the countries of the Pacific to the trade

of the Mississippi Valley and the Gulf

States, all of that vast and growing

tide of commerce will flow past Ha-

wail. Can the United States afford to

take any chances as to any other coun-

try obtaining control of Hawaii. The

strategical key of the Pacific, the com-

mercial "crossroads" of the Pacific, can

now be had for the taking. Is it worth

having? None of us expect to die to-

morrow, or that our houses will burn

next week; and yet, we insure our-

selves and our houses. No one ex-

pects war between the United States

and any Pacific power, but is it not the

part of wisdom and statesmanship to

forestall the future as well as to take

account of the immediate present, and

by now securing the control of Hawaii,

to thereby expand the shipping, the

farming, the commerce and the manu-

factures of the United States, in and

GATHER ALONG ICSLAND'S ROCKY COAST.

Nesting Grounds of the Birds-How the Eggs Are Protected by the Fluffy Feathers That Are So Prized in Every Country.

(Special Letter.)



T was near Reykjavik, the capitol of Iceland, that I first made the acquaintance of eider ducks, says Elizabeth Taylor, A half-hour's brisk row brought us to Engey, one of the eider-farm islands. In front of the

turf-roofed little buildings, on the stony ground, a quantity of down was drying-fluffy masses of brownish-gray. tooking as if the first puff of wiad would blow them out to sea. But Valla, my maid, told me that the down was so interwoven with blades of dried grass that an ordinary wind would not stir it. Following a rough trail we soon reached the low pastures near the sea. By the action of frost and damp the surface had been upheaved into hillocks about 18 inches high, and between these the ducks were nesting. I was tolling over the uneven ground, when suddenly a large grayish-brown duck burst like a bomb from almost under my feet, and I balanced to and fro on my hillock, fearing to advance, est I crushed the eggs. Looking carefully about me I soon found them; seven great eggs, as large as those of a goose, peeping out from the down which swelled up around them in a thick roll. A little farther on, I was surrounded by excited, perturbed mothers, some still brooding, and others with ducklings hardly out of the shell. The mottled and low-toned plumage so



GATHERING DOWN.

harmonized with the gray rocks and dead grasses around me that I could hardly distinguish the ducks at a distance of a few paces. Just then I saw a young woman coming with her apron full of down. Gudron-that was her name-was on terms of pleasant intimacy with her ducks, and they stayed tranquilly on their eggs at her approach, and even allowed her to stroke their heads and see if the eggs were hatching. Of Valla, too, they seemed to have little fear, though she was a stranger to them.

"Why is it, Gudrun," I asked, "that the ducks are so afraid of me?" Gudrun smiled shyly, and replied

"I think, Froken, that they do not like

That was the trouble! Accustomed as they were to the simple kerchief, or the small black "hufa" worn by Icelandic women, with its heavy silk tassel hanging down on one side, they had taken umbrage at my straw traveling hat with its "perky" ribbon bows. However, the ducks were not unreasonable. When they saw that Valla and Gudrun talked amicably with me. they waived their objections to my headgear, and finally permitted me to caress their sleek heads and wings.

All the accounts I have read about sider ducks say that nests are robbed of their down twice, the duck supplying it each time from her own body; the third time the drake gives his white down, and this is allowed to remain. But I was told by farmers in Iceland that now they never take the down until the little ones are hatched. It has been found that the birds thrive better and increase faster when they are allowed to live as nature meant them to do. So now the poor mothers are no longer obliged to strip themselves of all their down to furnish their despoiled nests. Eider ducks are found along the seacoast of Arctic America and Siberia, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Lapland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla. They are true ocean birds, living during the winter out at sea, and diving for their food, which consists of small fish, shellfish and crabs. In April they begin to gather in little groups near the shores. Often one bird will visit the nesting grounds, and if his report is favorable, his companions soon return to their old haunts, and nest-building begins. Both ducks and drakes work together, laying a foundation of seaweed or coarse grasses, and upon this the bed of down is arranged, and heaped up around the margin. About May 20 the ducks begin to lay, six or seven eggs being the usual clutch, although 10 are sometimes seen. A few of these are taken by the farmer for his own use, but the sale of eggs is forbidden. Often two ducks will lay side by side in one nezt each furnishing her own quota of down and doing her pare in the hatching and rearing of the double family. Eider ducks, though often very tame, can

