Christmas Day.

WHAT'S this hurry, what's this flurry, All throughout the house to-day? Everywhere a merry sourry, Everywhere a sound of play. Something, too, 's the matter, matter, Out-of-doors as well as in, For the bell goes clatter, clatter, Every minute—such a din!

Everybody winking, blinking, What on earth can they be thinking, What on earth can they be thinking, What on earth can be to pay i Bobby peeping o'er the stair-way, Bursts into a little shout; Kitty, too, is in a fair way, where she hides, to giggle out.

As the bell goes cling-a-ling-ing Every minute more and more, And swift feet go springing, springing, Through the hall-way to the door, With a glimpse of box and packet. And a title rustle, rustle, Makes such sight and sound and racket,-Such a jolly bustle, bustle,-That the youngsters in their places, Hiding slyly out of sight, All at ence show shining faces, All at once scream with delight.

Go and ask them what's the matter, What the two outside and in— What the meaning of the clatter, What the bustle and the din. Hear them, hear them laugh and shoutthen, All together hear them say, "Why, what have you been about, then. Not to know it's Christmas day?" —Nora Perry, in the CHRISTMAS ST. NICHOLAS.

ESPECIALLY FOR LADIES.

Mrs. Langtry's Beauty Analyzed by One of Her Own Sex.

The Princess Mary of Teck-Flirting in the Street-Cars-Small Talk for the Ladies.

Langtry's Eeauty Analyzed.

A woman it is who thus relentlessly, in a letter, from New York to the Cincinnati Enquirer, dissects the beauty of Mrs. Langtry: I am not going to harp much on the played-outstring of Largtry, and will simply say that those who were reasonable in their expectations found her satisfactory, but those who looked for a transcendent beauty were woofully disappointed. I counted five wo men in the audience who, beyond all question, were a great deal nearer to perfection than this prince's darling. The chief charm was a lady-like aspect and manner, quite out of keeping with the part she was acting in the play. And it was observed that when she did unrehearsed things (as in picking up the dumped flowers from a basket handed to her while in front of the curtain. and leading out her reluctant manager) she was even more graceful and free than when she was following instructions as Hester Grazebrook. It was easy to comprehend how, with the prince of Wales to push her, she has made such a headway in London aristocratic socie y. She has grown thin since the familiar portrait, exposing taper arms and boneless bosom, were made and she made no exhibition of those things, nor is she likely to during her American tour. She is a large-jointed woman, with big hands, and her elbows are larger than the parts of her arms between them and the shoulders, as was plainly disclosed by the tight sleeves of her c stumes. No, she will bare no such arms as she now possesses, believe me. Only one of her dresses was low, and that exposed only a wedge of skin down toe centre of her breast. This garment was of rich, warmtoned yellow satin, simple in style, and fit-ting perfectly. The waist was heart-shaped, coaing low down on the Shoulders, and be-neath the frill of point lace, which circumscrib~L the fleshy area and the narrow m s already described, was only e piece of lightly twisted sa in following its outlines. The corsage simply carried the line below the waist, and ended iu small points. The sleeves reached below the elbow, with a piece of the satin carried round the edge, and a little puff of white silk edged with lace in each, tying it to the arm. The front of the skirt was laid in large plaits, which gave a fullness that was lightly caught here and there, making a careless drapery. This train was long, and its beauty left to depend on its own color and folds. In all of her dressing she was careful to show the out-lines of her waist, which is slender, and to my mind, rather out of proportion with her broad shoulders and ample hips. The idea suggested by her figure was not of fleshy roundness at the two wide parts mentioned, but a bg-boned frame not smoothly filled out. The impression was strengthened by the visible action of her shoulder blades under the thin covering and above the tops of her corsets, as well as by the meagreness of her bosom. I fancied that she was about seven-eighths bone, and when she smile with her extensive mouth and white teeth, the unpleasant thought came to me that she was exposing the whole front of her skull, which might at any moment drop out, leav ing her head a shapeless mass of hair and skin. Having expressed that horrid idea I must not fail to do the woman justice by saying that, as an entirely, she is about as wholesome, healthy, clean-looking a creature as one would wish to see. She walked with a stride that indicated a sturdy pedestrian and altogether, she had more out-door breeziness than one would expect in a dainty, drawing-room pet. Langtry was a focus for every glass in the house, instantly on ter appearance, and when she made her first exit there arose such a babel of comment that the other actors could not be heard at all. She bore the ordeal without a tremor. I have no doubt she liked it.

