

E. G. DOVEY & SON

WILL OFFER ON THURSDAY, APRIL 4,

The Largest and Handsomest Line of Swiss and Hamburg

EMBROIDERIES ever shown in the city at prices which will be the very lowest.

EMBROIDERIES.

THE ASSORTMENT CONSISTS OF

Swiss Flouncings from 23 to 42 in. Wide.

Irish Point Flouncings, with Narrow to Match. Nanisook Flouncings, from 14 to 22 inches Wide. Hemstitched Flouncings. Narrow Swiss Embroidery. Hamburg Embroidery, in all widths.

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TOASTMASTER HARKER.

HE HAS HEARD MORE AFTER DINNER SPEECHES THAN ANY OTHER MAN.

His Reminiscences of Distinguished Diners. Charles Dickens was a Ready Speaker. Brought Out the Prince of Wales—Dining 5,000 Doctors.

"Are you still the city toastmaster?"
"No. I gave up my post some time ago; but I am the queen's bailiff at the central criminal court, and am one of the oldest servants of the corporation."
"How many dinners have you put through in your official capacity?"
"Four thousand and ninety."
"Most of the great speakers you have heard take something to keep their voice in trim?"

"Well, Disraeli, for instance, always had his butler behind him with a bottle of egg and sherry, which he had ready mixed. Mr. Gladstone, I have noticed, takes sherry, but no egg. The Prince of Wales, he likes hock and champagne. The Duke of Edinburgh, his servant always brings his special brand with him—a Russian champagne."

ALL THE CROWNED HEADS.
"Well, Mr. Harker, you have certainly heard more after dinner speeches than any man living. Will you offer some criticisms?"

"Well, I suppose Charles Dickens was as ready a speaker as I ever heard. The words flowed out like a stream, but he was not what I call a good after dinner speaker, because he was so interesting that you wished he would go on forever. Now, that don't do for me, you know, for I have to stand by with the watch."
"The stop watch, eh?"
"Yes; I've stopped Mr. Gladstone before today." This in a confidential whisper.

"You don't say so."
"A fact. When he is too long I have spoken into his ear, 'T-i-m-e, sir! T-i-m-e,' and then he slacks up. With ordinary men I say it to the 'chair,' not to let the room hear me, you know. I never stop a man at a charity dinner. It doesn't do."

"Is the Prince of Wales a good speaker?"
"A glorious fellow. If I had only a sovereign in the world and he wanted it, he should have it. Why, I brought him out in '63, and stood behind him many a time and oft. Does he speak from notes? Not in speaking of himself, never. He has a slip of paper to show the order of the toasts, that's all. What's his favorite dish? Well, he likes dainties en cuisine, en papillot, larks, lobsters, oysters. He is very fond of those."

"Well, now, who are the most famous people you have attended?" Mr. Harker looked hurt and his fingers fumbled irritably with his white tie as he proceeded:
"Why, nearly all the crowned heads in Europe. The queen, to begin with. Then I brought out the Prince of Wales in 1863, and all his brothers and his sons, the emperor of Austria, the late czar and the present czar, the late Emperor

Frederick, the Emperor Napoleon—why, I remember swearing in the late emperor of the French as a special jurymen at the Old Bailey when he was nobody. Did he serve? Just like anybody else. He had to serve by the law of the land.

COACHING THE PRINCESS.
"Then I claim to be the person who first induced the Princess of Wales to make a speech in public. I was standing behind her, a good many years ago; it was at a charity dinner or luncheon, and her speech was going to be read by her secretary. I ventured to say: 'If your royal highness would only say a word yourself it would make all the difference,' and she did. The Baroness Burdett-Coutts, too, I induced to speak when she opened Columbia market."

"Well, you heard about your successor who couldn't pronounce Massachusetts? What is the most difficult name you ever had to tackle?"