AN EIDER DUCK FARM They live in a wild state in every par of Iceland where they can find suitable breeding places. Often a prosperou "varpet," as the nesting grounds are called, can be formed by the farmer: whose land possesses the proper at tractions. A small island that slope: to the sea is the best place, but a cape or neck of land, is often chosen. It the land has many hillocks there is no need of making artificial nests, otherwise the turf must be cut in blocks and set up on end to form small oblon; compartments. These are often roofer over, with pieces of turf or wood Everything must be in readiness beforit is time for the birds to come from the sea. The ducks sem to like to have some life or movement on the neighboring farm lands, as they probably feel more secure from their natura enemies, foxes and ravens; but on the varpet itself all must be peace and

> WINTER CYCLE COSTUMES. How Parisiennes Are Rigged for Cold Weather Spins.

Since bicycling has become so popular in Paris modistes and man milliners are devoting much attention to the matter of correct costume for fair character between that Richard and riders. A correspondent says on this Napoleon. That is the sort of Richard "The new winter suits are very handsome, being of rich cloth or acted in such a way that in the very velvet, trimmed with bands of fur. It is far too warm to wear a fur coat while exercising, and so one must be satisfied merely with fur trimmings. The Parisian riders carry muffs on their wheels in midwinter, guiding with one hand while the other is being warmed in the muff, although some of the expert riders guide their wheels with the finely trained muscles of the body, while they sit up smartly, holding their muffs before them. In the same fashion some of the smart Frenchwomen carried parasols last summer. Sometimes the muff is hung about the neck on a broad ribbon or a jeweled chain. A stunning costume for winter wear, which is being made for a belle of the theater, was of white cloth, trimmed with dark brown sable, with braiding in ecru. The fur was set on about the bottom in a deep band, and above this was a deal of rich braiding. The corsage was a blouse, wadded slightly and belted with a brown kid belt, edged with fur. The front was covered with masses of braiding, and the fur extended down the front and all about the little basque of the blouse, which stuck out over the hips below the belt. There was a great boa of the fur at the throat, and the wrists were edged with it also. There was the smartest of little fur caps of the sable, with a cockade rt one side, held by a jeweled ornament, and the gloves, of cream-white dogskin, had fur gauntlet tops. But the boots were the prettiest part of the costume, for they were of cream leather, laced up in front .nd finished at the tops with fur. They reached halfway up the calf of the leg, and above were brilliant scarlet stockings. The whole costume was essentially Russian, from top to toe."

EXPERTS AT BILLIARDS.

How Two English Girls Are Gaining Renown in London.

Billiard playing is becoming popular among the fair sex in England. Two English girls recently appeared in London as professional billiard players. Their names are Miss Grace Fair weather and Miss Ella Collins. The former hails from Newcastle and has been an enthusiastic player since she was 16 years old. The late Alfred Bennett wished to introduce her to the public, but it remained for John Rob erts to do so. When he had seen her play he invited her to study under himself, and so well has she progressed that on occasions she has compiled breaks of 81, 76, 59 and 56. Miss Collins, who comes from Wimbledon, is 21 years of age and is the daughter of the well-known retired billiardist of the same name. Her first introduction to the game was only eighteen fair to be even a better player, as she carry on her father's name in the billiard world.

HANDY WITH AX AND HATCHET

Some three-quarters of a mile from Berryville, Clark county, Va., there stands a little log cabin which was



WASHINGTON'S HOME FOR FOUR YEARS.

built and occupied by George Washington between the years of 1748 and 1752. when he made his first step into public life and served as a young surveyor

under Lord Fairfax. For four years of his life Washington made his home in this hut, with no white face near. No relic could speak more eloquently of Washington's per severance than this cabin, built literal ly by his own hands. It was here, living among the Indians, that he became master of their ways and of their country and learned the tricks of war which later made history.

Closing the Beason

"At any rate, my wheel is of the latest pattern." "I have noticed that it usually gets in last."-Indianapolis hardly be classed with domestic birds. Journal.

THEATRICAL TOPICS.

CURRENT NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE STAGE.

Will Not End with Shylock-Melbourne MacDowell in the Character of Clichet -Katherine Grey.



