

The Matter of Dress

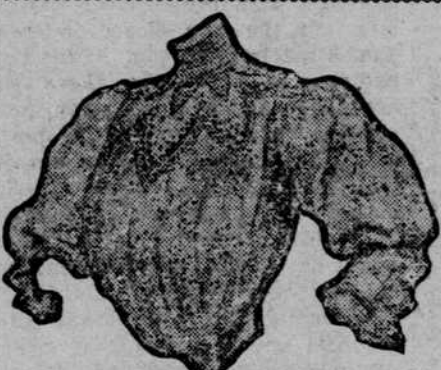
This is essentially a year of costly simplicity. I never remember having seen so much costly lace used on summer gowns as this year, and besides this introduction of rare old lace the



Blouse of Japanese Silk.

The broad kimono straps show a central insertion of embroidered muslin, and then, in front, the blouse is finely tucked and inserted with lace, groups of tiny silken buttons being another pretty detail of its trimming, while the elbow sleeves are arranged in quite a new way with crossed and many-buttoned straps of silk, to hold in their puffed fullness above a lace-inserted cuff.

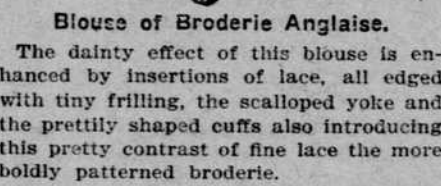
muslins themselves have been embroidered—by hand—in a manner so elaborate and fine as to defy description. Some of these embroidered muslin gowns are worn with the smartest possible little coat-boleros of tulle or chine taffetas. For example,



Blouse of White Silk and Chiffon.

The white silk and chiffon of the blouse is veiled with lace, which makes soft background for bands of delicate green silk edged with narrow silken braid, and connected just above the waist by other pointed tabs, which give a corselet effect. Then below the folded band comes a smart little beque edged with braiding and a killed frill, fastenings of wee roses, embroidered in pale yellow and pink also entering into the decorative detail.

which will certainly remain "pale grey" until winter is with us again are the long suede gloves and the



Blouse of Broderie Anglaise.

The dainty effect of this blouse is enhanced by insertions of lace, all edged with tiny frilling, the scalloped yoke and the prettily shaped cuffs also introducing this pretty contrast of fine lace the more boldly patterned Broderie.

the skirt of one which I saw the other day was of very fine Broderie Anglaise, entirely worked by hand, with bold cross-bars of Venetian guipure insertion. At the extreme hem these cross-bars were filled in with rich design of Cluny, and the whole thing was marvelously effective in a subdued way.



Blouse of White Net and Lace.

This blouse is trued with Japanese silk, while, outwardly, it is finished with effective touches of pale blue satin, and crocheted lace, and buttons of the blue, all edged with ruffles of Valenciennes lace. The yoke of Valenciennes insertion is outlined with scrolls of guipure applique, and connecting folds of the blue satin, the sleeves being distinguished by the novel and pretty way in which folds of satin are passed through circles of lace, while then frills of lace frame the elbow becoming; and, finally, there may be noted a deeply draped satin waistband, fastened at the back with two of those button-roses.

The little coat— which in front was shaped like an Eton jacket set in wide pleats—was made of ivory taffetas.



Blouse of Chiffon Taffeta.

Specially adapted for wear with morning and tailor-made costumes. It is of finely checked chiffon taffeta, and is arranged with a chemise and cuffs of fine guipure, and trimmings of Soutache

KNOW VALUE OF ALASKA. Seward's Prophecy of Years Ago Has Been Fulfilled.

June 20, 1867, the fortieth anniversary of the day on which the Alaska annexation treaty went into operation, is a date mark of great importance to the United States. When, shortly before his death, in 1872, William H. Seward was asked what he believed to be the greatest achievement of his public career, he answered: "The annexation of Alaska." He added, however, "But the American people will not grasp the value of that acquisition for a third of a century yet." This shows that Seward, the empire builder, was also a prophet. Seward has been dead for thirty-five years, and it is only in recent times that his countrymen have appreciated the importance of Alaska as a possession. Strong opposition was offered in the house of representatives in 1867 to making the appropriation of \$7,200,000, the price which Seward paid Russia for the province. Said one of the annexation's oppo-

nents in that chamber: "All that Alaska will ever be able to produce will be polar bears and icebergs." For several years a nickname for the region was "Seward's folly." But time has vindicated Seward.—Leslie's Weekly.

