

FOR THE LADIES.

Plain Wool Dresses.

For every-day dresses dark cashmere, plaid wools, and flannels or cloth dresses are made in the ways just noted for richer fabrics, and many mothers who object to the use of velvets and satins for children's dresses find these soft wool stuffs nice enough for all occasions. White wool, either of cashmere or nurse's veiling, trimmed with lace, will be the evening or dancing-school dress for girls this winter, but otherwise small dresses will be little used. Even very small girls, of eighteen months or two years, will wear guimpe dresses of dark cashmere, or of pale blue, or rose-color. These guimpe dresses take the place of the Mother Hubbards, and are really low in the neck, with short puffed sleeves worn over a high waist of silesia that is covered at the top in square yoke shape with tucks of the cashmere, and has cashmere sleeves. The loose full dress fastens behind, is square in the neck, and its fullness is held in five box plaits each an inch wide from the neck down nearly to the foot, alike in front and back; some fine tucks and a hem or embroidery are at the foot. These will be generally worn by girls from two to six years. For larger girls are domestic wools like lady's cloth in dahlia, plum, golden brown, navy blue, garnet, or dark green, made up for the entire dress, or else in combination with plain or blocked wool that has a bright color contrasted with the sombre hue of the waist. The plaids are in the skirt only, are cut bias and are in wide box plaits all around, or else they are plaited precisely as boys' kilts are, with a wide plain space in front. The plain cloth dresses and those of flannel are made with loose princess fronts, not clinging, and with straight effect in front, while the back is curved in slightly by side forms to give a nice shape. Four tucks each an inch wide are down the fronts, turned toward the double row of small buttons the color of the dress, and there is a satin or velvet ribbon sewed in the side seams at the waist line and tied in front. The middle back forms have two double box plaits, and there are arrowheads in two of the seams. The edge of the dress is cut out in leaf points or in square tabs, and the plaiting that represents the skirt is sewed beneath. A velvet collar and cuffs add to the beauty of the cloth dresses, but for flannel some rows of black mohair braid are for more suitable trimming.—*Harper's Bazar.*

About the House.

I think the principal strain upon a house-keeper of moderate means is the necessary three meals—the ever recurring demand, "What shall we have for breakfast, and dinner, and tea?" "If one could only cook enough to-day to last a week," I heard a tired matron sigh; and she would try to accomplish that desirable condition of the larder only to find that her bread became hard and stale, her pies mouldy, and meat not presentable before the third or fourth day. "Cold mutton," said a gentleman, when it came on the table the second time. "It is enough to drive a man to a hotel. As hotels are not considered beneficial for domestic husbands whose homes are within a stone's throw, the wife, whether ill or well, makes the preparation of these her chief care and anxiety.

"He can live without love—what is passion but pining. But where is the man who can live without dining?"

I often think of this when I call upon a neighbor who does her own work with the assistance of a char-woman, and is a most excellent cook. If I go to visit her on any ordinary occasion and to remain to dinner (for I live too far away to return between meals) I find everything perfect. She has a small family, her children are at school, the dinner is choice and well appointed. But if my call happens to be when the husband is from home, we sit down to a cozy cup of tea for our mid-day meal, with bread and butter, and any confection, or cold meat, that is handy. "John is away," she says, "and I don't take the trouble to get dinner; and I know you don't care; and I don't; and if I did, for the loss of relief would compensate me for the loss.

Of course, there is every woman of management, and it is every woman's duty who has to do her own work, to save trouble to herself as much as possible. Train up the children to eat fresh fruit for dessert instead of pie, and to be satisfied with plain and simple food. Have a regular written routine as far as possible, and cross out of it by degrees all cooking that requires backaching service; and if he loves you and wishes to help you over the rough places of your pathway, I am sure he will be content.

Crime, Tyranny and Small Feet in China.

A large proportion of the throng at the Baptist minister's meeting recently were women assembled to hear Miss Adele Fields, for eighteen years a missionary in or near Swatow, China, speak of her experience among the Chinese women. Miss Fields said the progress of Christianity among the women of China had been slow, but the difficulties encountered at every step were enormous. Infanticide was a terribly common crime among them, and it was very hard to persuade them that it was sinful to kill a girl baby. One woman, long after she had become a Christian and a zealous worker for the church, was smitten with the conviction of her guilt, in having destroyed her five daughters within an hour of the birth of each. She went to Miss Fields and asked if she might hope to be forgiven.

