

MRS. J. BENSON

210-212 South 16th St.

Only One Week Till Everybody Wants a CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Gifts for Ladies—

We know we are showing the finest line of Christmas Handkerchiefs ever shown in this city and at prices that are bound to sell them.

All linen Hemstitched Handkerchiefs, from 50c up.
Embroidered Handkerchiefs, from 100c up.

Unadorned hand embroidered Handkerchiefs, 15c to 50c.
A sheer all linen hand embroidered Initial Handkerchief, 15c each—2 for 25c.

A finer quality at 25c each or \$1.50 per box of hand embroidered in fancy boxes.
Hemstitched linen Handkerchiefs from 50c to the shereest fine French linen for \$1.00.

A handsome French linen Handkerchief, hand hemstitched, initial, sheer quality, 50c each or \$2.75 for half dozen.

See the new imported Mosquito and Enamel Brooches, Paper Weights, etc.
Infants' Gold Pins, solid and plated.
Enameled, Sterling Silver and Gold Bracelets—the latest designs.

LONG NECK CHAINS in coral, pearl, turquoise and other stones.
The Stick Pins, Cuff Buttons and Pins, Lorgnettes and Fan Chains.

New and late styles in Neckties.
Neck and Trimming Rubings, from 12 1/2c up.

Beautiful Dresser Suits, Hats, Caps, Table Spreads, Sofa Pillows, Scarfs, Drapes, Mexican Drawn Work, etc.

Beautiful line of Toilet Sets—brush, comb and mirror—from \$1.00 up.

Elegant hand decorated Baskets.
An elegant line of Fancy Baskets and Decorated Baskets, including office, infants and work baskets.

Beautiful Sterling Silver Novelties in miniature and other pieces.
See the new imported Mosquito and Enamel Brooches, Paper Weights, etc.

Infants' Gold Pins, solid and plated.
Enameled, Sterling Silver and Gold Bracelets—the latest designs.

And we have just what you want—A Compliment and a truth—what they all say—that we 'have the Prettiest Christmas Presents in Omaha.'

Kid Gloves—

A large and complete line of Kid Gloves for street, driving and evening wear. Prices from \$1.00 and up.

12-button Evening Gloves \$1.50 up.

We carry the celebrated Ferrin Gloves.

Unadorned Kid Mittens, silk lined, very desirable—price \$1.00 to \$1.50.

Fur Collarettes—

All kinds, qualities and prices, from \$2.00 up. We guarantee to give you a bargain in any collarette you buy of us.

Gifts for Men—

Fine linen Handkerchiefs, with dainty initial, at 25c each or \$1.50 per handsome box of half dozen.

A white pure silk Initialed Handkerchief at 25c and 50c.

Beautiful embroidered Handkerchiefs, at 50c and \$1.15 each.

A very handsome line of all linen Handkerchiefs, 15c, 25c, 50c and 75c.

A bargain—A very fine plain linen Handkerchief at 25c—come in one-quarter, one-half and one-inch hems.

Japanese Initial Handkerchiefs, at 50c.

A handsome line of Mufflers at 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$2.25.

Handsome Silk Umbrellas. New Novelties for men.

Handsome Decorated Boxes for collars, cuffs and ties, cigar and tobacco jars and boxes, office baskets, toilet sets, traveling cases, pen and pencil cases, and water cases. Ask to see our beautiful traveling cases in real seal and ebony fittings; smoking sets, calendars, magazine book covers, address books, stamp boxes, ink blotters and holiday cards in cases and cases.

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Sterling Silver Novelties

In Manicure Pieces, Letter Openers, Letter Seals, Button Hooks, Shoe Hooks, Show Hooks, Nail Files, all jeweled top post; Horns, Sissors, Darning Needles, Boxes, jeweled tops, gold or silver; Glove Stretchers, Match Safes, Stamp Boxes, Thimbles, Vialgrettes in gold or silver or cut glass; Purses, Belts, Jeweled or plain, oxidized or plain, oxidized or gold—from 75c to \$12.50.

Sterling Silver Novelties from 25c up. POMPADOUR SIDE AND BACK COMBS—in real and imitation shell, rhinestone lined, jeweled and plain, from low prices to high prices.

Rhinestones, Tiaras or Coronets.
Infants' Combs, Dressing Combs, Hair Hat and Cloth Brushes.

Our novelties are the prettiest ever shown in this city—such as Handkerchief and Glove Boxes, Jewel Boxes, Work Boxes, Needle Boxes, Hand and Card Mirrors, Calendars, Christmas Cards, Blotters, Music Holders, Music Racks, Vases, Fancy Enamel Cases, Brush and Comb Sets, Hand Painted, Pocket Shopping Bags, Chatelaines, Boston Bags, Manicure Sets, Trays and Photo Holders, Card Counters, Opera Glass Bags, etc.; hand decorated Linen Cases for clippings and receipts, hand decorated Photo Holders, Note Cases, Calling Lists, hand decorated Portfolios, linen covered; Hand Decorated, Cell Bells, Soap Paper, Novelty Candelsticks, etc., Tuneabeg or Old Ivory Statuary.

