

## A NEW YORK HEROINE.

EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL BATTLES WITH FLAMES.

Miss Minnie Swarts Honored by the Men She Nobly Assisted in a Fire That Saved Two Firemen From the Devouring Elements.

(New York Letter.)  
Miss Minnie Swarts, 18 years old, who lives with her parents at 641 East Ninth street, is the heroine of New York firemen. At a recent fire at 308 and 310 West Fifty-ninth street she saved two firemen from slipping into a cellar where they might have lost their lives, and she revived a number who were overcome with smoke, with hot milk which she secured from a nearby drug store. She went into the burning building and helped the firemen in every way that she could. She placed a handkerchief over the mouth of one of the firemen who was being overcome with smoke and helped him from the building. She continued to help those who were overcome with smoke until she, too, was overcome and had to be led away. Since then Fire Chief Croker and all of his men have been praising her noble work. Fire Commissioner Scannell heard the praises of the firemen and sent for the young lady. When she reached the commissioner's office Fire Chief Croker happened to be present. He immediately recognized her and holding out his hands said, "Why, here is our heroine! We are glad to see you." Commissioner Scannell then said to her: "It is very unusual for us to send for anyone to thank them for a public service. We are deeply sensible of the disinterested work you did at the fire. Every man in the department is praising your heroic conduct. We all feel that we are deeply indebted to you for your kindness and sacrifice. As for the men you assisted and whose lives you were instrumental in saving, nothing we can say or do can reward you for what you have done for them." Commissioner Scannell then opened a drawer in his desk and took out a purse that appeared to be stuffed with bank notes. He handed it to Miss Swarts, saying: "We hope you will accept this small token of our regard, and we wish that it was a good deal larger." Tears came to the eyes of Miss Swarts. Several times she tried to speak, but failed. She placed her handkerchief to her eyes, and then said, with considerable emotion: "No, no; I cannot take the money. I simply did what I thought was my duty to do. I want clerical work, but I cannot take money for that."  
Miss Swarts, noticing a look of dis-



MISS MINNIE SWARTS.

appointment on the faces of Commissioner Scannell and Chief Croker, said: "I beg of you, do not be offended. I do not mean to be rude in refusing your kindness, but really I cannot take money for that."

Miss Swarts was asked if she would accept an engrossed resolution of thanks, and she signified her willingness. A handsome affair will be presented to her. Miss Swarts was offered a cab to take her home, but she refused this and went away in a street car. The men gave her a cheer as she left the building.

Miss Swarts is a brunette and energetic in her manner. On the morning of the fire she was on her way to answer an advertisement relative to clerical work. She is very modest and declined to say anything about herself, farther than that she needed work and desired a clerical position if she could get one.

Photography in the Tropics.  
"In photographing natives," writes an Englishman who has had much experience with the camera in India, "it must be remembered that a dark face requires a longer exposure than a white one; but beware of exhibiting a portrait of himself to a native. He will seldom criticize the likeness or artistic merit of the picture. Nine times out of ten he will remark, 'But sir, the face is very black.' To bring out the features distinctly proper exposure and treatment must be given. The dampness existing in most tropical countries is the chief enemy of the photographer. Whole batches of plates will go, and nothing can save them. The only insurance against this trouble is to have one's plates sealed in air-tight tin boxes, not to be opened until the plates are desired for use."

Playing Mother.  
Little Johnnie—Mamma, let's play I am your mother and you are my little boy. Mamma—Very well, dear, how shall we play it? Little Johnnie—I'll tell you; you start to do something and I'll tell you not to.

## THE MILITARY SPY.

A Courageous Soldier Who Is Indispensable in War.

In time of warfare spies are, of course, plentiful. The main part of his business is, under a personal disguise, which disguises could often put those of the smartest detectives quite in the shade, to extract information from unsuspecting scouts and outposts. Some outposts have been known to accept bribes, money or presents, from military spies without knowing who the latter really were, in which case they were not greatly to blame, although their doing so, whether innocently or otherwise, put them on the footing of traitors, and consequently merited a traitor's death.

