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Every Pound Guaranteed to contain Sixteen Ounces.

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POPULATION OF LINCOLN, 85,000.

IN THE LIBRARY.

The March Cosmopolitan exhibits a table of contents made up to cover the widest possible field. It opens with an exquisite frontispiece, a reproduction of a painting by Siefert of Munich, purchased by the Cosmopolitan for use in this way. There is given first a light article treating of the French stage and illustrated in a way that gives an excellent idea of some noted French beauties. Mrs. Van Rensselaer Cruger writes of the slovenly dressing of Americans, and no one is better qualified to review the subject thoroughly. A departure in magazine work is the long expected autobiography of Frederic Villiers, the famous war correspondent. Villiers writes as well as he illustrates and his "Story of a War Correspondent's Life" is as entertainingly written as it is skillfully illustrated by this prince of newspaper correspondents and artists. A striking short story of thrilling adventure "How I Shot my first Elephant," by MacMahon Challinor, and "Labor Unions and Strikes in Ancient Rome," an illustrated article by Dr. G. A. Danziger, are among the best things in the March Cosmopolitan. The regular departments of current events and social problems, by Murat Halstead and Edward Everett Hale, respectively, are as usual, maintained with the accustomed wisdom and ability expected of these two well known writers. The brief essays of Brander Mathews on purely literary subjects, are becoming a prominent feature of the Cosmopolitan. Mr. Mathews treats of "Certain Recent Volumes of Verse" in the March number. (Cosmopolitan Publishing Company, Madison Square, New York, 25 cents a copy.) THE COURIER offers to send this most excellent magazine and this paper, both for one year for \$5.00. Send in your name.

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Miss C. J. Guilmette, modiste, second floor Exposition building. Take elevator.

Bell & Cowdery, flower, feed and general commissionaries, 118 North 14th st. Phone 784.

Wolfenbarger & McDonald, attorneys and counselors, rooms 130 and 131 Burr block, elevator on O street.

Doctors Bailey & Goodell, office 1347 L street. Telephone, 617.

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Jupiter Coal is a winner and Betts & Weaver, sole agents have plenty of it. Try a ton.

New rucking, new valling in the latest conceits at Herpolsheimer & Co.

New styles of invitations just in at THE COURIER office.

Cheap Excursion Rates.

Excursion tickets are now on sale via the B. & M. to all important points in the south, including Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and Florida.

The B. & M. is the only line running through sleepers between Lincoln and Kansas City making close connections for southern points.

It is the short line and makes the fastest time. A trial will convince you of the fact. Enquire at union depot or city office, corner O and Tenth streets, for further particulars.

A. C. ZIEMER, City Pass. and Ticket Agent.

Lincoln and Kansas City Through Pullman Sleepers.

The surprising increase in business has compelled the B. & M. to withdraw their line of combination parlor and sleeping cars and substitute regular Pullman sleepers of a modern and pleasing design that are sure to be appreciated by the travelling public.

These cars leave Lincoln daily at 8:30 p. m. run via Beatrice and Table Rock, and reach St. Joe at 5:27 a. m., Kansas City 7:50 a. m.; returning, leave Kansas City 9:15 p. m. daily. St. Joe 11:45 p. m., arrive at Lincoln 7:50 a. m., making close connections at terminal points. Berths and tickets may be secured at union depot or city office, corner O and Tenth streets.

A. C. ZIEMER, City Passenger and Ticket Agent.

THE ASTOR MARRIAGES.

A FAMILY AS FORTUNATE IN MATRIMONY AS IN BUSINESS.

John Jacob the Final Member of the Fourth Generation to Abandon Single Blessedness—Other Alliances Made by This Wealthy House.

There is no longer an unmarried representative of the fourth generation of the house of Astor. The last to assume mar-



JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

ital obligations was John Jacob Astor, who the other day became the husband of Miss Ava Willing, of Philadelphia.

It is a remarkable fact that all the bearings of this famous name have been as fortunate in their domestic alliances as in their business enterprises. Indeed, it was to his wife that the original John Jacob Astor, the humble but keen witted immigrant from Switzerland, owed much of his prosperity. While yet a struggling young man he espoused Miss Sarah Todd, who proved a helpmeet in the most liberal meaning of the word. It was by her advice that he dispensed with middlemen and personally took to London his first large consignment of furs.

The venture proved a success both directly and indirectly; indirectly, because while at the English capital he met an old friend who had risen from the ranks of Waldorf peasantry to the position of governor of the East India company. The latter, when the two parted, gave Mr. Astor a permit to trade at any place controlled by the great corporation of which he was head. On arriving at New York John Jacob showed the permit to his wife with the remark that he failed to see how it would do him any good, as he owned no ships.



