THREE BATTLES RAGING.

The British Slowly Fighting Their Way East to Wepener.

London, Monday, April 23.—Fighting is proceeding south and east of Wepener, while the bombardment of the British garrison at that place continues with renewed vigour. Gen. Rundle's column is gradually pressing its way east against a stubborn resistance by the Boers, who hold strong positions. Gen. Brabant, advancing from the south, is now at Bosman's kop. His advance guard is in touch with the Boers about fifteen miles south of Wepener, after taking a week to cover the forty miles from Rouxville. The delay was caused by the bad weather that has been prevailing.

A despatch from Maseru, Basutoland, describes the Basutos as orderly. The natives under arms to prevent an invasion of the country by the Boers, are commanded by three British commissioners.

The Standard's correspondent at Bloemfontein, in a despatch dated last Friday, says it is still uncertain how much longer General Roberts will remain at Bloemfontein. He draws attention to the impossibility of an advance by the main body of the army until its flanks are cleared. He adds that there is still pressing need for horses.

The rumour that General Warren is about to become Governor of the Orange Free State is interesting in view of the news concerning the present manner of managing the country, which was arranged by General Pretyman. Owing to the fact that it was considered unfair to exact an oath of submission unless the British furnished protection to those taking it, a Free State Mounted Police has been formed, and the country divided into sections, each of which will be administered by a commissioner.

President Steyn has issued a proclamation urging the burghers to maintain their struggle against the British until the report of the Boer peace commissioners arrives from Europe. He says that this will be only a short time, and then foreign intervention will be certain. The British correspondents interpret this proclamation as a sign that the Free State Boers are slackening in their enthusiasm for war, and need spurring on, but they admit that there is no other sign of this, as they fight with as great vigor as ever. They even say that the Boers who attacked General Methuen's convoy fought with a dash that hitherto had not been seen on the western border.

The Daily Telegraph prints a despatch, dated Boshof, Orange Free State, Sunday evening, which states that a Boer commando is in that immediate neighbourhood, and that it is looting everything that can be carried off.

The despatch adds that the weather is perfect, and that the British troops and horses are in fine condition. A copy of a proclamation recently issued by President Steyn has been received in Boshof. It declares that the Free State Boers who fail to take up arms will have their property confiscated, and they themselves will be shot when they are captured. The proclamation has created consternation among the burghers.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

Prices of Grain, Cattle, Cheese, &c., in the Leading Markets.

Toronto, April 24.—The receipts here to-day totalled 38 carloads of live stock, and while the market was, in a sense, little changed from its condition last Tuesday, this morning a light demand and weaker prices were characteristics of the cattle trade at the western yards.

The export demand is light, and prices are nominal; 4 3-4c per pound was the outside price.

Butcher cattle is slow and prices weaker, with 4c as quite the top figure.

Stockers were steady, wanted, and in small supply.

Milk cows, export, and light bulls, and feeders are practically unchanged.

Sheep and lambs are firm at recent quotations; about 150 came in.

Good veal calves are wanted.

Too many light hogs are still coming, but as yet prices are unchanged.

For prime hogs, scaling from 160 to 200 lbs., the top price is 6 1-8c; light hogs are bringing 5 3-8c per lb.

Following is the range of quotations:—

Cattle.		
Shippers, per cwt.	$ 4 25	$ 4 75
Butcher, choices, do.	3 60	4 00
Butcher, med. to good.	3 25	3 50
Butcher, inferior.	2 50	3 00
Stockers, per cwt.	2 75	3 62 1-2
Sheep and Lambs.		
Sheep, per cwt.	3 00	4 25
Lambs, per cwt.	4 50	6 50
Spring lambs, each.	2 50	4 50
Bucks, per cwt.	2 50	3 00
Milkers and Calves.		
Cows, each.	25 00	45 00
Calves, each.	2 00	10 00
Hogs.		
Choice hogs, per cwt.	6 00	6 12 1-2
Light hogs, per cwt.	5 00	5 37 1-2
Heavy hogs, per cwt.	5 00	5 37 1-2
Sows.	3 00	3 25
Stags.	2 00	2 25

Toronto, April 24.—Wheat — Western markets were weak again to-day. Local prices were steady, with the exception of Manitobas, which eased off. Quotations are as follows:—Ontario, red and white, 65 to 65 1-2c, north and west; 66 to 66 1-2c, each; goose wheat, 72c, east, and 71c, west; spring, east, 66c; Manitoba, No. 1 hard, 79 1-2c, North Bay; and 80 1-2c, g.i.t.

Flour—Quiet. Straight roller, in buyers' bags, middle freights, $2.50 per bbl. bid, and $2.60 asked. Special brands, in wood, $3 to $3.10.