The old Prussian monarchy once ran the risk of being crushed like an egg-shell but for the spy Mentzel, whose daring deed not only saved Prussia, but also the life of the king. Austria and Saxony, with three other countries, planned to overthrow Prussia. Their combined forces could easily have numbered 1,000,000, to about 300,000 of the Prussian king's. But a friendly spy warned the king, who immediately set about preparing for the advance of the powerful foe. He sent emissaries into every large city in Europe, particularly the capitals of France, Austria and Russia. Mentzel, than whom no greater spy lived, went to the foreign office of the latter powers, and actually succeeded in bribing the respective official at each who had charge of the papers in connection with the proposed project to raid Prussia, and copied the whole plan of campaign. Mentzel's mission being discovered, the officials fled for their lives; one was caught and shot. Mentzel escaped death, but being caught red-handed by one of the powers, he was thrown into a dungeon, where he lingered for twenty-five years. During all that time the Prussian monarch took no steps to try to liberate the man, although Mentzel undoubtedly saved his majesty and his country from total annihilation.

## AMID BONES OF CAPUCHINS.

One of the Unusual Sights of the City Nesting on Seven Hills.

The labors of the Capuchin monks in the Catholic church are well known. The order was one of the strongest of the auxiliary branches of the church, though its field lay in a different direction from that of the Jesuits. The latter were the aggressive arm in battling the world; the former was given to the quiet of monastic life far from the turmoil of men. The Capuchins were very largely recruited from the families of the rich and well-to-do, and found in retirement the opportunity they craved for, giving themselves entirely over to saving their souls. The Capuchin church in Rome has been served by this order for centuries. In its chambers are the bones of 6,000 monks fastened to the walls and ceiling to make effective and striking groups of death. Skulls are employed in the chamber almost entirely, while the cross-bones and other imperishable parts of the anatomy make up the receiving rooms given over to this extraordinary collection. The entrance to this basement is on a level with the ground and at no place are the chambers more than two feet below the surface of the earth. The spectacle of skulls by the thousands suddenly confronting the visitor does not produce that gruesome feeling that one would imagine, and no one shortens an inspection of the anatomical array because he is in a consecrated chamber house. The surroundings of this old church and repository for the bones of its goodly friars are squalid and unattractive. The entrance to the chamber of the dead is through the yard of a livery stable, dirty to the last degree, but that does not deter visitors from witnessing this unique collection.

## Speaking for History.

Generations of schoolboys learn the dramatic speeches ascribed to famous commanders just before famous battles, but unfortunately many of these fine, high-sounding addresses were never heard of till after the event. We read, for instance, in ancient history of generals addressing whole armies, when a few companies of soldiers at most could have heard them. To show the difference between genuine speeches and manufactured ones, a contemporary reports an authentic address of the captain of a British ship as the fleet was approaching the enemy. He wished to encourage his gallant tars, and hoped perhaps that a few heroic words might forever be associated with his memory. "Send all hands aft!" he cried, and when the order was carried out he said: "My lads, there's the enemy, no doubt about it. And now, my lads, if you don't take the enemy, my lads, why then, my lads, the enemy will take you. Pipe down, boatswain." After all, the speech was to the point, and the men cheered it to the echo.

Where Ruskin Learned English.  
The book which begot English prose still remains its supreme type. The English Bible is the true school of English literature. It possesses every quality of our language in its supreme form—except for scientific precision, practical affairs and philosophic analysis. If you care to know the best that our literature can give in simple, noble prose, mark, learn and inwardly digest the Holy Scriptures in the English tongue. Ruskin as a precocious boy of five began reading with his mother the Bible through from beginning to end and over and over again, and got from it his marvelous instinct and faculty for noble, vital, always fascinating expression.—From Frederic Harrison's "Literary Estimates."

## A TALE OF AMBITION.

COUNT DE WITTE, THE GREAT-EST MAN IN RUSSIA.

