

A ready made suit of convictions never fits well on a public man.

The architect cannot live by the injunction to make no plans for the future.

It looks as if the more holes are punched in a shirt waist, the bigger the price.

Washington supplies New York with two-thirds of its pressed brick. The product, probably, of restless office seekers.

The success of the Vanderbilt-Neilson merger may suggest to the plutocratic element the sort of combination it can safely cultivate.

Theodore Roosevelt says his favorite bird is the robin. His recent utterances had created a widespread impression that it was the stork.

There are 51,538 divorced persons in the United States. This would indicate that divorces are not the exclusive property of the "four hundred."

Every now and then Uncle Sam picks up another island and adds it to the Philippine group. Did Spain know she was giving such good measure?

The statute of Andrew Jackson in Washington is reported to be covered with verdigris. This is another way of keeping Andrew Jackson's memory green.

Some people would be willing to sit down and punish themselves by reading the worst trash that ever was written if Andrew Lang or somebody had called it literature.

Josh Billing's advice, "To bring up a child in the way he should go, travel that way yourself once in a while," has not lost its pertinence in the quarter of a century since it was given.

William G. Rockefeller has given permission to the small boys to play baseball on Sunday near his grounds. This should give John D., Jr., a text for at least one sermon to his Bible class.

It appears that a large percentage of the American people are still interested in professional baseball. The great beauty of baseball is that a lazy man can thoroughly enjoy it without exercising a bit.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean is trying to find out whether or not hydrophobia is an illusion. We are not certain as to hydrophobia, but we do entertain a strong opinion that the large, cross, open-faced dog is not.

The anthracite coal supply of the United States would last, at the present rate of consumption, for three hundred years. Allowing for the probable increase, the supply will last two hundred years, says the director of the United States Geological Survey. Anyway there is enough for next winter's stock.

A novelty in collections is that of a New Hampshire man who gathers fashion-plates. The earlier specimens are foreign. No fashion-plates were issued in this country, he says, previous to the year 1830. Andrew Jackson was President then. The two facts are related by contrast only. Fashion-plates are frequently changed, whereas some political fashions set by President Jackson lasted a long time.

Ocean cables are now so common that the public forgets how much they do to keep the countries of the world in touch with one another. In Hawaii the cable is sufficiently new to make it still a matter of rejoicing. The second steamer which arrived after President McKinley was shot brought such encouraging news of his condition that services of thanksgiving were planned. The next steamer brought the news of his death and funeral. Now Hawaii has the news at the same time as the rest of the nation.

Sir William Richmond, R. A., lately lectured before the Institute of British Decorators on his mosaic decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral. Among other interesting things he said that when he was a boy of about thirteen his mother took him to attend the service at St. Paul's, and they sat in the choir. He looked up at the naked roof, and on going out he said, "Mother, some day I will cover that with mosaic." That was before he had been in Italy, or seen a piece of mosaic. What some boys are to do in the world is a question which is settled early.

That we shall eventually have an American national school system we have no doubt, but it will be long in coming, and meanwhile the "little red school house" is apt to be fearfully inadequate, except in poetry. As long as towns have the control of their own appointments of teachers, their own conceptions of what constitutes an education, we shall find queer, discouraging expressions of the towns' ideas of "schooling," based largely upon false economy and the school curriculum of a generation ago. For the apathy of the American public toward the quality of education imparted to its youth is frequently startling.

A curious and interesting bit of naval history ends with the sale of the old United States gunboat Monocacy, on

the Asiatic station. The vessel, a side-wheel "double-ender," was sent to Eastern waters in 1865 because of her light draft. With her four big smooth-bored and two rifled muzzle-loaders she did great service in the war on Korean pirates in 1871. The next year she stuck fast in the mud of the Yangtze River, and remained there twenty-eight years. Then in 1900, during the Boxer outbreak, she was hauled out and refitted, and although an object of amusement to foreign naval officers, again proved her worth; for her light draft enabled her to do work impossible to the foreign fleet. Monocacy is a title which should not be forgotten. It ought to descend to a son, or rather, let us say, to a daughter, since the Salsic law does not apply in the navy.

