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**Recognized Him.**  
 "Friend, these are awful roads you've got in this neighborhood. Why don't you repair them?"  
 "Cause they're so muddy we can't."  
 "Well, why don't you do it when they're dry?"  
 "Cause they don't need it then."  
 "Say, when did you move away from Arkansas?"

**What the Farmers Want.**  
 Chicago Times-Herald: Among the numerous subjects discussed by the national farmers' congress at Indianapolis, the question of good roads easily transcended all others in importance to the agricultural interests of this country. The farmer is the natural promoter of good roads. The cities and towns build the highways with the corporation funds raised by taxation, but the country road falls upon the farmer. He is also the chief beneficiary, and if he will not lead in aggressive agitation for modern scientific road building it is useless to expect the movement to advance. Good roads have paid for themselves in Europe; they have also yielded big returns in New Jersey, North Carolina, Alabama, Massachusetts and New York. It has been estimated by the bureau of road inquiry at Washington that it now costs the American farmer an average of \$3 per ton to market his products. It is calculated that with such country highways as are in use in England and France this cost would be reduced to \$1 per ton. This cost is not a matter of cash expenditure, but represents the value of the time, labor and effort on the part of man and beast in hauling crops to the market. Upon this basis of calculation it is easy to estimate what the farmers of Wisconsin might save in one year on their crop of oats, which amounts to a million tons, if they had smooth and solid country highways.

**Good Roads in India.**  
 India is a land of good roads. Between all the larger towns well-shaded macadamized roads are to be found. The average city pavements of Chicago, St. Paul or New York are not as good as these long stretches of well-built roads, with their curbs of solid stone masonry, and their whitewashed milestones shining like solitary monuments in the hot sun. There is an enormous outlay of money and labor in blasting and buttressing, macadamizing these roads; but in developing the agricultural and commercial interests of the mountain regions they are worth all and more than they cost. The inner ranges of the Himalayas furnish perfect climate and soil for the production of tea and all the fruits of the temperate zone. Hundreds of thousands of acres of tea plants have been put out since these cart roads, as they are commonly called, were built. Thousands of Englishmen are employed in managing these estates, and all their supplies of food, building material and machinery are brought to them, and all the products of the estates are carried out to the various terminals. Cart drivers haul by weight and can make from 50 cents to \$1 a day. A day's journey going up hill, loaded, is from eight to ten miles. Going down from fifteen to twenty.—*Epworth Herald.*

**A Fight with Torpedo Boats.**  
 During the visit of the members of parliament to Portsmouth a naval officer told an amusing story of last year's naval maneuvers. While the warships were stationed in Lough Foyle there was an alarm of a torpedo attack at night. Instantly the guns opened fire and blazed away at the torpedo boat. The next morning the admiral requested each captain to send in a report of the number of torpedo boats he had seen and the quantity of ammunition he had expended. The reports were interesting. Some of the officers had seen six torpedo boats, some four, others three and others two. Only one captain declared that he had seen no torpedo boat and had fired no shot. The others, however, had used an enormous quantity of ammunition. It turned out that there had not been a torpedo boat within thirty miles of the lough, and the torpedo boats seen from the ships were in truth a single coal barge.

**Power from Small Streams.**  
 Besides a considerable number of large water-power installations, Switzerland is full of small power plants, nearly every town in that land of mountains and waterfalls being well supplied with power from the "white coal," as the melting snow on the mountain sides

has well been called. When there are no large streams, many small ones are impounded and collected in reservoirs on the hillsides, and it is rare to find a place of any size which is not well lighted by the power of some mountain stream.

At Montreux the electric tramway gets its power in this way, and from the old Roman town of Vevey to the medieval castle of Chillon one may ride in a trolley car propelled by the power of an insignificant little stream which may or may not be noticed when climbing up the hillsides just above.