He Began Life Poor, But Dared be Honest and Has Triumphed Over Difficulties—His Reforms—Chances to Rise to Honor in that Empire.

(Special Letter.)

The greatest man in Russian today, excepting the czar himself, began life an obscure railway employe. He is Count de Witte, minister of finance. Time and time again have combinations of nobles and capitalists been formed to crush his power—even to exile him to Siberia—and as often have the attempts failed. The latest effort, the greatest of them all, has just resulted in failure, and Count de Witte enjoys to even a greater extent than ever his sovereign's confidence.

By birth Witte belongs to the lower middle classes. His father was of German origin. He gave the boy a university education, and, through influential friends, secured for him a minor position in the railway department. After a while he was installed as assistant stationmaster in an unimportant town. The Turkish war came on and gave him the chance of his life. His chiefs in the railway department lost their heads completely under the strain of transporting troops to the front, and the result would have been disaster had he not come to their help. Witte's opportunity pointed the way to insubordination. He made his fortune by being magnificently disobedient. His chief was absent. Witte was stationmaster pro tem. Imperial troops were

at it ever since, making himself illustrious the world over and hated in his own country. The credit of Russia is no longer a byword among the nations, and the former assistant stationmaster is the most powerful man in the empire, next to the czar. Meanwhile he had married a wife, one of the most beautiful, fascinating women in all Russia, one brilliantly clever, too, with keen wits as well as perfect features; and the rapidity with which he rose from post to post must, perhaps, be ascribed in some degree to the influence she wielded. Wherever they went she secured for him powerful friends. Witte, or de Witte, as it now is, the minister having been made a count—is the real force which is making Russia great commercially. He has made treaties with many nations, and Russia's foreign trade has swelled prodigiously. All this progress was resisted hotly by officialdom at large. From grand dukes down, powerful and aristocratic Russians of the old school fought for tradition and strove to ruin the upstart who was overturning everything. In particular the war party hated him because he was for peace—peace during which his country might win commercial greatness. Then there are the merchants. They hate him, too, because they foresee that the introduction of foreign capital will reduce the interest earning power of the ruble from its present 20 per cent—sometimes even twice as much—to 10 per cent, at the most. And the manufacturers hate him because he has hinted at free trade. From all of which it may be seen that Witte's fight has been made against great odds, which make his advancement to high position and title all the more remarkable.



COUNT DE WITTE.

being hurried by rail to Bulgaria. The war minister had issued certain orders concerning the troop trains which no stationmaster in Russia would have dared question—none save Witte. But Witte dared to think for himself and for the czar. He foresaw clearly that obedience of orders would mean disaster for the troops. There was no time for consultation. He chose to disobey. It was plain that the young man had ruined himself. His friends assured him that he would soon be swallowed up in Siberia. They said he must be mad to destroy his career at a time when he was in fair way to become a full-fledged stationmaster. Officially, there was a great hullabaloo. The assistant stationmaster's insubordination was investigated by important persons in resplendent uniforms. And then it broke on the official mind that the culprit had saved his imperial majesty's troops from destruction. The investigation developed the fact that long after war was declared, without saying a word to anyone, Witte had quietly done what his superior ought to have done—that is, worked out the details of various schemes for the transport of an army against Turkey. This proof of forethought on his part created quite a sensation in official circles, where people are not accustomed to subordinates looking ahead or doing anything else on their own initiative. He worked night and day while the war lasted, and when it came to an end he had already made a reputation for himself, and was on the highway to fortune. Instead of being sent to Siberia, he was made a director of the imperial railway. His rise thereafter was rapid. M. Wyschnegradski, president of the railway, was made minister of finance and he made Witte minister of railways. The latter reformed the railway system, and as a result, those who had previously fattened on the public preferred charges against him. He was exonerated; they were exiled. In 1892 Witte was made minister of finance. Here was a field for reform in earnest—for of all the forlorn, crooked, wildcat muddles outside of a bucket shop, the finances of Russia were the most hopeless. To create anything like decency and order out of that chaos was a labor of Hercules. Witte did it. He has been working

## JUSTICE FOR RED MAN

IS THE MISSION OF MR. RICHARD C. ADAMS.

