

**Improving the Consular Service.**  
Attention has been drawn to numerous transfers and promotions in the United States consular service recently, and a careful review of facts shows that the procedure is in conformity with the determination of President Roosevelt's administration to put matters on a plane of higher efficiency. A Washington dispatch, considering the subject at length, says: "The changes and promotions are the first fruits of the system of consular inspectors which was created two years ago. Under this plan, introduced in the consular reform bill then passed, several traveling agents were appointed to go from consulate to consulate and to make regular reports to the department with reference to the conditions found to exist at each place." Much benefit to the country has come from the action taken by the administration, and more is likely to follow, declares the *Troy (N. Y.) Times*. Secretary of State Root, with the hearty concurrence of President Roosevelt, has shown lively personal interest in the consular service and has sought to make it instrumental in fostering profitable and pleasant commercial relations with foreign countries, and this policy is having excellent results.

The Japanese did a graceful act in raising and dedicating a monument to the Russians who fell in defending Port Arthur. This tribute of generous foes to brave enemies should go far toward removing asperities, if any remain. Russia went into the war with rather lofty notions as to the inferiority of the Japanese as fighters, a mistake which was quickly perceived. Japan made no such false step. The mikado's soldiers and sailors believed they had their work cut out for them, and that it would not be boy's play. They met the test in splendid shape. While they won they at no time showed other than a tolerant spirit. The testimonial to the fallen Russians is in line with the magnanimity shown to Russian prisoners during the war. There is reason to believe that many of the czar's subjects who enjoyed Japanese hospitality under such circumstances had the time of their lives.

The match is a little thing but it plays a most important part in modern life. Recently gathered information shows that matchmaking in the United States has attained the dimensions of a big industry. As it is estimated that the total consumption of matches in this country alone is 165,000,000,000 annually, it must be apparent that somebody must be busy to meet the requirements. Of course matchmaking in the present perfection of the business is done mainly by machinery. And the friction match is considerably less than three-quarters of a century old. The first one was made at Springfield, Mass., in 1836. There are many ways of starting a fire and keeping the blaze going, but probably it will be many years before the handy little friction match shall be wholly driven from the house.

One of the puzzles of the day is to find the automobiles which started on the race from New York to Paris. When last heard of the remaining contestants were somewhere in the wilds of Siberia. This was several days ago, and no tidings as to whereabouts have since been received. So anxious are those directly concerned that the Russian committee which is looking after the race in that quarter has been appealed to and has been asked to institute a search for the missing men and machines. It is to be hoped that nothing tragic has occurred, yet it would not be surprising if the venturesome men have met with disaster.

The Cubans like the American army so well that they want our boys in blue and khaki to stay indefinitely. That is out of the question, of course, as American troops will be withdrawn when American occupation of the island ceases. But it is a feather in the American cap that the Cubans have been won by kindness and fair treatment.

If high living is driving us all to appendicitis, as the Chicago surgeon says, and if we shall all be forced to the operating table to have our lives saved, why, if the knife is a sure cure, as the surgeon also declares, should he be raising such an objection to high living? It is money in his pocket.

The International Congress on Tuberculosis will be held in Washington next September. A great exhibition illustrative of what is being done the world around in the fight against the disease will be held in connection with the congress, and the two will continue from September 21 to October 12.

The colony of Barbary apes, on the Rock of Gibraltar, is the only one of its kind in existence, and is being protected by the British government.

OLD ALDRICH HOME

HOUSE OF POET HAS BEEN TURNED INTO MUSEUM.

Formally Dedicated as a Memorial by Prominent Men—Place Restored to Appearance of His Boyhood Days.

Portsmouth, N. H.—An event of unusual importance to people of the literary world as well as to others was the dedication and formal opening of the Thomas Bailey Aldrich Memorial museum in this city, recently. The exercises were held in Music hall and a large number of prominent people from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and other places were present. Prominent among those who took part in the exercises were Gov. Guild, of Massachusetts; Hamilton Wright Mable, Richard Watson Gilder, Samuel L. Clemens and Thomas Nelson Page.