The author of a paper on the question, "Are Women Witty?" recently read before a woman's club, answered the question in the affirmative; but the examples of feminine wit which she quoted hardly justified her conclusion. The relation of women to wit has been appreciative rather than creative, and is likely to continue so. Appreciation is as necessary a creation, for no wit flourishes without an audience. Modern women are marvelously quick in seeing the point of even the subtlest wit. In an audience a shrewd observer may note that the laugh of the women at a clever joke precedes that of the men by an appreciable number of moments. Occasionally a woman makes a brilliant shot, as when a Boston woman recently said in a discussion of the qualities of the sexes, "Oh, men get and forget, and women give and forg e." This power of epigram is rare, a fact that is scarcely subject for regret. Women need not bewail their failure to be witty so long as they have a keen feeling for the wit that is in others. For their own part, they may be content to cultivate that gentler grace called humor, which "begets the smiles that have no cruelty."

The ambition that every typical American feels, to do better than everyone else in everything, is one of the most splendidly audacious national characteristics to be found in history. It is grand to think that, one day or another, we must, by native right, excel the English in commerce, the French in taste, the Germans in scholarship, the Italians in art, the Greeks in wisdom, and the Hebrews in the knowledge of God. With so much to accomplish, the American spirit cannot be like Goethe's star, Ohne Hast aber ohne Hast—it must be equally without leisure and without pause. Those in the front must leap into the trench and die, in order that those in the rear may pass over. Of this sort of sacrifice there has been no lack. It began when the first explorers touched our shores; and it has been ready at all times since for every emergency of commerce, religion or war. It has made the country. It has built up every State and city and house of business and seat of learning. Those who have come after have profited by the unflagging spirit of those who have gone before—of those who have worked hard and often died too early. But it may be reasonably asked if the day has not now come for a quieter pace, and a less feverish sense of duty, inquires a writer in Harper's Weekly. The country is colossal rich and prosperous, even if it be not rich and prosperous enough. May not the individual begin to put forth his claim? May he not ask time to breathe a little, to think a little, to live a little? May he not be permitted to remember that in the Pantheon there are other gods besides the great idol bustle? While doing his daily work and treading his common round, has he not a right to some measure of that tranquillity which now he can look for only in the tomb?—or in flinging a change of raiment into a valise and sailing out into that big, unsatisfactory void which we call abroad? In these days of co-operating energies we might venture to suggest

A Society for Enabling Americans Who Want to do so, To Stay Quietly at Home, Without Being Rushed to Death.

HAS LEFT HIS HIGH POST.

Grand Duke Alexis No Longer Head of the Russian Navy. The Grand Duke Alexis, who has been compelled by a severe illness to retire from his position as head of the Russian navy, is the uncle of the Czar and one of the three living brothers of the late Emperor Alexander III. The grand duke is 53 years old and has had a tempestuous career. Several years ago, during his brother's reign, he was dismissed in disgrace from his post, but more recently he was restored to full favor. Several years ago he paid a visit to the United States.

Strictly Personal. "Have you ever made any effort to distinguish yourself in public debate?" "No, sir," answered Senator Sorghum; "when money talks its argument is usually most effective when it comes in the nature of a strictly personal communication." — Washington Star.

Sure to Wake Up. Rollingsome Nomoss—"Wot would you do if you had \$1,000,000, Tatters?" Tatterdon Torn—"It would be just my luck to wake up.—Philadelphia Record.



JUDICIAL DECISIONS

To be sealed for time and eternity by a sealing ceremony in accordance with the law of the Mormon Church is held, in Hilton vs. Roylance (Utah), 58 L. R. A. 723, to be a good common-law marriage.

The placing of telephone poles and wires in a city street is held, in Donovan vs. Allert (N. D.), 58 L. R. A. 775, to be a new burden or servitude thereon, requiring compensation to be paid to abutting owners.

A guardian of an incompetent person is held, in State ex rel. Raymond vs. Lawrence (Minnesota), 58 L. R. A. 931, to have the right to remove his ward from one State to another, temporarily or permanently, subject, however, to the power of the court of chancery to restrain an improper removal.

The exacting of a premium consisting of a certain percentage upon the amount of a loan, payable monthly in the same way interest is paid, which, together with the required interest, exceeds the rate allowed by law, is held, in Washington National Banking L. and A. Association vs. Stanly (Oregon), 58 L. R. A. 816, not to be authorized by a provision in a statute governing building associations, that the provisions as to bidding for loans shall not apply to an association which fixes the rate of premium in its by-laws and that no premium shall be considered or treated as interest.

TALLEST MAN IN THE WORLD MEETS MIDGET COUSIN.



Hugo and Major Petit are first cousins on their mother's side; but they cannot wear each other's clothes. For Hugo, who is over eight feet tall, is the biggest giant in the world, while Major Petit only has 32 inches to his credit. The pair recently met in New York, and each thought his relative the most extraordinary freak in the world.

