

RUNNING THE GAUNTLET.

A Young American Girl's Foolhardy Feat in St. Petersburg.

A military punishment once prevalent in Europe consisted in compelling the offender to run between two files of men who stood facing each other, and who were privileged to strike him as he passed. The gauntlets upon the men's hands being bullet-proof, of copper or steel, often made the punishment very severe.

Whenever a girl voluntarily places herself in a position to draw forth an unfavorable comment, she may be said to run the gauntlet. Seldom does she escape unscathed.

A few years ago, according to Youth's Companion, an uninitiated American girl, walking in St. Petersburg, wished to pass down a certain street. The gentleman with her objected, saying it would be necessary to pass a certain famous clubhouse where all the diplomatic corps and young gentlemen spent the morning, and that she would not enjoy their silly and often indecent jests.

"Indecent!" was her reply. "I think I can stand these gentlemen. My actions can bear the light; we will not retreat before the enemy."

"As you like," was the vexed reply. The words were hardly uttered before a party of young men, talking loudly and smoking their cigarettes, came striding out of the club. They parted to let the couple pass, indulging meanwhile in bold staring and comments in a language which happily the girl did not understand.

"I said I would do it," she cried exultingly when the two were alone. "Was it not amusing?"

"It is a form of amusement, mademoiselle, which I confess does not commend itself to my taste," was the stiff reply. And the gentleman, who had assiduously sought her friendship hitherto, dropped her acquaintance from that time.

THE POWER OF WATER.

Constantly Working in One Form or Another to Destroy the Land.

A southern engineer contributes an article on "Geology and the Mississippi Problem" to the Engineering Magazine. In it he says:

"We find in water the only tireless agent that works in the modification of continents; and instead of being the great renovator of the land, as it is popularly conceived, it is the great destroyer. The destruction of ancient Rome has been attributed to time. But it was due simply to the moisture of the atmosphere working through chemical agencies. It was water, invisible, but penetrating even the very stones of the wonderful city, that caused her to crumble into ruins, and gave to modern Rome a grade greatly elevated above her ancient grade. But it works not alone in the cities and towns. There is not a hill on earth that has not been shorn of something of its altitude by this subtle force, and there is not a mountain on earth, if not finally renewed by volcanic action, that has not been compelled to lower its peak before this universal leveler of the exalted. It may be a dreadful thought, indeed, but we do not depend absolutely that we are not dependent on the earthquake and the volcano for keeping our continental habitat above the level of the ocean; for water not only destroys, but it has the persistency and force to carry off to its burial place in the sea all that it has caused to perish. It may take a long time at its task, but working either in its gaseous, its liquid or its solid form, it seems to be the most persistent thing on earth, never perishing, and, however divided and invisible at times, always ready to unite its forces for a supreme effort at the degradation of a continent."

RECREATIONS OF GREAT MEN.

Simple Diversions of Minds Stored with Learning.

The favorite recreation of Pope's leisure hours was the society of painters. Nothing was more agreeable to the poet, says Chambers' Journal, than to spend an occasional evening with his friend Kneller, who, to use the words of Thackeray, "bragged more, spelt worse and painted better than any artist of his day." Warburton tells an amusing anecdote of the two friends. Mr. Pope was with Sir Godfrey Kneller one day when his nephew, a Guinea trader, came in. "Nephew," said Sir Godfrey, "you have the honor of seeing the two greatest men in the world." "I don't know how great you may be," said the Guinea man, "but I don't like your looks. I have often bought a man much better than both of you together, all muscles and bones, for ten guineas."

Sir Joshua Reynolds used to amuse himself in his last days in his house in Leicester square with a little tame bird, which, like the favorite spider of the prisoner in the Bastille, often served to while away a lonely hour. But this proved a fleeting pleasure, for one summer morning, the window of the chamber being by accident left open, the little favorite took flight, and was irretrievably lost, although its master wandered for hours in the square and neighborhood in the fruitless endeavor to regain it.

Where Marriage Comes Right.

A young man laughingly remarked: "Oh, yes, I could afford to get married; that's cheap; but I don't know that I could afford to get unmarried again, for that comes pretty high." That young man ought to live in Spanish Honduras for awhile, and he would not talk so slightly of the expense of getting married. The unfortunate natives have to be twice married before the knot is considered sufficiently tied. The civil marriage is absolutely necessary, as it is the only one the state recognizes. The religious marriage is equally necessary, as it is the only one the church recognizes. Of course this is true in many Catholic countries, but in Honduras there is a fee of twenty dollars to be paid for each ceremony, and the native Hondurian is generally miserably poor. Forty dollars looks as big there as four hundred dollars does here, consequently marriage is not very much a joke in Honduras.

