A Positive Little Boy.

A correspondent of The Pall Mall Gazette sends the following lines which are apropos of positivism, now being discussed in English papers:

A little boy went out one night;
The moon had gone out.
The moon had gone out very bright
As he ran round about.
And round and round and roundabout,
And roundabout ran he;
Said he, "I'm running roundabout,
He roundabout I be."

His dead father to glide got,
To guide set began,
And chance still and slower yet
As round about he ran,
And then he says quite dismayed,
Quite dismayed was he,
"My dear mother don't roundabout,
And is it really she?"

WASHINGTON A WIDE AWAKE

Habits and Diversions of the Boy and Man.

BY E. VON KAMANN.

According to tradition, George Washington's youth was not altogether exemplary. As a boy he was froward and slow and showed no promise of the leadership that in late life won him the first honors of his country. It is presumed that when he was about 11 years old his half brother, Lawrence, in common with the rest of the family, began to be troubled about the future of George. He seemed to show no special talent and was given to passing his time in hunting and fishing. To this Widow Washington, a good, sensible woman of the old Virginia type, these seemed unthrifty occupations. On the whole, he presented rather a difficult problem for his friends to solve. A family council was held to decide his future. With his military bent the royal navy seemed to be the only course open. But his mother would not hear of it. She had been struck with terror at the tidings of the death of Thomas Fairfax, who fell during an encounter with M. Bouridoigne, commander of a French squadron on the Indian coast. The naval scheme was abandoned. Shortly after this the 8th Lord Fairfax came from England. He, too, was devoted to hunting and fishing. George and he often met on day long excursions and soon became very close friends. It was by the aid of loans from lord Fairfax that George Washington was able to continue his studies and prepare himself for civil engineering.

HE WAS GIVEN TO HUNTING.

When Washington was but a poor and unimportant surveyor, by no means handsome or distinguished looking, he found his way into the brilliant family circle of Colonel William Carey, a gentleman of great wealth, who lived upon the lower James and fell a prey to the charms of Miss Sally, one of the daughters, then a belle. Sally Carey, afterward Mrs. George William Fairfax, was the leading beauty and toast of Virginia. It is related of her that, passing into the town of Williamsburg late one evening, accompanied by her maid, she was challenged by an imperious sentry. Confused and surprised, she gave her own name. "Pass," said the sentry instantly, and Miss Carey hurried on, unconsciously profiting by the gallantry of the officer who had chosen the password of the night. And this beauty refused the proposal of marriage made to her by George Washington.

In the year 1754 Washington, then lieutenant of the Virginia rangers at Alexandria, supported Mr. Fairfax in an election contest for the house of burgesses against William Payne, afterward colonel of the Continental army. On one of the more occasions when Washington's hot temper got the best of him fierce words passed between the two in the market square at Alexandria. Washington was felled to the earth. The rangers rushed from their barracks and surrounded Payne, but Washington dispersed them. No one knew what the result of such an encounter would be. The next day Washington sent for Payne and said with gentle courtesy, at the same time taking his hand with a hearty grasp: "Mr. Payne, to err is human. I was in the wrong yesterday, but if you have had sufficient satisfaction let us be friends." To the day of his death Payne retained for Washington a devotion and unbroken regard.

WASHINGTON WAS A DANDY.

A marked trait about Washington's character was his fastidiousness in the choice of his clothes. There can be little question that he was early in life a good deal of a dandy and that his ruling for fine feathers never quite left him. Year after year he planned every little detail for his tailor's directions, designating the kind and quality of cloth, the number of buttons and their respective positions, the quantity of gold or silver lace, etc. And yet in 1783 he wrote his nephew, "Do not conceive that fine clothes make fine men more than fine feathers make fine birds."

Washington was very fond of social life. His distinct weaknesses were for afternoon teas and dancing. Numerous entries in his diary vouch for the many afternoons passed in the company of ladies over the tea table. Tea was served formally at headquarters, and at Mount Vernon it was drunk in summer on the veranda. He states that he was fond of dropping in on his friends just as the "little ambling he." When on the frontier, he signed "the intimate compliment are indefinably dull. Neither the rugged toils of war nor the gentler conflicts of Assemblies (balls) is to my choice." He attended balls and "routs" on every occasion. When he was president, he showed himself regularly at the "Thursday assemblies" in New York and Philadelphia, and when at Mount Vernon he frequently rode ten miles to Alexandria to attend balls. He still danced in 1796, when 64 years old, but when, in 1798, he was invited to the Alexandria assembly he wrote the managers:

HE WAS FOND OF DANCING.

