AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

The farmers' congress suspended its session in order to be present at the musical recital by Miss Eddie L. Blackshear, graduate of Prairie View college, former head of department of music at this institution and now one of the teachers of music at Bishop college, Marshall, Tex., reports the Houston (Tex.) Post. The congress was addressed at its Thursday morning session by Hon. Clarence Ousley, director of extension work in Texas He said, among other things, that the success of the work among the colored people between now and next July would largely determine what would be done in future for extension work among Negroes in this state. There was a large audience who listened to Mr. Ousley and his remarks were indeed encouraging and received hearty applause. Another interesting phase of the morning session was the talks and exhibits given by several of the leading colored farmers in attendance. A. B. Marshall of Brazoria county was introduced and said that he had also brought greetings from his county judge, Hon. A. R. Rucks, who was interested in the welfare of the Negro farmers of the state and is anxious to colonize 100 more colored families in that county. Mr. Marshall exhibited quite a variety of peas, beans, peanuts, etc., which he had grown, as well as samples of different species of corn. Among the different crops which he had grown during this year were Japanese cane, planted April 23; Chinese velvet bean, planted April 12; the Virginia bunch and small Spanish peanuts, planted April 12; Chinese red pea, planted May 1, matured and harvested with another crop under cultivation; Mexican June corn, planted May 18.

During the course of his talk Mr. Marshall said that the good white people of his community had assisted him on his expense to the farmers' congress and that County Judge Rucks expressed himself as well pleased with the excellent work which the Prairie View school had done under the administration of its present principal. S. J. Haller, also of Brazoria county, was introduced and exhibited specimens of Missouri white pearl corn, planted May 21; Oklahoma White Wonder corn, planted May 26; Mexican June corn, planted June 1; Kentucky Wonder bean, planted May 26; Kentucky white burley tobacco, planted May 26. E. L. Jackson of Austin county also exhibited specimens of small gourd seed corn, planted April 23; yellow dent corn, planted April 26. All these exhibits were very fine and attracted the admiration of the whole congress.

Surry Smith, Sr., vice-president of the congress and who is an excellent farmer of Burleson county, told of how he managed to grow practically everything he needed. Prof. R. H. Hines of Waco, a graduate of the school and one of the leading colored teachers of the state, spoke to the congress. Jake Ford of Wharton, an alumnus of the school, is a man who has made marked success along agricultural lines and especially in raising Soudan grass alfalfa. He is one of the leading blacksmiths of his county and his land holdings are considerable.

Among those who have come in recently are Josephine Davis, Lettia Preston, Adeline Nathaniel, Annie Williams, Amanda Hardly, Emma Taylor, E. Samples, Georgia Linton, Sallie Holland, Emma Taylor, Emma Hardeway, Narcissa Belton, Virginia Dupree, Bettie Turney, Bettie Smith, S. S. Kemp, Ella Clark, Lillian Mosely, Mellie Meardy, Arline Mosely, Susana Goodin, C. A. Fedford, H. Montgomery, Waller county; R. H. Hines, McClennan; E. Flewellen, Waller county; I. D. Dupree, Falls; R. L. Stinnett, Grayson; L. C. Kirvin, Freestone; J. H. Williams; Waller; Lewis Rutledge, Waller; A. B. Blake, Brazos; J. R. Sadberry, Robertson; D. L. Smith, Waller; A. Crammer, Austin; Leonard Jordan, Waller; Sandy Kendell, Johnson; R. S. Sewell, Johnson; Will Thomas, Waller; W. L. Alton, Fort Bend.

The fiftieth anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln, which is being celebrated this year by an exposition in Richmond, gives added interest, in the opinion of sociologists, ethnologists and economists, to the statistical study, "Negroes in the United States," recently issued by the census bureau.

The predominant southern distribution of the race is emphasized by the fact that the center of Negro population is almost exactly on a north and south line with the center of total population of the United States, but is some four hundred miles south of the latter point, in the northeast corner of Alabama. Like the general center of population, the center of Negro population is moving steadily westward and has traversed about thirty-six miles in the last three decades.

In the half-century since emancipation, it is indicated, the Negro population has much more than doubled, the increase from 1860 to 1910 being over 121 per cent. This increase was with practically no immigration. The increase in white population with heavy immigration was over 203 per cent, yet the ratio of Negro population to the whole population has decreased only from about 13.5 per cent to about 10.5 per cent. The Negro population at the close of the Civil war was about 4,500,000, and the white population was approximately 27,000,000. The respective populations in 1910 were 9,828,000 and 81,732,000.