They were enjoying a quiet stroll out under the star-strewn veil of evening, and he, bashful youth, eagerly grasped a stray opportunity to keep alive the languishing conversation. "Yes, Miss Georgiana; that star over there is the planet Jupiter, which they say is about 400 million miles from the earth; and that bright-red planet overhead is Mars, which just now is only a little over 400 million miles away. It's a great question among scientists whether or not there are inhabitants on either of them." "Well, George, said the fair listener, in her thirst for astronomical knowledge drawing a little closer to her informant, "if there really are, it doesn't seem to me they're near enough so that they could see us on a dark evening like this, even though they were looking this way."—Judge.

TO WASH A PLUME.

Takes a Little Time, but the Results Are Satisfactory. White plumes which have done duty on old hats should undergo a certain amount of renovation. One of the best methods of cleaning them is to place them first of all in a basinful of soapuds made with cold water instead of hot, and in which they should be left to steep for an hour or two.

They should then be removed, plunged into boiling water and allowed to remain in it for at least a quarter of an hour. Each feather should then be taken out, spread on a cloth, and every particle of dirt which may still cling to the fronds removed by rubbing these with a soft piece of silk dipped in soapuds. They must then be rinsed in several changes of hot water and finally laid on a towel across the knee, the fronds being then dabbed gently with a towel made into a ball, the object being to regain the curved shape of the feather before it is returned to the hat.

When almost dry the feathers should be well shaken until they appear perfectly soft and fluffy, when they should be immediately inclosed in tissue paper and placed in a cool oven or on the plate rack of the stove, so as to complete drying operations.

To curl the feathers no tool is more effective than an ivory taper knife. Each frond should be placed up separately, and with a sharp but gentle turn of the wrist given the requisite curl, this being continued until the plume has regained its original appearance.

WHEN FLOWERS HAVE FADED.

Simple Method by Which They Can Be Revived for a Time.

It always seems so distressing to see beautiful cut flowers wither and fade, and to revive flowers that are not actually dead try this plan. Cut a tiny piece from each stem and place the stems in a large glass, or, even better, jar of cold water; then submerge the jar in a bucket of cold water, allowing the entire bunch to be almost covered. Put all in a dark place, cover with a newspaper to exclude the air; let them remain thus over night; in the morning they will be as fresh as new, even to the glistening "dew drops."

Roses and carnations respond better than other flowers treated in this manner, but so far there has not been found any way to freshen violets satisfactorily.

It might not be amiss to add that wilted green vegetables, such as spinach, lettuce and celery, are to be freshened by this same means, and may be kept for days, changing the water every morning, of course. However, we all know that the fresher all vegetables, the better they are.

IMPROVED HAT HANGERS.

Being limited for closet room it was a puzzle to know just where to hang our hats, writes a correspondent of the Chicago Tribune. My husband put a cleat 12 inches above the top-rod of hooks in the closet; in this strip of wood, with a three-quarter inch auger, he bored holes sixteen inches apart. Then from an old broom handle he cut pegs six inches in length which he drove firmly into the cleat. When completed the wood was stained and varnished to match the woodwork of the closet. With this arrangement the hats are out of the way, kept in good condition, and are not displaced when hanging up other garments.

SPANISH OMELET.

Chop finely as much boiled ham, using fat and lean, as will fill a tea-cup, and add to this a tablespoonful of minced onion and one-half of a green chili pepper chopped fine. Cook the ham, onion and pepper in a cup of tomatoes for ten minutes. Beat six eggs slightly, add salt to taste; fry in a buttered pan until delicately brown; place on an omelet dish garnished with parsley; fold in the mixture of ham, onions, pepper and tomatoes; serve while hot.

A Simple Luncheon. The third luncheon had linen doilies on the table and a fern dish in the center. The menu had a rather simple first course:

Creamed oysters on rounds of toast, potato croquettes, toasted muffins, olives, spice cake and coffee. The muffins were bought at a bakery, split open, toasted and buttered. The spice cake was baked in one large loaf and served fresh, but cold.—Harper's Bazaar.

FISH BALLS.

Mix with one cup of hot mashed potatoes (unseasoned) a half cup of shredded codfish, add to this one small egg and a speck of pepper, beating all till light and creamy; shape, roll in dried breadcrumbs, dip in beaten egg, which has one teaspoonful of milk added to it, then in crumbs again; place in frying basket and fry in deep, hot fat, just below the smoking point, till brown; drain on brown paper.

