A MALEDICTION FULFILLED.

The Tragic Killing of Captain Reuben Keith, in Verification of Rachel Stone's Curse—A True and Romantic Incident of the Great War.

In the domain of fiction the use of a verified malediction is a favorite artifice of dramatic effect. Upon the stage, that scene of simulated passion, we find it used with impressive influence. In the realm of the real, history recalls no well-authenticated instance of a realized curse. The following is a literal case that occurred during the War under the personal knowledge of the writer, and has been the theme of much speculation. Whether it was a mere coincident, happening without real connection, or whether it was one of those mysterious matters of inexplicable romance that break the current of prosaic fact, must ever remain an unsolved problem. I vouch for the details. The reader must exercise his own judgment upon them:

OLD AUNT RACHEL STONE.

The incident began in the early part of 1863. The writer commanded the Fourth Regiment of Georgia Cavalry. Most of the members of this regiment came from Whitfield and the adjoining counties in the northern part of the State of Georgia. Among the soldiers was a youth named Stone, who enlisted in the company raised in Murray County by Captain Reuben Keith. The mother of young Stone was a very notable character. She was called Old Aunt Rachel Stone. Her husband was dead, and she was still a widow, supporting her family on a small farm. She was a woman of marked and peculiar appearance, a very large, erect, masculine creature, with the frame, muscles and stride of a man. She was over six feet high, broad-shouldered, massive, sinewy, of immense physical vigor and strength, performing manual labor on her farm with the power and readiness of a man, plowing, splitting rails, and such other work requiring force and endurance. She had a face, clear, open, decided, of remarkably positive expression, a large, bright blue eye of piercing penetration, a nose of character, a broad, thin-lipped mouth, firm set, a conformation of jaw full of will and power, a broad, high brow, and an unkempt blonde hair, that was often hanging down loosely on her shoulders, and which, when so fluttering around her expressive countenance and heavy frame gave an effective individuality to her appearance. The most impressive thing at least about her was her manner of talking. She had a clear, deep voice, and an oracular way of uttering her words that was singularly forcible. She spoke with a deliberation, a precision, a measured emphasis and a ringing earnestness that always held the attention. She was naturally oratorical in her manner and utterances. A public speaker might have learned something from her. She expressed herself with unusual directness and a sort of dramatic flavor that lost nothing from the fact that it was couched in rude words and an uncultured idiom. There was always, also, an originality in her opinions and expressions that interested a hearer. Her mind was bold and independent, though uneducated, and her intelligence strong and picturesque, though untrained.

She took her toddy at times, and even exceeded a prudent ration of spirits on extra occasions. But there was never any thing against her chastity, and she prided herself very much upon her unblemished character. Said she once to the writer in her peculiar manner, with an added ring in her earnest voice, and dwelling with her oracular emphasis upon each distinct syllable:

"Mebbe you think I am a drab. But I ain't! I am an honest woman. I am one of Jeff Davis's daughters."

She prided herself very much upon being a good, worthy subject of the Confederacy, which she habitually epitomized under the name of "Jeff Davis." Take her all in all, with her strong sense, her original intelligence, her decisive methods, her keen penetration, her impressive expressions, her shrewd observation of public matters and her rough, but picturesque, individuality, and she was a very remarkable character, and to me a study of considerable interest.

CAPTAIN REUBEN KEITH.

The other leading character in this uncommon and tragical affair was Captain Reuben Keith, one of the best officers in my regiment. He was a well-to-do, well educated farmer of Murray County, aged somewhere between thirty-five and forty, a man of high character and standing. He was a conservative, straightforward, practical citizen and soldier, universally respected, his just, deliberate, decided methods carrying great weight and influence. His appearance was an index of the man. He was a stout, well-proportioned, sturdy-looking gentleman, erect and solid, with a fine open face full of intelligence and will, and good temper. He looked the Anglo-Saxon all over with his fair skin, his ruddy color, light hair and fine blue eyes, so clear and direct in their gaze. He had an unusually well-balanced judgment, and was noted for his truth and integrity. He had the quality of reliability to an uncommon degree. He was a brave and skillful officer and an excellent disciplinarian. His command was thoroughly within his grasp. His final destiny was a puzzling and illogical sequence of his character and career. It violated every antecedent and experience of the man, and, connected as it was and interwoven with the little incident I shall narrate, in which old Rachel Stone figured so dramatically, it has baffled philosophical consideration.