Millfeed—Still scarce. Bran is quoted at $16.50 to $17 west; and shorts, at $17 to $18 west.

Corn—Easy. No. 2 American yellow, at 46c, on track here. Canadian scarce; none offered here.

Peas—Holding steady. Car lots, north and west, 62c; and east, 63c.

Barley—Steady. No. 2, 42c west, and 43c east; and No. 1 dull, and quoted at 43c west, and 44c east.

Rye—Unchanged at 52c west, and 53c east.

Oats—About steady. White are quoted at 28 1-2 to 29c, east, and 28c west; mixed, 27 to 27 1-2c east.

Buckwheat—Quoted at 50c west, and 51c east.

Buffalo, April 24.—Spring wheat—Nominal; No. 1 hard, 81c; No. 1 Northern, 79c; No. 2 Northern, 75 1-2c; No. 2 spring, 75c. Winter wheat—Weak; nominally, No. 2 red, 74c; No. 1 white, 73 1-2c. Corn—Firmer; No. 2 yellow, 43 3-4c; No. 3 yellow, 43 1-2c; No. 4 yellow, 42 3-4c; No. 2, 43 1-4c, No. 3, 43c. Oats—Slightly firmer; No. 2 white, 29 3-4 to 30c; No. 3 white, 29 1-2c; No. 4 white, 28 1-2 to 28 3-4c; No. 2 mixed, 29 1-2c; No. 3 mixed 26c. Rye—No. 2, nominally 63c. Flour—Easy.

Chicago, April 19.—Flaxseed—Closed: North-West and South-West, cash, $1.73; May, $1.72 bid; September, $1.20; October, $1.14 bid.

Detroit, April 19.—Wheat—Closed:—No. 1 white, cash, 71 1-4c; No. 2 red, cash, 71 1-4c; May, 71 1-4c; July, 71 3-4c.

Milwaukee, April 19.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, 66 1-2c; No. 2 Northern, 65 to 65 1-8c. Rye—No. 1, 58c. Barley—No. 2, 43 to 43 1-2c; sample, 38 1-2 to 42 1-2c.

Minneapolis, April 19.—Close: Wheat—In store, No. 1 Northern, April, 64 7-8c; May, 63 7-8c; July, 65 3-8c; to 65 1-2c; September, 65 1-2c; on track, No. 1 hard, 79 3-8c. No. 1 Northern, 64 7-8c; No. 2 Northern, 66 3-8c. Flour and bran—Unchanged.

Duluth, April 19.—Wheat—No. 1 hard on track, 79c; May, 68 1-4c; July, 69 1-2c; September, 67 1-2c; No. 1 Northern, cash, 66c; May, 66 1-4c; July, 67 3-8c; September, 66 1-2c; No. 2 Northern, 65c. No. 3 spring, 61c. Oats—24 1-2 to 25c.

EVACUATE BOSMAN'S KOP.

Bors Are Trying to Leave the Country By Way of Ladybrand.

Bloemfontein, April 20, 4.10 p.m.—The northern circuit of British outposts has not been touched by the Boers for several days.

It is now believed that the enemy evacuated Bosman's kop last evening. It is reported that they are seeking to leave the country below Ladybrand, and that they will make their next line of defence across from there northward.

The British remounts continue to arrive. The animals are healthy, despite the fact that the journey was made through the heaviest rains. The horses belonging to the forces moving on the north also suffered less than was expected from the rains.

General Roberts' outspoken criticism of the commanders at Spion kop has been briefly published here. The army endorses the censures of the commander-in-chief, and believes that the knowledge that such public criticism will fall upon officers who are derelict in their duties will be of great future benefit.

There is continued unrest among the farmers in the districts distant from the railway.

The mail which was despatched from London March 30 was delivered here this morning. This is the quickest delivery that has yet been made of English mails in Bloemfontein.

APPEAL TO AFRIKANDERS.

Boer Government Circulating a Manifesto in Cape Colony.

Cape Town, April 17.—The Boer Government is circulating the following manifesto to the Afrikanders throughout Cape Colony:—

"We feel that our fate, and the fate of the whole of Afrikanderdom, is at stake, and we appeal to you to stand and fight shoulder to shoulder with us. You cannot, you may not, allow the tyrant to extinguish forever your finest traits of character as a nation. With you on our side the issue cannot be doubtful. We must conquer. God grant that love for your country and your liberty, and the noble virtues of men truly free, may induce you to join us in the hour of our supreme struggle."