MISS AVA WILLING.

Mrs. Astor suggested a partnership with a vessel owner. The suggestion was acted on, and the first voyage to China, where the East India company had a port, netted a profit of over \$100,000, and led to further advantageous ventures in the Orient. Mrs. Astor bore her husband three sons and four daughters, and to the eldest son, William Backhouse Astor, was intrusted the conservation and extension of the vast property already accumulated. By his two wives, Margaret Armstrong and Alida Livingston, William B. had seven children. At his death the bulk of the estate, which he had faithfully administered and increased, went to his sons, John Jacob and William, the larger share going, it is believed, to John Jacob, who was the elder.

John Jacob married, in 1848, Miss Charlotte Augusta Gibbs, the beautiful daughter of a South Carolina merchant. They lived a life of almost ideal harmony, and dying left behind them a single son, who had gained political honors and literary fame before he was called on to bid his fond parents a last farewell. As the descendant in the eldest line William Waldorf is now the hereditary chief of the house of Astor. About a dozen years ago he wooed and won Miss Mary D. Paul, a



CARRIE ASTOR. HELEN ASTOR.

Philadelphia maiden of great personal and intellectual charm. Mr. and Mrs. Astor are at present in Europe superintending the education of their children.

William Astor, the brother of John Jacob, married Miss Schermerhorn, a Knickerbocker belle, and from their union five children were born, four of whom are now alive. The eldest, who became Mrs. Van Allen, died almost before the close of her honeymoon. Miss Helen is now Mrs. Roosevelt-Roosevelt; Miss Augusta, Mrs. Coleman Drayton; Miss Carrie, Mrs. Orme Wilson, and John Jacob, the final representative of the fourth generation to abandon single blessedness, has, as before noted, led to the altar Miss Ava Willing.

Mrs. William Astor, who is still a remarkably handsome woman and a leader of New York society, has every reason to be proud of her children. Her oldest daughter, Mrs. Roosevelt, is a stately brunette, with much of her mother's charm of carriage and manners. She is devoted to her little ones, and although eagerly sought after rarely takes part in fashionable functions. Mrs. Drayton has that rare com-

binations, blue eyes and black hair. The two set off splendidly the other charms of her attractive countenance. Her expression is vivacious, and she is noted for her skill as an entertainer and conversationalist. She has all that heart can wish for including three bright children. Mrs. Willson is a decided blonde. She was the last of the sisters to marry, and all that wealth and affection could devise was undertaken to make her wedding a brilliant affair.

Her bridal dress is still spoken of as "the crowning creation of Worth." The corsage and train were of white satin, wrought in heavy brocaded figures of flowers with threads of silver. Orange blossoms, reproduced in wax, covered the front of the gown, the sprays descending in a crescent from the left hip to the lower right hand corner of the skirt. The dress fitted closely over the shoulders to the neck in the back. The front was cut low and square, the space being filled with frills of point lace and orange blossoms. The sleeves reached to the elbows and were finished with lace. The train, which fell in double box plaits from the belt, looked like twin folds of silver drapery and was three yards long. The veil was the finest production of Brussels handiwork, and was fastened to the bride's hair with diamond stars. Mrs. Willson's life is said to be as pleasant as that of her older sisters, and, like them, she has some promising little people to engross her tenderest attentions.

"Jack" Astor, as his intimates call him, is a "chip of the old block." He has been given a collegiate education, has traveled extensively and has seen much of society. He is on the sunny side of thirty, is nearly six feet tall, and has not yet begun to take on flesh, being slim and wiry as a professional athlete. He likes outdoor exercise, and dresses expensively but quietly. Mrs. "Jack" Astor, nee Willing, is some years younger than her husband, and comes of a family that has been famous in the social annals of the Quaker City for more than a century and a half. Charles Willing was one of the founders of the University of Pennsylvania, and was mayor of Philadelphia in 1748 and again in 1754.

He married Nannie Shippen. Their son Thomas was president of the United States bank. The house increased in wealth and distinction during the succeeding generations, and formed alliances with the Burdets and other noted English families. Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Willing, the parents of Miss Ava (now Mrs. Astor), are firmly established as social arbiters in Philadelphia. Besides their Quaker City mansion they maintain another home in New York, at which they reside whenever business or pleasure calls them to Manhattan Island.