THE WRONG.

My regiment was encamped near Winchester, Tennessee. Mrs. Stone came from Georgia to Tennessee to endeavor to get her young son discharged from service. He was not of age, and, while she had given her consent to his enlisting, her maternal solicitude had gotten the better of her patriotism, and she wished to regain him home away from the perils of the battle-field. She spent nearly a week in the vicinity of the camp pleading with Captain Keith and myself to favor the discharge of her son. I frankly told the old lady that I could not approve it. I promised to forward her application, however, though I should be compelled by my sense of duty to indorse my disapproval upon it. After much vain effort to dissuade me from my disapproval, she finally brought the application to me, and I placed my endorsement upon it. She then asked me to read the whole paper over to her. I should have before stated that she was unable to read, and the fact of her illiteracy added to my admiration of her unique and impressive individuality. I started to read the paper. She admonished me to read slowly. When I came to Captain Keith's indorsement, forwarding the paper "disapproved," the old woman sprang to her feet excitedly, and in eager surprise, and, with impulsive incisiveness, she demanded of me imperiously to read that again. I did so very distinctly. She seemed bewildered and unable to realize the meaning of the words. She asked slowly if that writing of Captain Keith meant that he was "agin" her boy getting out of the army. I told her that it did. She remarked in a voice strangely variant in its quietness with her strong excitement of appearance, that he had told her he had written on the paper that he was for her boy "gittin" out.

Controlling her excitement with a strong effort she caught up the paper and abruptly left my tent. The simple fact was that Captain Keith had deceived her. He had repeatedly and uniformly told her that he would favor her son's discharge, had written out her application, and, instead of approving as he had promised, he disapproved it, as he afterward said, trusting that she would never know it. He supposed she would bring it to me, and that I would take and indorse it and forward it up and his duplicity would never be discovered. It is a curious fact that simple, uncultured natures like hers are always suspicious, and she intuitively sought to verify the correctness of his statements.

THE MALEDICTION.

The end of the old creature's visit to our camp was dramatic. Her sense of wrong at Captain Keith's hands was deep and intense. Probably she would hardly have been less resentful and indignant if he had struck her. But to dupe her, to toy with her hopes, assent to her wishes, give her sympathy in her plan day after day, and then finally deceive her, was cruel beyond measure, and it awakened in her a deep, implacable fury that knew no bounds. She had entertained high respect for him, and gave him thorough confidence. The transition was complete. Every fiber of her strong, coarse nature was wounded to the quick. It was a wonder, with her ungovernable spirit, that she did not attempt personal violence upon him. But she reserved her revenge for something more tragical. In her intense excitement she began to drink, and the liquor, of course, inflamed her rage. Finally, just about dusk, she came to my tent pretty well intoxicated, and the scene that ensued is vividly impressed upon my recollection.

Her disordered appearance added to the effect she made. Her hair hung rough and uncombed about her flushed face. Her eyes glittered with excitement. Her countenanee well indexed her turbulent soul. Her massive frame shook under her fiery agitation. She poured out a volume of talk, speaking none the less deliberately because of the vehemence of her tones. Her language was singularly and effectively dramatic. She began by telling me that she had no quarrel with me. It is true I had refused to do her will, but I had been candid with her and never deceived her. I had told her the truth like a man. But Reub Keith had acted like a dog. As she spoke his name it seemed to intensify her wrath. She elaborately and, it must be said, eloquently portrayed perfidy, giving a graphic picture of her hopes, her plans, her love for her boy, her strong yearning to get him home, her labors, her appeals, her trust in Keith, his ready, sympathetic co-operation in her fervent desire, his base betrayal of her confidence. The stern old soul got right pathetic and touching in some of her allusions. Her tale was told with the finest simplicity and effect of dramatic art. The conclusion was as striking as it was unexpected. Throwing herself upon her knees, the declining sun casting a sort of illusion around her homely but expressive old face, its marked features anguished and vindictive, she uttered such an imprecation upon Keith as horrified me and those who heard it. The malignancy of that malediction was something dreadful. She invoked deadly blight upon his mind, heart and home. She hoped he might never know peace or happiness; that he might live in misery and terror, and when he died that he might die like a hunted hound, friendless, unpitied, away from friends, and his body be left unburied and uncoffined as food for carrion. And she frenziedly declared that her curse would be fulfilled.