girly girl never bothers about woman rights and woman wrongs. She is a girl and is glad of it. She would not be a boy and grow up into a man and vote and go away to war and puzzle her brain about stocks for a kingdom. She knows nothing about busi-ness, and does not want to know anything about it. Her aim is to marry some good fellow and make him a good wife, and she generally succeed, in doing both. She de-lights in dress and everything that is pretty, and is not ashamed to own that she does She is pleased when she is admired, and lets you see that she is. She is feminine from the top of her head to the end of her toes and if you try to draw her into the discussion of dry themes she tells you squarely that the conversation does not suit her. She is the personification of frankness. There is not a particle of humbug in her composition. Here is health to the girly girl ! May her numbers never grow less.

Kissing as a Cure for Freekles,

One fine evening recently, says a German paper, Mr. R., a government employein the town of Brunn, was taking a walk in the castle grounds, when, on reaching a less fre-quented portion of the park, he saw a young lady coming in the opposite direction. As they were about to pass each other, the lady suddenly turned toward Mr. B., threw her arms around his reck and kissed him; then as if ashamed of what she had done, she covered her face with her hands and ran off as fast as she could. The gentleman unable to account for this agreeable surprise, followed the young lady, and, taking her by the arm, asked for an explanation of her strange procedure. "I beg a thousand par-dons," was the reply of the blushing damsel: "you must be greatly shocked at my be-haviour. I had been to consult a 'wise woman' as to the best means of charming away the freckles on my face, and she advised me to kiss the first gentleman I met, when they would be sure to disappear." The couple would be sure to disappear." The couple continued their walk together, and though we are not told whether the singular remedy proved effecacious or not, it may interest the reader to learn that, not many days after-ward, the two were joined together for better or for worse.

Waiter Girls in Germany.

Nasby writes thus of Germany : It is astonishing how alike everything is the world over. In these beer halls the waiter girls who have plump, shapely arms wear short sleeves, while those whose arms are very thin and not at all shapely wear long sleeves, holding that short sleeves are immodest.

This conversation probably occurs between girls of the two types, the plump and the

"You are entirely right, Bertha darling; "You are entirely right, Don such short sleeves may be immodest. On such arms as yours, my love, they would be pos-itively indecest."

And then they wouldn't kiss each other, and move off as on a happy campaign against incoming thirst. But Pauline, the plump, would laugh a saucy hugh, and Bertha, the skinny, would assume a very sour look. Likewise those who are too plain to attract the attention of customers are very severe upon flirting, and have no hes tation in asserting that the pretty ones are bold, pert things. It makes but little difference in what country people are born they are sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, and Adam and Eve runs through them all.

The Sin-Impelling Sealskin.

The sealskin sacque so ropular among wonen, says the New York Times, has long been an object of masculine dread, according to the newspaper humorists. The comic depart-ment of a Chicago, Cincinnati, or St. Louis paper never fails to contain some reference to the sufferings of the man who is request-ed to buy a sealskin sacque for his wife, and the western father is, according to the same authority, constantly brought to the verge of bankruptcy through buying sealskin sacques for his daughters.

There is another grave charge which may be brought against the same attractive and costly garment. It leads to more violations of our revenue laws than does any other article known te importers. Sealskin sacques can be bought in Canada much more cheaply than in the United States, and the dream of every enterprising American woman is to smuggle it through the United States cus-tom-house. The chief statistician of the custom house asserts that 17,000 (in round number») American women annually visit Canada in order to make this dream a blessed reality. Of these, 2,718 are detected in the possesion of sealskin sacques, and are made to pay duty thereon; 19 openly acknowledge their possession of the dutiable garment, and after failing to bribe the in-spectors with smiles and sweet words, pay the duty, and the rest of the 17,000 success fully smuggle their purchases. Now, when we think what the act of smuggling \cdot sealskin sacque through the custom house involves, the falsehoods that must be told and sworn to; the loss of self-respect consequent upon the commission of perjury and fraud, and the terrible strain upon the temper that results from making a scalskin sacque temporarily take the place of the delicate and essteric cambric fabrics said by experts to be worn by ladies in the summer scason, we comprehend the sealskin sacque is a fearfully demoralizing garment. Women who would never think of smuggling steel rails, hemp rope, or English blankets can not resist the temptation, to smuggle sealskin sacques. and we shall probably never know the vast extent of the demoralization which the gratification of this propensity entails.

and settled down in the place, and then young Beaupre's hope died out. He tried t work on as before, but could not. He close up his business, settled up his affairs, an started to the far west, toward which so many adventurous spirits were about that time shaping their course.