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Notes of Proceedings in the National Legislature.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Mr. Clarke was informed by Dr. Borden that the Government has no information with regard to the recent announcement in the British House of Commons that the Australian cavalry now on their way to the Cape are to be allowed, in addition to the Imperial rates of pay, certain local allowances, which will give them equivalent to five shillings a day, for privates. Neither is the Government aware that Lord Roberts has written to local committees in England, asking for supplies of cardigan waistcoats, socks, flannel shirts, etc. Certain societies, such as the Red Cross, have asked the War Office what supplies would be suitable for the soldiers, and many enquiries along this line have been answered by the Department of Militia. The Government has taken steps to forward jerseys and underclothing as presents to the Canadian troops in South Africa. Dr. Borden further stated that the Government has no knowledge as to the number of men furnished by each of the colonies.

Mr. Casgrain was informed by Mr. Mulock that 31 miles of telegraph lines were constructed on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, east of Pointe aux Esquimaux, during the summer of 1899.

Mr. Clarke was informed by Mr. Paterson that the amount of rebate paid on bicycles exported from Canada in the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1898, was $7,693.45, and during the fiscal year 1899 it was $4,191.16.

Mr. Henderson was told by Mr. Paterson that the actual average rate of duty per 100 pounds collected in the year ended 30th June, 1899, on all sugars not elsewhere specified, not above 16 D. S., in colour, was nearly 66 3-4 cents.

Mr. Wilson was informed by Mr. Fisher that at the Paris Exposition there is no special Canadian building. There is a building for the accommodation of the British colonies, to be paid for in proportion to the amount of space occupied by each colony. The Canadian share, according to the statement of the Imperial Commissioner, will be $82,733. There is also building at Vincennes for the accommodation of agricultural implements. Canada's share of the cost of this will be $5,000. This country will also pay $1,500 for an addition to the Colonial building to provide room for cold storage plant, and $1,250 for office accommodation, making a total of $90,483. In addition, Canada occupies certain space among the Imperial exhibits, which space will cost $15,000 or $18,000. At the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, in 1893, Canada had a building which cost $26,354, but this was used for offices and other purposes not connected with the Canadian exhibit. Mr. Fisher was unable to say how much would be required to complete and thoroughly equip all the Canadian buildings at Paris.

Mr. Oliver tried to get some information regarding the 163 horses of the Strathcona contingent that died on their way to South Africa, but Dr. Borden told him that the Government knew nothing about it.

Dr. Borden informed Mr. Clarke that the greater part of the supplies and provisions required for the maintenance of the regiment now garrisoning Halifax are procured from the same contractors who furnish supplies to the Imperial authorities. No public tenders have yet been asked for by this Government in connection with these supplies.

Mr. Clancy was told by Mr. Blair that Mr. W. E. Phin, in addition to his contract for dredging at Toronto, has also a contract as the partner of Mr. Magann for the extension of the west pier at the east entrance of Toronto harbour. The work is being done by tender, and no payments have yet been made on it.

Col. Prior called attention to the press despatch announcing the arrival in British Columbia of large numbers of Japanese, and asked the Government to ascertain whether they were destined for the United States or Canada. If they were going to remain in the Dominion, they would be a serious menace to white labour.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that for Imperial reasons it was not thought advisable to restrict Japanese immigration, and he believed the Government's policy in that respect was approved even in British Columbia. The Department of the Interior would look into the question of their destination.

Mr. Fisher told Mr. McMullen that Major Dent, the Imperial remount officer, had not reported that he was in Canada to purchase horses for the Imperial army.

Mr. Fielding informed the House that he was not yet able to make the statement which he had promised with regard to the negotiations for a trade treaty between Canada and the Island of Trinidad. Part of the correspondence was confidential, and he would have to wait for permission from Trinidad before producing it.

Dr. Sproule called attention to a paragraph in the papers relating to the existence of foot and mouth disease among American cattle. He wanted to know if precautions were being taken to prevent the introduction of the disease in this country.

Mr. Fisher replied that he had not heard of the existence of the disease, but would enquire. He was sure that Canadian cattle were in no danger.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, answering Col. Kaulbach, said the Government was always ready to receive any overtures from Newfoundland on the subject of the colony's joining the Canadian Confederation. No proposals had been made recently to the Island for reciprocal trade relations, the reason being that it was thought the political situation in Newfoundland made the present time unpropitious for such proposals.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier told Mr. Puttee that the Government had not come to any conclusion in regard to extending aid to the famine-stricken districts of India. It was thought advisable to communicate with the Home authorities on the subject.

