The new bell skirt is much used for summer gowns of silk, cotton and wool materials. It is cut in three pieces—a front gore and one bell breadth each side of this gore which is very wide, and has a bias seam down the back. The skirt measures about four and one-half yards at its greatest circumference, and it can be used as a drop skirt under a draped skirt or overdress. All the various French models fit smoothly around the hips, the fullness at the back either gathered or pleated in compact form, and with just an easy graceful flare around the lower portion of the skirt.

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For the summer are new semi-transparent materials for mourning gowns imitating India textiles in their patterns, also handsome foulards and China silks, grenadines, and etamines in black and white effects for light mourning, soft liberty silks with black grounds sprinkled with various delicate white devices, and white grounds with black bars, vine stripes and all-over designs and add geometrical figures. White and black batistes, challies and French organdies follow very closely the newest handsomest patterns in summer silks.

* * *

Most of the shirt waists designed for general wear are finished with pure white linen collars and cuffs, but there are not a few women who cannot wear these stiffly starched additions, and it is an easy matter to remove these adjustable articles, and to substitute in their place the pretty and becoming little Paquin points that are sold by the dozen, more or less, in all the fancy dry goods houses. There are also waists of undressed China silk with turn-down collars, the pleated front fastened with small pearl studs, and soft-finished striped and dotted percale, chambray, dimity, zephyr goods, and fine French flannels briar-stitched and finished with a ribbon stock and bow. The smart little Etons to be worn with these waists are variously priced according to the material and amount of elaboration bestowed upon them.

* * *

To those who find the Eton or bolero jacket becoming, this little shape can be utilized in cutting over a coat or basque bodice that one has tired of or that has become slightly worn below the waist and on the fronts. The basque portion may be cut off and the hooked front also removed, leaving enough only for the Eton fronts. If these are at all soiled, they may be quickly cleaned with naphtha, and then covered with revers-fronts joined to a square collar that falls over the shoulders in the back. The points of the revers may reach to the extreme edge of the jacket-front, or end some inches above the waistline.

* * *

Very beautiful black lace insertions, varying from one to four inches in width, are used with elegant effect on summer toilets of silk or diaphanous textiles. Pleated ruches of black mousseline de soie finish the skirt hem and decorate the neck of the bodice.

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Princesse dresses and princesse effects prevail among fashionable summer toilets, but the new models are so changed by their bolero fronts, surplice draperies, odd revers and large picturesque collars, as to be hardly recognizable. On not a few of these gowns the bodice portion is cut low in the neck, and this, when desired, is made high in effect by the addition of a tucked guimpe, the tucks alternating with rows of lace insertion. This guimpe or yoke is arranged to veil or wholly cover the open portion. The guimpe is the easiest method of adjustment, as it is fastened to an invisible very thin silk corset cover that is put on before the dress is. If the yoke is preferred, it is adjusted after the gown is fastened. Wide lace is added to the extreme edge of the entire yoke, front and back. When completed, the yoke is hooked invisibly to the top of the low-cut bodice of the princesse dress. On slender figures a guimpe and sleeve-puffs of accordeon-pleated silk muslin is a cool and pretty arrangement.

* * *

Many of the hot-weather gowns are made with surplice bodies most gracefully arranged. The skirts are garnished with ruches, frilling, flounces, ribbon in rows or fancy devices, accordion pleatings, and lace edgings and insertions put on in every manner that modern taste and ingenuity can devise.

* * *

Creamy Indian mull waists for dressy afternoon wear will in many instances take the place of white chiffon for blouses and surplice waists this summer, for the reason that while India mull has all the soft transparent effect of chiffon, it is very much more durable. The new white mull waists from Paris follow the conventional lines of the fascinating models of silk and Liberty silk, but they can be fashioned by various deft modistes in a pretty and simple style suggested by each individual wearer. A very pretty model from Paris of exquisitely fine, sheer mull is laid in tiny tucks, with rows of lace insertion alternating, then gathered full about the neck into a folded satin collar. Elegant lace caps fall over the short sleeve-puffs, and the insertion shows on the closely-fitted sleeve from wrist to puff. This waist has a separate short sleeve under bodice, lace-trimmed and very snug, low in the neck, and designed to show the shoulders delicately through the semi-diaphanous textile of the waist proper.

