M. E. CHURCH CONFERENCE.

They Will Legislate For Nearly Two Millions of Adherents.

GENERAL MEETING NEXT WEEK.

A Forecast of the Questions to be Considered - New Bishop to be Elected-Other Important Church Notes.

Methodist General Conference. New York, April 28 .- [Special to the Bgs. |-The general conference of the Methedist Episcopal church, which meets quadrennially, will convene on the 1st of May for its twenty-fifth session, the place of meeting being New York city. It met four years ago in Philadelphia, and in 1880 Cincinnati was the favored place. The local arrangements are unusually elaborate. The Metropolitan opera house on Broadway will be the scene of the gathering, and the elegant hotels in that select neighborhood will shelter most of the delegates. The cost of the building has been provided for by the sale of the eightyfour private boxes it contains. Each of these edates from six to ten persons, and the price for each during the month the body will be in session has ranged from \$50 to \$100. The conference proper will occupy the par quet, and there will still remain about two thousand seats which will be open to the public. This is admirable, and with the ex-ception of those who think that a church condems theatrical performances ought not to use an opera house for the transaction of its most important business, all will no doubt e satisfied and happy.

The conference will consist of about four

hundred and fifty delegates. These will come from all parts of the country and some of them from abroad. In the M. E. church there are annual conferences to the number of 111. Each of these will be represented in general conference by from one to six nisters and by one or two individuals from the laity. The conference which sends two or more clergymen sends two laymen—never more than that number, while if only one minister goes, but one layman can be sent. Among the ministers the ratio of representa-tion is one delegate for every forty-five members of each annual conference, and one for bers of each annual conference, and one for every fraction of two-thirds that num-ber. Formerly it was one for every thirty, but that made the general conference too large, Many think it is still too large, and the bishops, during this quad-rennium, have submitted to the annual con-ferences a proposition to reduce it. This, however, has met an emphate perative. however, has met an emphatic negative largely, no doubt, because so many aspire to be elected to that body. Nor are the minis ters to be blamed very much, for it is undeni-ably a great honor to go to general confer-ence, not to speak of the advantage it is in making other dignities possible. Naturally, from the careful manner in which they are selected, one expects to find the church's greatest men in her general conference. But, of course, all the great men cannot go, be-

cause there are so many of them.

Among the lay delegates are found governors, judges and others who are prominent in civil life, including even a few distinguished women, like Mrs. Angie F. Newman, of Nebraska, Mrs. Mary C. Nind, of Minnesota, and Frances G. Willard of the whole country. This, by the way, will be the first entry of the good sisters within the arena of the general conference, the male species having eral conference, the male species having hitherto had their own sweet way there, none daring to make them afraid, so to speak. This, too, in spite of the fact that the women constitute so large a majority of the church's constitutency. In this new departure some see an act of tardy justice, and others are so enthusiastic that they think they see in it allows the dawning of the millanguage. most the dawning of the millenium. But the cooler heads, led by Dr. Buckley, say these women have no right in that body, and will not be showed there. The matter has already excited long and heated discussion in the Methodist press, and it will doubtless be a bone of contention within a few days in the conference, like its immediate breaders or will be asked to license were the statement of the s redecessors, will be asked to license women o preach and to provide for their ordination, a request to which the church has always so far responded in the negative. Thus "the woman in the case" will be conspicuous early and often, and the promise is that, as

The general conference is the only body in the Methodist church possessing the power to make or change any of its laws, and considering the numerical strength church, this one fact accounts abundantly both for the honor inhering in an election to that body and for the widespread interest Telt in its results. Late statistics place the whole number of traveling ministers at over fourteen thousand, with nearly thirteen local preachers, while the total membership falls but little below two millions. It controls also 23,000 or more Sunday schools, in which there are a grand aggregate of people, young and old, amounting to 2,160,244. Add to these items the additional facts that this church is raising annually for various purposes over \$10,000,000; that its book concerns did a business last year amounting to two millions and that it touches the masses of the people to an extent to which, perhaps, no other Protestant church does, and one sees at once, not only the greatness of the church itself, but the importance, also, of the body which has the sole right to legislate for it. Usually, though notwithstanding the great power inhering is it, the general conference is exceedingly deliberate and very slow to make changes. It looks sometimes, just before the body con-venes, as though it might so transform the organism of the church as to render it un-recognizable by even its oldest friends. The ming conference would certainly do this if adopted all the suggestions volunteered by correspondents in the church press, and it would not fall very far short of doing it should it act favorably upon the propositions

that will be made in due time by its own members. It is safe to predict, however, that this gathering will be little less con-servative, if any, than its predecessors have been and that the old ship will emerge from the forensic temptests lying before her not at all damaged, and with very little alteration