Mr. Gilmour, Conservative, East Middlesex, said that he was in receipt of communications from a number of his constituents, who were anxious to contribute to the relief of the unfortunate natives in India. Efforts were being made to raise a substantial sum of money, and he rose for the purpose of asking that the Government would recognize the movement and transmit any subscriptions that might be raised in Canada to the proper authorities in India. He asked also whether it would be advisable to offer contributions in grain. He read the resolutions adopted by his constituents at a meeting at Hyde Park, and commended the movement to the Government, so that by official recognition the efforts of the Canadian people to raise funds in aid of the sufferers in India might be stimulated.

Mr. Fielding admitted that there was need for something being done to help the unfortunate in India, but he pointed out that there were many objections to the sending of grain or provisions. Pending the decision of the Government on the matter of aid to the unfortunates, he suggested that any Canadian subscriptions should be forwarded to Mr. J. W. Courtney, Deputy Minister of Finance, who would see that they reached the proper quarter. Mr. Courtney was treasurer of the Canadian Indian Famine fund, an organization which was in existence some years ago.

BOERS' LAST DITCH.

Swaziland Said to be Chosen For Retreat If Pretoria is Taken.

London, April 19.—Mr. Prevost-Battersby wires to the Morning Post from Bloemfontein under date of April 17:—

"Observation might profitably be kept on the intentions of the Boers respecting Swaziland. The alternative plan of operations following on defeat at Pretoria includes the employment of Swaziland for the retirement of half of the Boer forces, while the other half falls back to Zoutpansberg.

"Boer emissaries are already in that country endeavoring to purchase secret information concerning the caverns in the greystone country, which are known only to the natives, with the object of accumulating provisions and ammunition."

DYNAMITERS AT WORK.

Partially Successful Attempt to Blow Up Lock 24 at Thorold.

St. Catharines, Ont., April 22.—This vicinity was thrown into a high state of excitement on Saturday evening when it became known that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to blow up one of the locks of the new Welland canal at Thorold. Two distinct reports were heard, and many buildings higher up the mountain were shaken, while in this city and Port Dalhousie the noise of the explosion was distinctly heard. Two parcels of dynamite were exploded by strangers, one at each of the heel-path gates of lock 24, but as the charges had been tied close to the wall, very little damage was done except to shatter the ironwork and puncture the gate with a hole about a foot in diameter. Lock 24, where the attempted wrecking occurred, is a peculiarly vulnerable spot for the attack of an enemy. Under the steep bank runs the Welland railway line for half a mile, a narrow mound of earth only supporting the great volume of water. The Thorold depot lies in the hollow, and the destruction of lock 24 would have meant the ruin of the entire section of the town. The water would have overrun the neighborhood and carried car tracks, depot, and several houses down the slope for a couple of miles. This lock is the next but one to the waters of Lake Erie. It is thought by many that the dastardly attempt was aimed at the whole waterway, and that the head lock was the objective.

THE PERPETRATORS.

The attempt was made in broad daylight. Two men got off a Niagara Central train about 6 30 and started up the track to the bridge crossing the canal. Each man had a telescope valise, and it weighed heavily, considering the frequent changes the men made from one hand to the other. Numerous people noticed them come down the street from the N.C.R. bridge to the lock, but no notice was paid to them. They were seen in the vicinity of a canal storehouse, where they went to arrange the fuse, and then about 7 o'clock both men set out to carry out their design. The man who was to blow the lower gates into the air had his valise let down with a rope, and tied to the railing of the gate. The explosive was then about ten feet from the top of the lock. The report of this explosion was heard throughout the district, and brought everybody in Thorold to the door. Along the street leading away from the lock nearly every building suffered, and the glass in every house as far away as the Presbyterian church was destroyed. The lock tender, Mr. Parr, was in the shanty along with Richard Hoover and they ran out in time to see the fuse of the charge for the upper gateway burning. He stepped to the telephone, making the remark, "They are blowing up the canal," and as he grasped the receiver the second charge exploded with ten times more violence than the first. The door of the shanty was blown in, the telephone shattered, and glass flew in all directions. As the man at the upper gate was apparently slow in setting off the fuse, his companion called from the road, "Hurry up Jack, drop it and come."

COOL SCOUNDRELS.

The strangest part of it all was the coolness with which the dynamiters did their work.

People were about, and many saw them run from the lock and take the road in the direction of Niagara Falls, about eight miles distant. They were on foot, but got quite a start before the Thorold people followed. One rig contained Mayor Wilson, ex-Mayor Williams, Chief of Police Clarke, and Mr. Martin. They overtook the two men near Stamford, and one of them got out of the rig to remain behind the men while the other three proceeded to the Falls for assistance. Officer Mains, of the Ontario police force joined the Thorold people, and as soon as the strangers reached town they were arrested.

ARREST OF THE MEN.