* * *

Those who admire the fineness and durability of the French ginghams or zephyrs, as they are now called, have them made up in the simplest manner, with belted waist shirred round the neck, or with a bolero jacket of the gingham in, for instance, a pink, gray, and reseda color mixture with a plain pink gingham blouse vest, held by a narrow leather belt, with a large box-pleat down the front. The revers of the plain pink goods may be edged with rows of narrow linen gimp that always launders well. Other models have the zephyrs made up with a short fitted basque-bodice, with a large yoke-collar of open embroidery, loose from the suit, which can be laundered without the suit. Another dress style shows the gingham gown trimmed with belt and stock collar of ribbon matching one of the colors in the pattern. Paquin points of creamy embroidered batiste edged with narrow Valenciennes lace finish the top of the high collar and edge the sleeves at the wrist.

* * *

The bolero, the Eton and all the trim and natty little jacket effects continue to be very much in evidence among the season's latest importations, and midsummer will find them as omnipresent as the birds and butterflies. These jackets, however, in no way interfere with the host of charming and stylish basque-bodices, the Louis XIV., Louis XVI., Victorian and other historical coats, or the pretty round waists, Breton corsages, the shirred, corded, puffed and tucked bodices, with skirts decorated to correspond. Some of the very smart models for summer gowns show the skirt laid in alternate knife-kiltings and narrow-braided panels. Robe dresses of plain and machine-embroidered linen, batiste or the lighter grass linen are particularly effective so made up, and in moire, satins, or failles, in combination with sun-pleated nets, grenadines, crepe de Chine, or silk etamine, some extremely elegant costumes are shown.

* * *

The modiste and the tailor have this year made yachting and tennis costumes that are suitable also for beach and country wear—some in skirt and jacket form, others with a canvas, serge or mohair skirt and a waist of different material, each of fancy taffeta or the cooler figured India silk. These are not the familiar shirt waist with pointed yoke and stiff collar—a style relegated to mere utility uses—but are made over thin lining in a rather fanciful fashion, with a fluffy front, spreading shoulder effects, a seamless back, small sleeve-puffs, and a ceinture-like-waist finish that is not too wide to give a slender effect. For cool days there is a jaunty-jacket bodice en suite made of the shirt fabric.

* * *

One of the most effective ornaments for the hair this season is made out of two outstretched birds' wings or iridescent green, with a small cluster of roses at their base.

* * *

Rumor has it that the turban is to be revived. The idea is received with decided favor.

* * *

Moire is again to be in universal favor. The silken fringe which was wont to decorate the black silk dress in the olden days is also to be worn. This fringe, which is half an inch in width, made of silk, appears on many of the newest models in triple rows around the skirt and trimming the sleeves.

* * *

The bodice trimmings for evening are nearly all of the stomacher shape, continued at the top as far as the shoulders. They are worked also in pallettes, jewels, and tinsel thread, so that the material of the dress shows in the interstices.

* * *

The embroideries for the fronts of gowns this coming season are beautiful. Some on lisle and net are worked in the corners with light floral patterns, which are made right and left so that one of two can be used. In these green and pink tinsel and pallettes of faint tone mingle with gold, silver and pearls, or something of that nature.

Bad Spells.

Two lively girls were talking at a rate that entertained all the close-by passengers in a Euclid motor Thursday morning. Most of their conversation turned upon incidents in which they figured at some comical disadvantage. One of them told of meeting a girl whom she had known at some early period, and not being able to introduce her to her friends, because she couldn't remember her name.

"That's always awful," said the other girl, "and it's happened to me ever so many times. Another dreadful thing is to be writing a letter and then suddenly forget how to spell a word. And it's always such an easy word, too."