Mrs. Washington and myself have been honored with your polite invitation to the assembly of Alexandria this winter and thank you for the book of your signatures. But, alas, our dancing days are no more! We wish, however, all those who have a relish for so agreeable and innocent an amusement all the pleasure the season will afford them, and I am, gentlemen, your humble servant and obliged humble servant.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

THACKERAY'S TRIBUTE.

Words of High Praise From the Cynical English Novelist.

To a wide circle of readers it must be a matter for surprise that Thackeray, the confirmed and ruthless cynic whose caustic pen was turned against friend as well as foe, and held up to ridicule British as well as alien idols, had the grace and fine discrimination to eulogize Washington in the noblest language which a lofty and admiring mind could well collective. The paragraphs here quoted are from Thackeray's famous novel, "The Virginians."

The first tribute is the author's direct overture and is brought out in the course of a pictorial narrative which introduces the Revolutionary period.

"It was strange," he says, "that in a savage forest of Pennsylvania a young Virginia officer should fire a shot and waken up a war which was to last for 10 years, which was to cross the seas, country and pass into Europe, to rear France for American colonies, to save sure Englands at home and create the great western republic, to pass over the old world which extinguished in its

"FIRED THE FIRST SHOT."

new; and of all the myriads engaged in the affair to have the prize of the greatest have with him who fired the first shot!"

The author works out the details of Washington's career in the course of the story and leaves it to two of his characters, George Warrington, an able, high minded Tory, and his brother Harry, a patriot close to Washington, to bear him out in the tribute which stands at the portal of the structure. Speaking of Washington when at the zenith, Warrington the Tory says:

"What a resistance, what a determinate, what a surprising persistency against fortune! Washington before the enemy was no better or braver than hundreds that fought with him or against him (who has not heard the stories against Fabius? in which his fortune captains were accustomed to intrigue, but Washington, the chief of a nation in arms, doing battle with distracted parties; calm in the midst of enterprise, severe against the enemy he before him and the darker enemies at his back; Washington inspiring order and spirit into troops hungry and in rags; strong by moderation, but betraying no anger and ever ready to forgive; in defeat invincible, magnanimous in conquest and never so sublime as when he laid down his victorious sword and sought his noble retirement—here indeed is a character to admire and revere, a life without a stain, a fame without a flaw. Quando invenies parem? (Where will we equal he found?) In that noble extensive work which I have planned and partly written upon the subject of the great war I hope I have done justice to the character of his greatest leader. And this I'll do, the sole force of respect which his contemporaries entertained. With the young Mr. Washington of my own days I had not the honor to enjoy much sympathy, though my brother, whose character is much more frank and cheerfulness than mine, has always his late friend in early youth, when we were little Whigs, it is the better days when the country, as I do you and think, was all America's friends.

"Old friend and honorable friends," continued George Warrington's colonel, "could not in those days compromise with the enemy where he displayed a virtuous resistance, and most congress after honors and dignities and honorable friends in smiling face to the man against whom his spirit had to stand and contend. Who in the Congress was ever and not hundreds could who had conducted it begin to tremble and accuse each other to their own defense before the nation, what charges and recriminations were thrown, what protests of clear were made, what phrases excuses were put forward that you find affixed the life, but prominent patriots on subjects, that these cannot hold, which not if those gone and do to the end of the chapter. Here was a general who had no pay or also at all at times and no money and no money, and he never thought of a conversion. His courage never equivocated. Through all the doubt and darkness, the danger and long despair of war, I think it was only the American leader's indomitable soul that remained entirely steady."

While Washington was being discussed among a company of noted Virginians, Harry Warrington spoke of his bearing in the crisis brought about by the infamous Conway conspiracy.

"And it was here," said he, "as I looked at the wind looking at night in the silence of the camp and remembered how hardly we were, what an awful responsibility he carried, how spies and traitors were coming out of his ranks and an enemy lay in front of him who might at any time overpower him, that I thought: There, this is the greatest man now in the world. And what wretch I am to think of my relations and acquaintances while he is working patiently under his immense cares?"

To this George Warrington the Tory responded: "We talked but now of Wolfe. Here, indeed, is a greater man than Wolfe. To endure is greater than to dare. Who can say this is not greatness or show the other English man who has achieved so much?"

THE CLASS OF FASHION.

Belts with a rather wide fringe sewed on the lower edge are one of the many fads of fashion.

A black panne gown with neat gathers in the skirt on the hips is one of the latest eccentricities.

A rabbit carved in ivory mounted on a black stick banded with gold is one of the novelties in umbrella handles.

