

Downers Grove Reporter.

By WHITE & WILLIAMS.

DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS.

The bicycle trade has slackened up, but the bicycle rider hasn't.

There are still a couple more national conventions and likely much fun.

People who desire to escape disappointments should never take vacations.

Many a man has been looked on as a martyr to duty, when vanity or fear was what stirred him.

Mr. Sharkey, a gentleman of science and muscle, says there's no sort of doubt but he's a better man than Mr. Corbett.

A Kentuckian had to exchange eight shots with his bride's brother-in-law before he got her. That marriage will be no failure.

A morning paper says that the shirt waist is declining in popular favor in Chicago. A good bit depends, however, on which girl has it on.

Politics is certainly accountable for some strange acts. Ex-Gov. Waite of Colorado was recently barred out of a populist state convention in Denver.

The English are very hospitably engaged in the occupation of trying to convince the members of the Boston artillery company that they are all big guns.

Chauncey M. Depew may have gone to Europe for fear that when the silver men get into the saddle, they may insist upon coining his beautiful white whiskers.

Those who celebrated the Fourth at Pontiac, Mich., had the pleasure of witnessing a marriage in a balloon. The contracting parties were surely in the highest social circles at the time.

It is the most astounding thing that no team of American athletes can go to England without getting over-trained. Even clever and experienced Bob Cook has made this error. It seems. It is impossible to train a crew in England as it would be trained in America, and it seems clear that the English method of training, the result of decades of experience, must doubtless be that best suited to their climate. But this simple problem was evidently too abstract for Bob Cook.

For several years New Jersey has furnished more than her share of amazing "newspaper stories," and Rahway, N. J., has led the rest of the state in this specialty. Now this wonderful town comes to the front again with a yarn about a forty-pound snapping turtle "chasing" (?) two boys and nearly getting the best of them in a terrific hand-to-hand combat, which, eventually ensued when the turtle "caught up" (?) with them. Finally a neighboring farmer, hearing the noise of the combat, came to the rescue of the boys "just in time" (?) and despatched the turtle with a hoe. This is a "corker!"

The business of the great Manchester Ship Canal is looking up, according to a report to the State Department by United States Consul Grinnell at Manchester, and on the basis of his figures he feels that the prospect of a more general and an increased business from the United States direct to Manchester by the canal seems assured. During the first three months of this year 67,389 bales of cotton arrived from the United States, a greater quantity than arrived during the entire two years since the canal opened, Jan. 1, 1894. It is thought that a part of the great American cattle and provision trade may be diverted to Manchester to the aid of the canal.

The boom in the bicycle trade gives a good deal of uneasiness to large manufacturers and tradesmen in other lines. It is claimed that last year the bicycle took from other trades about \$112,000,000. The lively business and carriage trade has suffered enormously. In the great cities the theater men complain that their receipts are much reduced, as the people prefer bicycle riding to attending the theater. The candy-makers say the riders buy less candy than before they rode, and other merchants assert that the bicycle is responsible for the lessened sale of books, cigars and even beer and other beverages. One big firm estimates that the wheels to be manufactured this year will number about 1,000,000, and that the average cost to the consumers will be \$75 per wheel. But this appears too high, as very good wheels are sold for a much less price. However, what money is lost to other trades is merely diverted to another channel. There seems to be a positive gain to the country in the lessened use of intoxicants, and we are of the opinion that the general public will not take to heart the plaint of the saloon-keeper that the bicycle is depriving him of a good part of his trade.

It is claimed that the strength of the Allied Anti-Cigarette leagues all over the country is something tremendous. In fact the leaders in this scheme pretend to say that within a short time they will have acquired so many allies that they will be enabled to begin a more public fight of the question as to whether the little paper cigarettes shall be entirely obliterated from the records of modern life. However, to the unprejudiced observer their efforts have borne no actual fruit as yet, for the little paper cigarettes seem as plentiful as ever.

W.C.T.U. MATRIMONIAL BUREAU.

The Girls' and Men's Characters Will Be Investigated.

The ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance union of Portsmouth, Va., will soon organize a unique society to be known as the Naples Matrimonial society, says the Philadelphia Record. They think that the organization of this society will be followed by the organization of similar societies by the Woman's Christian Temperance union throughout the United States and that they will eventually take the place of various matrimonial bureaus now in operation in various cities.

In Naples girls 14 and over assemble once every year in one of the churches of that city and the unmarried men who so desire go there and choose wives. The proposed society will carry out a similar arrangement here, except that the girls who desire to assemble in a church to be thus chosen will have to register with the society three months ahead of the date, that the society may satisfy itself that they are girls of good moral character. The men who are to apply at the church on these occasions to select brides will be required to register three months prior to the date of choosing, that the society may investigate their characters for the purpose of ascertaining if they are industrious and temperate. Only men who have these qualities will be allowed to choose wives. Those who register will be informed fifteen days in advance of their standing. Men will be required to pay a registration fee of \$1, but girls will be allowed to register free.

Things Were Going to Turn.

In front of a Dakota sod cabin sat a man about 50 years old who was ragged and forlorn and hungry-looking. A few rods away lay the dead body of a mule and beyond that was a wagon with a broken wheel. There was no smoke coming out of the cabin chimney, no fowls or livestock about and no other human beings to be seen. "Well," queried the man as I looked about, "things look sorter lonesome, eh?"

"Indeed, they do, sir. What's been the matter with you?"

"Billy's fever."

"Where is the wife?"

"Inside the house with the same thing."

"And the children?"

"Out thar behind the haystack shakin' with the ager."

"I see you've lost your mule."

"Died two days ago, sir. Can't rightly say what ailed him, but he's gone."

"I suppose you are dead broke on top of all?" I queried.

"Haven't got a red cent, sir, and nuthin' but cornmeal in the house," he replied.

"Well, I don't blame you for feeling blue over the situation."

"Who's a feelin' blue?"

"Why, I expect you are."

"Then you make a big mistake, stranger. Things did look a little blue last week, but three days ago I had this 'ere farm cut up into 2,000 town lots and arranged with a critter to boom it, and I'm feelin' like a steer in a cornfield. Two thousand lots at \$100 apiece, six railroads to cross year, three big car-works a-comin', schools, churches, factories, parks, hotels—why, darn my hide, but I jist sot yere calkerlatin' on startin' five banks and foundin' two or three orphan asylums with my money!"

"Then I can't aid you?"

"Jist a pipe o' terbacker and a nip of whisky, stranger, and you tell everybody down the road that ole Bill Johnson has founded the town o' Golden City and is goin' to plant gold watches for mile posts all over the stait. Feelin' blue? Waal, I should rayther gurgle to observe that he has to keep hold of the grass to prevent his flyin' away fur jay and exultashun!"

All Things to Her Who Waits.

The irony of fate forms a strong leaven in the story which comes from Kansas about the luck of Mrs. H. H. Leonard. While engaged in the task of searching among a lot of old letters she discovered that her brother had deposited in a Trenton (Tenn.) bank, in 1863, \$10,000. Not long afterward he was killed in the civil war. Inquiries elicited the fact that the bank was still in existence and had sought the depositor's heirs in vain. In this story we have first the tragic fate of the man who owned the money, and then the ill-starred career of Mrs. Leonard's husband, who, having only last fall secured a divorce from her to enable him to marry another woman, was murdered within two months of his second marriage. Mrs. Leonard, since the loss of her husband by divorce, has been obliged to adopt the arduous profession of a washerwoman. Now she alone, of all the parties concerned, comes out ahead!

Substitute for Tooth Powder.

The Philadelphia American has this: "A belated tourist was obliged to ask for a bed at a farmhouse, having wandered far from his hotel. On rising in the morning he found himself without tooth powder. Looking about him, he espied on the mantelpiece a small box containing powder, which he used. When he paid for his bed he apologized to the farmer's wife for having used her tooth powder. 'Tooth powder?' she queried. 'We have none.' 'Yes, my good woman. It was in a small round box on the mantelpiece.' 'That?' she screamed. 'That was not tooth powder. That was snuff!' 'Snuff had been cremated.'

When falling, as out of a tree, or down a steep declivity, bears will roll themselves into a close resemblance to a huge furry ball, and thus escape without injury.

