



Why not, Alice? 'Tis just the loveliest thing of the kind I ever beheld, and so costly. It will suit Alfred; he adores beautiful things. I'm surprised that you do not like it, Alice."

"Oh, as to that, I like the set well enough," replied Alice, lifting the pretty, frail ornament in her fingers. "It is perfect; but a wine-set is not a suitable gift to a gentleman, especially such a gentleman as Alfred Montrose. If you will pardon me for saying it, Gertrude, I think you ought to discourage your betrothed husband's love of wine, not foster it by such a gift as that exquisite Bohemian set."

Gertrude broke into a mocking laugh, and tossed her small head till her yellow ringlets were in a shimmer. "Oh, that's your drift, is it? For pity's sake, Alice! You are prone to be stupid at your best; don't turn pious lecturer, or you will be simply unbearable. Mr. Montrose may love wine quite as much as he likes, and I sha'n't object. I wouldn't have him a horrid temperance man for the world! Pahl! the idea. Why 'tis as much out of style as brass heels, and hooped petticoats. Just fancy one dining at Belvidere place, Alice, and refusing wine! No, child, don't preach temperance—'tis vulgar! I shall send my pretty Bohemian set to Alfred; it will just suit his luxurious bachelor apartments and sparkling Claret. I wouldn't miss sending it for the world."

"Very well," sighed Alice, "of course you must have your own way about it; but I'm sorry you cannot regard the matter as I do—you may repent when it is too late."

"Oh, do hush," cried the beauty petulently. "I sha'n't repent, and I will send the wine set to Alfred! What else could I send him? and tomorrow is his birthday. I'll do it up now, and ring for Myers at once."

Accordingly she went to work with deft white fingers, folding the costly frame and exquisite glasses in a mass of silver tissue, with a little embossed card suspended therefrom, upon which was written: "A birthday present from Gertrude."

The footman came in answer to the bell, and was dispatched to the handsome bachelor apartments in Regent street, with Gertrude's beautiful present. Alice sighed again as he passed down the stairs. "I hope you'll never repent it, Gertrude," she said.

"Oh, Alice, you're silly," retorted pretty Gertrude, spitefully. Alfred Montrose was sitting in his luxurious drawing-room when the gift from his betrothed bride arrived. He was a handsome, scholarly young man, the last son of a fine old family, with abundant means at his command, and endowed with superior intellect—a favorite wherever he went, a kind, genial, generous fellow, who had but one fault. He was a trifle too fond of his wine—a trifle too fond of his club dinners and convivial suppers.

Sitting in the summer twilight, he was thinking it all over. "Eight-and-twenty years to-night!



BECAME A BAR-ROOM SOT.

All my boy, you're getting pretty well down the hill of time, and next Thursday is your wedding-day! No time for wild oats now! How much have I squandered in my life-time, I wonder, on wine-suppers and club dinners, and fast horses and the like? By George! I don't like to think of it! I might have been a rich man; and now—well another year or so like this last, will make me a bankrupt."

He paused, watching the blue smoke curling from his Havana, a serious light in his handsome eyes. "Darling little Gertrude," he continued, a tender smile on his lips. "I ought to do a good part by her, and I will. The little thing trusts me so entirely. I must give over the wild oats for her sake. By George, I will. Tomorrow's my birthday, and I'll begin at once. If you've a mind to do a thing, do it at once, my good old mother used to say. I wonder if I am man enough to make a resolve and stick to it? By Jove, I'll try! I'll be-

gin my married life as a temperate man—a teetotaler—that's the only way—no half-measures will do for me. Little Gertrude will help me, too. I should never have been the worthless dog I am if mother had lived! But Gertrude will help me, and I'll give it all up for her sake! Suppose I have all this trash taken out at once. My rooms look like a bar-room, cumbered with bottles and glasses. I'll have 'em all out while the notion's on me."

He bounded to his feet, and rang the bell. A servant entered, almost on the instant with a package in his hand.

The young man tore away the wrapper, and his cheek flushed a little as he brightened as he saw the gleaming silver tissue and the daintily-directed card—"A birthday present from Gertrude!"

He tore it open with eager fingers. "By Jove!" he cried, a look of blank disappointment on his face. "It is a wine-set."

