FACTS FOR THE FAIRER HALF

A Glowing Feminine Apostrophe to the Bell Skirt.

COLONIAL DAMES CLAWING THEIR BANGS

An Omaha Girl in the Thirteen Tea Party—Activity of Women in Various Departments of Industry—Current Fashion Notes.

To ears feminine the very name of "bell skirt" suggests comfort, lightness, symmetry and grace. No more disfiguring paniers conceal the form divine. No longer doth the weary seamstress pleat yards and yards of useless fabric into the band which encircles the waist. Becoming; alike to all is "the bell." To those of slender build it accentuates the curves of beauty, while to those annoyed by too much adipose it adds no superfluous folds, and lends a stately height. How long, we wonder, will dame fashion allow us the almost unrestricted freedom that we now enjoy of selecting what is becoming to our individual tastes. With what a sense of emancipation do we look back to only a few years ago, when fashion's decree went forth unquestioned. As slaves, we bowed in submission, however unreasonable her demands might be.

Never has there been a time when feminine grace showed forth as now. We are growing to realize that to be graceful we have but to be natural, and to be natural we must discard those articles of dress which prove uncomfortable, and in point of comfort what can excel "the bell skirt?" Light as a feather's weight, it falls in graceful folds, a boon to those to whom nature has denied a pretty foot. Nor does it necessarily conceal the shapely ones of a more fortunate sister. For who of feminine guile does not know the utility of a little backward grasp of the semi-train, revealing, if desired, a glimpse of dainty heels. When the rain king decides to move his headquarters from over our fair city, many pretty girls and stately matrons will be seen upon the promenade. Picturesque, all of them, in beautiful hats, crowned with sweet flowers and draped in fascinating veils; and matron and maid of high degree, all gowned alike, will be in that queen of skirts, "the bell." Long live and reign "the bell." GRACE H.

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Uneasy lies the head that wears a pedigree. The Colonial Dames of New York are beset with the claims of dames with millions, but whose grandfathers never dreamt of the United States. This element has a number of aggressive supporters with the organization. Efforts have been made to admit them, but failing to furnish the requisite pedigree they have been ruled out. The result is that the Dames are vigorously assailed as exclusives, and high circles in Gotham are agitated. Really, if the Colonial Dames are wise they will go out of the business. It is a great shame that they can't keep the Pilgrim Mothers to themselves, but there is no use trying to fight the Millionaire Dames. These autoplutocrats will have ancestors even if they have to skip a marriage or two to get them.

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Some one has unearthed the fact that Mrs. Christopher Columbus was a Miss Palestrallo of Lisbon, the daughter of a navigator. She made many sea voyages with her father, and when he died he left to her a very valuable collection of charts, maps and memoranda. The assistance and the inspiration which Mrs. Columbus became to the illustrious Christopher will never be told. She will, doubtless, be recognized at the exposition in the woman's department.

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Carroll D. Wright in the Forum pays a deserved tribute to the moral character of factory girls, underpaid as they are. A generation or two ago some of the best young women in New England found employment in the big cotton mills and factories, and Charles Dickens was so forcibly impressed by their good standing in the community that he violated his rule of never praising anything American to testify to their worth.

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On toilets for young girls very pretty effects are produced by velvet runners through bands of colored insertion, and embroidered stripes are made to alternate with those bordered with fine hemstitching. Upon yokes of pink organdie, pale blue chambry, ecru batiste, and the like, is wrought fine needlework that imitates the multi-colored Persian embroideries so popular on rich fabrics, the only difference being that the work is executed with fast-dye cottons and not with silk floss. The patterns are almost identical—those on the cottons with those on the richer materials.

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There is an instructive story related of a gentleman in Virginia, of scrupulous taste, who, being enamored of a young woman, rode to her home to tell his love. He took her hand in his, fixed his eyes upon it before asking it as a gift, saw the pink nails of his ideal edged with black, dropped it, said farewell, and such is the end of his romance. It is a suggestive chapter of disenchantment.

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There are many short, stout women who do not find the seamless skirt at all becoming. These can do no better than to choose the eight-gored bell skirt whose very lines give them length and the effect of a degree of slenderness at least. Many have each of the seams on the front and sides overlaid with passementerie bands or velvet ribbon. Another model for stout women is the close princesse redingote with slashed skirts and open in front. Beneath is the close sheath skirt, but its outlining form is covered by the panel-like breadths of the polonaise.

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Evening shoes are in great variety and must match the gown. Black shoes with paste ornaments are worn with white dresses. The newest decoration is in the form of a small diamond-shaped buckle, and has a scrap of satin through it to give a touch of color. Pale blue suggests an opal surrounded by brilliants. Black patent leather shoes often have bright red rows. The daintiest shoe of all has a gold network at the top and heel; it may be over pale blue or pink white, the rest is of black or white satin.

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One of the most unique banquets on record took place on the 13th at Mount Auburn, O., the participants being the graduating class of the noted Mount Auburn institute. The singularity of the affair consisted in the fact that there are just thirteen girls in the class, the banquet was served in thirteen courses and on the thirteenth day of the month, which, horrible to relate, happened to be Friday. The thirteen young ladies who have completed the four years course at the institute are: Misses Ella Bell of Glendale, O., Mae Burns of Omaha, Neb., Rose Wallace of Lafayette, Ind., Susie Thomas of Little Rock, Ark., Nellie Haynes of Knoxville, Tenn., Catherine Strong of Stark, Fla., Hallie Chase of Mount Auburn, Florence Deginger of Covington, Ky., Mary Urban of Walnut Hill, Cincinnati, Grace McLaughlin of Mount Auburn, Jessie Hoading of Columbus, O., Anna Coan of Mount Auburn, and Anna Mowat of Grand Rapids, Mich.