It is inevitable, though, that some changes It is inevitable, though, that some changes will be made. Many clamor for the relaxing of the rule in regard to the popular amuse ments. The strong point with these is that Methodist practice along this line is not in harmony with its precepts, and that to retain a disciplinary rule which is so often disregarded, is bad policy, especially since, while it remains, it places Methodism at a disadvantage with other denominations. Requests for changes in the Itinerant system of the church are very numerous, among those the church are very numerous, among those which are not unlikely to prevail being the demand for the extension of the pastoral limit, either uniformly, or so as to meet special cases and a provision by which pre-siding elders, instead of being appointed as now by the bishops shall be elected by their brethers. Possibly too, in the same connec-tion something may be done by way of con-forms more power were the bishop's cabition something may be done by way of con-ferring more power upon the bishop's cabi-net, of which the presiding elders form the tomponent parts. This with a view to re-ducing the power of the bishop in the sta-tioning of ministers. Another matter to be considered and which will probably be de-cided in the affirmative, is that of extending the power of the laity by giving them repro-sentatives in the annual conferences. An-other question will be that of union with other Methodist churches. There may be no definite proposition for such union, but the matter will come up in some form, and a atter will come up in some form, and a ealthy growth of sentiment will be indi-ated. The conference will also complete arrangements for a gathering in this country in 1891 of representatives of all the Methodist churches in the world, a similar body to the famous Ecumenical conference which met in

But the greatest interest will centre in the elections. It is not quite true, as some have said, that the conferences will have in its gift a sufficient number of offices to allow of one or more being conferred upon each of the 450 delegates; but it is true, that, if service on boards and committees be counted, it will have nearly enough to allow of such distribu-tion. It is also true, and some think very unfortunately so, that the delegates are, as a general thing, quite anxious to see them-selves properly provided for. Charges of wire-pulling and log-rolling have been brought against former conferences which, were they true, would entitle those bodies to rank in such matters with an ordinary war caucies. But it is certain that even the devil is as black as he is sometimes painted, and it is quite probable that the same is true of those ministers who are accused of having recovers to the arts of the politician. Cer-

tainly there is an indignant protest against such conduct from the rank and file of the church, and an extended observation seems to warrant the belief that the conference soon to assemble will be a reform body, at least in that particular. No one anticipates, however, that there will be any lack of willing Harkis's, or that any who are invited to step up higher will astonish the country by declining.

The office of a Methodist bishop is a very desirable one. The term is for life, the salary large, and the influence tremendous. The bishop makes the appointments, and it is moderate to say that each bishop in the M. E. church controls on the average a thousand preachers and as many churches. Since the

preachers and as many churches. Since the last general conference three bishops have died. The matchless Simpson was the first last general conference. Inree bishops have died. The matchless Simpson was the first to go, his demise occurring shortly after the ever memorable farewell address by which he brought the conference of 1884 to a close. A little later, Bishop Wiley died and was buried in China, the scene of his early missionary labors. Still later Bishop Harris breathed his last in New York. By these losses the Episcopal force of the church has been reduced to twelve men, and some of these are not robust any longer. It is inevitable, therefere, that new timber will be needed in the Episcopal board. Precisely how many new bishops shall be elected the conference itself will determine. Some think there ought to be a big batch of them, the cry of these being for more bishops and fewer presiding elders. Others think the time has come for a M. E. bishop to preside in Europe, with another in China and still another in India. Such propositions as these were before the last conference, and it was the common remark that, but for the influence of the bishops themselves, effectualfluence of the bishops themselves, effectual-ized in the votes of the laity, they would have been adopted. A reasonable prediction would place the number of new bishops at not more than five, as more than that would involve a radical departure from all recent prece-Who will be promoted to this dignity is