From that day to within a few weeks ago he had not set foot in this part of Canada. He had worked hard, saved carefully, prospered and laid up property worth at least \$200,000. He had never married. He was getting up toward 60 years of age. Several weeks ago he took an idea to go back once more to see his friends, and he started east. He searched out relatives in Sorel and Mont real, but found few that he remembered. He inquired for the woman, who, as a girl, had so many years before thrown him over-board for a rival. They told him she was widowed; her husband had been dead many years; she had been living several years in Montreal ; he went to call upon her; met her, -. He found her getting old, in and thenpoor circumstances, with several children, but that made no difference; he saw only the girl of thirty six years before. On Saturday they were married by his lordship Bishop Fabre, the wealthy bridegroom being content with no other dignitary than the highest in that part of the country. He has bestowed all the happiness that wealth and affection can upon his bride and her chil-dren, and in a short time tney will go to his house in the Black Hills.

Flirting With Street-Car Conductors.

"It isn't our fault always, depend on that, and there isn't as much of it done as some of the officials would have the public believe." The speaker was a conductor on believe." The speaker was a conductor on one of the Pittsburgh street-car lines, and he uttered the above remark in answer to the question of a reporter on the subject of flirtation. "What interest have some of the officials

of the road in making the public believe conductors are as a general rule, inclined to engage in surreptitious courting with their female passengers?" inquired the reporter. "Why, simply this: They have several 'spotters' at work on the road. These 'spotters' find that two or three conductors are beating the company systematically. It is a hard thing to prove that a street car conductor is a thief, and so the best thing to be done with a suspected man is to 'fire' him from his position. Perhaps three go at a time, and in answer to the inquisitive the superintendent or secretary says he was discharged for flirting with women on his car." "But is there no flirting done?

"Why, certainly there is, and as I say, it isn't all our fault. A pretty girl gets in your car; and for half-way to the city sits and stares you in the face; or may be gives you an encouraging smile inviting familiar-ity. What can you expect of a young fellow but that he will respond suitably? Mar ried conductors are not invulnerable to wo-men's coquetry. Why, 1 know one woman on Penn avenue that watches day and night for one man's car, and every time it passes the conductor responds to the wave of the handkerchief. Such things sometimes re-sult in the ruin of families, but as a general thing the flirtation amounts to nothing, though once in a while the presumptuous conductor gets thumped for his trouble by some big brother." "What class of women flirt with street-

car men ?'

Oh, school girls mostly, and giddy married women, who carry their husband's hon-or in their hand. Depend on it, though, no woman that thinks anything of nerself will flirt with a conductor."

where to Put a Kiss.

An esteemed young friend of Hamilton sks a funny question. He wants to know where he shall put his kisses. Probably any number of people, without much thought, would rush rapidly forward to tell him all about it and consider the conundrum a perfectly easy one. The problem, however, is really very difficult, and any one who has had experience enough to know what kissing is will shrink from quick or direct advice on the subject.

As a matter of course the young man who hes kisses to give away will g ve them to his girl if she is willing; if she isn't willingbut this is so improbable that it would be a waste of time to say anything about it. If oung man who has no girl of his own will naturally-such is the waywardness of human nature-find some one else's girls or girls, and to some a good many girls is not too much of a good thing. They say it isn't such a bad thing sometimes when you find you have kissed the wrong girl, if there can be any wrong girl in a matter like that. But the trouble on the young man's mind seems to be regarding the proper place for the kiss. He does not feel contain whether he should kiss his girl on the lips, or the forehead, or the chin, or the cheek, or the hand. There are some young men who would regard the poore t of all these chances as the extreme of bliss. But such young men lack the snap and enterprise which a wide-awake and desirable girl rather likes. The young man who hesitates and trifles with uncertainty about the proper site upon which to build his kiss will lose the delight of kiss ing. If there were a worse fate he would deserve it. There is, however, no worse fate. Kissing the hand is a very neat but color. less sort of compliment. It is unsatisfactory to both parties, they say. We are also re-liably informed that kissing the forehead or the chin is a cold sort of thing and not large ly indulged in by people of goo i taste. The cheek, if not too hard, is understood to be very fair kissing ground, but good judges have very generally agreed upon the lips as offering superior inducements. If his mouth is not too large or the girl's mouth is not too small, or if the girl's mouth is not too large and his too small, perhaps the young man who wants advice had better stick to the lips. If there is anything sweet in a kiny --and doubtless there is-he will find it there.

