

Downers Grove Reporter.

By WHITE & WILLIAMS.

DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS.

LABOR NOTES.

The anticipated strike of the bricklayers and hodcarriers of Cincinnati has been averted.

The National Tin Plate company, Anderson, Ind., attempted to substitute piece work for day wages, and thirty-five tinner walked out.

Two years ago the Wabash railway made a sweeping ten per cent reduction in the wages of all its employees. Recently, without the least premonition or demand, an order was issued restoring the former wages.

Cincinnati cigarmakers are gleeful over the outlook for a busy season in their trade. The indications are that the factories will be running full force, with plenty of work for all union cigarmakers in the city.

The Great Western Pottery works at Kokomo, Ind., are again in operation, after a long idle period during the strike in the East. All the potters are again at work on the terms proposed by the company, the reduction of wages in some departments being quite marked.

A dispatch from Lorain, O., says: An effort is being made to secure the location of a big electric motor works in this city, which will employ 225 men. Johnstown is also trying to secure the enterprise, but the chances are largely in Lorain's favor. Tom L. Johnson and his brother, Albert Johnson, are said to be interested in the motor works.

There are rumblings of a coming strike on the Metropolitan elevated railway, Chicago. Although the road, it is said, paid 34 per cent during 1895 on the investment the motormen and conductors are paid only \$30 and \$40 a month, out of which the latter must purchase their own uniforms. Their demands are for an increase of eight and four cents per hour, and the company shows no indication of making the concession.

CITIES.

Denver is worth \$69,512,000 and has a public debt of but \$2,053,000.

Milwaukee is estimated to be worth \$142,926,295, and owes \$4,912,750.

The assessed valuation of property in New York city is \$1,613,967,735.

Jersey City covers twelve and one-half square miles of territory.

Boston has thirty-seven square miles of area and 500,000 population.

St. Louis is the largest tobacco manufacturing center in the world.

Jersey City has \$16,700,000 of debt, and property valued at \$85,900,000.

Albany, N. Y., has an area of nine square miles and a debt of \$3,202,865.

Indianapolis is well off, being worth \$103,000,000 and owing but \$1,884,500.

Savannah, Ga., has 2,197 population living on five square miles of ground.

St. Augustine enjoys the reputation of having the most equable climate.

The 300,000 people of Detroit occupy twenty-nine square miles of territory.

Newark, N. J., has eighteen square miles of territory and 220,000 population.

Helena, Mont., claims to be the richest city of its population in the world.

St. Paul, the capital of Minnesota, is worth \$124,408,305, and owes \$8,442,100.

Philadelphia is said to have more trees than any other city in this country.

Boston has more Scotch than live in any city of Scotland save the four largest.

Cleveland, O., is said to have the handsomest residence street in this country.

THE LAND OF THE BOERS.

Gold was discovered there in 1886.

Finished or in progress are 3,700 miles of telegraph.

Country has been enjoying its independence since 1852.

In 1884 a convention at London recognized the republic.

Two-thirds of the Christians belong to the Dutch reformed church.

"Transvaal" means "across the Vaal," or the country north of the Vaal river.

The largest town is Johannesburg, with a population of 15,000. Pretoria has 5,000.

There are about twenty thousand farms, wheat and tobacco being the chief crops.

It is there that the famed tsetse fly, whose bite is death to oxen and horses, is most prevalent.

Population is 679,200; the white number 119,128, and about half of these are of Dutch descent.

The area of Transvaal is 121,854 square miles, or about that of Illinois, Iowa and Massachusetts combined.

In parts of the country the climate resembles that of Colorado, and is regarded as healthful for consumptives.

The legislature consists of two bodies of twenty-four members each, one-half retiring every two years. The president's term is five years.

PRESS PROVERBS.

Good advice is the kind you keep to yourself.

Original sin was preceded by the original sinner.

Where there is a will there is usually a way.

All sensible girls are not necessarily homely.

A good level is a hard climb to a good many people.

The advanced woman is advancing in the wrong direction.

A pessimist is an optimist whose eyes don't come from the same side of the head as the rest of him.

