

Prominent People.

Lady MacDonald, wife of the British Ambassador to Peking, brought about the famous audience which the Dowager Empress of China granted to wives of the foreign Ministers, and read the address upon that occasion. She has lived in all parts of the world, and, although accustomed to Eastern servants before going to China, Lady MacDonald considers the Chinese as the very best of the servant class.

The German Empress is an energetic woman, rising at 5 o'clock and riding horseback for two hours, and drives in the afternoon. Her companion in riding and driving is her sister, the Duchess of Glucksburg, who shares with her in all her tastes.

In accordance with the wish expressed by her late husband, Lady Tate has presented to the National Gallery of British Art Millais's "Boyhood of Raleigh," exhibited at the Academy in 1870, and recently sold at auction in London for \$27,500.

Queen Victoria has a wonderful aviary near Windsor, to which she takes pleasure in giving her personal attention. It contains many kinds of English birds, and the pride of the collection is a golden eagle, which was captured 30 years ago in the Windsor Forest. There is a room attached to the aviary containing a collection of stuffed birds which were shot by the Prince Consort.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Dandurand, of Montreal; Mme. Semetschkine, of Russia; Mme. Meyers, of Denmark, received special municipal attention at Paris while attending the Woman's Congress, in connection with the Paris Exposition.

Of the Queen's daughters it is said that the powers of the Empress Frederick and the Princess Christian with the pen would get them a good living any day; the Princess Louise is as good at painting as at sculpture, while the Princess Beatrice is one of the best amateur actresses. Taken together, the queen's sons and daughters are not wanting in versatility.

Beatrice Harraden, it is said, wields a saw and plane with as much skill as her pen. While living on a ranch in California for her health's sake she became quite expert as a carpenter, helping upon occasions to build a fence. She set out, with her own hands, a small orchard and attended to the grafting and pruning. It was also her proud boast that she could harness a horse as well as any cowboy.

Very musical, a composer of music and a skilled player on the violoncello; Miss Harraden was the life of the ranch. She is an ardent suffragist. Although "Ships That Pass in the Night" brought her fame it added but little to her fortune, as she sold the book outright for a trifling sum. The story was rejected by Mr. Blackwood, of Blackwood's Magazine, in which her first published story, "The Umbrella Mender," appeared. He said that the story was too sad to suit the public taste.

The Countess Louise Erdody, who died in Vienna the other day, was the originator of the modern scheme to make Latin the language of the world.

Jeanne Bernhardt, the youngest sister of Mme. Bernhardt, died recently in Paris. Although not generally known she was considered a high-class actress, with a promising career. She accompanied Mme. Bernhardt on her first American tour, and then played minor parts.

Queen Victoria's boudoir at Windsor Castle is upholstered in red damask and gold and is the most beautiful room in the castle. The door bears the inscription in Her Majesty's handwriting, "Every article in this room my deeply lamented husband selected for me in the twenty-fourth year of my reign." The bay window, commanding a magnificent country view, is hung with medallion portraits of all the Kings and Queens since the conquest. The Queen has a great love for the natural song birds of England and the bullfinch and linnet, purchased by her some time since, are kept in this special boudoir under the care of a special attendant.

INDEED HIS HELPMATES.

Twice the Dowager Empress of Russia saved her husband's, Alexander III., life. One day, when in the

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emperor's dressing room, she observed that on his dressing table lay a curious looking jewel case. Something about its appearance aroused her curiosity, and, taking it up, she became aware that it was extremely heavy. Without saying a word, she went into her room, and placed it carefully in a basin of water; then, sending for the prefect of police, whose duties kept him much about the palace, she begged him to have it examined, and it was discovered to be one of the most marvelous infernal machines ever invented by the ingenuity of man. The second occasion on which the empress was directly instrumental in stopping murder occurred in the Winter Palace, when she heard a slight noise which indicated the presence of some stranger in the czar's study. Without betraying the slightest anxiety, she begged her husband to come and speak to one of the children. He did so. She locked the door, and only gave up the keys to a party of soldiers, who found that some one had just escaped through the window.

A NEW TRANSPORT WAGON.

Can Carry Rations for Forty Men on Outpost Duty or Serve With a Battery.

The old idea of taking few measures for the comfort of the troops in the field, because they are usually compelled by the force of circumstances to do without any comforts, was exploded long ago and to-day every good officer tries to bring his men to the field of battle in as fresh a condition as possible.

One of the most arduous duties, other than actual fighting on the firing line, is outpost duty, and any means that will lighten this service in the field will be welcomed by the army. Wagon transportation will not always be available far to the front, and yet the South African campaign has shown that even at the outposts it can often come into play, and would be of inestimable value in sparing the men unnecessary labor.

A new military transport and shelter wagon is the direct outcome of the late experience in the Transvaal. It was designed by a volunteer artillery Colonel of Sheffield, England. The wagon is built of wood and is mounted on springs and four wheels. The tires are eight inches wide to facilitate travel over soft ground, and the rear wheels are on a broader gauge than those in front. It is arranged for horse or traction engine draft.

