

THE LADIES' COLUMN.

Some Curiosities Among the Latest Fashions.

WOES OF THE OBLIGING STOREKEEPER.

A Terror of Storekeepers.

The cheeky woman whom I have now in mind is self-possessed, smiling and well dressed. She is the terror of storekeepers. Recently a specimen of this class had a piece of fine needlework that her own sewing machine could not do.

What on earth our grandmothers and mothers ever did without kerosene oil is a wonder, says a thrifty housewife. Hardly a day passes that this article is not in requisition for some purpose.

Evening basques are laced with narrow satin ribbon instead of cord. Ostrich feather fans are not considered good style for debutantes.

Stout women wear drawers and chemise of the fine French flannel, as they thereby attain the necessary warmth for cold weather without the bulk of wearing both merino underwear and muslin.

A pretty ornament for the hair is a "rose bow." The petals of the rose are formed of ends two inches long of green corded ribbon cut in sharp points at the upper edge.

Flowers are revived for ball dresses and are made to appear as natural as possible, drooping from flexible stems and surrounded with natural foliage.

A novel hair ornament consists of small side combs, less than two inches long, made of real or imitation tortoise shell, set with a sparkling row of rubies or other small gems, sometimes with a variety of colored stones.

Children's dresses with white serge have a laced skirt laid in a broad box plait in front, and have a dozen rows of narrow crimson braid set on above the hem.

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THEY WERE TWIN BROTHERS.

One Suffered for a Crime that the Other Had Committed—A Resemblance So Striking that Even the Sweetheart of the Innocent was Deceived and Testified Against Him—He was Imprisoned, was Hanged, and Now His Brother is to be Tried.

An Omaha, Neb., despatch says: Morrison Wilcox, Deputy Sheriff of Cattaraugus county, New York, passed through the city this morning en route to Olean, having in custody James Gregory Lafler, a prominent stock raiser, whose ranch is located near Watrous, N. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason Lafler, parents of the prisoner, are respectable people living near Olean, N.Y. Twin sons were born to them, and when they grew to manhood their resemblance was so great that few people could tell one from the other.

One Sunday night in June, 1882, a gentleman called at Mr. Clifford's and paid him nearly \$5,000 in cash. This was done in the presence of both the Lafler brothers.

The next morning William Lafler was arrested and held without bail, charged with the burglary and attempted murder of Mr. Clifford. He was recovered and William was placed on trial. The main witness was his old sweetheart, who swore positively to identifying him as the robber.

While nearly every one believed William guilty, there was one firm friend who doubted it and tried to find out the truth. His investigation lasted nearly a year. His discovery was that the man who had been convicted of the crime was not the man who had been convicted of the crime.

Mr. Alex. F. Pirie, late of the Toronto Telegram, has accepted a position on the editorial staff of the Montreal Star.

Mr. Garson, of Lincoln, has a Bill in the Legislature to enable municipalities to buy out cemetery companies and to substitute municipal control for that of companies.

A new charity to be established in Toronto, called "The Community of St. John the Divine," is applying for incorporation.

Mr. W. F. Skene, Historiographer Royal for Scotland, was on the 31st ult. presented with his portrait by a number of gentlemen who wished to show their regard for his worth and esteem for his personal character.

Hon. S. S. Cox began his response to the thanks of the House, Monday, by saying: "Mr. Speaker: I have pleased the gentleman who has introduced the bill, and I am over O'Neill, of Missouri, interviewed Tim Campbell on it.

"And what the devil does locum tenens mean, Tim?" he asked, all in a puzzle. "Don't you know that, John?" replied the New York statesman, with a touch of pity in his voice.

TRICKS IN ALL TRADES.

How a Quack Aweed a Crowd and Sold His Patent Lung Healers.

A short time ago a quack experimented with considerable success upon the pockets of an awe-stricken crowd. After a preliminary arrangement and a terse lecture on the viscera, the charlatan sketched in with colored crayons upon a blackboard on which the human skeleton was outlined in white paint.

"My friend," said the quack to the unfortunate victim, "so terrible is this disease that you can actually see it. He handed a glass tube to the patient and poured a pint of clear water into a large tumbler.

Another fact which no doubt explains one cause of the falling away in the marriage rate is that people, if they do not postpone marriage altogether, postpone it as late as possible.

SUPERSTITION IN TORONTO.

A Lady who Believes that Disease Can be Charmed Away by a HANGMAN'S ROPE.