TO CALIFORNIA

In Pullman Tourist Sleeping Cars. The Burlington Route (C. B. & Q. R. R.) run personally conducted excursions to California, leaving Chicago every Wednesday. Through cars to California destination, fitted with carpets, upholstered seats, bedding, toilet rooms, etc., every convenience. Special agent in charge. Route via Denver and Salt Lake. Sunshine all the way. Write for descriptive pamphlet to T. A. Grady, Excursion Manager, 211 Clark St., Chicago.

Art in Fouring Tea.

Few hostesses understand the art of pouring tea and coffee, simple as it appears. As a rule, the guest of honor is offered the first cup, which is the weakest and the children, if served at all, are given the last and strongest. When it is desired to have all the cups of uniform strength one should pour a little into each, and then begin over again, reversing the order. In England this is so well understood that a pourer of tea or coffee does not begin to replenish the cups till all are before her.

PURE CALIFORNIA WINES.

To introduce my vintages to the consumer, I make this SPECIAL OFFER. Will deliver FREIGHT FREE, anywhere in the United States, two cases of twenty-four bottles, five to the gallon—assorted Pure California Wines: Port, Angelica, Sherry, Muscatel and Grape Brandy for \$11. These Wines were awarded a GOLD MEDAL at Atlanta Exposition, H. J. Woolcott, Los Angeles, Cal. Agents wanted. Mention this paper.

Municipal Government.

The chief end of the existence of a city corporation is to afford protection to person and to property. In other words the chief end of a city is to maintain righteousness and to put down wickedness. Some people think the city belongs to councils and the countyman thinks it belongs to the policeman with his brass buttons.—Rev. P. H. Mowry.

A New Postoffice.

The United States government has established a branch office in the great seed establishment of the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis. So large and extended is the trade of the Salzer Seed Co., that the government for their own convenience to promptly expedite mail matter, located an office in their mammoth buildings. The editor is told that Salzer's great plant, seed and grain catalogue is mailed to any one upon receipt of 5 cents postage by addressing them at La Crosse, Wis.

Can't.

The talk that comes from mouths of people who look wise but are not is nothing. A man may be a communicant, may be regular in prayer, and be a very bad man. I hate this cant that passes itself in the name of piety; the disposition to do things on Sunday and never think of them again until the next Sunday.—Rev. John Leal.

Florida Facts.

February and March are two of the best months of the year to visit Florida. The climate is fine and the social features at their height of interest. When you have made up your mind to go, you naturally want to go there as soon as possible and in the most comfortable manner. No matter whether you live in St. Louis, Chicago, Peoria, Indianapolis, Columbus, Cleveland, Buffalo, New York or Boston, you can take one of the magnificent trains of the "Big Four Route" from any one of these cities to Cincinnati, and with only one change of cars continue your journey to Jacksonville. Direct connections made in Central Union station, Cincinnati, with through trains of all lines to Florida. Call on or address any agent of the "Big Four Route," or address E. O. McCormick, Passenger Traffic manager, or D. B. Martin, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Low Rates South.

On March 3d, the Monon Route will sell tickets from Chicago to all points in the south at exceedingly low rates: Abbeville, Ga., \$15.30; Decatur, Ala., \$10.65; Chattanooga, Tenn., \$10.75; Jacksonville, Fla., \$18.10; Memphis, Tenn., \$11.10; New Orleans, La., \$17.05; St. Augustine, Fla., \$18.65; Tampa, Fla., \$21; Mobile, Ala., \$16.65; and all other points at proportionately low rates. For further information address L. E. Sessions, Trav. Pass. Agt., Minneapolis, Minn., or City Ticket office, 232 Clark street, Chicago, Ill.

Home Seekers' Excursions. Via Iron

On March 10th round trip tickets will be sold to points in Arkansas and Texas at one fare plus \$2.00, good to return 30 days from date of sale; stop-overs allowed on out-going trip. For information address Bissell Wilson, Dist. Pass. Agt., 111 Adams St., Chicago.

A Cure for Divorce.

If all who seek divorce were forbidden under penalty to marry again, unless the decree was obtained upon the charge of faithlessness to the marriage vow, as defined by the saviour, nine-tenths of our domestic troubles would never see the light.—Rev. J. H. O. Smith, Chicago, Ill.

The D. V. Sholes Investment & Mining Co., of Cripple Creek, Col., can furnish you strictly reliable information concerning mining properties in the Cripple Creek district. We always have options on some choice properties that are bargains and handle no others. Local and eastern bank references given on application. Correspondence solicited.