"Always," said the first girl. "Why, just the other evening I couldn't, for the life of me, remember how to spell 'does.' Wasn't that silly? I spelled it 'duz' and 'duss' and 'dusz,' and at last, when I really spelled it right, it didn't look a bit natural, and I just put off writing any more, because I was so tired bothering over it."

"Yes," said the other girl, "I know how that is. I was writing a letter yesterday and what word do you suppose it was that stumped me?"

"What?" giggled the first girl.

"You've hit it the first thing," giggled the other girl, "it was 'what.' It seemed to me that it was right to spell it 'w-h-a-t,' but do you know, after I had written it I couldn't pronounce it. It seemed to me that it must be called 'wha-a-t,' with the same sound to 'a' that you get in 'hat.' And, really, I had to give it up."

"How foolish!" giggled the first girl.—Cleveland Plaindealer.

SOME RAMBLING THOUGHTS.

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Some months ago I sought to suggest to young men who had more energy than they could exhaust on the ordinary affairs of life, that it might be well to expend that energy for their fellow-men, by devoting themselves heart and soul to bringing about justice for workingmen in the form of employers' liabilities for injuries suffered while at work. I pointed out that by modern conditions a workman was unable to guard himself fully against the criminal carelessness of his fellows, and I also showed that nothing but a law equal in its obligations in all States would be fair to the employer. Where this suggestion may have lodged effectively, I may not know, since these "Thoughts" are not like bread cast upon waters, to return after many days, but more like arrows shot forth at random, hitting sometimes and missing often.

* * *

I come now with another subject that affects every community, and that is clamoring for proper answer with louder and louder tones as the years roll by; a question that must be answered properly by this country or it will remain a problem for the twentieth century that is absolutely frightful to contemplate — the question is as to the proper care of the feeble-minded. Now I mention it, you of course admit that there is such a question, but its importance and its magnitude are hardly likely to be felt by you, save perhaps in your community there are but a few such afflicted ones. Bear with me as I lead you to deeper feeling.

According to the Bureau of Statistics at Washington there are in this country over 100,000 such people—I am not referring to either idiots or insane, but only to those of insufficient intellect. This 100,000 includes only those who by their parents or guardians are acknowledged to the authorities; and learned ones on this subject think it fair to suppose that there are half as many more concealed and unreported by sensitive relatives; so that our problem resolves itself into the care-taking of 150,000 people too lacking in intelligence to properly look after themselves. They are pining out a limited existence in our towns as the butts for all sorts of jokes, in our poorhouses as those who may be abused without fear, in our jails as those who have done crimes that seemed to be committed without any sense of wrong-doing, in our land as av ast army whose dull eyes look out as a vast army whose dull eyes look out is being done for them? The total accommodation in all the institutions that already exist for their proper care and training is 6,000. Fully twenty States give them no attention at all. In South Carolina, Virginia, Missouri and Oregon some few of them are sent to the insane asylums, the very last place they ought to be, since they can be trained to some degree of usefulness. In Montana they are grouped with the deaf and dumb, a classification that must be of damage to the deaf mutes. Maine, Vermont and Wyoming pass them on to the other States, if accommodations can be found. In the case of Maine and Vermont, Massachusetts is looked to for help, though its own State applicants exceed by hundreds every possible accomodation at either Waverly or Barre. North Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Utah, South Dakota, Colorado and a few other States do nothing for them, unless the fact that many of them naturally gravitate to the poorhouse be regarded as something done.

* * *

Now then, am I merely setting up a man of straw in order to make a great show of bravery in demolishing him? A glance around your own community will confirm or disprove what I say.

Unlike the idiot, the feeble-minded man is able to reproduce his kind, and strong intellects do not come from feeble-minded parentage. Look around your neighborhood and see if this is correct.

In nearly every poor-house of the country will be found one or more feeble-minded women; all the inevitable prey of depraved men, and year after year their offspring are augmenting the number of idiots or feeble-minded children. Such women often prove veritable fire-brands in a community, too weak-minded to know the evil of what they do, too animalish to find pleasure except in grossness, too feeble to resist. If your knowledge confirms this, bear in mind that in every community it is the same.