On the conclusion of the exercises the guests from other cities visited the Nutter house on Court street, in which "The Story of the Bad Boy" is laid.

The old house on Court street in which Mr. Aldrich passed his boyhood days has been fitted up in a way to perpetuate his name, down to the smallest furnishings.

The house belonged to Mr. Aldrich's grandfather, Thomas Darling Bailey. It is a two-story and a half frame structure, the main entrance from Court street leading into a broad hallway, which passes completely through the building to the large garden in the rear. On the big front door is an ancient door plate, bearing the name of T. D. Bailey, as well as the big brass knocker which did service when Mr. Bailey was alive and Mr. Aldrich was a little boy. On the right of the main entrance is the room that is known as "Grandfather Nutter's sitting-room," which contains chairs and tables of that period, including a center table of rare mahogany with brass claw feet.

A closet in this room contains a fine display of the best pink china,



Aldrich Memorial House.

which was used by the household when they entertained. Facing the closet, on the opposite wall, is an oil-painted portrait of little Tom Bailey Aldrich, dressed in a continental uniform that he wore in 1846 when he commanded the Portsmouth Continentals, a boy's company of 25, for which his mother made all of the uniforms worn by the lads.

The main hallway is furnished after the custom of old times. The kitchen is situated in the rear of Grandfather Nutter's sitting-room, and with its open fireplace, cranes, pots, kettles, hand bellows and other utensils in vogue a hundred years ago, carries the visitor's thoughts back to that period. The old blue Ridgeway crockery dinner set, which has been in the Bailey-Aldrich family for a period of 150 years, occupies a conspicuous place on the wooden shelves.

Miss Abigail's bedroom is directly over the kitchen. In one corner is a large high top canopied bed. In another is a small work table with Miss Abigail's work basket, also a silver sewing bird screwed to the table. On the opposite side of the upper hall is Mrs. Aldrich's room, with a high post bedstead and dimity draperies, and all other fittings that belonged to the old period.

Over the front hallway is a small room which was occupied by little Tom Bailey Aldrich, and here can be seen the bed on which he slept which is complete in all of its details, even to the patchwork quilt. On the wall at the head of the bed is a small bookshelf containing books of that period that were the property of Mr. Aldrich when he was a youth. The same high backed chair stands beside the bed, and on its back is hung the little continental coat that Mr. Aldrich wore so proudly when he commanded his company over 60 years ago.

So complete has the idea been carried out of having the interior of the house present the same appearance, room for room, as described by Mr. Aldrich, that even the garret has not been overlooked. It was a favorite resort for Mr. Aldrich and his boy associates. Here can be found all of the castoff articles on which Mr. Aldrich dwelt at length in his interesting story. At one end can be seen the old scenery and the green curtain which figured so prominently when he and his associates gave a show, for which the admission was a pin, and Kitty Collins was obliged to give a clothes-pin.

BOLERO AND BLOUSE



**BOLERO.**—This is a most useful little coat, in the same material as the skirt; blue and white striped tweed is used here, the revers and cuffs are of white cloth stitched at the edge. There is a wrapped seam down each side of front and back, with a small opening at the end of each, ornamented with buttons; buttons also ornament the cuff.

**BLOUSE OF SILK AND LACE.**—This little blouse is quite a novel idea, and would be very smart when made; the bodice part is of the same material as skirt, glace silk would be most suitable; it fastens down the front, and is trimmed along the outer edge with a piece of velvet, the little tie-over collar is also trimmed with velvet, the under-arm parts and the sleeves are cut all in one, in piece lace, the sleeve is finished at the elbow with a band and cuff of the silk, the cuff is trimmed with velvet.

**BLOUSE TO MATCH SKIRT.**—This blouse would make up well in the same material as the skirt, providing the material is something soft; the yoke is of piece lace, piped with silk to match the material, which is tucked to fit the yoke, the tucks are about one-quarter inch in width, and are carried down three inches, the sleeve is a simple puff, gathered at the elbow and put into a shaped band which is piped with silk, a little bow of silk is worn at the neck; the waist-band also is of silk.