There was nothing in the scene to break the monotony of the old woman's demonstration of hatred. She preserved her rude dignity through it all, and never lowered her tragical effectiveness. She certainly thrilled her hearers, and left an uncomfortable horror for the object of her imprecations. The deep words, the falling twilight, the martial surroundings, all were fit accessories of the picture. Rising slowly, composing her features, and stalking silently into the woods and the night, she disappeared, leaving only the dark hideous memory of her appalling malediction.

THE FULFILLMENT.

Old Rachel Stone passed out of immediate memory. The swift and changing drama of war left no time nor opportunity for retrospection. But the old creature's curse sped none the less surely to a seeming verification. The passage of General Sherman's army through Georgia left in the northern section of the State a frightful condition of things. This favored section of the State—rich, healthy, beautiful—was a continuous ruin. It exemplified fully the horrors of war. The white section of the State, it furnished the bulk of the Union element. The arena for contending armies for a long period, it was desolated in its entirety. Left for months outside of the protecting aegis of both Governments, the hiding-place of guerrillas of both armies, the theater of that worst of all strife that exists between inimical local factions, it realized in all its dread malignancy the miserable suffering conveyed in the word anarchy. The melancholy condition of this section was the saddest picture of all the sad ones of the late war. Those able to flee fled. Those unable to get away stayed in armed despair, ever present peril, and subject to daily rapine and death. Courts were silent, schools empty, churches deserted, dwellings were burned and fences destroyed until the civilizing demarkations of home and farm were lost in indistinguishable ruin. Strolling bands of deserters and robbers herded in the mountain caves, made predatory excursions from their fastness, and in their inhuman collisions and murderous orgies kept up a reign of terror It was once a smiling country, peaceful, prosperous and happy, converted by the fell Moloch of war into a bloody scene of utter desolation. And to these awful horrors, universal and unmitigable, the appalling possibility of starvation was added. No crop could be raised in this hideous time, and charity could not penetrate this wilderness of devastation.

Captain Keith's family lived in this section. He obtained a leave of absence to visit and provide for his people and never returned. The desertion was a surprise to those who knew the high character of the man, but there was allowance to be made for any one in the necessity of protection for a man's family where law was powerless and the red hand of violence was a sovereign ruler. Intelligence from that country was infrequent and obscure, but always of plunder and bloodshed. Men slept in their boots and armed. Of Captain Keith we heard little. He was evidently trying to preserve his safety. He lived in terror of the torch of the incendiary and the pistol of the assassin. How or when he came to his death has never been learned. He was missing from his family, and for weeks his fate was unknown. His friends were in the agony of suspense, fearing the worst. And when the dread certainty was known, it verified the most dreadful anticipation. His body was found in the woods, in a gully, disfigured, maltreated, decaying, barely recognizable. Rachel Stone's curse had been fulfilled to the letter. He had miserably perished, as she had prayed and predicted. He had died like a hunted dog, and met the frightful fate her implacable tongue had invoked upon him — a wretched, terror-stricken, lonely, murdered outcast.—*Col. J. W. Avery, in Cincinnati Enquirer.*

A New Scheme Employed by Sharpers to Get the Farmer's Money.

Some people never profit by the experience of others, while many seldom value their own experience. This is true of individuals living in the city as well as in the country, and no amount of advice or warning seems to do any good. Yet it does seem that farmers have been swindled by impostors too many times to ever listen to a stranger again, however smooth they may talk or whatever apparently tempting bargains they may hold out as a bait; or even to sign notes, orders or receipts presented by persons unknown and representing unknown business firms. Seldom a week passes that some farmer is not called upon to pay money on a note for which he has never had value received. To be sure much of this is due to the fact that a majority of the farmers swindled do not take a paper or keep posted on what is going on in the world. Another class who are swindled by dishonest people, are those who are always suspicious of the man they have always dealt with, or seem to think that men who are in business in their midst—are making money too fast, are so blinded by prejudice that they do not see the point of the hook under the bait. During these days of active competition, no dealer can long carry on a dishonest or grab business, and are generally worthy of patronage and trust. They never ask any thing but straight-forward business transactions, and deliver wares or goods before asking for money or payment in advance. If farmers will remember this, and give itinerate dealers a wide berth, they will never have occasion to regret their own folly.

