was made that was utilized to good advantage.

Some tin cans found their way into the stream. In a short time it was noticed that they had ever appearance of being made of pure copper, so thickly were they coated with that metal. They were regarded as curiosities by all who saw them, but presently one man saw further than "curiosity"—he saw the use.

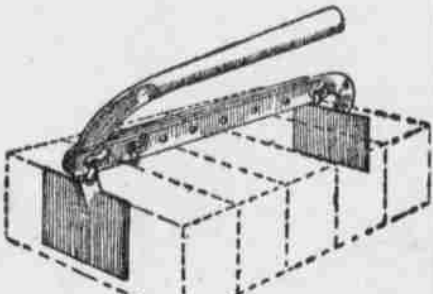
He began to experiment, and found that old cans and iron junk thrown into the water were soon destroyed, leaving in their stead a rich deposit of copper. He thought it would pay to extract the copper from the water by this process, and immediately purchased the exclusive right to the water.

Then he put in a series of reservoirs and tanks along the little gully where the water ran. These he filled with all the old metal to be had, including barrel hoops. At the end of six months, he found that the old junk was totally destroyed, and in its place was a sedimentary deposit in the bottom of the reservoirs and tanks which was slightly per cent. copper.

### TONGS FOR HANDLING BRICKS

Use of Instrument Eliminates Old "Chain-Gang" or Hand to Hand Method—Time Saver.

Tongs for carrying bricks are shown in the accompanying sketch. The



Tongs Clamped on Bricks.

length is adjustable to fit different sizes of brick. When unloading brick from cars into wagons, the tong holding four or six bricks are handed to the driver, who is thus enabled to pile that number about as quickly as one brick, says the Popular Mechanics. The use of these tongs eliminates the old "chain gang" or hand to hand method and effects a large saving of time and labor.

**Big Dredge.** The dredger Leviathan, at work in the Mersey, is said to be the largest construction of the kind in the world. It has an over-all length of 487 feet, a beam of 60 feet and a depth of 20 feet 7 inches, with a capacity to carry the enormous load of 10,000 tons of sand. It is of the twin-screw, self-propelling, sand-pump, hopper-dredger type, provided with 12 hoppers having a net total capacity of 180,000 cubic feet.

**Cotton Used in China.** The cotton cloth needed to clothe the inhabitants of China is about eight billion yards. This amount would carpet a pathway sixty feet wide from the earth to the moon, or cover one more than twenty miles wide from New York to Chicago.

## INDUSTRIAL AND MECHANICAL NOTES

Russia produces about 95 per cent of the world's platinum. The wild pampas of Patagonia produce wool and hides worth millions. A machine to remove paper from a wall rapidly by steaming it is a recent invention.

The heaviest hammer in the world weighs 50 tons and is found at the Terni works, Italy. The world's output of copper last year was nearly 100,000 tons greater than the year before.

All of Michigan's industries have felt the influence of the state's boom in the manufacture of automobiles. A French automobile builder has demonstrated that tires made of compressed leather will work successfully, even on rough roads.

About 65 per cent of all the tin used in the world is produced in the Malay states, which last year exported more than \$40,000,000 worth.

Metal gates when not in use, have been patented by two Connecticut men to keep children from falling out of bed.

To hold a pencil on a writing desk when it is not in use there has been devised a simple magnet with a steel cap to be placed on the end of any pencil.

A netting funnel, to be set into a window screen, so that it will point outward, has been invented to attract flies out of a room without permitting them to enter.

The use of bicycles is decreasing in Russia. One dealer said he had sold 2,000 in 1908, but only half that number in 1909. In Germany the demand for them is stationary.

## Timely Suggestions of Interest to the Hostess

### Two Guessing Contests.

The call for guessing contests is continual; it seems as if the demand would never cease, and our readers would the old ones so often that I am afraid some may tire of them. However, there are always new ones to read what to us may be old, so I give these two contests in response to a cry for "some good ones, please."