STRIPES AND POLKA DOTS.

Methods of Trimming That Will Make Any Simple Frock Ornamental.

One of the pretty ways of making a simple frock ornamental is trimming it with an opposite design in the same coloring.

To be explicit, polka dots are in fashion and frocks in this design are trimmed with wide bias bands of plaid or striped material in the same color.

A striped frock is trimmed with a wide straight band of polka dot material.

A plain surface is trimmed with both the polka dot and the striped fabric, and when the combination is well done it does not really look like a patchwork quilt.

It can even be carried out in yokes and stocks, as nets in fashionable colors now come with a tiny polka dot of white. It is usually in a small open circle instead of a real polka dot, but it gives the same effect.

These nets are put in tiny tucks and used instead of lace, embroidery or muslin.

Placing a Couch.

Couches are now so much used in sitting rooms that any arrangement that has even a spice of novelty should be welcomed. So try putting the couch in the corner of the room so that it touches the wall at one end and behind it. At the other end, with its back against the divan, stand a bookcase, which is a complete screen to the couch. The latter piece fronts out toward the room, so that any one entering sees the bookcase at once, and on going farther into the room the couch comes into view.

Ivory and Gold in Scissors.

Ivory handled scissors are so pretty they may form a new incentive to feminine industry. A girl has just brought home from Europe a dainty pair of snippers that are attractive enough to make even an athletic maiden sit down and sew. They are made of the finest steel, of course. The ivory holes for thumb and finger are inlaid with gold. Nothing just like them has been seen even in the bags of gorgeous brocaded silks which contain the fascinating sewing implements.—*New York Press*.

INDOOR GOWN.



Plain white lawn was used to make this indoor gown. The surplice waist has a broad trimming band made of triangular sections of tucking put together with a narrow beading and edged with lace. At each side are folds of lavender satin and a bow of ribbon with long ends conceals the closing to the waist.

LITTLE ERRORS THAT WORRY.

How Some of Them May Be Avoided by the Home Dressmaker.

It is usually the little errors in dressmaking that are the most irritating and annoying to the woman who does her own dressmaking. The unlined waist is one of the hardest garments to fit correctly. When wrinkles come at the base of the armhole, the trouble usually is that the armhole has been made too small. If it is, do not cut it out, but simply snip it with the point of the scissors to see if the wrinkles are removed. If the wrinkles are not removed, then trim the armhole.

If the waist wrinkles at the base of the collar line in the back, see if your belt is in the proper place exactly at the waist line and that the line from the center back of the belt is plumb. If you are sure that the belt is correctly placed, then snip the collar with the point of the scissors at each side of the center back of the collar and wrinkles in all probability will be removed.

Hosiery Decorations.

Since the fad for decoration has become so widespread, the girl with a talent for fashioning flowers and bow knots with her needle is decorating the fronts of her hosiery from toe to ankle with quaint designs. These are of natural flower tints on the delicate hosiery worn with evening gowns and in self tints for those matching street costumes. Sometimes lace butterflies and bow knots are used as inserts, first being applied upon the webbing which is then cut away from the underside. Faded hosiery of a first-class quality may be successfully home-dyed, and thrifty young women overloaded with passe evening hosiery may easily transform it into a sort suitable for street wear by dyeing it tan, taupe, brown or blue.

Ribbons Must Match.

Debutantes-to-be are most particular about their ribbon accessories, and gorgeous, indeed, are some of the sashes, collures and blouse bows noticed at the week-end society festivities to which members of the younger generation are sometimes admitted. With her Dutch-necked dinner frock of girlish white Swiss or point d'esprit the jeune fille wears a flowered sash tied trimly about her slender waist and arranged at the back in butterfly loops, two of which may be drawn half way to the shoulders. The hair bow and sleeve rosettes may be of softest chiffon satin, matching the grounding of the sash, but her opera glass bag is preferably of the figured sash ribbon, lined to match its satin bordering.

