SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show That Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.

A WRECKING gang on the Delaware division of the Erie Railway were clearing up a wreck at Nobody's Block, not far from Cochecton, N. Y., when their attention was called to a curious, shrill, cooing sound which came at short and regular intervals from a cornfield directly across the Delaware River, in Wayne County, Pa. They made an investigation, and found that the sound emanated from the children of a German farmer, who had been stationed around his cornfield to scare away the crows from pulling up the young and tender shoots of corn. The farmer had been unusually well blessed with progeny, his wife having borne him no less than twelve children, including four pairs of twins. He had been yearly bothered with crows in corn-planting time. He had adopted all the scarecrow devices in common usage among farmers, such as placing stuffed straw men in the fields, stringing twine over poles with bits of white rags fluttering in the wind, etc., but the crows had become used to these things, and, crow-like, would post their sentinels on lofty tree-tops to give warning of danger while their companions were at work uncovering the hills. A happy thought struck the farmer by which he could protect his corn and utilize his several offspring. Arming two of them with old tinpans each day, he placed them in the field at four o'clock in the morning and told them to call out "Coo! coo!" and pound their pans whenever they saw any crows flying near. When the children became tired the father replaced them with two others, and thus by successive relays the crows were kept away. This process was repeated each day until the corn was of a size sufficient to protect itself. It was this strange noise, kept up all day long, from early morn till eve, that made the Erie wreckers marvel. It is said that this is the second year in which the Wayne county farmer has protected his cornfields with living scarecrows.

I WITNESSED a strange duel in Argentine, writes a correspondent. Two ranchers were enamored of the same dark-eyed senorita. Now, when your South American is hit by the blind archer, he is hit hard. He is not satisfied to visit his charmer one evening in the week and give up the rest of the time to his rivals. If he catches another admirer hanging about the house of his inamorata, there is apt to be trouble. The two sighing swains in question had agreed to settle by a duel with the lasso which should wed the damsel. A hundred piratical-looking cow punchers assembled to witness the fray. The rivals appeared on two nettlesome mustangs, each with a long powerful lariat of tough bull-hide. They were both experts with the lasso, and their horsemanship was a marvel. They approached to within forty or fifty yards of each other, then began to manœuvre for a deciding cast. After several feints the lariat of the younger of the rivals went whizzing through the air so swiftly that the eye could scarcely follow it. The other sank his spurs into his mustang. The animal shot forward just in time to save his master from the deadly noose, and as he did so, the second lasso rose into the air and settled round the shoulders of the man who missed, pinning his arms to his side as in a vise. He was jerked headlong out of his saddle. His successful rival drew him along, hand over hand, half-lifted him from the ground by the tenacious thong, and put a bullet squarely between his eyes. He then turned and rode directly to the hacienda, where lived the cause of this barbaric scene. She mounted behind him, and he came galloping back, swinging his sombrero.

LIGHTNING played a queer trick the other day out in Montana. A bolt fell on a farmer working in a field on his ranch near Augusta and besides killing him played havoc with the metal that he carried in his clothes. The current struck his silver watch, burned a hole through the edge near the case spring, and passed on entirely through the watch between the outer and inner cases, and made its exit near the stem. A match could be inserted in the hole. When the body was found the watch had stopped, but when it was taken from the pocket it started ticking again, and has been keeping excellent time since. The blades of the dead man's knife were welded together, and the brass ends were melted.

AMONG the strange things that strike the eye in Vancouver city is a boat-colony. It occupies a strip of beach back of the town on the salt-water "arm" or fjord, and consists of twenty or thirty little floats, few of them over forty feet long, that are built over and supplied with beds and cooking utensils. Some of them are occupied by laborers, but the best-appearing ones, that are put together with a good deal of art and are really handsome pieces of wood-working, are the homes of Japanese artisans. The scows float at high tide, but are moored to the shore. The strangeness of the scene is heightened by the tents of dirty Indians on a bluff just above the water.

ONE of the strangest superstitions of Chinamen is the awe with which they regard the cockroach. John holds the ugly black pest as something sacred, claiming that it is specially favored by the gods and a particular favorite of the great Joss. The most unfortunate mishap that can befall a Chinaman is to step on a cockroach. Instantly visions of terrible disasters and calamities arise before him. In some instances the superstition has been known to so prey on the minds of the Celestials as to drive them insane. As a result of this state of affairs, a Chinaman would as soon think of killing himself as of killing one of the insects.