A new swindle is being practiced by a class of sharks in the rural districts, of which the following, from the Sigourney *News*, will give our readers a general idea of the modus operandi:

"The swindling grocery sellers have struck this country in their rounds. W. Bristow gave an order for $2.22 worth, and it turned up in the shape of a note for $150. The note was sent to the First National Bank here from a Clinton bank. We understand nine notes were sent to Washington from the same place and the same amounts, $150. These swindlers and others of the same kind have been blown up in the papers for the last year, and people should not be caught by them. They reported to the Clinton bank the notes were taken for fence wire. They have an order book with a rubber band around the middle of it, the order is above the band, and the name is taken below the band. When the band is taken off, it shows the paper they sign is a note for $150. One hundred and fifty is printed across the note in large bold type, also $150 is printed in figures on the upper left hand corner of the note. Again we say buy of home men and let these traveling bummers go, for if you don't you will get caught. These gentlemen report they are selling goods bought cheap, and say the merchants are making 100 per cent. on the goods. Don't believe any such stuff. We are indebted to Mr. Keck, of the First National Bank, for information of the workings of these fellows."—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

—At Greenville, Me., a short time ago, a Mr. Tyler was hauling wood down a hill through a field, the road being directly opposite Albert Mansell's house, and one morning, the road being very icy, his team got away from him. In running down the hill, the oxen cleared themselves from the sled, which went by them and struck Mr. Mansell's house, thrusting the tongue of the sled through the side of it, and demolishing a bed on which a child was asleep, and knocking over a stove. Fortunately there was no one hurt.

—Milwaukee thought she had a real Count at one of her hotels, but when he was questioned down fine he turned out to be a man who had made $600 at the clothes-cleaning business in Chicago.

—In round numbers, twelve million, or one-third of the French people, live in cities and towns. In the United States the population is one-fifth, and is rapidly increasing.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

The following are the appointments made by Bishop Foster at the thirty-third session of the Missouri Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held at Trenton from the 24th to the 29th inst:

Hannibal District—John Gillies, Presiding Elder.—Hannibal, Broadway, W. J. Martindale; Hannibal, Hope, Sr., J. S. Wilson; Louisiana, T. J. Ferril; Bowling Green, T. J. Enyart; Perry, A. H. Ketrow; Mexico, T. J. Wheat; Mexico Circuit, J. W. Anderson; New Florida and Jonesberry, Samuel Taylor; Middlestown, R. L. Thompson; Shelbyville and Shelbina, D. B. Dorsey; Clarence, H. C. Robins; Moberly, H. C. Dayhoff; Glasgow, to be supplied; Sharpsburg Circuit, to be supplied; Burnswick, E. Lytle.

Kirksville District—J. H. Turner, Presiding Elder.—Kirksville, J. J. Bently; Kirksville Circuit, F. W. Green; Memphis, O. Deshter; Memphis Circuit, B. F. Stauber; South Memphis Circuit, J. S. Ware; Endina, none; Novelty, N. M. Enyart; Newark, W. R. Enyart; Canton and La Grange, M. H. Butler; Kahoka and Athens, W. F. Freeland; Lancaster and Glenwood, J. C. Horn; Williamstown, to be supplied; LeRoy, W. M. Brown; Queen City, E. B. Cater; Brasher, S. Caruthers.

Brookfield District—John Mesner, Presiding Elder.—Brookfield, H. B. Seeley; Laclede, J. H. Poland; Laclede Circuit, H. B. Barnes; Browning's, K. Nupp; Rothville, to be supplied; St. Catherine's, to be supplied; Macon, G. S. Stocking; Macon Circuit, W. Walcott; Kidville, A. C. Cluster; Unionville, S. F. McNeely; St. John, J. Cavitt; Sticklerville, B. F. Warner; Wintersville, W. Stanner; Milan, O. Taylor.