A Pleasant Economy.

This is the time of year when the mother with a small daughter may lay in a supply of hair ribbons, for they can be bought at this season of the year very cheap, and a ribbon is always of use where a little girl is concerned, either for hair ribbon or sashes. To put away a ribbon when one finds it for sale cheap is a very wise thing to do, and will save a lot of expense when school begins in the fall.

Gold Bands for the Hair.

Gold bands are decidedly more chic than ribbon ones for the hair, and come in single, double, triple and even quadruple forms. These combined with tortoise shell or amber are extremely handsome.—*Vogue*.



SERGEANT JONES OF TENNESSEE



North through Luzon Lawton swept, And harried the Tagala fast and far, Until by night, if their pickets slept, They would rouse from dreams in a snake of fear. Thinking their tireless foe was near To smite by the light of the tropic star.

North through Luzon Lawton swept, (The bravest of all the brave was he) And with his column that never crept Was one whose spirit to his was twined; Danger? He laughed it down the wind; Sergeant Jones of Tennessee!

Fronting the Filipino line, One morn as the resting soldiers lay, Hearing the mausers whir and whine, He saw the folds of a battle-flag In the sultry breezes rise and sag Beyond where a river wound its way.

What the daring sergeant do? Tightened his trooper's belt by a hole, Slipped from the shelter of thick bamboo.

Swam the ooze of the sluggish stream, With its rows of bayonet-reeds agleam, And forward over the rice-fields stole.

Over the rice-fields stole, and then Leaped at the banner, and clutched it fast.

In the very face of the riflemen: And, ere they called from palsied dread, Back with the captured flag he sped With never a look behind him cast.

Around him, like invisible bees, The bullets buzzed in a deadly band From the rifles of his enemies; They plowed the ground behind, before, But he reached the dip of the river shore Unscathed, the banner within his hand.

Oh, what a cheering, rank on rank, Down the length of the line there ran, Greeted him as he climbed the bank! Swelled about him and surged—and we Flung it back to him over the sea, Valiant-hearted American!

—*Youth's Companion*.

VALUABLE CARGO SAVED.

The Decision and Gallantry of a Squad of Enlisted Men.

William F. Crawford, sergeant company A, Ninth Illinois cavalry, Milan, Ill., tells a good story of how a valuable cargo of government supplies was saved to the government. In January, 1864, a sergeant from each company of his regiment was sent home on a two months' leave to recruit the regiment, says National Tribune. At the expiration of that time several of them met at Cairo, Ill., to take boat for Memphis, where the Ninth Illinois cavalry was stationed. The boat was a large one and heavily loaded with army supplies, all kinds of ammunition and enough Spencer carbines to arm a brigade. With the exception of themselves there was no one on the boat but the captain and crew and ten old soldiers without arms. Everything went along finely until they got to within 30 miles of Fort Pillow, when they met a boat coming up the river, whose captain called out that he had been fired on at Fort Pillow, where the confederates had a cannon and a small number of men. Sergt. Crawford talked over the situation with his comrades, and proposed to break open one of the boxes of carbines and of cartridges, but the mate objected, as did the captain, who said he was responsible for the cargo, and must deliver it intact. The sergeant replied that the arms were there, and that they must have them to defend themselves and the boat, so, being too many for the captain and the crew, they opened the boxes and helped themselves, taking carbines and 25 rounds of ammunition. Comrade Crawford, with two men, went up on the hurricane deck, where they found two big coils of rope, which he and one of the men appropriated as a means of protection, while the third man took a position behind the smokestack to watch the pilot, whom they suspected and feared would run them in. When near Fort Pillow the cannon fired a shot over their heads, which was a signal to the pilot to land them, but they kept a close watch on him, and he made no move to do so. When opposite the cannon it fired right into the boat, but the soldiers on board emptied the seven shots in their carbines, and the captain of the boat cried out: "Boys, you have killed and wounded several." They kept it up until so far away that their guns would not carry. None of the three shots fired by the confederates had any effect on them, and the soldiers were landed at Memphis with a big load of government supplies saved by their pluck and resourcefulness.

