WEST POINT DRILL.

THE CADET AT HIS BEST IN AN AMERICAN TOURIST'S INTERVIEW MOUNTED SERVICE EXERCISES.

The Bugle Blares the Signal "Can- A Little Lady's Passionate and Revolunoneers Mount"-Warming Up to the Work-A Beich of Flame and Thunder Cloud-Another Signal.

Sharp at the stroke of 9 the classes are My first visit was to a student named Svetthe field guns south of camp; the yearlings I handed him he changed his tone and inalready been bitched to the limbers and papers were scattered around the floor; caissons out on the cavairy plain, and that shirts, collars, and various pieces of clothing path to the "sea coast" battery at the water's | an the table. The host asked to be excused. edge, and presently you will hear a thunder. He would not change his habits for a mo-

men are the youngsters after two years' jeast knowledge of his native tongue. practice in the riding hall, and light battery drill is a famous place for exhibition.

OFF TO THEIR POSTS.

their stirrups, take a preliminary and surrep- his hand, offering to become friends, natty shell jackets stand ready at the guns; ability. elly plain.

them up to their week; the battery comman- loveliness. der, a young artitlery officer who knows his trade, swings them to and fro, faster and faster, from one formation to other—column, dered to check the advance of an enemy swarming up the heights and give him can- extremely happy to dine with an American mister at short range, with cracking whips | gentleman. and plunging steeds and rattle and rear of | It seemed as though the stream of wor! hoef and wheel and hearse throated com- from the mouth of my bestess would necrowd of specialors at the guard tents, when self the . I . . . inst of diener line. But the there is a short, sudden blast, a simultaneous Joung la ly noneers have spring from their sea are seated on their excited chargers.

that well nigh corpless them—the three youngsters on each limiter scendingly hange ing on as though a stad on sticking plastersthere is a ratch and bang of pintle hooks, hourse should of "Drive on" to the gun teams; gray and white forms lean and sway in and out among the wheels; sponges and rammers which in air; there is a belch of Jame, smoke and thunder cloud, a bellowing roar; another, another-half a dozen in quick succession; a thick sulphurous haze settles down the plain and cuvcions the gumners, and suddenly comes another biare of buyle. "Cease firing" is the shout, and the mimic scene of Buena Vista is over.

Even before the smoke has cleared away another order is given, with prompt, exciting response; plunging horses, cracking whips, a rush of teams, limbers and carsons between the black muzzles of the guns; a sudden whirl about of wheels and handspikes, and the next instant smoke and flame are belching in thunderelaps over the very ground where stood the waiting taxus only a moment before. Then comes still another signel, a stowing away of handspiller and rammers, a rapid reinabout of the limber teams, another blare and away they go, the white legs of the cannoneers flashing in a race beside their bounding guns; a rush across the road to the edge of the grassy level beyond, another sudden whirl into battery, a thundering salute to the rocky heights to the west, an echoing roar from the great columbiads and parrotts at the "seacoast" down by the Hudson, and the Point fairly trembles with the shock and concussion. There is no hour of the day to match the excitement and clau of that of battery drill .- Charles King, U. S. A., in Harper's Magazine.

Cigars for Gen. Grant.

Gen. Grant was able to gratify his love for the weed at little or no tax upon his \$50,000 a year. So many of his friends were desirons of making him presents and his fondness for eigars was so universally known that the express companies were kept busy delivering him boxes of the choicest brands. I know of one gift to him of a box of 100 which cost the donor \$145-so, at least, the latter told me. I thought this was about the highest price ever poid for such goods, but the gentleman as-sured me that he had bimself smoked eigars which had cost \$1.75 apiece. He had done so accidentally, however, for it was far from his disposition to be so extravagant. The gift to Gen. Grant came about in this way: My informant, a merchant of means, was about to visit the general in camp during the closing days of the war and thought a box of fine cigars would be appreciated as a delicate courtesy. Accordingly, he called upon a cigar dealer near his residence and requested him to get the best box of cigars within reach. It was a time when gold was over 200, and the custom duties were very keavy. The package was daily delivered to him in a day or two and with it a bill for \$145. Astenished at the price be went to the eigar dealer, who said that the bill was correct,-Brooklyn

Hair Oil and Hair Dye.

Few men use hair oil nowadays and fewer still use dye. A few years ago the use of both was common. The young scented themselves with the oil and the fading bear and even staid family man fought the appearance of age by applying the latter at frequent intervals. Now grayness, particularly if premature, is considered a masculine charm, and fal, whose father is a real estate agent. even ladies are not averse to owning it. Among the men who still resort to dye may be mentioned the typical "sport" of the steamers and street corners, who hates even the semblance of age as he hates blue laws and determined authorities.-Philadelphia

A NIHILISTIC FAMILY.