NEBO, I. T., wails because Boyd's oil spring ceased to flow five weeks ago and still remains dry. The spring was about sixty miles northeast of Gainesville, Tex. It has been a resort for invalids since the first settlement of the country. The stream of water feeding the spring was not very trong, and at intervals of but a few minutes, a drop of oil would rise and float on the surface. During a period of twenty-four hours the surface of the water would become covered with oil. It was taken internally and applied externally for "all the ills that flesh is heir to."

A MOST remarkable discovery was made by some laborers employed on the farm of County Surveyor W. S. Gholson near Paducah, Ky. A poplar tree five feet in diameter was sawed down, and in the hollow of it, the remains of a human skeleton were found, in a perfect state of preservation. The tree, to all appearances, was perfectly sound, except about seven feet above the ground was a notch, as if the tree had once been chopped into, but the cavity had grown over. The placing of the skeleton in the tree is supposed to have been the work of Indians.

A CURIOUS operation has been reported to the French Societe d'Ophthalmolgie. A boy of thirteen, after an injury to his eyelid, had it so severely contracted that he could no longer close his eye. Accordingly an incision was made in the eyelid by M. Gillet de Grandmont, and tiny fragments of frog skin were inserted in a kind of checker work. It adhered perfectly, and the wound was completely healed over. After about five months the eyelid recovered its power of movement. A tiny transverse line across the lid is the only sign visible of the fragments borrowed from the frog.

"RATTLESNAKE PETE," of Oil City, Penn., as his name would indicate, is a man of somewhat grewsome tastes. He is now proudly wearing a double-breasted sack coat and a pair of trousers made of rattlesnake skins so arranged that the yellow and black stripes form a pleasing effect; that is, Pete thinks they do. It took him four years to gather the skins for this suit, and he had to kill 125 snakes to do it. The buttons of his coat are rattlesnake heads mounted with gold.

THE phenomenon of double consciousness, so skillfully used in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," is by no means uncommon. Many mysterious disappearances are by it accounted for in a manner wholly consistent with the innocence of the missing one, and even with his apparent sanity. A very singular recent case was that of a Western judge who went away from home while deranged from overwork and became a day laborer under another name.

A REMARKABLE character of Bernardston, Mass., is Arnold Scott, a blind letter carrier, sixty-seven years old, whose eyesight was lost forty-six years ago. He has a long route, which he traverses twice a day, and rarely makes a mistake in the delivery of letters. He walks confidently in summer, but the snow troubles him somewhat in winter. Mr. Scott's knowledge of the neighborhood is said to be perfect, and he has never been known to get lost.

TOM ROE, a truck farmer, of Waco, Tex., is not a prize fighter, but if he should run afoul of some of the supposed fighters they would not get off very easy. Several days ago his horse, that had been grazing in the field, became crazy and made a rush for Tom with open mouth, and would probably have seriously injured him had he not leaped aside and struck the horse on the neck with his fist, killing him instantly.

IT is said that an unmarried woman's chances of matrimony at from 15 to 20 years of age is 14½ per cent.; from 20 to 35, 52 per cent.; from 25 to 30, 18 per cent.; from 30 to 35, 15½ per cent.; from 35 to 40, 3¾ per cent.; from 40 to 45, 2½ per cent.; from 45 to 50, ⅝ per cent., and from 50 to 55, ¼ per cent. A widow's chances at any age are far better than those of a spinster.

MRS. MERCY JORDAN of Greene, R. I., has celebrated her ninety-third birthday by a family re-union, at which there were present her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren to the number of more than one hundred. She is the mother of thirteen children, of whom six survive, the oldest being seventy-three years old.

LIVE rattlesnakes are sold for $1 a snake by peddlers in the streets of southern California towns. Buyers are found among persons who want to tan the hides for various uses, and each buyer can kill his snakes in the manner that he regards most conducive to the preservation of the skins' colors.

A CERTAIN Mlle. Zelie, in the course of a tour around the world, gave a concert in the Society Islands. When she came to reckon up her share of the proceeds, this is what she found: Three pigs, twenty-three turkeys, forty-four chickens, 5,000 cocoanuts, besides considerable quantities of bananas, lemons and oranges.

