

Downers Grove Reporter.

By WHITE & WILLIAMS.

DOWNS GROVE, ILLINOIS.

Kansas also promises 400,000,000 bushels of corn.

China gets even with Japan by sending cholera with the troops as they return to their homes.

Female bandits are terrorizing Oklahoma. The new woman really must learn to restrain herself!

An English paper estimates the population of hell at 200,000,000. The editor could find a good job as a census statistician in Chicago.

The immense corn crops of the United States and the increased foreign demand are among the encouraging signs of the times.

Several Chicago livermen are quietly working off their stock of horses and substituting bicycles. They have more calls for bikes than they do for nags.

A colored man in Champaign, Ill., has sued a colored barber of that town because he refused to shave him on account of his coal-black skin. Next!

When the Mora claim is paid it is reported that the lawyers will get the big end of the pie. It is easier to believe this than reports of Spanish victories in Cuba.

A Wichita man drowned himself because his wife scolded him. It may be necessary for the new woman to reprove her husband, but she should do it gently and kindly.

Clarkson Palmer, aged 12, of Plainfield, N. J., tried to open a dynamite cartridge with a hairpin. It is hardly worth while to add that Clarkson will never attempt it again.

The white people of Jackson's Hole were not massacred, but several Indians were. If the authorities do not make diligent efforts to arrest the murderers they will do scant justice.

Senator Blackburn has just declared that "he never did apologize for having been in the Confederate army, and he never will." Is there any one who cares whether he does or not?

Mrs. Clara McGill was married to Mr. Edward McGill in New York a few months ago in fine style. After a short season of housekeeping she concluded that Edward was not the man for her after all. So she skipped out to Perry, Okla., got a divorce, and is now on her way back with it. She says Perry is the place where they come real easy.

An Allegheny clergyman thinks he has found a scriptural arraignment of the bloomer costume in the text from Deuteronomy, which reads: "There shall not be the garment of a man upon a woman, and a man shall not wear the garment of a woman, for an abomination to Jehovah thy God is every one doing these things." There is nothing in this contention, for bloomers were never worn by men.

After all, would bull fights in Georgia be any worse than man fights in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas? Louisville Times. They would. When your Corbets and Fitzsimmons fight, they do it voluntarily. In a bull fight the brutes on one side are at the mercy of the brutes on the other side, by whom they are tortured and slaughtered. Atlanta cannot afford to discredit her exposition with such atrocities.

Platt B. Walker and W. H. Ellis, two Minneapolis gentlemen, while making a tour through northern Iowa on wheels, rode up to a big tavern at Spirit Lake, hitched their bicycles out in front and went in to dinner. At the dining-room door they were met by the proprietor, who politely informed the wheelmen that they would not be allowed in the room with bicycle suits on. Walker and Ellis thought at first that the hotel man was joking, but when they discovered that he wasn't they got dinner elsewhere and then started damage suits. We will soon know which kind the landlord likes best.

In all the rejoicing and general prosperity the poor coal miner is left out of the calculation. He is a thing apart. There is none of the good times for him. Wages have been advanced in the mills and factories, for the builders and fishers, but the coal miner is ground beneath the heavy millstone and the company store. The best that is offered to him is abolition of the store swindle in return for a further reduction in his wages, and he is rather glad to accept that. A few operators have abolished their company stores—all honor to them—and are dealing honestly with their workmen in the matter of weights and settlements. It is a good time for others to follow a good example.

Army bicycles in France are now being manufactured of leather. They are reported as lighter, not so easily injured, and more easily repaired. A horseman with a drawn sword after the rider of a disabled bicycle is not pleasant.

The governor of Texas has read the law and the law to prize fighters, and the Corbett-Fitzsimmons crowd are right along making great preparations for the fight. The chances are that there will be a lively time in

HE SAW SNAKES.

They Were Real Ones, but He Signed the Pledge.

A good story is told about Major Barlow of Georgia. This gentleman's exciting war reminiscences, together with his ability to absorb the product of the "still" without apparent injury to his constitution or impediment to his locomotion, earned him fame and great prestige among the convivial spirits in his native town. The major, while superintending the cultivation of his tobacco crop, one day found six pretty round eggs, and so greatly pleased was he at their beautiful appearance that he picked them up, and carefully wrapping them in his handkerchief stowed them away in his pocket, intending to take them home as playthings for his grandchildren.

