

A New York court has decided that "theosophy is not a religion," but unfortunately the court doesn't tell what it is.

The principal program of the Greeks has been to all fire and then fall back. That's the trouble; they fall back too all-fired much.

A Chattanooga paper, lamenting the absence of a building boom, editorially exclaims: "Where is our brick?" We suggest that your hat be searched.

After studying the present course of Colonel Ab Hamid we are firmly convinced that a magnificent advertisement for somebody's nerve tonic is going to waste over there.

That Massachusetts bank employe who ran away with \$30,000 the other day had been drawing the magnificent salary of \$33 a month right along. What rascals some men are!

A London paper assures us that "Ambassador Bayard left England full of conflicting emotions." Well, a three weeks' course of continuous banqueting is likely to leave a man in just that condition.

A merchant in Atlanta, Ga., has been hauled up in court and fined \$10.75 for "kissing a pretty customer when she was not looking." The offense, apparently, is set forth in the last five words of the charge.

A Kansas man has petitioned the Legislature to change his name, John Rat, because he can induce no young woman to accept it. Very naturally the feminine sex is averse to becoming a Rat catcher.

It is announced that "the Prussian Diet has made a savage attack on American oleomargarine." If the oleomargarine is given half a chance it will retaliate by making a savage attack on the Prussian diet.

Italian duels are not quite as harmless as the similar pastime in France. The annual number of duels in France is about 1,000, and occasionally somebody gets scratched. In Italy the annual average is 275, with five fatalities.

An iniquitous man in Kennebunk, Maine, pried open his wife's trunk the other day and found \$2,000 worth of stolen goods and a set of burglar's tools. Served him right! When will husbands learn to mind their own business?

Word comes from India that a diamond valued at \$1,500,000 has been stolen from the Nizam of Hyderabad. It ought to be comparatively easy to detect that stolen gem whenever it is worn, unless it happens to fall into the hands of some hotel clerk.

That Chicago police officer who is unable to distinguish the difference between a case of paralysis and a case of intoxication would seem to be well fitted to adorn almost any walk in private life, and he should be given a chance to adorn it at once.

A Louisville paper refers to the sad case of a prominent young man of that city who called upon his sweetheart the other night and shot himself in the vestibule. It is a foregone conclusion, of course, that he will die, as a shot in the vestibule nearly always is fatal.

The running of automobiles, or horseless vehicles, has become a national sport in France, and clubs devoted to it have been formed in the larger cities. One of the sights along the French roads this summer will be the addition of many motor wagons to the great number of bicycles.

An electric contribution box is the latest Connecticut invention. The minister touches a button, and small silver cars, lined with velvet, visit each pew simultaneously, running on a slender rail back of each pew. Each car returns to a lockbox at the pew entrance and the deacons collect the receipts after the services.

Switzerland is not addicted to giving away franchises. In the Jungfrau railway to the top of the Jungfrau the Swiss Legislature requires \$20,000 to erect an observatory on the summit, and \$200 a month to pay for weather reports and other scientific work. The fare is fixed, but the Government reserves the right to buy out the company after a certain number of years. A passenger pays \$8 and the ascent will be made in 100 minutes.

Turpentine raids, murders from ambush and mob lynching parties in Kentucky have driven the Legislature to the enactment of stringent measures to suppress this lawless element so common within its borders. The Senate of that State has passed a law which requires jailors and other officers holding prisoners threatened by violence to arm the prisoner that he may defend himself, and to protect him with the aid of a posse at the peril of forfeiting his own office. It is questionable which would be in the most danger, a desperate criminal without weapons, or his captors, providing he was armed.

The Albany Sunday Press expresses the opinion that there is gross carelessness in the putting up of prescriptions in medicine bottles. One druggist has

been assessed \$1,500 by a jury for destroying the sight of a child's eye by putting carbolic acid in a prescription where something else was ordered. Another chemist will pay \$8,000 because he substituted corrosive sublimate for a harmless drug. Not all the blame should be attached to the drug clerk, however. The handwriting of physicians is notoriously indistinct. They should be required to put their prescriptions in printed characters, especially where poisons or dangerous drugs are included.