Sold Again. Peddler—Please, mum, would you like to buy a parrot? Mrs. Brickrow—Now, what on earth do you suppose I want with a parrot? "Well, mum, it just occurred to me that you might save a good deal of time if you had one. It's a pity to see an intellectual woman like you obliged to waste time makin' calls on such a lot of ignoramuses as there is in this neighborhood when you might just as well be talkin' to a parrot." "I'll take one."

Hasty Afterthought. "Policeman," said the stranger, addressing the officer that was guarding the muddy crossing, "can you direct me—" Here he slipped and fell. "—to the nearest place," he continued, gathering himself up and surveying his soiled garments, "where they clean clothes?"—Chicago Tribune. A crank is a man with a large hobby and a small conscience.

SOME ODD SLEEPING PLACES.

Miss Jessie Ackermann Has Occupied 2,700 Beds During Her Travels. Few women have met with so many extraordinary adventures in all parts of the world as Miss Jessie Ackermann, the famous temperance worker, who has circled the globe a dozen times. In the course of her travels Miss Ackermann has slept in 2,700 different beds and among her resting places have been the tomb of an Indian king, a Siberian convicts' camp, an Alaskan fisherman's hut and a stable in Iceland. Writing of these strange dormitories in the Housekeeper, Miss Ackermann says:

"The most refreshing rest of my life was obtained in a hammock swung high in the trees, beyond the reach of beast or serpent, in a jungle of Java. In my opinion, the bed itself plays but a small part in the wooing of tired nature's sweet restorer." However, there was one night when I thought I never would go asleep.

"It was up in Alaska. A young chief who had just succeeded his father was to be formally installed with a dance by his subjects and he invited me to be present. The scene of the ceremony was several miles from the village where I was stopping. During the dance a terrific storm arose, rendering it impossible for me to return to the village, and a kind native invited me to his hut for the night. The family of eleven slept on a raised platform extending around three sides of the room. Here I was invited to share the common bed, but declined with thanks, and indicated that I would climb up into the rafters, where fish and skins were drying, although I had not the slightest idea how I would ever accomplish the feat, unless I could walk up the sides of the house.

"One of the juvenile members of the family speedily climbed to the lofty rafters, and, having fashioned the skins into the form of a bed, descended to help solve the problem of my ascent. Every available box, barrel and chest was piled one upon another, but even this makeshift of a tower fell short of reaching the desired haven of rest. Finally a bright idea seized the lad. Quickly mounting the pile and stooping over in the attitude of one playing at leap-frog, he politely motioned me to step upon his back. Without pausing to consider the probable fatal consequences of my rash step (to the boy), I hastily scaled box and barrel, stepped lightly upon the young brave's back and, without any preparation for the night, sprang into bed, high above the heads of the astonished natives.

"Well, I confess that I did not 'go right to sleep.' I gazed down from my insecure perch upon the entire family, gathered around the dying embers in the center of the floor, where they were engaged in drinking fish oil out of a whalebone ladle. Their glistening white teeth formed a striking contrast to their painted faces as they talked and talked and talked. The exasperating part (for I am only a woman) was that I could not understand a word they were saying and I was certain that they were talking about me. However, sleep came at last, after the family had retired to their universal couch."

Two Very Stylish Waists.



No. 1 shows a stylish elbow sleeve shirt waist of white brilliantine. The round yoke is made with a deep bias fold dropping like a tuck over the shoulders and gathered seam of the bodice. The deep bias folds run about the bust and about the belt and give a chic, bouffant effect which is particularly becoming to slender figures.

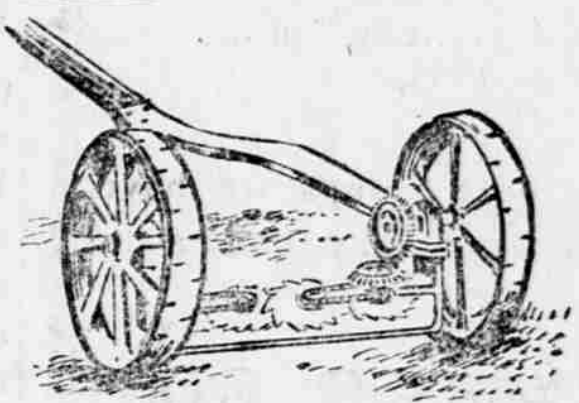
No. 2 shows a pretty and simple mode for figured lawns or batiste. White cuffs and collar add to the effectiveness of the waist.