In two states, the study shows, more than half the population are Negroes. These are Mississippi and South Carolina. In four other states—Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Louisiana—the percentage is over 40. The county having the highest percentage of Negro population, it was found, is Isaquena county, Miss., where the Negroes constitute 94.2 per cent of the total population. In 53 counties—all in southern states—the Negro population is over 75 per cent of the total.

The ethnic statistics show marked changes in the make-up of the race in the past 50 years. When the Emancipation Proclamation was issued mulattoes represented about 13 per cent of the Negro population. The percentage in 1910 was nearly 21 and is now probably higher. Sociologically and economically the changes have been marked also. Illiteracy, for instance, has decreased in 50 years from 60 to 30 per cent, and the proportion of the members of the race owning homes free of incumbrance has increased from near zero to more than 16 per cent.

What is probably the largest rug ever shipped to the United States is on exhibition in St. Louis. The rug measures 24x39 feet, weighs more than 1,500 pounds and was woven in a single piece in Glasgow, Scotland.

The toad of Surinam, Dutch Guiana, is very remarkable in one respect. It first awakes to life while on its mother's back. When the eggs are laid the male takes them in his broad paws and contrives to place them on the back of its mate, where they adhere by means of glutinous secretion, and by degrees become imbedded in a series of curious cells formed for them in the skin.

Bolivia should profit immensely by the British embargo on tin. In that South America mountain republic are tin mines of a remarkable richness, and railroad connection with the Argentine republic has recently been completed. These same mines were producing fortunes in silver before the first Pilgrim landed in New England.

Four hundred years ago the average length of human life was between eighteen and twenty years. One hundred years ago the average human life was less than thirty. The average human life today reaches nearly forty years.

Colossal stone statues and other relics of an unknown race on Easter island, 2,000 miles off the west coast of South America, are to be studied by English scientists.

Gold produced in the United States to the first of this year is estimated by the geological survey at $3,549,799,400 in value and the silver at $1,709,517,600.

The treaty of peace after the Franco-Prussian war was signed May 10, 1871, at Frankfort-on-the-Main.

It is said that Sir Isaac Newton, on being asked his opinion of poetry, replied that it was a kind of ingenious nonsense.

Most candidates for congress really are running for the post office in their home town.

The Baltic has the greatest wreck record of all the seas, averaging one a day.

In the Falkland islands there are five men to every woman.

Dogs live fifteen to twenty-five years; cattle, twenty-five years; the horse, twenty-five to thirty years; the eagle, thirty years; the stag, thirty-five to forty years; heron, lion and bear, fifty years each; the raven, eighty years; elephant, turtle, parrot, pike and carp, one hundred years each.

A bride in Korea begins her married life in silence; she must not speak during the first day, even to her husband. To do so is considered a breach of etiquette. The next morning, however, she may give free rein to her tongue, and may talk thereafter to her heart's content.

Because frosts do the most damage when the air is calm, a Paris scientist has advanced the thory that orchards and vineyards can be protected by electric fans to keep the atmosphere moving.

The momentum of a modern 12-car railroad train running a mile a minute is equal to that of a ton weight falling from a height of 21 miles.

Since the United States took charge of the Philippines more than 3,000,000 natives have had some instruction in the English language and more of them speak and write some English than any other tongue.

Tanks to hold half a ton of ice and electric fans to circulate the air from them are used to cool the interior of cars on the Egyptian state railways.

Aluminum can be rolled into sheets one two-thousandths of an inch in thickness that are as strong as tinfoil.

Under the direction of two experts from the United States, China will establish a school of forestry at Nanking university.

There are nearly 800 known varieties of roses and more than 400 chrysanthemums.

The only complete ancient Roman standard in existence is owned by an Englishman.

Russia lacks but ten degrees of reaching half-way around the globe.

AMERICA GETS $52,000,000 OF BRITISH GOLD

To strengthen British financial prestige in New York markets, $52,000,000 in treasure, two-thirds in gold and one-third in securities, which had been shipped by the Bank of England from London via Halifax, arrived at the terminal of the American Express company at Thirty-third street and Tenth avenue, New York, in seven steel cars garrisoned by forty armed men. The greatest treasure cargo ever trusted to one bottom crossed the Atlantic in a British battleship accompanied by a flotilla of torpedo-boat destroyers and a cruiser. The photograph shows twenty-three wagon loads of the gold being transported through the streets of New York guarded by the armed men of the express company and a detail of mounted police.

