FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN

MAN'S LOVE OF MONOTONY.

"MY husband is an unnatural monster," said the young wife who boards. "He has no sympathy with my ambitions and no patience with my highest aspirations. I'll tell you why I say it. Last Friday, you know, was a very hot day, but, nevertheless, I had become so tired of my room as it was that I decided just to relieve the monotony of things, I'd change the furniture around. The chambermaid and I worked all that morning to accomplish this feat. We put the bed where the bureau had been and the bureau where the couch had once stood, and the couch under the mantelpiece, and then everything looked so improved that I felt encouraged to dress and go downtown shopping.

"When I got back it was luncheon time, and husband was home. He had been home fifteen minutes, he said, and how do you think that horrid man had employed that time? Why, in pulling the furniture back into its accustomed places. When I came in the couch was once more under the window and that provoking man was sitting on it.

"'How d'ye do?' he said, cheerfully; 'I'd like to rise to greet you, my dear, but I'm afraid if I do the couch might be moved again, so I'll just sit here and guard it, and you'll have to come to me.'

"That's what it is to have a husband who has no sympathy with one's plans for improvement."

A note directly from Fashion's headquarters declares that there are new linings in the shape of brocades that are designed to show through the summer dresses. These are in Oriental patterns, very vivid and sharp, so that the outside acts merely as veiling. A new brocade, intended for a lining, was figured in swirling designs in bright blue and Turkish red. The figures were in circular form, and twisted one around the other, showing the colors in sharp contrast. The silk upon which they were brocaded was not heavy, though it had the appearance of being such, nor was it an expensive silk, yet it was showy, and so it fulfilled all the missions required of it. Over its vivid coloring was worn a silk mull with narrow satin stripes, a really lovely gown, made thrice lovely by its under color. White is decidedly the prettiest over-color that can be found, but the pale yellow, all the creams, the light salmons,, and the faded pinks are considered just as effective as white, because they are only the slightest bit removed from it. It is a very clever idea, and sure to be popular, for it gives the elusive effects so much in vogue. It is probably a development of veiling the pompadour silks with chiffon or plain silks appliqued with cretonne.

Always renovate a silk before using it even for a lining. Ether removes many stains from colored silk, but be sure that all dust is wiped off before the ether is applied, and keep rubbing it to prevent the forming of a circle where the ether stops. French chalk may be used on any color without injury. It also removes grease, mud stains, etc. Old black woolen gowns may be ripped, brushed and put in the washtub in warm soapsuds made of soapbark, and washed without rubbing on the board, rinsed in bluing water and hung out to dry. While still damp iron on the wrong side until perfectly dry. Remove grease spots before washing with French chalk or gasoline, remembering always that the latter is explosive. Cashmere, serge and such goods look like new when thus treated, and give good wear. A black gown is such a convenience that I can hardly imagine a wardrobe without one. If but one black gown can be afforded have it of wool and of as good quality as possible.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Advice About Letter Writing.

I would say that the most striking thing about an ideal letter is its flavor of the personality of the writer. A letter should convey, as nearly as possible, the same effect as would a talk between the writer and her correspondent. What is a good letter to your mother or sister perhaps would be worthless to anyone else. Always remember to whom you are writing, and write to and for that one person.

General descriptions and observations will be out of place in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred. Make your letter an index of your mind on the subjects you believe to be interesting to the one to whom you are writing. Put your own individuality into even your observations on the weather. Avoid long excuses for not writing earlier or more frequently. Like apologies for not returning visits and calls, those of the lagging letter-writer only emphasize the neglect. Make up for previous shortcomings by writing fully, sympathetically and vivaciously, so that the pleasure of reading your letter will outweigh any disappointment you may have given, or cause it to be forgotten. —Ada C. Sweet, in Woman's Home Companion.

The child starts life with its own vocabulary, says Harper's Bazar. From alpha to omega all utterance which the sages have piled up in the treasure houses of stored speech is his, concentrated into that first piercing, shapeless wail which is his greeting to life; that cry whose burden is: "Food! I am alive. I am a citizen of the world. You who are responsible for my being give me food! Give me food that I may live. Give me food that I may live to work for food. Life is working for food of one kind or another till we die!" And from this initial wail of the newborn clamoring for nature's sustenance springs all the nomenclature of tools, crafts, families, feuds, society, sin, love, life and death! Now as the first food is specially prepared by Mother Nature with reference to the delicate digestive mechanism of the new-born, so the human mother softens speech to fit the nascent understanding, the unaccustomed ear. Just as languages have to grow from simple, radical beginnings to an inflected organism, so has individual speech to develop into formed words out of shapeless sounds.

