THE LADIES' COLUMN.

Women Look Handsome in Fashionable Mirrors.

CURIOSITIES OF THE FASHIONS.

Interesting Notes on the Prospective Spring Styles.

(Cousin Kate's Weekly Budget.)

Remarkable Mirrors.

"It is true," said a dealer in mirrors to a writer in the New York *Graphic*, "that none of us know exactly what manner of men we are. The mirror does not enable us to see our outer selves as others see us. Only the finest mirrors approach perfection of surface. The best are made of plate glass, but if you happen to look into a large mirror you discover that the straight lines and right angles of a room appear all awry. The reflection most nearly true to the object reflected is obtained perhaps from a hand mirror made of plate glass or from a metallic mirror of moderate size. Great pains are taken to secure a true surface in plate glass, but few mirrors long in use have a surface in a single plane. A slight defect distorts the image. I have seen homely women look almost handsome in a mirror by reason of a defect in the surface that remedied a bad feature. It is not difficult to sell such mirrors to ladies who need a flatterer near at hand.

"Here is a mirror that illustrates what I have said," continued the dealer, taking down a circular glass enclosed in a stout frame which was provided with a handle. The listener, looking in, beheld an odd distortion of his own features. One eye appeared higher than the other, one cheek bulged as if swollen with toothache, and the whole countenance was caricatured.

"Look steadily for a minute," said the dealer, and he began to turn the mirror slowly. As he did so the features reflected engaged in a sort of kaleidoscopic dance. For no two seconds was the face the same. While this was going on the eyes of the gazer felt as if they were being twisted out of their sockets and before the mirror had made a full revolution the performance had become very painful.

"Feels odd, doesn't it?" said the dealer. "Now, that mirror is a scientific toy. Its surface is cast purposely in several planes. One eye is reflected in one plane, the other in a different one, and the bulging cheek in still another. The pain to the eyes was caused by the effort to adjust the vision to the constant change of plane presented by the revolution of the mirror."

Fugacious Scissors.

The apparently fugacious habit of scissors have been noticed since the earliest historic period. They disappear with a celerity and secrecy wholly without parallel in the history of lost objects. A woman is sewing and has a pair of scissors in her lap. She uses them, say, twice, and each time drops them in her lap. The third time she wishes to use them she cannot find them. Though she searches her lap, her dress, her hair and the floor thoroughly, she cannot find the slightest trace of the missing scissors, and thereafter they are never again seen by mortal eyes. Or let us say that a woman, in the very act of using a pair of scissors, is called from her work. She places the scissors carefully in her work basket, goes out, locking the door of the room after her, and returns in 10 or 15 minutes to find her scissors gone. What is more remarkable about the disappearance of scissors is that, once having disappeared, they are never again found. You may lose a tack hammer or a comb, but sooner or later you find the missing article behind some piece of furniture, but the pair of scissors once lost is lost forever. There is scarcely a case on record of the final recovery of a pair of scissors that has been missed and has not been found within the next five minutes.

An Elder-Down Evening Wrap.

A pretty and expensive evening wrap is made of eider down. The colors in which this material comes afford a wide range for the fancy, and a light lining of satin merveilleux surah or taffeta silk of some contrasting color makes such a sortie de bal gay enough. The ribbons that tie at the throat should be of the color or colors of the eider-down flannel, for this fabric comes sometimes in stripes and figures of contrasting or harmonizing hues.

The Heavy Skirt.

The ladies who declaim against heavy skirts may as well step to the front again. The new accordion-pointed skirts are from seven to eight yards wide before they are made. That is to say, they will require about ten breadths of single-width material. This is more than would be needed for the ordinary skirt and overdress, concerning which fearful things have been said. London dressmakers prefer kilt plaits, artfully gored at the top, and so made that only twice the width of the skirt lining is needed for them.

Early Spring Styles.

Soft gray and shell pink will be a favorite combination for spring toilets.

Spring mufflers are handsomely made in combinations of black and steel gray.

Among new ball dress fabrics are to be seen ribbon striped nets and gauzes.

Bonnet pins are larger than formerly and show many patterns of which many are floral in design.

