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go. I'll do my best overplentiful at present." for you."

here and wait for you."

mination was so manifest in her bearing that the major nodded his head in approval as she disappeared up the road, and said to himself as he reentered the house: "She'll do." And much more than Maggie knew

depended upon her success that day. In a general way she knew that Maj. Tallmadge was in command of a band of cavalrymen who were scouring the region and endeavoring to gain such information as could be had concerning the British forces in Philadelphia.

Maj. Tallmadge had done his best and had gained much information, some eggs for sale, and perhaps she which was of value to Washington; but | will buy. there had been special warnings sent | "Doubtless she will that," replied the him of late that the boys he had sent maid "but it will not be necessary for into the city were suspected. These |von to see her. I can pay you," and boys had gone apparently with produce she started from the hall as if to get to sell, but somehow they always con- her money. tinued to enter certain houses before | "Nay, nay," said Maggie, quickly, "I all their wares were disposed of, and a would deal with Mistress Jones herfew pecaliar words never failed to self. chasers, a response which was borne turned to seek the mistress, and in a to the waiting major, and quickly for- few minutes Mrs. Jones herself apwarded to Valley Forge.

The rumors which had come that his "Was it to me you desired to speak?" produce dealers were suspected had troubled him of late, but he was very desirous of gaining some information that day in the winter of 1777, for toe strange reports of the contemplated doings of the enemy had been scattered, and Maj. Tallmadge was eager to verify them before he reported to the commander. His fear of sending some boys or men disguised as countrymen with produce had prevailed, however, and at last he had persuaded the mother of Maggie Hickok to consent to her making the attempt. And Maggie was willing to try, for her own father and brother were at Valley Forge, and she could see no good reason for a girl of 16 to be entirely idle when the men were engaged in such a desperate struggle.

The girl trudged on with her basket on her arm, thinking far more of the peril before her than she did of the muddy road along which she was walking or of the biting air of that winter day. Occasionally she met men who looked keenly at her, but no one spoke till she was near the city. A band of a half-dozen red-coated men were standing by the roadside, and as she approached her heart almost stood still as she heard one of them say: "Here's another one of the produce dealers. What have you for sale, my wench?" he added, as Maggie came nearer.

"Only eggs," replied Maggie, boldly, although her face was almost as white

as the snow by the roadside. "Only eggs, is it? Well, my mess wants eggs, and I'll buy them all." "Indeed, sir, I cannot sell you all," replied Maggie, "for a portion are prom-

"Loubtless promised to Mistress Jones," laughed the man, brutally. "Somehow all the bumpkins sell to her, though I have my doubts as to what

"I can let you have two dozen," replied Maggie, boldly, placing her basket on the ground and beginning to
count out the eggs as she spoke. It
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with the basket and seized the
with the men than to increase their
with the most absolute. Charincrease the first
week in May, and the prospects are that
we entirely condemn, in the most absolute
weak in May, and the prospects are that
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weak in May, and the prospects are that
we entirely condemn, in the most absolute
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we entirely condemn, in the most absolute
weak in May, and the prospects are that
we entirely condemn, in the most absolute
weak in May, and the prospects are the she buys." enspicions by striving to pass.

HERE, Maggie, I've | "Nay, nay, wench. I want not thy tered the room with white face, deexplained every- eggs. I spoke in jest, for I was afraid claring she could see a band of British if you are afraid country people whom the rebel Tall-Maj. Tallmadge, and I doubt not that you will readily ride behind me?"