The bandaging of the feet of Chinese girls to stop their growth was a horrible evil, and one that the missionaries had striven hard, and with some success to check. The practice dated back 900 years. A very brutal man once told Miss Fields that if the women were not thus crippled they would be as strong as the men, and the latter would no longer be able to beat them.

There is very little marital felicity in China. The girl has no voice in the choice of a husband. She was simply carried to her intended father-in-law's house and there introduced to the bridegroom. "What did you think of him when you first saw him?" was a question Miss Fields had often asked, and the reply almost invariably was, "I hated him." Except among the Christians, wife beating was carried on in every

family. A friend of Miss Fields who had gained the affections of a Chinese wife, was approached by the latter, who whispered in her ear: "Does your husband often beat you?" "I am sorrow he is dead," said a widow, referring to her deceased husband. "He was very good to me. He seldom beat me." Their standard of happiness was not to be beaten often. None had an idea of what it was not to be beaten at all.—*New York Sun.*

The Siamese Queen.

Within the palace, amid a number of European chairs profusely gilt and lined with yellow damask, stands a slight girlish figure, in a white muslin jacket and bright green scarf, a short purple skirt, mauve stockings, and black leather shoes with high heels. It requires all the quiet dignity of the queen's attitude and bearing to convince us that this slender little brown fairy can really be a 21 year-old sovereign and the mother of four children. The hand which she extends to us is so fine and fragile that I feel as if touching a tiny piece of brittle filagree, which may break at any moment. Her dark hair is cut close, parted in the middle, and slightly raised on either side. Her face, though not actually pretty, is decidedly pleasing, the only drawback being the inky blackness of her fine and regular teeth, caused by the national custom of chewing betel nut, which is so universal that every Siamese dignitary from the king downward is attended on public occasions by the carrier of his betel-box. Altogether, there is something touching in the idea of this tender and child-like little creature being singled out to share the throne of the troubled and semi-barbarous realm, though it is consolation to learn that the king is far more attentive to her than many European sovereigns are to the royal objects of their conjugal hatred. Through the prince's interpretation we pay our compliments to the queen, who tells us that she has heard of our coming, asks a few questions about our former travels, and seems pleased when we express ourselves much entertained with all that we have seen in Bangkok, after which we bow ourselves out of the royal presence.

A GREAT SHEEP RANGE.

How 80,000 Sheep are Herded and Sheared.

The little schooner *Santa Rosa* arrived in San Francisco from Santa Barbara a few days ago. She comes up to that city twice a year to secure provisions, clothing, lumber, etc., for use on the *Santa Rosa* island, being owned by the great sheep raiser, A. P. Moore, who owns the land and the 80,000 sheep that exist upon it. The island is about thirty miles south of Santa Barbara, and is twenty-four miles in length and six,000 acres of land, which are admirably adapted to sheep-raising. Last year Moore clipped 1,014 sacks of wool from these sheep, each sack containing an average of 410 pounds of wool, making a total of 415,740 pounds, which he sold at twenty-seven cents a pound bringing him in \$112,499 80, or a clear profit of over \$80,000. This is said to be a low yield, so it is evident that sheep raising there, when taken into consideration that shearing takes place twice a year, and that a profit is made off the sale of mutton, etc., is very profitable. The island is divided into four quarters by fences running clear across at right angles, and the sheep have not to be herded like those ranging about the foothills.

Four men are employed regularly to look round to keep the ranch in order and to lead after the sheep, and during shearing time fifty or more shearers are employed. These men secure forty or fifty days' work, and the average number of sheep sheared a day is about ninety, for which five cents a clip is paid, thus \$4.50 a day being made by each man, or something over \$200 a day for the season, or over \$400 for ninety days out of the year. Although the shearing of ninety sheep a day is the average, a great many will go as high as 110, and one man has been known to shear 125. Of course every man tries to shear as many as he can, and owing to haste frequently the animals are severely cut by the sharp shears. If the wound is serious the sheep immediately has his throat cut, and is turned into mutton and disposed of to the butchers, and the shearer, if he is in the habit of frequently inflicting such wounds, is immediately discharged. In the shearing of these 80,000 sheep a hundred or more are injured to such an extent as to necessitate their being killed, but the wool and meat are of course turned into profit.—*San Francisco Call.*

Chinese Telegraph.