QUEER CUSTOMS.

Corpses Are Always Kept for Three Months in Burial.

Mr. Charles Rose, the British resident of the Basam district in Borneo, has just sent to the royal geographical society an interesting account of some of the native customs which he learned in his journey in Sarawak. After sleeping in a chief's house one evening he found at the head of his bed a box containing the dead body of his host's wife. It appears, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, that the natives always keep corpses for three months. The body is then removed from the house and conveyed with much ceremony to the tomb. Every one present sends one or more cigarettes made of tobacco, wrapped in the dry leaves of the wild banana, to his dead relatives in "Apo Lagan" (heaven). These cigarettes are placed on top of and around the coffin and should be that of a man, his weapons, tools and a small quantity of rice, with his "petok" (looking pot), are deposited in the tomb with him that he may be able to continue his daily pursuits in the other world. But if of a woman, her large sunhat, her little shoes—used for wading in the public-ditches—her beads, earrings and other finery are placed with her body, that she may not be found wanting on her arrival on the other side of the grave. Mr. Rose once was present when the corpse of a boy was placed in the coffin, and he watched the proceedings from a short distance. As the lid of the coffin was closed an old man came out on the veranda of the house with a large gong and solemnly beat it for several seconds. The chief said that this was always done before closing the lid, that the relations of the dead who had already passed out of this world might know that the spirit was coming to join them. There was another strange ceremony called "Dayong Jauoi," in which the dead are supposed to send messages to the living, and which proved that "spiritualism" was of very ancient practice among them.

Intellect at a Discount. Germany Overcrowded by Idle Men Who Have Been Educated at Universities. Germany suffers from an intellectual overproduction, according to the Forum. All professions are overcrowded. It was fondly believed up to our days that the state had no more important task than to render the acquiring of knowledge as easy as possible, and for that purpose to establish many higher schools. But it was not asked whether there was room enough for employing men and women when their education was finished. Taking, for instance, the career of law in Prussia, we find that there are 1,821 men who have not only passed through the gymnasium and the university, but have already served the state gratis for about five years, while the annual average demand is 100. There are more than 7,500 examined architects without a fixed employment; it is the same with engineers, teachers in classics, mathematics, etc. These unemployed forces are particularly attracted to the great capitals because everyone hopes that with the many chances they offer he will find a gap into which he may jump. Men of university training are almost without exception capable only of intellectual work. If they do not succeed in their branch they cannot become tailors or carpenters; they must take to pettyfoggery, giving lessons, copying, writing for papers, etc. There are lawyers, physicians, doctors of philosophy among those who are regularly relieved by the Berlin poor board. All these men are, of course, discontented with the present state of things and ready to join with those forces which hold out hope of overturning it. Nor are female candidates wanting in this proletariat; all those who give cheap lessons, write mediocre novels for low-class journals or work for shops at starvation wages are swelling the army of social revolution.

Intellect at a Discount. Germany Overcrowded by Idle Men Who Have Been Educated at Universities. Germany suffers from an intellectual overproduction, according to the Forum. All professions are overcrowded. It was fondly believed up to our days that the state had no more important task than to render the acquiring of knowledge as easy as possible, and for that purpose to establish many higher schools. But it was not asked whether there was room enough for employing men and women when their education was finished. Taking, for instance, the career of law in Prussia, we find that there are 1,821 men who have not only passed through the gymnasium and the university, but have already served the state gratis for about five years, while the annual average demand is 100. There are more than 7,500 examined architects without a fixed employment; it is the same with engineers, teachers in classics, mathematics, etc. These unemployed forces are particularly attracted to the great capitals because everyone hopes that with the many chances they offer he will find a gap into which he may jump. Men of university training are almost without exception capable only of intellectual work. If they do not succeed in their branch they cannot become tailors or carpenters; they must take to pettyfoggery, giving lessons, copying, writing for papers, etc. There are lawyers, physicians, doctors of philosophy among those who are regularly relieved by the Berlin poor board. All these men are, of course, discontented with the present state of things and ready to join with those forces which hold out hope of overturning it. Nor are female candidates wanting in this proletariat; all those who give cheap lessons, write mediocre novels for low-class journals or work for shops at starvation wages are swelling the army of social revolution.