WITH STUDENT SVETLOFF.

tionary Outburst-A Strange Kind of Piano Music-Warnings of an Anxious Mother-Put in Prison.

again in ranks, and the hour of battery drill 10ff, I found bim in bed. He received me has come. The "plebes" march stiffly out to very suspiciously, but after reading the letter wheeling into column of sections, swing vited me to sit down. It was a regular dwelljauntily off under their detail of first class ing of a bachelor. The shoe brush lay at one officers to where the battery berses have end of the room; books, pumphfets and portion of the senior class not required as accupied a number of chairs, and half a chiefs of platoon or section at the field but- dozen empty wine bottles and glasses, remteries is already springing down the winding bands of caviar and cheese, left no free space of great guns that will stun all Orange ment, he said, for anybody in the world, and county—or would, but for the barriers of the he would feel sick and unhappy all day if he massive hills that shut us in on every side. | neglected his toilet. A party of friends came The liveliest spectacle, however, is here on together in his room the night before and had the plain, for of all the drills and exercises in a good time, he added, pointing at the empty which the cadet exects he is at his best in wine bottles. He spoke French, of course, those of the mounded service. During horse- he readily excused me for not having the

A sturdy young fellow, a servant, brought in a huge tub and filled it with cold water. I arcse to go, but Mr. Svetloff kept me back, Watch the boys as they go to their stations, saying I need not feel uneasy and might con-The seniors, in their riding dress, gauntlets sider myself at home. He plunged himself and cavalry sabers, swing easily into the sad- in the tub, remained there for awbile and dies of the somewhat victors looking steeds then he proceeded to make up his toilet, that are held in readiness for them, adjust | Finally, fresh and smiling, he reached me

titious dig with their spurred heels to test the At noon we left his room to visit a family mettle of their nags, then clatter off to their named Chondzin, to whom I also had a letter posts to look over the borses and drivers of of introduction. We were received by a their detachments. The yearlings in their young lady of striking beauty and ami-

the bugle blares the signal "cannoncers "Lina Nikolayevna Choudzin," said my mount," and, like so many agile monkeys, Nihilistic friend, unceremoniously, introducthey spring to their sents on the ammunition ing us. She gave me her little hand, and a chests, and with another bugle blast, and sweet, happy smile beamed from her dark rumble of hoof and wheel and clink of trun- blue eyes as she heard my name pronounced. nion, away goes the battery down the grav- Plainly dressed, with a profusion of flowing brown hair, a rosy cheeked face and a fault-There are a few preliminary moves to warm | less frame, she looked a picture of grace and

"So you are an American-a free born American!" exclaimed the little lady, "An American tourist you are. I never saw an line and battery-and then, as though or- American in my life. I am glad they are so good looking. Mamma and we all will be

mands and stirring bugle peals, up the plain | cease to flow. I got confused, and attempted they come at tearing gallop until opposite the to return the compliment and to excuse my

shout from the "chiefs," a vision of rearing hers and ushered me into the perfor, where horses as the licutements and sergeants half she introduced me to her mother, a venerable short on line with the brilliant gualon-gen- old hady, and then successively to her three erally the most picture que horseman of the brothers. A dinner party so merry I never warlike throng, and always posted on the attended in my life. I felt myself perfectly Slank nearest the halles-a flash of sabers in at home. Lina, who sat next to me, was the air, a sudden "rein in" of the line of enis- dashing in her witty remarks and pointed cons, and gradual rettle down to a stant, questions. Svetloff was sareastic and spoke long before which, mimble as cats, the cane always to the point. The old lady all the and are time sought to tame her talkative daughter. streaking it seroes the gap to where the chiefs calling her to order at every bold question remained quiet, but was now so thoroughly she may be, but she is always a good woman. she put. The young men-Lina's brothers-Around sweep the gues with sudden swirt me with questions. I had to tell her what I hearts' content, these two cadet non-commisknew about the social, political and economic conditions of women in America, name her our eminent female orators and champions of | take charge of the new men. women's rights, our female writers, doctors and cashiers, our actresses and other women of fame, and explain our school system with women as distributors of knowledge and light. She listened eagerly to my answers and explanations, and, suddenly thanking me for the patience with which I listened and replied to her questions, she broke out with her eves sparkling, and ignoring the cautioning appeals of her mother: "That is what we don't have and want to have here. Are we, perhaps, worse than your American women? They are queens, they enjoy life, independence, liberty; we are slaves, doomed to end our fives in dungeons or Siberia."