Niagara Falls, Ont., April 22.—Late last evening the three men who made the attempt to blow up lock 24 on the Welland canal were arrested here by Detective Mains, of the Ontario police. The prisoners—

Walsh, John, Washington, D.C., aged 28, small-sized, clean shaven.

Nolin, John, Philadelphia, aged 50, tall, stout, weight 215 pounds.

Dullman, Karl, aged 30, stout set, well dressed, evidently the leader of the gang.

GETS THE VICTORIA CROSS

An Army Medical Corps Officer's Bravery Acknowledged.

London, April 20.—The official Gazette announces that the Queen has conferred the Victoria Cross on Major William Baptie, of the Army Medical Corps, for conspicuous bravery at the battle of Colenso.

Major Baptie went to the assistance of the wounded gunners in the face of a heavy rifle fire during the fighting December 15, and later in the day assisted in bringing in Lieutenant Roberts, son of Lord Roberts, who lost his life while attempting to rescue the guns, for which, after his death, he was awarded the Victoria Cross. The latter feat of Major Baptie was also accomplished under a severe fusillade

PLENTY OF WATER.

Rains Have Removed One of Gen. Roberts' Chief Difficulties.

Bloemfontein, April, 19.—During the last ten days there have been constant rains, and an enormous quantity of water has fallen. These conditions, although extremely uncomfortable as far as the soldiers are concerned, have had their advantages, for every dam in the country round about is filled, and the question of water, which hitherto during the march of the army has been one of great difficulty, is now practically solved. The troops will be able to move in any direction with a certainty of finding a sufficient supply of water.

The whole regular and volunteer drafts have arrived, and the Highland brigade is now at its full strength.

Lady Roberts and her daughters have arrived at Bloemfontein.

GEN. WARREN RECALLED

Order Said to Have Been Cabled to South Africa.

London, April 18.—It is said that a peremptory order for the return of Lieut.-General Sir Charles Warren, the commander of the fifth division of the South Africa field forces, was cabled to South Africa this morning.

The War Office declined to give any information in regard to the rumour.

Colonel Crofton, who was in command at Spion kop from the time General Woodgate was wounded until Colonel Thorneycroft was appointed to the position, and whose heliograph messages to General Warren caused General Buller to appoint Thorneycroft to the command, was placed on half pay to-day.

Private information received from Shrewsbury to-day is to the effect that General Gatacre is leaving South Africa this week to resume command of a local district.

About the House.

DISINFECT SEWERS.

This is a good time to disinfect sewers and cesspools. Do this by pouring a pail of boiling water in which about five cents' worth of copperas is dissolved down the cesspools and the same amount down the general sewer of the house. If there is any sign that the waste pipe of the kitchen sink is partly filled with grease, wash it out with a boiling solution of sal soda, and water, and scrub out the edges of the sink with an old sink whisk dipped in the same mixture. Repeat the disinfecting solution of copperas at least three times during the spring.

Whitewash is one of the best disinfectants we have. Apply it to the walls of the cellar and to various outbuildings around the premises. The following whitewash is especially desirable for outdoor work:

Take half a bushel of nice unslaked lime. Slake it with boiling water, covering it during the process to keep in the steam. Strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer and add to it a peck of salt previously dissolved in warm water, three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste, half a pound of clean glue, which has been previously dissolved by soaking it well in warm water, and then putting it over the fire in a double glue pot. Add five gallons of hot water to the mixture given. Stir it well and let it stand covered for a few days. It should be applied hot, and for this purpose it can be kept on a portable furnace. It is said one pint of this mixture will cover a square yard of surface.

WASHING FLANNELS.

So much has been said as to the proper method of washing flannels, that the subject may perhaps be considered slightly worn. There are, however, always inexperienced ones anxious to learn, and others who have failed in performing the task satisfactorily.

To begin with, disabuse your mind of the idea that there is any method of washing flannels which will prevent shrinkage altogether. Woolen goods must and will shrink, and the process is a purely mechanical one. It is neither helped nor hindered by the addition to the water of any chemical. If we call to mind the fact that woolen goods are fulled by being slightly wetted and pressed between two rollers, we have in a nutshell the whole principle of shrinkage. Properly washed, however, the shrinkage need be but trifling.

It is simply ruinous to wear flannels until much soiled. Such heroic measures are necessary to make them clean, that they can by no possibility be made soft and attractive again. Before the winter is over such garments will be badly shrunken and discolored, and so felt to be almost, if not entirely, unwearable.

Some housekeepers advise washing flannels in very hot water, whilst others affirm that rapid water only should be used. The inexperienced laundress is frequently at a loss to decide between the two. Hot water, not too hot to keep the hands in comfortably, is quite safe, and better than either extreme.