COFFEE CAKE.

One cup sugar, one cup cottolene or butter, four eggs, one cup molasses, one cup strong coffee (cold), one teaspoon soda dissolved in a little boiling water, four cups flour (pastry), one teaspoon cinnamon, one-half teaspoon cloves, one-half teaspoon nutmeg, one cup well floured raisins. Mix in the order named and bake about an hour in a moderate oven. This rule will make two fair-sized loaves.

CHEESE DAINTY.

Cut circular pieces of bread with a cake cutter, moisten them in melted butter, then roll in chopped celery and green peppers, then moisten again in butter, and this time roll in grated cheese, seasoned with pepper and salt. The dish is then set in the oven and baked a few moments. They are served on beds of watercress with a garnish of sliced tomatoes.

DAINTY SANDWICHES.

Remove seeds from four large, green peppers, cut in pieces, mix with one-half pound shell pecans, and run through meat grinder. Salt to taste and blend with mayonnaise to a paste. Butter slice of bread, dip lettuce leaf in mayonnaise and place on bread. Spread the other slice with the paste and press together.

Washington Gossip

Interesting Bits of News Picked Up Here and There at the National Capital.

CONSIDERABLE FLIRTING IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

WASHINGTON.—The big public "show" buildings of Washington are the "flirtation clearing-house" of America.

The capitol and the splendid library of congress are the favorites, but others are only less popular. For many years the problem has been a serious one with custodians, watchmen and policemen, and this spring it has been worse than ever.

Young men and women of the high school age, it is declared, make the library of congress a regular headquarters for the purpose of flirting. There are young men and women of maturer years who do much the same, and, finally, all kinds of people make the place a headquarters for meeting by appointment, or without appointment, as may be most desirable.



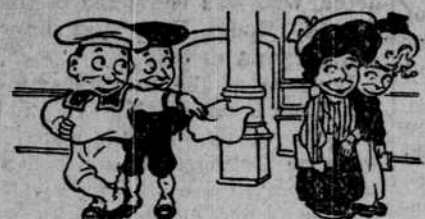
It's really quite legitimate in Washington, you know, where one official, scarcely stays but more than one consecutive minute—to take all sorts of social short cuts. One may not wait for the natural evolution of things. Time flies. The other fellow's turn is close upon us. So its hustle, hustle, and hump yourself while your stock is at a premium.

The meteoric career of the Shonts at the capitol offered an interesting example of the "off-again-on-again-gone-again-Finnigan" system. Very charming people, indeed, with permanent wearing qualities were Mr. Theodore P. Shonts, former chairman of the Panama canal commission, his wife and two attractive young daughters, Miss Theodora, sought in marriage by the Duke de Chaulnes, and her sister, Miss Marguerite. The Shonts girls have lovely clothes and a cordial grace of manner with a southern flavor to it. Much of their life has been spent at their father's handsome estate near Mobile, and on southern waters in the paternal yacht Margadora. "Margadora" is a graceful tele-

SMUGGLING IS POPULAR AMONG RICH AMERICANS

"WE have confidential information that the manufacture of trunks with false bottoms abroad is a thriving industry just now," said a treasury department official the other day. "These trunks are designed primarily for rich Americans who are now traveling in Europe and who will secrete diamonds, pieces of jewelry and other valuables in secret trays, false bottoms and other places where an inspector would not be expected to look. "These trunks are made very cleverly and, although it is an old dodge, it will be worked with some success this year. They used to make these trunks with false bottoms of such depth that the deception was quickly discovered. They do them much better now and our inspectors will have to keep a sharp lookout to prevent fraud. Only the most experienced inspectors who have handled trunks for years can gauge these false distances accurately and had fraudulent trays and bottoms.

"You would be surprised to know how many of our captures of smuggled goods are made. Our inspectors would be unable to expose many of these



The other day a corporal and private of marines were ejected from the building by officers and immediately a tremendous protest was voiced by the navy department.

"Another insult to the uniform," it was alleged, and the demand arose from army and navy quarters as to whether the uniform of the nation must forever be thus subjected to insult, till it was to be ejected on sight from public buildings. The secretary of the navy set an inquiry on foot.

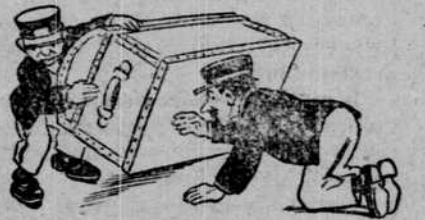
Then came the explanation that the two marines had been especially offensive in their advances toward women in the building, and that when their cases came to be looked into ample testimony against them would be adduced.

