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Until you have tried MARTHA WASHINGTON Coffee, you do not know how good a cup of coffee actually can be.

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THIS AFTERNOON. TO-NIGHT.
ROYAL & ADAMS CIRCUS
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100—BIG FEATURE ACTS—100
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Prices, 50c, 75c, and $1

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Don't Miss the
Diamond Comedy Four
And our 5 other Big Acts this week.
1,000 SEATS AT 10c.

NEW LYCEUM MATINEE DAILY
ALL THIS WEEK.
BATTLING NELSON
Sparring with His Partner, with
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ALL THIS WEEK. MATINEES DAILY.
JOE HURTIG PRESENTS
ED LEE WROTHE
AND THE
GINGER GIRLS
CROWNED WITH TREMENDOUS POPULARITY.
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SIX ACTS AND ORCHESTRA.
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Learn to Skate. Pleasure and Exercise.
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Georgetown vs. Gallaudet.
Georgetown Rooters, bring rattles.
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Skating and Grand March as usual.
Admission, 25 cents. Skating, 15 cents.
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Delightful Dancing Assembly To-night.
Admission, 25 cents. Chaperons always free.
BOWLING ALLEYS—Largest in the City.
Ladies' Alleys.
Open Afternoons and Until Midnight.

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MATINEE PRICES, 25c TO $1.00.
AUGUSTUS PITOU Presents
CHAUNCEY OLCOTT
In His New Play **BARRY OF BALLYMORE**
By RIDA JOHNSON YOUNG.
Scenes laid at Ballymore, Ireland.
Time, 1790.

NEXT WEEK Seats Now Selling.
GEORGE EVANS' HONEY BOY MINSTRELS
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Friday Mat., 4:30—Sunday Night, 8:30.
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Gives His Wonderfully Illustrated Travel Talk on
PANAMA CANAL
Thrilling Motion Pictures, including Dynamiters at Work,
Gigantic Steam Shovels,
Explosion of Tons of Dynamite.
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This accurate story of life on the Canal Zone is really up-to-day.
Prices, $1, 75, 50, and 25 cents.

MOVING PICTURES.

THE PLAZA
434 NINTH STREET N. W.
12 Noon to 11 P. M.
"LOVER AND THE COUNT."
"SECRET OF THE STILL."
5c 5c 5c

VIRGINIA 9th, Bet. F and G.
3 Positively Latest Reels.
To-day's Great Programme.
THREE FIRST REELS
HARRY CHICK, Singer
Excellent Orchestra of Five Afternoon and Night.

Color Schemes for Bedrooms.

The modern girl is rather tired of the pale rose and blue bedrooms of the past, and welcomes any new color scheme that is attractive. Here are a few suggestions that have not become commonplace:

Walls of soft cream color with a stencil design in mauve shades. Hangings of ashes of roses linen, and furniture of wickerwork stained a soft brownish purple. Band of cream-colored linen with the stenciled designs may be appliqued on the hangings of the room, such as the curtains and cushion covers, and the rugs on the floor should be of soft Oriental colors.

Another attractive room could be arranged in the pale shades of the clematis. The walls are colored in the tints of this bloom in its lilac hues, and the woodwork should be in the same shade of clematis, with a gray tone in its depths. Soft lilac curtains, bedspread and covers should be in the same shade stenciled in pearl gray, while the furniture might be either gray enamel or brown wood. Or cretonnes in the clematis or wistaria designs could be used.

An all-gray room is charming, but a little cold unless it has here and there cushions touched with color. The walls of such a room are tinted or papered in a warm gray, with a cream ceiling which should be brought down to the picture molding. Gray enameled furniture is used, and the cushions, covers and curtains are gray, stenciled in soft shades of lilac and green, with soft brown. The rugs that cover a gray stained floor are of gray-green hues, and the pictures on the walls should be framed in gray-stained wood and white enamel.

Tea Gowns.

One of the most elaborate of the season's tea gowns is of pale yellow lined with white and gold chameleon liberty satin. There is a narrow band border of heavy floss embroideries all about the garment edge and the wide, floppy revers, faced with the lining material, are bordered in like manner.

Italy has but one aluminum manufacturing plant.

You'll enjoy the fine flavor of the cooking at the
Hotel Engel Cafe and Restaurant
Famous for steaks, chops, and salads.
Imported German beers on draft.
New Jersey Ave. and C St.
'Phone Lincoln 742

MENUS AND RECIPES.

To-day's Menu.