What Women Are Doing.

Out of the 240,000 domestic servants in London it is estimated that 10,000 are always out of employment.

Mrs. Rose Hartwick Thorpe, who wrote "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight," is living in California and busy on a history of Oregon.

A bed quilt with 13,000 pieces in it and upon which a Coopersburg (Pa.) woman had labored for years, was sold at her death for $1.25.

That was a tender little babe which was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bates, of giant fame and circus renown. The little stranger weighed 23½ pounds.

The most highly valued gift at the queen of Denmark's golden wedding last week was a crown of golden wheat ears and clover bought with the pennies of 100,000 school children.

The hospitable doors of the Manufacturers club in Philadelphia have been thrown open wide to admit all women either related to, or within the circle of friendship of, the members of that prosperous organization.

The "Black Patti" has been the most highly colored operatic success of the season. Her "high D" has evoked as much surprise as admiration, and has thrown a deep brunette shade over all efforts at rivalry.

The first Indian woman to prepare herself for nursing by a scientific training is Nancy Cornelius of the Indian school at Carlisle, Pa., who has just received a diploma in the Hartford training school for nurses.

The money order department of the Pittsburg postoffice, where the receipts are more than $2,000,000, is exclusively in charge of Mary Steele. This is said to be the largest business handled by any woman in America.

There were 752 girls' schools represented at the last meeting of the Madras Native Christian association. The pupils number 35,699. Of these 8,918 are native Christians, 2,236 are Mohammedans, 19,869 Hindoos, 1,500 Pariahs and others.

Mrs. Harriet A. Ketcham, who made the successful design for the Iowa soldiers' monument, died soon after learning of the acceptance of her plan. She was an Ohio girl, who had studied abroad, and manifested undoubted talent as a sculptor.

The servant girl problem has been solved on the Pacific coast where 15,000 Japanese are employed in that capacity. As yet the opposition to them is quite faint. The Japanese dress like Americans, drink like Americans, and are willing to vote early and often if given half a chance.

A Woman's Pharmaceutical Association of Illinois has been organized and chartered at Springfield for the purpose of mutual benefit to its members and to arrange a pharmaceutical exhibit for the World's fair. There are fifty-three registered women pharmacists in the state and fifty assistants.

On account of the prevalence of intemperance among the men in Holland women have been employed at railroad switches with great success. Not an accident has occurred since the women were installed in their unique office. If the precedent becomes established that a sober woman is a better servant than a tipsy man, there will be a great revolution in the industrial world.

Mrs. Grant has finally decided that she will not publish her memoirs of her famous husband. She finally completed the manuscript about three weeks ago, and at her invitation several editors and publishers were invited to look over it with a view to "the highest bidder." But she changed her mind at the last moment—by the advice of friends, it is understood—and the story of General Grant's life, as told by his widow, will not be seen by the public for some years at least.

Summer Fashion Notes.

Fancy combination surah, with a stripe or figure, is made into gowns.

The new India pink is merely the old magenta shade greatly softened in tint.

Scarfs of chiffon, with embroidered or lace ends, are worn. These are knotted around the neck or under the collar.

Old-fashioned organdie muslin in new and fanciful floral patterns is one of the coolest and daintiest of summer fabrics.

Short capes are made of feathers which just cover the shoulders, formed like a pointed yoke, with standing collars.

The most fashionable china is pure white with scalloped edges, and has the monogram of a single initial engraved on one side.

There are some large hats shown of most eccentric shapes, curving brims and floating plumes. Louis XV. and XVI. fashions are quite passe.

Gray undressed kid Newport ties, with stockings, gloves and parasol of the same tint, will form a ladylike accompaniment to many summer toilets.

Charming lace caps, fichus and berthas will come in with airy summer toilets. Some of these will be made of cream lace flouncing deep enough to reach below the waist.

Sleeveless Eton jackets are a feature of tennis suits over shirt waists of white or vivid red surah or fancy-striped China silk. The full English skirt worn last summer is tabooed, and the bell skirt is chosen.

Soft and pretty lightweight silks with a tiny dot in a single color make pretty toilets, with the bodice cut down or corselet-shaped, and completed by a vest or guimpe of surah or silk crepon of the color of the seeding.

Red and white striped silk shirt waists accompany pretty boating costumes of admiral blue pilot cloth. The skirts at the bottom are trimmed with bias bands of the cloth, piped on each side with bias folds of the striped silk.

Machine made lace is so cheap that the poor women who make lace by hand are thrown out of employment. But the day will return when Honiton lace will again be in fashion, and this will give work to many who need it.

A new fancy for hat decoration is the use of oats in such profusion as to suggest the thatch on a country cottage. The brims are often banked with the sprays of oats in all shades of green and brown with the tips hanging over the edge.

Many white dresses for summer are made up over yellow silk with wide yellow sashes at the belt, or yellow silk girdles. Spanish yellow ribbons of either silk or velvet are used as a garniture for cream white wool gowns or those of soft silk.