RAISE GAME BIRDS

Minnesota Folk Plan to Cultivate Wild Duck.

Will Also Go In For Quail and Pheasant, If Market for Them Develops —To Distribute From 5,000 to 10,000 Eggs.

Minneapolis.—More than 100 residents on the 65,000 acres of land within the Minnetonka game refuge will raise mallard ducks, pheasants and quail next season and if their experiments prove as successful as those of people in other states, these three varieties of game birds may soon be as readily obtainable in the markets as chickens, turkeys and geese are now. From 5,000 to 10,000 eggs are to be distributed among those who will encourage the propagation of wild life and if the ratio of young birds to eggs holds true, the refuge will be heavily stocked, while outside of it by 1917 there should be more birds as fair marks for sportsmen than there are now under protection.

Thus, while the refuge remains a haven wherein fowl may breed, there will be enough game outside to keep the huntsmen busy.

It is estimated by Frank D. Blair, Field Superintendent of the Minnesota Game and Fish Protective league, that within the prescribed territory about 1,000 mallards, from 5,000 to 10,000 quail and no more than a dozen pheasants have been taking shelter.

At the end of two seasons he believes that there will be 30,000 or 40,000 birds, the most marked increase being among the pheasants—now very rare—which should be 5,000 strong.

"The rate of increase of these wild birds in captivity is remarkable," said Mr. Blair the other day. "Mallards will lay an average of 40 eggs a season, quail from 30 to 50, and pheasants from 30 to 40. When they are living in a wild state they usually lay several batches of eggs and then hatch out only one batch, while in captivity all the eggs are saved. Birds hatched will average roughly about 60 per cent of the eggs.

"The most serious difficulty confronting those who experiment in the propagation of wild birds is in keeping them separated from poultry. They are especially susceptible to diseases that are communicated from coops and land where chickens have been. A bantam hen is most generally used to set on the eggs and frequently breeders make the mistake of turning the young birds loose in the chicken yards along with the hen.

"The Minnetonka residents who expect to raise mallards, pheasants and quail are actuated by a desire to increase the number of birds within the refuge. Though they will be put to some trouble, the returns eventually, they believe, will more than offset the tribulations."

IS PLANNING A FOX FARM

Wisconsin Youth Sees Money and Fame in Project—Would Interest Federal Government.

Appleton, Wis.—A fox farm may be established in the northern part of Wisconsin by Talcott Barnes, son of the late ex-Congressman Barnes of this city. An effort to interest the federal government in the project will be made by Mr. Barnes.

Congressman Thomas F. Konop of the Ninth congressional district has agreed to do all he can to secure the aid of the department of agriculture in the enterprise. The representative will go to Washington soon, and while there he will present the matter to the secretary of agriculture and try to obtain financial assistance to start the farm.

Land can be acquired at a small cost in northern Wisconsin, and Mr. Barnes can stock the farm with animals from a farm he is interested in in Saskatchewan, Can.

HIS GARDEN SINKS TEN FEET

Jersey Farmer Fears He'll Have Only a Hole in the Ground Left.

Belvidere, N. J.—Johnston Cornish, a farmer of Harmony township, has a sunken garden that is being created by nature and he fears daily that the bottom will drop out and leave him with only a hole in the ground.

The trouble started after a storm some days ago, when a depression was noticed in one of the fields planted with garden truck. Steadily this depression has grown until a considerable area is affected. Now the earth is from ten to twelve feet lower than it was two weeks ago.

It is thought an underground stream of considerable size, having its source somewhere up in the hills, has been slowly eating away the underlying strata, thus allowing the surface to sink. Examination along the Delaware river does not indicate any new spring breaking into it, but it is thought one has broken out in the bed of the stream.

Last winter a section of the public highway some distance from the Cornish farm caved in and left a considerable hole, but it was filled in and no trouble has been experienced there since.

PREMIER OF CANADA

Sir Robert L. Borden, premier of Canada, recently visited Great Britain and France for the purpose of discussing with the authorities the cooperation of the Dominion in the war. Canada's finances and resources and the manufacture of munitions of war were among the subjects which received attention.

FIND OLD WEAVING SHUTTLE

Prehistoric Sample is Now in Ethnological Department of the Oklahoma University.

