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IN THE DOMAIN OF WOMAN.

The Privileges of Leap-Year Women.

THE GENTLE SEX. The Vassar Girls-A Poem by Ella

Wheeler Wilcox-Frills and Freaks for Woman's Fancy

Three and One.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox in America, Sometimes she seems so gentle and so mild. So full of sweet unreason and so weak, So prone to some capricious whim or freak, Now gay, now tearful and now anger wild, By her strange moods of waywardness be guiled And entertained, I stroke her pretty cheek

And soothing words of peace and comfort speak, And love her as a father loves a child. Sometimes when I am troubled and sore

On every side by fast-advancing care, She rises up, with such majestic air,

I deem her some Olympian goddess guest, Who brings my heart new courage, hope, and In her brave eyes dwells calm for my de-And then, I seem, while fondly gazing there

A loving child, upon my mother's breast Again when her warm veins are full of life And youth's volcanic tidal wave of fire Sends the swift mercury of her pulses

higher, Her beauty stirs my heart to maddening strife

And all the tiger in my blood is rife,

I love her with a lover's fierce desire
And find in her, my dream, complete, entire-Child,mother,mistress-all in one word, wife.

A Vasssar Student Works Her Way The way a Vassar student with limited means helps herself through col-lege is thus told by a correspondent of the Boston Advertiser: Some of the girls who come to Vassar are as helpless as babes. They are the daughters of millionaires, and never brushed their own hair or sewed a button on their boots in their lives. They are only to glad to have some one do these things for them, and that is how the poorer girls make pocket money. Last year, a pretty blue-eyed girl came to college, and stated during the first week that her tuition and board was paid by a kind relative, but every penny for dress, car fare and the thousand and one little incidentals she must carn herself. Soon after her arrival the following announcement appeared on her door:—
Gloves and shoes neatly mended for 16

Breakfast brought up for 10 cents each. Hair brushed each night for 25 cents a

Beds made up at 10 cents a week. That little freshman made just \$150 the first year, and that paid all of her expenses, and a good part of her tuition

Practical Art for Girls.

Boston Post: Think of 500 girls painting egg shells! Three shells are suspended from windows and mantels by silken threads, or they are used as breakfast or german favors. it is be-lieved that decorative painting is more remunerative than any other branch of art and is at the present time more popular in refined society than piano-playing or dancing. Another fad is embelishing the table china with portraits of the family and relatives. At one of the large art institutions I found that another branch of remunerative art was the designing of quaint and artistic costumes not alone for the stage, but for indoor occasions and fashionable per-

Would Tote Her Bah Skin.

Cincinnati Times-Star: A Cincinati ady tells a story of an experience she had several years ago with a New Orleans cousin who was visiting her, and who with all his freshness as to northern ways and fashions, was exceedingly polite. The time was winter, when large muffs were the proper caper, and muffs in the Crescent city were unknown. The first day out for a walk the young New Orleans gentleman, notic-ing his fair cousing supporting the large muff, mistook it for a burden, and said:

"Cousin Lucy, let me tote you'bah skin fo' you."
"No, Cousin Thomas," responded his companion, "all the young ladies in Cincinnati carry them; you see it is the fashion.

'Well, I never saw but one of them befo'," replied the young Chesterfield'
and that was in New Orleans and a young lady was not totin' it either. It was in front of a brass band and on the head of a drum majah.

The Countermarch

Tramp, tramp! with the morning clocks at ten,
She skinmed the street with footsteps

Tramp, tramp!
She entered the dry goods store,
And with echoing tread the dance she led
Ail over the crowded floor.
She charged the throng where the bargains

were, And everybody made way for her, And everybody made way for her.
Wherever she saw a painted sign
She made for that spot a prompt bec-line.
Whatever was old or whatever was new
She had it down and she looked it through.
Whatever it was that caught her eye, She'd stop and price and pretend to buy; But 'twas either too bad, too common or

good, So she did, and she wouldn't, and didn't, and And round the counters and up the stairs, In attic and basement and everywhere, The salesmen fainted and cash boys dropped

But still she shopped, and snopped, and shopped.