PATRICK BRENNAN of Crawfordsville, Ind., received a fifty-cent shinplaster in payment of a debt of ten cents. He neglected to return the change. Recently he hunted up his old creditor and gave him forty cents, saying that the matter had so preyed upon his mind that he could stand it no longer.

Our Most Remarkable Plant.

The most remarkable plant found growing in the United States is that fragile and paradoxical wonder, the "snow plant" of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is known to the botanist as sarcodes sanguines, meaning "bloody or blooded flesh." Nothing in the giant line was ever more exquisitely beautiful than this rosy, snow-tinted botanical oddity, which has been likened to a crowned hyacinth.

It grows to a height of from eight to twenty inches, each separate bract, sepal and miniature bell being frosted as delicately as though done by the ice king himself. Although the whole translucent spike is flushed with rose and carmine, the petals are the richest and most brilliant parts of the flower, which is five-parted, each open bell plainly disclosing the little frosted stamens and pistils.

Floriculturists of the Pacific slope have made many unsuccessful attempts to cultivate the new plant, the bulbs being too brittle to stand transplanting and the seeds refusing to grow. Botanists once gave it as their opinion that the plant would not survive below the line of perpetual snow, but this idea has lately been proven erroneous. One thing is certain, however, it makes its early growth while covered with many feet of snow, blooming as soon as the icy covering is penetrated.—[Troy Press.

The Haidah Indians.

At Victoria, British Columbia, there are many Haidah Indians from the Queen Charlotte Islands who came down the Gulf of Georgia in canoes hewn from single cedar trees and capable of holding a hundred persons. The Haidah women, like the women of Alaska, wear pieces of bone or pearl stuck through their lower lips. They are clever workers, making ornaments of chased silver and baskets of birch fibre, woven closely enough to hold water. The Haidahs also carve polished columns of coal slate, soft when first cut, but hardening on exposure to the air. The figures are bears, crows, frogs, and lizards. They have a curious mythical bird called the thunder bird, which, when he flaps his wings, makes thunder, and when he winks his eye, lightning. They are great gamblers, using round polished sticks of yew, sometimes inlaid with bits of pearl. The sticks are shuffled under a covering of cedar bark, the gamblers crooning a low chant the while. They will gamble away all they possess and become so much absorbed that they sit through a whole day and night without food. As warm clothing they wear blankets woven of dog's hair. —[San Francisco Chronicle.

SWEEP THEM ASIDE.

"PROTECTIVE" TARIFFS, BOUNTIES, AND SUBSIDIES.

Object Lesson Furnished by the "Protected" Plate Glass Factories at Irwin, Pa. —Finance and Tariff Changes the Objects of the Administration.

Stop Government Paternalism.

Every honest, self-supporting man, like every honest, self-supporting industry, is a blessing to any community or country. No one will dispute this statement. But few also will dispute the alternative statement that every pauper industry is a curse to a community, to a country and to mankind.

Before our country got started in business on its own account, several of the Federal States, imitating the policy of the mother country, attempted to introduce and foster certain industries —mostly manufacturing ones—by levying duties on certain imports. Thus Pennsylvania in 1785 passed an act entitled "An act to encourage and protect manufactures of this State, by laying additional duties on the importation of certain manufactures which interfere with them."

This system of protection worked so poorly and was such a nuisance to trade between the States that all were glad to abolish it with the adoption of the Constitution in 1787. Immediately thereafter the manufacturers began to ask for national help for their struggling industries. Some attention was paid to their appeals, and the first tariff act gave slight protection to certain industries. Instead of making them self-reliant, this charity only made them clamorous for more assistance. Duties became higher and higher as the industries grew older, until the non-protected industries were forced to defend themselves from the hungry and ungrateful pauper industries. The noisy infants were weaned and were thriving on solid food when our civil war made it necessary to again put them on the bottle while they were being bled to provide a war revenue. The bleeding process lasted but a few years and the bottle should have been discarded long ago, but the sucklings—now mostly centenarians—not only refused to let go, but have demanded and obtained bigger bottles. Through their cries and screams they are informing us that they are incapable of existing on even the high tariff of 25 or 30 per cent., and they lay claim to permanent support on the ground that we, having so long fed them on pap and brought them to their present helpless state, must not now desert them. The woolen and glass manufacturers actually have the audacity to tell us that the assistance which we have given them has made them indigent, careless, and slovenly, so that they cannot exist on the same Government rations as might suffice a few years ago, thus confessing that they lied to us when asking for temporary help to make them stronger.