Novel hues in strawberry, old rose, raspberry, mahogany and rosewood are promised for the spring.

Lenten toilets are very plain and ecclesiastical, but very becoming, are to be seen in the modestest shops.

Golden brown will probably be the leading fashionable color. Another stylish hue is golden terra cotta or "etrasque."

Tachtis shoes for ladies may be seen in maroon leather with white heels, or in white kid with scarlet heels. They are very smart in appearance.

For "second" mourning silver-shot black silks are novel and quite effective. They will be trimmed with jet and silver galloons or cut-steel passementerie.

Parisian women carry the expensiveness and elegance of their underclothing to excess. Over chemises of cambric and Valenciennes lace are worn corsets of satin—black or red for daytime, white, cream or pale pink for evening. Under-petticoats match the corsets and are trimmed with lace.

For and About the Fair Sex.

Blessed with beauteous wives.
—*Richard III., V., 3.*

A New York city woman has been sent to the penitentiary for six months for beating her husband!

British women are protesting against the manner in which the waltz is overwhelming and suppressing all other dances.

Of the fifteen students sent by the Government of Siam to receive professional training in England, four are young women.

New York society must be getting economical when Mrs. Astor declares that if the price of her box at the opera is raised above $3,000 she will decline to keep it.

Mrs. Mona Caird, the famous author of "Is Marriage a Failure" discussion, is described as a handsome brunette, tall and graceful, with fine eyes and a very sprightly expression, the very opposite of the conventional idea of the clever woman.

A lady who is well informed with regard to Mrs. Cleveland says she is very anxious to throw off the courtly style of the White House and go out once more among the girls, free, easy and untrammeled.

At Ella Wheeler Wilcox's last "At home," on Sunday afternoon, in New York, the poetess was togged out in a Josephine dress of white satin, cut away below line that Rose Cleveland defined. But figure is very, very pretty, and her neck and shoulders are studies in nature's satin.

The old English names are now given t the small women of the nursery. Dorothy, Cynthia, Barbara, Anne, Elizabeth and Katharine ha ceeded the Mays, Coras, Mauds, Daisies, d Carries that obtained so long. For this the whole Dominion should be kful.

At Kar Cit on Monday R order Porter fin s. Elizabeth Ryan $10 for wearing a f ne latch band's clothes. The poor felt lonesome and wanted something a man around to scare off the tramps.

Experimental Work for Farmers.

The me of the Experimental Union are enter ng to introduce a system of practic periments, in which they solicit the operation of the farming community. The object is to inaugurate such exper tal work as will be valuable to every in the Province. These experiments s intended to be such as can be carried out almost every farmer, with but little tro e or expense. The following are the xperiments chosen for this year, and the stems for carrying them on:

1. A contin ation of the experiments of 1888 on the s e plots, without further application of fertilizers.

2. A test superphospate, dried blood, farmyard manure, and no manure with oats.

3. A comparison of the different systems of raising fodder corn.

The first is only to be undertaken by those who experimented with fertilizers in 1888; the second is to ascertain the value of some of our quick acting and best known fertilizers. This experiment will prove especially valuable to small farms, grain and truck farms. The third, the shortage of pasture and increased use of supplemental crops impresses upon us the need of the best methods of raising fodder for summer and winter use. With this object in view the experiment with corn was planned.

Other experiments are being arranged in stock feeding, dairying, horticulture and bee-keeping by different committees.

We solicit the help of farmers in this work, and would ask them to apply to Mr. C. A. Zavitz, Secretary of the experiments, O.A.C., Guelph, for further information. Our means being limited, those who apply first will be supplied with experimental material. The result of the work should well repay each one who takes part in it.—EXPERIMENTAL COMMITTEE ON GRAINS AND FERTILIZERS.

Things Worth Knowing.

For a sore throat cut slices of boneless bacon, pepper thickly, and tie around the throat with a flannel cloth.

When stung by a bee or wasp, make a paste of common earth and water, put on the place at once and cover with a cloth.

When a felon first begins to make its appearance take a lemon, cut off one end, put the finger in, and the longer it is kept there the better.