Colored Printing.

Picture printing in many colors was employed in 1836 for rendering books attractive by George Baxter. In some of the illustrations twenty different blocks were employed for as many colors.

There is money to be made in Cripple Creek. When you go take the "Rock Island Route" to Colorado Springs. This is the only direct line—saves several hours' time to Cripple Creek. Send for full information.

JOHN SEBASTIAN, General Passenger Agent, Chicago.

FOR WOMAN AND HOME

INTERESTING READING FOR DAMES AND DAMSELS

Dresses for Little Children—Pretty Petticoats Becoming the Rage Again—Advice to Girls from Hetty Green—Household Hints.

HE hat and muffs are the principal parts of the street toilette for our small girls who are big enough to walk. The cloak is of but seemingly little importance, so that these two articles are in the latest mode. A tiny little lady may be made to look like an exquisite picture in a huge hat of black beaver, as shiny as satin and as black as coal, wired and bent to droop artistically about the innocent baby face and glossy baby hair. The hair should, to complete the artistic tout ensemble, be beautifully brushed and arranged in soft bunches of curls on the pretty forehead, and tied with love knots of baby ribbon, usually white, though with a black hat, black knots of ribbon may be used effectively. To carry out the effective picture in black, this small coquette may have an empire cloak of glossy black satin, very thick and heavy, or of beautiful Lyons velvet in black, with huge bishop sleeves and fluttering butterfly collar, all edged with ermine. A big muff, also of ermine, is fastened about the throat by a wide ribbon of white or black satin.

Scarlet is very effective for such a costume. One very recently worn by a tiny, hazel-eyed lady had a full cloak of clear cardinal red, heavily ribbed

in better form than a black broadcloth coat and skirt with a waist of light apple-green taffeta, lining of the same in jacket and skirt, and a green taffeta petticoat to match. For this suit is made a very short jacket for the street, with little fan plaitings in the back that disclose the green lining. The front has stitched revers and collar, and all the seams are strapped to a point just below the waist line. The skirt of eight or nine gores may be strapped down the seams or in two bands around the foot. The silk waist is a very full blouse with tucked yoke front, turned over collar, and bishop sleeves; bias bands and bows of the silk are the only trimming. The petticoat is made in the way just described, and the lining of the cloth skirt has no balayouse.

Rose Color and Black. How things change with the times! Not long ago it was the skirts which bore all the extravagances of decoration, and now it is the bodice upon which our elaborations are put. This is an outcome of the bodice being worn of different material from the skirt, and is, after all, a pretty fashion. An exceedingly chic gown for afternoon wear, calling, the matinee, etc., is a mixture of rose color and black, full of small silver flecks and dashes. The skirt is one of the nine-gored creations, with a multitude of flapping godets, and beautifully fitted hips, the whole interlined with fiber chamois, and again with dull, lead-colored taffeta. The bodice is a small, round affair of creamy white broadcloth, fitting the form perfectly, with a smooth fitting jacket of rich black lace, in a very heavy pattern, cut away in graceful curves to simulate a pretty yoke. An embroidered pattern in gold sequins and tiny mock garnets decorates this opening, making a very rich effect on the white groundwork. The sleeves are especially smart, with enormous puffs directly at the shoulder,

can buy a parcel of land at one-third its appraised value. I regard real estate investment as the safest means of investing idle money. It does not always bring a steady interest, but it is less likely to depreciate in value than stocks, which are always somewhat uncertain. A woman with tact and ability will be on the alert to learn of a mortgage about to be foreclosed. In such a case she should negotiate with the owner of the property, and give him enough to clear his debt, thus saving him the costs of a sale. Many a woman has profited by an opportunity of this kind. Of course, if a woman has \$500 cash and wishes to speculate she may branch out more broadly and take greater risks, with the prospect of greater returns. But she should bear in mind that real estate is the collateral to be preferred to all others."

Removing Tan and Freckles.