He forgot all about them, however, and indeed for several days thereafter the eggs remained undisturbed. In the meanwhile, assisted by the warmth of the surroundings, nature had wrought a change—the eggs were no longer eggs, but so many animate creatures destined to give the unconscious owner of their birthplace such a shock as he had never experienced since the hour of his first battle. It happened thus: One evening the major was entertaining a group of his admiring friends with a most exciting chapter from his experience on the tented field, when in the course of his narrative he paused, drew out his "kerchief" to wipe his face, and lo! six very lively little snakes wiggled down the front of his waistcoat and onto the table at which he sat. The major's face was a study for the camera; his eyes bulged out till they appeared twice their natural size, his mouth became a cavern, and his complexion changed from a brick red to a leaden hue. He remained transfixed for the space of twenty seconds, then with a yell that could be heard half over the village he fled into the night.

Rumor has it that he signed the pledge before morning, but the rumor has no foundation in fact.

A COLORED ARISTOCRACY.

Negroes Preparing to Establish a Caste Line in Alabama.

The ex-slaves of Alabama are preparing to organize an association to which none of the late-day negroes will be admitted. After the association has been organized it is intended to have state associations, and then take in all the old-time negroes of the slave-holding states.

And why not, pray? These ex-slaves "belonged" to the best families of the south, and they base their claims to social superiority upon their aristocratic connections before the war. In good breeding and imposing bearing it would be hard to find their equals among the best educated of what they sometimes contemptuously call "the late-day negroes." Many of them enjoyed social advantages of the highest order. The old house servants had constantly before their eyes some of the best types of ladies and gentlemen to be found in the world. They studied the manners of their masters and mistresses, imitated their style of conversation, and insensibly modeled themselves in all particulars after the fine examples before them. Many years of freedom have not impaired their good breeding nor their pride in the social school in which they were brought up. They feel that they belong to a socially distinguished class, that they have a past worth cherishing and preserving, and that they have a right to be exclusive. Why should they not found a society of their own, based on their social traditions? Possibly, if they were to investigate the subject closely they would be able to discover many deeds of merit and courage performed by their ancestors in colonial and revolutionary times which would entitle them to form revolutionary and colonial societies. At present they only propose to go back to the general period in time designated by the phrase "before the war." The colonial and revolutionary pedigree may and probably will come later.

CURRENT FASHIONS.

Wide box-plaited and deeply kilted skirts are coming in.

Soft sheer mull and Persian lawn are among the most popular of summer fabrics.

A conspicuous feature of millinery is the immense display of abnormally wide ribbons.

Queen Marguerite will never wear the same gloves or stockings twice, and all her gowns are made in Paris.

Parisians are now wearing redingote gowns, opening over tablier fronts, in imitation of those worn in the Marie Antoinette period.

Cheek pads for improving the contour of the face cost \$30 a pair in London. They are made of corallite and have to be molded with great care.

Handsome English mohairs have been greatly used in the formation of stylish, durable and ladylike traveling costumes for journeys by land and sea.

Melton cloth of the finest quality is used by the fashionable tailors instead of covert suitings for costumes and jackets for cool days at the seaside or in the mountains.

Capes to match the gown are a feature of some of the new costumes, especially those for traveling, when the cape is made with a large, serviceable hood, lined with fancy taffeta silk.

Shirts made of soft satin, in various Paisley patterns, bid fair to out rival most of the other designs this season, and are prettily finished at the throats with a turn-down collar and two studs.

A wise dressmaker tells her customers that what they wear is of little importance compared to the way they wear it. A washerwoman's frock and a regal air make a much finer combination than a regal frock and a washerwoman's air.

Hoodies just now are being worn full of all kinds of light materials, gathered close-fitting foundations of colored silks, which gleam through, giving that adolescent appearance so prevalent through this season's dresses.

NOTES OF THE MODES.

CURRENT GOSSIP OF FASHION CENTERS.

New Partners in Millinery—Hats for Out Door Sports—Godet Skirt Still Rules—A New Definition of Rosette—The Household.