one or the things no fellow can tell with ab solute certainty, but he would be a poor ob server of events who could not venture a few guesses. It is not improbable William Tay-lor, now missionary bishop to Africa, will be made a full-fledged Episcopate. He thinks he is this now, and so do some other people. but if he is he was certainly made so by accidebt, for the last general conference never intended to make him such a person. Another upon whom the lot is not likely to fall is Dr. John H. Vincent, who four years ago gave Bishop Fowler such a long and close gave Bishop Fowler such a long and close tussle. Dr. James M. King, of New York, is another probability, as is also Dr. D. A. Goodsell, of the same city. Dr. H. A. Buttz, of Drew seminary, is also supposed to be in the line of promotion. For the two last named a preference has been expressed by some of the present bishops. In the west Dr. Charles H. Payne, of Ohio Wesleyan Dr. Charles H. Payne, of Onio Wesleyan university, looms up as a decided probability, being closed followed by Earl Cranston, of the Cincinnati Book concern. In New Eng-land the tug of war will be between Drs. J. W. Hamilton and S. F. Upham, each of whom, in certain contingencies, would stand an excellent chance. Dr. Daniel Dorches-ter will also make a strong pull in this sec-tion. Many think Dr. A. B. Leonard, of Ohio, is a possibility. He would certainly be the first one thought of if the lines were to be drawn tightly on the question of pro-hibition. Dr. T. B. Neeley, of Pa., will be strongly urged by his section, and will bring to the contest the prestige of great abilities.

As usual, Ohio leads in the number of candidates. Both Dr. Bayliss, of the Western, and Dr. Joyce are talked of, and each will have from the start considerable strength. Besides these many other names occur, although too many to mention, among them that of Dr. C. C. McCabe, the splendid missionary secretary, whose irresistible enthusiasm has put \$400,000 into the missionary treasury in the last four years, and who is popularly supposed, and with good reason, to be worthy of anything in the gift of the church. If the conference should gift of the church. If the conference should take a notion of that kind it could send the chaplain into a bishop's chair with scarceiy any opposition, and this contingency may arise. Many think Dr. Buckley would be made a bishop were it not for his superb adaption to editorial duties.

Nearly all the general secretaries, the editors, the book agents and other officials are likely to be re-elected. If however, any of

likely to be re-elected. If, however, any of these should be called to higher positions, or should wish to retire into private life, there will be no trouble in prevailing upon others to fill their places, though of this, and all other matters relating to this important conference, we shall know more anon.

Cupid in the Kitchen. N. Y. Journal: A stout and goodnatured-looking woman of middle age, llen Markey by name, was for man years head cook in the family of the late Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. She knew how to make up little dishes to tempt delicate appetites, and the Plymouth pastor held her in great respect on account of her gastronomical skill.

Everybody about the house called her Ellen, and she was absolute when below stairs. Several times she had been the recipient of matrimonial offers, which were declined with thanks. She told all of her admirers that so long as Mr. Beecher lived and maintained a home she would remain his cook in singleblessedness.

William Landy made the acquaintance of Ellen about a year ago. He is nearly fifty years of age and had been a widower since August, 1884. Several times a week he visited the Beecher mansion to deliver choice fish or other delicacies which had been ordered from his employer's place in Fulton Market. During these visits he had opportunities of conversing with Ellen.

He told her all about himself and the

loss of his wife. His descriptions of the desolution in his once happy home and of the feriorn condition of his six motherless little children were very pathetic and Ellen was not backward in expressing her sympathy.

One day he plucked up courage sufficient to ask the cook to give up her position and accept that of mother to the little Landys. She did not accept, but told the widower that she would give him the preference if circumstances should permit her to marry. She also learned where he lived and occasionally went to his home to see his six motherless children.

Mr. Beecher died, and the old home stead was broken up. Ellen had to seek a new home, and was considering where it should be when Landy came to the front again and renewed his offer of marriage, which she accepted. The wedding occurred on the evening of November 6, 1887.

The couple went to live at No. 36 Charles street, and soon discovered that they were ill-mated. On Christmas Day Landy packed up his household effects, and taking his six children with him, moved to No. 86 New Chambers street, New York.

An action for a limited divorce has now been brought by Ellen. She also demands alimony. Landy is accusd of cruel treatment. Nineteen days after the wedding, she says, he charged her with having another husband living, and with trying to poison him, and threatened to buy a pistol and shoot her, and not only did he beat her himself, but he encouraged his eldest

daughter to do so. All this is denied by Landy. He says he did not want to marry Ellen, but that she absolutely coaxed him into doing so. She knew that he was poor, yet she was so anxious to have him for a husband that she bought him his wedding garments and her own wedding She also paid a month's rent for

the rooms in which they went to live.
One reason why he did not wish to marry Ellen, Landy says, was because he had so many children, but she pro-tested and said she loved children and would be a mother to them. After the marriage she did not keep her promise. She illtreated the children, and finally compelled the second eldest to leave the house. He says he was willing to have her accompany him to New York when he moved, but she would not go because she could not ride on top of the truck

with the driver. Justice Osborne listened to the argument yesterday on the allmony question and reserved his docision.