The gracious princess of Wales, unlike her mother-in-law, has thought to commemorate the latter's jubilee by raising a fund for the starving poor in India. Out of her own means the princess has given a royal sum and others have helped to swell the total with generous amounts. An anonymous donor has contributed \$125,000, and there has been much curiosity as to the identity of this person. It is now said that it is the late American citizen, W. W. Astor, who is so generous. Charity should not be impeached, but if Astor is really the man who has done that it is not ungenerous to say that his motive for the gift was not so much a desire to help the East Indians, for whom, of course, he cares nothing, as a wish to obtain favor in the eyes of the English nobility, and especially the royal family. However, the Indians are that much better off.

When a trial for heresy before the synod of the English Presbyterian church can fall to the ground as has that of "Ian MacLaren," there is reason to hope that perhaps that favorite pastime of the modern Calvinists has lost its old-time charm. At the trial in question the indictment was written in so slipshod a way that there was really no ground upon which to base a prosecution. There were no specific acts or utterances of the accused brought up to prove that he had strayed from the narrow way of orthodoxy, and the whole proceedings were marked by a lack of interest in contrast to the fierce prosecutions of another day. Not only the minister but the world is to be congratulated in this instance, although had the trial been more exciting the gentle annalist of Drumtochty would have added another experience which would have had a fictional value.

The London Times remarks that it is next to impossible for England "to do or abstain from doing anything in any quarter of the globe without calling forth angry criticisms from the German newspapers, which more or less regularly and intelligently derive their inspiration from the German Foreign Office." The reason for Germany's hostility to England is one of the features of foreign politics which the average American cannot readily grasp. Every country in Europe, of course, is more or less distrustful of England, but why Germany should have this feeling in a more pronounced degree than France or Russia, the interests of each of which are more directly and strongly antagonized by England than are those of Germany, is hard to understand. Probably the personal prejudice of the Kaiser against everybody and everything English is responsible for much of this antipathy.

The depletion of the forest resources of the country has resulted in the creation of forestry commissions in a few States for the purpose of devising means for preventing a waste of timber, the destruction of forests by fires and encouraging the development of forest reserves in sections denuded of their pine. Scientific forestry, such as is resorted to in France and Germany for preserving the timber resources of those countries for the use of future generations, has been almost unknown in America, but it is probable that the work of the various forestry commissions now in existence will lead eventually to a general movement throughout the country toward the cultivation of forest reserves, under the protection of laws providing that the timber thereon shall be removed gradually and a sapling planted for every tree removed. At the last session of the Wisconsin Legislature a law was enacted providing for a commission to devise means for creating forest reserves in the State and to prevent further destruction by forest fires, which are usually caused by the carelessness of settlers and hunters.

How Tradesmen Are Cheated. Two dealers, one of chinaware and the other in suits and wraps, happened to be discussing, not long ago, the multifarious ways of small cheating most in vogue.

"A lady—she is counted a very fine lady indeed," said the first, "sent to me on Christmas eve for a punchbowl to be forwarded to the house on approval. On December 26 it was returned with a word that it did not suit. But we could see that it had been used and carelessly washed. She had had all she needed of it and then she sent it back."

"It's the same thing," responded the other, "with our Easter business. Not a year passes that we don't have suits sent home on approval and promptly returned on Easter Monday. They have been worn for the festival, and then what was considered their most urgent need was gone, and so they are thrown back on our hands."

A Blessed Hope. First Auditor (at the tank drama)—Never saw such miserable acting in my life. Let's go.

Second Auditor—Let's wait till the next act. There's a flood scene with real water in it, and maybe some of 'em will get drowned.—New York Weekly.

This is the season of the year when the household martyrs drag a wet rag through the house, and call it he-

STYLES FOR SUMMER.

HOT WEATHER GOWNS FOR IN AND OUT OF DOORS.

Femininity All A-flutter and A-flutter—Free Employment of Ruffling a New Characteristic of Breeziness—Some Very Newest Designs.

Fancies of Fashion. New York correspondence:



ALL to the mind the summer array of women's dress and the first comment to arise is an annual one; we are all a-flutter and a-flutter. So we have been at July's beginning for many years, but this year's flutter is different from that of past seasons, else women wouldn't be women and fashion makers wouldn't be out of a job. One new characteristic of breeziness comes from the free employment of ruffling, and this is seen at its height in skirts of wash stuffs, which are frequently either one deep ruffle falling full from about half way above the knees, from just below the hips, or from the knees; or are a series of ruffles from the hem to the knee, to half way above to the hip or to the belt.