"The Madagascar envoy's. They were cautious. 'Riandriandriandri,' as near as I can remember it," said Mr. Harker. "Rain and rain and dry again," as Punch called it. The biggest number I think I ever did was 5,000 foreign doctors who dined at the Guildhall, and they said I didn't make one mistake."

"What preparation had you for your onerous duties?"
"In 1844 I shipped with Sir John Ross for the Antarctic expedition. We wintered twice in 78 degs. south; then we went to China, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, getting remounts for the regiments engaged in the Indian mutiny. I had joined the commissariat then. I came home in the fifties, and served through the Crimean war."

"Any wounds?"
"A bullet in my leg, a gun carriage crushed my ribs, and a slice of my chin cut off with a saber. Pretty tough, eh? I have twenty-six medals and orders, and my collection of autographs is not to be beaten, I think, for I have 600 cabinet portraits of all the famous men and women for thirty years past, with autographs attached."

"By the way, what are your fees?"
"Two guineas for a city dinner and ten guineas if I travel."
"And your uniform?"
"Well, evening dress as often as not now. In the good old days I wore a beautiful velvet dress, with knee breeches and silver decorations, which cost £200. But the city can't spend money like they used to do. They are watched by the newspapers."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

SOME CURIOUS MISNOMERS.
Arabic figures were invented by the Indians, not by the Arabs.
Dutch clocks are not of Dutch, but German (deutsch) manufacture.
Irish stew is a dish unknown in Ireland.

Raffin's bay is no bay at all.
Catgut is the gut of sheep, not of cats.
Down is used instead of a-down and utterly perverts its meaning. The Saxon dun is a hill, and a-dun is its opposite, a descent. Going down stairs really means going up stairs. We ought properly to say "going a-down."—*Detroit Free Press.*

TRICKS OF THE TRADE.

HOW ADVANTAGE IS TAKEN OF THE IGNORANT PUBLIC.

Diamonds Painted and Other Precious Stones Veneered—Stuff Sold for Solid Gold Which Is Poorer Than a Good Article of Plate—Small Profits.

"There is no line of business in which purchasers are so completely at the mercy of store keepers as the jewelry trade," said a leading dealer. "The masses are caught by mere appearances. They know what pleases them, but have little idea of actual value. Few know the difference between machine made and hand made goods; still less can tell whether gold is six carats fine or whether a stone is worth \$10 or \$100. Public trust in these matters is absolutely pitiable. Popular pride and ambition are stupendous. Mere looks and alleged price are practically all the buyer has to go by, and the honesty of the dealer is his only safeguard. Then in addition to actual grades of quality there are numerous sly practices that are resorted to by disreputable merchants and manufacturers, so that if a person contemplates buying anything where the risk is considerable it behooves him to know something about the man he deals with."

PAINTING AND VENEERING.
"Two diamonds, for instance, may be of the same size and cut, yet one will be worth twice, thrice or perhaps a dozen times as much as the other. Yellow white diamonds are common and blue white are scarce, and even experts find difficulty in giving the intermediate shades their proper place in point of dollars and cents. Among irresponsible dealers it is a common practice to 'paint' the stones so as to make the yellow diamonds whiter and the white diamonds bluer. The paint will not even resist soap and water, and will wear off more quickly than the thinnest possible film of gold on a brass ring. Yet for a time it makes the stone look twice as valuable as it really is. A few days ago a gentleman brought a couple of diamonds to me to determine their value. After I had washed them in soapsuds he could scarcely believe they were his own jewels, they were so yellow. It is a common trick of confidence men to paint diamonds and then get a loan on them of twice or thrice their value. I will venture to say that two-thirds of the people could not tell a paste from a genuine diamond."

"Then there is the process of veneering other precious stones. A piece of glass or crystal of the desired color and appearance is taken as a body and a thin covering of the genuine article is superimposed so as to convey the impression of being genuine. Such a stone in a setting designed to cover up the deception would make dupes of half the purchasers. The danger of being taken in would not be so great were people better posted. Show a man a lot out on the prairie and tell him it is worth \$100 a front foot and he will laugh at you for assuming upon his ignorance, but show

him a ruby or sapphire and tell him it is worth \$1,000 and he will believe you. The masses know nothing about relative values in gems, and the scope for deception is enormous.