Flannels should always be washed by themselves, and not hurried through with the usual weekly washing. One should have plenty of time to treat them properly, and a warm, bright day should be chosen.

In cold weather it is better not to wash them until just in time to have them on the line during the warm hours of mid-day.

The suds should never be boiled, neither should they be soaked, nor needlessly left lying in the water. They should not be put in suds which have been used for other clothes, nor in dirty water of any kind. Clean soft water is indispensable.

If the water is hard it must be softened before washing is attempted. A tablespoonful of ammonia added to each two gallons of water, will accomplish this purpose very satisfactorily.

The suds should be prepared by dissolving some good soap in the water.

Soap must never be rubbed directly upon the flannels. If a little more is necessary rub it upon the hands, and then upon the goods. Do not use the washboard but wash the flannels with the hands.

Some good housekeepers affirm that flannels must never be put through the wringer, but this idea is a mistaken one. If folded smoothly, and run through the wringer with light pressure, the result is infinitely better than twisting the clothes with the hands.

Immerse only one article in the suds at a time, rub it gently between the hands, and stir it thoroughly about in the water, until it is quite clean and free from stains. Then wring lightly, and put it through the rinse water until free from suds. The rinse water must be as nearly the temperature of the suds as possible. When rinsed, wring out gently, shake vigorously, and hang up to dry immediately.

Finish each piece before beginning another. There should be no coaling between the waters, and the entire process for each piece should be as brief as possible.

If this method is faithfully followed, the flannels will be soft, smooth and clear.

When there are bright colors apt to fade, the following plan will preserve the tints admirably. Boil two tablespoonfuls of flour in one quart of water for ten minutes, add it to the warm suds, and wash as directed above. Rinse in three waters, all warm, and dry quickly.

USES FOR CELERY.

Minced Celery with Egg Dressing.—Scrape, wash and cut the celery in small bits. Rub the yolks of two hard-boiled eggs to a paste with one tablespoon salad oil, add salt and a little vinegar or lemon juice to mix. Pour over the celery and serve at once.

Celery and Potato Hash.—Chop fine 3 cups cold boiled potatoes and add one cup cooked celery, finely cut. Put in a saucepan with one small cup cream or rich milk, season to taste, cook until thoroughly heated, add a lump of butter and serve.

Stewed Celery on Toast.—Stew the celery as directed in preceding recipes, drain, season to taste, and mash to a pulp. Put a spoonful on a square of buttered toast, and pour over it a little cream sauce. This is a nice breakfast dish.

Celery Ramequins.—Boil two ounces bread in one gill of milk. When smooth add four tablespoons grated celery and two tablespoons butter. When heated, remove from fire, add the beaten yolks of two eggs, season to taste and stir in gently the stiffly whipped whites. Bake in a hot oven for fifteen minutes.

Celery Salad.—Cut the celery in small pieces, season to taste, pour over olive oil and lemon juice, in the proportion of two tablespoons lemon juice to one of oil. They must be thoroughly beaten together before pouring on the salad. Only the most tender and crisp celery should be used in a salad.

TOOTHSOME SANDWICHES.

One of the newest and daintiest of sandwiches is made with tiny soda biscuit. These biscuits are specially ordered from the baker or confectionery dealer. They are three inches in diameter and when baked are not more than a half inch in thickness. These, as received from the baker, are split in two, with a sharp knife. Butter is spread over each—a suggestion of butter only. Two crisp leaves of lettuce are then patted down upon the buttered biscuit and the edges trimmed down to the size of the biscuit. A thin layer of mayonnaise dressing is then spread upon the lettuce and afterward upon one of the halves a thin dressing of minced ham; the two halves are pressed gently together and the sandwich is ready.

Slice black bread in pieces not more than one-tenth of an inch wide. Cut off the crust evenly all around. Butter the slices and spread thickly with Neufchatel cheese and place two slices together. A mere suggestion of cayenne sprinkled on the cheese adds piquancy to the sandwich.

TO CLEAN RIBBONS.

If a person uses proper care and is in the open air when cleaning ribbons or silk with gasoline there will be no accident. To clean ribbons effectively fill a fruit jar about half with the gasoline, and put into it ribbons that are not mussed. White ribbons should be cleaned separately. Aside from this the jar may be filled with any ribbons of any coloring. Close the bottle, allowing it to remain closed from two to six hours, and shake occasionally. Then take out the ribbons, hang them to dry in the open air, and, if possible, give them a good sun bath, to remove the objectionable odor of the gasoline. The ribbons need no pressing and are ready for use as soon as they have been aired. They should be stretched and smoothed out as they dry.

FASHION'S PUNCTUATION.