"Very well, then. resumed her journey, not daring for | moment afterwards was before the door Remember the several minutes to glance behind her; with his fleet black horse. "Up behind words I have given you, and don't fail but when she did look back her fears | me. Quick! For your life!" to hasten back to this inn. I shall be were not allayed when she saw that Maggie grasped his outstretched they were all watching, and apparently | hand and in a moment was behind the Maggie Hickok lifted the basket of talking of her and her errand. Realiz- major, with her arms tightly clasped eggs, and carrying it upon her arm at | ing the need of increased caution, Mag- about his waist. once left the tavern and started on her gie passed on, and soon stopped at sev- "Now, Jehu, go!" said the major to walk to Philadelphia, five miles away. eral houses, where she easily disposed his horse, and the black steed started Her step was light and an air of deter- of a portion of her burden. Declining with the speed of the wind. Maggie to part with them all, for each pur- almost lost her grasp as the major Raleigh were informed of its existence. chaser desired to gain the contents of turned for a moment and replied with the basket, she pushed on until she en- a taunting yell to the band which he tered the street where Mistress Jones | could see swiftly approaching down the lived. No one was in sight and she ran hillside; but her arms were strong, and

> when she saw a red-coated soldier ap- lowed pear on the corner of the street, and stop and gaze curiously at her as she stood before the door. She was in a admitted her, and she said:

"I would see Mistress Jones. I have

bring a strange response from the pur- The servant made no response as she

"Yes, I have fresh eggs to sell." "You are sure they are fresh?" "They are that, fresh and prime,

Mistress Jones looked keenly at Maggie as she heard the combination of words which was well understood by her, and she quickly replied: "You have brought your wares to the right market, I see." She then took the basket from Maggie's hand, and in a few moments returned with a loaf of bread. She did not inform her that within the loaf there was a note concealed, but Maggie understood. It was all as she had been informed it would be.

"If you lose the bread, or find it necessary to destroy it, you may simply say to your friend: 'Not yet.' Do you understand?"

"I do," replied Maggie, quietly, as she again took her basket and prepared to depart. The door was quickly closed behind her, and she lingered a moment on the steps before she went down to the street. She could see no one now, and the curious soldier had disappeared; but Maggie's fear was none the less when she started up the street, for she knew not who was watching her, and the words of the guard still lingered in her mind.

As she approached the edge of the city she was alarmed when she saw the same six men there whom she had met at her entrance; but, striving to quiet her heart, and not reveal the fear under which she labored, she walked

steadily on. "Here's my wench again," laughed one of the soldiers as she drew near "And what luck?"

"I sold my eggs."

purchaser?"

Maggie, endeavoring to pass on.

ter who is ill," said Maggie, with trembling voice. "I pray you to take it no

Her evident distress moved the and one of them roughly said to the man who had taken her bread: "Le the wench go, Jack. A bread lonf would hardly satisfy us to-day. 'Tis Tall madge's head I crave. Give her the basket and let the poor girl go."

With a laugh the soldier returned the basket and the bread, little dreaming of their contents, and Maggie sped on, not even turning her head to see if ah were pursued. Perhaps if she had looked back the sight would not have comforted her, for the six men were standing together, and the frequent glances they cast at the departing girl showed that they were talking of her.

But, all unconscious of what was going on behind her, Maggie kept on her way and when once she was on the country road she broke into a run, all unwearled by her long journey. She had information of importance, and the thoughts of her father and brother in Valley Forge, and the little sister at home, gave her renewed strength.

She was almost breathless when at last she entered the inp and delivered the loaf to the impatient major, who was waiting for her according to his promise.

"'Tis well you have done, Maggie my girl," said Maj. Tallmadge, as he broke open the loaf and quickly found the folded note within. "This shall not be forgotten-"

The major did not finish the sen-

"They've suspected you, Maggie," you need not go." madge sends into the city with strange | said the major, quickly. "Twill never do am afraid, wares for sale. You may pass in safety, to leave you here. Can you mount and

but I'm ready to find purchasers, for fresh eggs are not "I can," replied Maggie, quickly, and before the words had been spoken Maj. Maggie again took up her basket and Tallmadge ran from the room and a

quickly up the steps and lifted the though her face was white and her eyes | could possession of the letter be obtain blurred, she clung to her protector She had hardly given the summons, throughout the wild ride which fol-

On swept Jehu with his load, and on came the band of red coats. The woods by the roadside seemed to rush past flutter of excitement when the servant them. The breathing of the horse was to every Cuban who might be in a position soon labored and hard, and his black sides were covered with foam; but his swift pace was never relaxed for an instant. Once or twice he stumbled and nearly fell, but a sharp pull on the bridle and a quick word from the major restored him and the mad race continued. His hoofs thundered over the rude bridges, they struck fire from the stones in the road, but Jehu minded none of these things, for life and death hung on his efforts that day.