The effect of granting aid by means of Government bounties or subsidies is almost as great a curse as "protection." Our shipping industry never declined so rapidly as when we were trying to aid it by means of gratuities and to shield it from the severe competition of Europe's unassisted lines by prohibiting the importation of foreign-built ships. The continued use of both of these methods fails to wean back any considerable portion of the carrying trade of the world which was once ours, when our ships asked no aid from any quarter.

The bounties we are now giving to sugar producers are having the same weakening effect. It is for this reason that Governor Hogg, on behalf of the State of Texas, spurned the bounty to which Texas was entitled as a sugar producer. He knew the evils industrially and politically sure to flow from governmental "encouragement" to industries properly the subjects of private enterprise.

Paternalism as applied to the silver-producing industry is also beginning to manifest the same evils. The shameful contract which, for political purposes, the last administration made with the mine-owners, to take their silver at prices which are now twice the actual worth of this metal in all other markets, may have stimulated this industry for a long time and added a few more to our already long list of bounty-fed millionaires, but it will soon be clear that it has hurt the industry of extracting silver from our ores and that it has rendered almost helpless and homeless thousands of miners whom it has drawn from farms and shops.

All of these evils are the result of attempting what is impossible. Protection cannot become universal. When all industries are "protected" the benefit to each is more than annulled by the assessments necessary to aid all of the others. Protection may for a time stimulate a few industries, but it is always at the expense of the self-supporting industries. All industries cannot become paupers any more than all men can become paupers or pensioners. They must have others upon which to lean or they will be in the impossible position of leaning upon themselves.—Byron W. Holt.

Tariff Raised; Wages Lowered.

The Pennsylvania Plate Glass Company, at Irwin, Pa., made the generous proposition to their employes during the latter part of last week, that if they would accept a 10 per cent. reduction in wages the factory would not shut down but continue in operation the year round. A meeting of the employes was called at the works at which it was decided not to accept a reduction under any consideration. This, we think, was a proper move, as the plate worker is now the poorest paid of skilled mechanics in the country, and to ask a reduction in wages is simply adding insult to injury. The conceding of a reduction at Irwin would mean a reduction at all the other plate works, and would be placing the wages of the plate glass worker on a par with common labor. Any fair-minded man will admit that the wages paid the average plate glass worker to-day is not above actual living expenses, and a reduction could not be conceded without reducing him to want. It is rumored that this company is becoming dissatisfied with the central selling agency and may withdraw from that concern in the near future.

If this straw at Irwin is any indication of how the plate glass trust intends to make the wind blow after a two months' shut down, the plate glass workers of the United States had better all get together and resist, firmly and unitedly such contemplated reduction. There is neither sense, reason nor justice in any proposition to reduce the wages in this industry. The tariff was increased on certain small sizes in 1890, and since 1864 (or for 30 years past) there has not been a single reduction of the tariff, which has been uniformly kept at 141 per cent. on sizes of 24x60 and above. This protection has has been kept at this enormous figure ostensibly to protect the American plate glass worker against the cheap product of European labor.

If added to the present pauper wages paid the American worker is to receive now the "protection" of a further 10 per cent. reduction, the 12,000 toilers from whose labor the colossal plate glass works have been built, and millions in dividends have been squeezed, had better make up their minds to take a hand in practical politics themselves. —National Glass Budget, July 1.

Must Be Studied by All.

I wish to go over all the ground upon which protective tariffs are advocated or defended, to consider what effect the opposite policy of free trade would have, and to stop not until conclusions are reached of which we may feel absolutely sure.

To some it may seem too much to think that this can be done. For a century no question of public policy has been so widely and persistently debated as that of Protection vs. Free Trade. Yet it seems to-day as far as ever from settlement—so far, indeed, that many have come to deem it a question as to which no certain conclusions can be reached, and many more to regard it as too complex and abstruse to be understood by those who have not equipped themselves by long study.