Intellect at a Discount. Germany Overcrowded by Idle Men Who Have Been Educated at Universities. Germany suffers from an intellectual overproduction, according to the Forum. All professions are overcrowded. It was fondly believed up to our days that the state had no more important task than to render the acquiring of knowledge as easy as possible, and for that purpose to establish many higher schools. But it was not asked whether there was room enough for employing men and women when their education was finished. Taking, for instance, the career of law in Prussia, we find that there are 1,821 men who have not only passed through the gymnasium and the university, but have already served the state gratis for about five years, while the annual average demand is 100. There are more than 7,500 examined architects without a fixed employment; it is the same with engineers, teachers in classics, mathematics, etc. These unemployed forces are particularly attracted to the great capitals because everyone hopes that with the many chances they offer he will find a gap into which he may jump. Men of university training are almost without exception capable only of intellectual work. If they do not succeed in their branch they cannot become tailors or carpenters; they must take to pettyfoggery, giving lessons, copying, writing for papers, etc. There are lawyers, physicians, doctors of philosophy among those who are regularly relieved by the Berlin poor board. All these men are, of course, discontented with the present state of things and ready to join with those forces which hold out hope of overturning it. Nor are female candidates wanting in this proletariat; all those who give cheap lessons, write mediocre novels for low-class journals or work for shops at starvation wages are swelling the army of social revolution.

INTELLECT AT A DISCOUNT.

Germany Overcrowded by Idle Men Who Have Been Educated at Universities.

Germany suffers from an intellectual overproduction, according to the Forum. All professions are overcrowded. It was fondly believed up to our days that the state had no more important task than to render the acquiring of knowledge as easy as possible, and for that purpose to establish many higher schools. But it was not asked whether there was room enough for employing men and women when their education was finished. Taking, for instance, the career of law in Prussia, we find that there are 1,821 men who have not only passed through the gymnasium and the university, but have already served the state gratis for about five years, while the annual average demand is 100. There are more than 7,500 examined architects without a fixed employment; it is the same with engineers, teachers in classics, mathematics, etc. These unemployed forces are particularly attracted to the great capitals because everyone hopes that with the many chances they offer he will find a gap into which he may jump. Men of university training are almost without exception capable only of intellectual work. If they do not succeed in their branch they cannot become tailors or carpenters; they must take to pettyfoggery, giving lessons, copying, writing for papers, etc. There are lawyers, physicians, doctors of philosophy among those who are regularly relieved by the Berlin poor board. All these men are, of course, discontented with the present state of things and ready to join with those forces which hold out hope of overturning it. Nor are female candidates wanting in this proletariat; all those who give cheap lessons, write mediocre novels for low-class journals or work for shops at starvation wages are swelling the army of social revolution.

DIGGING FOR FISH.

Novel Way of Catching Them is Vogue in Ceylon.

In some parts of Ceylon the natives are accustomed to dig in the mud during the hot season for fishes, which are found buried in the soft clay at a depth of two feet or more. It is thus that the curious animals hide themselves during a period of torpidity.

More than one species indigenous to the island have this remarkable habit, which accounts for the appearance of fully-grown fishes in ponds which have shortly before been entirely dried up. This phenomenon was for a long time regarded as an inexplicable mystery.

The creatures as they find their accustomed element disappearing by evaporation during the dry time of the year bury themselves in the mud, sinking to a depth at which they find sufficient moisture to preserve life for months, while the bed of the pond above them may perhaps become a hardened crust dried and cracked by the heat of the sun. As soon as the water comes again they emerge and people take advantage of the opportunity while they are still floundering about in the shallows to effect their capture in large numbers.

SERVED HER SHOE FOR SUPPER.

A Gallant Noble and How He Tasted His Cook's Resources.

Remarkable instances of gallantry are the subject of an article in the San Francisco Examiner, which says: In London a century ago it was no uncommon practice on the part of the "fast men" to drink bumpers to the health of a lady out of her shoe.

The earl of Cork relates an incident of this kind, and to carry the compliment still further, he states that the shoe was ordered to be dressed and served up for supper.

"The cook sat himself seriously to work upon it; he pulled the upper part (which was of fine damask) into fine shreds, and tossed it up into a ragout, minced the soles, cut the wooden heel into thin slices, fried them in butter and placed them round the dish for garnish. The company testified their affection for the lady by eating heartily of this exquisite impromptu."

DIPLOMATS' EXPENSES.

What Our Foreign Ministers Cost the Government.