THE BEST-DRESSED WOMAN.

Helen Campbell on the American Woman and Dress.

THE AMERICAN WOMAN LEADS.

Her Skirts Yet Too Heavy and Her Waiste Too Small-Common-Sense Gowns - Plain Gowns the Rage

NEW YORK, April 26 .-- [Correspondonce of the BEE---Copyrighted.]--- The woman of society demonstrates with fury that, as a rule, she has nothing to wear, and that if, at the moment of speaking, a few rags not quite unworthy of consideration may be found in her wardrobe, it is a mere accident, life as a whole resolving itself into a hand-tohand conflict with dressmakers, who always provide the wrong thing. The reformer, armed with her divided skirt and its accompanying necessities, waves them wildly in the face of society, affirming that till women have accepted these garments as the only solution of the dress problem, the only road to the higher moralities, there can be no salvation. Between these two extremes marches the great army of the middle class, an army made up of the "average woman," whose title has become the synonym for the worst-abused class in America. The fashionable woman finds absolution because she has money and forms part of the spectacular life daily more and more dear to the rich American. The ardent reformer is forgiver a little over-impetuosity, because it is at least amusing, and we must make the most of such amusement as is left for a weary generation.

The average woman comes under neither head. She is simply the embodiment of original sin, responsible directly or indirectly for all evils in church or state; preached at, and to and for, till if she followed one hundredth part of the precepts taid down for her guidance not one short life, nor ten, would suffice for the undertaking. even now she cannot be spared, and it is in the house of her own familiar friend that the new blow in struck, and her defender and advocate asks and must answer, "Is the average woman overdressed?" It is to this form that the question comes at last. For it is impossible to deny that the fashionable woman sins beyond redemption on this score; as impossible as it is to affirm that the energetic reformer can ever be counted as one of the offenders, and thus once more the burden rests on shoulders well accustomed to such load, and it is the patient, long suffering, most teachable, most enduring, average woman who must serve as illustration and afford such reply as can be drawn from the facts before one's eyes. What are the essentials of dress? The

question began with time, yet the answer, from the old Greeks down, mains the same—beauty, comfort, suitability. No dress that fails to unite these three can be counted as fulfilling the mission of dress, and no woman who has not studied in minutest details each one. her mission as a woman. Beauty leads by divine right, and will lead, no mat-ter what batteries are brought against it; but one must first learn what constitutes beauty. In these borderlands one restricted to reply in fixed lines cannot wonder. But when one seeks to understand what over-dressing may mean, a certain necessity arises for palpable meausurements, and these are given when the three requisites of any dress are laid down. It is because the love of beauty is inherent in all humanity that instant protest is made when angles are Pered us in place of curves flowing lines and grace of drapery de-The fashion-plates may seem to hold denial of this statement, but the fashion-plates are happily not the sum of growth in this knowledge of beauty. We are learning it in spite of fashion plates, and gradually evolving the costume that, with slight modifications, is likely to hold its ground, this being no fixed and unchanging form, but a combina-tion best adapted to the wearer's sense of what is most fitting. Women have learned to study their own figures and

their own coloring; to settle definitely on what harmonizes and best empha-sizes both; and thus it has come to pass that the American woman is now, if high authority may be trusted, the best dressed woman in the world. Her skirts may still be too heavy, her waist too small, her sleeves too tight, but this is the tyranny of a fashion from which she more and more emancipates herself as time goes on. The day will come when every child will be taught the laws of form and color in their application to dress, and any violation be held as an offense against society, to be instantly frowned down. When that day comes, the three essentials we have specified will enter into every dress. It is equally certain that for many that day is al ready here. Common sense is one portion of the average American woman's inheritance. It may be seriously overlaid with prejudices, it may be hampered in its action by fear of Mrs. Grundy, yet every community has to-day its representative women, leading more and more in their train, and calmly ignoring the merely conventional. These women are not overdressed. whatever glory of color or richness of material may enter in into the com-position of their costumes, for with them it is no question of something to be worn twice or thrice and then turned over to the dealer in second-hand garments. It is only for evening festivity or gay lunch or afternoon tea that any deviation from an almost fixed uniform is allowed, and here the very woman pronounced overdressed may have worn the same costume, with slightest variations, two, three-nay, even half a dozen

Tailor-made gowns have brought about the revolution sighed for many years ago by sensible women, and it is only here and there that one sees silks and velvets on the street, their appearance there indicating that the wearer there is either underbrod and ignorant. or is wearing out her old dresses preparatory to coming into her real king-dom and tasting the delights of a simple, compact, well-made suit. The shop girl, who follows always close behind, is learning this, and chooses now a suit of cheap material, because nothing but cheapness is possible for her, but modeled on the severe simplicity she sees in the dress of her best customers. English fashions may have led us astray at times, but we owe to them certain emancipations that could hardly have come in any other way. Sensible women had long ago adopted many of them, but fashionable women, some of whom are not sensible could never have been brought to low heels, and thick boots, and plain gowns, and simply dressed hair if it had not been "so English, you know."