Owing to the peculiarity of the Chinese characters, each of which represents a word, not a letter, as in our western tongues, the Danish Telegraph Company (the Great Northern) working the new Chinese lines have adopted the following device. There are from five to six thousand characters on words in ordinary Chinese language, and the company have provided a wooden block of type for each of these. On one end of this block the character is cut or stamped out, and on the other end is a number representing the character. The clerk receives a message in numbers, and takes the block of each number transmitted and stamps with the opposite end the proper Chinese character on the message form. Thus a Chinese message sent in figures is translated in Chinese characters again and forwarded to its destination. The sending clerk, of course, requires to know the numerical equivalent of the characters or have them found for him.

Destroying Cannibalism.

"Fifty years ago," said Earl Cairns, at a meeting of the Church Missionary Society, "if a man had been shipwrecked on some of the islands of the Pacific, he would have been killed, cooked, and eaten; whereas, if a man were shipwrecked there now, he would receive Christian hospitality. Miss Gordon Cumming, who is not a missionary, and who did not write for the purpose of crying up missions, declared that, while in 1838 the people of Feejee were cannibals, there are now 400 churches and 1,400 schools there. Lady Brassey writes that anybody who wants to see the last traces of heathenism in Japan had better go soon, as they are rapidly giving place to Christianity.

FOREIGN ECHOES.

Another trial of three members of the commissariat service for offenses committed during the Turkish war is about to begin at St. Petersburg.

Richard C. Hewitt, the well-known Australian cricketer, was recently sentenced to four years penal servitude at Adelaide, Australia, for uttering a forged check.

In England two pecks ago butterflies were numerous, peas were above ground, and fuchsias and roses were in leaf, some of the former having made vigorous shoots from four to six inches long.

The fires of London in 1883, compared with those of 1882, has an increase of 218, and, compared with the average of the past ten years, an increase of 446. The number of lives lost by fires during the year was 39. The number of actual fires was 2,144, of which 184 resulted in serious damage, and 1,960 in slight damage.

Much sensation has been caused at Vienna among the lower classes by some alleged supernatural occurrences. In a house in a western suburb the furniture flies about, china is broken, pictures drop from the walls, tables fall, and lamps are broken, all by unseen agency. The police has interfered three times, and as the occurrences have been repeated the family has gone elsewhere, and the lodging has been locked up and sealed.

An elopement is reported to have taken place from Dublin within the last few days. The lady lived in the suburbs, and is the possessor of £300 per annum in her own right. Her father is owner of considerable property, and was in favor of her union with a gentleman of means; but the proposed match did not meet with the daughter's approval, and she disappeared from Dublin in company with the object of her affections, a Russian assistant in the city.

The *Novoe Vremya*, on hearing that the Russian ministry of education has given permission for young Jews in the middle-class schools to have a holiday on the Hebrew Sabbath, publishes another of those unreasonable and narrow-minded outbursts that have of late stamped in Russia as the chief anti-Semitic organ in Russia. The most curious part of it is that several of the best writers on this newspaper are Jews, who are often the writers of its most violent anti-Jewish articles.

A determined case of suicide by drowning recently occurred off the Semaphore, Australia. A passenger on the steamer "Giverton," named James Byrns, said "I'd better" to some fellow-passengers, and jumped overboard near the bell-buoy. A life-buoy was thrown to his assistance, but he made no effort to gain it. A boat was lowered and pulled to the spot where the man was last seen, but the body had disappeared. His luggage was overhauled, and as no money was found it is thought the rash act may have been committed owing to pecuniary difficulties.