Chillicothe District—J. S. Barwick, Presiding Elder.—Chillicothe, M. L. Curl; Chillicothe Circuit, T. P. Hales; Breckenridge, James Allen; Hamilton, W. H. Welton; Kidder, Charles Balson; Cameron, J. H. Cox; Marysville, W. W. Clayton; Stewartsville and Turney, C. Rozzelle; Plattsburg, C. S. Cooper; Utica and Proctorville, T. B. Bratton; Black Oak, to be supplied; Carrollton and Norborne, C. H. John; C. and N. Circuit, W. R. Ely; Bridge Creek, W. Sellers; Avalon, W. H. Bassett; Kingston, Thomas J. Evans; Ridgely, J. M. Pate; King City, S. N. Warner.

Trenton District—A. H. Powell, Presiding Elder.—Trenton, J. W. Parker; Princeton, Z. S. Weller; Ravenna, to be supplied; Lindley, A. Taylor; Spickardsville, W. C. Reuter; Edinburg, J. W. Bove; Mt. Moriah, S. G. Anderson; Cainsville, Calvin Allen; Bethany, J. G. Thompson; Bethany Circuit, R. R. Witten; Eagleville, E. J. King; Albany, T. A. Canady; Martinsville, Isaac Chivangton; Grant City, L. V. Ismond; Gentryville, W. B. Moody; Winston, O. Bonner; Stanberry, H. L. Powers.

St. Joseph District—John Wayman, Presiding Elder.—St. Joseph, Fifth Street, J. M. Green; St. Joseph Circuit, J. T. Boyle; Savannah, O. S. Middleton; Filmore, W. Cowley; Graham, S. H. Enyart; Oregon, G. A. Showalter; Monroe City, Isaac S. Hall; Burr Oak, W. A. Vangundy; Rockport, D. B. Lake; Center Point Circuit, to be supplied; Phelps City, H. O. Longley; Maryville, J. R. Lasson; Burlington Junction, W. L. Edmonds; Hopkins, John Morehead; Pickering, E. V. Root; Quitman, Erie Edmonds; Hazel Grove, J. W. Huston; Barnard, Robert Devlin; Emporia, to be supplied; Amazonia, to be supplied.

North Missouri District—Alexander Hubbard, Presiding Elder.—Louisiana, W. H. H. Brown; Louisiana Circuit, to be supplied; O'Fallon, J. A. Lee; Warrenton, none; Montgomery City, L. N. Taylor; Danville, L. J. Jackson; Mexico, John J. Clark; Fulton Circuit, A. Cato; Glasgow, John Jefries; Forest Green, John Tate; Fayette, A. Durton; East Fayette, Geo. Reeves; Coulmbia, to be supplied: North Fayette, P. Wright; J. C. Hale, President of Glasgow College and member of O. C.; N. H. Gale, Missinaroy to New Mexico.

Clerks and others interested in costs in criminal cases may be profited by reading the following opinion from the Attorney-General on the proper construction of Section 2,100 Revised Statutes.

MARCH 29.

Hon. Thos. Holladay, State Auditor—SIR: Replying to yours of the 27th inst., asking my opinion in relation to the proper construction to be placed on Section 2,100, page 346, Revised Statutes, 1879, I will state that under said section if a party charged with a crime is discharged upon his preliminary examination, the costs are to be paid by the person upon whose oath the prosecution is instituted, unless the Justice shall certify that there was probable cause for such prosecution; and if the party accused is discharged by the Grand Jury, the party making the accusation is liable for such costs, unless the Grand Jury make a like certificate. If such certificates are properly made the State is liable for the costs. But the forum discharging the prisoner is the only one that can certify the facts. In other words, if the Grand Jury discharge a person they alone have the power to certify to the state of facts which will render the State liable for the costs, and vica versa. If a Grand Jury discharge a party by ignoring a bill against him, under the statute the party causing the pro-ecution is, ipso facto, made liable for the costs, unless they make the certificate above indicated. But such Grand Jury alone can make this certificate in such a case. It can not be made by the Justice before whom the preliminary examination is had. Unless, therefore, this certificate of the Grand Jury appear to have been made, the State is not liable for the costs in any case where the accused has been discharged by such Grand Jury. Very respectfully,

J. L. SMITH,
Attorney-General.

A man named Stanley committed suicide at Missouri City the evening of the 29th. He was aboard a freight-train, which stopped there to let the west-bound passenger-train of the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific pass. While waiting he got up, laid his pocket-book on the seat, went out and threw himself in the river. No reason was alleged.

