

Baby carriages are now excluded from the sidewalks in New York.

John L. Sullivan is writing his autobiography. It will probably be a scrap-book.

See difference is when politicians begin building air castles they usually roof them with slates.

It is becoming apparent that John Bull's territorial claims in Alaska are not contracted at all by the cold.

Twelve million silk hats are made annually in Great Britain. What a awful disaster would follow should Wales stop wearing them!

It seems strange that a St. Louis woman should offer \$4,000 for a husband. She could buy a good dog for \$2 and a parrot for \$5.

As to the couple, aged 88 and 90 years, who were lately married in New York, it is probable that Cupid was looking over his shoulder when he shot.

Statisticians say that an average man of 154 pounds weight has enough iron in his body to make a plowshare, and enough phosphorus to make half a million matches.

The Taylor Street Methodist Church of Portland, Ore., has set aside a pew especially for the use of commercial travelers. The trustees seem to think that one pew is enough.

Gen. Weyler is said to have saved \$4,000,000 in the Philippines and \$3,000,000 in Cuba. The contrast between his finances and those of Spain must be painful to the Madrid cabinet.

The person who cannot understand how a man can afford to accept a public office that it costs more to secure than the salary amounts will never be known and honored as a statesman.

The British commission in the gold regions has decided to change the name of the district from Klondike to Trondika. The miners will starve to death under one name as well as the other.

A collar button possessing many advantages over the old style has just been invented. If it is designed to fill a long-felt want it will shy at a bureau and positively refuse to roll under a bed.

The "unloaded revolver" claims another Chicago victim. There should be no "unloaded revolvers." Every revolver should be loaded and everyone should understand that fact and leave firearms alone.

It will be interesting to learn, by and by, how much the wealth taken out of the Klondike region exceeds the wealth taken into it. Well, we have only to wait till the gold craze is over before doing this little sum in arithmetic.

A bicycle built for 2000 will be shown at the Paris exposition. Both tires are punctured with large doors, and visitors reach the top by winding staircases inside. The saddle is a roof garden, and the handle-bars a sitting-room with large windows.

A list of ten prominent astronomers is given who lived to be nearly 100, and the fact is supposed to warrant a belief that devotion to the science promotes longevity. It is at least true that astronomers live further away from the madding crowd than any other class of hard workers.

Every American returning to his native land from abroad is expected to have a thrill of pleasure, but the manner of celebrating is not always the same. A Boston man went straight from the steamer to a restaurant and dined a lunch consisting of a cup of tea with four pieces of pie, apple, mustard, lemon and blueberry.

The extraordinary safety of modern travel, horizontally and vertically, is shown in the annual report of the New York Central Railway, which shows that not one of the twenty-three million passengers carried last year was killed, and only fifteen were injured; and in the statement that fatalities from passenger elevators in New York average less than one a year.

One of the French poets says a woman's sword is her tongue, and that she never allows it to rust. A woman in San Francisco claims to have invented a system of phonetic stenography by which the human tongue can record not only the words of a speech, but all its modulations. The inventor states that she has tested her device successfully in Chinese as well as English.

Wind seems to be a commodity of daily increasing value, not so much in the carrying on of political campaigns, where it is employed in its expansive character and thus loses the most of its power, but in machines in which by being bottled up and compressed it becomes a mighty propelling force. The dry goods stores have taken kindly to pneumatic transmitters of cash, and now the New York Post Office is to send letters and packages by the same means. The old saying, "it goes like the wind," has thus acquired increased significance.

All owners of the poor in the East, who thought to know more about

tramps than other people, decided to feed all who applied without requiring work in return. The fraternity of the dusty roads spread the news with mysterious swiftness, and soon the overseer found his tramp visitors as thick as grasshoppers. A physician and others on the roads have been robbed and many deeds of violence committed. The inhabitants of the quiet neighborhood now go armed. They are about to establish a rock pile and a wood yard, a remedy that never fails.

The Columbia, S. C., negroes, who have subscribed nearly three-fourths of the \$100,000 capital with which to start a cotton factory in that city (which will give employment night and day to 600 of their race) have shown a degree of thrift and enterprise that cannot be too highly commended. What the Columbia negroes have done their brothers in other Southern centers of population can as readily do with profit to themselves and with advantage to all their kind. That way lies a good solution of the race problem, and the way is open and inviting.

One of the grossest absurdities on earth is approaching completion in Paris, in the shape of an oil painting thirty feet high and fifty-five feet long, representing "the apotheosis of international arbitration," which, when it is finished, is to be offered to the Czar. What an extraordinary piece of satire is this? Do the artists, or any others, perhaps, regard the decision of the powers of Europe which degrades Greece and sustains the Turk an example of international arbitration? It would seem that no greater insult could be flung in the face of our Christian civilization than this.