When Buying Shoes.

You will hardly believe, says Woman's Life, that there are special times and seasons for the trying on of new shoes, but so it is. You need a larger pair of shoes in summer than in winter, and it is always best to try them on in the latter part of the day. The feet are then at the maximum size. Activity naturally enlarges them or makes them swell; much standing also tends to enlarge the feet. New shoes should be tried on over moderately thick stockings, then you can put on a thinned pair to ease your feet if the shoes seem too tight. It is remarkable what a difference the stockings make. If they are too large or too small they will be nearly as uncomfortable as a pair of shoes that are too tight. New shoes can be worn with as much ease as old ones if they are stuffed to the shape of the foot with cloth or paper, and patiently sponged with hot water.

Directs Vacation Schools.

Miss S. E. Hodges, of Baltimore, has been selected by the New York Board of Education as general director of the sixteen summer vacation schools and twenty-eight playgrounds. The new director is the originator of playgrounds in Baltimore and conducted games and classes in manual training in connection with them.


MISS HODGES.

Miss Hodges is a graduate of Vassar. One part of the features in Miss Hodges' work which is original with her is the "story hour" idea. For courses heretofore given by Miss Hodges for children of from 6 to 10 years of age she has chosen such subjects as "Idealists," selecting the great men of the world's history in science, exploration, religion, etc., telling a simple story of their lives from earliest childhood.

Signs of Old Age in Woman.

When letters to girl friends are mostly addressed "Mrs."

When she begins to care a great deal about the supper at an entertainment.

When she feels a sudden interest in church and charity work.

When she is attractive to very young men.

When she realizes the folly of dressing in sober colors.

When she compares the new way of wearing the hair with that when she first put hers up.

When—most fatal of all—the gravity of youth gradually gives way to incipient kittenishness.—New York Evening Sun.

Cool Neck Fixings.

Three or four rows of narrow satin ribbon feather-stitched together, one above the other, with the long ends left to draw around the neck, and fasten with some quaint buckle in front, make an extremely pretty stock, and one easily manufactured at home. Collar made of beading, and threaded through with velvet ribbon whose ends are tied in tiny bows either in front or back, are another simple but pretty idea for those who like variety in their neckwear.

Polish for Brown Shoes.

Lemon juice and milk well rubbed in make an excellent polish for brown shoes. Afterward rub with a soft duster. Stains may be removed by rubbing with methylated spirit. Polish afterward either with the lemon juice and milk or with the following cream: One ounce of muriatic acid, half an ounce of alum, half an ounce of spirits of lavender, half an ounce of gum arabic and half an ounce of skim milk.

LIVING WOMAN HAUNTS HOUSE.

Death of a Man Who Was the Most Famous of His Line.

After suffering for forty years from paralysis sustained in a fall from a trapeze, Henry M. Magilton, whose acrobatic feats astonished the people of two continents, died a few weeks ago at his home in Philadelphia.

When a mere boy Magilton figuratively leaped into fame. He was caught several times swinging handsprings in the back yard of his home, and his feats were such as to attract the attention of the whole neighborhood. His brief but marvelous career was ended when in the presence of Queen Victoria and a great audience in the Alhambra Theater, London, he missed his grip while leaping from a flying trapeze and fell to the stage, a distance of only six feet. That was forty years ago, and paralysis resulted. The world's best physicians tried to cure him, but from that time he was helpless from his waist down.

Magilton was as much at ease while engaged in feats of juggling on a galloping horse as he was on the flying trapeze. As "Jocko, the Brazilian Ape," he traveled through the cities and towns up and down the Mississippi, performing feats that have never since been imitated. He was a short man and thick set. Attired as an ape, he would leap along the gallery rails of a theater, from one proscenium box to another, and then into the pit and onto the stage.

While doing this act in the city of Charleston he caused a panic. A scrub woman with a stuffed baby was stationed in the gallery. Magilton snatched the baby from her, and leaping along the edge of a proscenium box, he beat its head against a pillar. The audience became horror stricken and panic ensued.

Everywhere Magilton, "the Yankee," as they called him abroad, was hailed with acclamations. European royalty rewarded him for his entertainments; princes dined with him and crowds followed him on the streets. Victor Emanuel, late King of Italy, gave him a costly gold ring set with a cluster of eight diamonds.

Magilton's wife died many years ago. No family survives him. From the money he saved while able to perform he lived comfortably and spent much of his time riding. He was able to move about only on his hands.

RECENT INVENTIONS.

A new form of sealing wax has recently been devised. It differs from the ordinary stick wax in that it is inclosed in a glass tube, from which it may be poured by heating the cylinder.