Another family tragedy has taken place in the Margarethen suburb of Vienna, a shoemaker having killed his son in a fit of passion. It appears that the father is an honest man, and generally respected in the neighborhood, while the son was most dissipated and universally disliked, owing to his brutality and roughness. Recently he returned home late at night and demanded money, which his father refused. He then became so violent that his father, in a moment of excitement, seized a stick and struck his son, injuring him so severely that he had to be transported to the hospital, where he died.

A St. Petersburg telegram to the *London Times* says:—There is no truth whatever in the sensational reports, published abroad, that Gen. Grosser, prefect of St. Petersburg, has been shot at; that the assassins of Col. Soudaikin have been captured; that Col. Soudaikin's murder has caused any great alarm in St. Petersburg,—for society here has become quite apathetic in regard to such Nihilistic feats,—or that the emperor was about to appoint a commission for the elaboration of certain reforms, when the reappearance of the revolutionists on the scene caused him to change his mind. There is surely sensation enough in the real state of affairs in Russia without any exercise of the imagination.

There seems to be some more tolerable land in Australia, since Mr. Forrest reports, as the result of his exploration of the Kimberley district, north-west Australia, that there is abundance of timber, coarse grass and water, and that it is well adapted for cattle and horses, but not for sheep, acclimated merinoes excepted. The timber—eucalyptus, cajuput, baobab, palms and ferns—is scarcely fit for building. The natural yield of grass on the extensive plains near the Meda could not be less than three tons to the acre. The Lonnard rises in the Leopold ranges, and about thirty miles from the sea forms a delta, the northern branch of which is called the Meda, and the southern the May.

On taking his seat in the Mansion House, two weeks ago, the Lord Mayor of London read a letter from Sir Moses Montefiore inclosing a check for £99 as a contribution to the funds of the poor-box. The letter is as follows: "Very many, I fear, are the cases of destitution which, as chief magistrate of the City of London, come before your Lordship, and knowing the kindly feeling which you ever evinced toward those who are in need, I am induced to trouble you with the inclosed check for £99 which I beg you will do me the favor to add to the funds of the Mansion House poor-box. Permit me to avail myself of this opportunity to render to your Lordship my heartfelt congratulations and good wishes for the year 1884, and to express the hope that health, happiness, and every blessing may attend your esteemed lady mayoress and your family."

It appears from statistics just issued that divorce is slightly on the increase in Scotland. Last year the decrees granted in the court of session showed an increase of eight over the previous year. During the ten years subsequent to 1864 the average number of decrees granted was 35. In the five years ending 1879 there was an average of 59. During the year of 1880 no fewer than 81 decrees were granted; but there was a decrease in the two following years, the number being 78 for 1881, and 63 in 1882. The number for 1883 was 71. In 1881 decrees were granted in 36 cases in which the wife was pursuer. In 1882 the female pursuers were 34 and the husbands 29. In 1883 decrees were given in 34 cases at the

instance of the wife, and in 37 at the instance of the husband. In the cases brought against husbands 24 were on the ground of unfaithfulness, and 10 for desertion; while in the cases raised by husbands, 22 were in respect of infidelity, and 5 on the ground of desertion.

A St. Petersburg telegram to the *London Telegram* says:—The ceremony of blessing the waters of the ice-bound Neva—a custom which has its counterpart on the feast of the Epiphany in every other town and village of the orthodox provinces—was performed with the usual accompaniments—namely, the reception of the diplomatic body, a sumptuous lunch spread in the Arabian and concert halls of the palace, a parade of select detachments of the guards within the palace, and a salute of 101 guns. The figure of Count Herbert von Bismarck, the German chancellor's oldest son, in light blue dragon uniform, was the chief object of attraction among the diplomatists. Information reaches us from Archangel that the blessing of the water in that port was not offered in the open air, in the usual way, in consequence of the extreme cold, and that the crowd assembled round the pavilion on the ice, called in Russian, "the Jordan," and vented their rage and disappointment on this wooden structure. It is the first time that Russian clergy have been known to refuse to perform this ceremony on account of the cold.

Queer Freaks of Watches.