For a cold in the chest, a flannel rag wrung out in boiling water and sprinkled with turpentine laid on the chest, gives the greatest relief.

The best treatment in regard to offensive breath is the use of powdered charcoal, two or three tablespoonfuls per week, taken in a glass of water before retiring for the night.

For a cough boil one ounce of flax seed in a pint of water, strain and add a little honey, one ounce of rock candy and the juice of three lemons; mix and boil well. Drink as hot as possible.

Often after cooking a meal a person will feel tired and have no appetite. For this beat a raw egg until light, stir in a little milk and sugar and season with nutmeg. Drink half an hour before eating.

For a burn or scald make a paste common baking soda and water, apply at once and cover with a linen cloth. When the skin is broken apply the white of an egg with a feather; this gives instant relief, as it keeps the air from the flesh.

Cause Enough.

De Bigsby—What makes you so down in the mouth, Rigley?

Rigley (with a long drawn sigh)—Addition to father's family last night.

De Bigsby—Then why the deuce are you so glum? Was it a boy or girl?

Rigley—Neither. Miss Recusant became my sister.

How She Was Engaged.

Mrs. Westend—And so you are engaged to Clara Vere de Vere? She is so haughty and cold and disdainful I did not suppose any one could ever get engaged to her. How did you manage it?

Adult Son—I didn't. She managed it.

Ergo.

De Boorson—Where's my father? Oh, he's off to the cattle show. I never see much of him. His main hobby in life is fat pigs.

Miss Prettypert—I wonder he doesn't take more interest in you.

REALISM IN PICTURE FRAMES.

The Carver Called In to Aid Painter and Etcher.

Art in picture frames is getting very realistic, according to the London *Star*. Frames are almost as clever as the pictures. An etching of "Angelus," for instance, is framed in a broad band of chestnut, shaded in dusky tints, with an old bell from which hangs a coil of rope carved on one side and a flight of bats spreading their wings on the other. Another etching of a harvest field is framed in chestnut with a scythe and rake in dull silver on the top edge. A panel of Landseer's dogs, framed in oak for the hall, has a realistic whip trailing across the top of the wood; a silver chain and padlock is fastened from corner to corner below. An etching of a laughing girl with her head on a pillow is not marred at all by the frame; the wood is enamelled, picked out in silver and gold, and made a continuation of the lace cushion upon which the girl's head is resting. Carved and enamelled frames are putting ponderous gilt borders out, of course. Enamelling is done in white and gold, pale blue and pink, to suit Pompadour rooms. A water color marine view has an enamelled frame in whitish green tints, suggesting sea foam. Across one corner is stretched a piece of net, and in the net struggles a fish with iridescent scales. Other marine pictures have cable cord stretched about the frames, or oars, harpoons and anchors applied in dull silver. The carved frames are more elaborate. The carving is done in intaglio and is sometimes darkened, giving the effect almost of a burned-wood sketch done on the frame. A genre picture of a frog concert has a tracery of carving on its wide, flat frame, showing water weeds, lily-pods and notes of the batrachian music. Harvesters at work in the field have carved frames showing heads of grain. But the most radical of all steps is taken when the carved frame not only echoes but actually continues the picture. This is most easily possible with the yellow-brown tones of a photogravure. A landscape scene shows you a farm house in the distance, a country lane, a ploughed field. The lane runs directly toward you, projects on the frame, and is carved without a break. The furrows of the turned ground do the same. The farm-house itself encroaches on the wood, and the fence at its side and the trees which overhang it are wholly carved. So with an old boat which a peasant woman is pulling. The bow is photogravure, the stern is carving. The waves are half of them carved. The woman's right oar begins in the picture, but its blade is carved in the frame.

Burlington's Romance.

