

The Unconventional English.
"You may think you know American women with advanced ideas and unconventional modes of living," said a member of a Philadelphia publishing firm to a local interviewer recently, "but they are not to be compared with their English sisters. There is nothing so demure as an English girl before she is married, but matrimony, somehow or other, seems to change her whole nature, if one may judge from the way she breaks loose. During my last visit to England I was invited to dine with Mrs. Stannard, who writes novels under the nom de plume of John Strange Winter. When dessert was served her two little boys, aged, I should say, about 10 and 8, were permitted to come to the table. After eating all the sweets in sight the youngsters each drank a glass of benedictine and smoked a couple of Turkish cigarettes. Then their mother kissed them good night and sent them to bed. It was all I could do to believe my senses."

Where a Little Money Looks Big.
"The people of the South," said Representative John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, the other day, "have different ideas about money, than prevail in many parts of the North. It is scarcer with them. I remember in a little town where I was in Mississippi of hearing of a business transaction that was the marvel of the place. A man owned a saw-mill and another man came along and paid him \$500 in cash for it. Everybody discussed the trade. It was a marvel. The general opinion was summed up by one old fellow who said: 'I can't for the life of me make out what a man who has \$500 wants of a sawmill.'"

Twentieth Century "Liberality."
The liberality of the age seems to be penetrating even the church of Scotland. Says a Glasgow correspondent: Dundee Established Presbytery has actually discussed the question of asking the Town Council to run cars on the Sabbath for the benefit of folk who are gain to the kirk, though they haena agreed to do this; Edinburgh Presbytery has decided that Sabbath cars are nae concern o' theirs and that ridin' on them should be left to the conscience o' each particular person an' no decided by Presbyteries.

Rhodes Was a Bashful Bachelor.
The late Cecil Rhodes not only was a bachelor, but fought very shy, of the fair sex. Here is a story which is told of him in this connection: While on a visit to London several years ago he dined at the house of a very wealthy lady of title. Later, when he was discussing the affair with his secretary, the latter asked "And whom did you take to dinner?" "Oh, I don't know. Some Lady Somebody," was the reply. "But what did you call her?" "Didn't call her anything—never spoke to her," replied Rhodes.

Russia's Unique Welcome.
When M. Loubet goes to Russia all the vessels will be lighted by a most elaborate arrangement of incandescent lamps during the Russian fetes in the Cronstadt Roads. Four rows of tricolor lamps will surround the ships, and they will be connected with electric garlands of all colors. The marine engineers are studying how best to carry out the idea.

None Great Than Rotterdam.
Rotterdam is building the biggest excavated dock in the world. Its area is 150 acres, with a depth of water of fourteen feet, which will be dredged out later to twenty-eight feet. The earth dug up has been used to build the surrounding quays and to raise the level of the neighboring streets.

Julia Marlowe's Book.
Julia Marlowe has written a book entitled "Six Girls From Shakespeare," which will contain studies of Rosalind, Viola, Juliet, Imogen, Beatrice and Maria. Miss Marlowe has devoted especial pains to Maria, the quick-witted maid in "Twelfth Night," not because it was her first part in a Shakespeare play, but because she thinks it interesting to see Shakespeare's perception of the servant's point of view.

When the Senator Was Burned Up.
Senator Pettus went overland from Selma, Ala., to California on horseback more than fifty years ago. Once in a great while in the Democratic cloakroom at the capitol in Washington, he tells about his experiences. Senator Bacon pestered him for a story, a correspondent says. The ancient Alabamian did not feel like telling one. Finally he said: "I remember once when the whole outfit was captured by Indians. It was an exciting experience, but I'll have to make the story very short, because I have some letters to write. The Indians took us, tied us to trees, built fires around us made out of resinous pine wood that burned like oil, and left us to our fate." "Heavens!" said Senator Bacon, "how did you escape?" "We didn't," said Senator Pettus, as he arose to go; "we were burned to death."

Why Fry Was Sad.
In the senate the other day President Frye sat in his chair and gazed at the ceiling. Senator Proctor tore the back off an envelope and wrote on it.
Dear Frye: How can you sit there when the ice is out of the lake?—Proctor.
He sent the note to Senator Frye, who read it and made a gesture of despair that caused a dozen senators to wonder if the presiding officer had heard bad news. Proctor and Frye, the Washington writer who tells the story explains, are famous fishermen. For thirty years Senator Proctor has been in Vermont on the last night of April with fishing tackle ready, and for thirty years at sun up on the 1st of May he has begun casting for speckled trout. He will be there this year.