He set it out upon the marble table, where the afternoon sunlight streamed in, bringing out all its rich tints, till it blazed like a mass of gold and rubies. He lighted a second Havana, and smoked fiercely, while he looked at it, his handsome face sober with conflicting thoughts. At last he arose with a deep-drawn breath.

"Well, it is no use to send out the wine-bottles now," he said. "I mustn't slight Gertrude's present—such a costly affair, too—fit for a king to drink from. So here goes!"

He caught up a bottle, and, filling every glass in the dainty set, proceeded to drink their contents in rapid succession; and the falling twilight closed upon him, flushed, excited, with a feverish fire in his eyes, and a reckless abandon in his manner. His last state bade fair to be worse than his first.

They had been man and wife for nearly three years, pretty Gertrude and Alfred Montrose. There were two babies, frail little things, clinging to the young mother's skirts, as she sat in her cheerless lodgings. The handsome house in Regent street had been sold the very first year of their marriage.

Mr. Montrose was doing quite badly; he had squandered his fortune, and fallen to the low degree of a bar-room sot. Gertrude's wild-rose bloom was rapidly fading, and there were wrinkles on her white forehead. She fretted and scolded at the little waif-faced babes that clung to her dress; and the unmotherly ill-temper spoiled all her sweet beauty, and gave her face a sour, ugly look.

By and by, as the wintry afternoon closed, her husband came slouching in—a shabby, ill-dressed man, with the look of an idle vagabond. The babies shrank away at the sight of him.

"No supper yet?" he said, gruffly, tumbling himself into a seat. "What the deuce are you at all the time, that you can't have a mouthful for a man when he comes in?"

"There's nothing in the house to cook," replied Gertrude, beginning to cry in a peevish, childish manner. "And not a cent to buy any, and I and the children are half-starved. I am going back to father, Alfred; I won't stand this treatment any longer. If I had known what I know now, I never would have married you—never!"

The man's besotted face softened with a momentary gleam of human feeling. He looked at his wan, faded young wife, with the wan little babies clinging to her skirts.

"Poor Gertrude," he half-sighed, "how bright and pretty she used to be! I have treated her shabbily, by George! But reform's out of the question now—it is too late! I was on the right road once, and I believe I should have kept in it—by Heaven, I do!—if that infernal Bohemian wine set hadn't turned up. 'Twas your own fault, Gertrude—your birthday gift made me what I am, so don't find fault with me."

Slowness of Army Promotion.

As an illustration of the slowness of promotion in the army, the Register shows that Edward Davis, first lieutenant of the Third artillery, has a son who is second lieutenant in the Eighth cavalry, and, according to the present rate of advancement, the latter will hold the same rank as the father before the latter becomes a captain. The son has been born since the father became a lieutenant, and graduated at West Point in 1893, at the age of 21. The father graduated in 1867. Captain Richard P. Strong of the Fourth artillery has a son who is a first lieutenant in the same regiment. The father entered the army in 1861 and the son in 1889. The son and the father held the same rank in the same regiment for two years, the former having become a first lieutenant in 1887 and the father being promoted to captain in 1889.

Poisoned Diamond a Fatal Poison.

According to the Mohammedans of Southern India powdered diamond is the least painful, the most active, and the most certain of all poisons. According to "White's History," the powder of diamonds is kept on hand by the wealthy only, presumably, as a last resource. But a belief in the poisonous character of the diamond also existed in Italy in the sixteenth century.

Its Dignity Outraged.

A 16-month-old child of Mrs. Shepp of Ashland, Oregon, tumbled out of a car window while coming down the Siskiyou recently. The train was moving about fifteen miles an hour. It was stopped and the distracted mother and train crew rushed back to the rescue, and found the child sitting on the sand pile where it had fallen, screaming mad, but not injured in the least.

OUR JULY CLEARING SALE

To be continued for one week. Special discount on regular line of Shoes, Slippers and Oxfords during this sale.