A tiny imported bonnet consists of a small crown of the teacup shape in black rice straw, with a roll of cherry red velvet around the head, with a bit of old white lace in front, with two of the above mentioned peacock's eyes standing above.

Little girls have some pretty little sailor hats with a diamond shaped crown of open work plaited straw and a straight brim covered with scarlet or navy blue cloth. The effect is very chic, and the open crown makes a delightfully cool head covering.

Lady—This may be the latest style hat now, but I suppose by the time I get it trimmed there will be still newer styles out. Milliner—Oh, no, I am sure there won't be. There can't be. It would be impossible to get up anything uglier than this.

Night dresses are made of fine striped or dotted percale, or of batiste, as well as of silk. Often a blouse effect is given to a night dress, which may have an embroidered belt. The skirt may be simply finished with a deep hem or elaborately trimmed, according to the taste.

Another thing that will come in again is the old-fashioned embrace. There was no comfort in embracing a girl with a whaleboned bodice and a starched dicky, besides you know you would never be forgiven if you rumpled the polished integrity of that shirt bosom.

New Persian fabrics show olives, palms and geometrical figures on soft, beautifully colored grounds, in foule fabrics, summer camels' hair, Himalaya wool, or vigogne. Piece-dyed foules, with Jacquard designs, are greatly favored, also diagonal stripes in relief.

The fashion of arranging the front hair very elaborately is encouraged by the new hats, which fit closely to the back of the head and rise clear up over the front hair; also by the flat hat worn level on the hair and raised in front and at the back, with flowers sticking up perpendicularly.

Fontenelle, when 90 years old, passed before Mme. Helvetius without perceiving her. "Ah!" said the lady, "that is your gallantry, then! To pass before me without ever looking at me!" "If I had looked at you, madam," replied the old beau, "I never could have passed you at all."

Blouse waists with belts all round and bodices with blouse fronts and girdles are favorite waists on imported dresses of light texture, such as crepaline, lace, veiling, challi, India silk and the dainty semi-diaphanous old-fashioned lawns and muslins that are revived by leading modistes.

A pretty model in this style is a light striped silk, double-breasted, with two rows of three buttons at the waist, and the top filled in square with a fichu of white chiffon with a ruffle of the same falling over the edge. The fichu is arranged over a plastron of lace, which shows in a V in front.

One of the newest blossoms reproduced in milliners' flowers is the American laurel, and very pretty it is, too. Bunches of green leaves of all kinds are preferred in many instances to gay blossoms, and in some bunches of berry leaves the fruit is done in cut jet with great effect among the delicate green of the leaves.

A pretty hat for a young girl is of fine white straw, with curving brim and a crown pressed down to one side with pink heather peeping out from under it, and where it is dented in the top is a knot of pink satin ribbon and a bunch of heather, and the high bows in the back are of the same ribbon, with tall sprays of the fine blossoms among them.

Parasols are various in designs and material. Chiffon is used, also lace. Black moire with satin stripes is preferred by some women, while the subject of handles is endless. The Dresden handle is having a rival in curved cocks' heads, or a stick of Scotch fir has a silver fox for a handle. In fact lizards, squirrels, etc., are all captured in this way by the hand.

A popular traveling costume for a bride is that showing a skirt of soft but rough camel's hair in plaids or stripes, and with this a plain silk shirt waist handsomely belted or girdled and an open princesse jacket with revers. The jacket has only one fastening, and is silk lined and finished with full sleeves and a deep turn down collar connecting with the revers on the jacket front.

The latest blouse is of the "indeplissable" silk, or is tucked by hand or accordion pleated by machine from throat to belt, and it hangs rather full on the figure; but being usually of taffeta or surah, it does not sag over as it would if of softer material, but keeps a bouffant appearance and is held in by a folded ribbon belt with a large rosette. These sleeves are preferred unpleated, but are full, with tight cuffs.

CONNUBIALITIES.

The engagement is announced of Miss Caroline Knox, daughter of the late Mr. John Jay Knox, president of the Bank of the Republic, and Dr. Kimball.

Jennie—But you can't support a wife on $12 a week, George. George—True, darling; but our firm always raises its men to $12.50 when they get married.

Jake (after the refusal)—I have a notion to shoot out my heart or brains. Cora—Let it be the brains. "Why so?" "So there'll be no stain left on the carpet."

A pretty fancy is for bridesmaids to walk up the church aisle in diamond procession, first one bridesmaid, then two, and a fourth alone, followed by the bride with her father.

It doesn't matter so much whether or not a girl is competent to cook, so long as her pa is rich enough to hire somebody to do it, and doesn't have any objections to the man she wants to mary.

Statistics show that there are one and a half times as many unmarried men as there are unmarried women. Consequently every woman has a chance of securing a husband and a fraction of a husband.

On Wednesday, June 1, the marriage of Mr. Henry Burden McDowell, son of the late Major General McDowell of the United States army, and Miss Maud Appleton Fuller will take place at noon in King's chapel, Boston.

Allen Totters of Marshall, Ill., and Miss Mary Jones of Brazil, Ind., figured in an elopement last week. It did not vary in general outline from the average elopement, except that the bride is worth nearly $300,000 to Totters.