Early in the present century Burlington's admirable location attracted the attention of the pioneer settlers, and the settlement of the country extended out from Burlington, or Wellington Square as it was first called. This name was given to it by Capt. Joseph Brant, Chief of the Six Nation Indians, on account, it is said, of his admiration of the Duke of Wellington. The site of the village occupies a portion of the old Brant Block of 400 acres, being Indian reserve land. Close to the village is the Brant House, now used as a hotel, and which has since been enlarged and improved. Around this building the memory of a tragedy exists, in which the warrior chieftain was the principal actor. A son of Brant, who was a desperate character, resolved that he would have the old man's scalp; actuated, so the story goes, by the desire for the chieftainship. Hoping the son would desist from his murderous attempt Brant secreted himself in one of the rooms. This having no effect, the bold chief threw open the door and ordered the crowd to offer no further resistance, when the would-be murderer rushed into the room and was instantly shot down by the aged chief. After the sale of this Indian reserve land, the remains of the chieftain were taken to the Mohawk cemetery near Brantford and buried.—*Toronto World.*

Curious Things in Life.

There is a type of man who doesn't care for a bright woman, or a piquant one, and whose ideal is something between an Alderney and a Holstein cow.—*Philadelphia Times.*

An Ohio farmer mortgaged his farm to get his wife some diamond ear rings, and she lost one of them in the suds the very first wash day and attempted to hang herself in the barn.

A fellow in Chester, Pa., has found out why a dog sometimes turns around three times before he lies down for a snooze. The reason is: A dog thinks one good turn deserves another.

The gilded rooster on the tower of the First National Bank building at Portland, Me., is the same bird that served as a weather vane on the top of the old Portland Court House over 100 years ago.

Max O'Rell has received a bona-fide offer of $25,000 and a special car, together with expenses for himself and family, to make a lecture tour in America. He writes to Major Pond that he does not think much of the idea of being made a circus of, even in America.

Judas Abolished.

Judas has been officially abolished in the Island of Madeira. It has been a time-honored custom of the natives to exhibit in one of their numerous religious processions an effigy of Judas, upon which the opprobrium of the populace was duly heaped, and at the close of the day Judas was burned with vociferous expressions of triumph and joy. Of late years it has happened that the effigy of Judas has borne a striking resemblance to some person upon whom the general public has ceased to smile, and thus the Governor of the Island, the Mayor of Funchal and a foreign consul have been caricatured in the processions and burned in effigy. The powers that be have decided that the admixture of politics and religion is not wholesome, and so the edict has gone forth that hereafter the people must get along without Judas.—*New York Sun.*

Captain Gil in, one of the oldest residents of Brockville, is dead. He was on the Sir Robert Peel at the time that vessel was captured and burned by the rebels at Wells' Island in the autumn of 1838, and, so far as known, with his death the last person of those who were eye-witnesses of that memorable event is removed. The captain was a boy about 16 years of age at that time.

IN KNICKERBOCKERS.

An Innovation in Evening Dress Introduced by Young Society Men.

The dance that was given on Monday night by Mr. and Mrs. William Douglass Sloane at 642 Fifth avenue in honor of the debut of Miss Louise Shepard, daughter of Col. Elliott F. Shepard, was marked by a picturesque and interesting social innovation in costume worn by a group of seven young society men, who have recently formed themselves into a club, and who propose hereafter to discard the regulation evening dress at receptions or balls. The leader of this club is Broker John C. Furman, who is connected with Waterbury & Co., of 132 Front street. His associates are Messrs. Thomas Howard, Robert Hargous, James Waterbury, Worthington Whitehouse, Edward C. Potter and Broker S. S. Sands, jun. They arrived on Monday night after the drawing room was filled with guests, and sauntered in, dressed all alike in knee breeches and tailless dress coats. Their arrival made an instant sensation, and the debutante and the belles who were clustered about her studied the novel attire with admiration. The knee breeches of each of the seven swells were of rich black satin, fastened at the knee with silver buckles. Black silk stockings encased the calves, and the dancing pumps were made after the fashion of the old Knickerbocker shoe and fastened with buckles of burnished silver. The dress coats were of black velvet, cut somewhat after the type of shooting jackets, and worn over low-cut waistcoats of black watered silk, such as are worn with the ordinary dress coat of the present season. Each man wore a linen dress shirt, with plain bosom and standing collar, encircled with a plain white tie.—*New York Sun.*

The Wants of a Family.

(By Kate Thorn.)

The man who has a family of children seldom gets a night's rest. It is one of the conditions of that blessed estate.