This is, indeed, a hopeless view. We may safely leave many branches of knowledge to such as can devote themselves to special pursuits. We may safely accept what chemists tell us of chemistry, or astronomers of astronomy, or philologists of the development of language, or anatomists of our internal structure, for not only are there in such investigations no pecuniary temptations to warp the judgment; but the ordinary duties of men and citizens do not call for such special knowledge, and the great body of a people may entertain the crudest notions as to such things and yet lead happy and useful lives. Far different, however, is it with matters which relate to the production and distribution of wealth, and which thus directly affect the comfort and livelihood of men. The intelligence which can alone safely guide in these matters must be the intelligence of the masses, for as to such things it is the common opinion, and not the opinion of the learned few, that finds expression in legislation.

If the knowledge required for the proper ordering of public affairs be like the knowledge required for the prediction of an eclipse, the making of a chemical analysis, or the decipherment of a cuneiform inscription, or even like the knowledge required in any branch of art or handicraft, then the shortness of human life and the necessities of human existence must forever condemn the masses of men to ignorance of matters which directly affect their means of subsistence. If this be so, then popular government is hopeless, and, confronted on one side by the fact, to which all experience testifies, that a people can never safely trust to any portion of their number the making of regulations which affect their earnings, and on the other by the fact that the masses can never see for themselves the effect of such regulations, the only prospect before mankind is that the many must always be ruled and robbed by the few.—Henry George, in Protection or Free Trade.

"Free Trade Incendiary Torch."

It might be supposed that protection manufacturers and editors would some day learn that the people of this country can no longer be fooled by a pretended comparison of "protected" with unprotected countries, which stops when it has mentioned Great Britain and the United States. The Manufacturer (Philadelphia), of June 24, says: "The picture drawn by our correspondent in London of the great crowds of men assembling at Liverpool on the chance that they might be sent to Hull to get work on the docks there, at the time of the dockers' strike, shows what it must be here as soon as the free-trade incendiaries successfully apply to the fabric of our industries the torch of destruction which they have been brandishing."

Are there, then, no other countries on this big round earth? If there are, they must, of necessity, be protection or free trade countries. As a matter of fact there are a half dozen countries, all in Europe, which for age, degree of civilization and natural opportunities are far better adapted for comparison with each other than with any newer or bigger country. These countries are Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Turkey. Each of these countries has at some period been master of Europe, and held the ascendency in commerce. Until near the middle of the present century it was not certain which of the first three countries would take the lead in manufactures, commerce, and trade. The free-trade incendiary torch was first applied to England's industries. Instead of destroying, it fired them with new life and energy. England chose freedom and light, and the growth of her industries is without parallel on the Eastern continent. She is supreme in commerce. She is overflowing with wealth, and loans capital to the rest of the world. She pays higher wages than is paid by any of her old country rivals, and yet undersells them all. She is the only country of the old world to which emigrants turn with a hope of bettering their financial conditions. The other countries mentioned chose restrictions of commerce, and are still wandering in darkness and misery. Italy and Spain, with most restrictions, have sunk almost out of sight in the commercial world. France and Germany are losing step with the march of progress, and must soon fall out of line if they do not imitate the example of Great Britain. The idleness in London is partly due to the congestion there of the miserable wretches who have been squeezed out of continental Europe by commercial bandages which decrease earnings and increase the cost of living.

The Platform Not Forgotten.

If there are persons who believe the silly stories now going the round of the Republican press, charging that President Cleveland and the other Democratic leaders have abandoned all idea of making any radical changes in the tariff at the coming session of Congress, they had better begin to prepare themselves for a great disappointment. There has been no change in the program mapped out by the Democratic leaders before Mr. Cleveland was inaugurated, except that caused by the financial stringency throughout the country, which has given financial reform the first place on the program, but has by no means displaced tariff reform. Ever since President Cleveland's election he has been discussing these two reforms with every man he met who might be supposed to have practical and valuable opinions upon either, and he has lost no opportunity to obtain suggestions from those whose practical experience or special studies have made them tariff experts. A perfect tariff bill has never been prepared and probably never will be, but unless present indications are all wrong the tariff bill to be prepared this winter will be nearer perfection, from the standpoint of the Chicago platform, than any of its predecessors, and that it will be a radical change from the McKinley law is as certain as that Congress will meet. —Saturday Budget.

DURABLE shoes for men are now made of pigskin.

WORN BY THE WOMEN

SOME OF THE VERY LATEST IDEAS IN DRESS.

A Black China Silk Gown Is One of the Most Serviceable—A Tasteful Summer Walking Dress—Simple Attire for the House, Etc.

Gotham Fashion Gossip.