NEW companionship to gain the name "set" has hat and ruche in partnership. A charming affair is a brimless round toque that sets a little at one side of the head. About the edge, against the hair, great soft open roses are put close together. Back of the roses is a row of ostrich tips that curves gracefully to the top of the low crown. On the very edge of the top of the crown, a little at one side of the front, a pair of stiffened gauze loops are put, and at the back there are four or five pointed ends. A pair of the ostrich tips turn down against the hair at either side of the back. The ruche to go with this is of the ostrich tips, with a tie of gauze ribbons to hold a bunch of long-stemmed loose roses, that are so natural that they might as well be put in the ground at once to grow a beautiful crop of milliners' flowers for winter use. When not accompanied by ruches bonnets seem to turn to fancifulness, and oddities abound. One is sketched here, a bonnet that consists of a narrow straw band, trimmed with a large peasant bow of mousseline de sole and two jet wings, with a fancy bird's head and aigrette rising from the center.

Godet Skirt Still Rules.

Women generally are greatly pleased with the godet skirt, which has become so widely accepted that some of its stiff plaits are included in the new designs that are offered in the hope that they will eventually supplant it. If proof were needed that the godet skirt is highly popular, it would be plentiful from the fact that new skirt designs are but slight alterations of the godet, showing that the designers do not dare to attempt a complete change. One of



SOME LATE SUMMER STYLES.

the prettiest of the new skirts is presented in this sketch, and it is also one of the most difficult to cut. It is so like the currently accepted shape that it will meet the severest good taste, and that it is seen only in the choicest gowns will be a further recommendation to some. It is slashed in five places; one at either side of the front, one at each side, and one in the middle of the back. Fan plaits escape at each slash, the edges of the fan heading carefully into the slashed material. The entire skirt may be of one material and one color, or, if preferred, the fan plait may be of color or material to make it harmonize with the bodice for which the skirt is planned. As a means toward a clever make-over, it is admirable. Think how successfully the older skirt, the one a little narrow, for instance, can be adjusted by these merciful slashes to the required width, and



how charmingly a second material, to be repeated in the bodice, can form the fans. For the woman who is so situated that she must strive to make her own dresses, it is a good rule to avoid cutting new cloth, if possible, but when it comes to the combination of two or three scant gowns into a single fashionable one, then take advantage of all these privileges, slitting and setting in. In the original of this illustration the materials were lady's cloth, in dark tan for the skirt, and a very light tan for the fan plait. The latter gives the jacket bodice and is therein embroidered with dark tan silk braid. The huge revers and turned-down collar are untripped, save for a cut-steel button on each revers, and the vest is of white silk with a high collar and lace drapery at the waist.

Evening Shoes.

Among the immense variety of evening shoes, jeweled embroidery plays a prominent part in the scheme of ornamentation—one pair of high-heeled, white kid slippers thickly embroidered in gold thread being covered with amethystine cabochons; another with turquoise flowerets, while a court shoe has a butterfly delicately traced in gold on the toe, its wings studded with ruby pangles. The butterfly design is repeated in different colorings on several pairs of low patent leather Queen Anne shoes, and most effective it is.

A New Definition of Rosette.

If there is reason for complaint now and then on the part of the folks who consider themselves authorities over the change of accepted meaning in certain words, what should the woman say who means to be up in fashion's terms? For it isn't slowly-established custom that does the mischief in the vocabulary of styles, but some freakish whim of uncertain source, which upsets all ideas of what a term should stand for. Take the word rosette, for example. Who does not know what it means? Few according to this summer's definition, for this is what constitutes a rosette: A collar-high band of satin in ivory white is covered with jetted net, edged top and bottom with jet jewels. A pair of



fully elaborate contrivance, but ordinary bows are still at a premium and are as ornamental as ever. Four of them, of Dresden ribbon, set off the rosettes of jetted crisp net in at the sides, and a pair of tabs of the gauze-covered satin hang from the collar to the bust line. Their edges touch at the collar, and they separate a little as they hang. At the lower edge is set a gathering of the jetted gauze, with jet jewel edge. Such an affair is worn with any black or white gown, and is called a "rosette" by those who ought to know, so don't think of giving it any other name. Even the innocent word "bow" is made to comprehend some wonder-

FASHION NOTES.

The plaited and rosetted collars of chiffon are still to be seen; in fact, the lavish use of this material bids fair to last all through the summer.