Decidedly, watches are very queer things. They possess some unaccountable peculiarities. For instance, some time about the beginning of last summer, when there had been a succession of the fine displays of the aurora borealis, it was estimated that in a single night in the city of New York, the watchspring of not less than three thousand watches broke. This estimate is based on actual inquiries. Fine, sensitive watches are particularly liable to be affected by electrical atmospheric disturbances. During the months of June, July, and August, when these phenomena are most frequent, there are more mainsprings broken than during all the remaining months of the year. They break in a variety of ways, sometimes snapping into as many as twenty-five pieces.

It is a fact that since the introduction of the electric light has become so general, a large number of watches, some of them very fine ones, have become magnetized. While in this condition they are useless as timekeepers. This defect used to be considered incurable, and because of it, thousands of watches have been thrown away, after much money had been spent on them in vain attempts to persuade them to keep good time. Among the methods resorted to were washing the parts in garlic juice, refinishing and passing them through the fire. But all these devices were entire failures, or only in part effective.

A man who had a fine and valuable movement, which kept excellent time, transferred it from a silver case to a second-hand gold one. Immediately it lost all its characteristics of steadiness and reliability, and, in fact, did not keep time at all. Then replaced in the silver case it kept good time again. The owner, a jeweller, puzzled himself and experimented in vain to discover the cause of this strange partiality on the part of his watch for silver. At length he sent it to an expert. He discovered that the lifting spring of the gold case had become magnetized. On substituting another for it, the watch kept as good time in the gold case as in the silver case.

There are occasions when it is a very serious matter to have your watch magnetized. Captain W. R. Smith commands the steamer *Delaware*, which plies between New York and New London. Before putting to sea on a recent voyage he was invited to inspect an electro dynamo, and examined its parts closely. Soon after getting on board the steamer, he noticed that the compass became strangely affected when he approached it. Whether he stood on the right or the left, or immediately in front of the compass, the needle would invariably point to him. The compass was worse than useless when he came near it. It was dangerous, and might wreck the ship.

This phenomenon alarmed and puzzled Captain Smith not a little. At length he recalled his visit to the dynamo machine, and the true solution of the eccentric behavior of the needle flashed upon him. His watch had become magnetized. When he removed it the needle assumed its constancy to the polar star. On his return to New York he took the watch to Mathey Brothers & Mathey, who demagnetized it for him. This firm has invented some machines, the mechanism of which is a secret, by which they can demagnetize a magnetized watch speedily and effectually.

Watches frequently get magnetized in iron mines or machine shops, where they are incautiously brought near swiftly running belts.

It is a well-known fact among horologists, that no watch will keep the same time with two people. The cause has not yet been definitely ascertained, but it would seem that in some mysterious way a watch is affected by the temperament of the wearer. The mere physical difference in gait and movement between different people is not sufficient to account for all the variations that have been observed.

Complaining.

There is much complaining that it is not pronounced in character, and that seems to have a somewhat fair show of reason in it. There are real trials and disappointments, vexations and failures, which often appear to us to warrant open complaint or silent depression, and there are seasons when gloom seems to overwhelm us like a thick cloud, which all our powers fail to penetrate or chase away. One idea however that is common to all complaints, whether small or great, reasonable or unreasonable, is that something or some one else is to blame for our unhappiness. If we could be convinced that we ourselves were the chief authors of it; that it sprang not from outward events or from the conduct of others so much as from something within our own breasts; that it was, in fact, chiefly our own fault, and not other people's, and was what we brought to the world instead of what the world brought to us, our complaints would have but little force, and would soon give place to self-examination and self-discipline.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. R. B. Hayes is attaining new distinction as the owner of the best poultry yards west of the Alleghenies.

The health of Mr. Spurgeon, the noted Baptist preacher, is restored. He resumed his pulpit ministrations.

The health of Jefferson Davis is extremely poor this winter. His eyes give him much trouble and his step is feeble.

It is asserted that, notwithstanding all the grand new telescopes, the palm for size still belongs to Lord Rosse's in Ireland.

Oscar Wilde will not much longer caper around with a sunflower in his button hole. A married man generally has something more on his mind.

Among the stained glass windows that have arrived from France for St. John's Church in the city of Washington, is one ordered by President Arthur as a memorial to his deceased wife.

Although she had eight competitors among the most distinguished of the place, Dr. Annie Clarke was chosen for an attending physician of the Birmingham Children's Hospital, England.

