POETRY OF THE TIMES.

Langtry on Ice.

She sled,
She slid,
Anon she glid,
And sideways gave a whirl,
A guide
She gode,
And then she glode,
This brave, but foolish girl!
Hurrah!
Hoop-la!
Who ever saw
A girl that could do better?
A dash,
A crash,
'Twas awful rash,
But the roller-skates upset her.
—Sam Smyth in Phila. Times.

The American Girl.

Through English eyes more calmly soft
Looks from gray deeps the appealing charm;
Reddens on English cheeks more oft
The rose of innocent alarm;
Our old-world heart more gravely feels,
Has learnt more force, more self-control;
For us through sterner music peals
The full accord of soul and soul.

But, ah! the life, the smile untaught,
The floating presence, feathery fair;
The eyes and aspect that have caught
The brilliance of Columbian air!
No oriole through the forest flits
More sheeny-plumed, more gay and free;
On no nymph's marble forehead sits
Proudlier a glad virginity.
—F. W. H. Myers (a Briton).

Are You 'Commonplace?"

A commonplace life, we say, and we sigh;
But why should we sigh as we say?
The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky
Makes up for the commonplace day
The moon and the stars are commonplace things,
The flower that blooms and the bird that sings;
But sad were the world, and dark our lot,
If flowers failed and the sun shone not.
And God, who sees each separate soul,
Out of commonplace lives makes this beautiful whole.
—Susan Coolidge.

A Shopping.

I love to go a shopping,
With a dollar,
But buy a pair of stockings,
Or a collar;
I smile so sweetly on the clerk,
I make him "hump himself" and work
For my dollar.

I stay an hour or over
With my dollar!
When shopping I'm in clover,
You can holler;
When I'm tired, I just walk out,
And the clerk sits down to pout
For my dollar.

But I make my rounds at last
With my dollar,
And I go home so fast,
With my collar;
And that little evening's walk
Keeps me just a week in talk
About my dollar.

It's nice to go a shopping
With a dollar,
To buy a pair of stockings
Or a collar;
Now, husband, do not judge me,
Poor hubby, don't begrudge me
'Nother dollar.

The Ballet Girl.

With complexion like the rose
'Mid the snows—
Due to powder on her nose,
I suppose—
She twirls upon her toes
In abbreviated clothes,
And exhibits spangled hose
To her beaux.

When cruel time bestows
Adipose,
Fairy parts and all those
She outgrows,
And murmuringly goes
To the very hindmost rows,
To pirouette and pose
With the "crows."

When life frayed and faded grows,
Like her bows,
She in garrets sits and sews
Furbelows,
Till her weary eyelids close
In the peace of death's repose,
Is she reaping what she sows?
Heaven knows!
—Lippincott's Magazine.

HONEY FOR THE LADIES.

Heavy repped ottoman velvet ribbons are much in use.

Evening dresses are at present more in demand than walking or in-door suits.

Silk stockinette in pale evening shades is much used for cuirass bodices to toilets of silk, satin, and velvet.

Fawn-colored silk stockings, worn with slippers of dark red kid or velvet, are the affectation of the moment.

Round hats have velvet crowns and kid brims. The most favored shades for trimming are strawberry and "mandarine."

The "Jersey" gloves are still the favorites both for evening and day wear, and the dull tan shades are the ones preferred.

Printed mull of the gayest colors is made up in Dolly Varden caps with lace borders, and worn by young matrons in the early half of the day.

Ladies are like watches—pretty enough to look at; sweet faces and delicate hands, but somewhat difficult to "regulate" after they are set a going.

Basques of plain materials are worn with skirts of fancy wool plaid of the dullest colors call d Madras plaids instead of the too gay Scotch tartans.

Imported evening toilettes have trains either square or pointed; but these greatly interfere with dancing, and demi-trains are preferred by young ladies.

Lilies are out of favor. They are no longer in demand for the corsage, and are only used in large set pieces, especially ordered for entertainments.

The elegant simplicity of street costumes becomes more noticeable each day, elaborations in dress garnitures being left for home wear and full-dress occasions.

Bright ribbons an inch wide trim the dancing dresses of young ladies. Rows of silk pompons are used as a border around the edge of handsome silk evening dresses.