The latest fad of fashion, it is said, decrees that punctuation is unnecessary in letter writing. It strikes us that the fiat is much more unnecessary than the punctuation. The latter has never been indulged in to any large extent by woman. A dash or so and plenty of italics are the only condescensions her epistles have made toward that phase of rhetoric. That she should be enjoined, upon pain of appearing unfashionable, to forego all the commas and semicolons and interrogation points that she has never used seems hardly fair. It's a case of being found guilty without having as much as given an offense. It shows a remarkable ignorance upon the part of fashion. What has she been thinking about all these years that the smart epistolary communication has been so religiously abstaining from punctuation? Perhaps Fashion has been wrongfully reported, such things have happened—perhaps the flat actually concerns the beloved dashes and idolized italics, so dear to her who takes her pen in hand for the fashionable note. Perhaps it is but a neat little dodge of Fashion to put us on the right track; after denouncing dashes, her next move will be to recommend the established marks for punctuation which the educated woman, be she fashionable or otherwise, has always used. It strikes us that whoever reported Fashion in this thing confounded it with that other dictum known to all, that punctuation marks must never appear upon the engraved communication, be it card or invitation or visit, and in whatever lettering. But this has nothing to do with the manuscript note, and it will take more than Fashion to convince us otherwise. Even so great an authority must remember that "a shoemaker should stick to his last."

THE MATTER OF MARRYING

Marriage is not the chief end of life. Some girls think it is. They misquote thereby the Westminster catechism. Marriage is only an incident, or, with some people, an accident. But it is the chief accident or incident, and shapes human destiny more largely than any other single occurrence—if a marriage may be called single—between the cradle and the grave. It is but the difference of a letter from marrying to marring. The wedding means one or the other.

It is strange that girls who set much store by getting married should not make large preparations therefor. How few young women plan, soberly, steadily, seriously for the duties and responsibilities of wedded life. There is not here considered the preparations involved in a hurried trip for clothes the baking of the bride's cake. But married life usually means housekeeping and its attendant responibilities. It means, at least it may mean, motherhood, the highest, noblest mission of woman in the world. Are our girls trained for these duties which follow upon the wedding ring? Do our schools for girls, female colleges, as they are barbarously termed, put these into their curriculums? We hear of mothers' meetings but, by the way, there are no fathers' meetings, and why not?

The most dangerous thing a man can do is to fall in love. If he falls into a ditch he may break a leg or a neck, but when he falls in love he sometimes breaks his heart, and that is worse. How mysterious is this business of falling in love, anyway. The youth goes soberly along the path of everyday existence. He has no thought save his work, no eye for naught save the duty at his door. Suddenly a look, a voice, a face, and he is in love. No more a pathway undisturbed. The world has changed. A new ideal has arisen. The gray clouds fade into a blue sky and he blacks his boots twice a day. Whether love be caused by electricity or microbes it certainly comes unbidden. Reason has little to do with it. Imagination is its helper and sentiment its twin. A man who can keep out of debt and out of love will never be miserable, and never happy.

Love is a creator of ideals. In courtship the sweetheart forms and fashions a creature in her mind, say what you will, men like most of all the woman who works. They flirt with the dainty butterfly of fashion, with her unsolled hands, but the largess of their heart's devotion is poured at the feet of her who labors, whether in office, store or home. As good wives as the world holds come from the places into which stern necessity has driven the girls to work.

The "arranged" marriages are nearly always failures. It matters not whether arranged by father or mother, they are usually contrary to the desires of the young people, and hence a dismal disappointment. The old folks have no business making marriages for their children. Yet, while this is true, the children do well to take the old folks into consideration and confidence. There would be fewer mistakes, where this the general rule. In the old country the young man gets acquainted with the whole family. The parents stay in the parlor. The young people make love in a gnarled way in full sight of the family. Here it is sadly different. The boy and the girl sit in the parlor alone. The old people apologize if they accidentally walk in. She goes with him to the promiscuous dance and returns in a closed carriage at 4 a.m. It is not a surprise to her when he loses its bloom sometimes. In England the parents know every step of the courtship. They are acquainted with the young fellow, his antecedents, disposition and attainments. In this country the mother knows some of these things and the father knows — what she chooses to tell him. Hence, the demand for this modern make-believe, the chaperon.

A man does not amount to much at a wedding. He plays second fiddle until the first baby comes and then plays third. But when he is consulted he never wants to get married in a church. Church weddings are always arranged by a girl or the mother-in-law. The man is usually so embarrassed or ashamed that he wants to have it all over as inconspicuously as possible. Nevertheless, there is nothing more awful than a home wedding. It is usually as stiff as a funeral. The parlor is crowded with kinfolks, present and prospective. The bridal party stands in. A baby always cries somewhere in the background. Why do babies always cry at weddings? Then the ceremony is said, and then congratulations, kisses and weepings. All the bliss of the occasion is swallowed up by them and all the solemnity marred by the long line of congratulatory relatives. If the writer ever gets married again—which the Lord forbid — preference is here expressed for a marriage by telephone or in a desert.