The fulness in gigot sleeves is disposed in gathers or plaits at the shoulders, the distended effect being attained equally well by both modes of adjustment.

Sleeves for plain dresses are always worn long, sometimes too long. Some end in the form of the mouth of a blunderbuss or of a flute, and are most unbecoming.

In a charming blouse waist the pouch falls from a pointed yoke, and the close back is relieved by a box plait. Box plaits are just now conspicuous attributes of blouses.

The full sleeve should have the lining cut of the same size to insure them to lay in artistic folds. Inexperienced dressmakers do not realize what a difference this will make to the fit and correct drape of the sleeves.

The demand for shirt waists exceeds that of any other season on record, and they are made in a greater variety of materials than ever before, the latest of which is dimity, made up with white linen collars and cuffs.

Another whim of fashion which amounts to a craze is the large collar of lawn, batiste, lace, chiffon and embroidery, which is displayed in such a diversity of styles in the shops and worn over every imaginable sort of gown in the street.

Some of the overcoats worn are very unbecoming. They are a kind of a sac paletot and are quite straight and almost reaching the knees, thus resembling a sort of floating camisole. The sleeves are very large, very long and tight at the wrist.

The new plain and figured mohairs are gaining favor very rapidly. They are very silky in appearance, light in weight and do not hold the dust. The new alpaca most approved of fashion are a widely-meshed material, peculiarly glossy, but almost rough in finish.

White pique is worn for young girls' mourning, and even for a young married woman when the mourning is not deep. The white pique used for mourning should be trimmed with black. Black mousseline de sole frilled very fine should be used to trim the neck, flaps and waist, and produces a very pretty effect.

As if following the lead of fans, which are now made in empire style, covered all over with spangles, looking quite as picturesque as ever a grandmother fan could, evening head-dresses follow the picturesque empire styles. On top of the head at the end of the part stands a big bow, with a regular wheel of wide-spreading ends and loops. From under this bow falls a jabot of lace down each side of the head, over the ears and to the shoulders, and lace covers the back of the hair, too. The whole effect is quaint and generally becoming.

Evening Head Dress.

For hat trimmings tulips and other large petalled flowers are made of lace, flowers being cut in many cases from rich lace patterns that are wired and bent into shape. The effect is charmingly dainty on rich hats, but the lover of lace shudders at the despoliation of the lace just as many women shrink from the whole birds for trimming. Another new use of lace finds it stiffened by loops of wire, gathered into upstanding bunches and placed on hats as in aigrette fashion.

The Montrose Pearls.

By the will of the late Caroline, Duchess of Montrose, the amount realized by the gem of her casket of jewels—the wonderful necklace of over three hundred pearls—is to be devoted to the relief of the East End poor. As the necklace realized no less than 11,500 pounds, I hope the money will be wisely expended. One could do a great deal of good with 11,500 pounds, but one could also do a great deal of harm with such a sum, and create quite a small army of paupers with it.

For Impromptu Garden Party.

For the impromptu masque or garden party a Dolly Varden panier dress of brightly flowered cretonne is easily made, and completed as to picturesque-ness by any big straw hat bent into poke bonnet shape and trimmed in a whirlwind of feathers and roses. An old-fashioned fan, mits to the elbow, and little black slippers strapped with black over the white lisle thread insteps are desirable accessories.

Women Not Called "Professors."

While Smith College has both men and women as members of the faculty it does not confer the well-earned dignity of the professional title upon the latter, even when they fill positions as heads of departments in every respect as responsible and onerous as those held by the other sex. There were 746 students enrolled last year with a teaching force of only 38, nearly two-thirds of whom were women, but not professors.

Out-Door Hats.

For hats to be worn in outdoor sports the general rule is to have them of the dress goods or something that is distinctly harmonious with it. For golf, the crown is usually soft and the brim stitched many rows around. Hats are made in this same style of very soft milan straw, with the brim a little curled, and just at one side of the front a rosette holds a bunch of stiff cock plumes. Cycling hats have tam o' shanter crowns with a narrow flexible brim that is often cleft just at the front. Near the front a ribbon holds a bunch of quills set at a jaunty angle. So-called steamer hats, which are also used for any long journey and for the mountains, are a soft felt in alpine shape. A bow of gros grain in front holds a bunch of quills.