And round, and round, and round, and round, Like a winding toy with a key that's wound,

Like a winding toy with a key that's wound, She'd weave and wriggle and twist aboue, One way in and the other way out, Till men grew giddy to see her go. And by and by, when the sun was low, Homeward she dragged her weary way, And had sent home the spoils of the day—A spool of silk and a hank of thread—Eight hours—10 cents—and dame half dead.

The Kind Housemaid.

A quiet young man occupied the rear hall bedroom on the third floor of a Forty-first street boarding house. He was a pleasant, ingenuous youth, and he evidently had not been long in New York, for he had a number of knickknacks with him, and tried to make his room look attractive. On his bureau was the photograph of a very pretty girl, tastefully framed, which he seemed to regard with considerable affection. Returning from business one evening he noticed, with much surprise, that the photograph was gone, and immediately proceeded in search of the cham-

bermaid for an explanation. "Mary," he said, when the genius of towels and bed quilts appeared, "what have you done with the picture that always stood on my bureau?"

"Sure, and I put it in yer trunk. Ye'll find it in the second tray below thim fancy weskits." "What did you do that for?" inquired

the boarder angrily.
"Oh, ye needn't git mad," she answered, placidly; "in the last letter ye got yersilf and the gal had a scrap, and I thort if I put her pictur' away I'd be doin' the both av yez a dilicate favor."

A Remarkable Oleander. A strange story comes from Sterling, Some time ago Miss Anna Leonard

died at her home in that place. During Miss Leonard's girlhood she was greatly attached to an oleander bush, the gift of a friend when she was but six years When in bloom the bush was covered with bright scarlet flowers, and Miss Leonard was always a patient

watcher to see the flowers burst from the buds. Shortly before she was taken ill Miss Leonard had given away the bush to an intimate friend. Last December, when the young lady began to grow worse, the cleander bush began putting forth buds—a strange thing at that time of year. The buds developed as the young lady failed, and when her death occurred the village of Sterling was searched for white flowers to put in her office but reached between the strange of the strange was searched for white flowers to put in her office but reached between the strange of the strange o in her coffin, but none had been found. The day the remains were to be re-moved to Bellefontaine for interment the budding oleander bush, which its owner. Miss Goodyear, had been pa-tiently watchidg for ten weeks to bloom, burst into bloom, and instead of the customary red flowers, the entire bush was bunch of the white flowers were culled and placed on Miss Leonard's coffin just

as the remains were being removed for shipment to Bellefontaine.

A Woman's Rights Girl. Lewiston Journal: An eighteen-yearold Bluehill girl, whose nearest neighbor lives a quarter of a mile distant kept house for her father and mother while they made a visit, stayed all alone day and night, took all the care of a yoke of oxen, a horse, three cows and a hog, a large flock of sheep, and hens and chickens too numerous to mention. At the same time she did the fall spinning, and harnessed her own horse to take her butter and eggs to market. Last summer she picked and sold \$25 worth of berries and made pants at 12 cents per pair, enough to clothe herself. So reports the Ellsworth American. This girl does not complain that times are dull and nobody can do anything in this country.

The Power of Beauty.

Boston Transcript: "Had you been," writes a correspondent, "in a south end horsecar a short time since and been listening, as the writer was, to a conversation between a lady and a conductor you would have noticed a striking illustration of the power of female lovliness. The lady passed the con-ductor a half-dollar in payment of her fare, upon which he instantly said: "This half-dollar is a counterfeit."

"Why, is it? I'm sure I didn't know it,' she replied. ,''Well, I don't believe you did,' said he, gazing admirably into her pretty face, while he retained the coin and passed her 45 cents good money. of these rascally conductors must have

passed it onto you. I'll take it and pass it onto somebody." Female Fencers.

New York is enjoying a new sensation in the shape of bouts at fencing by nine pretty Austrian girls. For three or four years their assault-at-arms have been a standing entertainment in Vienna, and they are bound to return there before the summer is over to fill many en-gagements made long ago. The girls have made tours of france, Italy and their native country, and have been uniformly successful.

British Postoilice Girls.