AN EXAMPLE OF SHORT CUT TO INNER SOCIETY

scoping together of the names of the two Misses Shonts.

A story runs that at the outset of her brief Washington career, Mrs. Shonts, wife of the present president of the Interborough-Metropolitan company of New York, desiring to give a large dining hall comparatively a stranger, was assisted in the making out of her guest list by a friend who was a veteran social expert here. A certain venerable senator, who had never met the host and hostess, vague as to identities, was numbered in the company. "I am most happy to know you, Mr. Senator," amiably proclaimed the lady of the house. "You will find on the table there the name of the lady whom you are to escort to dinner."

"Yes, thank you, madam," said the old gentleman, in no wise recognizing his fair hostess, producing from his pocket a small card contained in an envelope, and proceeding to scrutinize it through his glasses. "I already have my happy fate right here. Se seems to be a party by the name of—let me see—by the name of Shonts, or something of that sort."



cheats but for information furnished by disgruntled maid servants. Many a fine woman returning to this country with a lot of undeclared jewels and other valuables has been discomfited by a woman judiciously dropped by her maid. It is not always the wisest thing for a wealthy woman to disengage her maid too soon after returning from a purchasing expedition abroad. More than one Fifth avenue woman is wondering to-day how the government got the tip that she was bringing a diamond necklace without the formality of declaring it.

Modest clerks in high-priced jewelry stores in Paris earn a good deal of money on the side by keeping United States government officers advised of the purchases of expensive jewelry by traveling Americans. When the Americans return home their statements are carefully scanned to see if all their purchases are included. Many seizures are made in this way. The clerk is always rewarded by a percentage of the extra penalty imposed and in the same way maids and other servants who furnish information are paid.

ANTS THREATEN TO EAT SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

ABOUT 17,000,000 or 18,000,000 white ants have decided to raze the Smithsonian Institution, and the preliminary work has begun. Woodwork is disappearing, the flooring is falling away in places, and what the ants have done to the parts of the building which are hidden from open view can only be guessed, until necessity shall require an overhauling of the whole building.

Where the white ants came from nobody can tell. They cannot be killed by any means except fire or a liberal use of kerosene. They increase more rapidly than any other known species of ant, and that is at a rate almost beyond computation. They are hideous to look at, being soft, unlike the North American ant, and bristling with a slight fuzz.