Cotters Medallions
Atomizers—The very choicest Perfumes and Toilet Waters.

We have hundreds of beautiful things for Christmas presents which we cannot enumerate here.
Handsome Atomizers from 25c to \$2.50.

Very handsome fancy Ivory Baskets filled with perfume, toilet soap and toilet water, \$2.75 to \$5.25.

Calendars—Entirely new—handsomest ever brought to Omaha.

Baskets—We have a fine line of all kinds of Fancy Baskets from 10c up.

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For the Baby—

Infants' hand-some H. O. B. e. S. i. k. B. i. b. s. Bootees, Caps, C. l. o. a. k. and J. a. c. k. e. t. s. at this price for baby for Christmas.

Baby Rattles, Toilet Sets, Brushes and Combs, Infants' Baskets, etc.

Writing Paper—We have a grand line of Stationery, plain and fancy, put up in elegant boxes for Christmas trade. Prices 10c up to \$1.50 box.

Dainty boxes of Children's Stationery, 15c, 20c and 25c.

Dolls—We have the prettiest line of Dolls ever shown in Omaha.

The celebrated "Coco" Doll, with head, with natural hair, pink kid bodies, with double pivoted joints that never wear out—size 12 to 24 inches.

A handsome line of Dressed Dolls from 10c to \$5.00.

See the new double-jointed wood body Dolls, very handsome, strong and durable, from \$2.00 to \$5.00—price is one-third less than other makes of same size and beauty.

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HIGHEST AWARD GOLD MEDALS OMAHA 1898

FURS, FURS

Sensible Seasonable Suggestions

For Holiday Shoppers.

The entire exhibit of Russian Furs from Transmississippi and International Exposition, Liberal Arts building, which received Highest Award and Two Gold Medals for excellent quality and best workmanship, is now being closed out at a fraction of their real value. In some cases we have cut the price to as low as 50 per cent of their actual worth. Our object in doing this is to introduce this exceptional display of fine goods, and to inform you that we are permanently located in Omaha and to all who failed to see our exhibit at the exposition we extend a most cordial invitation to come and inspect these Handsome Christmas Presents.

Scarfs		Collarettes	
Black Marten Scarfs, with escort of eight tails	\$ 8.50	Siberian Black Marten Collarettes, with eight tails, 12 inches deep, fine storm collar	20.00
Very finest Stone Marten, with escort of six tails and two heads	18.50	Black Marten Collarettes, with Persian yoke, very fine storm collar, six inches high	16.50
Mink, with ten sable tails and two heads	18.50	Fine Beaver Collarette, with long tabs, eight tails	29.50
Blue Fox (very fine) Scarf, with full size head and tails	20.00	Fine Beaver Collarette, with three tails	25.50
Electric Seal Scarf, with long tabs, ten tails and two heads	12.50	Grebe Collarette, combination with Sahalen seal	12.00
Russian Sable Scarf, with six tails	27.50	Electric Seal Collarette, very fine fur	3.00
Capes		Sahalen Seal Collarette, with Astrakhan yoke	5.00
Fine Sahalen Seal (finest quality), 27 inches long, 120 sweep	40.00	Genuine Cinnchilla Collarette	35.00
Fine Sahalen Seal, with six-inch storm collar of black marten, 25 inches long, 95 sweep	30.00	Krimmer Collarettes, long tabs, in combination with Moudon, four tails, very stylish	20.00
Fine Alaska Seal Cape, 24 inches long, 120 sweep, the finest quality	150.00	Seal Skin Jackets	
Real Alaska Seal Cape, 24 inches long, 120 sweep	140.00	Seal Jackets, made out of whole skins (guaranteed genuine Alaska)	185.00
Beaver Cape, 30 inches long, 132 sweep	85.00		
Mink Cape, made from the finest Russian mink backs, 30 inches long, 120 inches sweep	175.00		
Mounted Rugs			
An immense assortment of all kinds wild animals, from \$5 to \$250—every one absolutely moth proof—make nice Christmas presents.			
Siberian Squirrel Linings for ladies' cloaks.			
OPEN EVENINGS		OPEN EVENINGS	

Geo. de Sosnowski,

321 South Fifteenth.
BETWEEN FARNAM and HARNEY

Mail Orders Filled.

DEFENSE OF ECUADORIANS

Reflections on Their Character Resented by a Resident American.

NOTABLE VIRTUES OF THE PEOPLE

Honesty, Simplicity, Devoutness and Intelligent Character—Instilling Influence of Missionary Labors.