A negro named Andrew Edwards, in grappling for a lost bucket in an old well at Sedalia on the 30th, found a white baby, evidently thrown there by some woman to hide her shame. It had been in the well some five or six weeks. There was no clew to the unnatural mother.

Wm. Gentry, aged fourteen years, was killed at Kansas City on the 29th while crossing a railroad track between two freight-cars. The cars were suddenly shoved together, and his head was crushed between the drawheads.

In a fight between two colored men at Georgetown on the 28th, one of them, named John Shephard, shot and fatally wounded the other, Jim Finley. Shephard subsequently fled.

A young man named Charles Rate was killed at Easton, on the 28th, in attempting to board a train in motion.

Philip Diebold, commonly known as "Swiss Phil," committed suicide at St. Louis on the 29th by shooting himself in the head with a pistol.

There was a grand jubilee at St. Joseph on the 30th, including a procession fou miles long, in celebration of the completion of the State Lunatic Asylum, which was finished on the 27th; the addition of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Missouri Pacific, and the additions and extensions to the St. Joe and Western Railroad; the passage of the Water-works Ordinance; the opening of the new hotel, the Pacific House, and the general building boom which has swept over the city like a tidal wave.

Ed. McKee was killed near Hardin on the 31st by the accidental discharge of a gun.

There are no less than eighteen persons in the St. Louis Jail charged with the crime of murder.

—Hugh Barclay, of Russellville, Ky., who some weeks ago, received a stroke of paralysis, conducts his business as president of a bank by means of selecting letters on an alphabet prepared for the purpose. So long as his strength lasts, he points to the letters by moving his finger, and when unable to raise it so as to point correctly, the alphabet is called over to him, and by means of the eye he denotes the right letters, and thereby spells out the words he would speak. He has transacted both private and bank business by this process, and has made his will and arranged his affairs generally.

FASHIONS FOR WOMEN.

What Well Dressed Ladies are Expected to Wear the Coming Season.

DRESSY COSTUMES FOR SPRING.

Dressy costumes for street wear during the spring and early summer are made with a fancifully cut surtout, or redingote, as it is also called, and a full short skirt bordered with a heavy thick ruche, or else a cluster of narrow plaitings. The idea in such costumes seems to be that of dispensing with all drapery, and giving the desired roundness by the fullness of the skirt, also by the richness of the material used in the skirt. The fancy for Directoire styles has brought this undraped toilette into fashion, and it has also contributed the exaggerated revers collar and pockets which belong to the Directoire costumes. Brocade is chosen for the long coat, and either plain satin, silk of heavy quality, satin de Lyon, or velvet for the skirt. Black Directoire suits are very stylish, with facings of satin, either red, cream-color, or heliotrope, showing on the coat. Single-breasted coats have the wide notched Directoire collar set on, while those with double breast have it cut as part of the coat. The seam at the waist line, with the pockets set there, is used to give a short-waisted appearance. The back is made of the two middle forms, and a short side body on each side beginning in the armhole. Below the waist line the seams are left open, and the skirts are lined with colored twilled silk, or else satin; this gives four straight hanging pieces of the coat skirt. Two large buttons of enamel or of bronze, or else painted pearl, define the waist in the middle seams of the back, and under these buttons the waist line seam begins, as the middle back forms are the only ones that are continuous. The skirt has four straight breadths, and a single gored breadth, which is in front. The width at the bottom is about four yards. Sometimes linings, and indeed weights, are added to these skirts; but this is superfluous, as most ladies take great comfort in the slight weight of these new costumes, and also in the fact that fifteen yards are now sufficient, when formerly from twenty to twenty-five were required. A broad band of brocade will serve for trimming at the bottom, or, when economy is the first requisite, the skirt may be left quite plain; but there is a much prettier effect given when a wide ruche or cluster of three or four fine knife plaitings borders the skirt. A black brocaded satin surtout, lined with lavender satin, and worn over a full skirt of plain satin de Lyon, makes a very rich costume for the street. Dark green brocade is very handsome faced with cream or old gold, or else with red satin, and a plaiting of red satin is then placed around the foot of the green skirt by way of "illumination." Beaded cords, with passementerie spikes rather than tassels at the end, are draped around the hips to hang in front or on the left side. Sometimes a beaded fabric is used for the Directoire collar, cuffs, and pocket flaps of plain black satin coats.