Printing in China.

In an interesting article on printing in China The North China Herald says that the first great promoter of the art of ing was Feng Ying Wang, who in 932 A. D. advised the Emperor to have the Confucian classics printed with wooden blocks engraved for the purpose. The first books were printed in a regular manner, and in pur-fuance of a decree in 953. The mariners' compass and rockets were invented about the same time, showing that at this period men's minds were much stirred toward in-Twenty years after the edict the rention. blocks of the classics were pronounced ready, and were put on sale. Large-sized editions, which were the only ones printed at first, were soon succeeded by pocket editions. The works printed under the Lung emperors at Hangchow were celebrated for their beauty ; those of western China came next, and those of Fokhein last. Moveable types of copper and lead were tried about the same time ; but it was thought that mistakes were more numerous with them, and there-fore the fixed blocks were prepared. Paper made from cotton was tried, but it was so expensive that the bamboo made paper held its ground. In the Sung dynasty the method was also tried of engraving on soft clay and afterward hardening it by baking. The separate characters were not thicker than ordinary copper coin. Each of them was in fact a seal. An ironplate was prepared with a facing of turpentine, wax, and the ashes of burnt paper. Over this was placed an iron frame, in which the clay types were set up unt l it was full. The whole was then sufficiently heated to melt the wax facing. An iron plate was placed above the types, making them perfectly level, the wax being just soft enough to allow the types to sink into the proper depth. This being done it would be possible to print several hundred or thousand copies with great rapidity. Two forms prepared in this way were ready for the pressman's use so that when he had done with one he would proceed with another without delay. undoubtedly the principle of the Here is printing-press of Europe, although western printers can dispense with a soft wax bed for types and can obtain a level surface without this device. Perhaps the neel of capital to lay in a stock of types, the want of a good type-m tal easily cut and sufficienthard, and the superior beauty of the Chinese characters when carved in wood. have prevented the wide employment of the moveable types which are so convenient for all alphabetic writing. The inventor of this mode of printing in moveable types five centuries before they were invented in Europe was named Pi Sheng.

Distance of the Sun.

The problem of the sun's distance is of paramount importance, and fully justifies the outlay of brain, labor, and money lavished on the transit of Venus which it is hoped will correct past errors. It is the unit or vardstick of celestial measurement, the standard by which everything outside of the earth in the material universe is measured, excepting the distance of the moon. A mistake here makes all colestial computation inaccurate, the diameter of every planet, the radius of every orbit, the distance of every star. Thus, the nea est fixed star in the northern hemisphere is 61 Cygni. Its distance is estimated at about 366,000 times the sun's distance or earth's radius. This means 366,000 t mes 92, 885,000 miles. If there be an error of half a million miles in this estimate of the sun's distance, it will readily be seen that the error in the star's distance takes on gigantic proportions.

The 6th December will therefore be a great day on the annals of the nineteenth century. Transit observers will do their utmost to obtain a more accurate determination of the sun's distance. If they do not reach perfect success, and there is little hope of such a re-sult, they will have the satisfaction of feeling that they are laboring in a noble cause. For the observations made during the transit of 1882 will be a rich legacy to aid the astronomers who, 122 years hence, will observe the next transit in 2004.

We can only wish for good weather and good luck to the brave adventurers, and join in the prayer of the great astronomer, Halley, who, from an observation of the transit of Mercury in 1677 at St. Helena, was the first to discover the scientific import of transits; In recommending to future astronomers a careful observation of the transit of 1761, he says, in closing:

Steam Tricycles.