Simplicity is the last possession carned by humanity. Only the highest order own it, for imitation is now ownership, and for many who have adopted a simple fashion because it is English, there is no real inward acceptance of simplicity, and there will be in mediate

sure is removed. Ke one and all, if close pressed, will admit the disabilities of much that they call beautiful, and profess readiness for anything demonstrably better.

The reformed costame has failed to make its way into popular favor; such costumes at any rate as emanates from Lady Habberton and other inventors of the same order. It is impossible for the

the same order. It is impossible for the most ardent advocates of reform to demonstrate that beauty dwells in any of these. It was my fortune to meet at a scientific convention an English en-thusiast who wore the divided skirt. She was fresh and fair and big, with the deep chest voice of the healthy English woman and the calmest defiance of any law of beauty or proportion. Her dress was a gray poplin bag, separating below, with a ruffle around the bottom, and a mere line of white appearing above the neck-band. It may have been comfortable, but it was also hideous, and no woman with any real sense of what beauty means would have tolerated it, even as a sick garment. the fashion precisely as it stands to-day any woman can plan for herself a cos-tume, easy, comfortable, and most certainly graceful and becoming. The short skirt clears the ground well, and is thus neither worn or soiled. The dress is often a princess, made in one piace, and thus instantly adjusted. The shoes are low-heeled and broad, the stockings black or dark. With half-fitting jacket or long cloak perfect ease and looseness are both possible, and sleeves may be as one will. Woman's dress has never, in modern times, been more really what it should be in all its outward expression and adaptation to modern needs. It remains to banish all bands and ligatures, secure even layers for the whole body, abolish hideous steel bunches and support the dress so far as it needs sup-

emancipated, yet not a terror. This for street and ordinary house dress, the quality of the material used being dependent on the purse of the buyer. For evening there is greater latitude, and nothing could be more graceful or more intrinsically beautiful than many of the costumes worn, whether by matron or maid. The ma-terial is often of the simplest nun's veiling or soft cashmere for the elder wearers, and muslins dotted or embroidered for the younger ones; but the effect produced by suitable combinations is beyond any to be secured by mere blind expenditure for the costliest thing. It has also been the costliest that a dress may be so

port by a flounced back to the under

skirt, and behold the modern woman

demonstrated that a dress may be so constructed as to remain beautiful even when quite apart from any existing fashion, and many women with very limited means but keen artistic sense are proving this, and appearing an entire season or more in what is called 'society" in the same dress modelled after some favorite painter's costume, and insuring always an instant tribute of admiration.

The farmer's wife or daughter, the busy woman everywhere, with whom there is little leisure and less opportuning for planning on wearing beautiful costumes, can still take refuge in one phase of the beautiful, choosing color and material that will unite becomingness and utility. Doing this, she, too will escape the charge of overdressing, brought against us by hasty travelers through the country, for the majority of sensible women-and their name is legion-live below rather than above their opportunities and, indeed, their duty in the matter. They are under rather than overdressed, and have much to learn before the laws of dress are made plain. HELEN CAMPBELL.

The Workings of a Mind Reader. Some experiences in hypnotism are thus described in the New York Herald: Dr. Ossip Feldman, late of Russia, gave a number of interesting exhibitions in "hypnotism" and so-called mind reading at Von Taube's kindergarten, No. 25 East Twenty-first street,

last night. For his hypnotic subjects, he took William Routz, alias "Thompson," and Harry Seymour.

Both are young men and very susceptible. Dr. William A. Hammond hed previously placed them under the influence. Dr. Feldman first looked Routz in the

eye and then put him asleep by waving his hands over the subject's forehead. The doctor then placed Seymour in the same condition by a similar process. A state of rigidity, technically known as "tetatnus," was then produced in both men.

Feldman then informed them that it was snowing, and they immediately turned up their coat collars and began to brush the imagined snowflakes from their garments.