Svetloil applanded the passionate outburst, the young Choudzins ironically leaned over the table to shake bands with their little sister, while the mother, all confused, tried to excuse her. "Lina is so forgetful," she said, "I fear her rashness will bring her one stitution? Mr. Jones is your predecessor, day into trouble." Svetloff assured the old | sir lady that I was an American, not a member of the imperial detective force who would give her daughter away. Mme. Choudzin Jones. in lignantly replied that she did not entertain such an idea for a moment, and, addressing | servitude, sirf" was the next question. I unherself to me, she added: "In Russia people | derstood by this that my questioner wished have become so guarded"- She did not to know what had been my condition of life end her sentence, for suddenly strange sounds | previous to arriving at West Point, and so of music, coming from the open door of the drawing room, filled the air. I looked back and saw Lina sitting at the piane. How wonderful was her music! Never before had | ing. I confessed having a box of the latter I heard a combination of sounds with such a article in my trank, and was ordered to turn singular, bizarre, now complaining, now caressing, and almost mouning color of tune, Now she dragged and prolonged the measure so that it sounded like the mouning of the blacked in the shoeblack's shop under the wind; but then she tumbled and hurried it, barracks. When Lieut, D-had finished making me think that I was listening to a questioning me, he assigned me to the room vated, but at the same time I enjoyed the entrance examination. Every boy before fair pianist subsided, the music assumed a | two examinations, the physical, which I have a stagnant surface of a lake.

I remained with the Nibilistic family-for tionary ideas-until late in the afternoon. Svetloff's honest face brightened more and officers, whose duty it is to protect them. more during the flow of his eloquence. Lina's father, he said, was a colonel in the Russian army. He died at Plevna during the last Russo-Turkish war, leaving his fam- but for a whole year are known we their felily in good circumstances. Besides, the old low cadets as "plebes." Soon after their ad Lina's sister, a genial young lady, died in a where the first and the third classes (the cell at the fortress of St. Petersburg, whith, second always being absent on furlough) have er she had been sent for affiliation with the Nibilistic movement. Lina herself, though a to spend two months of torment. While in girl of 20 years, had already also had an opportunity to inhale prison air. She had ob tained the position of a teacher in a village and because she dared to overstep the limits prescribed by the government, because she thought the pensant boys and girls not only torn gloves, bringing water or doing any odd to read and write, but told them stories from job that a yearling (third class man) or first ancient and modern history, she was suspected of Nihilism, arrested, and kept in prison for three months.-Russia Cor. Chi-

A Back Yard Boom.

"What are you doing, Tommy?" asked a Sioux Falls lady of her young son who was sticking up stakes around the back yard. "Platin' a addition," replied the young hope-

"How are sales?" "Bully, ma! Stubby Jones takes that corner there by the gate for a peanut and lem'n ade stand, Bill Smith and Dutchy take a block by the barn fer their circus an' Hen Jones is talkin' 'bout takin' two lots by the apple tree for to tie up his dog on so's his dad can't shoot it. Say, ma, I'll let ye in on the ground floor on that lot by the corner o' the house

LIFE AT WEST POINT.

HIS EXPERIENCE.

His Reception at the Barracks-Undergoing an Ordeal of Impertment Questioning-The "Plebes" and Their Masters-One of the Nulsances.

My own experience on reporting at West Point may be taken as a fair example of the way in which newcomers are treated. My appointment required me to report to the adjutant of the United States military neademy on June 11, and at 9 o'clock on that studied them for years. You want to know day I presented myself. The adjutant ex- what kind of women they are! Fil tell you amined my appointment papers, and sent me what sort they are, young man; they're over to the hospital to stand my physical ex- ladies, that's what they are. Now, I don't

At the hospital I was told to strip off all my clothing, and a board of surgeons pro- indeed; nor of doing a charitable action cooled to examine me with a view to ascer- which would necessitate some personal extaining whether or not I possessed the physi- posure on their part, for they are generous to cal qualifications necessary to enter the a fault. What I mean to say is, that they United States army. They made me hop are as a rule refined and intelligent women, across the floor on one foot and back on the who read and think and are capable of makother, weighed and measured me, tested my | fng a good appearance in society. I don't eyes and lungs, and finally sent me back to know as I have ever seen one of them who is the adjutant with a scaled envelope con- phenomenally intellectual, outside of the taining their verdict. The adjutant opened the envelope and informed me that I had | which is phenome...al. Most of them have a been accepted. He then sent me over to the barracks in charge of an orderly. Right there my trouble commenced. Thus far I had come in contact with regular army officers only, and nothing had happened to impair my dignity or lessen my self esteem, but them are wives and mothers, and whon they now I was to be placed under a cadet corporal, and learn for the first time that be- klnd. You will find that they rule their tween plebes and yearlings there is a great | households with firm hands, and that their gulf fixed. On my arrival at the barracks I was met by two cadet officers, a sergeant and a corporal, and the following conversation

"Take off your hat, sir," said the corporal, "and hang it on the floor."