IN SIMPLE PATTERN AND FINE STUFF.

Cuffs and soft sailor-like collar make a pretty finish to go with such a skirt, or a piece of the white is swathed loosely over the figure, the other material showing through. For this use, deep embroideries and douncing by the worn. The belt portion of the sash is usually of a sash wound easily once or twice about the figure. The ends seem to tie at the back in a bow knot with softly crisp loops and ends floating away down by the hem of the gown. The ends are frilled sometimes, the edges at the end being finished with three or four little frills set close together; or they are tucked, the tucks extending half-way to the waist and sometimes, in intervals of two or three tucks, to the loops.

As a rule, these sashes are worn with organdie or muslin gowns, and they may be made of the gown's material or of chiffon to match some color of the dress, but of late black mousseline de sole sashes have appeared with summer gowns of black or white or any summer combination of color that will take black as a dash of contrast. The effect is often excellent, and the notion is among the new ones. Even newer than these is the sash arrangement shown in the next picture, which is, in fact, yet in the stage of being, like an uncertain household, on trial, but with the prospects favoring prompt acceptance. This belt was folded null, the ends falling at the left side to the hem where they were edged with delicate lace. The skirt thus set off was pleated cream mousseline de sole over rose-colored taffeta. Its waist consisted of alternate horizontal bands of butter-colored lace insertion, and narrow bands of the mousseline, all over rose silk lining. Epaulettes of the taffeta capped the shirred sleeves. With costumes into which



THE VERY NEWEST SASH.

expression as in highly wrought costumes. An evening gown on this order is in the second picture. It was Turquoise satin, the right side of its bodice lapped over and fastening beneath a pleated bodice belt of satin finished with small rosettes. Three satin straps held by handsome chased gold buttons held down the lace jabot, the collar was folded chiffon with a lace frilling.

and the sleeves were severely plain. Even less of ornamentation was given to the skirt, which trained slightly and had several rows of black velvet near the hem. Fitted to a tall and slender wearer, this dress will effect just that appearance of simplicity skillfully planned that is now desired in dressy costumes.

Its skirt's velvet ribbon trimming is a very stylish touch, one that is being resorted to by the most stylish dressers.

With the gowns that are all a-flutter, much of that appearance is due to the fascinating chiffon or gauze sash



SHE MUST A-SAILING GO.

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GRAY WHIPCORD STITCHED IN SCROLLS.

these sashes enter, the dainty summer hat is often tied, no matter what the color of the hat and trimming, with a sash bow and strings to match the sash at the waist. When the bows at throat and waist are both black and in contrast to the rest of the costume, a strikingly pretty effect is often secured.

This summer, as for many previous seasons, a few women are seen in the country rigged out in sailor dresses. They are the unpleasant exceptions that prove the rule, which in this case is that it is not good taste to wear sail or dresses where there is no sailing. But where such a get-up may be done, there will be none prettier than that in to-day's fourth sketch. It was of white fannel, its skirt consisting of a gored upper part completed by a gathered ruffle headed with three rows of white braid. The bodice had surplice fronts, large white revers, collar stitched with white and a folded white belt. The chemise was white batiste, with a narrow frilling at either side of the center box-pleat, and the separate collar was white linen, the tie black satin. A white serge cap lined with white and yellow plaid taffeta and a white yachting cap completed the outfit.

The wheeling suit shown here is of especial interest, since it is pretty with-out being striking, and is in every way suitable. Gray whipcord was its material, the jacket blousing over a white leather belt, and opening over a sleeveless vest of white pique. White pique faced the revers, and stitching in scrolls ornamented the fronts. Beneath this or any other bicycle rig there should be corsets especially designed for the exercise.

England has 85 per cent. of the wealth of the United Kingdom.

RAILROADS IN RUSSIA.

Six Thousand Miles Being Built in the Czar's Dominion.