Again, let it never more escape your mind that feeble-mindedness is incurable. The brain of such may with advantage be trained to a certain point, and the hand acquire facility in handling tools, but after all is done the feeble-minded one remains so always. Esquirol, a great authority, sums up the matter this way: "The feeble-mind-minded person is like a man who is born poor and always remains so; the insane, like a man who is born rich and becomes poor."

* * *

Economy, humanity, and all that is noblest in the heart of man, declare that for the sake of the happiness of these poor creatures, and for their protection and the protection of society against a self-multiplying flood of idiocy, lunacy, inbecility, pauperism and crime, widespread plans, State by State, Nation by Nation, must be adopted to place these unfortunates where they are helpless to themselves and others. Look at the Juke family in one of the western counties of New York. In seventy-five years, from a faulty origin, it has produced 200 thieves and murderers, 280 invalids afflicted with blindness, phthisis or idiocy, 90 harlots and 300 children who died in infancy. It has cost the State over a million dollars to look after these people; all practically avoidable by proper care of the unhappy ancestor of the family.

* * *

I shall return to this subject next week.

A Comparison.

Dr. Elisha Kane, the Arctic explorer, on being asked what he thought of a certain after-dinner speech, replied that it was like an Arctic sunset. "What do you mean by that?" asked his friend. "It was bright and interesting," replied the doctor, "but provokingly long in operation."

The largest diamond in the world is the Braganza, being part of the Portuguese jewels. It weighs 1,880 carats. It was found in Brazil in 1741.

WAYS OF LIGHTNING.

Some New Facts Brought Out by the Scientists.

Disdains Lightning Rods, But Strikes Close Beside Them—Sky-Scrapers in No Danger.

The fear of lightning seems to be a thoroughly ingrained human instinct, like the hatred of reptiles. The gathering of the spring thunder clouds which put in their first appearance about this time of year, always sends a lot of timid persons scurrying to the shelter of the nearest feather bed. The feather bed theory of protection from lightning has the advantage of long tradition to recommend it, and is not likely to be unthroned by a single article. Still, there are always some readers amenable to reason, and for the benefit of those few this story in printed, to correct the widespread misinformation on the subject of the etiquette observed by lightning in its irregular visits to the earth.

Every year, for some seasons past, the United States Government has issued a little pamphlet, compiled by Mr. McAdie of the United States Geodetic Survey, giving statistical information on the subject of lightning. This pamphlet shows that while the number of deaths from lightning has increased each year for some time past, the increase has not been more rapid than the growth of population. Last year it was about 500 for the whole country, and it may console the timid person to reflect that his or her chance of injury from this cause is something like one in 140,000, which, as a philosopher has remarked in another connection, is very consoling if you can be certain that you are not the one.

The true philosophy on this subject seems to be a cheerful fatalism. You can't dodge a lightning stroke, says Mr. McAdie, and you can't turn it aside except by very elaborate means. While it would undoubtedly be foolhardy to climb to the top of a lofty tree during a thunder storm, or to sit with your back against a lightning rod, you might be more safe there than hidden away inside a feather bed.

The greatest scientific authority on the subject of lightning is Dr. Oliver J. Lodge of University College, Liverpool. In this country it is probable that there is no man who has a greater fund of practical information as to the nature and characteristics of lightning than William A. Eddy of Bayonne, N. J., who is a follower and close student of Dr. Dodge. Mr. Eddy has made an extended study of the subject of atmospheric electricity, and he has learned a number of interesting things about the particular form of this electrical force which manifests itself in the lightning flash.

"The general fear of lightning is not entirely without reason," said Mr. Eddy, in discussing the subject, "for it is capable of great devastation. Experimental scientists have been very chary of tackling this subject, and this is probably the reason why the scientific knowledge of lightning has not kept pace with progress in other lines of investigation. The study of lightning has been greatly retarded by a terrible accident which happened more than 100 years ago.