Round corsages and pointed waists worn by young ladies for full dress have the neck cut very low either in V shape or a Pompadour square and filled in with lace.

India mull and nun's veiling have lost favor for ball dresses. Broche gauze, tulle, and Ottoman silk with lace flounces are worn by debutantes; white and pink are the chosen colors.

They tell about a girl in the Western Addition to San Francisco who is so thin that when her beau tries to hug her he has to wrap a towel around her so as to have something to squeeze against.

Embossed velvets, plain velvets, plushes, heavy brocades, matelasses, and moires are all used for jackets worn over skirts of India silk, muslin, gauze tulle, lace, and other light evening dress tissues.

When jewelled ornaments are worn in the hair they should be irregularly placed, one being on the right of front, and the other low at the left side of the head, just back of the ear, resting closely against the small knot of hair.

Polonaises have increased in popularity, and are made of the richest fabrics, with but little drapery. Some of the new designs have vests shaped on them, and apron drapery with bouffant back; the garments must be close-fitting to be stylish.

There is quite a fashionable furore for velveteen this winter—of course only the best qualities being employed, these costing quite as much as the materials known as linen-back velvets with silk face, the velveteen wearing much longer and being warranted fast colors.

The most fashionable cloths for woolen costumes are not shaggy, but smooth-finished, and very handsome; in short, a lady's broadcloth. They are made in coat suits, with real or simulated vest; and also in closely trimmed skirts and basques, some double-breasted, some with and some without vests.

A bevy of girls were on their way home from a "foliage excursion" when one of them exclaimed: "Oh, dear! I wish I were an autumn leaf." "Why, what a silly idea!" said her companion. "Suppose your wish were gratified?" "Well, then I would know what it was to be suppressed," blushingly replied the beauless beauty.

"A woman's tongue is her sword, and she does not let it rust," said the proverb. "A woman's tongue is her sword, and she does not let it rest," set up the type-setter There are some type-setters who have been married so long that they don't care how inelegantly a domestic proverb may be shaped.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

CONNUBIALITIES.

George Lorillard, of New York, and Miss La Forge were married at St. Augustine, Florida, this week.

A Parson in Philadelphia publishes a marriage notice with this addition: "No fee for the minister. Empty envelope dodge."

Recently, in New Orleans, the Rev. J. K. Gutheis, a Jewish rebbi, united in marriage his neice and John Armstrong, a Protestant Christian.

The marriage of Miss Alice Blaine, daughter of ex-Secretary Blaine, to Mr. Coppinger, is fixed for February 6th. Her residence will be in Kansas.

The marriage of Miss Mabel Bayard, daughter of Senator Bayard, of Delaware, to Mr. Warren, of Boston, is announced to take place in Washington on the 25th inst.

Admiral Seymour, now made a peer, will, it is said, certainly marry Mrs. Gerard Leigh, the wealthy widow who entertains at Luton Hoo, and owns a famous yacht. Mrs. Leigh is said to have £60,000 sterling a year.

A Georgia couple waited over four years for a good opportunity to elope, and just as it came the girl's father took the young man by the hand and said: "Speak up to her, Thomas! I know she loves you and I'd be tickled to death to have you for a son-in-law!"

Lieut. Alexander Rodgers, of the 8th Cavalry, and son of Admiral Raymond Rodgers, of the navy, was married at Washington last week to Miss Virginia Roletia Cameron, second daughter of Senator J. D. Cameron, of Pennsylvania.

A marriage ceremony came to an abrupt and ludicrous termination the other day in Atlanta, Ga. A prominent clergyman of that city, having consented to unite a colored couple, had just asked the solemn question: "Wilt thou take this woman, etc.," when an old flame of the bridegroom poked her head into the room and said: "Henry, I dar you to say yes." Henry sank into the nearest chair without a word, and the company thoughtfully withdrew.

Miss Mary Charters, only daughter of G. Charters, of Stoke Park, Ipswich, was married at Ipswich, England, recently, to Count Carl Esternazy, of Pressburg, Hungary. Last summer Mr. and Mrs. Charters, with their daughter, were cruising on the river Nile when their boat was upset Count Esterhazy was passing in his yacht at the time and rescued the party. This is the usual programme; and yet girls should be careful how they rock their boats in deep water, when a Duke is around.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

John A. Stevens has caught on with "Passion's Slave."