We must go back more than two centuries to find the first idea of a steam carriage, and this is due to Isaac Newton who proposed it in 1680. His system, which was one of the most rudimentary, was nothing clse than an aelopile mounted on wheels. Specimens of t are stil to be found as scientific play-

things in a few cabinets of physics. The first tricycle based upon the princiole of the steam-engine was built by Cugnot, in 1770. To begin with this date, projects have not been wanting, the solutions proposed benefiting each time by the progress of the steam engine applied as a fixed mo-tor. Murdoch in 1784, Symmington in 1786, Read in 1790, Trevethick in 1802, etc. successively proposed apparatus which to-day are forgotten. In 1804, Evans invented the oruktor amphibolis, a sort of boat-carriage, the first and last amphibious steam vehicle that has ever been built. We may cite also the steam carriage of Griffiths in 1821, of Gordon in 1822, of Gurney in 1828, of Anderson and James in 1829, and of Hancock in 1833.

The latter was the most fortunate of all inventors, since, in 1835, he had not less than three of them in current service, making the trip by steam on the Paddington route. According to Mr. Thurston, Hancock succeeded in constructing a light steam phaeton for his own use, which ran in the ity among horses and carriages, without interfering with or injuring any one, at an ordinary speed of ten miles per hour, and which could be increased to twenty.

The success of locomotives on rails somewhat diminished the aider of experimenters in this direction, and, in face, competition became impossible for steam street car-

To day the question has assumed a transformation. Owing to narrow guage loco-motives and to tramways in the streets, there are no longer any endeavors to build vehicles designed to supplant horses, but there are still endeavors being made to get up a self-propelling vehicle, convenient and easy to manœuvre, designed to receive a small number of persons—one or two at the maximum-and capable of operating regularly for a few hours without demanding too great an amount of attention on the part of the one who drives it. With this object in view, there have been

proposed carbonic acid machines, compressed air motors, and electric motors supplied by piles of accumulators. The tew experiments that have been tried in this direction have not as yet given very striking results, but the end is far from having been reached.

The Cultivation of Beauty.

Beauty is superior fitness, as a Darwinian would say, and in this respect, too, the preeminence of the ancient Greeks was probably the outcome of their general physical and mental superiority to their fellow-men, though they themselves believed in the existence of a chemical pan-cosmetic. In the trial of the arch-quack Cagliostro, it came out that, during the twelve years from 1765-77, he had realized three million francs from the sale of his "Recipe for Beauty," a recipe which has been more eage. ly searched for than the philosopher's stone or t e secret of longevity. An areas Cisalpinus made the discovery that an ountment of crushed locusts and mistletoe juice would treble the charms of the faire t woman. "What must I do to become very beautiful?" the damsel in "D. n Quixote" asks the enchanted Moor's head. "Que seas muy hourada—be very continent," replied the head. Paracelsus recommends mondow dew, gathered in the morning while the May moon is on the increase; and Montaigne enquires into the habits of the most well favored tribes of every country, but confesses that the pro-blem is rather an evalve one, the coastdwellers of Sweden being as distinguished for their com liness as the highlanders of Aragon, and the Normandy elder-drinkers not less than the Tuscan wine-drinkers. His only general rule, however, still holds good that out-door dwellers, are never wholly illfavored, or in door workers altogether lovely and we might say the same of alcohol-drinkers and total abstainers; the schnapps-worshipping natives of the Tyrolese highlands make amends by their active out-door life, as Lowell factory girls by the r teetotal-ism. There is a good deal in race, though "Angeli sunt; non Angli," Pope Stephen III, wrote more than a thousand years ago to Archbishop Cuthbert, who had sent him nglo- Saxon hatch of A neonhytes trace of the same angelic features may be still recognized among the li tle ragamuffins of many a Schleswig-Holstein coast village, where men subsist on brandy, cheese and sour rye bread. Their neighbors, the Pom-eranians, are a manful if not a celestial generation, and, in spite of their dreary moor-lands, very fond of out-door sports. But far her east nature succumbs to art, and the northern Russians are about as outrageously unprepossessin (as in-door life and a combination of all vices could make the image of the Creator. Extremes meet, though, and their Emperor has the honor of commanding twelve regiments of the most god-like men of the present world- the lancesuirassiers of the bodygard, recruited in the highlands of Lesghia and Daghestan. Near-ly all the natives of the Caucasus have the fatal gift of beauty which made their land the favorite hunting ground of the haremagents, and this gave the Czar a pretext for treating it as a Turkish dependency. But no social degradation could coun eract the combined influence of the Caucasian climate, hardy habits, temperance and frugality, for the Circassian mountaineers are teetotalers by religion and vegetarians by preference-figs, honey, barley, cakes and milk, being the staples of their diet. They are physically self-made men, for their language proves that their ancestors were Turaniansfirst cousins of the owl-faced nomads of tla Mongolian steppe-From "Physiognomic Cariositie," by Dr. Felix L. Oswald in Pop-"Physioguomic ular Science Month'y for November.