He retires early because the children must not be disturbed by his coming up late. That is good. No fault can be found with that. His wife is tired, as she has an undoubted right to be.

She toasts her feet by the fire, does her front hair up on crimping machinery, puts some glycerine on her hands, makes sure that the chamber door is locked and bolted, and a chair with the lamp and some matches in it set against it; and then she gets into bed, and says she knows she shan't sleep a wink to-night. She feels just like it.

The family man flops over with his face to the wall, and is just settling into his "beauty sleep," when the piping voice of his little son calls out from the bed in the adjoining chamber, the door of which is always left open:

"Pa! I want some water! I say pa! I'm a-dry!"

The family man ignores the cry, hoping that the child will fall asleep without enforcing his demand, and he gives utterance to a vigorous snore, which all family men learn to practice, and his wife gives him a dig with her well-trained elbows.

"Thomas, don't you hear Genie cry? He is thirsty, Thomas. How can you lie there and snore, and that blessed child choking to death for want of a little water?"

Another more pronounced snore.

"Pa!" this time the little voice has become lachrymose, and the notes are raised a whole octave—"I want some water! Say, pa! I want some water!"

"Thomas!" cries the loving mother, in a voice of dire reproach, "are you deaf? That child is crying for some water."

"It's too cold to get up!" growls the family man, thinking of just how cold and slippery that strip of oil cloth in the back hall will feel to his feet, and how the shivers will run down his spine when he goes through the dining room to the kitchen pump.

"I want it cold!" cries the child, "real cold! Just pumped!"

The family man gets out of bed and feels for the matches.

"Take care, Thomas," cries his wife; "you'll upset the lamp! The matches are right there under your nose. Strange that a man never can find anything! I knew I should have to get up! Now, mind you lock the kitchen door again after you, and while you are down there just see if the front door is bolted. I have forgotten whether I looked at it when I came to bed."

Thomas unbolts and unlocks the chamber door, and proceeds downstairs, and returns with the water, and by that time the boy is asleep, and his ma thinks he had better not be awakened.

The door is secured, the light out, and then the wife nudges her husband.

"My throat feels a little sore, Thomas. I wish you would go down and bring up the camphor before you go to sleep."

"Put on some bay rum," suggests the family man.

"Bay rum, indeed!" cries the wife. "Why, who ever heard of bay rum for a sore throat? When I am dead, Thomas, you will think of this, and I a good and faithful wife to you, and the mother of your children!"

The family man gets out of bed again, and makes another expedition downstairs, and brings up a bottle of ammonia by mistake and has to return; and by the time he gets back the boy who wanted water is awake again, and this time he wants milk, and he refuses to have anything else, and the little girl in the cribrouses up and calls for a drink, and declines to take the water brought up for her brother because it tastes hot; and so the family man has to descend again and unlock and lock all these doors.

Is it any wonder that suicide is on the increase?

Had Positive Knowledge.

They were sitting in the theatre. One of them had got a little confused about the play.

"What act is this? The fourth?"

"No; it's the third."

"No, it isn't; it's the fourth."

"I know it's the third. I've only had two drinks."

Recent Scene in London, Ont.

Collector (to office boy)—I have a bil against this paper. Can I see the business manager?

Office Boy (warningly)—Sh! you musn't speak so loud.

Collector—Anybody sick?

Office Boy—We're all sick, and the paper is dead; it breathed its last to-day.

MANNERS AND SUCCESS.

Everybody is Against People Who Are Disagreeable.