"Franklin may justly be given the honor of being the pioneer in the practical study of lightning. After his remarkable feat a score of investigators in different parts of the world began to make a study of lightning. Most of these experiments were brought to a sudden termination by an incident sufficiently tragic to shake the nerves of even a cold-blooded man of science. An experimenter named Richmond, in St. Petersburg, had built a laboratory which contained, among other things, the lower end of a lightning rod 100 feet high, which he had erected, and from which he had succeeded in drawing off electrical charges of considerable force. One day, while Richmond was working in his laboratory, a thunderstorm came up. Lightning struck the lofty rod, flashed down it and killed the scholar at his work, badly burning and mangling his body. That put an end to experiments with lightning for the time being. Toward the end of the century there were one or two fatalities in France, which acted as a further detriment, and caused Voltaire to remark in a quotation which I get through Dr. Lodge: 'There are some kings whom one must not approach too closely, and lightning is one of these.' Lodge, therefore, found an almost unworked field before him when he began his experiments."

The essential characteristic of lightning, and the one that accounts for most of its vagaries, according to Dr. Lodge, is its "impulsive rush." In unscientific language this means that when a charge of lightning breaks through a cloud and starts for the earth it moves with a rush so vehement that no ordinary conductor will turn it from the path it elects to follow.

"There are many cases to illustrate this," says Dr. Lodge. "Here is a striking one: In May, 1889, lightning struck and nearly demolished a brick wall in a small English town. Directly opposite the wall at the point where it was struck, and not six feet away, stood a gas lamp. Gas is one of the best conductors of electricity, and the lamp was some feet higher than the wall. On the old theory of attraction the lightning ought to have gone for the lamp, but as a matter of fact, it was not injured.

There have been repeated instances where lightning has struck a roof, although it had a rod to protect it, and in some cases the roof has been struck only a few feet from the rod itself.

On this theory lightning rods are of little value. As Dr. Lodge has abundantly proved, lightning may travel down a rod to the earth without doing any damage in case the rod happens to be in its path, but the stroke will seldom turn aside to follow the rod.

It must not be supposed from this that it is impossible to secure immunity from injury by lightning. Some buildings are protected by the very character of their construction.

"There is no danger from lightning in a modern tall building," said Mr. Eddy, "though most people think that they would be more than likely to be struck because they tower high in the air. As a matter of fact, if lightning struck the roof of a skyscraper, the current would be dissipated in a hundred directions, and carried down to the ground through the steel beams without doing much more than the most superficial damage. A safe deposit vault gives absolute protection as lightning can't penetrate it."

The most practical protection for an ordinary building, as Dodge points out, is in a double system of wire netting or connected rods, one net to be placed below the other, and both connected with the ground. Below ground the rod or wire should be extended to water or moist earth, and this is a much better conductor than dry ground. A house completely surrounded by a wire cage reaching to the ground, would be thoroughly protected, but in that case it would be unsafe to go out or in, or to touch any part of the cage during a thunderstorm. It might be unpleasant for a man coming home at the commencement of a summer shower to have to sit outside until it had passed, and so the cage plan is not likely to recommend itself to many people.

The buildings which are most carefully guarded against injury by lightning are probably some of the big powder magazines. Some of these are almost covered with a network of connecting rods and wires. These run down to the earth below the ground and lead away to a considerable distance, where the rods terminate in moist earth. For many years the Hotel de Ville at Brussels was looked upon as the most carefully protected building in the world, the subject being a hobby with the proprietor of the hotel. The roof of the great building looked like an ancient barbican with its dozens of minaret points jutting up. These rods were all connected and grounded in the most scientific manner, but it is a fact that the hotel was struck by lightning at least once, in spite of its elaborate protection.

To sum up in a word the fact which Mr. Lodge and his followers have labored long and earnestly to bring out is that the old theory of protection from lightning by "attracting" it and affording it a safe channel through which to pass into the earth is in error. The correct method, as they have proved, is based on the "bird cage," or "meat safe" principle of dispersing the electric current through a number of separate channels.—Cleveland Leader.

For the "Record-Union."

WORDS.