IN WOMAN'S CORNER.

CURRENT TOPICS FOR DAMES AND DAMSELS.

Some Notes of the Modes—Sailor Hats Fashionable as Ever—Mohair Gowns—Reception Gown for Brides—Hints for the Household.



AILOR hats are worn as much as ever this summer. These perennial favorites are mostly very simply trimmed, a ribbon band being often considered sufficient. The more elaborate ones have a bow and several quills in addition. Alpine hats for out- ing wear are also seen, and some close shapes resembling the old fashioned English walking hat. Parasols are, on the whole, less trimmed than in former years. Although many are lavishly adorned with lace, ruffles, puffs and flowers, the majority are without trimmings and are of changeable, flowered checked or striped silk.

There has been a return to hats and bonnets of drawn tulle and mousseline de soie. These are very delicate and light and are a pretty accompaniment to dainty summer gowns. Roses are seen in great abundance, and dahlies and hydrangeas are also in evidence. The dahlia is a flower easily copied in muslin, silk or velvet—it is naturally so regular, solid and stiff—but when the fabric employed happens to be peacock blue in color, as is now sometimes the case, the eye refuses to be satisfied with the limitation. More or less tall trimming is still worn.

Bride's Reception Gown.

It is not often that a full reception toilette is restful to the eye in summer, yet one, made for a bride's second reception day, was very captivating.

The skirt was yellow velvet of thin, fine quality. It hung perfectly plain without pucker, flounce or trick of fanciful form or may give a fachu effect. The sleeve is no longer made with two balloons. The entire fullness is confined to the upper part of the arm, near the shoulder, and sometimes

AN ARTISTIC TEA GOWN.



seam. At the sides it was relieved with widening panels of gold thread embroidery. The work was evidently done stitch by stitch upon the yellow velvet, not put on in panel form. Down the back the panels were very wide.

The bodice, in white velvet, was cut surplice, with folded fronts ending under a girdele of dull gold. Large yellow topaz buttons trimmed the spotless velvet surplice. The wing sleeves were of white satin. They were simply trimmed with a pattern in gold thread embroidery, and a suspicion of the same embroidery edged the bodice at the neck. Below this edging ran another row of the gem buttons, set upon a gamp of white satin. The girdele was



of lustrous topaz set upon wires of pure gold. The necklet, a dog collar of many strands, was of topaz with abundant gold settings.

The sleeves were butterfly-shaped, with double wing. Below them hung deep ruffles of round point lace. White gloves were worn.

Material and Make of Gown. Among the varieties of linen lately put out by the manufacturers are some

showing fine silk stripes running lengthwise in straw, blue, pink and similar bright colors. Others are sprinkled with flowers worked in silk or flax. Costumes of either plain or fancy linen often have a wide belt of lace or flowered taffeta. Barege is worn largely, and there is a wide choice of styles. Among the prettiest ones are those having a warp design of printed flowers. These are made over a colored silk lining, with a girdele of the same sort of taffeta. There are also some very attractive plaids in rich colors. Crepe de chine is to be in great favor this year. A number of gowns have been seen entirely composed of this fabric. Black, gray and beige alpaca are well liked for useful summer toilets. They often have revers of white pique and a belt of silk or leather.

Young girls and young women wear decollete bodices over a guimpe or chemisette of embroidery, lace, linen and similar fabrics. This decollete assumes a great variety of form. The opening may be square, round or of a



There is no fullness at all, or the sleeve is wrinkled close to the arm. In these latter cases a wide effect at the top is obtained by bows, epaulets or platings falling from the shoulder.

Hints for the Household.

Warm bread and cake should be cut with a knife the blade of which has been heated by standing it in boiling water.

If clothespins are boiled a few minutes and quickly dried every few weeks it will cleanse them and make them more durable.

If a tablespoonful of vinegar is added to the water in which tough meats or fowls are boiled it will tend to make them tender.

A paste made of melted india rubber mixed with shellac varnish is the best thing to use for fastening leather trimmings on wood.

If a strip of webbing two inches wide is sewed tightly on the under side of a rug, close to the edge, it will prevent the edges from curling.