AT GOODWIN doesn't propose to stop at Shylock in his raid on the classic English drama. For instance he has an "I" on Richard the Third. as you may gather from this report of a recent deliverance by him:

want to play the Richard III that I believe in. I don't think he was a villain, you know, and if he was, he wasn't the sort of a villain he is usually played. Did you ever read Abbott's 'Richard III?' Well, you get it, and see if you can find any difference in I want to play. Why, I have seen it first scene Lady Anne would have to run him through at once. It seems to me that it is possible to play the role so that the character of Richard will create in the minds of the audience the same doubt that he must have aroused in Lady Anne to make that scene possible and plausible."

Katherine Grey was born and educated in San Francisco, Cal., but began her stage career under the management of Augustin Daly, with whose company she remained one season. She then joined Charles Frohman's forces, playing ingenues in "Shenandoah," "All the Comforts of Home," and "Jane." She next created a part in "The New South," at the Broadway theater, where she made the acquaint-

takes his own life, knowing he can no FARMSANDFACTORIES at is completed, thereby opening up longer serve her.

It is reported that Paul Potter has written for Beerbohm Tree a play on a 'semi-romantic modern English subject," entitled "The Man Who Was." Nat Goodwin's Raid on the Classics That is the title of one of Kipling's most famous stories, the tale of the man who, after thirty years of horror in the mysterious and awful regions across the Afghan frontier, found his way back to the barracks of his old regiment in India on a feast night and died there.

> D'Aubigny believes that the future of grand opera rests largely upon the talents of Americans. "There are many young Americans studying music in Paris today whose voices are remarkable," he said, speaking of the progress of Americans in Europe. "No other nation has nearly so many promising students, particularly young women. All English speaking women have their voices up in their mouths, and the teachers have to cure that fault in the beginning, which is much more difficult with men than with women. I know of several very promising young Up to five years ago the United States men from America in Paris. There is developed and progressed while paying McLaughlin, who sang in 'Rob Roy,' very little attention to its foreign reand whose friends had hard work to lations and its foreign commerce. If induce him to leave comic opera. The prosperity and development are to con-Paris teachers say that he has the tinue, you must find markets beyond finest bass voice in the world."

> Lewis Morrison produced "Frederic! the Great" last week. The scenes are laid in Potsdam, and 1782 is the pe- and Europe? Perhaps, to a limited exriod. The story deals largely with the trials of a young soldier, who is des- ufactures that you do. They are your perately in love with the king's ward, natural competitors, not your natural with whom he became acquainted quite customers. The one great undevel-

Scribe had a way of making every single thing said or done on the stage impinge upon the development of the plot. He was a terrible stickler in this matter. One day he said to a young beginner who had come to him for advice: "My dear young friend, your hero leans a gun up in the corner of the room in the first scene; and that



ince of James A. Herne, who subsequently procured her for his New York production of "Shore Acres." The following season she joined A. M. Palmer's company, presenting "New Blood," after which she played in repertory with Richard Mansfield, creating leading roles in "Napoleon" and "The King of Peru," and appearing in "Dr. months ago. Miss Collins' sister bics Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "A Parisian Romance," and as the Bulgarian servant peare's charming heroine, Juliet, in is tallen and stronger, and so may girl in "Arms and the Man," this being her favorite role. The following season she rejoined A. M. Palmer and created parts in "The Great Diamond Robbery" and "His Absent Boy," after | that her place was not yet at the top which came a year of inactivity in consequence of ill health. She played one summer stock season as leading woman in San Francisco, Cal., appearing in "Roger La Honte," "Our Bachelors," "The Senator," and "The Jilt." Last summer she was leading woman of the Columbia stock company in Washington, D. C., and played in 'Niobe," "His First Offense," "His Little Dodge," "Jack Robinson" (a new production), "A Superfluous Husband" and "A Man With a Past." This season Miss Grey created the part of Lydia, in "A Southern Romance," at the Fifth Avenue theater, and at present is playing the Chinese slave girl in 'The First Born." Miss Grey is one of the foremost leading women in this country. She is intelligent and painstaking, an excellent reader and skilled in her art.