The capabilities of this general utilization of natural power are beginning to be understood everywhere, and with the appreciation of the possibilities of the best methods of long distance transmission, the development of many mountain streams must surely come. There are innumerable streams which, while very small, are yet very high, and these can with comparatively little difficulty be impounded and carried down many hundreds of feet, thus making up for their lack of volume by the great pressure readily obtainable, and, either by the use of electricity or compressed air, the power may be transmitted to many points of application with but little loss.—*Cassier's Magazine.*

**The Lotus in Literature.**  
 The rich fruit of the sacred lotus, so well known to the ancients, we are told, grew luxuriantly in the Nile, and concerning it many charming legends have been told. It was believed that this fruit was so delightful that those who ate it would never leave the spot where it grew, but for it would a madon home and friends to spend their lives in a dream of serene delight.

Homer, in the "Odyssey," mentions the lotus eaters who lived on the northern coast of Africa, and records their attempts to detain the followers of Odysseus by giving them the fruit of the lotus to eat, so that they should never wish to leave the spot where it grew. The same poetical idea is known to the Arabs, who call it the "fruit of destiny," which is to be eaten in paradise, and it is on this foundation that Tennyson built his charming poem of the "Lotus Eaters." This mythical lotus has been identified by several botanists with that indigenous to Tunis, which is a thorny shrub with berries of the size of an olive. Munro Park found a species of lotus in central Africa bearing berries of a delicious taste, which on being dried and pounded made very wholesome and pleasant bread.

The lotus fruit found in Tunis has a stimulating, almost intoxicating, effect, and it is therefore probable that this plant furnished the foundation of the ancient legends. The sacred lotus of the Egyptians was a fine aquatic plant, dedicated to Osiris and Isis, and regarded in Egyptian delineations as signifying the creation of the world. Distinct from that lotus was that known as the blue lotus of the Nile, also a sacred plant. Both these species of lotus occur frequently as religious symbols and decorations in the temples.—*Pittsburg Dispatch.*

**Priest's Penalty.**  
 Quite recently, into a railway carriage at Oldham, stepped a young man—fresh from school evidently, and wearing his first watch.

The very many proud glances which he cast on the gold chain raised a smile on the faces of his fellow passengers.

Apparently by accident, though mischief might have been at the bottom of it, the subject of watches was "brought on the carpet."

"Ah!" sighed an old farmer, giving the watch back to the young man, who had handed it round for the inspection of the company, "that their watch 'minds me o' my own son."

"How's that?" asked several passengers.

"Why, I gave 'im a watch when 'e wur 15 year owd, and it wur th' ruin of 'im."

Being asked for an explanation, the farmer continued:

"Afore I gave it 'im, 'e wur the straightest built lad for miles round; but 'e 'adn't 'ad that watch above four months afore 'e growed 'unpacked w' lookin' at the chain so much."—*Tid-Bits.*

**Origin of Words.**  
 "Oh, dear me!" is equivalent to "Oh, Dio mio," or "Oh, my God." Rotten row, the famous drive in London, was originally called la route du rot, or the King's passageway. "Pope" was originally "papa," and "star" and "kaiser" are both Caesar. "Thimble" was originally "thumb-bell," as the thimble was first worn on the thumb. "Dandelion" was dent de lion, or the lion's tooth. Vinegar is taken from the French vin aigre, or sour wine. Dominic, the old name used for a preacher, is derived from Dominus, Lord in the old Anglo-Saxon was Uaford, or loaf distributor. Sir was originally the Latin senior. Madam is "my lady." Slav was originally a person of noble lineage, not the slave as now applied.

**An Innocent Reply.**  
 He (well born but not well bred, pompously)—It takes six generations, you know, to make a gentleman.  
 She (innocently)—Yes. What a pity that it only takes one to unmake him.—*New York Times.*

## GOWNS AND GOWNING

### WOMEN GIVE MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WEAR.

**Brief Glances at Fancies Feminine, Frivolous, Mayhap, and Yet Offered in the Hope that the Reading Prove Restful to Wearied Womanhood.**