Norman, Okla.—A small boat-shaped stone implement, believed to be the handiwork of some prehistoric race, has been received by J. B. Thoburn, member of the ethnological department of the State University. It was sent to Mr. Thoburn by Edward B. Anderson, formerly an arts and science student of the university, now located at Anglin, Tex.

According to Mr. Thoburn, the implement is a shuttle used in weaving, and probably was made by some prehistoric race that inhabited the southwest section of the United States. It is regarded by Mr. Thoburn as one of the most interesting relics he has received in some time.

GUIDE TO MARINERS

Perry Memorial on Lake Erie Proves Its Utility.

Doric column 335 Feet High Is Surmounted by Powerful Lights, Visible at Great Distance—Designed as Monument.

Sandusky, O.—The Doric column or main shaft of the Perry memorial at Put-in-Bay, recently completed, has come to be considered an important landmark by Great Lakes region mariners. Visible by day from points afar, it serves as a guide through the northern course, between the Canadian mainland and the shores of the islands comprising the Lake Erie archipelago, and the treacherous south passage, between the islands on the south and the Ohio shores. By night its powerful lights can be seen from almost any point in Lake Erie between Cleveland on the east and Toledo and Detroit on the west.

In the United States lake survey's current bulletin the shaft is described as "located at about the middle of the low, narrow neck of land forming the southernmost shore of Put-in-Bay island, in approximately latitude 41 degrees, 39 minutes and 14 seconds north; longitude 82 degrees, 48 minutes and 41 seconds west."

The government officially describes the shaft as "a Doric column of white granite, surmounted by a bronze tripod and bowl containing electric lamps which cast an indirect illumination through a plate glass covering," and mentions that "the column is 45 feet in diameter at the base and 335 feet in height, measured from the terrace at its base to the top of the tripod, and forms a conspicuous landmark from the lake.

The cornerstone of the shaft was laid September 10, 1913, the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie, in the presence of representatives of the national government and the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Rhode Island, Kentucky, Minnesota and Louisiana.

The memorial as a whole was designed as a monument to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and his men, victors in the battle fought on Put-in-Bay that permanently fixed the present boundary line between the United States and Canada in the Great Lakes section and on east to the Atlantic. For one hundred years the gallant Perry and his men had been all but forgotten, the only tribute to their memory being a little pyramid of rusty cannon balls in one of the public parks at Put-in-Bay.

It was after the memorial had been designed that the possibilities that strong rays of light shed from the top of the Doric column or main shaft might be the means of saving lives or serve to protect against an enemy became apparent and steps were taken to establish the landmark that the federal government has just recognized.

The Doric column is little more than a central point around which much costly structural work remains to be done. A museum is to be erected at the right of the plaza, in the center of which it rests. A statue flanked by a colonnade typifying Peace and Arbitration, will be erected on the left.

The work is of such a nature that it must necessarily proceed slowly. There is every promise, however, that at the end of another year the plans will have been brought to full fruition.

A Kicker of a Hubby.

Flint, Mich.—Complaining that her husband had the habit of beating her so badly that he broke some of her bones every once in a while, Mrs. Carrie D. Anderson has begun proceedings for divorce from Cyrus Anderson. She alleges that on one occasion he kicked her and caused an injury from which she is still suffering, and again he struck her so as to cause her to suffer from a stiff neck for three years.

HE JUST BEHAVED HIMSELF

Michigan Doctor Explains Why He is Hale and Hearty at Age of Ninety-Four.

Battle Creek, Mich.—Dr. J. M. Peebles, a former resident of Battle Creek, and now visiting friends here, expects to live beyond the century mark. Indeed, he believes that two hundred years should be the mortal span, and that right living will do much toward lifting the race to that advanced longevity.

Doctor Peebles is now living in his ninety-fourth year and hale and hearty. He has reached this eminence in life through a laconic rule of living. It is this: "I behave myself." That means, according to the aged physician, regular habits of life—early hours for retiring, with plenty of exercise and strict attention to matters of diet. Doctor Peebles is a vegetarian.

For 60 years he has not tasted flesh food of any kind, nor even fish or fowl. He also discards from his daily menu all condiments, such as vinegar, mustard, catchup and similar appetizers.

Hen Lived in Well.

Macon, Ga.—When a cover was removed from an old abandoned well here at the home of Elmore Dupree, Second Street, after the well had been closed up for over nine months, it was discovered that a hen, which had been missing for over nine months, was at the bottom of the well.