It is a subject of common remark at Cambridge, it is said, that Prince Albert Victor, eldest son of the Prince of Wales, though a very nice young man and very popular with the students, is very dull.

The Right Rev. Dr. Sullivan, Bishop of Algoma, was present at the consecration of Canon Barry in Westminster Abbey, as the representative of the Anglican Church. Dr. Sullivan was amongst the prelates who assembled to receive the Primate.

Eight years ago a poor New-York mechanic invented the glove fastener—a piece of cord about six inches long and a dozen little hooks or buttons. He now owns a block of houses that would sell for \$500,000.

Careful estimates place the value of William H. Vanderbilt's outfit, when he drives, at \$150,000. This includes horses, sleigh, harness, diamonds, and the sealskin garments with which he envelops his whole frame.

The Right Hon. Sir John Barnard Byles, member of the British Privy Council, and an ex-Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, has died in the 33rd year of his age. He was the author of several works of high repute on legal questions. In 1857 he was made Queen's Sergeant, and on his elevation to the bench he received the honor of knighthood.

Ten Prime Ministers were educated at Eton, to which Lord Coleridge recently compared Yale—Sir Robert Walpole, the Earl of Chatham, Lord North, Lord Grenville, C. J. Fox, George Canning, Earl Grey, Viscount Melbourne, the Earl of Derby and Mr. Gladstone—six Liberals and four Tories. Lesser Ministers have been contributed in about equal numbers.

The Earl of Huntingdon, who, with his son, Lord Hastings, is visiting this country in the interest of the Florida Land Purchase Company, of which he is chairman, though third on the roll of English Earls, his peerage dating from 1529, may be regarded as an Irishman, as he was born in that country, and his mother was of an old Irish family. He married, too, the only child and heiress of a celebrated Irish sportsman, the Hon. Jack Westmorland, of Sharavogue, King's county, of which he was a P. for many years. He was owner of a noted Irish race horse, Freney, and an accomplished performer on the Irish pipes.

The great heiress of England at present is Miss Hamilton, whose mother, Lady Nesbit Hamilton, has just died. The large estates in Haddingtonshire and Lincolnshire, the annual income of which is estimated at \$620,000, have been for some years, owing to the lady's incapacity, under the management of the Scottish courts, and an immense sum has accrued. Miss Hamilton's father, whose original name was Dundas, had the agreeable fortune to adopt no fewer than three additional family names—Christopher, Nisbett, and finally Hamilton—each change bringing a large increase of fortune. Her mother, just deceased, had been first married to the Earl of Elgin, father of the Earl of Canadian memory, and of Sir Frederick Bruce, Minister at Washington, but was divorced from him.

Eating Lemons.

A good deal has been said through the papers about the healthfulness of lemons. The latest advice is how to use them so they do the most good, as follows:—Most people know the benefit of lemonade before breakfast, but few people know that it is more than doubled by taking another at night also. The way to get the better of a bilious system without blue pills or quinine is to take the juice of one, two or three lemons, as appetite craves, in as much water as makes it pleasant to drink without sugar, before going to bed. In the morning, on rising, at least half an hour before breakfast, take the juice of one lemon in a goblet of water. This will clean the system of humor and bile with efficiency, without any of the weakening effects of calomel or congress water. People should not irritate the stomach by eating lemons clear; the powerful acid of the juice, which is always corrosive, invariably produces inflammation after awhile, but properly diluted so that it does not burn or draw the throat, and does its medical work without harm, and when the stomach is clear of food has abundant opportunity to work over the system thoroughly, says a medical authority.

The Lowah Clawses.

I confess it is late in the day for a story worth telling nevertheless:

Some time after his arrival here Oscar said to a friend one day:

"I received such a charming present this mawning."

The friend naturally inquired what it was.

"Upon my arrival here," Oscar proceeded to explain, "I received a present from a tradesman for the honor of measuring me for a pair of boots. I thanked him permissively and he departed. Thinking him probably a vulgar trick of the fellah's to obtain a free sight of me I supposed that was the last of it, but this mawning I actually received from him a beautiful pair of boots—quite the fit too."

Then after a pause, quoth Oscar: "This appreciation from the lowah clawses is very pleasant."