**Gossip from Gay Gotham.**  
 New York correspondence:

NLY a few imperative rules apply to women's dress just now, and with these few obeyed there is ample leeway for personal taste. Skirts are from four to seven yards about the hem, they set closely at the hips and spread easily below, but do not swirl. All folds hang at the back. There are no tapes, and there is no stiffening, but there is silk lining, a velvet edged dust ruffle comes on the inside. Sleeves are without stiffening, either fitted to the shoulder and there allowed a little drapery or even a stiffly flaring frill, or they are fitted to above the elbow and fall softly without stiffness above. Bodices are either of the coat order—that is, having skirts below the belt line, or are of round waist pattern. Few gowns except strict tailor-made

roll is put on the edge, and a velvet edged dust ruffle comes on the inside. Sleeves are without stiffening, either fitted to the shoulder and there allowed a little drapery or even a stiffly flaring frill, or they are fitted to above the elbow and fall softly without stiffness above. Bodices are either of the coat order—that is, having skirts below the belt line, or are of round waist pattern. Few gowns except strict tailor-made



GAY IN VELVET AND LACE.

appear with close fitted fronts, the usual front being loose, bagged, full or folded to the figure. Boleros in every kind of modification are used. Cloth gowns brightened by braiding and brilliant lining, yoke, front, belt or collar of silk, are used for dressy daylight and informal dinner wear, rather than silk or velvet. Silks, velvet and brocade are confined almost strictly to gas light use, and then these materials appear in sumptuous elaboration. Jeweled brocade velvet is perhaps the most dazzlingly beautiful and costly. This is a silk velvet woven in rich flower design in natural colors. Sprinkled all over the flower petals are tiny brilliants each in its own metal setting and each applied by hand. The effect is exquisite, and the price per yard equals the cost of an ordinary dress pattern.

Velvets that are not enriched by women or appliqued designs are worn more this winter than for several years. Naturally they never fail to make a rich appearance, and this season's methods of trimming save them from that monotonous, unrelieved look which in the past has made them an easy target for the criticisms of the woman who could not afford a velvet gown. The present sort is far more generally productive of envy. Two of these elegant costumes are put in these first two pictures, and excepting a close resemblance



BRIGHTENED WITH PLAID VELVET.

blance in the material, there is little in common between them. Both were of greenish velvet, and the first one was cut princess, the back of the bodice part being of the velvet and tight fitting, but

the front showed a draping of the same shade of liberty satin. This fastened at the side and was held in at the waist by a wide girde-like piece of the velvet ornamented with four jeweled buttons. Sleeves, bodices and collar were velvet bordered with narrow bands of zibeline. It need hardly be said that the muff was of the same materials, and its lining was the same satin as the bodice



TAILORMADE NECK FINISH.

front, the relationship between dress and muff being thereby made of the closest possible sort. The hat, too, was part and parcel, as lawyers say, of the whole. Of green velvet, its high crown was encircled by three bands of green velvet, the green satin used on muff and gown furnished rosettes for its trimming, paradise plumes topping all.

Plaid velvet appears on a great many handsome gowns, sometimes as only a dash of color at neck and sleeves, again as a jaunty bit of audacity in the shape of a front to an otherwise very sedate bodice. A stunning design shows a bolero jacket back, while in front the bolero seems to have slipped down and become an open belt, while a loose yoke hangs above. For this yoke a plaid and striped velvet is used, the lines and colors of the plaid being so arranged as to simulate the effect of tucking. Very handsome belts, of the bolero order are made of this "tucked" velvet, the effect of folds being thus secured without unwieldy thickness. An oriental method of employing plaid and plain velvet on a cloth gown is presented in the next picture. Double epaulettes of plain biscuit colored velvet capped cloth sleeves, and to these was attached drapery of the plaid. Plaid velvet gave the collar, and plain velvet supplied its points and the round yoke. The dress goods was in the biscuit shade. The changes that are rung in boleros give a good chance to bring in the stylish touch of plaid velvet. As many of these



THE NEW MILITARY TRIMMING.

boleros fasten at the side as follow the conventional cut, and some jaunty affairs that fasten over the shoulder show a turned back revers faced with plaid velvet, while plaid sleeves appear below the shoulder caps of the bolero. Plaid velvet is also used on hats, but only in touches. It is seldom reserved in bulk or for large surfaces.