"She talks about her personal charms with the utmost freedom," said a journalist who had interviewed her several times.

"Well, I suppose you gentlemen of the press bored her until she talked as a means of getting rid of you quickly," I remarked. "Bored her," he retorted, "well, that's funny. There wasn't a reporter went down the bay to meet her, and wrote her up for his paper, who wasn't impor uned to call on her at her hotel. And, if he did it; and wrote something more than his manag-ing editor deemed worth publishing, then he soon got a little note begging him to call again. Bored by reporters? Please permit me to laugh."

The Girly Girl.

The girly girl, says the Philadelphia Progress, is the truest girl. She is what she seems, and not a sham and a pretense. The slangy girl has a hard job of it not to forget her character. The boy girl and the rapid girl are likewise wearers of masks. The

A Canadian Remance.

Thirty-six years ago, according to the Montreal Star, there lived in that pleasant little town down the river called Sorel-very little it was then-a youth and a maid en. The name of the youth was George Beaupre, the name of the maiden Mary Ann Pearce. They belonged to families of moderate circumstances. He, with the strength and devotion of young manhood, loved this maiden, and woord her with that earnestness which only such a lover can. He was given every encouragement; was, some say, actually accepted ; was congratulating himself, at least, on the smooth coursing of true love, when suddenly a rival appeared, and everything for him turned back. The rival was one Jacob Savage of the same town. Pretty soon she and Savage were married

"Well madame, how's your husband to-day?" "Why, doctor, he's no better." "Di l you get the leeches?" "Yes, but he only t ok three of them raw-I had to fry the rest."

BRACE UP-Your system for work. ZOP-ESA, the new Dyspepsia and Liver remedy, attends strictly to business in correcting the Stomach, Liver and Kidneys Sam bottles, 10 cents; large bottles, 75 cents. Sample

"May Heaven favor their observation with the most perfect weather. And when they shall have attained their object, and de-termined as well as they can our distance from the sun, let them remember that it was an Euglishman who first conceived this fortunate idea."-Scientific American.

Dr. Talmage Describes a Good Woman.

You see hundreds of men who are successful only because there is a reason at home why they are successful. If a man marry a good, ho est soul he makes his fortune; if he marry a fool, the Lord help him. The wife may be a silent partner in the firm. There may be only masculine voices down on the exchange, but there often comes from the home circle a potential and elevating influence. The woman of Shunem, at whose ouse the prophet Elisha stopped, was a great woman and the superior of her husband. He, as far as I can understand, we s what we often find in our day, a man of large fortune and only a modicum of brains, intensely quiet, sitting a long while in the same place without moving hand or foot; if you say y s responding yes; if you say no responding no; inane eyes half shut, mouth wide open, m intaining his position in society only because he has a large patri-mony. His wife belonged to that class of people who need no name to distinguish them, no title of princess or queen. She was great in her hospitality. Jupiter had the surname of "The Hospitable," and he was said to avenge the wrongs of strangers. Homer extolled hospitality in his verse. The Arabs were punctilious about it.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Quebec, Mgr. Taschereau, his issued a pistoral in which he urges the faithful to give no heed to the allurements of American immigration agents. He fears that if his people leave Canada for the United States they will forsake their faith, and "only encounter deception and misery."

A man recently fell down. He was a large individual and took up lots of the sidewalk, and a bystander thought it the proper time to be funny. "How did you come to fall?" he inquired. "On a bit of lemon——" "Yes, sir; on a bit of lemon," replied the corpulant one. "But I see no lemon," replied the furny man. "Weil, who said you c uld !" savagely roared the corpulent individual, as he got up and dusted himself off with his handkerchief. "Can any one see the lemon in half a dozen cocktails, say ?"