Naturally, great interest was attached to the nuptials of Mr. Astor and Miss Willing. The bride's home was thronged with guests from the two big cities, and there were mirth, merriment and congratulations without stint. So also as regards the presents. Altogether it can be said that no young couple ever faced the future with fairer prospect for a life of unclouded sunshine, for it is whispered that the union is purely a love match, warmly approved by both the families concerned.

F. X. WHITE.

A Vigorous Pair of Twins.

The oldest pair of twins in the United States are believed to reside in Atchison county, Kan. They are Ludwell Rector Ringo and his sister, Margaret Ringo Miller. They were born in the year 1804 in Culpeper county, Va. Their father was of German nationality, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, witnessing the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. On their mother's side they are direct descendants of Lord Ludwell, of England.

Marrying at an early age, their paths widely separated, and only recently they have had a chance to renew their youthful intimacy. The sister, following the fortunes of a wandering husband, has lived in almost every state in the western part of the Union. She had six children, is grandmother to twenty-seven, and has been a widow sixteen years.

The brother, marrying at the age of 22, lost his wife about three months ago, after a married life of almost sixty-five years. He has five living children, nine grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

The two come of a long lived family. Their father lived to be 97, and their mother passed her ninetieth birthday. Though 87 years of age, they are both strong, and are possessed of all their mental faculties. The prospects are good that they will see their ninetieth birthday, and maybe more.

They reside only a few miles apart, living with their children—the brother with a daughter in Atchison, and the sister with a daughter a few miles in the country.

If there are any older twins, the twins of this sketch would be pleased to hear from them. As far as is known, the distinction of being the oldest pair of twins in the United States belongs to them.

Less Conspicuous Uniforms Advocated.

An important question now being considered by the government of the United States, as well as by those of various European countries, is regarding the advisability of a change in uniforms for the land forces, the object being to render soldiers less conspicuous targets for an enemy. The change is proposed as a consequence of the recent improvements in small arms, the introduction of smokeless powder and the possibility of battle between far distant armies. The most imperative need for a reform of this sort exists in Germany, where the polished helmets, the scarlet and blue of the ordinary private, the white collars of the cuirassiers and the rainbow tints all over the Hussars make the wearers so remarkably distinct to the eye at long distances that the destructive work of hostile infantry or artillery is greatly facilitated.

Railway Building on the Sahara.

It is the opinion of Gerhard Rollfs, the African explorer, that the trans-Sahara railway can be built "only after the complete disarming of all the peoples through whose territory the route would lie. For this purpose 30,000 picked soldiers would be necessary. One of the greatest obstacles in the way of the constructors would be the sand banks. The largest of these banks might be tunneled, while cuts might be made through the smaller ones. In many localities sand sheds, built after the plan of the American snow sheds, would be necessary."

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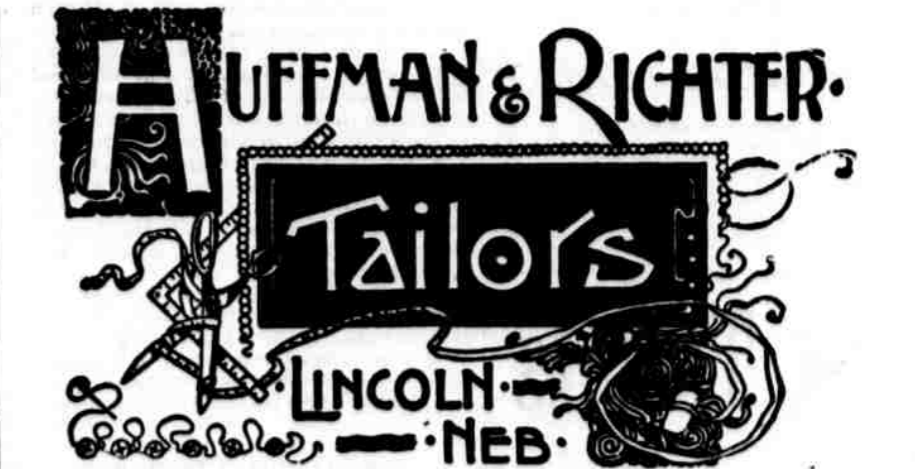
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The Latest Wrinkle in Mirrors.

It isn't the fault of the mirror when a new wrinkle appears in it. Time is the great creator of wrinkles, though it must be confessed that there are some mirrors that will make a man look as old as his grandfather. That isn't the sort we keep. When you look into one of our mirrors you won't think that Time has taken a sudden advantage of you and added a few years to your age. If you want to keep young and look young, see to it that your surroundings are cheerful and purchase one of our Fine Bedroom Suites with large French Plate Mirror in the Dresser, which we offer at very low prices.

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