SOLID AND STUFFED GOLD.

"Then as to quality of metal and workmanship. There is jewelry in the market sold for solid gold which is so low in purity that a respectable plate would be far preferable to the so called solid stuff. A certain amount of alloy is, of course, necessary for durability, but the gold that is actually manufactured into jewelry varies in purity all the way from four or six carats fine to twenty. Fourteen carats fine is the standard, but there is an immense amount of 'solid' stuff of the low grade sold annually, and a good share of it is palmed off for the standard purity. This cheap stuff is often dipped in a bath just so as to color it. The multitudes who are ignorant enough to accept a 'guaranty' that an article is solid rarely think, perhaps, of degrees of purity, and they are woefully taken in. As a rule, there is something about all plated and cheap stuff that betrays its quality to the experienced eye. Every manufacturer has his own designers, and, though copying is rare among the workmen, you will rarely see goods cheap in price without finding them cheap in design and workmanship."

"As a rule, I think people have crude ideas about our profits. The price of jewelry is due principally to the scarcity of the material used and the amount of labor expended upon it. I do not think that we get more than 25 per cent. gross profit on the average. When it is borne in mind that styles are constantly changing, that a large amount of capital is bound up, bearing no interest, and that the value of the goods is constantly depreciating, owing to the flux of styles, this is not above or even up to the average. If we could turn our money over rapidly and not suffer less from depreciation we would have a pretty good thing; but the numerous failures in the jewelry business bear witness to what I say about small margins of profit. Diamond dealers have possibilities of making great profits legitimately, since, when bought in the rough, the stones often turn out exceptionally well. I have known a diamond valued at \$1,500 to be recut and then sell readily for \$3,000."—*Chicago News.*

Iron and Wood Ties.

Iron cross ties have proved a failure on the Pennsylvania railroad, where they have been tried for several months, and white oak ties are being substituted. The wooden tie yields sufficiently to the motion of the train to make the riding easy and comfortable, while the iron tie fails to give on the road bed of broken stone and makes the riding hard and unpleasant to the passengers, as well as wearing on the locomotive and rolling stock; more frequent repairs to the road bed were found necessary with the iron ties, too. In England and France, where iron is much cheaper than here and wood much dearer, ties of the latter are used in preference.—*Frank Leslie's Newspaper.*

WALL PAPER.

This season we show a much larger stock of WALL PAPER than ever before. We have every thing from cheap Brown blank to the EMBOSSSED GILTS INGRAINS & FLUTTERS.

You cannot find a larger or more complete stock outside the larger cities. And our prices are lower. We would call special attention to our BORDERS AND DECORATIONS, We buy of the four leading manufacturers and by selecting the best from each, believe we are better prepared to please you than those whose trade will only justify their buying from one or two manufacturers. We will take pleasure in showing you our samples and request you to call and see our stock and prices before you buy Wall Paper or

PAINTS!

We now have twenty-three very desirable shades of MIXED PAINTS manufactured by Billings Taylor & Co., of Cleveland and New York. These paints we have handled for four years and while other dealers are changing from year to year, we find it to our interest to handle the same goods as THEY ARE THE BEST and have given universal satisfaction. We guarantee that they will not crack, flake or chalk off, that they will wear as long, if not longer, will look as well if not better than any other paint, or lead and oil. We will forfeit the value of the paints and the cost of applying it, if these paints are not found to be as represented. Mixed Paint at our price, (\$1.50 per gallon) is cheaper than lead and oil at present prices and we believe it much better, but to those that desire to use lead and oil we would say we have nothing but the very best, and our prices will always be found as low as first class goods can be sold for. Hoping to be favored with your orders, we are Yours Respectfully,

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