A brilliant wedding in London last week was that of William Hepburn Buckles, son of Dr. Thomas Buckles of Baltimore, to Georgina Grenfell Walrond, youngest daughter of the late Theodore Walrond, who was connected for several years with the British civil service.

One of the most notable of June weddings will be that of Mrs. Sallie Shannon Walsh, widow of the late John A. Walsh of St. Louis, and Dr. William W. Johnston of Washington, D. C. It will take place late in the month at the county seat of Mr. and Mrs. Solon Humphreys at Bergen Point, N. J.

A notably pretty wedding occured Wednesday, when Miss Mary Butler Green and Mr. Elisha McCurdy Fulton, jr. were married at Dr. John Hall's church, New York. The bride and bridesmaids were all pretty girls, and the bridal tableau was unusually charming. A very attractive and novel feature were the exquisite parasols the bridesmaids carried instead of the conventional bouquets. They were filled with sweet peas and caught with bows of pink satin ribbon.

The chief wedding in New York last week was that of Miss Julia W. Chapin, the pretty daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester W. Chapin, and the Marquis Raoul de la Tour du Villard. It was a home wedding, solemnized at 8 o'clock Monday evening. The ceremony was performed under an exquisite canopy, composed solely of white flowers, principally lilies of the valley. This temporary chancel was arranged in the front drawing room, between the windows facing the street. Draperies of delicate green hung on either side of the white canopy were fastened back with pink ribbons. The drawing room, finished in white and gold, the ceiling frescoed in the airiest, softest cloud effects, and the distinctive flowers of the wedding being white, brightened by a glimmer of pink in roses and ribbons, the scene was an unusually charming setting for a lovely bride.

SOME MEN OF NOTE.

William H., the eldest son of Cornelius Vanderbilt, and the oldest of the fourth generation of the millionaire family, died suddenly in New York Monday at the age of 22.

By honest industry and toil Ferdinand Ward has accumulated enough money for the purchase of a $25,000 farm in Connecticut, and may devote the remainder of his life to the cultivation of the basswood nutmeg.

George W. Estes, who died in Salem, Mass., on Friday, at the age of 87, was said to be the first man who ever played a snare drum by note. He officiated as drum major at the funeral of President William Henry Harrison, in 1841.

General Francis A. Walker's name is said to be one of those under consideration at Washington in connection with the choice of five delegates to the international silver conference. Gossip says he can have the appointment if he will take it.

Leopold, hereditary prince of Isenburg and Birstein, the eldest son of Charles, sovereign German prince of Isenburg and Birstein, and Louise, archduchess of Austria, have arrived in Washington, having made a tour of the United States during the past three months.

Senator Barbour was not a great man, but he said a wise and significant thing in the last letter that he wrote—to-wit: "It is exceedingly doubtful whether the democratic party can elect any candidate who may be nominated by the national convention for the presidency."

Thomas Nast, the caricaturist, says that his cartoons put an end to a long-continued and intimate friendship between himself and Carl Shurz. These distinguished men no longer speak to each other, and Mr. Nast expresses surprise that Mr. Shurz should have been so sensitive to ridicule.

John H. McCormick, one of the oldest employes in the bindery of the government printing office, has just died. Mr. McCormick was one of the men who carried President Lincoln from Ford's theater on the night of the assassination to the house opposite, where the martyred president breathed his last.

Dr. Francis L. Galt, the old surgeon of the Alabama, and the only officer who was captured by the Kearsarge after the memorable sea fight off Cherbourg, has settled down as a country doctor in Loudon county, Virginia, and rides around every day with his saddlebags just as if he had never heard a big gun or served on board a war vessel.

Edwin C. McCabe, who is engineering the movement to make Oklahoma a negro state, was formerly state auditor of Kansas, is almost a white man and is said to be quite intellectual. There are 20,000 negroes now in Oklahoma, it is stated, and 200,000 in the south organized for the same destination. Two colored men in the United States senate seems a strong probability for the near future.

Congressman Weadock of Michigan, who has in his district counties of the most romantic names, is an Irishman by birth and was born in Ballygarret, County Wexford. He represents Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Bay, Cheboygan, Clare, Emmett, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Tuscola counties.

The late Consul General Anderson, who died in Liverpool last week on his way home from Cairo, was one of President Harrison's earliest and closest friends. They were roommates at Miami university, and the intimacy of youth ripened into a warm and lasting attachment. The Washington Post says: "During the last days of his residence (as a congressman) here, Mr. Anderson was a constant visitor at the white house on the most familiar terms, and those who knew him best were constantly touched by his genuine love for the man, as they were impressed by his respect and admiration for the president. His death will be a blow to Mr. Harrison and his family."

Frederick L. Ames is said to be the richest man in New England, and to aspire to be the greatest landlord in Boston, holding in that city some such position businesswise as the Astors in New York. He is taxed in the modern Athens upon a valuation of $6,000,000, which is far below the market value of his property there. He is a cousin of ex-Governor Oliver Ames, and a nephew of Oakes Ames, and lives in North Easton part of the year. He is a skillful horticulturist, possesses a rare collection of orchids, owns magnificent paintings and tapestries, and picks up a great deal of choice china and other precious ware. Two vases of jade, exhibited in the Boston art museum, and belonging to him, cost $10,000 apiece.

"Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow." Bradycrotine will stop the headache.

