THE NEW WOMAN VERY OLD.

Mrs. Mary Astell Flourished in 1709.

When our new woman is not proposing to herself and her readers a reversion to the ancient system of polyandry (on which consult McLennan, Westermarck, Morgan and Bachofen) she is apt to disdain and shrink from the atrocious and oppressive male sex, says the North American Review. She is not so new but that Mrs. Mary Astell was before her, in 1709. Mrs. Mary "proposed a sort of female college, in which ladies nauseating the parade of the world might find a happy retirement." Queen Anne meant to endow this establishment, but Bishop Burnet persuaded her that it savored of popery. Sir Walter Scott (who had nothing new in him) speaks of Mrs. Mary as a Precieuse, who is anxious to confound the boundaries which nature has fixed for the employments and studies of the two sexes. Swift laughed at Mrs. Mary in The Tatler (No. 32). But the new woman who spurns the degrading coarseness of matrimony has closer patterns of Moliere's Cathos and Madelon ("Les Precieuses Ridicules," 1659). These ladies express themselves with such virtuous freedom that I could not quote them unless I were a new lady novelist, writing in a new Keyhole Series. The student is, therefore, blushingly referred to the original drama by the unprincipled Poquelin. For Moliere, too, had nothing new about him; he laughed at these original delicacies of sentiment. The new young lady in society is remarked for the generous breadth of her language and the large frolic of her wit. But, alas! even this is not so very new. In the correspondence of Lady Suffolk (1714-1760) we find the maids of honor, led by the oldest and most prudish, Miss Meadows, larking about on a winter night, outside Kensington palace, knocking on the panes and throwing open the windows of the inmates. Nothing can be more in the modern taste. I read in a periodical devoted to the intellectual needs of women. The Lady's Realm, that the most popular and most justly popular lady in England excels in the confection of "apple-pie beds." I don't believe it, of course, but this news is of the kind that women love.

JULES VERNE.

Very Different from the Man One's Imagination Would Picture.

If, meeting him without knowing who he was, I had been asked to divine his profession, I would have said he was a retired army general or a professor of physics and mathematics or a cabinet officer—never an artist, says a writer in the Chautauquan, in speaking of Jules Verne. He does not show the burden of his almost 80 years, he has somewhat of Verdi's build, with a serious, kindly face, no artist-like vivacity in look or word, very simple manners, the imprint of great sincerity in every fleeting manifestation of feeling and thought, the language, the bearing, the manner of dress of a man who considers appearances of absolutely no account. My first sensation after the pleasure of seeing him was one of stupefaction. Apart from the friendly look and the affable demeanor I could recognize nothing in common with the Verne who stood before me and the one that had a place in my imagination. My wonder even increased when, induced to speak about his works, he spoke of them with an abstracted air, as he would have done of some one else's writings, or, rather, of things in which entered no merit of his—as he would have spoken of a collection of engravings or coins he had acquired and with which he occupied himself from the necessity of doing something rather than from any passion for the art.

The Wily Raven.

The following anecdote, communicated by Mr. R. Ball to the author of Thomson's Irish Birds, is a curious illustration of the remarkable sagacity of the raven. A tame raven, kept by schoolboys, was very attentive in watching their cribs or bird traps, and when a bird was taken, the raven endeavored to catch it by turning back top of the trap with its beak, but in so doing the bird always escaped, as the raven could not let go the crib in time to seize. After several vain attempts of this kind the raven, seeing another bird caught, instead of going at once to the trap, went to another tame raven and induced it to accompany him. When the second raven lifted up the crib, the other bore the poor captive off in triumph.

Feeds Newspapers to His Hens.

A farmer of Clare County, Michigan, has found that he can increase the egg-laying abilities of his hens by feeding to them old newspapers torn in bits and soaked in sour milk until the whole becomes a pulp. The hens, it is said, like the new food, and the inventor expects to see almost any day one of the freak papers come out with the picture of a hen that sets type.

Origin of Horseshoeing.

In the ninth century they began to shoe horses, but, strange to say, only in time of frost. King William I. introduced horseshoeing into England, and six horseshoes are on the coat of arms of the man to whom William gave vast estates for caring for his horses in this way.

New Weather Prophets.