LADIES' MISSES and CHILDREN'S SHOES and OXFORDS
Misses' Oxfords, 11 to 2, black and tan, reg. \$1.25, clearing sale price, per pair **98c**
8 1/2 to 11, reg. \$1.00, clearing sale price, per pair **79c**
Ladies' Oxfords black and tan, 2 1/2 to 4, worth up to \$1.75, clearing sale price, per pair **98c**
Children's and Misses' Kid Button and lace shoes, black and tan, 8 1/2 to 2; reg. \$1.25 and \$1.50, clearing sale price, per pair **98c**
Ladies' Kid Button shoes, all sizes were \$1.50 to \$2.00, clearing sale price, per pair **\$1.30**
Ladies' tan lace pat. tip, 2 1/2 to 4, 7 to 7 1/2 and 8, reg. \$2.00 clearing sale price, per pair **\$1.45**
Ladies' Kid Button and lace shoes, broken sizes, regular \$2.50, clearing sale price, per pair **\$1.95**

WASH DRESS GOODS
In order to close out our wash goods.....
20 pieces fast color, only, yd. **23-4c**
7c wash goods, only, per yd. **41-2c**
10c wash goods, per yd. **6c**
12 1/2c wash goods, only per yd. **71-2c**
18c wash goods, per yd. **10c**

TWO JOB LOTS IN LACES
Lot No. 1 15c, 18c and 20c laces, now, per yd. **10c**
Lot No. 2 25c, 28c and 30 laces, now per yd. **14c**

MEN'S AND BOYS' SHOES
Men's Congress shoes, 6 to 6 1/2, 7 to 10 and 11, formerly price from \$2.00 to \$3.00; to close out, per pair **\$1.00**
Men's lace and congress, reg. \$2.00 clearing sale price **\$1.45**
Men's lace and congress, tan and black; reg. \$5.00; clearing sale price **\$1.95**
Men's lace and congress, tan and black, reg. \$3.00; clearing sale price **\$2.45**
Men's lace tan and black, Viet kid and Russian calf, reg. \$3.50 and \$4.00, sale price **\$2.95**
A small lot of boys shoes, only 12 1/2 and 13 **75c**
Youths' lace, 10 to 2, reg. \$1.50; clearing sale price **\$1.20**
Boys' lace calf shoes, 2 1/2 to 5, will wear like iron, reg. \$2.00; sale price **\$1.60**

PERCALES
7c Percale, 41 inches wide, yd. **5c**
11c Extra fine 1 yd wide and four colors, only, yd. **81-2c**
ONE-FOURTH OFF on shirt waists, fans, wash dress skirts and crash hats.
ONE-FIFTH OFF on underwear, sun umbrellas, silk mitts, summer coats and muslin underwear.
ONE-FIFTH OFF on white goods, lace, embroideries, macintoshes, hammocks and ladies' wrapper.

JOB LOTS IN SILKS
Lot No. 1 50c silk, now, per yard **35c**
Lot No. 2, 60c silk, now, per yard **39c**
Lot No. 3, 75c silk, now, per yard **58c**
Lot No. 4, \$1.00 silk, now, per yard **69c**

LAUNDERED AND SOFT SHIRTS
50c laundered and soft shirts worth up to 75c; clearing sale price each **38c**
Soft shirts with and without collars worth 75c; clearing sale price, each **49c**
\$1.00 soft and laundered shirts, now **80c**
25c boys soft shirts, now **19c**
35c boys' laundered shirts, now **25c**

PRINTS, MUSLIN AND SHIRTING
4 1/2 L. L. muslin, now, yd. **33-4c**
6c Star muslin, now, yd. **51-4**
8c muslin remnants, now, yd. **43-4**
Prints as low **23-4c**
Simpson's Prints, medium dark, only **4c**
10c French Gingham, sale price **8c**
Extra heavy Shirting **61-4c**

DRESS LINEN; CRASHES
12 1/2c Crash, sale price per yard **9c**
15c Crash, sale price, per yard **11c**
18c and 20c Dress Linen, price per yard **14c**
25c Dress Linen, price per yard **19c**

MADRAS CLOTH
7c Madras cloth, now, per yard **5c**
12 1/2c Madras cloth, now, per yard **9c**
14c Madras cloth, now, per yard **11c**

Fighting Fruit Insects.