BREAKFAST.
Fruit
Cereal — Sugar and Cream
Minced Beef — Saratoga Potatoes
Raised Biscuits — Coffee

LUNCH.
Broiled Smoked Salmon
Spanish Buns — Cocoa

DINNER.
Mock Turtle Soup
Roast Loin of Pork
String Beans — Brown Turnips
Celery Mayonnaise
Wafers — Cheese
Whole Wheat Pudding — Soft Sauce
Pistachio Cakes — Coffee

Recipes.

Spanish buns—Make a sponge with one cupful of milk, one-half of a cupful of sugar, one-half of a teaspoonful of salt, and one-half of a yeast cake; dissolve in warm water, using sufficient flour to make a drop batter. Beat well, and set aside in a warm place, covered to rise. When light, add one-half of a cupful of melted butter, four eggs, well beaten, one teaspoonful each of powdered cinnamon and mace, and one-half of a teaspoonful of cloves. Add flour to make a soft dough, and knead until smooth. Let rise a second time, then roll out on a floured board and cut into circles. Put close together in a greased pan, cover, and let stand until very light, then bake fifteen to eighteen minutes in a quick oven.

Pistachio cakes—Beat up three eggs with four ounces of granulated sugar till light, then sift in four ounces of flour and one teaspoonful of baking powder. Add one teaspoonful pistachio extract and divide into buttered and floured square cake pans. Bake in a moderate oven for twelve or fifteen minutes, then turn out and cool. Cover with white icing.

Caps for Old Ladies.

From Harper's Bazar.

The fashions for the day for elderly women include so many things that their daughters wear that it is really a work of finesse to distinguish them. Not that old ladies have generally indulged in the bobble skirt, though a few fashionable ones have, especially those of the slenderer type; but many of their evening gowns differ only from those of younger women in a choice of color and perhaps a sedater choice of ornament.

One leading shop, however, is predicting a return of the real old lady of our grandmothers' days, when lace caps were looked upon not as a badge of failing powers, but as the insignia of the dignity due to old age. In order to substantiate their faith in such prophecy, they are showing a lovely collection of lace trifles in the way of caps, some elegantly enriched with hand embroidery, or a touch of silver or steel or gold, in the way of real old ladies' caps, such as the good Queen Alexandra has adopted for occasional wear.

New Coiffures.

From Harper's Bazar.

Braids will be worn, but in so modified a form that they are scarcely recognizable. They look more like loose twists or coils. The idea now is to have soft, fluffy effects, instead of the set, stiff arrangements of last season. For this reason curls are preferred to puffs. They are very similar, however, the chief difference being that puffs are fastened at both ends and the French curls only at one. In arrangeing these little ringlets, be careful to have them droop gracefully, never allowing them to stick out. Clusters of curls can be made from combings generally cast one side. Almost any hairdresser will make them for a trifle. Keep your combings loose if you want to use them; rolling them in wads gets them badly tangled.

Shoes for Girls.

From Harper's Bazar.

Street shoes for walking purposes are this year rather important features of girls' dresses. They are all high cut; some of them are sixteen-button length, the buttons being spaced as they were when nine were sufficient; or they may be cloth-topped with stout welts, with eight, ten, or twelve buttons.

The shoe for the growing girl, as for her mother, is this year shorter and broader than those worn in past years when the standards called for a long, slim foot. Now shoemakers have waked up to the fact that nature has not made all feet alike, and that the short shoe has its own graces, especially when worn with ankle-length dresses.

When the famous mosque of St. Sophia, at Constantinople, was built, about 1,350 years ago, musk was mixed into the mortar uniting the stones, and the odor is noticable at the present day.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

A TIP TO THE HOUSEWIFE

Who Wishes to Economize on Her Gas Bill.

A problem which has long confronted the housekeeper is that of baking small preparations. Under present household conditions the baking of a cheap pudding requires an ovenful of heat. A pan of biscuits containing 5 cents' worth of raw materials may require 10 cents' worth of gas in its baking. The baking of so cheap a dish as macaroni is often foregone because it involves the heating of an oven. And this is not to be wondered at. Gas bills are far from welcome, to say nothing of hot kitchens and overheated housewives.

Were manufacturers to waste the same proportionate energy in their plants as is wasted in the average kitchen, the exorbitant prices that we now pay for necessities would be nominal in comparison with what would otherwise confront us. The difference between business economy and kitchen economy is too striking to be overlooked in trying to solve the problem of high prices. It is this difference that has led me to undertake some interesting experiments in household business, for I consider that management of a household quite as much a business proposition as the management of a store or a factory. In these experiments I have met with far greater success than my fondest hopes had led me to expect, says a writer in Good Housekeeping.