A Visiting Dress.

An elegant visiting dress is made of gray cloth, with a band of passementerie at the edge of the hem. The waist is of very dark blue perforated cloth, through which the color of the skirt material shows. The sleeves are of blue cloth matching the perforated fabric, the tops of them being plain and the long cuffs of the low-cut material. Passementerie collar and epaulets match the trimming on the skirt.

METER CANNOT LIE.

A NICKEL-IN-THE SLOT AFFAIR NOW IN USE.

A Coin Turns on Your Gas and the Dial Tells You When Your Money's Worth Has All Been Consumed—Gives Satisfaction Wherever Used.



AS turned on by the nickel-in-the-slot system is an innovation from England that has been adopted by the Consolidated Gas Company, of New York City, and the "prepayment meter," so-called, may in time succeed the present method of measuring gas as consumed in small households. In London a dozen rival machines are in vogue. The most popular ones are the "penny slots." A coin of this value is dropped into a small opening and gaslight is furnished for an hour or so. This class of meter is very popular among the poorer people, many of whom use gas only on state occasions. The penny gas machines are also very popular with single gentlemen of limited means, who live in lodgings, says New York World. The prepayment meters introduced in New York are not of the penny pattern. A silver quarter is the coin required to release the illuminating fluid. The mechanism is simple, yet delicate. The size of the coin, not its weight, is what releases the machinery. For twenty-five cents 200 feet of gas is secured, which is at the regular rate of \$1.25 per 1,000. The gas need not be used continuously. A special indicator on the face of the dial, which is supposed to show how much gas goes through the meter, moves out to the 200-foot mark as soon as the coin is deposited. As the gas is used, this indicator returns to the zero point. Meters of this class are placed in the consumer's room or flat, so that the number of feet still to be burned may be seen at a glance at the dial. The machine is so arranged that two, three or four quarters may be placed in the slot, and thus 400, 600 or 1,000 feet of gas purchased. The meter will register and give credit for 200 feet of gas every time a coin of the proper dimension is placed in the receiver.

Treasurer Doane, of the gas company, believes that the prepayment meter will become as popular in the large cities of America as it is London, especially among the people with whom gaslight is a luxury. Take a family of hard working people in which there are young ladies who have company on Sunday. Candles or kerosene are all right during the week days, but gaslight on such an occasion is necessary to "give the house a tone." As 25 cents will light the parlor for several evenings it will readily be seen that meters will find their way into thousands of households which, under the prevailing system of making a deposit, and meeting a monthly bill, would never have use for them.

Many people believe that the every-day gas meter continues to register right along whether gas is being burned or not. This could not happen with the new quarter-in-the-slot meter, as the consumption is hourly under the consumer's eye.

Mr. Doane said to a World reporter that the matter of the value of the coin to be used in New York was seriously considered for several months before the quarter was adopted. The cost of collection, as the meters must be visited at stated intervals by employees of the company, is as great for nickels or dimes as for quarters, and this one fact determined the question. Should there appear in the future a demand for a smaller system of payment, there are a number of meters in the market to choose from.

Less than 300 of the slot meters are in use in the city at present, owing to the fact that no special effort has been made to push them. They have proved so satisfactory, however, both to consumer and producer that their general use by all small concerns, will be urged in the future, but not insisted upon. A quarter will illuminate an ordinary four-room and kitchen flat for one week.

Financial Statistics.

Jeremy Diddler—You called me a dead beat. You must take it back, sir, or suffer the consequences.

Col. Percy Yerger—I never take anything back.

"You don't?"

"Never, sir, do I take anything back!"

"All right! You are the man I've been looking for. Lend me a half dollar."

Wide Awake All Night.

New Burglar—Oh, say! Dere's a peach of a house to loot.

Old Cracksman—Humph! Dat's all you know about de biz.

"Huh?"

"W'y dey's twins in dat house cuttin' teet!"

Satisfactorily Explained.

Father—What was your mother talking about a while ago?

Son—I don't know.

Father—Why, you sat and heard it all!

Son—Yes, but she was talking to the baby.

Mighty Nigh Always.

You can always pick out the man who tries to renovate the morals of the entire community. He never has the time to attend to the wicked leaks in his own roof.—E.T.