> The character of Clichet, as played by Melbourne MacDowell, in Fanny Davenport's new piece, is declared to be one of the most effective he has ever attempted. In it Mr. MacDowell sacrifices his personal appearance to the part, assuming not only the hump of a cripple, but the attire of a court jester. Clichet has an important part to play in the fortunes of Joan, and it is through his watchfulness that her life is saved on more than one occasion waen she is threatened by her enemies. His love for Joan is so true and disinterested that he is willing to give his life for her, and in the closing scene, when Joan is being led away to suffer a martyr's doom at the stake, Clichet | sion.

gun does not go off once in the whole play. What do you want me to say of a piece in which there is such a tremendous flaw in dramatic construc-

Maud Hoffman was born in California, and after studying for the stage determined in 1890 to make her debut selecting for that purpose Shakeswhich she accordingly appeared at the Grand Opera House, Boston, Mass. She found, however, that her ambitious efforts proved a failure, and decided of the ladder. She consequently applied to E. S. Willard, in 1891, for understudy work and small parts. She secured the engagement, and joined his company for the season of 1891-92, and during the latter year played the Player Queen in Mr. Willard's production of "Hamlet" at the Tremont theater, Boston, Mass. From this time the



young actress made rapid advances, playing Berenis in "The Sign of the Cross," with Wilson Barrett, in England, and afterwards becoming a member of Augustin Daly's company. Last other nations shut out of Hawaii,they season she rejoined Mr. Willard in are pushed back the entire length of leading parts and is again engaged as the Pacific, a distance so great as to his leading lady this season. Her ad- be probibitive of hostile naval operavance to this position in a company in which but a few years ago she was the Pacific coast and its commerce. understudy shows how rapidly this actress has advanced in her profes-

BOTH INTERESTED IN HAWAII-AN ANNEXATION.

Expansion of Pacific Ocean Interests Russia's Rapid Industrial Progress Facts About the Farms - Siberiau Rallroad.



HE expansion of the market for goods of American production and manufacture is one of the natural sequences of the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands. This was clearly set before the Man-

ufacturers' club of St. Louis by Hon. Lorrin A. Thurston, ex-minister from Hawaii, in the fol-

upon the Pacific, and also to insure it. from the possibility of hostile attack?" lowing forcible language: "I submit to you that no one in this THINK SHERIFF A "POO-BAH." country has a more direct interest in Strange Requests Made of This Officer annexation than the manufacturers. Cards of Warning. Sheriff Pease is asked to perform all sorts of duties for persons who live from 1,000 to 3,000 miles away from Chicago in backwoods districts. Today he received a letter from J. B. Westfall of Angleton, Brazonia county, the present boundaries of the union Texas, asking him if he knew of some for both your agricultural and your one who wanted to buy a bear. It manufactured products. Where are weighs 250 pounds, says the writer, is you to find these markets? In England nearly 3 years old, and is well accomplished in the art of wrestling with tent; but they produce the same maumen. The sheriff is at a loss to account for being the subject of these strange requests. He thinks it is because in sparsely settled counties of oped natural market of the world for the south and west the sheriff is the the products of the United States are 'pooh-bah" and the people go to him the islands in, and the countries borwith all their troubles and all the? afdering upon the Pacific Ocean. Nearfairs. Mr. Pease has referred the letly fifty years ago William H. Seward ter to a Chicago museum manager. said, on the floor of the United States Chief Deputy Peters of the sheriff's Senate, that "the Pacific Ocean, its isoffice is going to have some cards lands, its shores and the vast regions printed warning persons against tickbeyond, will be the chief theater of ets to balls or entertainments which events in the world's great hereafter." are alleged to be for the benefit of the This prophecy is being rapidly fulsheriff's employes. The cards will filled; but ten years ago the Pacific coast of Siberia was an ice bound wil-"Take warning-Beware of people derness, and Vladivostock an unknown who would sell you tickets to balls, village. Today Vladivostock is a city parties or entertainments alleging of 40,000 people, with wharves, dry them to be for the benefit of the emdocks and warehouses, and with fortiployes of the sheriff's office. This offications equal to any port in the fice has had no party, picnic or benefit world. The Pacific terminus of the entertainment for seven years, and Trans-Siberian railroad to St. Petersdoes not at this time intend having burg, it is the growing center of a JAMES PEASE, Sheriff. commerce, the variety and volume of The cards will be distributed among which can not be foretold. This railthe friends of those employed in the road is being pushed by all the mighty office. The regular annual harvest of power of the Russian government, and victims of this kind of fraud is just beis opening vast forests, mineral, coal ing gathered. Today Chief Peters reand agricultural lands, while the ceived word that yesterday a man country is being systematically settled bought \$4 worth of tickets to a ball up by the transplanting of whole vilfrom two men, who said they were selllages of Russians to favorable localiing tickets for a benefit affair. The ties along the line. For a hundred victim told the men to keep the tickyears Russia has vainly sought an ets that he had no use for them.-Chiopen road to the sea by way of the cago News. Dardanelles. She is now achieving that object by way of the Pacific. Within the past year she has obtained the right of way from China for a econd terminus to her railroad at Port

Arthur, a port that is never frozen up.