My first attention was given to the kitchen oven, inasmuch as there are countless articles of cheap food that become nutritious and delicious if baked. My idea was to secure a small oven which would heat quickly and evenly with a minimum of gas. Inquiry at stores handling kitchen utensils revealed a wide variety of ovens, from the mammoth four-burner affair to the tiny warming oven. The more expensive ones were out of the question, for economy in money and work was the point to be gained. The cheaper ones all possessed the serious objection that the opening of the oven door, for testing purposes, allowed the accumulated heat to escape, resulting in a loss of baking energy and danger of chilling of the article within.

Then a happy thought came to me. There are fireless cookers. Why not an ovenless baker? The principle of baking is to keep an even degree of heat about the article.

I purchased a hot plate, of which there are a number of kinds on the markets. The one I use is made of three pieces of heavy, cheap iron riveted together, the two outer pieces being separated from the inner one by a quarter-inch space, the whole forming a sort of a drum which retains heat for a considerable time.

Armed with the hot plate, a heavy granite pan, and a two-burner gas stove I undertook my first experiment, choosing potatoes as the simplest article to bake. I laid the potatoes on top of the plate, covered them with the granite pan, and lighted the gas, taking care not to turn the flame high enough to burn them. In far less time than it takes to bake them in the oven and with less than half the gas, the potatoes were ready for the table. They proved mealy and dry, and were thoroughly delicious.

Next I tried a pan of spaghetti. This was prepared in the usual way, placed on the hot plate, covered with an inverted pan, and allowed to bake. When sufficiently done, it was placed uncovered beneath the flame, the hot plate throwing the heat down and browning it as prettily as could be done in the best oven ever made.

It is only a step from potatoes and spaghetti to a multitude of baked dishes, such as apples, custards, meat loaves, pies, biscuits, and corn bread.

The principles of baking without an oven are the same, whatever article is selected. Care must always be used to keep the baking article well covered and to prevent burning. It is best to begin with the simplest things, such as potatoes with the jackets on, and then graduate into the more complex, like pies and puddings. There is no mystery whatever connected with the process and no involved details to be followed.

Two things only are to be particularly remembered: Do not turn the gas too high, and wherever possible, especially with pastries, use a heavy iron skillet in addition to the hot plate, as this retains the heat with little danger of burning.

Miss Taft's Characteristics.

From Harper's Bazar.

Miss Helen Taft, at nineteen, is a wholesome, attractive girl, with never a trace of pose or affectation in manner or conversation. She possesses a sufficient sense of humor, inherited from her father, to prevent her head being turned by the attentions she has received. Most of the intimate friends of the Taft family are wont to declare that in features as well as in temperament Miss Helen favors her father, but there is no doubt that the daughter of the house has many of her mother's traits as well.

To suppose that just because Miss Taft has always been an inveterate reader, and has won a scholarship at Bryn Mawr and all sorts of prizes at school, she must necessarily be a bookish sort of person, is to do the young lady a distinct injustice. Although she each summer pursues a definite course of reading, she indulges in a wide range of outdoor athletics.

Knitting for the Nerves.

Knitting is now recommended by doctors as a cure for the "nerves." It always has been regarded as a soothing occupation for women, but not until recently has it been prescribed in the place of nerve medicine. The physicians, however, point out that usually when a woman has the "nerves" she is worrying about her housework or little things of minor consequence. "Light needlework," say the doctors, "comes under the category of amusements, and is prescribed for the woman with nerve trouble by her doctor in the same way as golf is recommended for men. It is something to keep her mind occupied without too much strain. 'Nerves' too often are caused by a woman having no occupation and letting her mind rest on little vexatious things. No woman, however, should undertake knitting who has a distaste for it, and it should not be turned into an irksome task, for then the beneficial effect will be lost."

Jugged Rabbit.

From Harper's Bazar.

To prepare the rabbit, clean and split a Belgian hare, dividing it in the same manner as a fowl, and marinate the pieces in a French dressing for half an hour. In the meantime saute four thin slices of salt fat pork until crisp and dry; then remove the scraps; strain the fat and reheat. Drain the meat and cook for a few minutes in the hot fat; then place in a casserole or roasting-pan, with one pint of brown stock, one sliced onion, and two tablespoonfuls of diced carrot; cover and cook in a moderate oven for one and one-half hours; then uncover and add one cup of cream; season, and cook, uncovered, for one-half hour longer. Arrange in the center of a platter and pipe a border of well-seasoned mashed potatoes, beaten until light and puffy, around it; then return to the oven for a few minutes to brown. Serve with a sauce made by adding two tablespoonfuls of flour to the remaining stock in which it was cooked, adding a little more cream if necessary.