PLAYA RICA, Ecuador, Nov. 1, 1898.—To the Editor of the Bee: I have leisure today to contradict a statement, relating to Ecuador, made by Mr. Carpenter, your South American traveling correspondent. In one of his recent letters, wherein he dismisses Ecuador in his summary of the west coast of South America with the brief, incorrect statement: "Ecuador is a priest-ridden country, 300 years behind the times," I have endeavored to secure the services of a priest for our people and have offered, in addition to the inducements which I have always understood is recognized as the special reward of all clergymen, a substantial salary so far without success. From all the bishops I receive the same reply to my offers: "I have not sufficient priests for the needs of my own bishopric." The affairs of the province in which we are located are administered by a vicar. Even Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador and the principal export, is without a bishop, and has been for some time past.

I have attended high mass in the so-called cathedral in Guayaquil, which merely knows why the congregation is so scanty, and which, the way, satisfies one's idea of a cathedral, both inside and out, as would Omaha's old "cow shed," and there saw, as elsewhere throughout the Christian world, that the worshippers were women; more than 50 per cent of women, all dressed in the appropriate church costume consisting of a black mantle about the head which falls in graceful folds over the shoulders, and a plain black skirt, all of which gives one an idea that the women, at least, are sincere and devout worshippers, and are not there for the purpose of criticizing a neighbor's bonnet. Alongside of the cathedral, separated only by a board partition, is the soldier's barracks, and the soldier, as a rule, is not overly careful not to disturb either the worshipper, the celebrant, or preacher. The loud, boisterous and even profane talk is easily heard coming from the soldier's quarters. The clatter of arms and beat of drums one might endure. All of the foregoing, easily substantiated, is not calculated to prove the correctness of your traveling correspondent's statement.

Hurried Observations.
You should hardly expect your readers to form an opinion of a country or its people upon the statement of one who had not penetrated to the heart of the matter. Who would care to have a foreign person judge us upon a statement of one commissioned to write us up and never go as far west as Omaha, say. Or, to bring it nearer home, who in Omaha would care to have a stranger, passing through Omaha on the railroad, and seeing no more of the town than one may see from the car windows, carry away the idea that he had seen Omaha? I recall being greatly annoyed once in London by a very intelligent Englishman who said to me: "O, I know your country well; I went once to New York once, saw the Bowery and Broadway, went up to Niagara Falls, took the Grand Trunk into Canada and then the Canadian Pacific out to Vancouver." And yet this man really was in better position to form an accurate opinion of our people and country—where facilities for intercourse with re-

mote parts have made us all quite similar—than the Englishman or the American accurately from his own stop on the coast. Here where I am located, away from the coast, we employ several hundred workmen. They come from everywhere—from the West Indies, Jamaica, St. Kitts, Martinique, St. Lucia, from Barbados and from America, in the north and from our own country, for, one day, hearing one of the workmen speaking a dialect different from any of the other English-speaking people, I asked: "Who are you? What part of the West Indies are you from?" "He, sah, whoose de name?" I asked, and he said: "Is de name 'V'ginia, sah." "So we have men here from 'V'ginia" on the north to Chili on the south, and a more motley crew it would be difficult to imagine.

Training of Indians.
But it is of the Ecuadorian I wish especially to write you. I only mention the foregoing to show the opportunity I have for observing and comparing the two types of character from among the Ecuadorian. The coast "nigger," who is about on a par with the negro who lies around our southern river towns. From the interior we get the pure native descendant of Spanish blood and the native Indian, the latter is the more interesting to me. He comes to us clad only in a breechcloth and a loose-fitting, coarse, white cotton shirt, but he can work and work with an intelligence, too, and stick it; and ask him if he can read and write, "SI, señor, caño no." "Yes, sir, certainly, why not write on the result of the labors of the hated Jesuit, if Ecuador is, as your traveling correspondent wishes your readers to believe, 300 years behind us, there are some things we might go back and learn from it to our advantage, for no one, native nor partial foreigner, has yet found cause to write on it. "A Century of Dishonor." This self-made Indian may and usually does wear a rosary about his neck and is likely to make the sign of the cross before him when he steps out of his house to go to work in the morning. All of which is his own affair. But when at work he works a steady gait all the time—this cannot be said of our Indians nor of our freedmen of the south. If one of this number happens to be killed on the job or buried or dies a natural death and in bringing the remains down for burial the bearers for any cause place the bier on the ground, the spot is marked by a rude cross. This, I believe, was a custom followed in England, and even to this day such places are preserved and well marked with crosses, viz., Charing Cross, King's Cross and New Cross in London, and many in the provinces. Should any one attempt to molest these, at least respected spots in London today, they would probably fare badly, and yet no one would think of applying the term "priest-ridden" to London. Is not respect for the dead recognized the world over as evidence of civilization? I admire the old-fashioned custom of standing, uncovered and bowed while the bier passes. In Europe, where there is royalty, there is the custom of kneeling at the foot of the royal palaces. How much more fitting it seems to recognize evidence of the will of the Greatest Sovereign.

