

FIRST FEMININE STATION MASTER.

Kentucky Girl Has Proved Woman's Fitness for Railroad Work.

WAS APPOINTED AT TWENTY.

Though a College Graduate, She Preferred Business to Teaching.

The Southern woman is rapidly becoming as "new" as her Northern sister. In some respects, she is more original in her choice of occupations than the woman of the North, who is gradually growing into conventional modes of livelihood just as she formerly took it for granted that her only aims in life were marriage and housekeeping. In the South, however, where there are not so many "positions" open to women, those who are reduced in circumstances take the first opportunity which offers itself, and pretty generally make a success of it.

Miss Susie M. Lasley of Rowland, Ky., is one of this type. She belongs to a proud Southern family which is one of the traditional "F. V.'s"—her mother having come from Virginia. Her occupation is unique, so far as members of the feminine persuasion are concerned. She is the first fully equipped, officially authorized, and legally bonded station agent among women, which is one of the traditional "F. V.'s"—her mother having come from Virginia. Her occupation is unique, so far as members of the feminine persuasion are concerned. She is the first fully equipped, officially authorized, and legally bonded station agent among women, which is one of the traditional "F. V.'s"—her mother having come from Virginia.

At eighteen, she graduated with the degree of A. B. from South Kentucky College at Hopkinsville, and soon secured a position as assistant to her brother, who held the agency which the young women herself now fills. Then, when the brother went off travelling in Central America and his successor suddenly died, Miss Lasley, who had meantime been keeping her eyes open and learning all that was to be known about a railroad station, was called to fill the position.

"As to the ability of a woman to fill such a position," says Miss Lasley, "I quote the comment of the officials who said at the close of the year, 'Your service has been altogether satisfactory.'"

"The requirements," she goes on to say, "are a good general education, with quickness and accuracy in mathematics. One must be able, instantly, to tell the per cent, according to the particular railroad company to which one belongs from a shipment of live stock to Liverpool, England, and at the same time be able to compute and furnish ten cents worth of riding material to the backwoodsman at the ticket window."

"The characteristics demanded are a good memory, quick judgment, and self-reliance, combined with that rare, but saving grace, good temper. My experience has proven that the place can be successfully filled by a woman, demanding no more of those small courtesies from the opposite sex than any other position. I find the work pleasant and interesting, and devoid of the monotonous routine that



Susie M. Lasley of Rowland, Ky., College Graduate and Station Agent.

characterizes so much of the allotted woman's work. My home is one mile distant, and whenever the weather does not positively prevent it, I ride a wheel to and from the station. I believe that clerical railroad work, though as yet an untried field for women, is a most interesting and congenial occupation, and girls who are looking about for a means of livelihood would do well to take it into consideration."

Copyright, 1898, by Bacheller Syndicate.

Flower Bath for Women.

One of the latest whims of women who can afford to indulge their whims is the flower bath. It is claimed that

there is nothing like it for strengthening the muscles of the neck, shoulders and arms. This is the way the baths are taken. Suppose a girl wishes to take a rose bath. She puts a quantity of rose petals into a bag and pours a quantity of boiling water sufficient to cover the bag over it. The water is allowed to boil hard for ten minutes. It is then allowed to cool, and is poured into the bathtub, which must be half full of blood-warm water. The bath lies quietly in this for fifteen or twenty minutes and suspends the thinking process as well as she possibly can. It is alleged that the treatment, if persisted in two or three times a week, will put the body in a healthy condition and give a glow and softness to the skin. Its fragrance makes it delightful. Crushed violets, cat straw and pine needles can be substituted for rose leaves, and all are prepared in the same way.

MILITARY GIRDLE

Made of Buttons From Soldiers' Uniforms--Peacock and Cameo Belts.

If you want to proclaim yourself as belonging to the "army and navy set," and therefore in a very gay social swim, you must wear a military belt, which is not, as its name might indicate, a ponderous leather and gold affair, patterned after the kind belonging to soldiers' uniforms. It is indeed, the product of much devastation of those uniforms, but the articles plundered are not the belts, but the buttons.