HOW A CLEVER WOMAN

Made a Smart Frock with Two Scarfs and Some Satin.

Let me tell you of a very clever scheme thought out and worked successfully by a woman who is well known in her little circle for always doing the "unusual."

You see, she was presented at Christmas with two long beaded chiffon scarfs by two different friends. Now, they are not exchangeable, as you know, and at first sight it looked as if one beautiful gift would fall into disuse.

If it had belonged to the average woman, it might have met with this fate. But not with this clever one.

The scarfs were black, and in them lay the possibilities of a glistening tunic over an evening gown.

Black satin was bought at one of the silk sales. The ten yards of silk cost less than $5. Out of this a kimono bodice and a circular skirt were made. And over it were draped the two scarfs. They were crossed in front to give a fichu effect, one long end hanging down over the front and a little at the side. A hanging panel of the net was allowed to fall at the back, and the bodice was covered here by crossed folds of the beaded fabric.

The sleeves were merely the outer edges of the bodice, allowed to fall over the silk caps. Little cuffs of net piped with satin were attached under the satin sleeves. The yoke was cut a V shape, and I hope will show the pretty neck of the owner.

There! Do you see how the clever mind turns one thing to many uses? You can profit by it.

FASHION HINT.

5317

LADY'S WAIST.

This is really a duplex waist, as it is quite complete without the drapery, the guimpe being attached and forming a real part of the waist.

The shoulder is seamless and the drapery passes from shoulder on one side to waistline on the other, while the undraped portion of the waist has a little fullness at the lower part. The yoke and long sleeve belong to the guimpe and may be faced with contrasting material if preferred.

The handsome Persian printings in silk and chiffon will make up well in this style and also messaline and other soft fabrics.

The pattern No. 5,317 is cut in sizes 32 to 42 inches bust measure. Medium size requires one yard of 44-inch chiffon for waist and one and one-quarter yards of 36-inch messaline for drapery.

The above pattern can be obtained by sending 10 cents to the office of this paper.

SEA FOODS FOR FRIDAY'S MENU.

Fish Pie.

Three and one-half pounds of any kind of fish, four pounds of raw potatoes, nearly a quart of milk, small piece of butter, yolk of one egg, salt to taste. Boil the fish in salted water, take out the bones and mash the fish very fine. Slice the potatoes, put the fish and potatoes in the dish in alternate layers, adding the salt, butter, and milk, bake one hour.

Serve with drawn butter sauce: one pint of boiling milk, two tablespoonfuls of butter, half teaspoonful of flour, one hard-boiled egg, salt, beat the flour and butter together, add the boiling milk and stir well. Boil all for a moment, then add salt and the egg chopped fine.

Salmon Wiggle.

One can salmon, pick in pieces, make a white sauce from one quart of milk, thickened with five rounding tablespoonfuls of flour. Toast one baker's loaf of bread (buttered). When the sauce is thickened put in the salmon and one can of peas, also piece of butter; pour over the toast and serve.

Curried Lobster.

Take the meat from a medium sized boiled lobster and cut in small dice. Put into the chafing dish (for the lobster and the chafing dish go hand in hand) one rounded tablespoonful butter. When hot add a tablespoonful minced onion, and cook until it reaches the yellow stage, but not a moment longer. Mix one rounded tablespoonful flour with a teaspoonful (or more, according to taste), of curry powder and stir into the hot butter. Add a cup of hot milk or thin cream and stir until it thickens and is smooth and creamy. Add two cups of the diced lobster meat, and as soon as thoroughly heated serve on delicately browned slices of toast or crisped crackers.

Oyster Cocktails.

For the cocktails use the small Blue Points or cherrystone oysters and allow five or a half dozen to each cover. Put on the ice until thoroughly chilled. For six covers, mix together three tablespoonfuls each vinegar, grated horseradish, and tomato catsup. Add six teaspoonfuls lemon juice and a few drops tabasco. Have this dressing also where it will be very cold. When ready to serve put the oysters in chilled glasses, pour the sauce over, set each glass on a service plate and serve with thin slices of buttered brown bread.

Cold Crab Ravigote.