New York Herald: The young man who is thoroughly stuck on himself seldom adheres to much else.

"AS YE DID IT UNTO THESE"

"Do You Hear the Children Weeping Ere the Sorrow Comes With Years?"

NOBLE RESCUE WORK IN NEW YORK CITY

Sowing and Harvesting in "Hell's Half-Acre"—Visit to the Five Points Juvenile Mission Houses—Unfortunate Offspring of Carnegie's Cousin.

NEW YORK, May 24.—[Special to THE BEE.]—In a single recent issue of one of the great metropolitan dailies there were recorded with no special comment a series of crimes committed in one day by little boys, the eldest scarce 15 years of age. One of these infant criminals lay in wait in a dark hallway for the paymaster of a factory who he knew must pass that way with the weekly wages it was his duty to disburse. With repeated blows of a heavy ball stick upon the head of his victim, he struck him to unconsciousness and death, and after robbing his body of hundreds of dollars fled. A younger boy, inspired by the flaming adventures of a youthful pirate, the hero of a dime novel, stole a yawl from a sloop lying in the harbor, painted his craft black, and flying the inky flag of Captain Kidd, started out on the bounding billows of the North river as a "wharf-rat pirate." A third hopeful, who had already escaped from two "reform schools," being threatened with arrest by his parents, drew two revolvers, and covering his father and mother backed out of their presence and escaped.

This is innocent, rosy childhood! Thoughtful men and women may well look grave when confronted by the appalling increase of juvenile crime and one of the burning questions of the hour is How shall the children be saved! Reform schools do not always reform, and police records show emphatically that young delinquents sent to prison for petty misdeeds as a rule emerge hardened and ready for fresh offenses. A widely known philanthropist with whom I was discussing this question this morning, waxed eloquent as he described the great work accomplished in the past, now going on, and reaching who can say to what ends of future usefulness in the rescue of children from that kindergarten of crime, the streets and slums of "darkest New York."

"The crusade against crime must be based as far as its work among children goes," said he, "on the principle that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of punishment." Then followed a brief and vivid account of the work of the various associations whose efforts are directed chiefly to the rescue of children from vile and vicious surroundings. His enthusiasm awakened a thoughtful interest in the bosom of your correspondent which resulted in a series of visits to the various institutions in and around New York, where little children who, unless snatched from the vile influences of the slums must grow to swell the criminal population, are rescued from that cruelest of destinies, a career of crime.

"Hell's Half-Acre."

Naturally first among these is the famous Five Points House of Industry, and it is there I invite the readers of THE BEE to accompany me. Forty years ago the Five Points was known as the wickedest spot in the world; in no corresponding area in London or Paris was the ratio of crime so large. Yet here were hundreds of little children exposed to the terrible influence of the place—born to a heritage of moral leprosy and physical suffering. It was a great thought that contemplated purifying this dark spot by raising in the midst a house of hope and help for these little ones.

Leaving Broadway at Worth street we plunge at once into the maelstrom of degraded humanity that seethes through Chatham and Mulberry streets. "Hell's half-acre" they call that pestilent region even now. Until the establishment of the mission misery and murder stalked hand-in-hand through these reeking alleys by night and day. Even the police feared to venture alone, and were always detailed in couples to duty here. Now at least life is safe, and we pick our way as rapidly as possible unmolested toward the mission houses. Entering the new building—a large, six-storied fireproof structure, one is struck by the absolute and immaculate cleanliness of the place. On the first floor is the chapel, a room 50x95 feet, with pretty frescoed ceiling and tinted walls. Here in tiers of little chairs ranged in amphitheater style back toward the large pipe organ, the little ones gather for Sunday services. On the floor above are five large, well ventilated school rooms where the 200 children residing in the institution and many little waifs gathered from the neighboring streets are taught the ordinary English branches under the joint supervision of the Board of Education, the charity commissioners and the trustees of the institution. A yet more interesting schoolroom is the printing office on the corresponding floor of the old building, where boys and girls are taught typesetting and press work. Here they print the Record, a little pamphlet that sets forth from month to month what is going on in the institution. From this little printing establishment have graduated many boys who are now earning journeymen's wages. This room is used after school hours as a reading room and study by the larger boys residing in the institution. There are works on botany and natural history in the cases that stand along the walls, and a large number of blooming plants in the wide windows that form one side of the immense room afford practical object lessons in botanical science, while a frisky squirrel and a good sized aquarium constitute a small but very lively and interesting museum of natural history. Near by is the carpenter shop, where the boys who evince any taste for such work—and what boy doesn't revel in hammers and saws and nails!—are taught the rudiments of the builder's trade. Another flight of stairs brings us to the boys' dormitory. Here are 100 iron cots, each covered with a white counterpane as spotlessly clean and fresh as the tenderest mother could provide for her favorite son. Here, too, is the boys' washroom, a large apartment with a long tiled bathtub in the center into which water pours from sprays on all sides. A hundred little shelves along the wall, each allotted to one particular boy, are furnished with toothbrush, a cake of soap, towel and brush, for its owner's individual toilet. Above is the girls' dormitory, as clean and orderly as that of the boys. On this floor, too, is a dormitory of forty beds, where homeless women are lodged until suitable situations are found for them.

Where the Tiniest Tots Are Cared For.