How pinched our diplomatic agents are was well illustrated in Mr. Lowell's time. A rich American, proud of his country, and wishing to leave a monument to his liberality and patriotism, decided to purchase a fitting location house in London for the American minister, but Mr. Lowell begged him not to carry out his generous intention during his term of office, for the cost of maintaining such a house would have been nearly three times his salary. Mr. Lincoln has lived becomingly but modestly during his tenure of the English mission, but he recently stated to a friend that his annual expenditure had been thirty-five thousand dollars, or just double his salary.

What the expenditure of an embassy will be depends, according to Harper's Weekly, on the means of the ambassador, but if our ambassador to London or to Paris were to be paid a salary equal to that of the president, he would not be able to do more than return the official courtesies of the country to which he was accredited, and of his fellow-members of the corps.

All of this means that an American ambassador who has private fortune will be unhappy, and unhappy men cannot transact business. If present pay is inadequate for ministers, it is absurd for ambassadors, and yet congress is not likely to increase salaries. It has sanctioned a title antithetical to the constitution, but is unwilling to pay for what the title calls. For several years the fact has been recognized that only rich men, or at least men who had something beyond their pay, could afford to accept the London, Paris or Berlin mission. Mr. Lowell and Mr. Phelps being exceptions. The raising of the grade to an ambassadorship makes the obstacles to poor men all the greater. An impoisonous ambassador would be ridiculous, and as the increased rank is practically of no benefit to the country, the sooner we return to the old rank the better. The country will be better represented by a self-respecting minister than by an ambassador who is the object of universal commiseration because his meager salary compels him to live in lodgings.

HOW POI IS MADE.

Peculiar Dish of the Hawaiians Made from a Species of Turnip.

Poi is a dish that must long remain peculiar to the Hawaiian islands—always, in fact, unless some means is contrived for preserving it so that it will stand export. Poi is made from taro, a root resembling the turnip, says the San Francisco Call. It grows in the water, with a large, handsome green leaf, and is almost tasteless. There is also an upland taro cultivated in the mountains by the natives which has a more decided taste, and which, as I learned to my cost on tasting it, bites the throat like horse-radish. The low taro is the chief vegetable in the island, and is early days constituted the natives' principal crop.

When cooked it assumes a mottled gray and white appearance, very like the lava rock that abounds everywhere in the islands. The process of manufacturing the poi is quite a lengthy one. A great hole is dug in the ground, and into this the taro roots are placed around piles of hot stones. The earth is then heaped over the place and the taro left to steam. When the taro is thoroughly cooked, which is often several hours, the roots are dug out again, peeled and put into a huge stone receptacle, in which they are pounded to a pulp. This work is performed by the men. It is an arduous task, and on a hot day (and nearly all days are hot in the islands) the pounding of poi is a scene over which it is advisable to draw a veil. The poi pounder not only earns his bread by the sweat of his brow but mixes it as well largely by the aid of that fluid.

WONDERFUL TRANSFORMATION.

An Aged Italian's Strange Renewal of Youth.

A most remarkable thing is reported to have occurred at Naples in the year 1831. Antonio Lanzetta, a beggar who had formerly resided at Tarentum, but who on account of age had been sent to a home for the aged at one of the other places mentioned, experienced a complete renewal of life. At the beginning of the transformation he was little less than ninety years of age. The first thing noticed which suggested that something extraordinary was about to take place was in his skin, which cracked and came off like that of a toad or snake, leaving a soft new skin in place of the wrinkled article that had been worn for four score years and a half. Within a surprisingly short time his facial muscles became strong and plump. The white hairs fell from his head and were replaced by curly black hair, similar to that which had so delighted the maidens seventy years before. His eyesight also returned with all the vigor of youth; his complexion became fresh and rosy; in fact, he was a new man from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. He lived sixty years after this transformation, and then died at the age of one hundred and fifty.

The Riddles of Dreams. A lady who was fond of riddles dreamed that she met another lady, a stranger to her. "I shall not tell you my name," said the strange lady, "but I'll put it like this: If I had a tame hare which escaped and you caught it, and named me if you might chain it up—'that's my name.'" "Letitia Barron," answered the dreamer at once; "let it be a hare up." There was no pause for reflection in the dream, any more than in another case. The dreamer, walking with a friend, met an acquaintance of ovine appearance, who saluted with a curious duck. "What a queer bow!" said the companion in the dream. "Sheep-dip," answered the dreamer; a kind of pun which, perhaps, nobody would have made when awake, any more than he would have solved the idiotic riddle of Letitia Barron.

A QUAKER CITY INDUSTRY.