Allow to one pint fresh crab meat two large tomatoes boiled, one large green pepper, one red pepper and a tablespoonful of parsley, minced fine. Chop tomatoes and peppers, removing all the pepper seeds. Mix all the ingredients together with mayonnaise to make quite moist. Season with salt and paprika. Fill cleaned crab shells with the mixture, heaping it, and garnish with a little cut pickle and cut lemon. A couple of anchovies may be added to the top of each one, if preferred. This will make six shells.

Often in padding a buttonhole edge or a design for solid embroidery the white padding shows through the color that is afterward stitched under it. This is especially noticeable and disagreeable in a dark shade. One woman solved the problem by doing her padding in cotton as near the shade of the silk as she could get. The result was eminently satisfactory and the cotton was only 3 cents a spool.

S. KANN SONS & CO.
8th St. & Pa. Ave.
"THE BUSY CORNER"

SILK HOSIERY, $1.00

Seconds of $1.50 and $2 kinds.

These are from one of the foremost manufacturers of silk hosiery, who is noted for the exceptionally high grade of his productions. They are seconds, but the flaws are so trifling that they would never be noticed unless the defects were especially pointed out. They will wear as well as though perfect. Save from 50c to $1.00 on a pair.

SILK BOOT HOSE, all pure thread silk where it shows; reinforced soles, heels, toes, and tops. In black and colors. A pair..... **45c**

A GLIMPSE OF SPRING IN MIDST OF SNOW-BOUND CROSSINGS

By DOROTHY AVERY HOWARD.

A showing of gowns and hats for wear at Palm Beach and the other Southern resorts was the attraction which brought many fashionably gowned women to a smart shop in H street, near Fifteenth, yesterday. The setting of palm trees and trailing green vines made an effective and appropriate background for the display of summery costumes brought out for the fortunate feminines who can flit away from scenes of snow and ice to tropic lands of perpetual sunshine. The new things for the early season are inexpressibly lovely, and seem to be less extreme than the usual early fashions, of which the conservative woman needs beware. While foolish, they are not silly, and will appeal to the woman of good taste. In tailored suits some very novel things are seen. Many clever effects are obtained by the use of striped material, the stripes being used in various ways to form the trimming. A novelty suit of white cloth has a slight blouse effect at the high waist line, which simulates the Eton jacket, but with a coat that reaches to the hips. It is elaborately braided in silk, and has a touch of black velvet to give tone to the revers. Some very smart little frocks are of linen, with the Empire waistline defined with only a loosing of the goods. They are distinctly good form because they are so simple, being trimmed with small buttons, sometimes fastening at the back, again at the sides. A frock of oyster white linen opens at the left side and has medallions of the linen embroidered in black, with a black satin sash hanging straight from the opening. Some very stunning things in more dressy frocks are of linen so fine they look like chiffon, in all the light colors, the skirts and waists finely tucked and beaded designs woven in the material to form the only trimming. Exquisite are the lingerie gowns of eyelet embroidery and Irish lace and particularly one model which has an Eton jacket formed of Irish lace in an entirely new pattern, and made of a thread very much heavier than the usual number. Marquisettes, in both gowns and waists, and a new kind of net, trimmed with the very fashionable beads or embroidery in combinations of two dull colors, like tan and old blue, everything having the kimono sleeve, which has proved too popular to be obliterated, are among the prettiest things shown. A new wrap of white satin with a trimming of violet chiffon is just like the old kimono one used to wear only in her boudoir. The hats are very attractive. There was not one so extreme as to be objectionable to the most modest of women, yet all are chic. A very new idea is the immense shape of white linen, bound with an inch of king's blue chiffon, and having for ornament an altogether charming cluster of flowers, which express a very original note of fashion—water lilies in several mottled colors, like none that ever grew on the bosom of a picturesque pool, and leaves of olive green silk. Another shape, less of a painting by a milliner artist, yet more practical, is one of very fine black straw, turned at two sides of the front, where a very smart bow of silver tissue, veiled in white maline, is caught from the crown, through the brim.

I only wish I had more time and space so I might tell you of the other charming imported things I saw here, but "duty calls me," as the old saw sings.

* * * *

The manager of the furnishing department in a clothing store in Pennsylvania avenue, near Ninth street, told me yesterday that he had an unprecedented sale of shirts within the past week. This was due to the remarkable values offered by the firm in closing out this season's stock. Very often men who know what good values are to be found here will wait for a sale of this kind, and then buy a dozen shirts at the time. This habit has depleted the lines to some extent, but many bargains are left. Among these are the shirts marked at 75 cents, which are certainly cheap at that price.