A new smoke cap, suitable for firemen, is now being served out to British ships of war. The helmet has a list of merits of its own. The wearer can hear, see and breathe without any accessory hose or chemicals. A small pump is the one needful adjunct, and it is used to force air into the reservoir behind the helmet. This new hat, which is lighted rather than light, and which fairly outdoes that of the diver, is fastened on by straps that pass under the arms of the wearer.

The object of a recent invention is to provide a new and improved process for manufacturing lime and carbonic acid in such a simple and economical manner that both the lime and the carbonic acid are almost immediately in condition for the market. The process consists essentially in passing a mixture of highly heated carbonic acid and steam up through a column of limestone to expel the carbonic acid contained in the limestone and to convert the latter into calcium oxid.

A new method of manufacturing Oriental carpets has been placed upon the market by an English syndicate, which has secured the rights from the inventor. It relates principally to the weaving of Turkish "piled" and "tufted" carpets, and the process embodies a revolutionary advance. By hand about half a day is occupied in making a square yard of this textile fabric, but the new loom has a capacity of thirty-five square yards per day. The process of coloring the yarns for the design is another novel feature. This again is almost entirely accomplished by hand.

The Extinct Mocking-Bird.

The mocking-bird is practically extinct save in captivity, and there are but few of them captive, for the bird does not take readily to a cage, and unless caught when very young, it is reported to commit suicide rather than endure imprisonment, or to be supplied with poison by the free birds that pity its fate. It was discovered not long ago that many of the negroes on the plantations, knowing very little about ornithology, shoot any bird they come across and are indulging in potpie made of the American nightingale.

This slaughter has been largely stopped by the license taxes placed on the sale of shotguns and ammunition. This action was not taken, however, until there were very few mocking birds left in Louisiana. The same is true of the game law which was passed only at the last session of the Legislature, when the ducks had been killed or largely driven from Louisiana; and the action of the Ornithological Union in regard to sea birds also came a little late.

Growth of Human Hair.

Authorities differ as to the rate of growth of human hair, and it is said to be very dissimilar in different individuals. The most usually accepted calculation gives six and a half inches per annum.

Electricity in Argentina.

Already nearly $40,000,000 has been invested in electric undertakings in the Argentine Republic.

CRIME WITH THE PEN

REMARKABLE FORGERIES THAT ARE STILL REMEMBERED.

There Have Been Others as Clever as the Famous "Jim the Penman"—A Forger Who Fooled Bank Officials in Several European Cities.

The history of forgery records many marvelously clever and audacious feats, but the most daring and skillful of them all stands to the credit, or rather discredit, of that most dramatic of forgers, Jim the Penman.

When Jim was arrested at Memphis, Tenn., on a charge of forgery he was able to produce so many striking testimonials to his character from the principal men in the United States that the judge considerably reduced the severity of his sentence.

He had been in prison only a few weeks when the governor of the jail received an official notification that an influential petition signed by the judge, jury and many leading citizens, had been been forwarded to the Governor of the State praying for the convict's release on the ground that "he bore an excellent character, and had been a dupe and not a willing or conscious agent in the forgery;" and a month or two later an order was received from the Governor commanding his release.

It was some time afterward that the discovery was made that testimonials, petitions and order for release were all the product of Jim's own clever pen, and that they had been actually written in jail with the connivance of a friendly warder.

Twenty years ago a convicted murderer was lying in Newgate prison under sentence of death, when a reprieve was handed to the Governor. Some informality aroused his suspicions, and the matter was placed in the hands of detectives, who discovered that the reprieve had been forged by a man who had a "conscientious objection" to the death penalty, and who had taken this daring means of preventing it in this particular case.

A few years ago a Greek presented himself at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, with a roll of ancient manuscript which he wished the authorities to purchase. The most recent of them dated from the thirteenth century, and, one by one, the musty time-stained parchments were submitted to the late Mr. Coxe, the librarian, who examined them without comment. The last of them, a document ostensibly as old as the most ancient New Testament manuscripts, was proudly placed on the table. "Now, how old do you think that is?" the Greek asked, in undisguised triumph. "About the middle of this century," Mr. Coxe quietly answered, as he examined it carefully, and almost before the words were out of his mouth the Greek had snatched up his forgeries and was out of the room.

It is doubtful whether any forger, ancient or modern, was more skillful than B——, who for many years baffled the combined ingenuity of the bankers of London. Mr. B——'s forte was the forging and manipulation of letters of credit on foreign banks.