1. What is the oldest ant? (Adam-ant.)
2. What ant hives his home? (Ternant.)
3. What ant is joyful? (Jubilant.)
4. What ant is learned? (Savant.)
5. What ant is well informed? (Conscientant.)
6. What ant is trustworthy? (Conscientant.)
7. What ant is proud? (Arrogant.)
8. What ant is obedient? (Obediant.)
9. What ant is angry? (Indignant.)
10. What ant tells things? (Informant.)
11. What ant is successful? (Triumphant.)
12. What ant is an officer? (Commandant.)
13. What ant is a beggar? (Mendicant.)
14. What ant is obedient? (Obediant.)
15. What ant is youngest? (Infant.)
16. What is the ruling ant? (Dominant.)
17. What is the wandering ant? (Itinant.)
18. What ant lives in a house? (Occupant.)
19. What ant points out things? (Stigmant.)
20. What ant is prayerful? (Suppliant.)

1. What city is for few people? (Scar-city.)
2. For happy people? (Felicity.)
3. For hypocrites? (Duplety.)
4. For chaffeurs? (Velocity.)
5. For some lovers? (Domesticity.)
6. For athletes? (Elasticity.)
7. For greedy people? (Voracity.)
8. For wild beasts? (Perocety.)
9. For home lovers? (Domesticity.)
10. For actors? (Publicity.)
11. For reporters? (Audacity.)
12. For wise people? (Sagacity.)
13. For hungry people? (Capacity.)
14. For telegraph operators? (Electricity.)
15. For crows? (Multiplicity.)
16. For nations? (Republicity.)
17. For old people? (Eccentricity.)
18. For beggars? (Mendicety.)
19. For unhappy people? (Infelicity.)
20. For office seekers? (Portinadity.)

The names of cities and their nicknames may also be used, thus: Boston, "The Hub"; Philadelphia, "The City of Homes"; Detroit, "City of the Straits"; Cincinnati, "Queen City of the West"; Chicago, "Windy City," or "Garden City"; Buffalo, "Queen City"; Cleveland, "Forest City," Pittsburg, "Smoky City," Washington, "City of Magnificent Distances," Milwaukee, Cream City; New York, "Gotham"; Minneapolis, "Falls City"; St. Louis, "Mound City," San Francisco, "Golden Gate," New Orleans, "Crescent City."

### An Evening in Holland.

The invitations said, "The Travel Club will be pleased to have you spend an evening in Holland, at the residence of Mrs. Brown, January twelfth, at eight o'clock."

The house was transformed completely with the flag of Holland—red, white and blue—and all doors and windows; then there were pictures of Queen Wilhelmina and reproductions of famous Dutch artists, such as Rembrandt, Potter, Hals, etc. There were stocks and windmills on the dining table, with a pair of wax wooden shoes at each place. Lacking real tulips and hyacinths, there were artificial ones, and members had sent any bits of delit they possessed or could borrow, as well as many post cards from Holland, which were all displayed upon a table.

There were 12 members in this club,

and they were asked to come in costume, which I describe rather minutely.

The men wore dark jackets over bright vests, knee pants, low heavy shoes, with blue woolen stockings, broad soft hats, with rather pointed crowns. The Dutch fisher boy wore woaden shoes, very full trousers, coarse knitted stockings, a striped waist or blouse, red tie and a visor cap.

The girls wore full skirts of blue flannel, short sleeved waists, laced over a white shirt with short, full sleeves. A large white or colored kerchief was crossed over the breast and fastened at the waist. Fancy or white aprons and red stockings with woaden shoes completed a costume. The hair was parted and braided with a cap of white muslin or gay silk worn on the head. There are more elaborate head pieces of brass, with lace caps. The Dutch women are also very fond of wearing coral beads.

The fact that Holland furnished the world in making cheese furnished the subject for a very interesting paper. The hostess served potato salad, piping hot sausage grilled in the chafin dish, Dutch herring made into appetizing sandwiches, pickles and cheese, and offered a choice of coffee, cocoa or beer with pretzels.