"I will tell you a peculiar thing," said a lady who lives in the more comfortable quarters of the city, "I have seen under my own hand a tendency to disease in the other way. A celibate population is not, as a rule, a chaste population, but rather the reverse.

"Do you really believe what you say?" The woman replied with much fervency: "Yes, I do believe it. Mr. Green, and my friends also believe it. Please comply with my request.

Latest From Scotland.

Rev. J. Allan, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire, died recently, aged 80 years. He had been minister of the parish for 44 years.

An epidemic of measles has broken out at Shotts, and at Glasgow has been closed. Out of a roll of 300 children nearly 300 are affected.

Mrs. C. F. Gordon Cumming has received a British Civil List pension of £50 in consideration of her many and valuable services to her country.

The electors of Tradesmen Division of Glasgow have by an overwhelming majority passed a resolution declaring that their representative, Mr. Cameron Corbett, M.P., by his conduct both inside and outside the House of Commons, had forfeited the confidence of the electors of Tradesmen, and calling upon him to resign the seat.

A statement that Abbotsford is for sale is incorrect. Mrs. Maxwell Scott, the great granddaughter of the novelist (who has taken great care to preserve Sir Walter's rooms in the state in which they are, is willing to let the house and estate "upon a lease of one to five years' duration," which is a very different thing from selling Abbotsford outright.

On Jan. 30th, says the N. B. Mail, Marion Paul Aird, one of the best local poets, died at his residence, Kadeok, Kilmarnock, in the 73rd year of his age.

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MARRIAGE.

It Seems to be Going Out in Europe and Great Britain—Some Startling Results.

The numbers who marry seem to be steadily decreasing. The figures supplied under the head of International Vital Statistics, which are tabulated from returns furnished in Italy by the various European States, show an all-round fall in the proportion of marriages.

England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Belgium, 1886, 1875, 1870, 1865, 1860, 1855, 1850, 1845, 1840, 1835, 1830, 1825, 1820, 1815, 1810, 1805, 1800.

There are three notable exceptions to the uniform decrease of the marriage rate, but they are easily explained. In Prussia, in Austria and in the marriage rate of 1866 was distinctly below that of 1866.

Another fact which no doubt explains one cause of the falling away in the marriage rate is that people, if they do not postpone marriage altogether, postpone it as late as possible.

Mr. Lees (Lanark) moved the second reading of his Bill to amend the General Road Companies Act. It provided that on the application of one hundred ratepayers the Council shall appoint an arbitrator and the County Judge a second, and if a third is necessary he shall be appointed by the County Council.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Waters moved the second reading of a Bill to amend the Assessment Act. He explained that its objects were to abolish the poll tax, to abolish statute labor in certain cases, and to provide that the sum paid for commutation of statute labor should be paid to the owners of high-roads, and by them expended for the improvement of the roads.

Mr. Meredith said that the poll tax was a reasonable thing, and that there had been no demand for its repeal.

Mr. Smith, moving the second reading of his Bill to amend the Municipal Act, explained that it was intended to extend the local improvement system to township municipalities. But it was believed that the frontage tax would not be just as a means of assessing for the cost of the works to be authorized on a basis of acreage.

Mr. Meredith opposed the Bill, arguing that it would retard the progress of the Scott Act to compel County Councils to pay an increased salary to police magistrates.

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A woman who lives at Plaza Teguesquite, N. M., Pancho Morales, is reputed to be 107 years old. She lives alone in a small adobe, does her own housework, is straight as an arrow, and moves about with astonishing ease.

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THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Toronto, Feb. 15.—The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Phelps moved for a return of copies of all Orders in Council with respect to the investment of sinking funds of municipalities under the provisions of the Municipal Act. He said that a few years ago, when the craze for railways was at its height, many of the municipalities granted large bonuses.

Mr. Meredith accused the Government of sending some of its detectives to work up cases of breach of the election laws against some parties for partisan purposes while leaving the gross corruption of their conduct in Glenagry and other places untouched.

Hon. Mr. Mowat said that it was the duty of officers under the department—the county attorneys—to prosecute in cases of breaches of the election law. But there was no objection to the evidence.

Hon. A. M. Ross said he supposed the motion was called forth by the unfortunate locking-up of the funds of the Township of Beninc in a bank which had recently failed.

Mr. French, in moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act respecting the Public Schools, said he had every confidence that the Bill was a good one, and would receive the approval of the House.

Mr. Meredith—You would never pay it. I would have the privilege of paying it at any time with interest for the time overpaid.

Mr. French—If that note was overdue, I would have the privilege of paying it at any time with interest for the time overpaid.

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