Coronation Insurance.
Coronation insurance is in vogue in London. It is taken by speculators who erect stands along the route of the parade. There is always the chance, however remote, that the route may be changed and other contingencies have likewise to be reckoned with. A favorite form of policy, therefore, is that which provides that, in the event of the failure of the coronation procession to pass a given spot on a given day, the money which would otherwise have been received from the letting of seats shall be recoverable from the underwriters. Business on these lines has lately been effected at Lloyds' at a rate of from 12 guineas to 15 guineas per cent.

To Get Even With the Meat Trust.
Workmen of New York are seriously discussing a proposition to abstain entirely from eating all kinds of meat for one month. The idea has been formulated into a resolution, for the consideration of the affiliated trades unions: "Resolved, That we recommend workmen and women in New York city to refrain from buying or eating beef or mutton for one month from May 10." The argument used is that such action, should it become at all general, would bring the trust to terms in short order. Many of the men, even who have to perform severe manual labor, declare that they are ready to take such pledge.

Something Big in Dictionaries.
America usually beats England in the way of bigness, says Victor Smith, but, strange as it may appear, not in the matter of dictionaries. The eight-volume edition of the Century dictionary, pagged right through, contains 7046 pages. The first four volumes of Murray's English dictionary, extending from A to G, inclusive, contain 4,936 pages, and it is estimated that the entire alphabet will fill no less than twelve volumes, containing over 15,000 pages.

A Family of Skyscrapers.
Patrick William Carey and his four sons, all of San Jose, Cal., measure among them thirty-one feet eight inches of stature, the tallest and shortest being two sons, who stand six feet six and one-half and six feet two and one-half inches, respectively. The father is six feet four. Their combined weight is 1,055 pounds, and all are stout and strong in proportion to their height.

Remarkable Knowledge of French.
M. Jules Cambon, the French ambassador, addressed a meeting of the Sons of the Revolution a night or two ago. He spoke in French. Not many of his audience could follow him, but all laughed when he smiled and applauded when he was emphatic. Some ladies in a box grew enthusiastic. "How well he speaks French!" commented one. "He has almost the true Parisian accent."

The Missing Owl Was Found.
At the last dinner of the Tantalus club, when Speaker Henderson was entertained, the sergeant-at-arms stood behind the speaker's chair bearing a mace on which was a fine specimen of a stuffed white owl, the same being the emblem of authority of the Tantalus club. The owl was borrowed from the Smithsonian Institution for the occasion. Representative Powers, president of the club, gave his personal pledge that it would be returned safely. He was dismayed when after the dinner he found the owl had disappeared. Search was made for it with no result. That was three weeks ago. Word was then passed around that the person who had the owl would do well to return it. No owl came back. Then Representative Powers put the secret service men on the job, and today the owl was returned. Representative Powers will not tell who had it, but the man is in congress.

The President Handled the Reins.
President Roosevelt and Senator Lodge went out for a drive the other afternoon in a trap, the president handling the reins. When the two came out the coachman was on the seat and evidently expected to do the driving, but at a motion from the president he jumped down. Mr. Roosevelt then took the driver's seat, saying to the senator: "Get up here with me," motioning the coachman to get into the rear seat. Cracking the whip over the backs of his favorite bays, the president swung the team gracefully out of the yard into the avenue. A large crowd of out-of-town visitors had collected at the portico to see the president, and he lifted his black hat in acknowledgement of the salutations that greeted him. The president and the senator left the trap on the outskirts of town and walked back. Driving does not give the president the exercise he desires.

Result of a Foolish Passion.
Alice Carey Harlow, who was adjudged insane in the Coler county, Ill. court, last Friday and sent to Kankakee, is about 30. She has been in turn a school teacher, house maid and writer of verse. Her morbid love of a young condemned murderer in 1898 is said to have been the beginning of her mental vacuity. She visited him in jail, although she had never known him before, fell in love with him, and after his execution prepared a petition to the legislature asking for the abolition of capital punishment.

A \$50,000 Bible.
New York has a Bible said to be worth \$50,000—but for the present it is in the hands of the collector of the port for a just appraisal. It is a manuscript Bible of the eighth century and is the property of J. S. Morgan, a nephew of J. Pierpont Morgan, who arrived on the steamship Oceanic Wednesday with it in his possession. It is a magnificent work of great rarity. The headings of every chapter are illumined exquisitely and the cover of the book is set with precious stones. The collector said that he had ordered the Bible to be temporarily confiscated as a precautionary measure, as a quick appraisal on the pier was not advisable.

Literal Illustrations.
In Dolly Madison's prayerbook, which one of her godchildren gave me, are several quaint wood engravings, relates Victor Smith. The frontispiece is entitled "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done." This book was published in 1844, not so long ago, yet the picture represents Christ kneeling upon the grassy ground in prayer, with what resembles a large silver goblet in front of Him.