Next the operator made them imagine that they were rowing in a boat, and that their craft had capiesed. The sub-jects went through all the commandments and struggled for life in the supposed river. Finally one clutched the other by the hair and gasped exhausted on the carpet.

At this point an excited German gentleman broke through the crowd of spectators, and, flourishing his cane, excitedly shouted to Dr. Feldman: This is enough, that young nan (pointing to Routz) is my son. I want this stopped." The doctor immediately restored the young man Routz to con-sciousness, and his father carried him off, saying at the time: "I am Joseph Routz, he is my son, and I would rather see him in state prison than at this

The other subject, Seymour, remained, and he ate quinine for candy, sniffed hartshorn for cologne, became Henry George and Dr. McGlynn alternately, robbed an imaginary bank, crew like a cock, became a grovelling dog, and finally himself again. Then Mr. Feldman experimented on Seymour with a magnet and certain chemical preparations, and produced different

After the seance with Seymour the subject was asked if he remembered anything that had occurred. He re lied that he did not.

CONKLING AND THE REPORTERS. A Courteous Intercourse With Newspaper Men Which Never Was Abused.

New York Sun: Roscoe Conkling had an exceedingly genial way in dealing with reporters who were known to him. He was always happy and pleasant in his manners, frankly told them what they wanted to know, but invariably wound up the interview by resting his white hand on the reporter's shoulder and saying. "You will please to remem-ber, my friend, that I have not said 'You will please to rememanything for publication." Then he would explain how publicity might hamper him in his legal cases. confidence was always respected. Since he established himself in New

York he was frequently called out of bed long after midnight in response to a reporter's call. Even at that hour he was genial, witty and obliging, as far as he could be. A short time ago a re-porter told him that he would like above all things to print some of his confiden-tial chats he had had with him. The reporter dilated on the avidity with which newspaper readers would read there is no real inward acceptance of such matter. The senator only smiled simplicity, and there will be in mediate and said: "Wait till after my death, reversion to old tendencies if the pres- my friend; wait till I am dead." The senator only smileti

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cheap for the boys to play in, it will be pleasing to learn that

have placed in the children's perior a line of children's suits as follows: A neat little blue sailor suit for 89c, worth \$2. Another blue pleated suit with belt of same material, for \$1.60, worth \$3.

A nice little brown stripe suit of Sawyer Cassimere, \$3.50, worth \$6.

A pretty little soft grey suit of Saw-er Cassimere for \$8.50, worth \$6. brown stripe cassimere to make a con-trast, making them decidedly handsome yer Cassimere for \$8.50, worth \$6. A nice brown mixed grey suit of Saw-yer Cassimere for \$3.50, worth \$6. These are specialties and are sold at

these prices to furnish the little ones in new suits for the play ground, at the smallest possible expense to their par-Besides these great bargains we have all the leading styles of children's Kilt suits in pretty soft grey and brown mix-tures; blue plaid Kilt suits, drab plaid Kilt suits, brown plaid Kilt suits, and in

fact all the desirable novelties of plaid Kilt suits manufactured by the Scotch firm of Malcomson & Co, of New York, who produce more natty styles of Scotch plaids than any other house in the world We must not, however, lose sight of our Jersey suits and our blue yacht cloth suits, in sailor style, trimmed with satin and gold cord which makes them ex-

and attractive. Our blue, brown and green velvet and cordurey suits are the finest ever produced. For the little men who wear short pants we have 80 styles of all the late cassimeres, in plain neat mixtures, plaids, blue and in fact all the foreign & domestic fabrics in use

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Where and When to Hunt the Gamy

Jack-A Dissertation on Shooting and Eating Them-Local Sports Find Pleasure in the Marshes