Every fair damsel who has military friends smiles upon one after another until she has persuaded each to donate his regimentals in order to bestow upon her the one favor which she asks above all others, a pretty brass button from the front of his coat. In vain he offers to bring her one the next time he sees her; she will have none of his promises, but will snip the button off herself before he escapes her. In rare cases, an officer gets off by promising to bring her a half dozen or so, for of course that would lessen her labor and shorten the time before the necessary materials for the belt were collected. Having obtained a couple of dozen of these buttons, she lies her to a jeweler, who fastens tiny links to the edges of the buttons and connects them with chains until sufficient girth is reached to encircle her presumably slender waist. A diamond shaped buckle is then formed of the rest of the buttons, and the belt is complete—unless there should happen to be a few of the military souvenirs left, in which case they may be used for a chatelaine.

The belt next in favor is designed to represent a circlet of peacock feathers. The feather part is dark, oxidized silver, and the "eyes" are made of a purple enamel that glitters like amethyst. Such a girdle costs twenty-five dollars, but it is a great favorite with the swaggar New Yorker, notwithstanding the superstition that peacock feathers are the pluma of ill omen.

In general, belts average about two inches wide, and the newest ones are made of an succession of round or square pieces linked together over an inner belt of silk—usually grey, to match the silver. This introduction of a silk lining into the composition of a metal belt is a new idea designed to protect the dress from the constant friction of sharp, or at least, hard points with delicate material.

Another innovation has the same merits to recommend it as a certain well-known health corset which has been on the market for many years. It is the belt with a spiral wire arrangement that stretches in accordance with the movements of the body, allowing free breathing and reasonable exercise. Young women who contemplate a

SOCIAL PUFFS FOR DEBUTANTES.

Value of Luncheons And Dinners in Their Honor Reckoned at So Much Per Line in Case of Ordinary Commodities--College Girls' Plans for Junior Promenades.



In Orange and Black for a Princeton Ball.

From a social point of view, the months of January and February are to winter what July and August are to summer, the chief differences between the two pairs of gala months being in the motive for each. The winter pair is almost wholly devoted to the society mother to the social interests of her daughter—at once, as a production into society, or a promoter of interest in some new kind of soap. The fact is, the debutante requires advertising quite as much as any commercial commodity, and though it must all be done in a delicate sort of way, it is none the less a piece of high-art advertisement through the columns of the newspapers.

Just now is the most critical moment in many an anxious mamma's whole year. Most of the debutantes of the season have been brought out, but the problem of keeping up social interest in those same buds is as difficult to solve as that of any advance agent for a coming sourette, or a promoter of interest in some new kind of soap. The fact is, the debutante requires advertising quite as much as any commercial commodity, and though it must all be done in a delicate sort of way, it is none the less a piece of high-art advertisement through the columns of the newspapers.

This is the damsel who will grace the various "Junior Proms," which take place at different times from now until June. Princeton will follow Yale's brilliant lead this week with its Junior ball, to be given at the Casino next Friday, February 11. Mrs. Grover Cleveland is among the patronesses, a distinction which "old Nassau" enjoys over other colleges as a result of proximity to the home of the ex-president's family, as well as to the interest which the latter have always shown in the welfare of the institution. Naturally, every young woman who expects to go in a flutter of excitement over the affair, and the thoroughfares leading to the principal New York shops have been profitably traversed by such of the pretty Jersey girls who are so fortunate as to have admirers among the Princeton men. There are plenty of New York and Philadelphia girls who "expect to visit relatives or friends at that very time," within driving distance of the Casino, which is the scene of the

ball, and many a new gown will receive its first airing there. One exquisite little dress which is especially designed for the occasion is done in the Princeton colors, at the same time carrying out one of the latest fancies in evening costumery. The new fancy is to drape a thin white silk over a modestly dark shade of taffeta. The taffeta in this case is, of course, orange, and the gauze overdress is white with edges of narrow, black velvet ribbon. The foundation skirt has a pleated flounce around the bottom about fourteen inches wide. Black gloves for evening are the inevitable sash with its long ends is a perfect billow of pleated flounces running up the edges and across in zig-zag fashion. The slippers to go with this gown are orange satin, with black beadings, and the gloves are black. Black gloves for evening are the inevitable sash with its long ends is a perfect billow of pleated flounces running up the edges and across in zig-zag fashion. The slippers to go with this gown are orange satin, with black beadings, and the gloves are black.