In one respect, the employment of emales in the British postoffice is acting a way not quite foreseen by the de-partment—namely, in the promotion of marriages. Especially has the "Central Hall" suffered in this respect, four of its most valued lady clerks having resigned in order to enter the state matrimonial. But if the government is thereby inconvenienced, all the girls in the department are pleased, for if they do not win the prize of matrimony they profit in they way of promotion by the St. Louis Rebublican.

Maiden Diplomacy. Boston Courier: They were sitting together in the warm parlor, saying

little, but thinking much. But lovers do not need to say much to be companionable The little clock on the mantel, for a

considerable time, had been the only speaker. Its tick, tick, tick, seemed to the youth to say kiss her, kiss her, kiss her. To the maiden it said leap year, leap year, leap year, and its reliteration of this phrase moved the maid to break "How funny some people ure." she

said. "Funny?"

"Yes, some people who are going to get married."

"Yes, same want to be married in a balloon, some on the middle arch of a bridge, some in a boat, some in a rail-

road train, some on horseback, some on the edge of a precipice, some down in a coal mine. Yes, I have noticed it."

"What is their object, I wonder?"
"Marriage, of course."
"But I mean their object in getting

married out of the usual way."
"Well, I'll tell you what I think.
They get married in this way so that they can tell their children and their grandchildren that they were married under peculiar circumstances, as for instances, 'your mother and me, children, were married in a coal mine, or 'your grandmother and me, children, were married in a balloon.'"

"I'll bet that's just the reason," said the children. "Of course it is the reason." There was a pause. Then the maiden,

with a glowing cheek, said:
"I've been thinking, John." "Yes," said John interrogatively.

"I've been thinking how funny it would be-" (a pause and a deeper "Well, Bella, you've been thinking what?

"I've been thinking how funny it would be-"If when the subject of marriage comes up, thirty or forty years hence, you could point to me and say, 'Why, children, your grandmother proposed to

me in leap year and we were married a few weeks after." John is very busy these days in furnishing a nice little cottage, and Bella is superintending the making of her wedding dress.

The Girls Fooled Him.

Chicago Mail: "Do you want to see a neat game? Then watch the three girls sitting with their father in the fifth pow of the middle aisle," said the tenor of a fashionable up-town church last Sunday to a reporter who was pay-ing him a visit in the choir during moraing service.

The reporter fixed his eyes on the mentioned pew. The father seemed to be a prosperous banker or merchant, a portly, gray-whiskered, red-faced man, evidently somewhat of a martinet. As the deacen approached with the contri-bution box the parent drew a fat wallet from his inside pocket, opened it and pompously handed each of his daughleos a bank note.

"He gives them a tenner apiece," whispered the chorister. Each girl as she received her bill crumpled it carelessly is her right hand and became absorbed in the hymnal again, which was held in both hands. When the silver salver was handed into the pew the father dropped his contri-

bution in with a placid air and then passed the plate along to the daughters. Each tookher left hand from her book, dropped a crimpled bill into the reposi-tory, and the plate was handed back to the waiting deacon.
"A clever idea," said the tenor.

"Each girl drops a dollar bill on with her left hand and holds out a ten with her right hand. It seems the young misses have to resort to sharp devices at times to raise money for matinee tickets and bonbons, eh?"

Pure Blondes Rare as Snow Birds. In the course of fifteen minutes' walk on Broadway the other day a New York

Mail and Express reporter counted 200 women, young and old, with hair ranging from a medium brown to the darker shades which all but artists call black. Only thirteen women were passed who were of the pronounced blonde order. Three of these were of the reddish classes and the hair of two had apparently been bleached. At the theater the same evening, of fifty women within easy range, six had fair skins, blue eyes and light hair. They sat surrounded by a bevy of dark women, who gave its prevailing fone to the complexion of the use. Interest in the results observed led next morning to a public school. One class of eighty girls had eight blondes to seventy-two average browns and brunettes. Another of six-

ty-five girls had sixteen fair-haired pupils to fifty-five standard brown heads and darker. In a third class the proportions were seven light to fifty muddy and dark. The statement may be haz-arded that not above 8 or 10 per cent of New York women are blondes. big dry goods stores one is waited on by salesgirls with brown bangs and brown, hazel or gray eyes. There is a clerk in one establishment who is celebrated among half the shopping population for her wonderful, babyish gold hair, the type commanding by its rarity instant attention. Go anywhere where pretty girls congregate and you meet tall, striking-looking figures with dark hair and big, dark eyes. Is the blonde type disappearing, and if so, why? Among men the proportion of blondes seems to be a trifle larger than among women. In both sexes, however, in spite of the strong infusion of Teutonic blood, the dark complexion dominates. - If you don't believe it, make some observations when you go into a public place and