New York correspondence:

HAVE you ever considered that of all the gowns ever made the one from which you can get the most wear for the longest while and for the greatest number of occasions is a little black China silk. The silk must be of the very best quality. Such comes as wide as wool, is of close texture, smooth, glossy surface, and washes like linen. The gown must be made all in one, both skirt and bodice being shirred to a good wide belt. The width of the belt extends above the waist line, so that the general effect of the gown is short-waisted. The bodice opens in front, so does the skirt, and what a comfort it is not to have to bother about a placket hole. Make the belt extra big around, and double so as to accommodate a drawing ribbon. The bodice is full and has a sort of surplice front; that is, the collar crosses over and fastens at the side, and carries some of the fullness of the bodice with it, making it double-breasted at the top, though not at the belt line. In this way the bodice fastens securely in a jiffy. The collar is a choker, snug and trim-looking. The sleeves are literally enormous. Just as many yards as you can spare and make stay in the armhole should be used to form great unstiffened bishop sleeves that go into a smooth tight cuff coming to the elbow. Of course, this fullness must be arranged with some plan, letting most of it come at the outside of the arm. The skirt clears the ground. There is no danger, you see, of its drooping in the back, of its showing the belt, or of doing any of those aggravating things that the usual round skirt does. It may have a deep ruffle of lace about the bottom, if you think it is not already as pretty as it can be, or, what is more practical, a deep ruffle of the silk, not too full, because the skirt is shirred. Such a gown seems to do for all times and places. It is cool and pretty. It may go on over anything. It may be worn with a hat outdoors. It will go into the tub, and come out almost as good as new. It will last forever. A stiff skirt under it makes it flare and even if it does not flare it looks all right. The cost is not great, its life is long, and as it is good as new each year it is very economical.

FOR HOME AND JOURNEYING.

Coming to the first model set before you by the artist, that of the initial picture, there is seen a tasteful summer walking dress. It is made of pale blue and white striped crepon, and trimmed with white lace and pale blue satin ribbon. The skirt escapes the ground and is about three and a-half yards wide. It is trimmed with three rows of crepon ruching, is laid in a few pleats in front and gathered to the skirt band in the back. The waist fastens in the center. The front and back are taken rather loose, and in the front is a yoke of alternating rows of one and a half inch satin ribbon and lace insertion. This is finished with a frill of white lace nine inches wide, gathered to the yoke in the front and the ends then carried around under the arms up to the shoulder seams, making a kind of reversed Figaro jacket. The belt of satin ribbon ties with long bows and ends at the left side. The sleeve has a short puff and is finished at the wrist with a lace frill headed by a crepon ruching. The standing collar is covered with lace.

AMID THE BLOSSOMS.

The next sketch was taken as a hostess parted with her guest, and shows the former in a house gown of cheerful coloring and the latter garbed in serviceable and stylish traveling attire. The material used for the indoor dress is pink woolen crepe trimmed with lettuce-green satin ribbon and lace. The gown is open all the way down in front and is finished around the bottom with a pink ruffle about six inches wide. The waist has silk lining. There is a square yoke of embroidered tulle with an insertion of very fine lace laid over green ribbon. At the waist it is shirred four times in groups of two rows each and ornamented with four ribbon bows. The cuffs of the sleeves are also covered with embroidered tulle and garnished with a lace frill and bows; at the top is a large puff. The standing collar is green ribbon covered with lace. The gown hooks from top to bottom in the front. The second costume follows current modes closely, and is more elaborate than usual traveling dress. Its fabric is made colored rough diagonal, trimmed with cloth in the same shade. The skirt is composed of three parts, each one finished with a band of cloth, over an alpaca lining. With the suit is worn a sleeveless vest made of red and striped woolen pique and high at the neck. The front may be buttoned on as shown, in case a variety is wished, and the remainder is made of satin, each side having two pockets and hooking in the center beneath the plastron or vest of pique. The top of the satin lining near the neck is covered with brown silk and a brown silk tie is worn. The toilet is completed by a short jacket having revers and turned-down collar faced with cloth. The jacket is cut off at the waist in the front and the back and the points adorned with two buttons. The balloon sleeves are ornamented with two strips of cloth.

SIMPLE HOUSE DRESS.