Ladies who object to surtout suits because they are not used in the house, as many short dresses now are, have brocaded skirted coats of medium length, with plain silk or satin de Lyon skirts trimmed with brocade like the coat. Lengthwise trimmings of brocade are considered most effective, such as an entire front breadth cut out in forked tongues at the lower edge, and made to rest there at the foot upon two or three fine knife-plaitings, which are also continued across the side gores, and sometimes all around the skirt. A brocaded panel revers on each side gore, showing facings of satin its whole length, is another design for trimming such skirts; the front breadth is then wrinkled slightly, and the back is covered by two straight breadths shirred in clusters, or at most very irregularly draped; for stout ladies two and a half or indeed three full breadths are sometimes worn, hanging straight and plain in the back, with very deep shirring on the tournure. Apron effects, shirred scarfs, and moderate paniers are, however, still used by those to whom they are becoming, and they will remain popular during the summer because they are so well adapted to grenadines, fine buntings, and other transparent fabrics. The Tallien over-skirt, open up the left side, and scarfs that hang in Oriental style down the left side, where they end in tassels, are favorite designs for such drapings.

SPRING BONNETS.

The turbans for spring are either round hats or bonnets, according to the presence or absence of strings, and are worn in French fashion further back on the head than has been customary here. A chip or Tuscan braid crown with a puff of heliotrope satin for the brim is one of the simple and stylish illustrations of this hat, while a still plainer yet very dressy style has the brim turned up closely around the crown, plainly covered with pale gray velvet, some velvet folds higher up, and two or three curved ostrich tips nodding outward and backward from the crown. This hat is set back on the head, leaving the profile in relief, and showing the thick tresses that are now curled on the forehead; this is far more effective than when the turban is drawn down over the forehead almost to the eyebrows. Black chip turbans are trimmed with black grenadine that has velvet polka dots; a long gold-headed pin is thrust through one side, and there is a large satin bow behind, also two black ostrich tips.

The heliotrope colors that promise to be chosen by refined tastes are now brought out in India muslins to be used for bonnet trimmings; this muslin is edged with very yellow Languedoc lace, and used with yellow flowers, such as jonquils, narcissus, or roses. Feathers will be very much used on large summer bonnets that will be worn at the watering-places; for small bonnets flowers will be preferred. While Parisiennes wear turbans further back than Americans do, they reverse this with all other shapes, especially with small cottage bonnets, and thus they dispense with all face trimming. Lace drooping over the edge of the close brim and falling on the hair is popular, because it is becoming to all faces; the Spanish lace and the Breton laces are most used in this way. Black Spanish lace bonnets will doubtless be the favorite of the spring, as they have been worn for dressy occasions all winter. For the demi-season ostrich tips will be used to enliven them, while flowers will be worn on them all through the summer. For full-dress afternoon receptions white lace bonnets with pearl and opal ornaments are now most in favor. Fine filigree gilt ornaments, and silver lace as fine as the new gilt laces, are shown at late openings of millinery. Strings of doubled tapestry silk edged with lace, either gilt or Languedoc, are tied in a great bow low behind the left ear. Hankerchiefs of red or cream-colored twilled silk, embroidered, are used as crowns of Tuscan straw bonnets, and red or yellow plumes complete the trimming. Scarlet, peacock blue, or old gold velvet is used by some Paris milliners for facing the brim of Tuscan bonnets; a broad gold braid band or else lace is laid on the edge. The gilt laces in narrow edgings, and also quite wide, imitate torchon and Mechlin patterns, and are of very fine threads. New black net for bonnets has gilt threads outlining diamonds all through it, and is called Eugenie net, while square-meshed nets entirely of gilt threads are shown for trimmings. Laces in Turkey red colors are new, and this offers a suggestion to ladies who have creamy laces of the kind formerly called cashmere lace, as it can be dyed prettily for trimming oil calicoes or foulard silks. Gaze pearl is another novelty in black net, as it is tulle strewn with iridescent bits, or else the yellow pearls now so fashionable are used for beading it; this is to be used for making the bonnet, while lace edging will trim it. Hand-painted lace is very expensive, yet it is also pressed into service for trimming black net bonnets. Dark yellow, red, and salmon are used on black hats, while heliotrope, pink, Isabelle yellow and cream are the colors for light bonnets. Blue will be less used than it has been of late, though occasionally very pale peacock blue is associated with gilt, especially in the soft Persian silks used to trim fine chip or ecru braid bonnets. Four or five feather tips curling over the brim toward the front then represent each shade in the Persian silk. Coarse Swiss straw scoop bonnets of large size are colored gray and brown, and will be used in the country for common wear.