Before commencing to seed raisins after the stems are removed cover the fruit with very hot water and let it stand for a few moments. Drain the water off and the seeds may then be removed quite easily.

IN THE ODD CORNER.

SOME QUEER AND CURIOUS FEATURES OF LIFE.

"Plaint of Wild Rose"—Skillful Ants—An Ancient Liturgy—Source of the Wisconsin River—A Monster Estate—Some Oddities.



N lonely spot, all wild I grew, Pale—though sun and rain caressed—

When, soft on one morn, as yet the dew Sparkled on my snowy breast, A poet came and pressed his lips—

Warm, and red with life's young blood— Upon my snow-white roselbud tipp; And lo! there surged a crimson flood

Throughout my veins, which dyed my breast As never sun nor rain could do, And soft, each morn, his fond lips pressed

My petals, till I rosier grew, But, woe is me! one luckless day There passed a plow-boy on his roan, Who plucked me in his sportive play

And claimed me for his own. I faded in his ruthless grasp, He cast me here, alone, to die, O Love! once more to feel your clasp, And breathe a last good-bye.

The Shah's Library.

In the palace of the shahs of Persia at Teheran is a room hung with Goebelin tapestry, and next to it the library, filled with priceless manuscripts. Of all the calligraphers Mir seems to be the most famous, and his writing is valued at two tumaris a line. At this rate, the manuscripts by him in the shah's possession must be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds! The armory of the palace is small and inferior to many European collections. The crown jewels are worth many millions. Among them is the sister diamond to our Kohinoor (Mountain of Light). It is a huge diamond an inch and a half long and an inch broad, but not very bright, and could be pardonably mistaken for glass. It dates from 3000 B. C., and is called the Darya-i-Nur or Sea of Light.

Clothing From Pets.

The newest thing in spinning is to preserve the clippings of your live, or the entire hair of your deceased, canine pets, and weave them into something to wear. One sentimental yet practical lady has spun the hair of her defunct terrier (it must have been a Skye, surely) into a Tam O'Shanter. A good, hairy Pomeranian dog might yield quite a respectable shearing. Dogs' hair, when woven, looks somewhat like rabbits' hair, and H. R. H. Princess Beatrice of Battenberg has long been in the habit of having the hair of her pet rabbit preserved and woven or knitted into woolly cuffs for the poor. At a sale of work, just before Christmas, her royal highness even brought mittens of rabbits' hair for both herself and the late Prince Henry.

Hues of Fire.

You have often noticed the many tinted bars and bands that rise in the shape of "forked tongues of flames" from wood burning in the grate. It is ten to one, however, that you never have thought to figure on the cause of the variegated hues presented by flames. To bring the matter quickly to the point, we will say that the many colors are the result of combustion among the different elements of the wood. The light blue is from the hydrogen and the white from the carbon, the violet is from the manganese, the red from the magnesia and the yellow from the soda, which are constituent parts of the wood.

Old Missouri.

Col. J. V. Brower, Minnesota State geographer, has made the sensational discovery that the source of the Missouri river is not Red Rock lake, Mont., as has been stated. Col. Brower has explored the whole region of the upper Missouri, and now makes public the result of his discoveries. He says the longest upper branch of the Missouri does not flow through the lower Red Rock lake in Montana, but comes from a hole in the mountains, volcanic in its character, at the summit of the Rocky mountains, west of Herley's lake, Idaho, and at a point bordering the boundary between that state and Montana.

A Tale of Nature.

Nature tells a tale of a pair of rooks, evidently young birds, that strove in vain to build a nest. The wind each time blew the foundations down while the rooks, which fly far for nest materials instead of taking those close at hand, were away. At last, despairing of building a home by legitimate means, they fell upon a completed nest of another pair while the owners were absent, tore it to pieces, and built a nest foundation that would stand in the wind. Then they made a superstructure in the clumsy and inexperienced way that young birds always do.

Skillful Ants.

The finest engineers in the world, considering their size, are certain South American ants. Tunnels constructed by them have been traced a distance of two miles, one of them passing under a stream fifty yards wide. South African ants have also considerable mechanical skill, as is considered

their subterranean homes have been found suspended bridges passing from one gallery to another and spanning gulfs eight to ten inches wide.