Lord Palmerston once said to a friend of mine, who, as a young fellow was patronized by that statesman: "Never forget that a much neglected road to success is agreeable manners. The man or woman with agreeable manners will make headway in the face of the worst difficulties. Every one is against the disagreeable people, whose best chance lies in secluding themselves as much as they can." Emperor William might ponder with advantage on these words of Pam. Not having secluded himself but gone to Vienna and Rome, the allies of his grandfather there would gladly slip from their alliance with him. The old Emperor and the Emperor Frederick bore their great positions with simplicity and sweetness. William II. hears with impatience all opinions that do not match with his own, and is arrogant in putting them down. He has made the Emperor Franz Joseph bristle up. The Italians were unfavorably impressed by him. From whom did he take his bad manners? His father was a nice, good fellow and so knightly! The old grandfather was courtesy itself. The Empress Frederick is not insolent or haughty; neither is Augusta, who attaches but small importance to her imperial rank, and whose ideal of life is intellectual and ladylike Bohemianism. My theory to explain the bad form of William II. is that he has too much Saxe Coburg blood in his veins. The Queen's manners, when she is in good humor, are pleasant. But when she is not—well, I don't venture to say how she struck me on a public occasion on which I saw her in a sullen mood. I cannot conceive how any one could have ever liked the Prince Consort. There was so much ice in his deameanor. The Duke of Edinburgh and his uncle, Ernest, are both surly. Old King Leopold inspired repugnance to all but Saxe Coburgs and Baron Stockmar. The Duchess of Kent was the best Saxe Coburg that ever lived, and the most agreeable, she being free from affectation, and throughout life a good soul, though in some respects a masterful woman.—*London Truth.*

Eli Perkins on Modern Music.

My cousin Julia is learning to sing hi—opera. Everything is on the hi now; hi opera, hi—church, hi heels, or hi—pocrisy.

When Eugene Augustus asked her to sing last night she dirted up her long train, coquettishly wiggle-waggled to the piano, and sang:

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
I thee think
Hot [illegible]
I thee think,
I thee think
I thee think.
I thee-the-hele-hele-hele think hot thee-e-e-e-e!"

"Beautiful, Miss Julia! beautiful!" and we all clapped our hands.

"Do please sing another hymn. You sing perfectly divine, Miss Julia," said Eugene Augustus.

Then Julia raised her golden dyed head, touched the white ivory with her jewelled fingers and warbled:

And we'll eat the Sue
And we'll [illegible] the Sue
And we'll [illegible] the Sue [illegible]

I thought it was divine—Julia's singing—but I changed my mind that evening when my good old family clergyman, Elder Wilson, took me out behind the barn and read this good, old fashioned hymn:

[illegible]

The Best Exercise for Children.

Instinctive gymnastics is, from the hygienic point of view, the best adapted to the regular development of the child. It is not liable to any of the objections we have brought against gymnastics with apparatus. It cannot deform the body, for it is made up of spontaneous movements and conformed to the natural office of each limb. It does not localize the work in a particular region of the body, for all the limbs are instinctively invited to take their quota of exercise, and it does not seduce the child into efforts touching upon the limits of his strength. Instinct also invites him to the kind of work which is best adapted to his particular aptitudes for resisting fatigue. He has a natural disposition to perform light but frequently recurring acts, quick motions, which put him out of breath, while exercise with apparatus rather exact slow and intense efforts that bring on local fatigue. Now all observers have noticed the wonderful facility with which a child recovers its breath and its impatience of local fatigue. Finally, natural exercise, being the satisfaction of a want, is by that very fact a pleasure; and joy shines in the face of the child who is playing freely.—*From "The Physical Training of Young Children," by M. Fernand Lagrange, in the Popular Science Monthly for February.*

In a Prohibition State.

Employment agent—I have a position which you can fill if, as you say you are willing to leave the city. Do you drink?

Young Man—No, sir.

"Ever have the habit?"

"No, sir."

"Then I suppose you could resist the temptation to get tight even if swimming in liquor?"

"Yes, sir."

"All right. The position I have reference to is that of soda fountain clerk in an Iowa drug store."—*Philadelphia Record.*

Honors for Emperor William.

Labouchere says that when Emperor William comes to England in July the Queen will make him a G.C.B., and he will receive his father's gold collar and insignia, while the late Emperor's garter is to be given to Prince Henry of Prussia.

"If you start on a journey," says an old book of wisdom, "and meet a cat, you should at once turn back." The book does not say for what purpose you should turn back, but we suppose it is to get your gun.

It is understood in Montreal that a decree has been issued by the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, ordering a new division of the archdioceses of Montreal and Ottawa.

The B. W. & L. E. Railway directors have issued a writ against Mr. Paul Huffman, of Northfield Centre, who refused to go on with his tender, which was the lowest, for the construction of the road.