At mention of gardening one's thoughts would more naturally turn to some old dress and coarse protecting apron than to the stylish gown of the third picture, but it, nevertheless, is intended for wear amid the flower beds, in company with the trowel and watering pot. Its material is sand-colored woolen suiting, trimmed with white or palest pink faille. The skirt is very wide around the bottom, but snug over the hips. It is gathered in the back, lined with satin, and has a thirty-inch strip of muslin as stiffening, but no trimming whatever. The bodice has loose fronts faced with silk and a vest of faille fastening beneath the box-pleat adorned with gold buttons. The back is plain with pointed plastron of the faille. In front is a belt fastening with a bow of ribbon. The bodice is trimmed with full festooned bretelles, narrow in front and back, but wide over the shoulders.

Here is a coming new trick in veils which is worth mentioning, and which you can adopt safely if it seems attractive. Make your veil carefully to fit the hat. Both ends are finished with rosettes which fasten at the back of the hat. From the rosette to the right a long scarf of the veil is attached. This either floats in the breeze, winds about your throat, falls over your shoulder, or you can hold it in your hand. Use the width of the goods for the width of the veil. The selvage of such goods is usually delicate and pretty. You can run very narrow real lace on the edge or you may finish it with the tiniest little bows of very narrow ribbon. The upper edge of the veil may be turned in a dainty hand-made hem, and ribbon inserted, by which the fullness is arranged. The ribbon comes out in two ends at the middle point of the upper edge, there to tie and make the veil as tight as you like; or it can only pretend to tie there, and the little bow can be just a make-believe. All this takes time and trouble, but the effect is charming, and it cannot be bought as yet. The one I saw had not even been worn, and it was an exclusive importation. Now is a chance for you to be among the very first to obtain this pretty device.

A WELL-DRESSED CALLER.

The fourth picture presents a pretty and simple house dress in a moss green crepe strewn with a figuring of tiny black flowers. It is made princess, perfectly plain and is lined with satin. All the seams in the skirt are biased and the dress hooks in the back. Its sole trimming consists of a draped fichu collar arranged in folds and caught up here and there. The right end is short but the left hangs down for some distance, being held in place at the waist with fancy pins. The collar is arranged in pleats fastened with jet straps having a long jet fringe.

The material employed in the calling dress of the last illustration is black and red changeable silk, set off with black velvet and black lace. The bell skirt is lined with silk or satin and is stiffened throughout with muslin; around the bottom there is a very full ruffle of silk edged with velvet and attached to the skirt with two rows of gathers. At the back the fullness is arranged in two deep pleats. The round waist goes inside the skirt and has no seams save those under the arms, although the fronts may have darts if necessary. Each front must be cut considerably wider than the lining to allow for the yoke-like shirring at the neck; the stuff is then drawn to the waist line and laid in tiny pleats. The back is treated in the same way, save that there is no shirring. The sleeves are finished at the wrist with a band of velvet, and the belt and standing collar are of the same velvet. The waist is garnished with a full jabot of black lace.

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THE soundness of a beam or log can be accurately determined by the sense of hearing alone. The ear should be applied to one end of the beam, while the other is struck with a hammer. If the sound is clear, distinct, and sharp, the beam is sound in every part; if dull or muffled, decay has set in somewhere in the interior.

POPULAR SCIENCE NOTES.

A PORTABLE ELECTRIC FAN.—The electric fan has come to be such an indispensable element of comfort, if not of existence, during the summer months that new and improved forms are constantly making their appearance. One of these adds the very decided recommendation of economy to that of efficiency. Its first cost, with battery complete, is small, and the cost of operating it afterward is put at two and three-quarter cents an hour. It is claimed that the battery will last ten weeks without renewal at one hour's work daily, or ten days at a steady operation of seven and a half hours per diem. It is designed to be suitable for the parlor or dining table, being both ornamental and noiseless. It will not drop grease on the tablecloth or carpets, for its bearings are self-oiling and carry on their own lubrication without loss of the lubricant. The whole outfit packs up in a small box, and can be carried without inconvenience.