* * * *

A bargain in women's hosiery is found at a shoe store in Seventh street, near Pennsylvania avenue, where tan and black hose, usually selling at 19 cents a pair, may now be bought for 12½ cents.

* * * *

A firm located in the vicinity of F and Tenth streets offers a variety of pieces of solid mahogany furniture at $15. Especially attractive are the sewing tables, which are copied from the antique designs often common in colonial homes. Drop-leaf card tables and other types of the same period are also shown for this price.

* * * *

Do you care enough for peaches to pay half a dollar apiece for them just now? If you do, I will tell you where you can get them at that price. In a shop in F street I saw some beautiful looking ones the other day, which had just arrived from South Africa. They came in a box of excelsior which holds just twenty peaches, each wrapped in tissue paper. This was the first shipment from this far-off land, and the Washington fruiterer was the lucky dealer out of many others who bid for the honor. Even at this price, there is no difficulty in selling them, as the box was engaged for a breakfast given by a popular society woman here before it was opened. The other fruit which is arriving from the same zone will not be quite so costly.

* * * *

A millinery importer with a shop in Fourteenth street, near the corner of Chapin street, is offering a discount of half price and more on all this season's hats. Those which were marked at $20 and $25 may now be bought for $10, while the regular $5 hat costs only $2.50.

* * * *

A new composition called art ivorex, from its resemblance to old ivory, is used now to make some very unique plaques imported from Scotland by a department store in F street. These represent scenes of historical or literary interest, some of the most interesting being Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, the choir in Chester Cathedral, and Robert Burns' cottage at Ayr. Clever character sketches which bring before us the eccentricities of Samuel Weller, Uriah Heep, Sarah Gamp, Mr. Micawber, Mr. Pickwick, and other familiar personages created by Dickens, with Sir Walter Scott, Bobby Burns, and Highland Mary, are of particular interest. Other scenes equally as cleverly portrayed are in this exhibit.

* * * *

A furniture house in Ninth street, between E and F streets, is now offering some special inducements in the way of lace curtains, at prices which have been cut almost in half. Irish points, Arabian laces, Tambours, Saxony Brussels, and other handsome patterns are included in this sale, with sash curtains of various styles.

* * * *

Mousquetaire gloves of glace kid in elbow lengths are shown by a French shop in F street, near Twelfth, marked $1.25. These are remarkably low priced, and should go like hot cakes, now that the kimono sleeve, noticed in all the smart gowns, requires long gloves for general wear.

MORNING CHIT-CHAT.

I WONDER if there is anything more characteristic of the haste of the age than the average handwriting.

Have you ever noticed how few people nowadays always form all of their letters? How rare is the person who doesn't occasionally omit the loop of the "m" or chop off the last letter in a word?

To say nothing of the folks who are guilty of these and similar carelessness continually.

Of course, there are some people who habitually write clear business-like hands, but a sort of suggestive impressionism, a sort of sketchy leave-you-to-guess-the-rest seems to me to be the prevalent note of the present day chirography.

Just as with an indistinct talker one must help out the ears a good deal with the eyes, so with these indistinct writers, one must assist the eye with the brain.

That is, one cannot read wholly by the characters, but must be helped out by what one expects to find.

I am especially impressed with this because of the many letters I get through this column from unknown friends.

I can almost get the context of these letters by using a little common sense when the writing is uncertain, but when it comes to the signature, I am very frequently at sea, for there I must depend wholly upon the characters.

And whether "m" or "n" or "r" is meant by this loop, or whether that is an "e" at the end of the name or merely a quirk, or perhaps an "s," I find myself often unable to decide.

In which connection I want to ask the pardon of any people to whom I have sent letters, spelling their names or addresses wrongly. Truly, it wasn't carelessness. It was just that my one best guess was wrong.

Now I know many people who are aware of the illegibility of their penmanship and consider it a good joke or even something to be almost proud of as a sign of genius.

I think that's decidedly a mistaken attitude. Imperfect penmanship is one of my tendencies, and I'm very much ashamed of it.

I think the habit of talking so quickly as to speak indistinctly and of writing so rapidly as to write illegibly, are a part of the bad tendencies of the time toward undue haste in thinking and living.

We can't all write prettily.

We can't all write even strongly.

But we can all form every one of our letters—dot our "i's," cross our "t's" on the "t" itself, and not all over the neighboring "l's" and "p's," &c. And in general, recommend ourselves by being accurate and not slipshod in our penmanship, can't we?

RUTH CAMERON.