A new point in weather wisdom comes from Rhode Island. An observer says the rabbits are barking the trees some distance above the ground with their hind legs, and that this means a coming deep fall of snow, during which the rabbits will need the bearing to return to their hiding places.

Man's Longest Night.

During Dr. Nansen's Arctic journey his ship, the Fram, remained for five and a half months, from October 8, 1895, until March 24, 1896, out of sight of the sun. "This," Dr. H. R. Mill, the English geographer, remarks, "was the longest and darkest night ever experienced by man."

FENCING IS THE FAD.

New York Women Going In for It in Earnest.

Prepare! Salute! On guard! Defend! Clash! Clash! These are sounds that may be heard in many New York homes nowadays, says the New York Herald. Fencing at home has become a fad, and rooms especially devoted to exercise with the foil are found in the residences of all the young women who have bowed fealty to Dame Fashion. There are few exercises which more thoroughly develop the muscles of the body than fencing. In Germany, where the women fence as much as they ride bicycles over here, feminine strength and health and grace are generally enjoyed, although with us they are not to be found as often as is desired. This is an era of the practical in society and it is likely in this fact will be found the reason for the general spread of this new fad. Instead of arraying herself in fine clothes and undergoing for two hours a sort of social martyrdom under the guise of an afternoon tea the girl of the period receives a half dozen of her friends in her fencing room and there many a pleasant half hour is spent in discussing and demonstrating the latest forms of fence, guard, parry and attack. One has to see the society woman handle the foils to appreciate the change which a few months' or even a few weeks' work in fencing can accomplish. The costumes worn by ladies when fencing are much more attractive than the ordinary bicycle suits now so common upon the streets, and there is practically no limit to the fanciful decorations which can be indulged in in the fitting up of these private fencing rooms. Many of them are fitted up in the style of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Some of the enthusiasts are not content with a simple fencing room, but have in addition a small room adjoining fitted with everything essential to feminine comfort after the exertion of a half hour's active work with the foils. Here the hostess and her fencing friends may chat among themselves to their hearts' content without the presence of men, who must be talked to and kept in good humor. Men are not wanted there. Fencing puts muscles of steel into the daintiest and slenderest of wrists and whitest of hands, trains the eye and gives a physical dexterity far beyond what one would imagine until seen in actual practice. Whatever may be said of fads in general, the present one has the effect of giving healthful amusement to a class of women who otherwise would never take needed exercise. The favorite system of fencing now practiced by the society woman if of the French school, which, as is well known, was founded on the old sword play of Spain, which was introduced into France and later into Italy by Spanish bourbons. While the Italian masters have kept to this day the long foil, with its bell-shaped guard, the direct descendant of the old Spanish rapier, the French have modernized the weapon and the fencing foil of to-day is the result.

The Color of Wild Animals.

It is a remarkable fact that many birds and wild animals are white on the under parts of their bodies, and Mr. Thayer, an American naturalist, seems to have found the reason for the peculiarity. He has illustrated his views by an interesting experiment. Taking three large potatoes, he paints one-half of each of them a grass green color. The halves of the other two are painted white, but the third potato is left unpainted on one half, or else is painted all green. He then places the three potatoes on the grass in a row, their green sides uppermost. On retiring to a certain distance, the two potatoes which are white underneath become invisible, whereas the potato which is all green or else unpainted on its lower part is easily seen. His explanation of the mystery is that the white coloration relieves the deep shadow cast by the upper part of the potato. Hence he believes that white on the under side of animals is a protective ordinance, to keep them from being discerned at a distance by their shadows. The coloration of their upper parts is usually in harmony with the background of their habitat, and easily confounded with it by an eye at a distance, but their black shadow would betray them were it not relieved by the white of their undersides. The ptarmigan is all white in winter to match the snow, and, therefore, it cannot have a lighter coloration on its under parts, but the reflection from the snow relieves the depth of its shadow.

Costly Bottle of Champagne.

Some years ago Mr. Gladstone had met a possible claimant for a civil list pension whom he believed to be in sufficiently poor circumstances and had almost decided to grant it, when he received an invitation to dinner with the person in question. This raised some doubt in his mind. On the one hand, should a civil-list pensioner be able to afford to entertain? On the other, it might be only a dinner of herbs, and it seemed hard to deprive a public benefactor of a pension because he was ready to share his crust and water. Knowing that in any case there would be a feast of reason and a flow of soul, Mr. Gladstone accepted the invitation, and on the way propounded to his companion the following test: "No champagne, pension; champagne, no pension." There was champagne, and the host lost his pension. It was the dearest bottle of wine on record, for it cost the purchaser £100 a year.—London News.