The State of Illinois has 10,000 miles of railroad, Iowa 8,500, and Michigan 7,500. The three States—Illinois, with a land area of 56,000 square miles; Iowa, with a land area of 55,000 square miles, and Michigan, with a land area of 57,000—have collectively 26,250 miles of railroad, or more than the Empire of Russia had, according to the last official reports, which showed that at the beginning of the present year the total length of railways open for traffic in Russia was 25,975 miles, of which 15,230 miles belonged to the State, exclusive of 945 miles of the Trans-Caspian Railroad, which is in the hands of the Minister of War. The area of Russia in Europe is 2,100,000 square miles, and of Russia in Asia, 6,400,000 square miles, a total of 8,500,000 square miles. This deficiency of communication, however, is being, if not rapidly, at least steadily, overcome, and it is computed that there are now 6,000 miles of roads in course of construction, and it is estimated that by the end of the century there will be something like 32,000 miles of railroad in the Russian Empire, two-thirds belonging to the State.

The growth of the railroad system in Russia, modestly begun in 1837, has been very rapid since 1890. The first road constructed was sixteen miles long, from St. Petersburg to Tsarskoe-Selo, and in 1840 this was the only line in the empire. At that time the United States had in operation 2,800 miles. In 1850 the mileage of Russian railroads had increased to 300 miles, and 1800 it was still less than 1,000. The railroad mileage of the United States in the same year was 30,000 miles. In 1870 the mileage of Russian railroads was 7,000 miles; in 1880 it was 14,000; in 1890 it was 19,500. It has since increased with such rapidity that, as stated, it is expected that before 1900 there will be 32,000 miles of railroad in Russia, though, of course, these figures compare poorly with the totals in the United States, where there are now 180,000 miles of railroads. One difficulty from which the railroads of Russia have heretofore suffered severely has been the lack of freight business. In other words, the Russian railroads have been run chiefly for passenger traffic, the profits of which are relatively small and the expenses of which are inordinately large. Up to twenty-five years ago the railroads of Russia carried twice as many passengers in a year as they did tons of freight, though gradually the disparity between the two has been lessened, and since 1890 the proportion of freight carried has been materially larger than heretofore. In the United States about 70 per cent of the railroad earnings are from freight, and this is the chief item of profit in operation on all the lines. The Russians are beginning to utilize their railroad facilities for the transportation of freight to a greater extent than was formerly the case with them, and as a result of this, managers of the various lines have found it profitable to extend them.—New York Sun.

Wonderful Mosquitoes.

The Reverend Zeb Twitchel was the most noted Methodist preacher in Vermont for shrewd and laughable sayings. In the pulpit he maintained a suitable gravity of manner and expression, but out of the pulpit he overflowed with fun.

Occasionally he would, if emergency seemed to require, introduce something queer in a sermon for the sake of arousing the flagging attention of his hearers.

Seeing that his audience were getting sleepy, he paused in his discourse, and then proceeded as follows: "Brethren, you haven't any idea of the sufferings of our missionaries in the new settlements, on account of the mosquitoes in some of these regions being enormous. A great many of them would weigh a pound, and they will get on logs and bark when the missionaries are passing."

By this time all ears and eyes were open, and he proceeded to finish his discourse. The next day one of his hearers called him to account for telling lies in the pulpit.

"But I didn't say one of them would weigh a pound; I said a great many, and I think a million of them would."

"But you say they barked at the missionaries."

"No, no, brother—I said they would get on logs and bark."

A Thrifty Georgia Negro.

Barton P. Powell, of Albany, Ga., a negro 32 years old, is one of the most successful farmers in the State. Twelve years ago he had saved up \$2,000, with which he bought 500 acres of land. He went to work on it and cleared \$2,500 the first year. He has continued to add to his landed possessions paying spot cash for every farm purchased, and is now the owner of 2,100 acres of land, from which he markets 400 bales of cotton annually. Besides his success on the farm he has developed the country supply store idea, and thus rakes in thousands of dollars a year. He also owns a comfortable residence in Bainbridge. His profits last year were over \$7,000. He says that the question of social recognition doesn't trouble him so long as he can get financial recognition at the bank.

New Process for Glass Making.