AGES OF PRESIDENTS

Roosevelt the "Youth" of the White House.

Youngest Man Who Has Been Inaugurated as the Chief Executive of the United States, Up to This Time.

In the discussion of available candidates for the presidency of the United States there is usually a good deal said about age. The oldest of the presidents was William Henry Harrison. When he was inaugurated, in 1841, he was sixty-eight years old, having been born February 9, 1773, at Berkeley, Charles City county, Va. He died of bilious pleurisy in Washington April 4, 1841, just one month after his inauguration, and was buried at North Bend, Hamilton county, O., that having been his home.

James Buchanan was sixty-five years old when inaugurated and he died at the age of seventy-seven, June 1, 1868.

Zachary Taylor was sixty-four years old when inaugurated, and he died July 9, 1850, of bilious fever, at Washington, after a White House term of one year, four months and five days. He was sixty-five years old.

John Adams was sixty-one when installed as president and died at the age of ninety. Andrew Jackson was sixty-one at inauguration and lived until his seventy-eighth year.

James Monroe was among the "old" presidents, being fifty-eight at the time of his inauguration.

George Washington was not among the "young" presidents, being fifty-seven years old when inaugurated. Jefferson, Madison and John Quincy Adams were of that age when inaugurated.

Dropping below the figures fifty-seven, one finds that the inauguration ages of the presidents were: Johnson, fifty-six; Wilson, fifty-six; Benjamin Harrison, fifty-five; Van Buren, fifty-four; Hayes, fifty-four; McKinley, fifty-four; McKinley, fifty-four; Linty-four; Lincoln, fifty-two; Tyler, fifty-one; Taft, fifty-one; Fillmore, fifty; Arthur, fifty.

Roosevelt was the "youth" among the presidents, being inaugurated at the age of forty-two. Grant was forty-six, Cleveland was forty-seven, Pierce was forty-eight and Garfield and Polk were forty-nine.

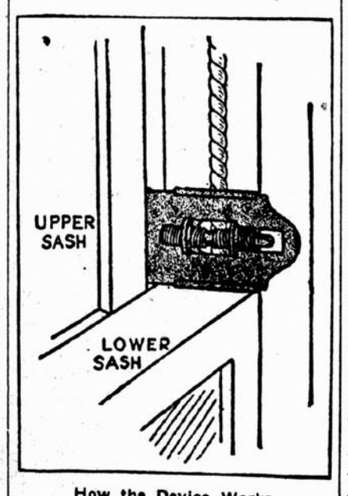
Of the ex-presidents who have passed away, John Adams lived to the greatest age, ninety. Madison died at the age of eighty-five, Jefferson at eighty-three, John Quincy Adams at eighty, Van Buren at seventy-nine, Jackson at seventy-eight, Buchanan at seventy-seven, Fillmore at seventy-four, Cleveland at seventy-one and Hayes at seventy.

BIDS DEFIANCE TO BURGLARS

Device That Makes Open Window Proof Against Any Further Attempt to Make an Entrance.

To make an open window proof against further opening by intruders is the object of a little device that has just been put upon the market. It consists of two pieces of metal sliding on each other and moved by a right and left screw; the ends of the pieces of metal are bent over at right angles and the bent-over part is covered with sharp points.

The lower sash of a window is raised a few inches and this apparatus is put on top of it, the broad flange pressing against the inside of the window casing, the narrow flange against the upper sash. In most windows this narrow flange will jamb down between



How the Device Works.

the upper sash and the upright bar that separates the two sashes. The screw is then turned by a key until it fits tightly, when neither upper nor lower sash can be raised or lowered. In other words, the window is locked, and if it is not wide enough open to admit a body no one can enter.

Short or Long Seromns.

Is it not better for the preacher to set forth in a clear, luminous and vivid manner a single important thought and impress it indelibly on the hearer's memory—to drive one nail home and clinch it—than by hammering for fifty minutes or an hour upon half a dozen ideas, to run the risk of exhausting his patience and making him forget all? Is it not as true now as in the days of Thomas Fuller, that "memory is like a purse—if it be overfull that it cannot shut, all will drop out?"

The Facetious Force.

"I believe you have the homeliest office boy I ever saw."

"Yes."

"And the prettiest stenographer."

"The office force seems to think so, too. They are known as 'Beauty and the Beast.'"