ELECTRIC CAR HEATING.—Said a lecturer in Chicago recently: The electric railway opened up the field for electric heating. Reports from roads operating in Northern Michigan and in other portions of the United States and Canada, where the winters are unusually cold, show that from 1,200 to 1,500 watts is sufficient current to keep the average sixteen-foot car warm in all kinds of weather. It will be seen that, inasmuch as the heaters require no attention whatever, and are practically a fixture of the car, the cost of maintaining and operating on the average electric road will be simply the cost of current. Coal stoves take from twenty to forty cents per day to operate, if the least account is taken of time used to keep them in heating condition. The coal stove also takes up room for one or more passengers while it remains in the car, which, on a road doing a good business, is a very important item. Coal stoves, too, on cold days, when being heated unusually warm, become so hot that it is often impossible to stand immediately in front of the stove without burning the clothing of the person standing near. The electric heaters, being placed under the seats out of the way and furnishing a lower temperature, cannot be objected to on this score, and being entirely out of the way of passengers and taking up no space in the car which can be utilized to bring in a dividend, often saves in a day more than the entire cost of the current furnished them for the day's run. There are many times in the spring and fall when the mornings and evenings are cool and the middle of the day warm, when a heated car for a few hours each day would add greatly to the comfort of passengers. With coal stoves this is often impossible, unless the car can be taken out of service long enough to have a fire rebuilt in the stove.

CURVATURE OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE.—Generally speaking, we say that the curvature of the earth amounts to about seven inches to the statute mile; it is exactly 6.99 inches or 7.962 inches for a geographical mile. The effect of the known curvature of our globe may be illustrated in the following manner: Take down your globe, place a book, pane of glass or even a ruler against it, either of the two objects first named being best adapted to such an experiment. You will observe instantly that the book, pane or ruler only touches the miniature representation of the earth at one point, the globe's surface falling away in all directions from the point of contact.

Now, suppose the ocean's surface was calm and frozen and a sheet of glass many miles square laid upon it. At one mile from the place of contact the glass would stand out nearly eight inches (this measurement upon the ocean, the mile is a nautical one)—in fact, will lack but 38-1000 of an inch of being eight inches from the pane; at three miles it will be six feet and at nine miles fifty-four feet, and so on according to the regular ratio. In order to get the whole matter in a nutshell remember that the number of feet of depression is equal to two-thirds of the square of the number of miles for any observable distance. There is, however, an error resulting from refraction which must be cancelled. The commonly used formula for correction is as follows: square the number of miles and take four-sevenths of it for the correction in feet. Thus, if an object is visible at a distance of five miles we may know that its height is at least 14⅓ feet. Or, if the height of a visible object is known—say 100 feet—take one-fourth of that number, or 25, multiply by seven and take the square root of the product and you will have the distance of the object, which is in this case a fraction over 13 miles. A man swimming in the ocean may see a tower 19 miles away, even though it only be 200 feet high, but now elevate that man 100 feet above the surface of the water and he could plainly see a tower only 100 feet high, even though it be 26 miles away.

Fish in Boiling Water.

One of the most remarkable discoveries in the shape of a peculiar species of fish ever made on this continent was that made in Virginia, Nev., in 1876. At that time both the Hale & Norcross and the Savage mines were down to what is known as the 2200-foot level. When at that depth a subterranean lake of boiling water was tapped. The accident flooded both mines to the depth of 400 feet. After the water had all been pumped out except that which had gathered in basins and in the inaccessible portions of the works, and when the water still had a temperature of 128 degrees—nearly scalding hot—many queer-looking little blood-red fish were taken out. In appearance they resembled goldfish.

They seemed lively and sportive enough when they were in their native element—boiling water—notwithstanding the fact that they did not even have rudimentary eyes. When the fish were taken out of the hot water and put into buckets of cold water for the purpose of being transported to the surface, they died as quickly as a perch or bass would if plunged into a kettle of water that was scalding hot; not only this, but the skin peeled off exactly as if they had been boiled.—[Evening Wisconsin.

It Rained Dollars.

A good many people have a vivid recollection of a cyclone which about seven years ago tore through this country, entering this State from above Pendleton, passing Williamston and jumping over Greenville City. Soon after the passage of this unwelcome visitor somebody found in its track on the place of W. H. Merritt, Busby Creek Township, Anderson County, a Spanish silver "Rex" dollar of the reign of Charles IV. The coin had evidently been dropped along with other miscellaneous fragments and wreckage by the cyclone. A few days ago another coin of the same kind was found on the same place. Dr. T. E. James brought it to the city. It is in good condition, bright, sound and clear of rust, and is dated 1725, with "Carolus IIII. Rex" on the margin.—[Greenville (S. C.) News.