Then there is the nursery, where forty tiny tots under the age of 5 flock up to you as you enter the door, and with a confidence that touches your heart clamber into your arms, explore your pockets and petition you for a "story." One motherly little figure particularly attracts you. It is that of a tiny girl 4 years old who hovers protectingly over her little brother, 2 years younger. He nestles as closely as possible to her side, and all our blandishments avail not to coax him away or to banish the pathetic look of sadness from his great, dark eyes. These two children, recently rescued from a filthy cellar where their mother lay dying, are the youngest of the seven Carnegie children. Their father is a worthless drunkard, a cousin of the millionaire of Pittsburg.

You find it difficult to tear yourself away from this room, but you turn amid a chorus of "goodby," "come again," to the last flight of stairs that lead you up to the playroom, where in stormy weather the children are amused. An uncomfortable looking young man is vainly endeavoring to maintain order among a detachment of thirteen boys, who are busy washing the floor. Such a splashing! Such soaping and scrubbing and singing and slopping! If cleanliness be next to godliness, saintly indeed must be this baker's dozen of merry boys, for the most searching eye fails to find a spot or stain in their wake. We next visit the sewing rooms, where all the garments are made and mended for the little wearers, and where the girls are taught the housewifely art of using a needle and thread.

Now down another flight to the kitchen, a room so shiningly spotless that in the vocabulary of the girls who learn cooking here there's no such word as dirt. Across the corridor and we are in the refectory, with its long table spread ready for the dinner of the 400 children who are daily fed here. It isn't exactly a Delmonico spread, but there is a generous bowl of soup, meat, potatoes and bread at each plate and the fare seems dainty indeed to the little ones who eat it.

An important room is the general bath. It is in a wing of the old building and contains a circular bathtub which holds 1,700 gallons of water. When children enter the institution, they do so through this tub. We have scarcely time to visit the infirmary where the children of the institution and any of the neighboring poor are treated by eminent physicians and attended by carefully trained nurses, and we leave the building with a warm glow in our heart and a hope for the future of the children whom a helping hand has lifted up into the light of this noble refuge from the evil influences of the streets.

THE THEATERS.

Omaha is to have its first prolonged season of summer opera. It has been for some years past an established fact in the cities around Omaha—Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Kansas City and Denver—but the venture has never before been tried here. Manager Burgess came to the conclusion that in view of the great success that the Farnam Street theater has had during its first season, he could not round up in a better manner than by offering patrons a season of summer opera, to be prolonged so long as it shall be profitable. He secured the Dodd opera company, which has, during the past two weeks, been playing in St. Joseph, Leavenworth and Topeka, and from the press of these cities it is learned that the company is one of unusual merit, carefully presenting the operas selected and giving entire satisfaction to the public. They will open their Omaha season at the Farnam street theater today, Sunday, May 29, with a matinee, presenting "The Chimes of Normandy" for the first half of the week and "The Mascotte" for the last half. These will be followed by "Fra Diavolo," "Olivette," "Girofle-Girofla," "Three Black Cloaks," "Bohemian Girl," "The Beggar Student," "The Mikado," "Fatinitza," "The Pirates of Penzance," "Pinafore," "Nanon," etc., two operas being given each week. Miss Amy Leslie is the prima donna of the company and she ably assisted by Helen St. Clair. These two young ladies have an established standing in the operatic profession and are painstaking and conscientious singers. Mr. Mack Charles is a fine tenor singer and has made many friends in the cities already visited. Dan Young is an eccentric operatic comedian widely known in the profession and he is sure to gain great favor with the Omaha public. Miss Leslie writes to a friend in this city that the chorus is the strongest of any company she has ever been associated with, the gentlemen of the company presenting a fine appearance and all being excellent singers. She says the girls are pretty and carry their chorus parts very effectively.

"The County Fair" will be presented for the last time in Omaha, the last half of the week in Boyd's theater. Last year the play was presented for a week and left an agreeable impression, so there is every reason to believe that it will prove again attractive. "The County Fair" is a series of sketches of New England country life, and its homespun settings should revive cheery scenes and memories of days "down on the farm," Abigail Prue, the heroine, who makes delightful butter and love to the shy Otis, and whose giddiness causes heartiest laughter, should again be a welcome visitor. Briefly, "The County Fair" still vies with the most important successes of the day. There are admirable views of rural quietude, softness and harmony in woods, trees, brooks, blue skies and Arcadian loveliness generally, and there are many deft touches of New England character and honesty in the action of the characters. The final scene depicting the horse race is a very stirring bit of realism, and must be seen to be fully described and appreciated. It is to all intents the actual start and finish of a race, which the audience sees intact, with galloping steed, whipping jockey and all the bustling incidents of the track.

W. G. Smyth's "Hoss and Hoss" company is an unusually large one for farce-comedy and numbers twenty-five people all told. No chorus or supers in the lot, but all clever artists. It is said to be the best singing and dancing company on the road. The engagement is for four nights, at the Boyd, commencing Sunday evening, June 5.

Today the Iowa State band will give two concerts at Boyd's new theater, under the leadership of Prof. Frederick Phinney, a matinee at 2:30 this afternoon and at 8 this evening. The following programs will be rendered, subject to slight change:

MATINEE.