About eight years ago he deposited a sum of £300 with a London bank, receiving a letter of credit for this amount on the bank's continental agent. Within a few days he drew this amount from a Swiss bank, the letter being duly canceled and the amount drawn indorsed upon it. To anyone but B—— the note would have been absolutely useless; but he did not take this view at all. By means of chemicals he removed the cancellation marks and indorsement, and presented the note again in Belgium; again he used his chemicals and drew another £300 in Paris, repeating the process until on that single note for £300 he had drawn ten times the amount.

To make such tricks impossible the amounts were in future given on the notes in water mark, to which our forger proceeded to add a cipher, also in water mark, thus enabling him again to draw £3,000 on a £300 note. To the water mark was then added the amount in perforated figures; but B—— simply cut out both water mark and perforation from the note, cunningly inserted a new piece of paper in pulp, and on it forged figures for ten times the amount or more.

So skillfully were the substitution of fresh paper and the forgeries of the figures effected that even with a microscope it was impossible to see that the note had been tampered with, and on one occasion B—— actually forged an entire note so perfectly that even the bank officials who were supposed to have issued it could not detect the fraud.

Two men were sitting in a public house waiting for a man with whom an arrangement had been made to concoct a money-making crime, when the door was silently and stealthily opened and a head furtively introduced and much more quickly withdrawn. Not quickly enough, however, for in that brief instant its owner had been recognized, and before he had proceeded five yards a detective's hand was placed on his shoulder. Thus "Jim the Penman," in spite of all his cleverness, fell at last into the simplest of traps and his career came to an end.

WHITE PINE DISAPPEARING.

Result of Ruthless Destruction of These Trees Is Evident.

"The white pine tree is disappearing," said a student of the conifer family to a reporter in the grounds of the Department of Agriculture, "though now that attention has been called to the ruthless destruction of the trees the various schemes of reforestration and conservative lumbering are being given consideration. It has been calculated that the original stand of white pine in Canada and the United States represents something like five hundred billion feet of merchantable lumber, board measure. In 1899 it was computed that the stand had been reduced to one hundred and ten billion feet, sixty-four billion being in the United States in the region of the great lakes, forty billion in Canada and six billions scattering.

"The white pine is distinctively a northern tree. The native distribution of the tree was from Newfoundland on the east to Lake Winnipeg on the west, and thence to the southern boundary of Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. The white pine belt also followed the Appalachian range so far to the south as Georgia. The best growth of the tree was in Maine and the British territory east of the State, along the St. Lawrence River, in New Hampshire, Vermont, northern New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and central Pennsylvania. The forests of white pine have been annihilated in New England, though some cutting continues in Maine. Some white pine still grows in almost inaccessible parts of New York and Pennsylvania.

"According to Prof. Spalding, the white pine tree seldom attains a height greater than 160 feet, or a diameter of more than forty inches. A tree of this variety once measured by the division of forestry of the Department of Agriculture was 170 feet tall and forty-eight inches thick. The tree was 460 years old. It was a little sapling fifty years before Columbus sailed from Payos.

"It is not an easy tree to propagate, so many of the seeds being unfertile. It does not, as a rule, produce flowers and cones until it is fifteen or twenty years old. During the first decade of its life it will grow about one foot every twelve months, and it grows a little faster till maturity. A tree twenty years old ought to be about twenty-five feet high, and at thirty or forty years of age it ought to measure about sixty feet."—Washington Star.

NIAGARA FALLS.

Is that Tremendous Cataract's Voice to Be Hushed Forever?

No illusions as to the ultimate destiny of Niagara Falls are entertained by the Electrical Review, and not only does it believe, with most people who have given serious and practical consideration to the question whether the United States and Canada can afford to maintain the cataract as a spectacle, that the utilization of the power available there will continue until no water is left to run over the precipice, but it says so boldly, and does not talk nonsense about "inappreciable" differences in the amount of water to make the plunge as one company after another diverts big fractions of it into underground channels. Already the town by the falls, once a village of hotels and curio shops, with no industries except those related to the exploitation of sightseers, has grown to an important manufacturing city, and a discussion, which is not likely to remain facetious long, has begun as to whether Niagara Falls is a suburb of Buffalo, or Buffalo a suburb of Niagara Falls.

The river is a big one, however, and the cataract will be an impressive spectacle for many years to come. At present some half a million horse-power has been or soon will be developed, and as yet neither the beauty nor the magnificence of the cataract has been decreased to a degree noticeable to any except the most careful observer. Just the same the falls are doomed as falls, and a few generations hence, if there are any sentimentalists left then, they will look with sorrow on a large, dry wall of rock which no man alive has ever seen. Of course the change will be lamentable in some respects, but the cost of preserving the cataract as it is would be so enormous that the thought of paying it must pass away.—New York Times.