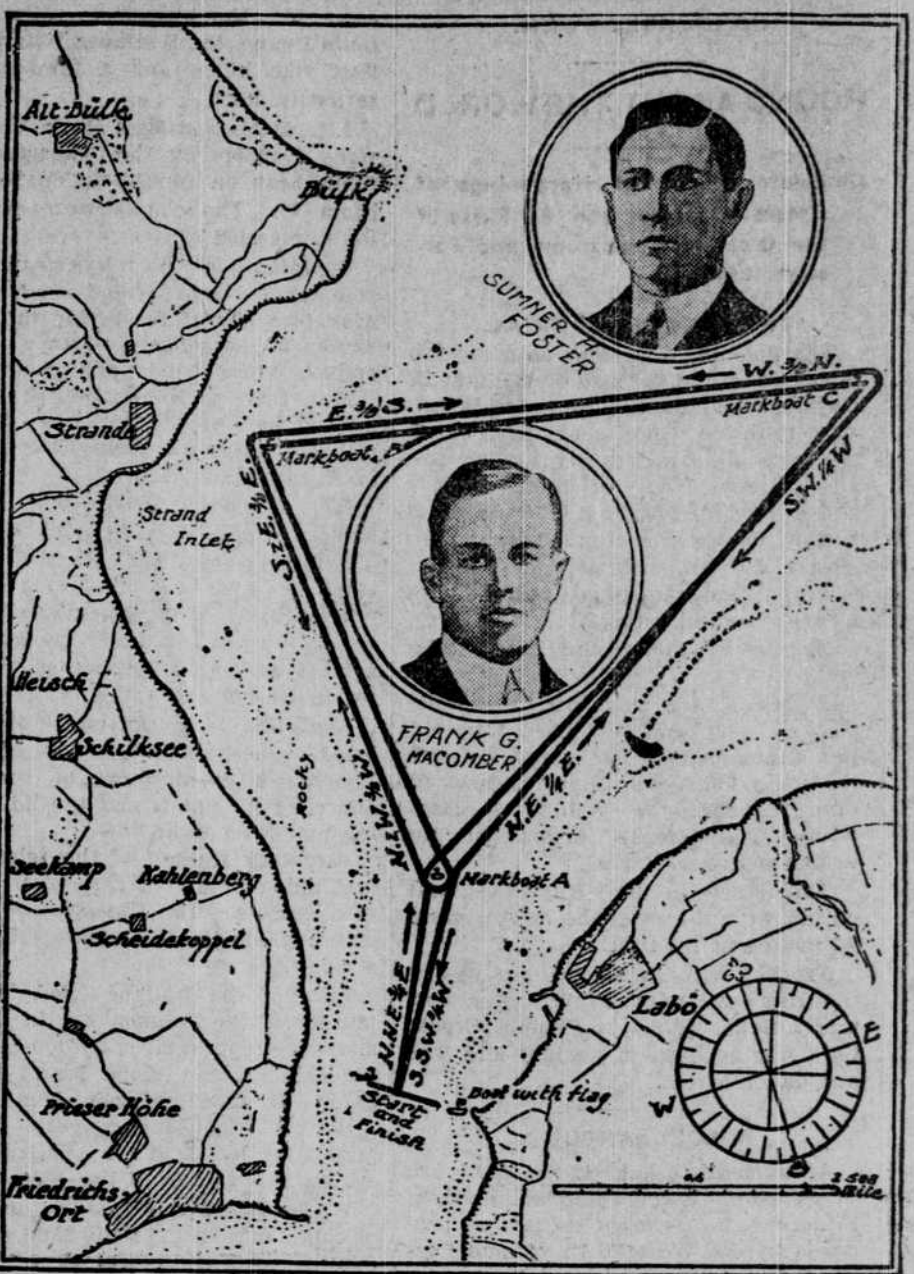
They are armed with little sawlike mandibles, which can make their way through the hardest wood in an incredibly short time. And their appetite is appalling.

Whole window sashes were turned from solid wood to sawdust under the industry of their sawbills. The flooring was eaten away from the walls for the space of three or four inches, and the cases in which rare specimens of butterflies and birds were kept were chewed to fine powder.

Now there is positive danger to the institution in their annual appearance, as the building is drawn on so heavily to feed them that the woodwork has become weakened.

"If something be not speedily done to exterminate the white ants the building itself will be exterminated."

AMERICANS AFTER EMPEROR'S CUP



The international yacht races at Kiel to begin about the fifteenth of August will be much in the public eye of America owing to the fact that this country is sending three crack boats to contest for the emperor's cup. The three boats are the Chewink VIII, Spokane I, and the Marblehead.

Mr. B. B. Crowninshield, the designer of the Marblehead, and who is a clever skipper, raced a boat of his design called the Uncle Sam, some years ago at Kiel, and knows what the conditions there are like, and he designed the Marblehead with a view to meeting them. She may surprise some of those who think that she will not prove so fast as the other boats, but the general opinion inclines to the Spokane and Chewink if the conditions are what are expected in August at Kiel.

The first race will be on August 15, and the conditions will be practically the same as those which governed the Roosevelt cup races on this side last year. The first race will be eagerly awaited, as this will tell the story in a measure as to what the outcome will be.

Mr. Otto Protzen is regarded as the most dangerous rival skipper, and his new boat is said to be going very fast, especially in breezes. He sailed the Wannsee on this side in the Roosevelt cup races, and saved the Germans from a complete shut-out by winning one of the series.

The Germans have made great preparations to meet the American boats, and will be represented at the starting line by the pick of 30 boats, 17 of which are new craft designed very much along American lines, and which are far more radical than either the Wannsee, the Tilly VI, or the Gluckauf IV, which sailed here last year.

It is believed that the Germans will make the American boats hustle as they will be fighting it out in their home waters and under different conditions from those met at Marblehead, but the three boats which go across will be handled as well as any three boats which could be picked, for it would be hard to get three better skippers than Frank Macomber, Jr., of the Chewink, J. Lewis Stackpole of the Spokane and Sumner H. Foster of the Marblehead. They will have good crews. On the Spokane will be two experienced boat sailors, who raced with Mr. Stackpole, while on the Chewink will be Benjamin C. Tower, a relative of the German ambassador, Charlemagne Tower, and Matthew Boles, who sailed with Mr. Macomber on the Chewink VI, and other boats. Sumner Foster will have along with him his brother, Haverly Foster, a Harvard athlete, and Thomas Claflin, another Harvard man who has had plenty of experience in small boat racing. Mr. Benjamin C. Tower, who goes on the Chewink, owned and raced the Corinthian in the trials, but failed to land a place. He is a clever skipper and will be a valuable assistant to Mr. Macomber.