For an hour the mad face continued, and then, when the borders of Germantown were reached and the red coats turned back in fear, Maj. Tallmadge drew the rein on his black steed, and, as he helped the wearied girl to the ground, he said, with a smile: "Tis a lis way. pity we lost that bread, Maggie, for | "Eight days from its arrival in the Ha-Washington sadly needs it; but far vana office, the sealed envelope, properly mere he needs what the bread contained and what he will soon have now. You have saved us from a sad, and what might have been a costly, mistake, this day, my girl."

EVERETT T. TOMLINSON.

A KLONDIKE WASHINGTON.



"Gentlemen, I cannot tell a lie; swiped that can of pork and beans."

Origin of Cookery Terms. The French are a nation of cooks, "Doubtless. And was Mistress Jones | and it is from them many of our cookery terms are obtained. Thus force-"I know not Mistress Jones," replied | meat comes from the French farce, meaning stuffing. Blanc-mange is white "Tis well for you, my wench. And food; so to speak of a chocolate blanc-

THAT DE LOMO DE LETTER

Story of Its Theft as Told on High Authority.

Original Copy Falls Into the Hands of the Cuban Junta in New York, Is Published and De Lome's Downfall Effected,

Philadelphia, Feb. 14 .- The Preprints what it asserts to be the true version of the acquisition and publication of the letter from Mr. De Lome to Senor Canalejas. The authority cited for its authenticity is "a Cuban of the highest standing inthe councils of hi party" who receives his information "from headquarters in New York." The

tence, for just then the landlady en- lay upon the desk of the minister in his absence of half an hour from the inner thing to you, and that you, too, might be one of those light horse coming swiftly up the road. office of De Lome the clerk in question It believes that the best interests of the saw the open letter and read some of it. Notified His Friends.

> "The next day this same person sen word to his Cuban associates in Washing President McKinley was vilified and autonomy called a scheme. Several of the able that the letter was already in the

"The clerk in the employ of Minister De to obtain track of or intercept the much sought-for missive.

Stolen at Havana. The letter reached Havana five days agent of the Cuban party who is an emasked the secret Cuban junta in Havana to secure the original letter-that a copy place of the paper upon which De Lome had written, and the letter finally postmarked in the Havana office, and sent on

ered at the Hotel Inglaterra. Senor Canal-

by the Cubans for several weeks be ister, so that he might not have any chance to deny its authorship, and thu have been the result of the propagation of Decision of Spanish Cabinet.

Madrid, Feb. 15 .- The cabinet met at five o'clock Monday afternoon and discussed the present state of the war in Cuba and the De Lome matter at great length. It was decided to publish a decree accepting the resignation of Senor Dupuy De Lome as minister at Wash-

Polo Bernabe as his successor. The note from Minister Woodford demanded that Spain should formally disletter to Senor Canalejas.

Further Apology Refused. The cabinet council, it is reported, deintimation and dispatched a long cipher | Versailles. telegram to Washington.

Cabinet Aggrieved. One of the ministers present said at

the close of the council: "You may say openly, as coming from THE CIVIL SERVICE

Scope of the Annual Report of the Commission.

Washinton, Feb. 15,-The annual report of the civil service commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1897, has been presented to the president. It begins with a statement to show that after an experience of nearly 15 years, the hopes of the advocates of the civil service law have been largely realized. In practice the law has proved to be a constantly exerted and effective force in the direction of economy.