Influence of the Church.
Today our native people are celebrating All Saints' Day. The Indian and interior native sits quietly in his house reading, refusing to work. You should see what he reads—pure, Ecuadorian books of Castilian classics, no yellow covers. The coast "nigger," and some from other countries, are satisfied to go off on a beauty spree, and such vice-stuff to get drunk on, and the priest-ridden pure Ecuadorian behaves himself and will be ready for his work tomorrow, and who will say that he is worse for his rest, meditation and prayers of today? I have seen our Jamaican negroes celebrate their feast day, as they call it, August 1, in commemoration of their emancipation, for the past two years. The celebration consists simply of one continuous drunk for an entire week, and then another week sobering up before they are again fit for work. If the Jamaicans which we have are fair sample of the race, and from what I have

seen of them on their island I think they are then two centuries and a half under enlightened British influence, and possession and three generations of freedom under the same sovereignty has done but little for them. But few can read and write, and but few indeed know how to work—compared with what "priest-ridden" Ecuador has done for her people in much less than a century of time. I never heard any one accuse Froude of being prejudiced in favor of the Catholics. He says in his "The English in the West Indies": "I had read the respectful and 'economy' of the clergy were treated in Dominica, and even the Haytian republic still maintains the French episcopate and priesthood. But I could not find that the Church of England in Jamaica either was at present or had ever been more than the church of the English in Jamaica, respected as long as the English gentry were a dominant power there, but with no independent charm to work on imagination or superstition."

The Olympian gods survived for seven centuries after Aristophanes with the help of allegory and "economy." The church of Rome may survive as long after Calvin and Luther. Carlyle mocked at the possibility when I ventured to say so to him. Yet Carlyle seemed to think that the mass was the only form of faith in Europe which had any sincerity remaining in it. And in another place he says: "The Jesuits were taken out of Havana as the Moravians in Jamaica. Every one had a good word for them." "They have a college there where there are 400 lads and young men who pay for their education. And let us more are taken out of charity. The Jesuits conduct the whole and do it all unaided on their own resources. And this is far from all that they do. They keep on a level with the age; they are men of learning; they are men of science; they are the Royal Society of Cuba."

Now, if other creeds have done so little and are unable to do more, even with powerful state assistance, for the people of the West Indies and the Catholics have done so much there and in South America and they have not yet given satisfaction, what is their substitute? Man must have some creed or form of worship, his very nature requires it. Who desires to be so brutal as to be brought into this world or sent out of it without form or ceremony? Should the "imperialist" faction dominate the republican party we may see what effect proselytism will have on the Latin race during the coming century. And let us hope for the good of all that there will be no obstacles put in the way of any creed or form of worship, free and fair to all alike. I would remark that I have observed among the so-called liberals of the race, not alone in South America, but in Europe, that when they throw off Catholicism they go over to unbelief and I should warn any Protestant missionary minister to beware of the "liberal." He is apt to have an axe to grind and use when sharpened.

Devout People.
The most interesting type of character I have found in South America is a community of negroes, the descendants of the old Spanish slaves, located here in Ecuador on the Santiago river. They are a most happy, simple and honest people, without the repulsive African features, we are accustomed to in the negro. Their customs are rather patriarchal and from whom we, the 200- (or more)-years-in-advance, might learn something. It is very interesting to see the father of the household at daylight (for here, directly under the equator, there is no dawn and no twilight—time either night or day) take his position and each member of the family, big and little, in turn kneel before him, recite a few simple prayers, receive his blessing for the day and the next instant away. They have their evening prayers, too, which are on a more elaborate scale. A very pretty and touching custom of their life, is no matter where a young person meets an aged one, the younger one uncovers, falls upon one knee and with bare head in a most respectful and reverent manner recites the benediction. This finished the aged one, with uncovered

head and raised right hand, gives the benediction, and should it happen to be a god-father, the benediction is permitted to imprint a kiss upon the back of the proffered hand. It is so soon over, and not quickly done, and done with such a grace of manner, so quietly and so dignified, to only witness the ceremony has such a soothing effect on one that I have often wished that I were worthy and had the moral courage and humility to uncover and bow to receive the full benefit of all that the aged one has to bestow. I have viewed this ceremony in the crowded street among a lot of irreverent and irreligious Chilians. Jamaica, Peru, and Argentina; I have seen it on the trails in the lonely wooded mountains and on the beach, along the river sides, always the same, never hurried and never lacking in genuine reverence and true dignity. Ask them who taught it always been the custom among our people? I have seen grown-up boys and girls romping along hand in hand, laughing, chatting and chaffing, each with a cigarette between the teeth, come suddenly upon an old