Only One Tsar. Impervious to criticism, although by no means oblivious of it, Thomas B. Reed, if one may believe his friends, hardly relished the title of "tsar" so generally conferred upon him in the days when, as Speaker, he coerced a fractious minority in the lower house of Congress. But a friend of Mr. Reed records, in the New York Times, one instance when the application of the title amused the Speaker. "It is an epithet, not a sobriquet," Mr. Reed remarked one day. We were walking along Pennsylvania avenue when a newspaper wagon dashed up to the curb near us, and the driver called to several newsboys: "Here y' are, boys, new extra! Bomb thrown at the tsar!" "Aw, g'wan't," replied one of theurchins. "That's a fake. Here's the tsar coming up the street." Mr. Reed shook with laughter at the newsboy's idea that there was only one tsar, and that one a certain ponderous man from Maine. Great as you are, your friends will laugh merrily after your funeral.



FARM AND GARDEN

Grass or Grain Cutter. We present an illustration of a new lawn mower, which has several novel features to recommend it over the mowers already in the field. The man who cuts the grass will remember that every time he lets the work go too long it was necessary to run the mower over some parts of the lawn several times before all the long blades were down, or else leave the lawn with a ragged appearance. The principal advantage of this new machine is that, no matter how long the grass gets, the first cutting will bring it all down to the common level; in fact, the longer the grass the better the cutters will work. As will be seen, the cutters are circular, toothed wheels, revolving in horizontal planes and actuated by gear wheels set on the inner ends of the drive-wheel shafts. These cutters are in reality nothing but a set



ROTARY KNIVES ON LAWN MOWER.

of circular saws, and their action is exactly the same, sawing the grass blades off as the mower is pushed over the lawn. The saw spindles are provided with ball bearings, thus reducing the friction to a minimum, and by doing away with the necessity for running the mower over high grass more than once the machine should save much labor for its owner. The inventor—Thomas F. McDonald, of Cincinnati, Ohio—also applies the same principle to a machine for cutting grain or hay.

Marvels of Corn Culture.

Corn breeding is a modification of live stock breeding and follows the same general laws and principles. It is the application of principles of plant and animal breeding to the corn plant. The per cent of sugar in the sugar beet has been increased from 3 per cent to 16 per cent. The ordinary beet was improved by seed selection, so that an enormous industry has been built up and a new source of sugar given to the world. This has been done with a plant which seeds once in two years. Corn produces a crop every year, a single seed producing a return of over a thousand fold. From this great number of offspring, varying in size, shape, color and composition, a selection can be made which will develop any feature of the seed or plant. By continued selection these valuable attributes can be fixed in the characteristics of the plant and the usefulness and importance of the crop increased. To illustrate the point: We have been able, by selecting ears having long shanks, to increase the length of the shank nearly two feet in five years' selection. By selecting ears with tall stalks we have been able to increase the height of the stalk almost three feet in five years. By selecting ears from plants having wide leaves we have been able to increase the average width of the leaf, and by selecting ears from stalks having narrow leaves we have been able to decrease the width of the leaf. —Cosmopolitan.

"Fancy Farming."

The commonest fault with the city man's farming is the fact that he puts more capital into it than the business legitimately will bear. He goes into farming with the city man's desires. Ordinarily he makes the mistake of supposing that the mere physical accessories of life are as important in the country as they are in the city, forgetting that the satisfaction in the farm life is largely of a different kind from that of the city life. The result of all this is "fancy farming," as the real farmer dubs it. As farming for diversion is perfectly legitimate, but as pattern farming it is likely to be a failure. It is another kind of freak farming. Any farming that is self-supporting is legitimate, whatever its kind; by this it is to be judged. The point we wish to make is that reform and progress in agriculture are to come from the inside.—Country Life in America.

The Best General Purpose Apple.

With the desire to produce a good shipping red apple, the Rhode Island Greening, that standard variety of most high excellence in every point, is being largely neglected. As a cooking apple it has few superiors. As a dessert fruit it is highly prized. As a free grower in the orchard and as a regular and abundant bearer it ranks among the best. As a fruit universally in demand in our home and foreign markets is attended by the excellent prices it steadily commands. This grand old standard variety, carrying perhaps more good general qualities than any other, should be more extensively planted and to the exclusion of other and lower grade varieties.—American Agriculturist.

Big Yields of Millet.

Pearl millet is attracting renewed attention as a forage crop on account of its enormous crops. The Massachusetts station reported thirty-five tons

green, the Kentucky station forty tons, the California station over thirty tons. If cut when three or four feet high the plant sprouts and gives another cutting. Largest crops are grown on rich, moist loam. The seed is sown the first of June in drills two feet apart, covering half an inch deep. It can be sown broadcast. The crop is a good one for late summer feeding in the barn.

