

## LITERARY NOTES.

## CAPTAIN WATKINS AND THE PARIS.

In an editorial in the current number of Harper's Weekly, an excellent point is raised against the system now in vogue in navigating ocean vessels as recently disclosed by the investigation concerning the grounding of the Paris. Captain Watkins apparently made his calculations alone, and it was not considered necessary that calculations be made by another officer for the sake of comparison. Had this been done the accident could never have happened except by an extraordinary coincidence.

"The fact that Captain Watkins' career is over," says the Weekly, "will of course make other captains more vigilant, but dependence upon one mind in this sort of thing is absolutely unsafe. No man can tell when his mental energies, usually keen though they may be, are going to stop working for a moment; and that moment may be the most important in that mind's history."

## A NEW COLLAR.

The lamentation which from time to time has gone up, that the throats of women were being ruined by the high, heavy ribbon collars which have been worn so much for the past year or two, has at last stirred up some French modistes to invent a substitute collar which is equally high but much cooler and more comfortable. In the current number of Harper's Bazar the following description is given of the new invention:

"It consists in having the collars unlined, doing away entirely with the stiff crinoline and canvas that have formed the principal part of most stock collars and the collars of ordinary gowns as well. They are still high—in fact, these collars have the long points behind the ears, are trimmed around the edge with a dainty ruffle of narrow lace, and are made of tucked or plaited mousseline de soie, chiffon or lace. They have absolutely no lining whatever in most cases, although occasionally a very thin lawn lining is inserted for the sake of neatness, as of course the lining can easily be taken out, washed, and replaced. The collar is kept in shape by short whalebones. These are put up to the edge of the points, of which there is one on either side at the back of the neck, but none in front."

## Funny Little Japanese Women.

The all-conquering bicycle has invaded Japan, and it is now a familiar sight in the land of the Jimrikisai. The Europeans take to it kindly, and the little brown men and women are equally enthusiastic. The government has equipped many of its postmen with roadsters, especially those who deliver mail in the suburbs or in the country districts. In each brigade a bicycle corps has been formed who are daily drilled in about the same style as similar organizations in the armies of Europe. The Japanese people themselves still regard the wheel as a great curiosity, but are beginning to both master it and manufacture it. Some of the Japanese women have adopted a queer bicycle costume that is a combination of bloomers with the native dress. It is neither Japanese nor European. Combined with the upper part of the kamona costume the Japanese clothe their nether limbs in what are neither knickerbockers, trousers, zouaves nor bloomers. The ludicrous effect is heightened by the girl having the national habit of turning the toes in, developed to its largest extent. All that you see when she passes you is a pair of round and pretty heels wabbling in an uncertain manner, and a little body coiled up that makes you think of a gay little monkey on the top of a pole. —Chicago Chronicle.

## THE GIRL LOVED A PEELER.

The Married Man, Too, and Gave Him a Fortune.

Some men are born lucky, and ex-Policeman Thomas James Macfarlane is one of them, says the London Daily News. Macfarlane has just retired from the metropolitan police force after three years' service, with a "good conduct" certificate, and he leaves the force because of the acquisition of riches by his marriage with an Irish lady residing in Lindengardens, Chiswick. She is, according to the Richmond and Twickenham Times, a lady belonging to a wealthy and historic Irish family, claiming on the maternal side descent from the ancient Irish race of the O'Neills, the O'Hagens and the O'Donovans, the first of which claim in early days an unbroken line of kings in Ireland for some hundreds of years. She is said to possess important estates in Ireland, which she had made over to her husband, so that the ex-Chiswick policeman has now become an Irish landlord. The story of the introduction and courtship as described by the local newspaper is interesting. It stated that Police Constable Macfarlane first attracted the attention of his future wife by the manner in which he acquitted himself in stopping a runaway horse in the high road, Chiswick. A casual acquaintance soon sprang into fast friendship. The lady herself admits it was a case of love at first sight. But as soon as her friends became aware that a policeman was paying his addresses to her they tried by all means within their power to stop the acquaintance and even went to the length of reporting Macfarlane to the commissioner. The policeman, however, was not to be denied and the opposition, as in all true love affairs, defeated its object and brought the parties closer together, with the result of an early marriage. It must indeed have been a pleasant experience for Macfarlane, when out on a long tour of duty, as well as a source of amusement and profit to the Chiswick cabmen, to be followed on his beat, as it is said he was, by his sweetheart in a hansom laden with refreshments; or, if by chance she felt indisposed, the servant would, it is further stated, be sent on a similar errand. Both have now left Chiswick and intend, it is believed, to lead a retired life in the west of England. Mrs. Macfarlane, prior to her marriage, was Miss Kathleen Badham-Thornhill, and was born at Castleevan, near Mallow, County Cork, which for generations was the seat of the Thornhill family in the south of Ireland. She is highly accomplished and has a grace is highly accomplished and has a graceful figure and handsome features. What is, as some will think, more to the purpose, she has inherited a considerable fortune. Up to a few years ago she was a well known figure in Dublin society, never missing a state ball or concert. The Badham-Thornhills are a well known County Cork family.

## PILGRIMAGE OF CRYPTIC MASTERS OF COLORADO.

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Benny. "Did you see that fish jump right out of the water just now?"

Papa. "Yes."

Benny. "Well, what in the world did he jump off when he jumped?"—The Bazar.

"Teacher. "Now, children, Johnnie has spelled the word 'fur' correctly, and Jimmie may give the definition."

Jimmie. "Fur' ma'am, is a good ways to go."—The Bazar.

Johnny. "Aren't you my father's mother in-law?"

Mrs. Smith. "I am."

Johnny. "And then aren't you my grandmother in-law?"—The Bazar.

## Consumption of Wheat.

The consumption, per head, of wheat in this country was, last year, about 3.41 bushels.

## Much Baptized Baby.

A pauper woman in Paris has been convicted of having had her child baptized fourteen times as a Catholic and twelve times as a Protestant for the purpose of securing five francs and a dress each time.

## Princess of Wales's Cross.

The Princess of Wales possesses a cross which is supposed to always bring good luck to its owner. It was formerly the property of the King of Denmark, having been discovered years ago in the grave of the beautiful Queen Dagmar.

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