From Farmers' Review: There seems to be a general impression that he past hard winter has destroyed many of the insects destructive to vegetation, and that we will not be troubled with them to the usual extent this season. How true this may be generally I am not prepared to say, but I find some leaf-eating insects very numerous on young apple trees in the orchards, and requiring immediate attention. Application of the Bordeaux mixture, with paris green added, is recommended, but I would advise in addition to this, on trees one to three years planted, inspection of each tree and the removing by hand of such young insects as may be detected. Jarring the trees sharply will cause some of them to fall to the ground, where they may be seen and destroyed. Among these is a large green worm that works on the leaves, and which I find very common this spring. Another insect, sometimes very injurious to newly planted trees, is a large slate-colored beetle, nearly an inch in length, with a wicked-looking snout, which works at the base of the young shoots and sometimes strips young trees of all their foliage. If the trees are jarred the beetle will fall to the ground and "play possum." Jarring will also cause many of the canker worms to spin down by their long threads, when they may be seen and killed. Leaf rollers may be found at the ends of the shoots, and should be removed and destroyed, as they are so well protected by the leaves in which they are wrapped that they may not be affected by spraying. For the currant worm on currants and gooseberries, spray with arsenites, preferably with Bordeaux Mixture with paris green added, if the fruit is not too near maturity, in which case use pyrethrum.

Potash, as a constituent of fertilizers, exists in a number of forms, but chiefly as chlorid of muriate and as sulphate. All forms are freely soluble in water and are believed to be nearly, if not quite, equally available, but it has been found that the chlorids may injuriously affect the quality of tobacco, potatoes, and certain other crops. The chief sources of potash are the potash salts from Staßfurt, Germany—Kainit, sylvinite, muriate of potash, sulphate of soda, and sulphate of potash and magnesia. Wood ashes and cotton-bull ashes are also sources of potash.

Exclude Foreign Insects.—Massachusetts has appropriated this year over \$200,000 for fighting the gypsy moth, and still the government restricts the simple and inexpensive steps necessary to exclude any new pests which are liable to secure a foothold at any time through the importations of foreign plants or trees.

AMERICAN PLEASURE GROUNDS

Idea of a National Parkway from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In America all pleasure grounds of large extent have, from the beginning, been planned for the people, says the Atlantic; they are a constant source to them of pleasure and pride, and it is our boast that on this continent, with its unrivaled resources and its host of generous citizens, parks have been created in our generation which today can be favorably compared with the most famous ancient resorts of Europe; and when the schemes now begun have had time fully to be carried out we shall have reservations for the public of unparalleled extent and beauty, reaching perhaps unbroken from the eastern seaboard to the shores of California. The idea of such a reservation, a national parkway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, leading from one beautiful pleasure ground to another, and passing through great tracts of woodland patrolled by government foresters, is not inconsistent with the genius of our country, which ever seeks a closer union between its parts; while the gradually enlarging park systems of our cities indicate the way in which it may be brought about in the linking together of suburb after suburb by great boulevards which tend to bring civilization to distant homes by affording safe and easy communication between them.

Top Grafting to Insure Fruitage.

Often isolated fruit trees do not bear for want of proper pollination. Top grafting it with scions, cut from good, healthy, bearing trees, will doubtless bring it into bearing. Do the work about the last week in March. Use common grafting wax, put it in a tin cup and hang it over a lantern to keep the wax warm enough to work nicely and use it freely. We prefer the side graft; use a good knife and prepare scions in her ignorance and prepare scion wedge shape. Then make an incision on upper side of the limb, insert the scion nicely and wax freely. The scion should be cut with two buds and top slightly waxed. In June the limb should be cut above the graft in your tree. We would insert from twenty to thirty grafts next spring and put in more the following spring.—Ex.

His Idea of a Short Nap.

Some telling little things illustrate certain Englishmen's knowledge of American geography very picturesquely. Lately, an Englishman who has taken the Pacific express at Philadelphia, called out on going to bed before the train started: "Portah! Portah! The porter came. 'What is it, sir?' 'Please wake me up when we get to San Francisco, you know,'" said the Englishman.

Refused the Wrong Beggar.