Among them all, however, there is none who so thoroughly enjoys herself, and who so materially contributes to the enjoyment of her associates, as does the college girl, which term may be broadened to include the girl who comes under the influence of the college environment—in short, the college man's girl, who comes in for all the fun attendant upon college life. That this girl is the most interesting of all the various types of the season may be assumed from the fact that she finds favor in the eyes of the college man, for this youthful embodiment of independence is bound by no considerations of wealth or birth in the choice of her whom he is pleased to regard as his "best girl."

Black enters into the composition of a great many of the evening gowns one sees at the opera. The fearless woman with confidence in her figure appears in black velvet cut very décolleté, and unrelieved except for the gleaming string of diamonds at the top of the corsage. She also wears black gloves which stop at the elbow, if her arm is pretty, or reach several inches above in other cases. The glove that covers all but the upper four inches of the arm is again in favor, and there is only the tiniest bit of a puff for the dress sleeve at the shoulder. One of the box favorites who wore black velvet, the other night at the performance of the Meistersinger, had the beginnings of tight sleeves at the shoulder in place of puffs. The effect was startling as evincing a return to the positively un-

comfortable, tight sleeve of seven years ago. One young girl in rose pink had a tiny sleeve cap of mousseline gathered around the top of her arm. The smallest bit of trimming at the top of the arm is sufficient sleeve, unless one wants to wear a long one reaching to the wrist. This sleeve is being introduced into the new summer evening dresses which are already on sale in the large shops. The style will be found extremely convenient for summer hops which are usually more or less informal, and a dress so made can easily be converted into an afternoon gown after its first freshness has worn off.

The evening gowns on exhibition are characterized by the yards upon yards of satin ribbon that are sewed in rows around gauze flounces and above them on the body of the skirt, and then above that, on the bodice itself. The sleeves also have the same trimming. The ribbon is not the "baby" variety, but is about a quarter of an inch wide. Pink mousseline or organdy trimmed in this manner makes a beautiful dress, and, the principal elements in its composition being time and patience, the average girl can easily make it herself. Finally, no evening costume, however beautiful, is complete without a flower, feather, ribbon, or aigrette in the hair. Young girls wear a ribbon or flower set low on the hair. Matrons prefer a high aigrette or feather. ANNE LAURIE WOODS. Copyright, 1898, by Bacheller Syndicate.

One of the most devoted workers in the cause of women is Mrs. Margaret W. Campbell of Des Moines, Ia., who is now 70 years old, but still very active. She was born in Maine, and came to Iowa a great many years ago. Her husband was an artist, and was also an ardent suffragist. When Colorado was about to be organized as a state Mr. and Mrs. Campbell dropped all other business and went to the territory to work for woman suffrage, hoping to get it into the new state constitution. They travelled all over the state, undergoing all manner of hardships and privations, climbing over mountains on burros, riding in rough wagons, visiting pioneers in their homes in all parts of the new and wild country. They did not succeed then, but they planted the seed which afterward ripened into the full right of suffrage now enjoyed by Colorado women. The constitution was so framed that the question might be submitted to the popular vote, and when it was submitted Mrs. Campbell for years travelled from Maine to California, putting in most of her time for the equal suffrage cause. For many years she was Lucy Stone's "right-hand man."

Two young women named Kenway who live in Killekital county, Washington, have turned a neat bit of money as the reward of possessing business sense and being staunch republicans. The New York Sun says that when McKinley was elected they rejoiced greatly, and being sure that a few months more would see a protective tariff in operation, and wool bringing high prices, they got together \$1,840, and last spring bought a flock of sheep. Then they hired a sheep-herder, and sent their flock off to the hills to graze on free grass during the summer, planning to sell their newly acquired live stock before the winter should make necessary expensive care and feeding. As the summer waned they began to look about for purchasers. They made three separate sales, receiving for the sheep a total of \$7,480. They disposed of the last sheep before the cold and wet winter weather began, and netted on the

whole enterprise \$5,000. That is, they trebled their money in a little more than six months. Which proves that the modern Bo-Peep is a much wiser person than she was in Mother Goose's time.