Cheaper Beer or Abstinence.
A curious strike is in progress at Rokewood, near Ballarat, Victoria, where, in consequence of the refusal of the local publicans to reduce the price of beer from 6 pence to 4 pence per pint, nearly every resident has signed a pledge to do without beer until Melbourne prices are charged.

Greatful for a Roast.
Representative Shattuc, of Ohio, who wears the most brilliant waistcoat in congress, recently received a copy of a German newspaper printed in Pittsburg. A long editorial was marked with blue pencil. Shattuc looked at it. He does not read German, but he saw his name sprinkled through it many times, and he concluded it was something nice about himself. He called his stenographer and dictated a flowery letter of thanks to the editor for his "expressions of good-will" and invited the editor to come and see him when in Washington. Later he took the paper on the floor of the house. He showed it to several friends. Representative Bartholdt, of St. Louis, came along; Bartholdt glanced at the editorial article and laughed.
"What is it?" asked Shattuc.
"Nothing," said Bartholdt, "except that the editor roasts the life out of you. He says you are an enemy freedom and not fitted to be the representative of anything in congress."

Shattuc dashed madly to his committee room.
"Hi!" he shouted to his stenographer. "Stop that letter! stop that letter!"
"Can't do it, Mr. Shattuc," the stenographer replied. "I mailed it two hours ago."
Shattuc sank into a chair and swore.
"Great Scott!" he said. "What kind of a blithering idiot will that German editor think I am?"

Work of "Bustling Americans."
Mr. Pierpont Morgan is still in front of the stage. What he cannot buy in the world is not apparently worth buying, but a tribute must be paid to the magnificent talent with which the Morgan syndicate and other American combinations and moneyed persons succeed in impressing themselves upon the world's attention. If they accomplish even one-quarter of the projects with which they are connected by rumor and announcement, the world will shortly be so Americanized that nothing will remain but to adopt the Stars and Stripes as the common flag for the great powers. One thing the bustling Americans certainly are effecting: they are stirring up many dormant energies and ambitions in Europe and provoking a spirit of competition and emulation which cannot fail to be beneficial and to no country more than to Britain.

Why Americans Think Quicker.
The American people can think quicker and more to the point than any other people in the world. This statement was made recently in a New York newspaper, but the reason given was wide of the mark. The American people read in the aggregate ten times more than any other people. The American boy gets his inspiration, his energetic disposition, his ambition, his keen snap shot judgment and his quick wit largely from his reading—and very largely from his newspaper reading. The poise and culture and refinement and solidity come later in life from the reading of books and magazines and from contact with men and things. It is the American newspaper which sets the initial pace. Push and pluck are contagious, and more germs are hatched in the average American newspaper office than anywhere else.

From \$500 to \$20,000.
The market price of seats in the Montreal stock exchange is now about \$20,000. The Star of that city notes that the original figure in 1874 was \$500. In 1886 the price had risen to \$6000, but early in the next decade it was less than one-third as large. Since then, however, the money value of a chance to gamble has been constantly increasing.

More Privileges for Women.
Women visitors to New York will be glad to know that after theater hours, or at any other time in the evening, in fact, they can now go to a hotel restaurant or any other restaurant and be served without having a male escort. Not long ago no woman—indeed, no two women—unescorted by a man could in the evening find a first-class restaurant where they would be permitted to dine. The Waldorf-Astoria was the originator of the new state of affairs. In the best hotels now women and girls sit about in the large assembly rooms, read their newspapers, write their letters at the many little desks, or chat with one another with an ease of manner unknown a few years ago. Formerly a woman felt uncomfortable and was stared at if she appeared in the office of a hotel. But all this has changed.

The Biddle Story "Dramatized."
The Biddle case has finally reached the stage. Theodore Kramer has written a play frankly entitled "A Desperate Chance." It illustrates how the Biddle brothers escaped from the Pittsburg prison, their sensational capture and the future of the warden's wife, who aided the precious pair. All this is strung out into a three-act sensational melodrama. The libographs, which have just made their appearance in New York, bear lurid representations of the arrest in the snow, and enough blood is printed to fire the hearts of the gallery boys and kindred melodramatic patrons. The play is to have a trial of a week next month, after which it will be held in reserve until the autumn.

The Senate's Misfortune.
"Mr. President," said Senator Clapp, of Minnesota, during the debate on the Chinese exclusion bill, under the five-minute rule, "I desire to speak on the amendment to this bill concerning the status of Chinese soldiers." "Mr. President," put in Senator Quay, "if the senator from Minnesota will permit me, I will say that the amendment to which he refers was defeated some minutes ago." "Then, Mr. President," continued Senator Clapp, "I have only to add that the senate has missed the greatest speech of the session." And he sat down.