While the English language is spreading over the face of the globe wherever liberty is possible, it is sad to mark the apparent incapacity of the noble German tongue to conquer new territory or even to maintain itself within its own legal limits. In Bohemia it is rapidly disappearing. In Hungary it has been exterminated within the last fifty years. The eastern provinces of Prussia have been in German hands more than a hundred years, yet the people there are as little Prussian to-day as when Kosciusko laid down his life for personal liberty. The Danish provinces were conquered more than thirty years ago, yet the new generation speaks Danish and hates the very name of Prussia. In Alsace-Lorraine, men who were babies in 1870 have now served their time in the German army, and are nominally German subjects; yet the German language finds there a resistance insurmountable, even with the aid of a vast army of spies, gendarmes, officials, and 60,000 troops. Nor is the German language faring better in the German colonies, for the simple reason that German emigrants prefer almost any colonial flag to their own.

Prophets who have drawn glowing pictures of all-rail communications between the populous Atlantic seaboard cities and the still more populous cities of Western Europe may not after all have been the irrational dreamers that some of the critics have claimed. Recently a former chief of the United States geological survey predicted that within a few years a traveler could board a sleeping car in New York ticketed through to St. Petersburg and could make the entire journey by rail, except for the short stretch across Behring straits. The reason offered for this prediction was that the western portion of the United States is now about entering the greatest mining era the world has ever known, and that within a very short time the development of mining industries will insure a complete chain of railways on the Pacific coast into the remote mining regions of Alaska. This prophet was probably a good many years ahead of the natural order of events, although there are indications that the predictions will ultimately be fulfilled. Russia is now doing her part toward linking continental Europe to North America by a vast railway girdle across the Siberian steppes, and when the last links in this government railway are completed London, Paris and St. Petersburg will be immeasurably nearer to Pacific coast ports in China and Japan than they ever were before. It doesn't follow, however, that because the Russian Government is opening up Siberia to the world it will find any justification in the near future for an extension of the Siberian railroad to the Behring straits. When such a line is built it is more than likely that military reasons will dictate the move, for there are now no indications that mineral or other wealth in the extreme northeast of Siberia would justify the costly railroad enterprise. On this side of the Pacific there are far more aggressive indications that the time is not far distant when Alaska will be connected with the rest of the United States by rail and when a further extension to the point on Behring straits where connection with Siberia is most feasible should be accomplished at comparatively slight cost. Already two or three companies have been organized to build railways into Alaska as a result of the mining boom. One of these projects is for a narrow gauge railroad from tidewater on Prince William sound up the valley of the Copper River, and thence across the divide to a point on the Yukon River near the boundary line. This road would be a little over 300 miles long. It is certain that the Canadians will build a railway to the northwest territory contiguous to Alaska, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company already has surveyors in the field to find a suitable route to connect with its main line at some point in British Columbia.

It is never any hardship for a girl to help with the dishes away from home.

A QUARTET OF BOYS.

YOUNG MEN WHO EARLY BECAME GENERALS.

Generals Merritt, Custer, MacKenzie and Upton Won Promotion by Conspicuous Gallantry in the Service of Their Country—Their After Life.

Brave Cavalry Officers.

HE transfer and promotion of Maj. Gen. Wesley Merritt to the command of the Department of the East, with headquarters at Governor's Island, vividly recalls that historic quartet of cavalry officers, Merritt, Custer, MacKenzie and Upton, which became famous the last two years of the war. It was a group that found its analogue in the same number of equally gallant young generals, West Pointers all, in many instances classmates of their antagonists—Stuart, Fitz Lee, Rosser and Young, in the army of Northern Virginia. It is the Union quartet that will be considered here, because their careers were similar, as they were promoted together, and the history of one is a part of the history of them all.

Merritt was the senior of the "quadrilateral" of young Union generals in graduation. He was a member of the first and only "five years' class" that ever left West Point. While Mr. Davis was Secretary of War he caused the course at the United States Military Academy to be increased to five years. In the class of '60 graduated Joseph Wheeler, a member of Congress for



A QUARTETTE OF BOY BRIGADIERS.

several terms, and a Confederate general officer; Gen. Wilson, chief of engineers, and Col. Whittemore of the Ordnance Department.

After serving as adjutant of the Second Dragoons under Col. Philip St. George Cooke, Merritt became aide-camp to that gallant Virginian, when he was made brigadier general in 1861, then major general and given command of all the cavalry of McClelland's army. Two days before Gettysburg, Capt. Merritt, who had attracted the attention of his superiors of the highest rank by reason of his quick military perceptions and thorough knowledge of the availabilities of the cavalry arm, was nominated brigadier general and forwarded his acceptance, and mounted the star on the very day, July 1, 1863, when Buford's columns, suddenly pushing out westward from Gettysburg, unexpectedly ran up against the advance brigades of Gen. A. P. Hill. Merritt was given the reserve cavalry command. From that day his fortune was assured. He fought a division under the eye and command of Gen. Sheridan, the cavalry officer of the Union army, at Winchester and Fisher's Hill. Sheridan showed what he thought of his young subordinate's ability and conduct when he named Merritt for the brevet of major general, which was given him. Gen. Merritt has six brevets, all for "gallant and meritorious service." From Fisher's Hill to the close of the war Gen. Merritt commanded a division of Sheridan's cavalry corps.