Mamie B. is a little girl twelve years old, who finds some tan and freckles on her face, and wants the editor to tell her how to remove them. Answer: Tan and freckles are a growth in the skin, and are developed by light and heat, principally by sunlight. Some persons are much more troubled with them than others. Delicate complexions are usually most susceptible. There are several things that will remove freckles, but they are not very safe to meddle with. Ten drops of carbolic acid in thirty drops of glycerine is said to be good. It must be applied only to the dark spots. It cures by burning the skin, which afterward comes off, leaving a mark that finally disappears. The best remedy for such annoyances as tan and freckles is to wear a hat or sunbonnet. The spots frequently disappear in winter, and if one is careful to keep the face shaded there will be very little trouble. Lemon juice sometimes removes tan, and buttermilk is said to be excellent for this purpose.

THE CURRENT TOPICS CLUB.



A FASHIONABLE PAD AMONG NEW WOMEN.

silk, all beautifully lined with squirrel skins and wonderfully warm. The monstrous sleeves are topped by fly-away capes of the silk, made double for stiffness, and edged with silvery chin-chilla fur. The hat is an enormous affair of silky beaver in scarlet, trimmed with a lot of floating scarlet plumes. The opera length stockings, worn by so many of the little maids, are a wonderful protection from the cold, and a decided improvement to those which merely covered the knees, leaving a space between the little drawers and stockings perfectly bare. Silk mittens are almost universally worn, to the exclusion of kid gloves, for mothers are more sensible than they were a few years ago, and look very much to the comfort of their little ones.

Petticoats Made to Match.

Tailor gowns are restored to much of their pristine importance now that dressmakers as well as tailors consider broader broadcloth the most fashionable winter fabric of the season. And the tailors have made a new and charming adjunct to the cloth gowns in a silken petticoat matching the silk of which the only waist of the dress is made, and also matching the silk lining of the coat and skirt of cloth. Such pretty petticoats are a perfect comfort to womanly women, who begin to fear that this essentially feminine garment would be gradually ousted by the much talked of knickerbockers, riding tights, etc. But its trou-frou is too attractive to be given up, and, moreover, the new skirt has some new features, such as long shallow scallops at the foot, to make it fall in easily with the curved folds of the cloth skirt and yet retain its straight edge.

Altogether the abundance of the gay silk, usually in contrast to the color of the cloth, greatly enhances the good looks of the severe tailor-made gown. At the top five breadths of taffeta are gathered into a yoke eight or ten inches deep, doing away with all superfluous fullness around the hips, and neatly decorated with rows of feather stitching. The foot is trimmed with two or three narrow bias frills, plinked on one edge and headed by an inch-wide ruche plinked on both edges.

For morning and afternoon driving or coaching, nothing

What is Japan Going to Do? The future of American manufactures is, according to all accounts, menaced by Japanese agents who are bidding for trade at prices far below anything that our own artisans can turn out. They offer bicycles of the very best grade at twelve dollars, matches at figures that would shut down every match factory in the United States; all sorts of wooden ware, including house-fittings, such as doors, sashes and blinds, are offered at forty to fifty per cent less than we can make them.

The agents of Japanese factories have placed immense orders in San Francisco, and are coming East to bid for trade in cities all the way from the Pacific to the Atlantic. They are able to undersell everything in the market.

It is a well understood fact by experts in Japanese goods that their metal is of a very high grade and that their wood-work is accurate almost to perfection. It will be necessary for Congress to take some stringent measures to shut off this deluge of Japanese wares if our own factories are to be able to continue in business. This is a startling state of affairs, and one that demands the immediate attention of our law makers.

Some Timely Recipes.

Walnut sandwiches.—One pound English walnut meats, cut in small pieces; cover with nice mayonnaise dressing; cut bread in fancy shapes, round, square, triangular, and spread with the mixture. Set in a cool place until ready for serving.

Lillian H.—Boiled potatoes should be served with boiled fish; also cucumbers or watercress, and an entree of jelly.

Annie T.—A 7 o'clock dinner is certainly too late for the little folks, who should be in bed at that time. Why not serve a light dinner at 5, consisting of, say, such things as are already prepared for the later dinner, as soup and salads, with a chop or two.

Puree of mushrooms.—Chop fine five or six mushrooms; put on in a stewpan, with one ounce of butter, a little salt, pepper, and chopped onion. Cook until it pulps, then add an ounce of bread crumbs; then strain liquor from the oysters and add one ounce of chopped lean ham or tongue and a little chopped parsley. Let it come to a boil and use

CURRENT READING.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS FOUND IN THE BOOKSTORES.