There are some girls in town who are going to pick up the proverbial broken sticks. When they would have got married their ambitious mammas overpersuaded them, and weddings were deferred. Now, as the years move swifter, chances are less frequent, and to escape the dreaded doom of old maidhood there will be a sacrifice and subsequent sorrow. home's uplifting are they blessed withal.

Marriages are pulled off later in life than formerly. Now a man waits until he is 30, and a woman waits until she gets a chance. The old way was the best. It saves many wild oats, the devil's crop. It gives the girl an opportunity to share in the building up of the home. Homes can not be bought ready made. They grow. When a home stops growing it is dead. Marriages are sometimes deferred until the man can get his home all prepared. Then the couple, grown old, move into a ready-made home. It is like transition into a morgue as compared to the happy furnishing of a cottage full of life and hope. It is a good thing to have a sweetheart early in life, and it is better to have a wife. But the superlative is to have early a sweetheart who is also a wife.

Matches are made in heaven, 'tis said—not brimstone matches, but the other kind, in which no brimstone is. There are some ill-assorted ones made here on earth. Giants wed pigmies, the living skeleton woos the fat woman, intellectual chaps marry brainless babies. The long procession of queer couples wind down to the horizon of eternity. Blonde loves brunette, the apple dumpling clings to the macaroni, the dude to the woman of sense, the doctor of divinity to the society gossip. The world does not account for these queer contrasts. The word only smiles at them and repeats the dose. Such marriages are not always ill assorted save outwardly. The misfit marriage is a sad affair. No greater punishment could be inflicted than this. Better the Isle du Diable than a brawling woman in a loveless home. Misfit clothing is sold by city tailors at a bargain. The misfit marriage is dear at any price.

It is not the duty of every one to get married. Some should stay single as horrible examples. Women formerly got married because there was nothing else to do. Now they get married only when they do not care to do anything else. Marriage is now the last resort. It was once the only one. There is room abundant in the world for old maids. There is none for old bachelors. They should be taxed as much as the year's living of some good woman would require.

Do college women get married? is a query which college towns hear ever and anon. Do ducks swim—there being water close at hand? The higher education does not drive matrimonial dreams from the sweet creatures' heads. The "Mrs." appears with immediate frequency before the names of the alumnæ of the schools. The college girls, with their trained minds, make the best of wives. They are accustomed to obedience. Some philosopher from the seclusion of his study has suggested that marriage among workingwomen are infrequent. Not simply college education but toiling has said to lead away from the altar. Not so. Work that makes women masculine does perhaps frighten lovers away, not that in which women preserve the gentle womanliness which is her chief charm. Indeed, say what you will, men like most of all the woman who works. They flirt with the dainty butterfly of fashion, with her unsoiled hands, but the largess of their heart's devotion is poured at the feet of her who labors, whether in office, store or home. As good wives as the world holds come from the places into which stern necessity has driven the girls to work.

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Reformation by marriage is never a success. If he won't give up drink for her when she is his sweetheart he won't give it up for her when she is his wife. This is a truism but one that every girl should paste in her mirror, where she will see it oftenest.

There is no happiness greater than that which true marriage brings. It is not transient or illusive like the will o' the wisp, but shines on with added radiance unto the perfect day. Clouds may fleck the sky and storms may come without the home, but within is peace and sweet content. The passing years but add to the joy. Youth fades, but not the spring of love. Heads grow gray and furrows chase the dimples from the cheeks. But the love-light is in the eyes, tenderness in the voice and love in the very footstep down to the day when death does them part—yea, more, until the day when death does them unite again.

DOLLY AT COURT.

In the "Letters of Maria Josepha Lady Stanley," written in her early married life, there is one dated June 6, 1797, which quanitly tells of the appearance of Mistress Dolly Stainforth at Court on the king's birthday.

Mistress Dolly was distinguished by her beautiful black arched eyebrows, the fine bloom of her cheeks, and the agreeable shaking of her head. Thus "equipped," as the slightly satirical feminine pen puts it, and dressed with more than her usual splendor, she entered the royal apartment.

Thither also had come the little Princess Charlotte—the Prince of Wales's daughter—who could just speak, and who is described as a "remarkably sensible little child." The first object that struck her eyes was the "beauteous Mistress Stainforth," and she expressed her delight at so fine a sight by smiling and nodding to her and saying:

"Dolly, Dol