Second of the gallant four comes Custer. He was old for a cadet when he entered the United States Military Academy. Two classes were graduated in 1861; the first was that which would have been the second five years' class; the other, June 24. The latter was Custer's. After serving as cavalry aide-camp to General McClelland, June 29 he was made Brigadier General. His name and Merritt's went to the Senate together. Custer's vim and dash at Brandy Station and Aldie, while aide-camp to General Pleasanton, had been so conspicuous as to attract general attention, and won for him his Brigadier General's commission. From Gettysburg, in 1863, to the end, Custer was the typical hard rider, the ideal light-horseman and dashing fighter of the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac. At Fisher's Hill Custer won his brevet of Major General, the same day Merritt gained his and in the same battles. Sheridan gave Custer, the second of his "boy generals," a division of his superb cavalry, which he commanded until hostilities ceased.

Third in the list of this group of young heroes comes Upton. He was a '61 man, of the almost five years' class, that received the diploma May 6. Like

most of those high up in class standing, Upton was commissioned in the artillery. But he wanted a regiment, and that fortune which ever favors the brave stood Upton's friend. By a lucky chance he was commissioned colonel of the One hundred and Twenty-first New York Volunteers, and made a Brigadier General for distinguished gallantry in an attack that will be famous through all history. Upton was a brigade commander in that crack corps of Hancock's veterans which on the morning of May 12, 1864, advanced directly upon that faulty "horseshoe" in Lee's line of works at Spottsylvania, walked over the gray skirmishers, not firing a shot at them for fear of giving the alarm, and just at dawn drove the Federal wedge with terrible, decisive effect full into the horseshoe. History calls it the "bloody angle." There it was that "Hancock the superb" noted the gallant young Colonel Upton's bravery and the skill he showed in handling his command, and said to General Morgan of his staff: "By this and by that, Upton has won a star, and he shall have it." Again that 19th of October, 1864, that had been so lucky for Merritt and Custer, brought good fortune to Upton, for then he received the brevet of Major General. When General James H. Wilson went to the Western army to command all General Sherman's cavalry, he took Upton with him, and gave him the fourth division of the cavalry corps, which he commanded until his volunteers were mustered out and the war ended.

Last, and in many respects the ablest, of this quartet whose names will live as long as the history of our war survives was MacKenzie. He was the youngest in years and service of them all, as he did not graduate until 1862. But though he came a year later than any of the others, in two years and a little more than six months of active service MacKenzie had won an honor and achieved a distinction never before or since attained by any officer

of our always gallant army. He had won seven brevets, everything from First Lieutenant to Major General, each "for gallant and meritorious services"—not in skirmishes, either, if you please, but such battles as Second Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Petersburg, Winchester, Cedar Creek. That 19th of October, 1864, so often mentioned, must be noted again, for it was as fortunate for MacKenzie as it had been for the other three. For the most brilliant, soldierly courage and daring General Sheridan recommended MacKenzie's promotion to the rank of Brigadier General, and his commission was given him "for specific distinguished services" at the battle of Opequon, Fisher's Hill and Middletown, and the recipient of these honors, unequalled in American history, was then but a little over 23 years old.

And how fared they after the war ended—this gallant four? Custer died with the Indian war whoop as his death-knell, in a battle that will live in history as the last stand made by the great united tribes of the Northwest against the overwhelming white man. Upton, a full Colonel of artillery—alas, that it should have to be written—died with clouded mind by his own hand, MacKenzie lived for years dead to the world, and to the grief and sorrow of those who knew and loved him best. But the star Merritt wore for years so worthily—before he won those he wears to-day—gleamed on the gallant MacKenzie's shoulder before the light of reason went out for him forevermore. And thus it is that Merritt is the only one left of the four gallant young souls whose courage and soldierly deeds won the chivalric appreciation of their own comrades and the admiration and respect of those who had witnessed and felt the might of their valor on twenty stricken fields. And as he who is left recalls the past there must come from his own knightly heart a sigh for their memory and a prayer for the souls of the gallant brave, who have gone across the River of Death.—Globe-Democrat.

The Cormorant. The cormorant is largely employed in China for catching fish. The birds are reared and trained with great care and are taken out upon the lakes and rivers in a small boat, one man to every ten or twelve cormorants. The birds stand perched on the sides of the boat, and at a word from the man they scatter on the water and begin to look for fish. They dive for fish, and then rise to the surface with the fish in their bills, when they are called back to the boat by the fishermen. As ducks and dogs, they swim to their master and are taken into the boat when they lay down their prey and again resume their labor.