Take Care, Girls. Philadelphia Times: There are some things a well-bred young lady never

She never accepts a valuable present from a gentleman acquaintance unless engaged to him.

She never turns around to look after any one when walking on the street. She never takes supper or refresh-ments at a restaurant with a gentleman after attending the theater unless accompanied by a lady much older than

She does not permit gentlemen to join her on the street unless they are very intimate acquaintances. She does not wear her monogram about her person or stick it over her letters and envelopes.

She never accepts a seat from a gentleman in a street car without thanking She never forgets her ball room en-

agements or refuses to dance with one gentleman and immediately dances with another. She never takes more than a single glass of wine at a dinner or an entertainment.

She never snubs other young ladies, even if they happen to be less popular or favored than herself. She never laughs or talks loudly in public places.

She never raises her lorgnet and tries to stare people she doesn't know out of countenance on the street. She never wears clothing so singular or striking as to attract particular attention in public.

She never speaks slightingly of her mother and says she "don't care" whether her behavior meets with ma-

terial approbation or not. HONEY FOR THE LADIES.

A woman's bonnet is no criterion of the size of her head White onyx set with diamonds is much in favor for sleeve links. Ladies' hats are to be lower this season-in

height only, not in price. Bomb shaped scent bottles of cameo glass with silver tips are attractive and useful. Surplice and basket folds are almost epidemic on the fronts of new spring gowns. A locket bearing a diamond bug or butter-fly is the most stylish pendant of the season.

Pure white hair of the best quality is so rare as to be worn more than its weight in To be stylish your stockings must match our gown, or else of the finest and fastest

For the throat or hair come lilac clusters nenamel of the natural colors enriched with diamond dew.

Female conductors and porters are, it is reported, to be given a trial on one of the California roads. The newest flower parasols are made of

deep green grass with a deep corder of scar-let silken poppies. The woman without a vest of some sort to her frock is nowadays almost as lonesome as a white black bird.

The handsomest new lace pin is a thin bar

of gold set in squares with sapphires, with a diamond in the middle of each square. A new scarf pin is a three looped bow of green, red and yellow gold, with a diamond, ruby and sapphire nestling in the folds. Silk lined black lace polonaises for wear over gay silks are among the most service-able of contemplated summer garments. French gray, suede, mignonette and leaf greens are the colors oftenest worn by the best dressers for street and visiting gowns. A flat crystal scent bottle, with stopper of due enamel in forget-me-not patterns, is the latest feminin temptation to extravagance. Cairngorms, nighly polished and without the suspicion of gold mounting, are favorite pendants to velvet dog collars and neck rib-

Billycock hats of plaited rusher or un-peeled willow, filled with grasses and wild flowers, are very new and favorite table ornaments.

Red dresses grow more and more in favor, are seen in all materials from cloth to crepe, and will be very much the wear for seaside watering places. Challies, soft vicunas, alpacas and all light

wool fabrics, so suitable for the young, are to be worn, as well as soft silks and all sorts of dainty cetten goods.
Yellow and Nile water are far and away the best hues for lamp shades, and strong linen with overdrapery of India silk or China crepe their, Instalanable fabric.

A now handkerchief of the sheerest French cambric, all overrun with resebuds in out-line machine embroidery, is among the season's most glittering successes.

The "cabbage" lamp shade of yellow glass.

with half opaque inner leaves and frosted outer ones, gives a lovely effect, and, what is better, a refreshing light to tired eyes. Diagonal folds from left to right are much liked for vests of the gown stuff, but where white wool or pique is used they must be straight, like the pleats of a shirt front. Garden hats are more ornamental than be Garden hats are more ornamental than before, a frill of lace being added to and soft
bows. The bonnets are still of the granny
form, much trimmed with lace and ribbon.