The English snipe, Gallinago Wilsonii, or 'the jacks," as they are more commonly and familiarly called, in my esteem are the choicest game birds in the whole known world, not even excepting that morceau of the epicure, the woodcock. I think the latter, so far as its incomparable edible qualities are concerned, is in a measure, a delusion and a myth, and that it is given such universal preference simply on account of the endorse ment of alleged gastronomes and the extreme rarity of the bird. Not one cook in a thousand knows anything about serving woodcock, and the bird is apt to come upon the able in as unpalatable a shape as it is possible to imagine for anything so delicate and delicious. However, it makes no difference how superbly the woodcock may be served, he is not to be compared with the jack snipe. Can a dainter, more tempting or irrestible dish be conjured up than these tender, juley little habitants of marsh and meadow afford, especially at this season of the year? Take a baker's dozen, have them neatly dressed, split open on the back, and with a lump of spring butter, and relenty of pepper and salt for each bird, lay them in a dripping pan about two-thirds full of water, then place them in the hot oven, and while in process of baking, repeatedly baste, and when they are thoroughly done through, and nice and brown, I'll venture to say you will find them the most lucious dish you ever sat down to. This is a capital snipe country, there being some good shooting within three miles of the city's center. One of the best grounds I know of in this vicinity, however, is at Weedy lake, a few miles south of Council Bluffs. It is a long stretch of low-lying, bogsy meadow and woodland, and will afford better shooting than any of the famous rounds along the Illinois or Kankakee. The soil is of the richest, brackest loam, corrugated and broken with tufted niggerheads and trickling rills, with either brackish pools or reaches of dead buffalo grass, lying be-tween, and making the finest feeding grounds hungry gallinago ever struck. The tender green of the dandelion and splatterdock are now just peeping forth, while here and there are clumps of swamp willow, maple, lilipu-tian cane, pucker brush, sere flags and waving reeds which make it a great rendezvous

for song birds of all kinds as well as for frogs, turtles and garter snakes.

The jacks arrive here in their greatest flight during the first warm and genial days of April. However, they have been known to put in an appeapance in open winters as early as the 1st of March, but in small num-bers, and restless in their deportment and

ying to neither dog nor man. The shooting is now at its neight, and one of the warm, balmy days of last week Johnny Hardin and I went down to Stillwater and did some very creditable work, too, for a starter, without the services of a retriever Notwithstanding this statement I do not deem a dog of much advantage, save for recover ing dead birds, for a dead snipe—and all old gunners will bear me out—is about as hard a thing to find as the proverbial needle in a haystack. Without a dog much care must b exercised in marking them down, and they should be gathered at the earliest possible moment, as the homogeneousness of a wellordered snipe grounds is a wonder and a per-plexity always.

It was a lovely afternoon, the one in ques tion, and our hearts swelled with the an-ticipated sport as we set in at the southern boundaries of the marsh, and started in among the tussocks toward the grove at its northern extremity, forcing our way through the tangle of ambitious sprouts, herbs and plants, ferns and mosses, over blackened logs, through thickets of yellow tendrilled willows, red-dyed maple sprigs and creeping vines. The landscape, too, was full of life and exhilaration.

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A wandering breeze swayed the naked reeds; the robin sang his blithesome roundelay from the topmost twic of you tall cotton wood; the blackbird chirped petulantly from this copse and that; a couple of lays scolded us from a near clump of maples; the crow cawed in the distant grove, the hawk winnowed his sable shape far above and the garter snake, with provident speed, made his way into the cryots of dead flags from under way into the crypts of dead flags from under our rubber boots—the whole scene bewil-dering the eye and vivifying the fancy.

We did not know whether the jacks had arrived here, or not, only felt sure that they had from the generally favorable meteor-ological condition existing—the gentle rains of the few days previous, the frost-freed of the few days previous, the frost-freed ground, the starting grasses, the warm, mellow sunshine and soft, south breezes.

Nobody ever saw him come, or leave either, for that matter. They are as mysterious and allent in their arrival and departure as disembodied spirits. They undoubtedly migrate by night, riding in on the first warm wave from the south after the earliest spring rains have the south after the carliest spring rains have accomplished their mission with the frost in the earth. You may visit the suipe grounds to-day and beat them up and down and across and back again until your legs wear out, and never jump a single jack or hear a single "skeap," the inevitable plaint of a startled snipe. But to-morrow you may go again and find the meadow full of them. If the temperature is not just-right they will be discovered only in isolathd bunches of four or five. They are uneasy in their habits and will flush away the south after the earliest spring rains have are uneasy in their habits and will flush away out of gunshot, the first "skeap" often being the alarum for every jack in the field to rise. Under such conditions they are up like a brown and white streak; their notes are sharp, disgusted and spiteful, and off they go, flying low at first, but gradually ascending until they are but a mosquite against the background sky. Here I have known them to fly for hours in the most irregular perception. to fly for hours in the most irregular peregrinations, making great curviforms in their nations, making great curviforms in their aerial diversions—now shooting off out of the range of vision, but unexpectedly making their appearance again and immediately overhead, as if dropped from the upper spaces, so erratic and bewildering are their movements. At irregular intervals during this flight that distinct, but far-sounding guttural whir, that quavering, tremulous, weird hoo-coccoo breaks upon the ear, and which grusoms sound is made by the bird