MY LADY'S CLOTHING.

FASHIONS ARE LATE IN BECOMING SETTLED.

It is Now Becoming Certain What the Really Correct - Modes and Goods Are, and Some of Them Are Here Briefly Sketched and Pictured.

Our Weekly Fashion Budget.

ERHAPS the styles haven't been slow in becoming settled this season! No one has ever seen anything like it. Here it is December, and we are just learning not only what are generally to be the favorite shades and goods, but what are to be the fashionable cuts for those materials. Even now there is more than the customary opportunity for individual expression, but for the past two months the layer down of fashion laws was on thin ice—so thin that only the best of guessers dared prophesy. As to skirts, it is settled that they must be close at the hips and drag. Almost all long skirts are made separate from their silken petticoats, and are held up high, the petticoat or lining show-



THE RIGHT IN THIS GROUP IS A PRETTY ONE, NOT OF STARTLING NOVELTY, BUT STYLISH AND IN GOOD TASTE. IT WAS MADE OF HAUTE BLUE CLOTH, AND HAD OVER ITS BLACK VELVET BLOUSE A BOLOERO OF THE CLOTH TRIMMED WITH BLACK VELVET REVERS. THESE EXTENDED INTO A ROUND COLLAR AT THE BACK, THE BLOUSE HAVING ITS OWN FOLDED STOCK OF THE VELVET. (Both epaulettes capped the sleeves and were edged with fur, three bands of this trimming coming at the foot of the skirt.)

the right in this group is a pretty one, not of startling novelty, but stylish and in good taste. It was made of haute blue cloth, and had over its black velvet blouse a bolero of the cloth trimmed with black velvet revers. These extended into a round collar at the back, the blouse having its own folded stock of the velvet. (Both epaulettes capped the sleeves and were edged with fur, three bands of this trimming coming at the foot of the skirt.)

An early winter development—and a very sudden one—in styles in silks is the appearance without warning of taffeta in black made, after the manner of our grandmothers', with a lot of frills, each frill edged with rows of narrow black velvet ribbon. The skirts to such dresses are very full and round, and seem almost to be gathered on a band. The bodices are made with quaint fichu effect of frilled silk, and the sleeves are fairly tight. Most of these gowns are in black, but occasionally one is seen in a quaint dull green. The fashion is a brand-new one, and is pretty sure to take hold, so if you are going to buy a silk for general wear an old-time taffeta made in this way is safe planning.

Moderation is finally settled on as the rule for sleeves, none of them being tight. In silk dresses some elaboration at the shoulder is invariable. At the wrist all silk sleeves are finished elaborately over the hand with some modification of the bell cuff, and white is often worn about the wrist whether it appears at the neck or not. In cloth sleeves, too, elaboration at the shoulders is common enough, but the newest wrinkle is to make the sleeve entirely plain there, after the patterns shown



TWO IN GRAY TO ONE IN BLUE.

ing. A silken petticoat, besides, is worn, the lining usually harmonizing with or matching the cloth of the dress, the petticoat contrasting brilliantly. This bell-like cut of skirt is shown in its most marked characteristics in the accompanying small picture, wherein the skirt appears to lap over at the side seam, where it was held with frogs of gray and white mixed cord. Similar trimming closed the jacket bodice, which bloused all around over a wide folded belt of cream satin, the same shade of satin facing the single revers. The first and second costumes in the next picture were dainty employments

in the next picture. Usually there is trimming for the skirt, or, lacking that—as in this middle dress—some other elaboration for the bodice to make up for the look of severity that entirely plain sleeves give. This dress shows, more than the other two, how necessary this balancing elaboration is. It had an under bodice of fitted white satin covered with cream lace, and over this the dress goods—violet cashmere—was draped very prettily. Yet the dress seemed very plain, even beside such dresses as those with which it was sketched. All of which points to the advisability of planning a trim-



THE SLEEVES THAT ARE COMING FOR CLOTH GOWNS.

of gray. The first was in a satin finished broadcloth, its skirt trimmed with bands of stone gray cloth embroidered with black silk. Its jacket's revers were of the darker gray cloth, turning back from a vest of white satin veiled with white chiffon, a jabot of the chiffon rippling from neck to waist. The other model, the middle one of the three, was in tailor finish, the skirt plain and the blouse trimmed very freely with black velvet ribbon. Black velvet was used for the belt, and a jabot finish of creamy lace set off the throat.

In trimming gray dresses with fur, chinéfilin, Peruvian lamb, seal and mink are used, but owing perhaps to the inconspicuousness of the gray fur doesn't add as much richness as when applied to goods of other colors. The model at