Seems So.

"What is the air of the desert, anyhow?"

"I suppose it is 'The Camels Are Coming.'"

MINES IN THE AIR

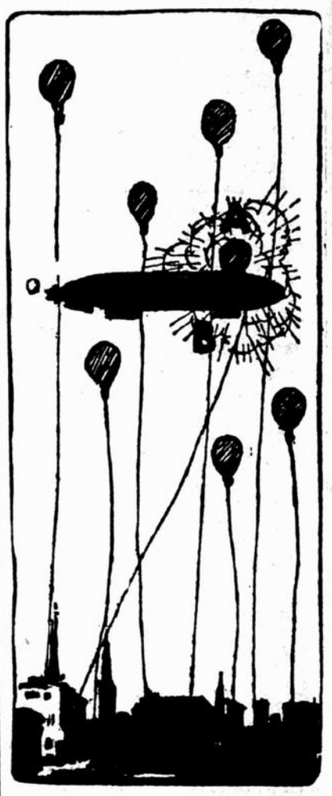
Novel Defense Planned to "Get" the Zeppelins.

Hydrogen Balloons Carrying High Explosive Bombs Are to Be Used as a Protection Against the Dreaded Destroyers.

An American with a German name is the designer of a system of defense against Zeppelin attack, which is being tried out in both London and Paris. Literally, Joseph A. Steinmetz of Philadelphia would mine the air against the monster dirigibles.

When the war broke out and the menace of the Zeppelin first loomed, British officials coldly rejected Mr. Steinmetz's plans to mine the London fog against Zeppelins, but with a few raids on Paris and English coast cities, the Britishers hastily sent for the plans and now are said to be ready to give them a trial in case of another Zeppelin invasion.

Small hydrogen balloons carrying high explosive bombs will fly from every building of importance in London and Paris if the Steinmetz plan is adopted in its entirety. The balloons will be held by a fine but strong wire, weighing but four pounds to the mile, and having a tensile strength of 120 pounds. The wires will be controlled by windlasses. The raiding airships, sighted by a lookout, will be permitted to come almost within range of the hydrogen balloons. Then, when too late for the Zeppelins to turn back, scores and hundreds of the bomb carrying balloons will be released. As the Zeppelins are 900 feet long, they would have a hard time in escaping one or more of the bombs.



Bombs in Position.

Each bomb is surrounded by a ring of hair triggers and the slightest touch will cause an explosion which would undoubtedly ignite the gas in the Zeppelin. The hydrogen balloons carry a number of hooks to be ensnared in the silken hide of the raider, thus insuring that the hair triggers on the bombs come in contact with the gas bag.

An extension of the Steinmetz plan contemplates a fleet of aeroplanes also carrying several of the bombs suspended on a long wire. It would be the object of the aeroplanes to get above the Zeppelins and drag the lines with the bombs directly across the huge bags.

Curious Headdresses.

In Russia the maiden who is free may dress her locks as she wishes, but not so the wife. She must hide her hair.

As a recompense for the sacrifice she dons a hood which may well be called weird. In shape it is not unlike a bishop's mitre, and it is adorned as the fancy or the purse of the wearer dictates. Gold, silver, and even precious stones have been used in decorating the kokoschink, as it is called.

In certain parts of Spain a hood similar to the Russian style is worn. Particularly is this popular with the dancers among the Toledo peasantry, although it must be very hot and uncomfortable.

The Dutch maiden of Amsterdam pins her faith, and her head, to a hood which resembles in shape an inverted flower pot. It may not be the style most suited to her round, placid face, but she would not change it for the latest thing in Parisian millinery.

Using Glass to Grind Glass.

It is not generally known that glass will cut glass. If a little work on smoothing the edge of some glass object is desired, procure a circular disk of glass, such as a round eyeglass or watch crystal, and mount it as follows: Turn a wood base to fit in the chuck of a jeweler's, or other, lathe and fasten the glass with the concave side against the wood by using some shellac as a cement. If it is properly centered and made to revolve rapidly, the edge can be used to grind and smooth other glass pieces.—Popular Mechanics.

An Example.

"You don't see a lot of women staring at a man," snapped the woman.

"You don't?" suggested the meek man; "look what happens to a man when he doesn't get up in a car to give some woman his seat."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Just It.

Foreign Nobleman—Sir, I would wed your peerless daughter.

American Millionaire—Yes, and she is going to stay peerless.