Selection—Tannhauser...Wagner
Waltz—Blue Danube...Strauss
Medley—Bric-a-Brac...J. Missud
Selection solo, with band accompaniment...Hartman
Overture—Bohemian Girl...Balfe
Descriptive Piece—A hunting scene...P. Bucalossi
Waltz—La Gitana...Bucalossi
Overture—Poet and Peasant...Suppe
Baritone solo—Vacant Chair...Mr. Frank C. Kendall
National airs...By eminent American composers

EVENING.

Overture—William Tell...Rossini
Waltz—Musikanten Lieder...E. Kiesler
Descriptive—The Night Alarm...D. W. Reeves
Saxiphone solo, with band accompaniment...Weber
Italiener in Algier...Rossini
International Congress...J. Philip Sousa
Baritone solo, with band accompaniment—The Artist's Polka.
Mr. Frank C. Kendall.
Grand medley of war songs, embracing the great battle scene, Allegro Furioso, with musketry accompaniment. The realistic effects of this piece are most startling.
'Till We Meet Again...Peutner

GOSSIP OF THE STAGE.

It is reported Modjeska's next season will be very short.

Opie Read's novel, "A Kentucky Colonel," has been dramatized.

A new Polish pianist is the rage in London. His name is Slivinski.

Henry E. Abbey and Maurice Grau are in Vienna in search of musical novelties.

Cora Tanner will not be seen on the road in "Husband and Wife" next season.

John L. Sullivan is reported to have a plan for organizing a variety show next season.

John H. Russell of "The City Directory" and Amelia Glover were married the other day.

Miss Bessie Holliway, a former Papillion girl, is winning laurels on the New York stage.

Miss Gale will sale in June for Europe returning in time to begin next season in September.

Rubinstein's opera, "Moses," just finished, is in eight acts and will require two evenings to produce.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew and their company, who had been playing "That Girl from Mexico," stranded in St. Louis.

Charles H. Hoyt, the farce writer, has been elected a delegate from New Hampshire to the republican national convention.

Another American prima donna, Miss Sedohr Rhodes of New York, has made a great hit at her debut in Florence, Italy.

DeWolf Hopper will spend his summer vacation in Europe and will attend the international musical and theatrical exposition at Vienna in July.

Pain's "Carnival of Venice," a spectacle on the order of the "Siege of Sebastopol," will open for the summer at West Brighton, New York, July 15.

James T. Powers and Rachel Booth are married. They will star next season in a play to be written by John T. McNally, author of "A Straight Tip."

James O'Neill has written a new play for himself that he thinks will rival "Monte Cristo." It is entitled "Fontanelle," and the scene is laid in France during the reign of Louis XV.

Jennie Yeamans will be starred in a play called "12 P. M." It was written by C. B. Dillingham, New York manager of the Chicago Times news bureau. The comedy will be produced in August.

High toned variety performances will be a feature of the roof gardens in New York and the managers hold out the inducement that male spectators will be allowed to smoke and move about in comfort.

Next season Roland Reed will produce a new comedy by Milton Nobles entitled "For Revenue Only." It is intended to satirize modern political methods and campaign journalism, but back of it there is a love story and a touch of pathos.

The summer season is considered on in New York. The spectacle of "The Fall of Plevna" began last week at South beach, the roof garden at the Madison Square will be opened on the evening of Decoration day and the Casino garden will follow on Wednesday.

The new theater at Broadway and Thirty-eighth street, New York, to be controlled by Henry E. Abbey, will cost $350,000. It will be a six-story structure of limestone and brick. The new playhouse will be called the Abbey theater and work upon it will begin early in 1893.

An elephant has been bought for "A Night at the Circus," and Nellie McHenry has christened it Cupid. This, with the wild man of Borneo, a horse, a dog and the clever little pickaninny will make quite a menagerie. The next season, by the way, will open in this city July 18.

Lottie Collins, the English music hall singer who is claiming the glory of having introduced "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay," has made such a hit in London that her salary has been raised to $300 a week, and she sings the absurdity nightly at four music halls besides the Gaiety theater.

The thirteenth annual tour of Augustin Daly's company begun in September last in Paris, was continued in London, and after the recent New York season was resumed in Washington and will terminate in San Francisco, making in all the most extensive tour ever accomplished by any American company.

Director Bertrand had intended giving several performances of Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet" in the Paris Grand opera this summer with Jean de Reszke as Romeo, but the plan did not succeed owing to the fact that the tenor demanded 5,000 francs a performance, whereas the manager was willing to give only 2,500.

Immediately after young Salvini's engagement at Boston he and Manager William M. Wilkison sail for Europe, and will proceed to Mme. Patti's castle in Wales, where the diva will produce at her own theater the new version of "Cavalleria Rusticana," herself appearing as Santuzza and young Alexander Slavini as Terridu.

Beatrice Vebon, the singer who recently achieved at the Royal Court theater at Stockholm what is described as "the greatest triumph since the days of Christine Nilsson," is a Chicago girl, the child of French parents. She received her musical training in Paris. It is said that her "glorious tones" quite "enthralled the audience," and her beauty was "dazzling."

Franklyn W. Lee has been called from St. Paul by Manager David Henderson of Chicago to help write the book for his new extravaganza, "Ali Baba." Five years ago Mr. Lee was a young newspaper scribbler at Des Moines, barely making a decent living. He drifted to St. Paul, got to writing clever sketches, did a book or two and is now fairly launched upon comic opera work.