Photographs By An Empress. The Empress of Austria possesses a collection of photographs taken by herself during her travels of the last nine years. They consist of portraits of all the beautiful women and girls whom her majesty has seen, a great number of them being Italians and French. Attached to each photograph is a paper, on which is written the name, age and description of the lady depicted, together with the date on which the portrait was taken and the place.

A WOMAN ASPIRES TO A CONSULATE.

Diplomatic Qualities Not Necessarily Masculine, Says Cora C. Weed.

SWITZERLAND HER CHOICE. Has a Large Endorsement Among Iowa Politicians of Influence.

We cannot "all be teachers and stenographers nor even 'lady newspaper men.'" Some can be doctors, some nurses, and others can enter matrimonial bonds. "For my part, I propose to be consul, if I can get appointed," says the voice of the advanced woman from the West. And she is saying it pretty loudly, too. If the experience of Mrs. Cora C. Weed of Muscatine, Iowa, can be taken as an indication of the trend of public sentiment.

"There is nothing," says Mrs. Weed, "in the requirements for a consulate which prevent a woman from filling the position as well as a man. In fact, the average man who is appointed consul has no special qualifications for the office. He does not even bother himself to learn the language of the country to which he is appointed. And as for training to diplomatic service that is out of the question until one is sure of the office."

"The qualifications which should be required are a thorough acquaintance with different languages, more especially the one spoken in the country to which one aspires to be consul, as well as some knowledge of the customs of various countries acquired by a certain amount of travel."

Mrs. Weed lives in a house beautifully situated at the top of a bluff overlooking the Mississippi river. It is well named "Erie," suggesting the eagle's nest from its lofty height. This brilliant woman who aspires to fill a position never yet bestowed upon any of her sex, is one of the most influential politicians in Iowa. The women of Iowa are not yet allowed to vote, but they are said to wield more political power than the women of any other state in the country, perhaps excepting Kansas. Mrs. Weed is an accomplished linguist, thoroughly educated and broadened by travel, and "as to the grounds upon which I hope to succeed," says this feminine aspirant to a consulate, "I refer, with pleasure, to my extensive endorsement among men of influence and political power."

Mrs. Weed's preferences as to locality lie between Germany and Switzerland. "These two countries," she says, "are attractive for many reasons to the consulate seeker. Their people are more congenial to Americans than those of other European nationalities, and life there would be more nearly like that to which they are accustomed at home."

"It is my belief that the time is ripe for the recognition of woman in the field of representative public service, and upon this belief, as well as upon the hearty support of political friends,

Far-Seeing Young Women. Two young women named Kenway who live in Killekital county, Washington, have turned a neat bit of money as the reward of possessing business sense and being staunch republicans. The New York Sun says that when McKinley was elected they rejoiced greatly, and being sure that a few months more would see a protective tariff in operation, and wool bringing high prices, they got together \$1,840, and last spring bought a flock of sheep. Then they hired a sheep-herder, and sent their flock off to the hills to graze on free grass during the summer, planning to sell their newly acquired live stock before the winter should make necessary expensive care and feeding. As the summer waned they began to look about for purchasers. They made three separate sales, receiving for the sheep a total of \$7,480. They disposed of the last sheep before the cold and wet winter weather began, and netted on the

whole enterprise \$5,000. That is, they trebled their money in a little more than six months. Which proves that the modern Bo-Peep is a much wiser person than she was in Mother Goose's time.

Photographs By An Empress. The Empress of Austria possesses a collection of photographs taken by herself during her travels of the last nine years. They consist of portraits of all the beautiful women and girls whom her majesty has seen, a great number of them being Italians and French. Attached to each photograph is a paper, on which is written the name, age and description of the lady depicted, together with the date on which the portrait was taken and the place.



Cora C. Weed of Muscatine, Ia., Seeks Appointment as Consul.

I base my hopes of success in obtaining the appointment." Copyright, 1898, by Bacheller Syndicate.

Persian Mourners. The mourners at a Persian funeral wade away their tears with wads of cotton wool or little sponges, which are afterward squeezed into bottles. The tears are preserved as a powerful and efficacious restorative for those whom every other medicine has failed to relieve. This constitutes a most important part of the obsequies of the dead.

Where Women Suffrage Prevails. In South Australia all adults enjoy the rights of franchise, and Mr. Kingston, the prime minister, says that the women appreciate the power and always use it intelligently.