"Firealde" Encyclopedia of Poetry," by Henry T. Coates—"Successward," by Edward W. Bok—"Samantha in Europe," by Marietta Holley.

Cyclopedia of Poetry.

The Firealde Encyclopedia of Poetry by Henry T. Coates. (Cloth, \$3.50. Philadelphia: Henry T. Coates Co.) "The editor shows a wide acquaintance with the most precious treasures of English verse, and has gathered the most admirable specimens of their ample wealth. He rejected nothing that is familiar simply because it is familiar. While young readers will find in it a most excellent introduction to the literature of poetry, their elders will be pleased to recognize old friends and to renew pleasant memories. Many pieces which have been passed by in previous collections hold a place of honor in the present volume, and will be heartily welcomed by the lovers of poetry as a delightful addition to their sources of enjoyment. It is a volume rich in solace, in entertainment, in inspiration, of which the possession may well be coveted by every lover of poetry."

An Interesting Story.

FRANC ELLIOT—A story of society and Bohemia, by Clarence Herbert New. New York: G. W. Dillingham. The author of this story must have had a wide experience or an exceptionally powerful imagination or both. The thread of the story, beginning at New York, takes us in rapid succession to a Washington reception, a battlefield in South Africa, and a village in southern England. The story holds our interest from the start, and is remarkable for its dramatic power. A noticeable lack of smoothness in the literary style gives the impression that the author has had more experience in writing plays than books. There is a high degree of "action", and a tendency to crown situation after situation, which reminds one of the stage. In fact, the story could be easily dramatized and would make a thrilling melodrama.

A New Delight.

SAMANTHA IN EUROPE. By Josiah Allen's Wife (Marietta Holley). Illustrated with one hundred and twenty-five artistic and humorous engravings by C. De Grimm. 277 pp. Cloth, \$2.50. New York: Funk & Wagnalls company.

Americans love fun and their taste for the humorous has developed writers to meet it. The "Samantha" books have been appreciated and are sure to have a sale even when the times are unpropitious. There is much that is comical and new in the predicaments of Josiah at sea and in foreign countries. We will not take off the edge of the fun by revealing any of the ludicrous situations beforehand. We take it for granted that our readers will secure the book, at least for the village library. Among other rare things in this handsome, large volume of over 700 pages, is Samantha's "lay" for an interview with Queen Victoria and its results. We recommend the book for a cure for all melancholia and even dyspepsia and kindred diseases where a hearty laugh is helpful. "It is worth living to have lightened people's hearts by such quaint humor, and lifted up to better endeavor by such good words."

Edward W. Bok's New Book.

SUCCESSWARD.—By Edward W. Bok. This series of short sketches show clearly to the young man, what principles involved, what operations used and what figures represent that life can have for its answer, success.

The book may be classed with Franklin's autobiography as a youth book to a perfect statue. The one, full of life and enthusiasm to start on a noble career, leads us through the companionship of mutual interest to higher paths. But to the other, we return, as to a finished model, stamped by the impressiveness of experience. The nearness of the author is shown in the style, simple and familiar, yet clear and concise, as: "The attitude which a young man assumes toward women is the surest index to his character." In short, a book worthy of personal, noble in its aspirations and inspiring in its thought. Cloth, \$1.00; Fleming H. Revell Co., Chicago.

Hopkinson Smith's Sketches.

Being blessed with a vivid imagination and a delightful sense of humor, F. Hopkinson Smith is acquiring a recognized reputation as a story teller. His "A Gentleman Vagabond and Some Others" is a collection of nine of his sketches. His vagabonds are of diverse types, having, whether man, woman or dog, but little in common except that a bohemian flavor, whether faint or pronounced, clings to all. The first vagabond is a true one, and his story is told with such gusto that one can hear Mr. Smith chuckle. The wit is purely American even when the setting is foreign. (Cloth, 182 pages, \$1.25. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

Literary Notes.

"Ia," by Mr. Quiller-Couch, and "Amos Judd," by Mr. J. A. Mitchell, two brilliant novelettes, are the first volumes in the "Ivory" series—a name suggested by the delicate and distinctive binding—in which the Messrs. Scribner have arranged to publish a number of short stories of the first class. Stevenson's romance of "The Suicide Club," which has not been published separately in America, will soon appear in this series, and stories by Anthony Hope and others will be added shortly.