"But words are things."—Byron.

Words are inadequate when at their best;
Words are most idle when they always please;
Words are pernicious when they most attest
Old see-saw proverbs, drugs and lees.
Words are corroded by unstudied use;
Words are mere sounds to babes and fools;
Words are subjective to the knave's abuse;
Words are not taught in village schools;
Words, wielded by some women, kick like mules!

Words are the servants still of humankind;
Words wear the livery of lords of thought;
Words are unknown, and cannot be defined
To idlers; by experience taught,
Words shine like planets to the telescope!
Words are mere marks or signs to some;
Words fill small souls with dread when rich with hope!
Words soothe or comfort, charm, or idly hum—
Words are soft music, or alarm, like trump and drum.

Words form battalions, and to battle dash;
Words raise up breastworks, forts and palisades;
Words thunders forth like cannon, blaze and crash!
Words conquer armies, balls and blades!
But words exhaust whole fonts of honest type,
And weary patient readers, sometimes, too—
May blast in blossom ere their fruit is ripe
When sentences are blank to me and you—
When phrases quite perverse will form, the wrong end to.
Words are the fragments of the soul and mind

That are detached to fit some kindred cell,
Like that from whence they come, and do but find
True recognition there, and tell
Their full significance and import clear.
To beings of a nearly equal station
They may convey a tremor, hope or tear,
Support an atom, or reduce a nation,
And bear the fate of man—redemption or damnation.

Words are tremendous things! and dangerous still!
What wisely or what idly we may utter
May make us vassals to another's will—
May make one heart or millions flutter!
And yet words are but trifles, such as we
Are of, and parts of, and we seldom hear
Or never comprehend; we know, nor see,
Nor touch, nor taste, nor feel, nor joy, nor fear—
Imaginary beings of a fancied sphere!

—CHARLES L. PAIGE.

Had to Give It Up.

"Yes," said the editor, "we had to give up that mothers' column."

"Dear me, I don't see why," answered the sweet young thing. "It seemed to me it was invaluable."

"Yes, that's what we all thought, including the very bright young woman who wrote it," admitted the editor. "There didn't seem to be any problem of the house that she wasn't qualified to settle. But she fianlly married."

"That didn't lessen her ability any, did it?" asked the sweet young thing, in surprise.

"No-o," replied the editor slowly. "Of course she knew just as much as she did before, but somehow she didn't seem to be quite so certain of it. However, she kept up her work, even if she did show that she occasionally had doubts that never came to her before. She was a little shy as to some points regarding the management of the home, but she still knew all about the training of children, and, of course, that's the principal feature of a mother's column."

"Of course," acquiesced the sweet young thing.

"At last, however," continued the editor, "she became satisfied that she wasn't even competent to lay down rules and decide knotty problems in the line of the management of a nursery."

"Dear me," said the sweet young thing; "that was very strange. When did she make up her mind to that?"

"About four months after her first baby was born," answered the editor.—Chicago Post.

Andrew Clark's Presence of Mind.

Sir Andrew Clark was once on top of a tall building in London admiring the view of the surrounding country. While thus employed he was touched on the shoulder by a quiet-looking man, who slowly remarked, to the great astonishment of Sir Andrew, "Sir, I am going to throw you off." As the quiet-looking man was the larger, and there was no help at hand, the matter for the moment assumed a very serious aspect. Fortunately for Sir Andrew, he is possessed of rare presence of mind, and in a bantering way he exclaimed: "Pooh! that's nothing; anybody could throw a man off here. Now if you want to do something great, try and throw me up here from the ground."

"Well, I can do that," said the maniac, for such he proved to be, "and if you will kindly descend to the street I will prove it."

"With pleasure," Sir Andrew replied, and with great decorum the two descended to the street, where the maniac was quickly handed into the custody of the law.—Harper's Round Table.

"Boy Wanted."

"It's your wife at the telephone," said the office boy.

"Tell her I'm out for the afternoon."

"He says to tell you he's out for the afternoon, mum."—Detroit Free Press.