Lawrence Barrett played to over $7,000 week before last in Cleveland.

Mary Anderson continues three weeks longer at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York.

Louis James and Marie Wainright accompany Lawrence Barrett to Europe next summer.

Max Strakosch says that Patti has been performing thirty-two years and in opera twenty-five years.

Pauline Markham (now Mrs. Randolph Murray. The Wyndham comedy company are in Baltimore.

John McCullough enters upon the second week of his engagement at the Boston Theatre Monday night.

Mr. Edwin Booth has been compelled by the sickness of his daughter, to cancel many of his professional engagements in Germany.

Nilsson denies emphatically that she has any encouragement with Mr. Gye. The latter says the contract with him was signed May 10, 1881.

Planquette has refused an offer of $60,000 for the score of "Rip Van Winkle," because he hopes to make double that sum out of his operetta.

Emma Abbott sang in Rochester last Wednesday night, and two days before her appearance every available seat in the opera house was sold.

Out of eighty-seven manuscript plays received at the Madison Square Theatre for consideration within the last six months only two were retained for serious consideration.

The "Mascotte," just withdrawn at the Bouffes Parasiennes, has just been witnessed by 600 000 persons, and has yielded receipts of $325,000 from 582 performances.

Said the veteran playwright, Charles Gaylor, to a representative of the Buffalo Courier yesterday: "I have seen all the great Juliets since the days of Fanny Kemble, and I regard Margaret Mather as the best Juliet I have seen."

Mrs. W. J. Florence says that the character of "Mrs. General Gilflory," the loud and vulgar American women abroad, in the play of "The Mighty Dollar," is copied from a living model—a tourist whom the actress met in Paris. Her husband witnessed the first performance and instantly recognized the likeness.

Miss Mary Anderson has accepted Mr. Abbey's proposition to exchange her American engagement for Mr. Irving's in Europe, next autumn. In accordance with the agreement Miss Anderson will open at the Lyceum theatre, London, next September, and Mr. Irving will make his appearance in New York at the same time.

Henry E. Abbey is making arrangements to give German grand opera next season at the new opera house in New York. He proposes nothing less than to bring over here Mme. Materna, Herr Winkelmann and Herr Scaria, of last summer's "Parsifal" cast. He will also engage Mr. Theodore Thomas, with the full Philharmonic Orchestra, for this series of German operas, that will bring out many of Wagner's works.

The New York World says of John T. Raymond's new play, "In Paradise:" Mr. Raymond has found the best and most suitable character in his experience. Though not quite so funny as "Colonel Sellers" it is far less extravagant; in fact, it is almost absolutely true to an amusing and admirable type of the south that is rapidly passing away. Besides this it is the most important figure of a clearly defined and rather interesting plot.

The theaters of Europe are now 1,457 in number, and Italy heads the list of nations in point of the largest share. She has 318 as against 337 in France, 194 in Germany, 160 in Spain 150 in Great Britain, 134 in Austria and Hungary, 44 in Russia, 34 in Belgium, 22 in Holland, 20 in Switzerland, 18 in Sweden and Norway 16 in Portugal, 10 in Denmark, 4 in Turkey, and 4 in Greece.

Three women are making more money this season on the American stage than ten men. It is impossible to get at the precise figures, as the pay of performers is so exaggerated, but it is asserted that Patti receives $4,000 a night. As she is to sing thirty times during her tour through the states she will therefore receive $120,000. Nilson will get about $100,000 for fifty concerts. Mrs Langtry is said to receive one-third of the gross receipts, and will get about $75,000.

RELIGIOUS.

The scriptures are published in 250 languages or dialects.

During the past fifteen years 3,500 churches were built in this country.

Chinese pay $154,752,000 annually to quiet the spirits of their ancestors.

The Southern Methodists estimate that during the past year they have gained 52 per cent.

Only two of the forty-two Methodist churches in Baltimore have rented pews. The others are free.

The corner-stone of the first new Lutheran church built in Leipsic during the last 300 years was recently laid.