There is tremendous interest in Germany over the coming international match, for the sonder klasse is the special pride of the German emperor, who has offered the cup for the races, while the king of Spain is not only interested in the class, but owns and sails one of these little racing boats.

It is expected that a number of yachtsmen will go from this side with the owners and crews, and it is expected that Vice Commodore F. Lewis Clark, of the Eastern Yacht club, owner of the Spokane, will send the Emerald, his fine auxiliary schooner, across and use her during the races.

A big fleet of American steam yachts cruising in foreign waters will assemble for the racing. The Spanish yacht clubs will also give the Americans a royal reception. The races in Spain will not take place until September, so that the Americans will have quite a stay abroad.

Study of the German courses, tides and weather will form a very serious part of the preparatory work of the American crews at Kiel. The conditions differ materially from those in which the boats have hitherto sailed, off Marblehead. There will be no windward and leeward courses, as here. This is due, in part, to difficulty in getting sea room in which to lay out such a course.

The starting line is across an estuary, or arm of the sea, in Kiel harbor, which has a width from shore to shore of about a mile and a width of practicable channel of about half a mile. The boats are started on a straight line to a mark boat anchored in mid-channel, northeast three-fourths of a mile. On turning that they begin sailing a triangle.

The course is sailed twice around, the full distance being 14.5 nautical miles. The direction in which the boats are sent around depends on the direction of the wind. On two sides the course parallels the 10-meter depth line of the channel. An onshore breeze in this depth of water results in a strong chop, which in high winds is very trying. According to reports from the government observatory at Kiel the wind averages above 20 knots an hour there throughout August.

The German method of starting their races is somewhat different from the American. The starting line is determined by ranges on the shore, and a starting steamer is anchored on this line, at one side of the channel, and a flag boat at the other. On the steamer's mast are three large black boards, or fields, and two white boards, past which a red starting ball slides.

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A preparatory gun is fired at 12 o'clock, and the red ball is hoisted to the lowest black field. At one-minute intervals it is hoisted one field higher. At the expiration of five minutes it is at the masthead. A gun is then fired. This is the signal for the start. The rules provide that when the result of the races has been determined the committee may recall the other boats and declare the race finished.

The dates, rules, etc., for the Spanish match have not yet been arranged. It is possible that part of the races may be sailed at the watering place of San Sebastian and part at the commercial port of Bilbao.

And as the thirsty unfortunate left the prosperous patron swelled with pride and exclaimed: "I knew he couldn't do it!"

Wholesale Poisoning Order. In the fourteenth century the professional poisoner's favorite agent was arsenic, and this was known to the crowned heads. Charles de Mauvis, king of Navarre, in that century, commissioned a certain Woudreton to go to Paris and kill with arsenic Charles VI, the duke of Valois, brother of the king, and his uncles, the dukes of Berry, Burgundy and Bourbon. Woudreton was detected and executed in 1384.

Persistence. St. Lawrence Alma-Tadema, R. A., was intended for the law and his parents so disliked the idea of his studying art that he was obliged to rise very early in the morning in order to paint. This had some good effect, for he formed a habit of early rising, and is often at work before most people are out of bed. At 14 the great artist painted a picture of his sister, and at 16 an excellent one of himself.

NEAT LITTLE BUNKO GAME.

Hobo Lost His Wager, but His Thirst Was Quenched.

"Getting a drink for nothing is the fine art of Hoboken," said a mixer of spirituous fluids.

"Why Hoboken?"

"Why, that's where all the Hoboes come from."

Then he said that a thirsty man came into his place one day just as a more prosperous person was about to take a drink. The newcomer eyed the glass thoughtfully, and then said: "I'll bet I could drink ten glasses of that fall to the brim without stopping."

The prosperous man was interested. "I'll bet you a dollar you can't," he said.

"I've only got two cents."

"I'll take you."

The prosperous patron ordered the ten drinks. The newcomer put up his two cents and tossed a couple off. Then he drank about half of the third set it down and said:

"You win, old man; I've got enough."