The most ancient catacombs are those of the Theban Kings, begun 4,000 years ago. The catacombs of Rome contain the remains of about 6,000,000 human beings; those of Paris, 3,000,000.

IN RELIGION'S REALM.

Expressions From Various Religious Newspapers.

The Religious Thought of the Day as Expressed in the Sectarian Press.

"It is with sadness rather than surprise," says the New York "Churchman" (P. E.), "that we read the verdict of the Roman Church on the gloss of the Three Heavenly Witnesses found in 1 John v., 7. The question which came before the Holy Office was whether the text could be safely expunged as a gloss, or, at any rate, could be considered of doubtful authenticity. Their conclusion, 'after every argument had been weighed with most diligent accuracy,' was summed up in the easily understood Latin word Negative. That is to say, the Church of Rome has declared beyond recall, a notorious interpolation to belong to the original text of Scripture. Though it stands as authentic in the authorized English version of the Bible, readers of the revised version will remember that it is there omitted without a word of comment, which signifies that there is absolutely no critical support for retaining it. * * * The temper of mind of which this decision of the Holy Office is an indication is not encouraging to those who cling to the hope of a reconciliation between the Church of Rome and the rest of Catholic Christendom. It reveals a barrier as insuperable as the bull Apostolica Curae. For it is a declaration that the papacy is immovably resolved to ignore indisputable evidence whenever it seems to clash with papal philosophy, or if it demands a withdrawal or modification of former dicta. Part of the power of Rome lies in her reserve, but sometimes, as in the present instance, it is a power that is purchased at the cost of truth."

* * *

"Some of the newspapers have come across a 'mare's nest' in connection with the Lambeth Conference," remarks "The Living Church" (P. E.) of Chicago. "They tell us that there is a growing tendency on the part of that assembly 'to make the primates and metropolitans of this country in a measure dependent upon the dictation of the see of Canterbury,' and that this movement is arousing determined and bitter opposition in the American bishops. Such statements have the usual amount of truth, beginning with the allusion to 'primates and metroplitans' as existing in the American Church. The Lambeth Conference is a purely voluntary affair. It is unknown to the law of the Church of England, or of the American Church. Its discussions and resolutions have no more legal force than those of a church congress. Their value is altogether moral. Undoubtedly the results arrived at in such an assembly, consisting as it does of men of the highest eminence for office and character, will always be received with respect. But not one of them can have the slightest legal value or binding force. Before any suggestion from that source can obtain the force of law in the American Church, for example, it must fullow the usual course of legislation. Nothing of the kind can become binding upon us, except through the voluntary action of the General Convention engrafting it in a regular way upon the constitution or embodying it in the canons of this church. Our friends may be assured that while churchmen look forward with interest to the meeting at Lambeth in July, they feel no manner of alarm or anxiety. The circumstances of the case exclude the possibility of any apprehension of radical or startling measures, or of any measures calculated to compromise in any degree the independence of the Catholic body in America 'known in law as the Protestant Episcopal Church.'"

* * *

"The critics, so called, who insist on treating the Bible as literature, or as all other literature is treated, are not faithful to their own creed," observes the New York "Christian Intelligencer" (Ref.). "They subject it to tests which are not applied to other writings. Internal evidence goes for nothing. A pure supposition is advanced, and then a labored attempt is entered upon to induce men to accept the conjecture. These critics assert Ruth, Esther and the Book of Jonah are fictions. We are not told what constitutes a fiction, only that these books are fictions. But they have none of the characteristics of fiction, and do have those of veritable history. Ruth is the biography of ancestors of the Messiah, Esther is an account of Jewish experience, and the chief transaction of the record has been commemorated by a Jewish feast through succeeding centuries to this day. Jonah has all the marks of a history recording a great religious and moral movement. When the fiction supposition is objected to, we are told that Jesus Christ used fiction to convey truth, and when we ask for an illustration we are told that the parable of the Prodigal Son is fiction. It certainly is not. It is a parable, as is that of the sower and of the leaven. There is obvious distinction between a fiction and a parable. Besides, these assailants of the Bible occupy a perilous position. There are thousands of inscriptions already exhumed which have not been translated, and the high probability is that thousands more will be discovered. On any day it may be announced that an inscription has been deciphered establishing the truth of these books."