The total receipts of the American Bible society for the month of December were $79,906 45. The issues were 106,038 volumes.

It is estimated that over $100,000,000 were given for benevolent and religious purposes by the different denominations in this country last year.

Three thousand five hundred churches built in fifteen years in this country, and more than one for every day during last year, is a record not to be despised.

The sums contributed by the various Protestant churches have increased in eighty years from $240,000 to $6,200,000, and yet is said that missions are dying out.

The American Baptist Missionary Union has 181 missionaries in its Asiatic fields, 663 native preachers, 587 churches and 46,017 members. The first Karen convert baptized by Dr. Judson led Quala to Christ, and Quala baptized more than 2,000 converts in less than three years.

The following are the principal statistics of the Protestant Episcopal church in Indiana for the year just closed: Value of property, $671,640; baptism—adults, 203; infants, 334; confirmations, 284; communicants, 3,830; Sunday school teachers and scholars, 3651; total offerings, $57,622; debts, $20,622.

IMPIETIES.

"Free and easy sacred concerts," are something new in New York. By and by we shall have a religious cocking main.

A Russian proverb says: "Before going to war, pray once; before going to sea; pray twice; before getting married, pray three times."

A preacher asked all Sunday school children to stand up who intended to visit the wicked, soul destroying circus. All but a lame girl stood up.

"I'm not a homeopath or an allopath or a hydropath. I'm a Jesupath, and I wouldn't give my doctor for a hundred others," said Evangelist Barnes last Sunday, in a disgusting harangue.

A religious paper says that for the last fifty years the Baptists have established eight churches per week the year right through, making over 421 per year. The promotion of swimming is certainly a very noble work.

There is a town in Iowa which has a population of 1,300 and twelve distinct and separate church organizations. It is understood that they will join in renting an oyster for use during the present season of church suppers.

Rev. Mr. Talmage thinks it a great boon to die young, and wonders that men can dread to "leave a shanty for the Alhambra." And yet, when Mr. Talmage is sick, we dare say he rushes to the telephone and halloos for his doctor.

At a meeting of the woman's board of missions in Boston Wednesday the treasurer stated that the receipts during 1882 were $124,000. At this rate heathenism will soon become one of our most profitable industries.

The president of Tufts college was recently made a happy father, and the following morning at prayer in the chapel he introduced this rather ambiguous sentence: "And we thank Thee, O Lord, for the succor Thou hast given us," which caused a general smile to creep over the faces of the class.

The Rev. George A. Gordon, of Greenwich, Conn., who has received a call to the pulpit of the Old South church, of Boston, at a salary of $12,000 per annum, declines to leave his little charge in Greenwich until he can find a satisfactory successor to continue his work. The New York doctor who recently testified that most of the lunatics in this country were out-side of the asylums evidently knew what he was talking about.

PEPPERMINT DROPS.

The new French rifle will carry over two miles and the bullet will travel nearly as fast as a scandal.

By the way, another of the Balaklava "six hundred" has just died. This reduces the ranks to about nine hundred.—Hartford Post.

Handsome tides are placed on satin-covered sofas, not so much as a guarantee of good faith as to cover up the spot that is worn through.

M. T. are the initials of Mr. Polk, of Tennessee's defaulting treasurer. M. T. also represents the condition of the treasury of that unfortunate state.

"Chwychi ach ochi oche achau—o chowch
Ach uwch achychan
Iachewch eich och ewch ich iachau
Iach wychach ewch o'ch achau."

A Philadelphia paper observes that Clark Mills succeeded in passing himself off on congress as a sculptor. You can pass most anything on congress when there is a chance to chisel out a job.

P. T. Barnum presented a letter carrier with his book on "How to Get Rich" as a Christmas present. The carrier knew how before. It was to earn $800 per year and save half his salary for 200 years.

Here is a Welsh song. The American who would sing it must first take an emetic, a pinch of cayenne pepper in his nose and baeathe the sulphur fumes of a few matches. Then it comes natural enough:

"I never knew a lady who sang with more taste and feeling than Miss ——," said Smith to Jones one day. "Nor I," said Jones to Smith; "particularly as far as feeling is concerned. Why, she's feeling for the next note all the time!"