Hanquater's Ropes of Fine Quality Than Those Used for Ordinary Purposes.

Rope used for cranes is made almost exclusively by a Philadelphia rope factory and differs from ordinary rope for commercial purposes in that it is made by hand, instead of by machinery, and a finer quality of rope is employed, says the New York Herald, which for such rope now received by the Philadelphia firm from all parts of the country. When the rope to be used in a hoist is received by the shroff it is usually looked up carefully and kept from curious eyes. As the day of examination draws near the rope is soaked in brine with common kitchen soap, so it may run freely through the sheave. Then it is thoroughly stretched, one end being tied to the galloways beam, while to the other end is attached about three hundred pounds of stone or iron. The rope is allowed to remain at this heavy tension for hours, and then, after having been well soaked again and rendered perfectly supple, it is laid away to await the day when it is to be used for business purposes. After use the rope is usually considered to be one of the prerequisites of the hanquater. If he is not the shroff himself, that official usually cuts off a few inches of the rope and divides it up among his favored friends, as relics. The hanquater is then at liberty to dispose of the remainder as he chooses. Usually he sells it at fancy prices to curiosity seekers or to dime museum managers and others on the lookout for curiosities. After the hanging of the four Haymarket anarchists—August Spies, Albert R. Parsons, Henry Fischer and William Engel—in the Cook county jail at Chicago, in November, 1887, the ropes were taken from around the men's necks by Sheriff Matson's deputies. The greater part of the ropes were cut up almost immediately afterward and given as relics to the witnesses of the execution and others. Seven dime museums in different parts of the country about a month later were exhibiting four ancient ropes, which were sworn to as having been the identical, unmanipulated ropes with which the four anarchists were hanged.

WATERWAYS OF ARIZONA.

Marvels of Engineering Skill Cut Out of Many Feet of Solid Rock.

The largest and likewise the best preserved of the waterways was taken out of the Salt river, on the south side, near the mouth of the Verde, and, as described by the Californian, is a marvel of engineering skill. For three and one-half miles it passes through an artificial gorge in the Superstition mountains, cut out of the solid rock to the depth of one hundred feet. After the mountains are passed it divides into four branches, the longest of which measures more than forty miles, while all four aggregate a length of one hundred and twenty miles, independent of the smaller ditches by which water was distributed over the soil. Except in rare instances these smaller ditches have been filled, and in that portion of the desert are obscured by the sandstorms that prevail; but the larger one is perfectly distinct, and measures sixty-four feet in width with an average depth of twelve feet. Through this way the water for the support of the cities between the Salt and Gila rivers was conveyed, and one thousand six hundred square miles of country, now destitute of all vegetation except the Saluaria and an occasional paloverde, was irrigated by it. This canal reached to within a short distance of the Gila river, and the water was taken from the river Salt for the apparent reason that at this point the north bank of the Gila was so high that they were unable to reach the current with a canal, and they evidently knew of no way to raise the water to the level of the surrounding country. This part of the desert is covered with ruins, and must have been at one time the residence of a teeming population.

PAINT AND POWDER.

A Few Reflections for the Consideration of Womankind.

One may be disposed to forgive the woman who has been beautiful, if, in her desperate attempts to retain her beauty, she paints and powders and chooses to make of herself a thing of borrowed shreds and patches. But, says All The Year Round, when women tell us—as some of them do tell us now and then—that men like a woman to caricature her own womanhood; that they prefer it comes to that—imitation beauty to the real article, they require of us a faith too great for ordinary human nature. To be told, as I was told a little time ago—and by a lady—that men do not care for women unless they paint and powder is to have too strong a strain placed upon one's natural civility. That this same informant was guilty of a perhaps pardonable feminine exaggeration when she declared that, nowadays, all women use both paint and powder, I am assured. Had she confined herself to the statement that a very large number of women are inclined for what they call their charms to anything but nature she would have delivered herself of an utterance on the literal veracity of which she might safely have staked, as our transatlantic cousin hate it, her "bottom dollar." The lady of fashion may not be aware that she is guilty of a reversion to savagery when she calls in artificial aids to the help of her natural attractions but she is. Among savage people it is an almost general custom to revert to such auxiliaries.

Roses Better Than Rice.

After a recent Australian wedding the guests showered the happy pair with rose petals until the bride was literally covered with the fragrant leaves as she sat in the carriage. A pretty tribute this, and not likely to be followed by undesirable consequences. A small grain of rice in one's eye is not a pleasant traveling companion, particularly when it is desired to avoid the hospital.