"I never refuse the plea of a beggar," says a leading member of congress. "You must not use my name and advertise me as a philanthropist, for I am not. It is simply a matter of necessity with me. I am obliged to give something to every beggar, or I could not sleep at night. I made a bad mistake once, and I would rather give occasionally to the unworthy than to ever deny assistance to the worthy. "Once upon a time I was in St. Louis on business. It was winter, and you know how cold that town can be when it tries hard. I was on the street at 11 o'clock one bitter night when a chap struck me for a dime. He was poorly clad, looked hungry and sick, and I ought to have handed out the money at once. I was just brute enough not to do it. He followed me a hundred feet, begging and pleading, and I finally threatened to have him arrested. He turned away with a sob in his throat, and I went on to the hotel. There was a big snowstorm that night, and next morning they found him in a drift, frozen stark and stiff. I saw the body and recognized it. The pale face was pinched and drawn with hunger and suffering, and the eyes were as wide open as yours—great big blue eyes, sunken back in their sockets, and staring at me in an awful way. Yes, sir, they seem to be fastened on me alone, and to follow me as I moved. When I heard car drivers, draymen, bootblacks and new-boys saying how gladly they would have given the poor wretch a quarter to buy lodgings and food, I sneaked away, feeling that I was a murderer. It hurt me more than I can tell you. I don't want to be asked for alms. I give to some who are, no doubt, undeserving, but I take my chances on that. That thing rests like a murder on my conscience, and nothing like it shall happen again."—St. Paul Globe.

Two Cheap Rate August Excursions to Hot Springs and Return.

August is the hardest month of the year to endure. Why not spend it in Hot Springs, S. D., enjoying the health giving waters, picturesque scenery, interesting surroundings and cool nights for sleeping? A few weeks sojourn there at this season will renew your life and prepare you for another year of toil. To enable all to go at small cost, the Elkhorn will run excursions from Lincoln Tuesday, August 8th at \$15.50, and Tuesday Aug. 22d at \$17.50 for the round trip, limit 30 days. A Hot Springs sleeper is run from Norfolk, in which space will be reserved on application.

Go up over the Elkhorn, through the magnificent Elkhorn valley, and see the finest agricultural picture in the west. Get descriptive matter, tickets, etc., from A. S. Fielding, city ticket agent, 117 south 10th street.



WE SELL DIRECT TO THE FARMER. Standard Steel Landable Double Decker Flyer. Sold by Fred Schmidt & Bro., Lincoln, Neb.

A Frightful Accident.

When Lord Morris was chief justice of Ireland a young junior barister arose in his court one day to make his first motion, and spoke in the hard brogue of the north of Ireland. "Sap-ee!" said the judge in a low voice to the registrar of the court, "who is this newcomer?" "His name is Clements, my lord." "What part of the country does he hail from, in the name of all that's wonderful?" asked the judge. "County Antrim, my lord," was the reply. "Well, well!" said the judge, "did you ever come across such a frightful accent in the whole course of yer born life?"—New York Tribune.

Thinning Orchard Fruits.—Whether or not it pays to thin the fruit of an orchard, everyone agrees that with a few trees it is advantageous to thin an overburdened crop down to a reasonable number of choice fruits. In an experiment reported by the department of agriculture, thinning was found to increase the total yield and to decrease rot. The thinning was practiced with apples, peaches and plums, early thinning giving the most practical results. It was concluded that it pays best to commence work of this kind immediately after the fruit has set.

The Ives Grape.—Sylvester Johnson of Indiana says that the Ives grape is one of the best, as it will always bear. It is not yet popular, but one reason for it is that it turns black long before it is ripe and people begin to eat it too soon, thinking it ripe. Let it hang for three weeks after it gets black and it will be found to be a very good grape for eating.

A Clever Recovery.

Mrs. Birdy Hardup—And how that we are married, my darling, how came you to pick me out over all the other pretty girls? Mr. Jack Hardup (absently)—Well, darling, you know you had the dough-uh-uh-uh—(cough)—hem!—dominion over my heart from the first time I saw you, dear.—Judge.

33000 OUR PIASA BIRD GULKY

We challenge you to race our Piase Bird Gulky, with its 33000 horse power, against any other machine on the track. It is the only machine that can run on a track of any length, and it is the only machine that can run on a track of any width. It is the only machine that can run on a track of any height. It is the only machine that can run on a track of any length, width, or height. It is the only machine that can run on a track of any length, width, or height.