How elaborate neck finish can be and still conform to tailor styles is shown in the fourth picture. This dress was gray cloth and its bodice was tight and plain, but over it came a collarette which was slashed at the shoulders and held by a frog finish of cord and buttons. Above this towered a flaring slashed collar, all edges, even to the collar slashes, having machine stitching. On the skirt, at the hips, were strap and button ornaments.

Even in the last costume shown here the popular idea as to neck swathing is recognizable, but when one goes in for frogs as the characteristic feature of a gown, elaboration by other means may be held well in check.

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**Did Their Duty.**  
 A story used to be told in London, forty years ago, to the effect that Lady Jersey, going one Sunday to the chapel in Curzon street, found all the seats filled. "Well, my dear," she remarked to her daughter, as they turned away, "at least we have done the civil thing."



### Horseless Carriages.

While advocates of carriages driven by motor-engines admit that much remains for the inventors to do before such vehicles can be made equal in beauty of appearance, facility of management and all-around comfortableness to the present style of carriages drawn by horses, yet they assert that motor-carriages are certain to become popular because they will save money. In England it is estimated that the cost of fodder for a horse traveling twenty miles a day is twopenny per mile, while a motor-wagon of two and a half horsepower can be driven the same distance at the expense of half a penny per mile. Another argument used in behalf of the horseless carriage is that two-thirds of the present wear and tear of roads is caused by horses, and only one-third by wheels.

### Recorded by Rain-Drops.

It is by carefully noting small and apparently insignificant things and facts that men of science are enabled to reach some of their most surprising and interesting conclusions. In many places the surface of rocks, which millions of years ago must have formed sandy or muddy sea-beaches, is found to be pitted with the impressions of falling rain-drops. In England it has been noticed that, in many cases, the eastern sides of these depressions are the more deeply pitted, indicating that the rain-drops which formed them were driven before a west wind. From this the conclusion is drawn that in the remote epoch when the pits were formed the majority of the storms in England came from the west, just as they do today.

### The Age of Niagara.

"How old are the Niagara Falls?" is a fascinating question to which geologists have given replies varying by tens of thousands of years. At first it was estimated that the Niagara River came into existence, through changes in the level of the land around the Great Lakes, about 55,000 years ago. Later this was reduced to only 12,000 years. The celebrated geologist, Sir Charles Lyell, increased the estimate again to 35,000 years; but more recently others have lowered it to about 9,000 years. The latest estimate is that of Dr. J. W. Spencer, who, basing his conclusions on the most recent investigations, places the age of the river at 32,000 years, and that of the cataract at 31,000 years. At one period, many thousand years ago, the height of the falls was four hundred and twenty feet.

### Crater's Wonderful Lake.

Much attention has lately been drawn to Crater Lake, a remarkable body of deep water occupying the immense crater of an extinct volcano in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. The name of Mount Mazama has recently been bestowed upon the old volcano. It has been suggested that this mountain was once one of the loftiest in America, but that ages ago its summit fell in. The heart of the mountain is now occupied by a lake of exquisitely blue water whose greatest depth is 2,000 feet. The lake is six miles long by about four and a half miles in width, and is completely encircled by precipitous walls varying in height from 1,000 to 2,000 feet above the water. The greatest elevation of the entire rim above sea-level is 8,200 feet. Out of the lake rises a volcanic cone, called Wizard Island, 840 feet high. When it has been rendered easy of access, Crater Lake will rank, among the wonders of natural scenery, with the Yellowstone and Yosemite valleys and the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

### Electric Plowing.

Further details are to hand concerning the German electric plowing experiments, which may be of service to the many farmers in the United States who, owing to the vicinity of water power or other conditions, are in a position to reduce their farming expenses by using electricity. The figures quoted are those of a specific installation, and will, of course, in many cases, admit of considerable modification. The plowing was accomplished by two fixed windlasses, actuated by current transmitted a distance of two and one-quarter miles. Each windlass received about twenty-eight horse-power, which is sufficient for a plow with four shoes, which travels 100 meters in six minutes, covering a width of 1.80 meters and plowing a depth of thirty centimeters; in ten hours' time, the area plowed was 43,500 square meters. As the power may also be applied to other purposes when not used for plowing, the cost of thirty-seven horse-power during ten hours is estimated at about \$8.25; the cost of the installa-