Just before sailing for Europe Mme. Patti said that her tour next season will be under the direction of Marcus Mayer, beginning November 15 and closing April 15, 1893, embracing forty concerts. She said: "I propose to sing ballads only during this tour, avoiding heavy grand opera music altogether. Then I will show people that I can sing something besides 'Home, Sweet Home.'" Speaking of the time between now and her return to America, Mme. Patti said: "I shall go from Liverpool direct to London, where I am to give my first Albert Hall concert, June 11. I am to give another in July, but the exact date of that has not yet been fixed. Then I am to give an annual series of fifteen concerts in the English provinces, beginning in October, under the direction of Percy Harrison, the nephew of the man with whom I have given them for fifteen years. Think of that! Fifteen years under one manager, and he is to have me for three years more. You hear a good deal of talk about my salary in this country; would you like to know what I receive for these concerts in England? I get £800 ($4,000) for my London concerts and £500 ($2,500) for those in the province, and at each I only sing a cavatina and two ballads. Considering the hard work I do in America and the voyage to and from, do you think there is such a discrepancy between my salary in England and my salary here? No, I don't mean to do any other professional work than that I have mentioned from now until I return for the next tour of America. I am going to travel in Italy and visit my father's old home in Catania, Sicily, which I have not seen for a long time. Of course I shall spend a good deal of time at my castle, Craig-y-Nos, and I must be there about Christmas or the children would think evil days had fallen upon them."

Few people have an idea of the number of stars cradled in the variety business and other humble places. Annie Pixley in her girlhood days gave concerts in California. Cora Tanner was a ballet girl. Helen Barry led a march of amazons in pink tights. Rose Coghlan was in Lydia Thompson's crowd of blonde burlesquers. Pauline Hall once drove a circus chariot. Lillian Russell won her first honors at Tony Pastor's. The veteran Mrs. Gilbert, in her prime, was a ballet dancer; so was Agnes Booth thirty-five years ago. Mrs. McKee Rankin was a dancer in a Philadelphia concert hall while in her teens. Minnie Maddern's vocalism was often in early years applauded in the vaudeville theaters. Patti Rosa, Mattie Vickers and Jennie Yeamans form a trio of variety theater graduates. Francis Wilson was once a song-and-dance man. Lotta, in her music-hall days, sang, danced and picked a banjo. Nat Goodwin came from the variety theaters; so did Denman Thompson. Neil Burgess, Gus Williams, Dan Sully, Edward Harrigan, Jeff de Angelis, Richard Golden, Frank Daniels and half a hundred others.

"The Isle of Champagne," a comic opera by Charles Alfred Byrne and Louis Harrison, has just been put on in Chicago with Thomas Q. Seabrooke as the star. The scene of the story is laid on a mythical isle, where water is unknown and whose inhabitants' only beverage is champagne. The king of this vineal realm is Pommery Second, a poverty stricken prince, whose fortunes are suddenly retrieved by the wreck of a steamer on the shore of the island. Among the stores of the vessel is a large quantity of water. This the king procures and sells to his subjects at so much a bottle. Many queer and laughable incidents follow the introduction of this new liquid into the country.

SHORTHAND LESSON.

By F. W. Mosher.

LESSON 10.—POSITION OF WORDS.

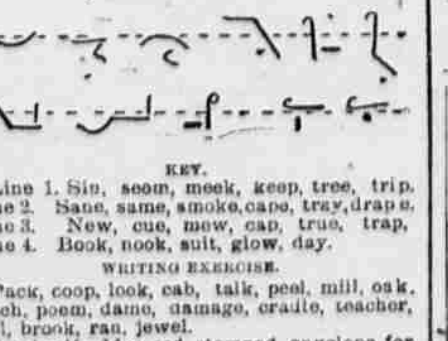
By resorting to the principle which is called "position," a majority of the vowels can be omitted and still leave the writing perfectly legible. Words are written in three positions, first, second and third. The position of a word is generally determined by the position of the accented vowel. That is, if the accented vowel is a first position vowel, the word is written in the first position; or if a second position vowel, the word is written in the second position; if a third position vowel, the word is written in the third position.

The words which have been heretofore given in the writing exercises and illustrations are second position words. Words that are composed entirely of horizontal consonants are written about one-sixth of an inch above the line for first position; on the line for second, and under the line for third position. Words containing perpendicular or slanting consonants should be written so the first consonant does not quite touch the line for the first position. For the second position so it rests on the line. For the third, so it extends through the line.

If the outline of a word contains more than two simple stroke consonants, it is generally safe to write it in the second position, though the leading vowel may be a first or third position.

The diphthong "ew" is represented as illustrated in the words cue and mew (line 3).

A light dash in the third position represents the short sound of double oo, as in "book." A heavy dash in the third position represents the long sound of double oo, as in "true."



KEY.

Line 1. Sin, seem, meek, keep, tree, trip.
Line 2. Sane, same, smoke, cape, tray, drape.
Line 3. New, cue, mew, cap, true, trap.
Line 4. Book, nook, suit, glow, day.

WRITING EXERCISE.

Pack, coop, look, cab, talk, peel, mill, oak, teach, poem, dame, damage, cradle, teacher, fool, brook, ran, jewel.

Send self-addressed stamped envelope for key.

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