Who Represents the Delaware Tribes—Heartless Syndicates and Corporations Would Deprive Indians of Homes That They Are Entitled To.

(Washington Letter.)

Richard C. Adams, a full-blooded Delaware Indian, who represents his nation at Washington, is a lawyer of superior intellect and acquirements. He is devoting not only his life, but his fortune also, to the work of having justice done to the red man. He has written some good poetry and has also compiled a little history of the Delaware tribe, which he has on his tongue's end. The Delaware Indians were once one of the most powerful tribes on the North American continent. When first met by the white man they claimed and controlled all of the territory between the Hudson river and the Potomac. Under the spreading elm tree at Shackamaxon, 27 years ago, they sold to the founder of the state of Pennsylvania, William Penn, the vast area within its borders for a nominal sum, and largely as an act of friendship and brotherly love which they entertained for the white people at that time and have ever since. But the Delawares have been forced much against their will and their interest to cross the continent, unwilling but always yielding graciously, having utmost confidence in the promises that "this move will be the last," until now but a handful of them are left, where they have purchased homes in the Cherokee nation, Indian Territory. And here, where they were assured by both the Cherokees and the United States government that their rights and interests would be protected, they find that their very homes are now being covered with applications for mineral leases by both Cherokee citizens and citizens of the United States—wealthy corporations—who claim the protection of the United States government and deny the rights of the Delaware Indians. They have no money left in the hands of the government, and, if deprived of their rights in the Cherokee nation, they are paupers. If they win in their contention, they are rich. The Cherokees are rich; they have a large fund in the hands of the government. The Delawares, Mr. Adams claims, have an interest in this fund, but have no means of obtaining any portion of it to defend their rights. Through the efforts of Mr. Adams and



RICHARD C. ADAMS.

John Buletts the Twenty-fifth section of the Curtis bill became a law. It provides that before any allotment shall be made of lands in the Cherokee nation, there shall be segregated therefrom, by the commission heretofore mentioned, in separate allotments or otherwise, the 157,500 acres of land purchased by the Delaware tribe of Indians from the Cherokee nation, under agreement of April 8, 1867. This, Mr. Adams claims, has not been done, although it has been demanded. The questions as to the rights of the Delawares are now in the Court of Claims. If their contention is sustained, that the lands which the various mineral syndicates desire to secure possession of are Delaware lands, the Cherokees cannot make the leases. But the Delawares fear that these leases may be executed by the secretary of the interior without awaiting the decision of the court.

"We are now trying to secure our last little homes in the Indian Territory and protect them from the grasping greed of heartless syndicates and corporations," says Mr. Adams.

## Supplies in Philippines.

Handling rapidly large quantities of supplies is, therefore, a very important part of military duties. A steady procession of government transports hurries across the Pacific loaded with necessities for the troops. When the supplies reach Manila, they must be hurried over the island of Luzon. Many men are required for this work, but men cannot be spared from the firing lines or garrison duty. Besides, the handling of supplies is not very dignified or pleasant work for the American soldier. The Chinese coolies have therefore been employed for this labor, and very hard working and useful little fellows they are, too. Stripped to the scantiest attire possible, they put their shoulders to heavy bundles and, busy as ants, make up in numbers what they lack in size.

## A Sure Sign.

Jenks—That baby of yours ought to be a good tennis player later on, Jones—What makes you think so? Jenks—Oh, the way he keeps up his racket.

## CHILDREN WHO WORK.

An Increase in the Number in This Country.