Therein is foreshadowed the absorp-

tion of Northern China, for the Rus-

sian bear never lets go its grip. Three

years ago Japan was a comparatively

little foreign power or trade. Today

of England, while her lines of subsi-

dized steamers are running to the four

quarters of the globe, her commerce is

increasing by geometrical progression.

and her 43,000,000 of people have

awakened to the possibilities of the

future. With the shaking up which

China has received from Japan its

to western methods and commerce.

The Australian colonies and the hun-

dreds of Southern Pacific islands, now

all under European control, are rapidly

developing into international power

and greatness. These and the South

American republics are the great un-

developed and unoccupied markets of

the world to which Americans must

send their products if this country is

to progress and prosper. Nearly all

of this commerce must cross the Pa-

cific. What has all this to do with

Hawaiian annexation? It has just

this to do with it. From Hong Kong

to the isthmus of Darien it is 9,500

miles; as far as from San Francisco

across the continent, the Atlantic, the

Mediterranean and Turkey to the

boundary of Persia; from the Aleutian

islands on the north to the French

colony of Tahiti, a thousand miles

south of the equator, the distance is

to 500 miles south of the Amazon riv-

er. In all this vast area there is but

one spot where food, fuel and water

can be obtained, and that is Hawaii.

It has this to do with it, that the Pa-

cific is so wide that no nation has a

naval station near enough to the Pa-

cific coast to be available as a na al

base of operations against it or its

commerce. It means that no battle-

ship now built or building, in either

cross the Pacific between Yokohama

and San Francisco without recoaling.

because they cannot carry fuel enough

to get across. It means that with Ha-

waii in the possession of any hostile

power there would be established a

naval base of supply and repair with-

in five days' steaming distance of the

Pacific coast. It means that with

tions,and thereby securing immunity to

Already six of the seven trans-Pacific

steamship lines make Honolulu a way

Africa a Hone of Contestion. From the Lynchburg Advance: It has been predicted that Africa would be the theater of the great struggle between European powers in the next century, as America was in the last two centuries. Bishop Hartell of the Methodist Episcopal Church, after a close observation of the situation, indorses the opinion. There are already unimportant group of islands, with but signs of the coming trouble. Germany is watching British progress in Africa it is an international nation, with an already strong navy, which is being with a jealous eye and only wants a added to at a rate second only to that pretext to interfere in order to stop that progress. The French are continually encroaching on the sphere of British influence, and though the French government disowns the acts of overzealous French officers, still the government holds whatever they acquire. Africa is a rich prize, and Engish, Germans and French, to say nothing of Italians, will all seek to gain as 300,000,000 of people must soon open large a slice of the continent as possible. It requires no prophetic powers to predict that England will outstrip all her rivals in the race. She has a firm foothold now both in Egypt and South Africa and every year is acquiring additional territory. England is the great colonizer of the age, and her great naval power will give her an immense advantage in the coming strug-

Horse Found Its Way Home

Sir W. R. Hamilton kept a headstrong horse, to which he had given the name of Comet, and used to gallop it in circles or perhaps in ellipses round the lawn. On one occasion he mounted him in Dublin just after a curious mathematical problem had suggested itself to him. The horse took a mean advantage of his abstraction and ran away. "When I found it impossible to stop him," he said, "I gave 4,500 miles; as far as from Greenland him his head and returned to the problem. He ran for four miles and stood still at my gate-just as the problem was solved!"

Currents in the Atlantic.

Experiments have been going on for the past two years for the purpose of trying to learn something of the characteristics of the Atlantic ocean as a great moving body of water. As a rewilt the whole Atlantic is shown to be the American or Japanese navy, can slowly circulating round and round, like an enormous pool.

Irreverent.

"Where are the great men of whom the stage used to boast?" asked the tragedian. "Doing the continuous show on the other shore, most likely." answered the comedian, irreverently.-Philadelphia North American.

Martial Vlands.

"Pumpkin pie is said to be very soothing in its effects." "That's not so; when I eat good pumpkin pie I always feel as if I wanted to fight." "Fight?" "Yes, for another piece."station. As soon as the Isthmian can- Detroit Free Press.