I obeyed, wondering if that was the only hatrack Uncle Sam allowed his boys. "What is your name, sir?" asked the ser-

"John Smith," I answered. "Sir," said the sergeant, "sir, what do we care whether your name is John or George or Zachariah? Now, sir, what is your name?"

"Smith," said L "No, sir," said the corporal, "your name is not Smith, but Mr. Smith, and remember to put a sir on when you peak to your superiors. Now, sir, what is your name?" "Mr. Smith, sir," I replied.

I thought all this was funny, and couldn't repress a smile. I was at once ordered to that smiling," but, of course, smiled only the harder.

the corporal, a stout fellow nearly six feet high, stepped up near to and directly in front c. me, and stooping down nearly to my shoes, jumped up sticking his nose in my face. This maneuver surprised me so completely that I did not know what to do or

"Sir," Le yelled at the top of his voice, "do you intend to obey me?"

I felt tempted to knock the fellow down,

"What is your name, sirf" asked the Heu-

"Mr. Smith, sir," I answered. your shoulders back, and assume the position of a soldier when you speak to me, sir." "Now, sir," continued Lieut. D-, when I see that book up theref'

"Yes, sir," I replied. "W. ... then, keep your eyes fastened on the letter I on the back of that book while I ask the summer on the rance, where a comfortyou a new questions, and don't you dare to have described able dwelling is fitted up for her, much on the order of an English shooting box. predecessor, sir?"

"His name is Jones," I answered. "No. sir," he yelled, "how dare you put yourself on an equality with an officer of the United States army and graduate of this in-

I made haste to disclaim all intentions of putting myself on an equality with Mr.

"What was your previous condition of answered that I had been a farmer's son.

Lieut, D- then asked me if I had any

pistols, bowie knives, confectionery or blackit in to him immediately. Cadets, I afterward learned, are not allowed to keep blacking in their rooms, but have their shoes cataract of tones. I felt puzzled and capti- which I was to occupy until I had passed my music. Slowly the wrath or passion of the being admitted into the academy must pass certain color of calmicss, and the tones began | already described, and the academic. The to hop on the key board like ignes fatui over | academic examination generally lasts about a week. During that time the applicants for admission, known officially as "candidates," all, even the old lady, entertained revolu- but called "beasts" by the cadets, are subjected to every sort of indignity by the cadet

The candidates that succeed in passing their examinations become at once cadets of the fourth class, and are no longer called "beasts," dy was pensioned by the government. mittance the plebes are transferred so camp, preceded them, and where they are destined comp the plebes are slaves to the other class men, and spend a great part of their spare time in doing "menial service" for their mas-ters. "Menial service" in cadet slang means cleaning guns, polishing waist plates, sewing class man may want done.

"Standing attention" to the other cadets is considered by the plebes one of the worst | number has increased from none to nearly nuisances that they have to endure. When- 277 during the present century-is among aspected to strike a brace and keep it until his superior (i) gives him permission to stand at

Cadets of the first, second and third classes call each other by name without the prefix "Mr.," but "Mr." the plebes and make the plebes "Mr." them. This is done to show the fourth class that it is not the equal of the others.-Ex-Cadet in N. O. Times-Democrat.

Coal Dust Versus the Vest.

Bituminous coal prevents the wearing of lowcut vests in many western cities, unless a

OUR CATTLE QUEENS.

AN EX-CADET GIVES A FEW BITS OF EIGHT HUNDRED OF THEM RAISING HERDS IN COLORADO.

> Refined, Intelligent Women, They Successfully Look After Their Own Interests-A Denver Reporter's Chat with a Prominent Cattleman.

> "Are you personally acquainted with many women engaged in the business of cattle raising?" asked the reporter.

The cattleman gave a long whistle, "Well, I should think so," he said. "Pve mean by that that they would be afraid of soiling their hands if occasion required; no, judgment they exercise in the stock business, genius for business, and nine-tenths of them know how to appear in a drawing room.

"In most instances they are rich and know well how to use their money to advantage so as to get the most good out of life. Many of are such I assure you they are both wise and husbands and children, to use the biblical expression, 'rise up and call them blessed.'