beating its sides with inconceivable rapidity with its wings during his curvetings in the air. There is no telling what a snipe may do, as Billy Brewer aptly remarked, his shapely little head is full of eccentric notions, and he may drop down within a few feet of you tilting dudishly back in the reeds with the noisclessness of a sprite, or continue his reticulated antics in the air until he becomes the veriest speck in space and then vanishes for good. At other times you find them lazy and singgish, and lying like lead, in fact almost compelling you to kick them up from their wallows in the warm mud. This is the case when the weather is sultry and swing facetish developing the sultry and swing facetish developing the same and sultry and swing facetish developing the same and sultry and swing facetish developing the same and swing f and spring-feverish, developing thus suddenly after a gradual moderation of weeks, during which process the struggling sunshine and drizzling rains together have extracted the frost from the ground and rendered boring good for the birds the moment they settle upon their slender legs. Their long journey, although they make frequent halts for rest, from the south has wearied and hungered them and they set to work most voraciously upon their arrival gormandizing themselves on the larvae and angle-worms into an indo-lence and indifference that never fails to result in the jack's woe and the hunter's profit Their slow flip flap up from the grass and weeds makes shooting no trick at all, and under such conditions enormous bags are

Such a day as this was the one of which For the distance of several hundred yards

we tramped through the choicest kind of ground, with our Lefevres half presented, and all expectation, but no thrilling "skeap" broke in upon the medley of sweet vernal sounds and sent the blood bounding with renewed acceleration through our years. I was about conthe blood bounding with renewed accelera-tion through our veins. I was about con-cluding that the jacks had not yet come in, and had shouldered my piece, when, with startling suddenness, from out the spongy, vegetable debris at my very feet, one of the little tanny beauties, sounding his warning note, darted like a streak, his graceful shape glancing white and russett, first this way and then that, in the bright sunlight, in his frantic effort to leave the advancing behefrantic effort to leave the advancing behe-moth safe behind. But it was no go. I was quickly unto him despite his quick convolu-tions, and at the crack of my gun he dove

headlong into the mud.

The loud report breaking in so harshly upon the delightful melody of wind and bird, and frog, started up at least a dozen more, in front, on both sides, and even behind us, none more than twenty steps away. In the flurry I lost my head, and missed with my second barrel but Hardin headlong into the mud. with my second barrel, but Hardin, with his usual skill, knocked down a bird

with each of his.
Well, the sport lasted for hours, and by the time the sun was slanting over the rim of the low hills to the west, we were the nex hing to fagged, but we had made a splendid thing to fagged, but we had made a splendid kill and dragging our ponderous feet from out the boggy field, we started for home, which we reached just as the tender tints in the April sky were trembling away into the soft gray of the deepening twilight.
SANDY G. V. GRISWOLD.

Didn't Speak For Three Years.

Mr. John C. Davison, an aged but tylishly dressed man, wanted a divorce in Judge Collins' court to-day. He said he was married to Mary Davison twenty years ago, but omitted any reference to that space of their married life between 1868 and 1884.

"In the latter part of June, 1884." said Mr. Davison, airily, "my wife and I started on a tour east. I was going to Europe. We remained in New York about ten days, and on July 1 I sailed away and my wife returned to Chicago. was absent from three to four montha, and when I returned I went to my residence on Thirty-seventh street. wife would not receive me. She met me af the door, looked at my features. and without a word of greeting turned and went into a room by herself.

"After that it was a case of mute-like silence between us. We lived under the same roof, but occupied separate apartments. She never recognized me by a nod or a word; I ignored her in the same wap. For three years we lived in the same house and spoke not a word to each other. Then, in March last I went home one evening and found that she had left, and when she went all the furniture in the house, except that in my chamber, went with her."

"I cannot give a decree in the case." said the court. "The husband has made no effort to reconcile his wife, and without apparently knowing why she had left him he allowed them to drift farther apart without damming the stream. The ltwyer prevailed upon the court

to give him a chance to bring in more evidence and the case was continued. Mr. Davison is quite well-do-do.

29th.

Commencing Sunday, April

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Each lecture will be superby flustrated,
Course ticket, with same reserved seat each evening, \$2.50; single reserved seat each evening, \$250; single reserved seat each evening for; single admission tickets, 50c. Reserved seats at the Opera House box office, Friday,
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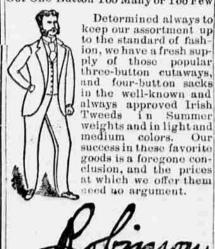
Pronounced by the Chicago and St. Louis Papers—"The Best Play Founded on Stevensons Novel."

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Commencing Sunday, April 29th