A number of prominent glass manufacturers met at the Monongahela House recently and decided to build an independent plate glass factory at Elizabeth, a few miles south of Pittsburgh, in Monongahela valley, at a cost of \$200,000. The prospective company will fight the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company and the plate glass pool, and will develop an invention patented by George Marsh, of Sandusky, Ohio. The invention, it is said, will revolutionize the manufacture of plate glass. By means of it the company, it is claimed,

will be able to make plate glass equal to the best French product, and at a cost less than that of ordinary American plate glass. The device holds the sheet of glass in its frame by means of suction while the sheet is being polished. The glass may then be easily reversed and the other side polished. At present expensive plaster of paris casts are used in the polishing process, and even then many sheets crack before completion. It is said the Marsh patent reduced the loss during the polishing process almost to nothing. The new manufactory will give employment to several hundred men. Mr. Marsh's patent is known by the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company. This corporation offered the inventor \$250,000 for the device, but he refused it.—Pittsburg Post.

The Library Corner

A. E. Keet, editor of the Forum during the last two years, has resigned his position.

"The Pursuit of the House Boat," by John Kendrick Bangs, will be issued in book form.

M. Berthelot, the eminent French chemist, intends to publish the many letters from Ernest Renan which he has in his possession.

It is said that Stevenson's story, "St. Ives," is to be completed, and that the name of the author chosen for this responsible task will shortly be announced.

Justin McCarthy was just able to finish the additional volume of his history before his illness became severe. He had worked so steadily over the book as to have been under a considerable strain.

"Darrel," the new novel by Mr. Blackmore, author of "Lorna Doone," is to be published in the autumn. It has been running serially in England, and is considered one of the author's best novels.

The literary monument of the late Archbishop of Canterbury is his important work, "Cyprian, His Life, His Time, His Work," which is to be published immediately, with an introduction by Bishop Potter.

About the time of the Crimean war Carl Marx wrote a series of newspaper letters on the Eastern question. His daughter, Mrs. Marx Aveling, has been collecting them—not an easy task—and they are to be published as a book.

Pierre Loti is at work on a drama for which he has obtained the material from papers in the possession of his family. The piece is an historical play dealing with the period of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. It is intended for the Comedie Francaise.

Opie Read's "The Jacklins" is receiving rather more favorable reviews in England than it did at home. The London Telegraph ascribes the growing English interest in American rustic life to the pioneering work of Harold Frederic.

One of the longest novels of the year will be Hall Caine's "The Christian." The passages omitted from the serial are to be restored in the book, and the work is expected to cause considerable discussion. It is probable that its publication will be deferred until the autumn.

The committee that has been formed to erect a monument to Paul Verlaine is preparing for publication a small volume containing some unpublished verses of the poet, in addition to contributions by Stephane Mallarme, Henri Bauder, Edmond Lepelletier, and other writers.

Mr. Crockett's autumn book will be "Lochnivar." That is to be followed by a shorter story called "The Standard Bearer." He has just returned from Pomerania with the materials for "The Red Ax." But these make only a beginning on the five years' contracts that Mr. Crockett still has ahead of him.

Ian McLaren will not publish any work of fiction during this year, but he will issue one, if not two, religious books before Christmas. The scene of his next volume of stories will probably be laid, in part at least, in America. He is making progress with his life of Christ, which will probably be entitled "The Life of the Master."

Preventing Noises.

A means for preventing the noise made by trains in passing over iron bridges has been devised by a German engineer named Boedecker. He puts a decking of inch and a quarter planks between the cross girders, resting on three-inch timbers laid on the bottom flanges. On the planks a double layer of felt is laid, which is fixed to the vertical web of the cross girder. At the connections with the girder a timber cover joint is placed on felt, and two hooked bolts connect the double firmly to the bottom flange. Four inches of slag gravel cover the decking, which is inclined toward the center of the bridge for drainage purposes. A layer of felt is laid between the planks and the timbers they rest upon and the ironwork in contact with decking and ballast is asphalted.

The decking weighs 600 pounds per yard for a bridge eleven feet wide and costs twenty-three cents a square foot. It is water-tight, and has proved very satisfactory in preventing noise.

After a man's children are grown, and acquire bad habits, he wonders that he ever complained of the trouble they caused when teething.

When a man becomes so ill it is feared he will die, lots of people say nice things about him which embarrass them greatly when he recovers.