Considering the few changes in the service under the merit system and the wholesale removals under the patronage system, the economy and efficiency of the one stand in striking contrast to the extravagance and inefficiency of the other.

The whole number of positions examined during the year was 49,145, of whom 28,593 passed. The number of appointments was 4,136. The commission, the report says, has been steadily naking its examination more practical.

The report speaks highly of the omotion system based on the effilency record. This has been especially indorsed by the navy department in the work in the yards. On the other hand the commission deprecates the proposition of limited tenure of government office, pointing out that it would not only impair the efficiency of the service, but open the door for political influence.

The commission recommends that the operation of the civil service law be extended to include all positions to which the civil service rules can be applied with advantage to the service. service require that the civil service rules be extended to include the municipal service of the District of Columbia. the force in the congressional library and the clerical force of the next cen-

## NO SUNDAY RACING.

The L. A. W. Votes Against the Propo-

St. Louis, Feb. 12 .- After three days of hard work the national assembly of the League of American Wheelmen Friday night finally adjourned one of the most notable sessions ever held by the body. At this session the fight of President Potter for reelection was success ful, and the all-important question of local option in the matter of Sunday racing was again defeated. An amen ment providing that state divisions be granted the right to determine for themselves whether or not Sunday bicycle races should be permitted was introduced and defeated by but six votes. Thirty-two other amendments were disposed of during the day in various ways. Some were indefinitely postponed er withdrawn while four were defeated.

Thomas J. Keenan, Jr., of Pittsburgh, presented a resolution calling upon the national government to make a demand on the Turkish government for the prompt payment of \$40,000 indemnity for murder of Frank E. Lenz, of Pittsburgh, a member of the L. A. W. who lost his life in Turkey while on a tour of the world. The resolution, which spoke in highly complimentary terms of the dead bicyclist, was adopted by a standing vote, and Mr. Keenap was authorized to push the claim.

Six-day continuous racing, held under L. A. W. auspices, was done away with by the adoption of an amendment to the racing rules providing that in any six-day race beld hereafter the contestants will be compelled to rest at least two hours a day or 12 hours during the contest.

Francis Joseph to Abdiente.

Vienna, Feb. 12.- Emperor Francis Joseph will celebrate this year the fiftieth anniversary of his succession to the crown. He has decided to signalize the event by resigning in favor of his eldest nephew, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who is now entirely restored to health. This news, circulating here in court circles, is confirmed by the em-

peror's relatives and by the dignitaries of his household, who declare that he is tired out by the cares and worries of governing. It will not be a complete abdication, as he will retain the title of emperor and possession of the crown. This arrangement existed during the closing years of the reign of his predecessor, Emperor Ferdinand, when Archduke Louis was virtually a vice emington and appointing Senor Louis

Would Slaughter Jews.

Paris, Feb. 15 .- Count Esterhazy said Monday that Dreyfus was guilty and that there were more than 150 incrimavow the insults to President McKinley | inating documents in evidence at his contained in Senor Dupuy De Lome's | trial. In his opinion no new trial will ever be ordered. Moreover, if Dreyfus were ever to appear in France again there would be 100,000 Jews slaughcided unanimously to reply to Minister | tered. If Zola should be acquitted Woodford that Senor De Lome's spon- | there would be a revolution in Paris. thneous resignation and the terms of He, Esterhazy, would be put at the head the decree accepting it were considered of a merciless crusade against the Jews sufficient satisfaction. It is understood by the people. The garrison of Paris that Minister Woodford received this has been reenforced by troops from

Congress of Mothers.

Washington, Feb. 14 .- The national congress of mothers will hold its second convention in Washington the first Rheum Confined to Sareap " I was taken

fered a great I was confir parilla, which

MRS. P. P. HAT, Hood's Le America's Gre

Hood's PIII

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