Washing Done by Weight.

One of the latest things out is suggested by the sign over a Philadelphia laundry: "Family washing done by weight." That is to say, the dirtier they are the more they cost.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Guest (impatiently)—I have found dead flies in every dish I touched this morning, and I think you might at least make a reduction in your charges.

Hotel Proprietor—I can't reduce your bill, sir; but, if you will come with me to the kitchen, I'll let you hear me swear at the servants.—New York Weekly.

Evidence of Sincerity.

Manager—I'm convinced that Mme. Tremolini is passionately fond of this country.

Assistant—They all say that.

Manager—Yes, but she is willing to come back here for only twice the salary she can get in Europe.—Brooklyn Life.

Believed Him.

He (indignantly)—I beg your pardon, miss, but I always keep my word.

She (complacently)—I can easily believe that, for no one would take it.—Washington Times.

A Word of Advice.

"Doan' nebber put on airs," says Brother Watkins. "Becuz a piano am high-toned, dat doan' say it am de bes' make."—Philadelphia Record.

ADAMS IS INDORSED.

First Ward Republican Club Passes Complimentarp Resolutions.

[Chicago Inter-Ocean]

At a lively meeting of the First Ward Republican club, held last evening at parlor L 38, Great Northern Hotel, 150 members were present and arrangements were made for work at the polls on election day. Speeches were made by D. W. Nickerson, ex-Alderman Gleason, F. A. Brokoski, John Ritter and others.

Appropriate resolutions were adopted in regard to the recent death of Julius Rodbertus, a member of the club. The following resolutions weae also adopted:

Whereas, Cyrus Field Adams, an active member of the First Ward Republican club, is an candidate for appointment as United States Minister to Bolivia; and

Whereas, Mr. Adams is an old and faithful

CYRUS FIELD ADAM'S

member of the Republican party having worked for its success with tongue and pen for eighteen years, and

Whereas, His paper THE APPEAL, was especially active in the recent campaign for honest money and protection to American industries and

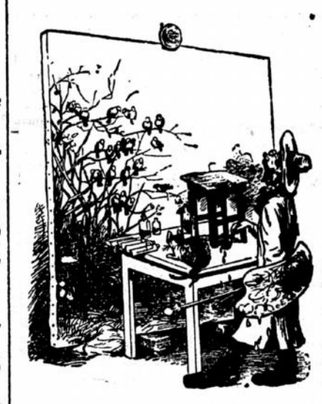
Whereas, Mr. Adams if eminently fitted for the place, speaking the language of the country to which he wishes to be accredited; therefore be it,

Resolved. That the First Ward Republican club of the city of Chicago hereby unqualifiedly indorses the candidacy of Cyrus Field Adams, and believes that the appointment would be a fitting recognition of the Afro-Americans who have always given their hearty support to the grand old party, Be it futher,

Resolved, That a copy of these resolvtions be forwarded to President McKinley and the Illinois Senators, and the Chicago press.

To Cold.

A young man from the South came here to spend a few weeks and see the elephant. He had heard a number of different tales about the sudden changes in the weather here and though he came prepared for any kind of emergencies. He bought his heavy under clothes and a very heavy winter overcoat. A representative of THE APPEAL met him buttoned up in his large coat and when asked when he arrived and how long he expected to remain in the city. His answer was, 'Today, and I expect to leave on the first train going south, it is too cold here for me. If it is this cold in June what must it be in winter. No sir Im off for the Sunny South" THE APPEAL man tried to persuad him to stay a few days so that he could show him the town but he claimed it was too cold here and insisted on being shown the way to the depot.



It's a great artist who has a picture criticised like this.—Humoristische Blaetter.

Ruined.

Proprietor—What are you taking back, there? Waiter—Customer sent this steak back; says he couldn't eat it. Proprietor (examining it)—Take it back to him at once and tell him he'll have to pay for it. We can never use it again; he has bent it all out of shape.—Pick-Me-Up.

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