PARASOLS.

New parasols for spring and summer are of medium size, with ribs eighteen inches in length. There are only twelve of these ribs, instead of sixteen, the number used last year; and instead of being gilded, they are painted red, and are placed outside the lining, where they are displayed conspicuously. The parasols are not in canopy shape, yet are not nearly so flat as the Japanese shapes used last summer. The lining follows the outside silk, and is between it and the red ribs. The novelty is to have a wide border on the linings; sometimes the border is sewed on, and sometimes it is woven in. Changeable silks are much used for linings, especially in mixtures of yellow and red that are called sunset silks. Red silk linings are perhaps more used than any other color, and the border may be a striped band, or else in cashmere colors and designs. A ring is tied to the top of the parasol, and this is pushed down upon it when it is closed, to hold in place. A ball tassel is also a new ornament, which is tied to the outside by a string. Some have rosettes of narrow ribbon tied near the top, and again on the handle, and some very fanciful parasols have a bunch of artificial flowers fastened on one gore.

Levantine (which is soft twilled silk), lustrous satin, brocaded silk, satin foulard, ecru pongee, are the fabrics most used for the outside of parasols. Spanish lace, both black and white, cashmere lace of many colors, and fringes, are the trimmings; chenille fringe and the curled tape fringes are most effective. Natural sticks of light woods are used for handles, such as the English oak, which has green shades on its pale ecru colors. Weichsel sticks are also much used. The knobs or crooks at the end are of Longwy faience, or of cloisonne enamel, with bands to match, or else of Dresden china. Lady-bugs, flies, and bees of most natural colors are stuck about on the oaken handles, and sometimes a cloisonne band is around it, while other sticks of pimento wood have green leaves carved in relief as a vine around the handle; again, an owl's head of ivory or of Siamese horn forms the knob, or perhaps there is a crook of rhinoceros horn or of coral. Dressy white parasols of brocaded silk are edged with white Spanish lace, have red ribs over a white lining, and the stick is of pimento. Black levantine or else brocaded satin parasols are very handsome when edged with cashmere lace, showing red, yellow, and olive threads, and lined with scarlet or else with sunset yellow. Other black parasols have black Spanish lace on the edge and white lining. Embroidery in the long India stitches and gay colors enriches black and ecru parasols. For gay dressing the satin foulards in India colors are used to cover the parasol; these will replace the red parasols worn two summers ago. Hand-painted parasols have a large cluster of foliage or of flowers covering one gore, with a slender vine shooting out from it and partly bordering the other gores. The handkerchief parasols are shown again, also those of plain Scotch gingham, either bright red or peacock blue, with a cashmere border on the edge.—*Harper's Bazar.*

Conversion of Cane Sugar into Grape Sugar in Cooking.

At a sanitary convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, recently, the President of the State Board of Health called attention to a bad practice among cooks, by which cane sugar is converted into grape sugar in cooking, thereby losing more than half of its sweetening power. Some women, he said, will put the sugar in with a mass of acid fruit to be cooked, and keep cooking and keep adding sugar while it keeps on growing sourer, until at last they will use two and a half times as much sugar as they ought to secure the desired result. The cane sugar has been changed to grape sugar. Now, if the sugar had been added after the fruit was cooked, much less would have been required, and the result would have been far more satisfactory.

—One or two clam shells, kept in the tea-kettle, will prevent the lime from forming on the sides of the kettle.