Frontier Justice.

A young Arizona lawyer who recently visited Detroit gave the following as an example of the style of justice that prevails in some remote sections of the frontier:

A certain justice of the peace whose knowledge of the law was never gained from books or actual practice before the bar was hearing an assault and battery case. The lawyer for the defense was shouting his arguments when the court said:

"That will do. Set down."

He then adjusted his spectacles and sagely observed:

"Prisoner, shtand up! Accordin' tah th' law an' th' evydence—an' there is no evydince—Oi foind yez guilty, sor, an' foine ye $50. If yez air guilty, faith, it's a very loight sintince; an' if yez are not guilty it'll be a mighty good lesson for ye."—Detroit Free Press.

A Gentle Thrust.

A story related by Correspondent McDonald of the discovery of a Boer who had received a terrible bayonet wound through the ribs. As the man was being carried into the British lines a London "Tommy" who was watching him asked if he was badly hurt.

"Yes," said the doctor; "do you know him?"

"Course I do," said the soldier; "he's one o' mine. I guv it 'im, but I did it as gentle as I could. It wasn't the shovin' in—it was the pullin' out. Lucky for 'im he met me!"—London Chronicle.

"There comes my special," said a brakeman the other day, as he looked up and saw his wife approaching.

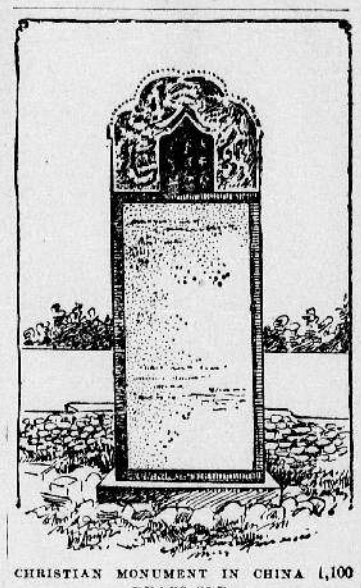
A man should not be blamed for the mistakes he makes; he should be credited as he profits by them.

LAST TRACE OF THE MISSION.

Monument in China Outside the Gate of Singaufu.

Here is a picture of the oldest Christian monument in China. It dates from the eighth century. Few Americans probably are aware that missionaries penetrated China as long ago as that.

This is the Nestorian tablet or Syro-Chinese monument which stands one mile outside the gate of Singaufu in Shensi. The story it tells is that of the fortunes of the Nestorian mission in China between the years 636 and 781. It sets forth that the dogmas of Christianity record the history of Christian effort in China and adds a sort of metrical thanksgiving to God and to the emperors who favored the Christian cause.


CHRISTIAN MONUMENT IN CHINA 1,100 YEARS OLD.

All trace of the mission has vanished except only this monument, says the New York World. It was unearthed in 1625 and copies of its inscription were sent to various capitols of Europe, exciting great interest at the time, and nowhere more than in London. Two lines of Syriac run down the left and right side of the Chinese. There is also Syriac writing at the foot. Recent visitors have found that the stone is in good preservation, and rubbings which have been taken attest its perfection.

In 1859 a Chinaman rebuilt the tablet into the brick wall where it had once stood outside the city. The material is a coarse marble. A considerable controversy has raged round this interesting relic, but the weight of evidence now inclines toward the conclusion that it is genuine.

HAD LIVED TO SEE 109 YEARS.

Death of Bernard Morris, the Oldest Inhabitant of New York.

Bernard Morris, the oldest inhabitant of New York, who died recently at the age of 109, was known as the "dean of the human race." He used to be a gardener in Prospect Park, and for several years past he has been living peacefully in retirement.


B. MORRIS.

Barney attributed his remarkable longevity to his lifelong abstinence from spirits of all kinds and from tobacco. He was born in the County Cavan, Ireland, June 10, 1792. There he lived until he was 32, and then he came to America and entered for a coachman. At this trade he worked for six years, and then secured a position as keeper in Prospect Park.

He leaves a widow, who was his third wife and whom he married when he was 68 and she 21. She fell in love with him at first sight and was never from his side a single day.

THE UP-TO-DATE SUNBONNET.

The ideal of simplicity and sweetness. It has been adopted by society for outing use, and may become almost as popular as the shirt waist.

Excused.

Lawyer—Do you know anything about this man's private life?

Witness—No, sir.

"But haven't you been associated with him in business?

"Not in the way you mean? I was one of the directors of the bank in which he was teller."—Detroit Free Press.

Slaughter of Elephants.

Sixty thousand elephants are annually slaughtered in Africa for the sake of their ivory.