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"The conviction of Commissioner Booth-Tucker of the Salvation Army is not to be regarded in the light of a civil persecution," says the New York "Independent." "Under our Constitution and laws everybody has a right to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience; but this right is not an exclusive right and gives him no legal title to interfere with the rights of others. It is the indefeasible right of persons to enjoy rest at night; and it was because the noise created by the peculiar style of worship at the Salvation Army headquarters in this city prevented those occupying neighboring houses from sleeping at night that Mr. Booth-Tucker was indicted. This noise is not simply the disturbance created by the use of the human voice in shouting hallelujahs, in loud exhortations, and in singing, but it is augmented by drums, cymbals and tambourines, instruments which the Salvation army uses in its worship. If this noise were kept up for only a part of the evening, occupying about the same time as the ordinary church service, there would doubtless have been no complaint; but these services continue for hours, and occasionally all night. We do not doubt that the verdict of the jury that these meetings constitute a nuisance is a correct verdict; and we do not believe that Mr. Booth-Tucker's appeal to the churches to defend the rights which he claims for the Salvation Army will elicit a favorable response. The churches do not ask for themselves the right to disturb a neighborhood, and they will have no fear that this precedent will, as Mr. Booth-Tucker predicts, be the signal for a general persecution."

* * *

"From time to time," says the "Christian Register" (Unit.) of Boston, "there is talk of 'merging' Unitarianism in something else, or 'ceasing to maintain separate existence as a denomination,' since many of the ideas for which Unitarians have contended are being so rapidly adopted by the main body of the church. Such talk does not appear to have reckoned very accurately with existing conditions. How the churches now banded together within this fellowship can be 'merged' in any other communion is not entirely plain upon the face of things. Certainly there is no sign that any other denomination wants these churches or would take them as a gift, could they be delivered over to such new affiliations. 'Ceasing to maintain a separate existence' means, for the present at least, merely ceasing to exist. The proposal to close the doors of this number of Christian churches sounds rather cool when it comes from a source outside our ranks. When it comes from the inside we must suspect that some kind of hazy ideal has been playing tricks with a well-meaning mind."

The Brute.

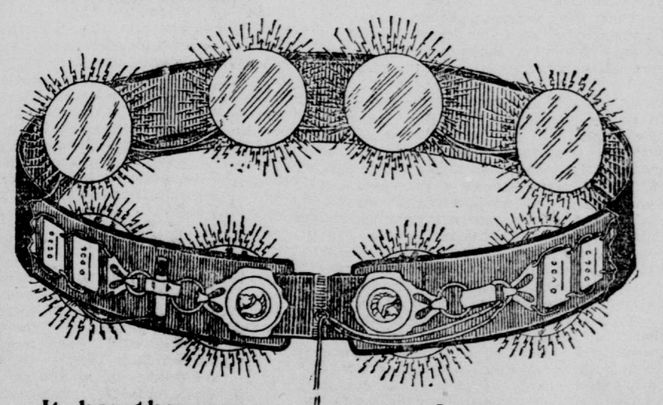
Young Mother (on the train)—Oh, dear, I don't know what to do with you, baby!

Kind Bachelor—Shall I open the window for you, madam?—New York Journal.

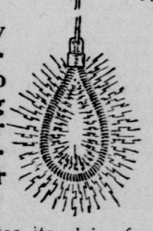
The Mormon Church in Utah shows a membership of 127,294, being 23,000 families. The church has 12 apostles, 58 patriarchs, 3,885 seventies, 3,163 high priests, 11,000 elders, 1,500 bishops and 4,400 deacons, being an official for each six persons.

MANY HOME CURES.

Evidence at Home, Which Is the Best Evidence, Is Strong in Praise of Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt.



It has the very latest improvements known to science, including a perfect regulator to make the current strong or mild.



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