tion was \$8,250; for 120 days per year, allowing 20 per cent for wear and tear and other expenses, and including the wages of the five men required, the total cost of plowing 43,500 square meters is \$26.50. Plowing by means of horses costs at least double this amount. The advantages over steam are self-evident, the apparatus being lighter, and less delicate, and requiring no transportation of combustible material to the field. The expense can be reduced still more if the plowing be continued for more days in the year. Where beet sugar is manufactured, it is suggested that the power in the factories be used for this purpose when it is idle. This would reduce the expense still further.

### Seeds Borne Far by Water.

It is good for plants to keep as much apart as possible. If the seed fell straight to the ground, and the young plants all grew up together around the parent one, they would starve each other out. For plants are like people, and when crowded too closely together, fall to fighting among themselves. Their struggles are very bitter ones, though we do not see or hear them. The plants that are strongest in these silent battles end by getting the light and air, and water and food they need from the soil, while the poor weaklings are left to starve and die. To prevent too much of this wasteful crowding and struggling, old Dame Nature has invented many a clever little scheme.

When trees or smaller plants grow on river banks, their fruits often fall into the water, and are carried down stream by the current, sometimes finding landing-places on the banks, and so growing up into new plants. Who has not seen sycamore-balls and buckeyes traveling along in this easy fashion? These are the fruits of the trees they grow on. Fruit is the part of the plant that incloses the seed, with the seed itself. So the dry pods that hold the black morning-glory seeds are as truly fruits as are apples or strawberries, though we commonly use the word only for those that are good to eat.

It often happens that, on small islands in rivers, trees and flowers are found that do not grow on the neighboring banks. These have come down the river, sometimes from the mountains where it rises, in the shape of fruits, and have found lodging on the island, during high water. Sometimes fruits are thus borne quite out to sea, and then they may be caught up by ocean currents and carried long distances. It has been said that Columbus first formed the notion that there might be land beyond the western ocean on seeing some strange nuts that had been washed to the shores of the Azores from far away America.—"How Plants Spread," in St. Nicholas.

### Opening the Olympic Games.

The crown prince, taking his stand in the arena, facing the king, then made a short speech, in which he touched upon the origin of the enterprise, and the obstacles surmounted in bringing it to fruition. Addressing the king, he asked him to proclaim the opening of the Olympic games, and the king, rising, declared them opened. It was a thrilling moment. Fifteen hundred and two years before the Emperor Theodosius had suppressed the Olympic games, thinking, no doubt, that in abolishing this hated survival of paganism he was furthering the cause of progress; and here was a Christian monarch, amid the applause of an assemblage composed almost exclusively of Christians, announcing the formal annulment of the imperial decree; while a few feet away stood the archbishop of Athens, and Pere Didon, the celebrated Dominican preacher, who, in his Easter sermon in the Catholic cathedral the day before, had paid an eloquent tribute to pagan Greece. When the king had resumed his seat, the Olympic ode, written for the occasion by the Greek composer Samara, was sung by a chorus of one hundred and fifty voices. Once before music had been associated with the revival of the Olympic games.—*Century.*

### The Resort Courteous.

Lord Russell's visit to America reminds the London Chronicle of an ancient story. It says that during Lord Russell's previous tour in this country with Lord Coleridge, he came in contact with many members of the bar, including Mr. Everts. It was while walking with Mr. Everts one day along the banks of a stream that his attention was called to a point at which Washington, according to tradition, had thrown a dollar right across. The water was wide, and Lord Russell looked doubtful.

"You know a dollar went further in those days than it goes now," the American lawyer blandly insinuated. "Ah," said Lord Russell, quite equal to the occasion, "and it may have been easy enough to Washington; it is well known that he threw a sovereign across the Atlantic."

Don't go to a novel for tragedy; look at the expense account of a poor man whom the Lord has blessed with a large family.

Every real nice old woman thinks that people like to hear about her married children and the grandchildren.