Brealine toques are really very dainty if trimmed with black tulle rosettes with a waving black aigrette. A note of color ever so carefully chosen quite ruins the style of this especial hat.

The black satin opera cloak with a round hood and facings of white velvet is one among the many elegant evening wraps. The edges all around are trimmed with white fox, and the high collar is also of fur.

Long coats of velvet, a half fitting loose sack, in shapes without any seam in the middle of the back are one of the specialties in winter garments. Wide bands of stitched panne are the trimming and distinguishing feature in this style of garment.

Separate waists must have some color relation with the skirt. The black skirt with bright colored waists which have no black in their composition is no longer considered swell. For example, a blue and fawn checked silk blouse is very good style with either a fawn or a black cloth skirt, while with black it would be very ordinary.

Nearly every gown has a narrow belt made of stitched satin or taffeta drawn and fastened invisibly in front in the effort to secure the Parisian girdle effect which makes the back appear short and the line over the bust to the waist unnaturally long. It is these details in dress that now distinguish the smart from the dowdy woman.—New York Sun.

THE TROTTING CIRCUIT.

C. M. Jewett, secretary of the Readville track, has a 3-year-old son of Pedlar which he has driven a half in 1:11.

John Kinney has a great 2-year-old filly, by Directum, 2:05¾, at the Penn Valley farm, that has been a mile close to 2:20.

A. E. Perrin, the wagon builder, of Buffalo has bought the pacer Merry Chimes, 2:08½, and will use him to sleigh this winter.

Sir Thomas Lipton is a great admirer of the American trotter and has two pairs of fast mares which he drives to "Yankee" like wagons.

In Avon, Ills., there is a four footed curiosity in the shape of a bluey that stands 29 inches high and weighs 71 pounds. It was sired by a Shetland pony out of a little jennet.

Grattan Boy, 2:08, after a lot up of a year is being prepared for the races at the track at Selma, Ala., by Roy Miller. The stallion was recently worked a mile in 2:30, with a quarter in 35 seconds.

The most expensive and magnificent grand stand in the world is the one just finished on the trotting track of Moscow. It took two years to build and cost the imperial government $500,000.

Senator A. 2:19 seems to have remained into form on the European turf, for at the meeting at Milan recently he defeated Maggie Lass, Miss Sidney, Charming Chimes, Autralo, Dick Miller and Aemon.

Almost as Good.

"Do you believe you will succeed in having your loan deposited?" asked one banker.

"I haven't given much thought to that phase of the question," answered the other. "But I am absolutely confident that we can have the trial postponed often enough to prevent a conviction."—Washington Star.

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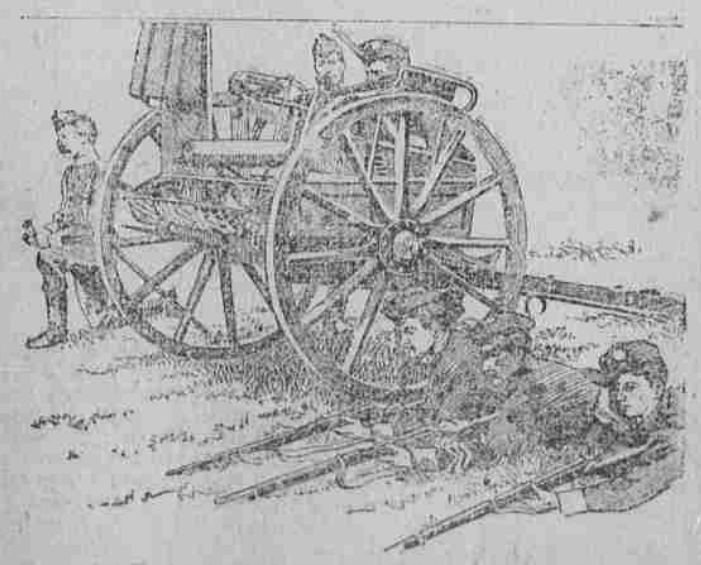
BOER MACHINE GUN DETACHMENT.

The Boers are not very showy soldiers, so far as uniform is concerned, but they shoot well and fight well and are consequently excellent soldiers. The accompanying cut shows a group of them surrounding one of their machine guns.



BRITISH INFANTRY AND MAXIM GUN.

This very timely picture shows a detachment of British infantry supporting the very latest type of Maxim gun. Many of these death dealing machine guns have been taken to Africa by the British, and as the Boers are also supplied with various types of up to date machine guns, the total loss during the present war will doubtless be appalling.