Variety in Feed for Horses.

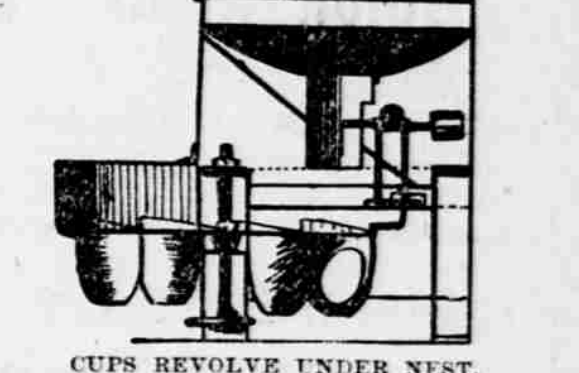
Oats and hay are the recognized feed for horses and, undoubtedly, if one is confined to but two kinds of feed these are better than any others. It should be remembered, however, that horses are quite as partial to variety as cows, and if given more or less change in their foods will do better work and without any more expense. An occasional feed of roots is beneficial as is also a weekly feed of bran as a mash. In feeding a grain ration good results come from scattering it over cut hay after wetting the fodder. This is better than to feed the hay uncut and the grain separately, and especially if clover hay, which is dusty, is used. It is a good plan to cut up about one-half of the hay ration to feed with the grain in the manner suggested, leaving the balance uncut, to be fed afterward, and give the animal something to keep it busy. An occasional feed of corn either on the cob or shelled also adds to the variety, but should not take the place of oats, especially during the spring and summer, in the regular ration.

Diversified Production Pays.

Many a farmer is poor to-day after ten, twenty or thirty years of hard work, because he has confined himself to a single line of production, and that line on overproduced and consequently a profitless one. To this may be attributed much of the downright poverty that has befallen the older farmers who are still in the field. The dairy farmer should not depend upon milk alone, nor the hop, bean or tobacco farmer upon hops, beans or tobacco alone. Each farmer, naturally and properly, should have a main line, determined by his location, his soil and his markets, but with his main line he can have side lines that will give him something to sell every month in the year and thus give him a hold on several classes of consumers. The farms that pay are largely those devoted to diversified production, while the loudest complaints of unprofitableness come largely from those who are distinctively "single line" farmers.—New York Farmer.

Patent Hen's Nest.

Poultrymen who are looking for a means to keep hens from breaking or eating their eggs will be interested in a Californian's invention. The machine he has devised consists of a hen's nest and a series of pockets or receptacles, with an automatic mechanism which presents each of the pockets in turn beneath the opening in the



CUPS REVOLVE UNDER NEST.

bottom of the nest to receive the newly-laid eggs. In the passage through which the egg falls to the pocket is a trigger, which releases a rotary frame carrying the pockets, so that, as soon as the egg reaches the bottom of its receptacle, an empty pocket replaces it beneath the opening of the nest. In addition to preventing the hens from smashing or eating their eggs, this arrangement will afford a protection against rats and other animals which have been known to break and eat the eggs. As the pockets and operating mechanism of this nest are concealed from view by a wood or metal casing, there is nothing to indicate to the unsuspecting hen that the nest differs from the ordinary kind.

A Study in Fertilizers.

The fertilizer law of the State of New York has operated to the great advantage of the farmer. Not only has the quality of the goods on the market been held well up to the guarantee, but the number of brands has been greatly lessened, thus tending to simplify the purchase of such goods. However, farmers have not yet learned to take full advantage of the information at their disposal in the successive bulletins of analysis issued by the station at Geneva. Accordingly the station has just prepared a short bulletin calling attention to some striking differences in quality and relative value between brands of different classes. Every fertilizer user should avail himself of the chance to secure this bulletin and take it as a guide in his selection of goods. A postal card sent to the station, bearing your name and address, will bring the bulletin to you by return mail.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

Whitewash for Old Woodwork.

An old barn or shed not worth clapboards or paint can be given a new lease of life with a coat of whitewash. Slake a bushel of lime, strain, add half a bushel of salt dissolved in water, a pound of ground whiting and two pounds of dissolved glue. This is a very close, durable whitewash, and a coat of it will make old boards weather-proof for many years. A little lamplack will make the color effect less glaring, giving a quiet, gray tone.

Rice is said to be the staple food of nearly one-half of the human race.