Between 1870 and 1890 the amount of child labor in this country decidedly increased. In 1870, out of 5,604,000 children between 10 and 15 years old, 739,000 were wage-earners; in 1890, out of 6,649,000 children of these ages, 1,118,000 were wage-earners. The last census changed the classification of children, so that exact comparisons are impossible. It reported that of 7,633,000 children between 10 and 14 years old but 603,000 were at work, and on the basis of this report Commissioner Wright claims that a great gain has been made, says the Chautauquan. This, however, is doubtful, as 14 is precisely the age at which children are most likely to leave the grammar schools and go to work. The employment of over 500,000 children under 14 in factories, shops and mines demands serious national attention. In the mining regions of Pennsylvania boys of 12 are taken out of school and put to work for ten hours a day at the breakers, picking slate from coal; and in the south boys and girls are taken from school before they are 10 and set to work for twelve hours a day in the cotton mills that are being scattered over the country. The argument often made that child labor deprives parents of employment is not usually a valid one. It is true that in cotton-factory towns hardly any man over 40 is at work, and his little children are in factories while he "totes" the meals. But this is largely due to the fact that the fingers of the father are no longer nimble and that there is rarely much employment in the neighborhood of a cotton factory to which he can turn his hand. While industry is diversified, the labor of a factory worker's children no more keeps him from working than the labor of children on the farm keeps the farmer from working. Wages the children earn cannot be spent without paying for the labor of some one else. This labor, therefore, is not the embarrassment to the employment of parents it is often asserted to be. As a rule, its worst effect upon the labor of adults is by increasing the number of those seeking jobs, without increasing the number of those giving them, and thus slightly reducing the level of wages. These material conditions, however, are of minor importance. The ground upon which child labor is to be prohibited is not the right of adults to be protected against competition, but the right of the child to be fitted for competition which he must meet in life.

## VERSATILE DELCASSE.

The Ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs in France.

If versatility be an American trait Theophile Delcasse, the ex-minister of foreign affairs in France, ought to have been a native of the United States, says the Philadelphia Post. He is not yet 50, but has already attained distinction in many fields of intellectual effort. His first venture was in journalism and literature, where he made his mark. From the press he went into politics, and was elected a deputy in 1889. Here he made his influence so felt that he became under-secretary for the colonies in 1893, colonial minister in 1894 and minister of foreign affairs in 1898. While in the last-named position he settled the Fashoda affair with Great Britain. Last year he was special commissioner, or envoy, to St. Petersburg, representing French investors who desired to utilize the financial opportunities presented by the Siberian and other Asiatic railways. To M. Delcasse the bourse ascribes the credit of having perceived the financial, as well as the political and strategical, value of these projected roads. Either through diplomatic channels or through a careful study of the Russian fiscal system, he realized that though Russia might start these roads, its treasury was too weak to finish them.

## A Superstition.

"Henslow is one of the strangest mixtures of superstitions and practical common sense that I ever saw." "Yes, I've noticed that. It was at a dinner party that he gave not long ago, and just before we sat down one of the guests, a physician was called away on an urgent case, thus leaving only 13 of us. So Henslow woke the baby and put it beside him in its high chair, to avert disaster. The child knocked over a bowl of gravy, which ruined his full-dress trousers, but he consoled himself by believing that something worse would have happened if we had gone ahead with thirteen at the table."

## Curing Crime in Dawson City.

A western paper says that the people of Dawson City have adopted a novel and effective cure for crime. It is a monster woodpile, of a size to awe the most hardened offender. A man convicted of any offense is compelled to saw wood. He saws 10 hours a day steadily, day after day, until his sentence expires. He must saw regardless of the weather. In the most intense cold, the hardest rain, the fiercest snowstorm, he is compelled to continue sawing; and if the day has not 10 hours of light, lanterns are provided to enable him to put in a full day.

## Prize for Cabbages.

As an offset to the reverse sustained by Gen. Redvers Buller in South Africa, he has taken the first prize as a grower of cabbages in the country agricultural show at Exeter. This must be regarded as a happy augury and as an indication that he will retrieve his defeat in short order. For it was on emerging from the bucolic pastime of cabbage growing that Cincinnatus saved Rome and Achilles conquered Troy.