"Stock women are much like others, save that they have wider judgment on practical subjects. They are thoroughly businesslike, because they appreciate the vast interesta which they have at stake, and the quick conception with which all women are gifted enables them to see clearly what the inevitable results would be of one false move. They know that their decisions must be well weighed; that they must act only under the most careful consideration, and that once having acted they must abile by their decision with a calm, unswerving spirit. It is a good training school for a woman. It takes all that idiotic nonsense about nerves out of her and gives her brain a cool, common sense poise which many a man might

GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES. "I know of no position in life which I had rather my daughters would fill. It is one burdened with great responsibilities, of course, but what mode of life is not where there is anything to be gained? I assure you I should not consider that a clear understand ing of the cattle business interfered in any way with the refinement of those whom I hold most dear." "But you have doubtless met stock women

of a directly opposite class, have you not?" "Oh, yes; there are necessarily exceptions to all rules. The uncouth woman of the but not knowing whether or not he really | ranch, who rounds up her own herds and who had any authority over me, I concluded that predence was the better part of valor, and of the imagination. Uncount and imagination. angry that I no longer felt any inclination to and one whom all the cowboys respect. were not less inquisitive. Line overwhelmed | smile. After having deviled me to their | know several in tances where the women can swing a lariat like a man, and know quite sioned officers conducted me to the office of Cadet Licut. D—, who had been detailed to them personally supervise their own animals. them personally supervise their own animals, however, and these, in most instances, are those who have not as yet accumulated much wealth, although there are some very rich cattle women in Colorado who ride after their "Well, Mr. Smith, hold up your head, get own herds. A woman usually manages her your heels together, drag in your chin, get cattle through a foreman, whom she often supplies with brain power. She does not usually live on the ranch, but rather in a handsome house in some neighboring town. had assumed the position of a soldier, "do you | But, all the same, she is the bone and sinew of the business. Her clear head manages is all, and it is through her directions that her foreman always proceeds. She often spends order of an English shooting box NOT EASILY WON,

unmarried women who are great stock raisers. Well, the main thing that can be said for them is, that men of position and prominence out of money considerations either, for some of thes; unmarried stock women have a fund of good sense and useful intelligence which cannot be eclipsed, and beside this, many of them are quite accomplished and good looking. But few of them are past their youth, things, which augurs ill for the stranger who looks with longing eyes upon their flocks and

"Colorado women generally have gone into the stock business," concluded the cattleman, "through a direct line of inheritance-that is. they have inherited either small herds, vast ones, or a taste and inclination for the life. I know of numerous instances where a father has died leaving his daughter a very small herd, and she has gone steadily on with it, making thousands where her father before her made hundreds of dollars. Again, there are widows who have come into possession of vast stock interests through the death of their busbands, and who have managed the business left to them until the receipts run away

"I know resolute women too, who began without a dollar, and who have gained wealth and standing in the stock business. The most bushly novel sight I ever saw was a 14-yearold girl herding cattle away up in Montana, with only her little brother to assist her. The father of these two children had died, leaving them a small herd of cattle, and I would be willing to wager my last dollar that that little brown skinned girl away up there in that wilderness will yet count her dollars by thousands. Of the 800 stock women now doing business in Colorado, all are well and favorably known among cattle and sheep men, any one of whom would gladly befriend them in case of an emergency, but whom, on the other hand, they are quite capable of advising in many practicable matters relating to stock raising."—Denver Republican.

It Always Pours.

The discovery of rare elements bids fair to become as persistent a fanaticism among chemists as the finding of asteroids-whose substances were announced, while the entire number previously known was less than seventy. No less than nine were detected by Crookes last year. The list is likely to be lengthened quite as materially in the current twelve months, as A. Pringle already claims to have found six new elements in some silurian rocks in Scotland. Five of these are said to be metals and the other is a substance resembling selenium, which the discoverer calls hesperisium. One metal is like iron, but does not give some of its reactions; another resembles lead, is quite fusible and volatile ind balance, a Geneva watchmaker claims to have produced accurate time pieces which tre unaffected by magnetism.

| Application on the nairspring indication of the house and balance, a Geneva watchmaker claims to have produced accurate time pieces which tre unaffected by magnetism.

| Application on the nairspring indication of the house man is willing to put on a clean shirt every man is willing to put on a clean shirt every man is willing to put on a clean shirt every man is black; the fourth is a light gray powder, and the last is dark in he is going where good clothes are worn.

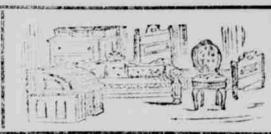
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