### A Jolly Cotillion.

Perhaps you will all be interested in the description of these figures, which were danced at a holiday cotillion. College lads and lassies were the guests, and the affair took place on the third floor ballroom of a home noted for its hospitality.

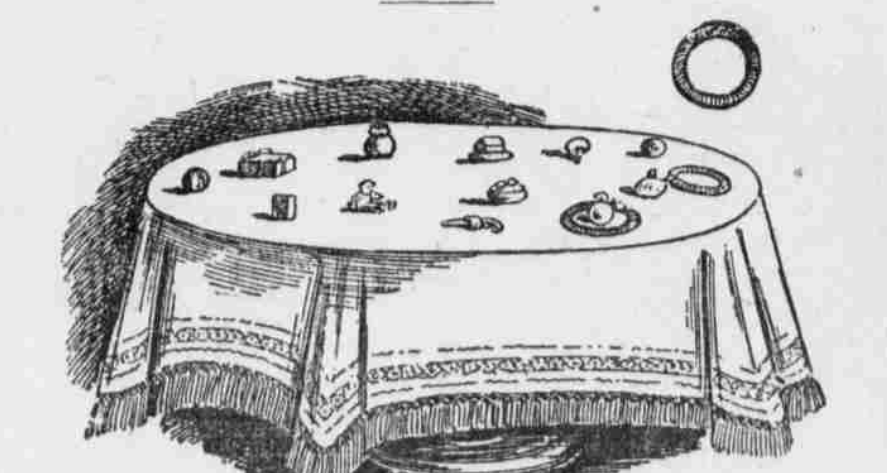
For the "snow man" figure the boys were covered with white paper bags with round holes cut for eyes. The girls had small snow man figures with paper caps in colors pinned on their gowns. Each man danced with the girl whose cap matched the colored button placed in his buttonhole. Another figure was a large Japanese lantern filled with tiny toys, two of a kind; as the lantern was tossed about the toys fell out, and those matching toys danced together.

The dance and drum figure was great. The men had whistles and the girls drums, each drum and each whistle being tagged with duplicate numbers and distributed among those who were to participate in the first waltz. The leader formed them in military array to the tune of "Mulligan Guards," and at the proper signal all danced.

The last figure savored of Japan. All the girls were given lanterns and all the men a box of wax taper matches. When the signal was given the men lit the lanterns and held them over the girls. The electric lights were turned off for a time, but turned on as the clock struck 12, and "Home, Sweet Home" sounded.

MADAME MERRI.  
**New Silk for Scarfs.**  
Among scarfs the newest material is fine silk creot, like glove silk. These come in all the fashionable shades. Many scarfs have embroidered and silk crocheted lace ends, in self-tones or in harmoniously contrasting colors.

## Party Amusement



THIS game is somewhat similar to a form of amusement that may often be seen at fairs, and is another method by which small presents may be given to little friends. On a table at one side of the room a number of prizes are arranged, and the competitors stand at an agreed-on distance from the table and in turn throw rings at the prizes. When a competitor successfully throws a ring so that it falls quite flatly on the table and encircles a prize, then he or she becomes possessor of the article.

The rings should be cut out of stiff

## FANCIES OF FASHION.

Some of these, with lace-work centers, are highly expensive. A sailor collar when made of lace is a pretty accessory to a dinner gown. Slips of Italian silk with messaline ruffles make the best petticoats for every-day wear.

The day when the debutante was strictly gowned in pure white is past. The new wild rose frocks for young girls threaten to take the pure white frocks' place.

**Pompadours No Longer Modish.**  
Women find that their heads show to better advantage with hair parted at the side than in the middle. One reason is perhaps because the middle of the head has been parted so often that the hair appears thicker and more glossy for some reason or other. But every woman who has the least wish to be modish has done away with the pompadour and is fattening her hair more or less at the sides. If a puff is put in at the side a very small one is used. The aim seems to be to have the head long from a side view but exceedingly narrow from the front.