WHALE-KILLING OFF SIBERIA.

The Natives Hunt the Monster Up and Then Take His Life.

Capt. E. J. Gifford, of the whaling fleet, which arrived in San Francisco a few days ago, told a Chronicle correspondent the particulars of an interesting whale hunt of which he was a witness. The natives of that region are people of low intelligence, their chief employment being the capture of inhabitants of the waters that wash the Siberian coast. These people have become experts in the vocation that furnishes them with the necessities of life. The story as told by Capt. Gifford is as follows:

"We had been lying at anchor for several days in a small and almost land-locked bay, and had done some little trading with the inhabitants of a village about half a mile inland. One morning all hands were awakened by a great hubbub on shore, the cause of which was the presence of a school of sperm whales three or four miles outside the harbor. In a short time ten canoes, each containing from six to eight natives, put off and made straight toward where an occasional jet of water marked the spot where the big fellows were sporting. I was a good deal puzzled to know how those fellows were going to capture one of those huge animals, which is by no means an easy prey to the best trained boat's crew, supplied with all the modern appliances. The boats kept close together and approached the school with great caution. When within about three hundred yards of the nearest whale the canoes separated, and as the big fellow came up to blow they rapidly closed in from three sides at once. The whale by this time was lazily rolling in the trough of the sea, apparently unaware of the approach of his enemies. So well timed was the approach of the canoes that they were all within easy reach of the whale when the leader gave the signal to throw the harpoons. In a moment at least thirty harpoons were sticking from the shining back of the whale, and the canoes shot back out of reach of the big fukes in less time than it takes to tell it. And here comes the strange part of the performance. Attached to each harpoon were about two hundred feet of line, and on the end of each line were reindeer skins inflated with air. In one or two instances canoes were attached to the lines. You can imagine the situation. Here was the whale with enough buoys attached to him to float a ship, and when he attempted to sound he would be brought to the surface again only to receive a shower of hand lances from the canoes. The sport did not last long, and four hours from the time the canoes left the beach they towed the whale in and men and women were at work cutting him up."

LIFE'S ASPIRATION.

Art's Proper Place in the Education of a People.

The intellectual aspiration of a people cannot in truth be held to be embodied in its literature, whether it be the prose or poetry of imagination or the recorded investigation of its philosophers or its scientists, says a writer in Scribner's Magazine. No matter how widespread may be the diffusion of knowledge, no matter how multiplied may be the means of instruction, so that the printed book may be in the hands of every citizen, there yet remains the fundamental need of the intuitive absorption of an intelligence through the eyes.

Nor is this by any means confined to him who, having opportunities of education placed before him, neglects to avail himself of his privileges; the student lifts his study-dimmed eyes from the printed page and receives through another sense a vision which uplifts him in another, but no less greater, manner above the momentary and material accidents of life.

The world has long recognized this truth, and throughout political vicissitudes, through social and economic changes, it had held it to be a part of civilized life, without which it would retrograde toward the savage who, once his stomach filled, sleeps. France, where many things are managed "better," has always managed this particularly well.

At least from the Gascon king who, practical spirit, not only wished every Frenchman to have his poule au pot, but who made his Paris, his France, beautiful, down to M. Carnot, under whose reign we have seen the new Sorbonne built and decorated, the usefulness of beauty has been recognized.

The Palmetto of the South.

The graceful palmetto, that grows so profusely in the lower tier of the southern states, has recently become a factor in the industries of the south, for its wood is hard enough to carve and its fiber is strong enough to make excellent cordage and a useful substitute for sponges. In Jacksonville a factory has been started for the purpose of making brushes and brooms of the fiber, and elsewhere sink brushes are being made of the wood, half of whose thickness is being converted into bristling points. The young leaves of the tree make a salad that the people are beginning to appreciate, and the taste of it is likened to that of chestnuts. Bears know about it long before the people do, and it is a favorite article of diet among them, the black bears climbing the trees and browsing on the fresh shoots as eagerly as they browse on watermelons.

The Sale of a Mustache.

A mustache is not regarded as a marketable commodity, says London Million, but a man disposed of his upper lip ornament the other day to a beardless youth who envied him its possession. The two men were sitting in a cafe, when the youth, in a moment of guileless desire, said: "I will give you fifty shillings for your mustache." "Done," replied the other, with dramatic promptitude, and, calling for a pair of scissors, he laid the mustache on the table. The young fellow protested that he was only joking, but his companion insisted a county court summons for the amount be agreed upon, and recovered it.