An Ancient Liturgy.

Antiquarians will feel a lively interest in a work about to appear in England. It is a reprint of the missal containing the first written liturgy ever brought to England, and probably the first published anywhere. Some time ago Martin Rule discovered in the library of the Corpus Christi college, Cambridge, the missal brought by St. Augustine to England, with annotations by Pope Gregory the Great. Mr. Rule is reprinting this with annotations.

The Chinese Hen.

In China the hen is kept constantly busy. When not engaged in hatching her own brood she is compelled to hatch fish eggs. The spawn of fish are hermetically sealed and placed under the unsuspecting hen. After some days the egg shell is removed and carefully broken, and the spawn which has been warmed into life is emptied into a shallow pool well warmed by the sun. Here the minnows that soon develop are nursed until strong enough to be turned into a lake or stream.

Which State Can Beat This?

When Tennessee entered the Union as a state, it had about 40,000 population, or an average of less than one person to each of its 42,050 square miles of territory. In 1890 it had 1,767,518 inhabitants, or an average of nearly forty persons to a square mile. Nearly all this increase is from the native stock, only 20,029 being foreign born, and only 38,257 of the native born being of foreign-born parents.

The Walls of Jerusalem.

A newspaper published in Jerusalem, printed in the Hebrew language, states that Dr. Bliss, supervisor of the Palestine exploration fund, has lately discovered, near Mount Zion, the exact course of the city walls of Jerusalem built before and during the Roman era; also a number of vases and mosaics of high and historical value.

A Monster Estate.

Biltmore, the estate of Mr. George Vanderbilt, is a wheelman's paradise. There are 95,000 acres in the estate, and the system of roadways is so perfect that Mr. Vanderbilt, who is a wheelman, can go a hundred miles over a macadamized road without going off his estate.

Under a Bed of Coal.

The discovery of a human skull in a good state of preservation by well diggers at a depth of 40 feet beneath a solid, four-foot vein of coal is attracting a good deal of attention at Dickinson, S. D.

A New Find.

A discovery of platinum is reported to have been made near Cordobola, New South Wales. Some twelve hundred ounces of the metal had been obtained by last advices, containing 75 per cent of platinum.

The First of Many.

The first white child born on United States soil was the grand daughter of White, the governor of Roanoke Island. She was christened by the name of Virginia Dare, and her birthday was Aug. 18, 1587.

Bits of Knowledge.

About 2,000 sailing vessels of all kinds disappear in the sea every year, carrying down 12,000 human beings and involving a loss of about \$10,000,000.

Slight repairs to the stone wall at the Bloody Angle, Gettysburg, made the other day, uncovered over 100 bullets, pieces of shell, parts of guns, etc. If the armies of Europe should march at an eight-mile gait, five abreast, fifteen inches apart, it would require nine and one-half days for them to pass a given point.

Glasghier, the aeronaut, has noticed that the voice of a woman is audible in a balloon at the height of about two miles, while that of a man has never reached higher than a mile.

From rough calculations lately made by contributors to the Zoological Record, it appears that over 260,000 species of animals have been described by naturalists up to the present date.

Counting in clerk hire, mileage and incidentals, a member of congress now receives a total of about \$12,650 for his two years' service. Daniel Webster used to get for the same period \$3,328.

Eighteen miles is the longest distance on record at which a man's voice has been heard. This occurred in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, where, one man shouting the name "Bob!" at one end, his voice was plainly heard at the other end, which is eighteen miles away.

Fully 20,000 of the population of India are annually killed by snake bites. With a view to reducing the mortality, the government offers a reward for snakes' heads, which, instead of diminishing the number of these reptiles, tends to increase it, as the natives breed snakes solely to secure the reward.

A stone blotting pad is being introduced. It is made of a bibulous stone that is said to absorb ink more readily than any blotting paper in use. It is formed by compressing the sediment deposited by certain hot springs, which, having been accumulating for ages, "is available in inexhaustible quantities." It is highly porous, and will, it is said, take up a surprising quantity of ink, requiring only occasionally scraping with a knife to keep it clean and ready for use.