The top of the wagon box is surrounded by stout wire netting, inside of which is the platform. Under the platform floor is a water cistern of forty gallons capacity. On each side of the wagon are hinged doors, closing recesses in which a canvas shelter is kept rolled up. This canvas can be run out in a very few minutes and when held up by the wagon at one end and by posts planted out at the side of the wagon at the other will form a rectangular tent for fifty men. Seats are also provided at the sides of the wagon in the form of hanging steps, so that the men can be carried on them when necessary. When not in use these seats can be folded up out of the way. Rifle or carbine racks are also part of its equipment. The wagon can carry four tons of stores and would thus provide a detachment of forty men with rations for 100 days. It is designed either for the supply of a detachment on outpost duty or as part of the equipment of a field battery and with its tent shelter will prove far more valuable, under circumstances where horse or traction engine draft is available at all, than the transport wagons now in use.

Why is a man who walks behind a chimney sweeper like a card player? Because he follows soot.

Why is it always proper to take up a penny collection? Because there is some cents, sense in it.

"That's part of the sinking fund," as a chap said when a box of money went to the bottom of the river.

The Deacon's last conundrum; Which is the quickest, heat or cold? Heat, because you can catch cold.

A noted lawyer having shaved off his full beard, the Judge remarked that lawyers ought to be barefaced.

Young Folks.

HOW I HELP MAMMA.

You ask me how I help my ma,
Now how shall I begin it?
I wash my face and comb my hair,
In just about a minute.

Then I turn and make my bed,
In just about another,
My kitten then I have to feed,
And wash my little brother,

The table then I quickly set,
And place the dishes on it,
After the meal, prepare for school,
And don my little bonnet.
Etta Birdsall, aged 9,
South Middleton, Ont.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

One of the conditions on which British Columbia entered the Dominion of Canada was that a direct railway line should be built connecting western Canada, with the eastern provinces. The work was begun by the Mackenzie Government and was continued after that government had been defeated by a syndicate of capitalists, of which the chief men were Canadians. This syndicate was to receive a subsidy of \$25,000,000, and also a grant of twenty-five million acres of land in the fertile districts of the northwest. So great were the exertions made by this syndicate that the road was opened for general traffic in June 1886. The main line is 2909 miles in length, beginning at Montreal and ending at Vancouver. From Montreal the line runs to Ottawa, from there north of the great lakes to Port Arthur, then through Winnipeg, Regina and Stephen, in the Rocky Mountains to Vancouver.

A SHREWD FROG.

"One of the most knowing little animal pets I ever had is a frog about half-grown," said a well-known artist the other day. "I made the jumper's first acquaintance one morning two weeks ago, when he hopped from the garden through an open French window into my studio, where his frequent daily visits afford me much amusement during idle moments. He is so tame that he will take worms from my fingers, and perch upon my hand like a bird and sing and croak as long as I choose to hold him.

"As an illustration of the little fellow's cunning I was one morning feeding a favorite cat with a saucer of bread and milk all of which pussy did not eat. The food that the cat

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left soon attracted quite a number of flies. The observant frog noticed this and hopping, into the saucer, he rolled over and over until he was fairly covered with a batter of bread and milk having done which he lay perfectly motionless and awaited developments. The flies enticed by the prospect of a good meal soon began

A SPLENDID RECORD.

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to circle round the scheming batrachian and when one passed within two inches or so of his nose his tongue darted out and the fly disappeared. The plan worked so well that the frog makes a regular business of rolling himself in the cat's left-over dinner.

DRAWING-ROOM STEEPLECHASE.

A drawing room steeplechase is done in this way: A narrow course is arranged down the length of the room laid out with "jumps" varying in height and at different distances from each other. The jumps are made with piles of books, or cushions, foot stools, small chairs laid on their sides, or in any other way that ingenuity can suggest; but all must be small enough to be easily stepped over.

Some one—preferably an athletic young man who prides himself on his skill in hurdle jumping—must now be blindfolded, and it is required that he shall journey from end to end of the course, stepping over all, without touching any of the obstacles. This is carefully explained to him beforehand, and he is allowed to study the various obstacles and to estimate their heights and distances before his eyes are bandaged; in fact, he may make a trial trip over the course, so that the distances between the jumps may be firmly fixed in his memory. Then he is started on his steeplechase.

No sooner is he off, than all the obstacles, quietly and stealthily, are removed from his path. He advances a step or two, gingerly raises a foot, throws it out and makes a giant stride over an imaginary jump—and as he goes along so indescribably ludicrous are his careful efforts to clear obstacles, when not one is in his path, that long before he has reached the winning post he will be the only person in the room, who is not feeling tired from excess of laughter. The misguided steeplechaser thinks, of course, he is performing splendidly when he finds that he is clearing everything in his path without a touch,—nothing funnier can be imagined than the way in which his complacent conceit at his own success gives way to the bitterest chagrin when his eyes are uncovered and he finds out the hoax.

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MEMORY.

Husband, angrily—"Don't forget, madam, that you are my wife.

Wife—"Oh, never fear. There are some things one can't forget.

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A minister, putting his hand upon a young urchin's shoulder, exclaimed; "My son, I believe the devil has got hold of you." "I believe so, too," was the reply.

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