A poem entitled "The Death of Oliver Cromwell" is going the rounds of the press. Oliver's many friends in this town will be pained to hear of his death—and their grief will be intensified when we tell them that the poem is nearly half a column long.

A South End woman received a telegram, and her face blanched and her hand trembled as she held the unopened envelope before her. Giving it to her daughter she said, "Read it." The girl obeyed. "Papa has broken his leg and gone to the hospital," she said. The mother's face brightened. "Thank heaven it is no worse," she said, "I feared he might be going to bring somebody to dinner!"

Down in the railroad yard one hears a mysterious sort of talk from the switchmen. "Kick a flat and a line box into Lewis." "Kick two transfers over to Naugy, and three 'fells' out of the barn." "Two flats and box; kick 'em into the house, and haul a pig iron on the scales, then kick out an empty box from the butchers." It should be explained that railroad men invariably call switching by the term "kicking."

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EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

The superintendent of public instruction for Indiana reports that during the past year there were 302 school buildings erected, and that the total number now reaches 9,566, the cost of which aggregates $305,459.

State School Commissioner De Wolf, of Ohio, says that the school system of that the school system of that state is more, expensive than that of Indiana, Pennsylvania or Wisconsin. He gives as the reason the general looseness and wastefulness of the sub-district system.

In Ohio the question of equalizing the taxation for common school purposes is being generally agitated. As the law stands now some counties are obliged to pay more than they receive, while other poorer counties draw more than pay.

According to The Inter-Ocean, the appointment of woman as school superintendents in Illinois has been notably successful. They bring a painstaking care and thoroughness to their work not always shown by their mascular colleagues.

The university of Little Rock, Ark., founded under the auspices of the educational society of the Methodist Episcopal church, is about to open its doors. The governor, mayor and other leading citizens of both parties have contributed toward its establishment.

The annual report of the superintendent of the common schools of Maine shows that education is advancing rapidly in that education is advancing rapidly in that state. The past two years have been years of new departures in some respects, and these have in each case brought gratifying results.

The Boston Post would like to see evening schools established in all the towns and villages of the state. "We know young men," it says, "growing up in ignorance in country places, not because they prefer it, but because they cannot afford working time for instruction, and there are no opportunities to use any other. To this class—and it consists of thousands—the evening school would be an inestimable boon."

Nine hundred teachers are required annually to supply the schools of Colorado, and these, as a rule, are teachers of ability and experience. Wages in ungraded schools range from $30 to $60 per month, and in graded schools from $30 to $150 per month. The supply of teachers largely exceeds the demand. Following is a statement of the increase in the different educational departments during the past year: Increase in school population, 38,404; increase in school districts, 57; increase in school houses, 86; increase in teachers employed, 99; increase in enrollment, 5,738; increase in average daily attendance, 3,829.

Dr. Clinton Cushing recently lectured at San Francisco on the education of women. Among other things he said that the schools of the country are to be blamed for the ill-health of many women. Children should not be restrained; their animal spirits should have full vent. Girls are naturally more studious than boys; they attend more closely to their books. A girl will do more to please a teacher or a parent than a boy. Up to the age of twelve, boys and girls are remarkably alike. About that time there is a change. The nervous organization of the girl then begins to assert itself. Nothing should be done to check its development. From about the age of ten or twelve, for the next six or seven years, the change from girlhood to womanhood occurs. In this period school books and cares should not crush the health of the girl. She should not be allowed to attend school more than six months in the year. In the other six months she should have plenty of sunshine and outdoor life, and be instructed in the important mysteries of bread-making and housekeeping. The struggles of the systems of examination and promotion should be discountenanced.

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Jan 11-1y

NOTED BUT UNTITLED WOMAN.
[From the Boston Globe.]

Dear Editors:—
The above is a good likeness of Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham, of Lynn, Mass., who above all other human beings may be truthfully called the "Dear Friend of Woman," as some of her correspondents love to call her. She is zealously devoted to her work, which is the outcome of a life-study, and is obliged to keep six lady assistants, to help her answer the large correspondence which daily pours in upon her, each bearing its special burden of suffering, or joy at release from it. Her Vegetable Compound is a medicine for good and not evil purposes. I have personally investigated it and am satisfied of the truth of this.
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