The straight bang is to be numbered
among the things that were, but more false
hair will be worn than for several years
past, and the switchmen are correspondingly
jubilant.

Bodices are built rather than made. First the lining of silk or fine jean is accurately fitted, and then the outside put on pretty much according to convenience, taste, whim or imitative faculty. New Paris and Vienna-made parasols are

displayed, designed for coaching and garden party uses, exquisitely hand-painted on pale shadowp designs, and otherwise decorated with white lace of the richest description.

The directoire coat, which is simply a smooth-fitting princesse polonaise perfectly undraped, rolled back in wide revers and open all the way from throat to hem, is very good style for spring woolen gowns.

Fairylike fans of crepe gauze or lace put plainly over slender sticks of silver, gold or ivery, and painted by French artists in shadow designs, take the place of the cum-brous feather ones so long considered the height of style.

Many lace empire gowns are made of flowered chantilly net, either black or white, with a waist of full surplice folds over good black sursh and straight plain skirt with a hem and many tucks amid which appear rows and bows and tags of watered ribbon. For evening wear there are berthas all of tiny flowers or of rose petals and maiden hair, and some daring spirits wear with them four or five chemille humming birds perched on the left shoulder, and another peeping out of the flowers in the hair, which must be

of the flowers in the hair, which must be dressed immensely high, and in all the rolls, waves, puffs, and brids possible. Fichus of all sorts will play their part in in summer toilets, notably the Marie Antoinette, which will be made of crepe, gauze, net, silk, lace or muslin in black or white or colors, and worn either loosely knotted in front or with the ends crossed and fastened

A lady, in fear of possible burglars, tied up her diamonds, worth several thousand dollars, and dropped them every night in her waste basket. On Friday she was paralyzed to learn that an early rising servant had emptied the basket in the fire, from which about half the jewels were finally rescued in a damaged state.

at the back under a wide drooring sash.

The crown of new bounets is often quite a feature. The brim may be of straw, silk, velvet, lace, net—what you will—but the crown must be either embroidered with varicolored metal threads or else painted or enriched with loose lovely folds of some soft stuff, or else overrun with trails of the most exquisite small flowers and leaves or may be exquisite small flowers and leaves, or may be overlaid with a scant shell of priceless old

A New York jeweler: "I receive so many orders for out-of-the-way articles of jewelry that it takes a good deal to astonish me; but when a pretty young lady came in the other day and had a ring made to order for her thumb, I must confess that I was surprised. She ordered a plain, broad, dull gold band, and I must say that when I saw it on her pretty little left thumb I changed my mind about the young woman's taste, for the ring was really very becoming. Are thumb rings going to be fashionable! Who knows! In the days of ancient Greece and Rome they were generally worn, and in eastern countries are still in vogue. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see them become fashionable

A few days ago a Boston lady was in-formed by her servant girl that a box of flowers had been left at the door for her. Being occupied at the time the lady told the servant to open the box, sprinkle the flowers with water and put them on the ice, adding that she would attend to them when she went down to tea. The box really contained a new spring hat which had been ordered, but was forgotten at the time the servant reported the arrival. Only the flowers were to be seen when the box was opened. The servant followed her orders explicitly, and the flowers were so thoroughly drenched that from a "perfect love of a hat" it became a limp and worthless mass of discolored rib-

A restaurant keeper in Rockland, Me., attempted to play a joke on two of his cus-tomers who were in a hurry to catch a Boston boat. Accordingly he went into his back yard and gave a perfect imitation of a steamboat whistle. The men heard it, and grabbing their hats and coats ran off. The proprietor of the joke could hardly stand for prictor of the joke could hardly stand for laughing until he happened to think that he had frightened the men away before they had paid for their suppers.

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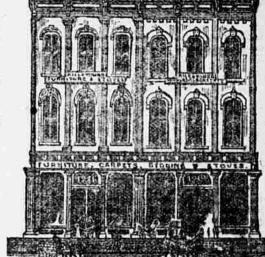
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