George Washington's Maps.
The original map made by George Washington in 1775 of the lands on the Great Kanawha river, West Virginia, granted to him by the British government in 1763 for his services in the Braddock expedition, is now in the possession of the Library of Congress, says the National Geographic Magazine. "The map is 285 feet, and is entirely in the handwriting of Washington. The margin is filled with notes, also in Washington's handwriting, describing the boundary marks set by Washington and different features of the tract."

An Actor's Misfortune.
A pathetic incident of the stage was the breaking down of Daniel H. Harkins, an excellent actor and an estimable man, during the performance of Leo Dietrichstein's "The Last Appeal" at Wallack's theater in New York last Monday evening. Mr. Harkins was for many years with Augustin Daly's company and was later associated with Richard Mansfield, John Drew, Henry Miller and Ada Rehan. Mr. Harkins is suffering from a partial loss of memory and it is not expected that he will ever attempt to act again.

Woman's Rights.
Every woman who has to make a small allowance go a long way feels that she is eligible to membership on the ways and means committee.

"Chinatown Widow's" Good Luck.
Laura Biggar, the actress, who has fallen heir to \$1,000,000 by the will of Henry M. Bennett, of Pittsburg, is a native of Wilmington, Del.

Would Purchase Palestine.
Arthur Smedley Greene of Greenwich, Conn., has started a movement which has for its object the purchase of the Holy land by Christian people.

"Jimmie" Burns Didn't Go.
A new member of congress was very anxious to get upon the good side of Superintendent Smith, of the Botanic gardens, says a Washington correspondent, so that some flowers and potted plants might be sent to his house. As every one knows, Smith is a little old Scotchman, who worships the memory of "Bobbie" Burns and has probably the finest and most complete collection of editions of Burns' works in the world. When, therefore, the new member went to Smith he resolved to say something which would please the lover of Burns. When he entered Smith's library he looked with interest upon the books. "I always did love Jimmie Burns' poems," remarked the new member. "I never saw such a fine collection of his works. I think Jimmie Burns was one of the greatest men who ever lived." At this point Mr. Smith could contain himself no further. "'Jimmie' Burns!" he exclaimed, angrily. "Tommy Washington! Sammy Bonaparte! Get out." And the new member realized that he had made a mistake.

Vienna Compositions.
Here are a few extracts from compositions written by boys in a high school of Vienna:
"Many a man lies down in good health and gets up dead."
"In Rome the bones of the martyrs were collected and torn by wild beasts."
"Human beings ceased to walk on all fours, and walked on the hindmost."
"He sacrificed a rich woman and other priests."
"Hannibal stood with one foot in Spain, while with the other he beckoned to the troops."
"God's punishment followed immediately after ten years."

Taking No Chances.
A certain Scottish minister in a West Highland parish has never yet been known to permit a stranger to occupy his pulpit. Lately, however, an Edinburgh divinity student was spending a few days in the parish and on the Saturday he called at the manse and asked the minister to be allowed to preach the following day. "My dear young man," said the minister, laying a hand gently on the young man's shoulder, "gin I lat ye preach the morn, and ye gie a better sermon than me, my folk wad never again be satisfied wi' my preaching; and gin ye're nae a better preacher than me, ye're no' worth listening tae."

Depew's "Butter" Story.
Senator Depew contributes a butter story to the gaiety of nations. "A friend of mine went into a high-class restaurant," he says, "and discovered oleomargarine upon the table. 'How do you pronounce o-l-e-o-m-a-r-g-a-r-i-n-e?' And the intelligent servitor of the magnificent palace of pleasure at once responded: 'I pronounce it butter, sir, or else I lose my job.'"

Time Wasted in Vacations.
Professor Charles S. Minot, of the Harvard Medical school, has been studying the question of vacations in colleges, and he concludes, as he states in an article in Science, that the amount of vacation "is very excessive." "With the vacation shortened, it would be easily possible to bring young men into active life a year earlier than is now possible, and that would be an immense gain."

Historic Furniture.
Horace Day, of New Haven, Conn., owns the complete bedchamber set that belonged to Lord Percy, who commanded the reinforcements of the British troops at Lexington on April 19, 1775. The furniture came to him from a long line of New England ancestors.

Hitt Is a Pothook Sharp.
Congressman Hitt, of Illinois, made verbatim shorthand reports of some of the great Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858 and is still clever in the stenographic art.

Joaquin Miller's Gift to Children.
Joaquin Miller, known far and wide as "the Poet of the Sierras," is building in California a park designed exclusively for the use of little children.