A Beautiful Incident.

A beautiful incident, finely typical of exalted sentiment, was the memorial service by Sons of Veterans for soldiers and sailors of the civil and Spanish-American wars who were buried at sea. After appropriate exercises on land in New York a canvas boat laden with flowers was towed to sea, and when the little craft filled and sank the floral emblems were scattered upon the waves, testimonials that the brave who slept beneath were not forgotten. The ceremony is to be an annual feature, and nothing could be more apt or touching.

BED-BOUND FOR MONTHS.

Hope Abandoned After Physicians' Consultation.



Mrs. Enos Shearer, Yew and Washington Sts., Centralia, Wash., says: "For years I was weak and run down, could not sleep, my limbs swelled and the secretions were troublesome; pains were intense. I was fast in bed for four months. Three doctors said there was no cure for me, and I was given up to die. Being urged, I used Doan's Kidney Pills. Soon I was better, and in a few weeks was about the house, well and strong again."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

MORE USED TO SELLING PINS.



Absent-Minded Clerk (who has been transferred from notion department)—So, you'll take this piano. Shall I send it, or will you take it with you?

Not the Chair.

He was a collector for an installment house, new at the business, and sensitive about performing an unpleasant duty. He was particularly embarrassed because the lady upon whom he had called to perform this unpleasant duty was so exceedingly polite. Still, the van was at the door, the lady was in arrears in her payments, and he remembered his duty.

"Good morning," said the lady. "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?" "Beautiful," he agreed. "Won't you take a chair?" she said. "Er—no, thank you, not this morning," he stammered. "I've come to take the piano!"—*Exchange*.

The Revolving Cat.

Little Susie has always been deeply interested in mechanical toys, and numbers several among her choicest possessions. Recently the family cat, having apparently eaten something which disagreed with her, began a mad race around the room, leaping chairs, diving under sofas and turning somersaults. Susie's mother, much frightened, seized her small daughter and mounted a convenient table. But Susie remained unscared. Clapping her hands in glee, she shouted, "Wind her up again, mamma; wind her up again!"

Making It Sure.

The lawyer was drawing up Enpeck's will. "I hereby bequeath all my property to my wife," dictated Enpeck. "Got that down?" "Yes," answered the attorney. "On condition," continued Enpeck, "that she marries within a year." "But why that condition?" asked the man of law. "Because," answered the meek and lowly testator, "I want somebody to be sorry that I died. See?"

DROPPED COFFEE.

Doctor Gains 20 Pounds on Postum.

A physician of Wash., D. C., says of his coffee experience: "For years I suffered with periodical headaches which grew more frequent until they became almost constant. So severe were they that sometimes I was almost frantic. I was sallow, constipated, irritable, sleepless; my memory was poor, I trembled and my thoughts were often confused.

"My wife, in her wisdom, believed coffee was responsible for these ills and urged me to drop it. I tried many times to do so, but was its slave.

"Finally Wife bought a package of Postum, and persuaded me to try it, but she made it same as ordinary coffee and I was disgusted with the taste. (I make this emphatic because I fear many others have had the same experience.) She was distressed at her failure and was carefully read the directions, made it right, boiled it full 15 minutes after boiling commenced, and with good cream and sugar, I liked it—it invigorated and seemed to nourish me.

"This was about a year ago. Now I have no headaches, am not sallow, sleeplessness and irritability are gone, my brain clear and my head steady. I have gained 20 lbs. and feel I am a new man.

"I do not hesitate to give Postum due credit. Of course dropping coffee was the main thing, but I had dropped it before, using chocolate, cocoa and other things to no purpose.

"Postum not only seemed to act as an invigorant, but as an article of nourishment, giving me the needed phosphates and albumens. This is no imaginary tale. It can be substantiated by my wife and her sister, who both changed to Postum and are hearty women of about 70.

"I write this for the information and encouragement of others, and with a feeling of gratitude to the inventor of Postum."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pks. "There's a Reason." Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.