

## AMERICAN BEAUTY.

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS OF  
GIRLS IN TWO CITIES.

The California Young Maiden Is Claimed  
to Be Nearer Perfect as to Form Than  
Her Sister in New York—Interesting  
Comparisons as to Feet.

A sculptor's ideal of beauty is evolved  
on mathematical principles. A perfect  
woman is 7 or 7 1/4 or 8 heads tall; her  
shoulders are two heads wide; her legs  
are 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 heads long; her waist is 3  
heads in circumference. But the size of  
heads varies in women who are equally  
perfect in shape; the head of the Venus  
de Medici is nearly one-eighth less in  
proportion than that of the Venus of Milo  
or the Cnidian Venus of Praxiteles, which  
was esteemed by the ancients the most  
perfect statue in existence. The Medici  
Venus is a slim, slender girl, whose  
proportions resemble the statues of Psyche.  
Living reproductions of her are more  
frequently seen in New York than here.

There fell into The Argonaut's possession  
a list of measurements of the proportions  
of a young lady of San Francisco,  
who is looked upon as being beautiful  
and having a fine figure—in short,  
a typical California girl. With these we  
have compared a similar ground plan of  
a New York girl which we secured at  
the time Professor Sargent was collecting  
statistics concerning the young  
women in eastern seminaries; likewise  
the measurements of Ballow's well  
known ideal beauty. They compare as  
follows:

	Cal- ifornia girl.	New York girl.	Ball- ow's ideal.
Height.....	5 ft. 6 in.	5 ft. 4 in.	5 ft. 6 in.
Length of head.....	8 3/4	8	8 3/4
Circumference of bust.....	35	30 1/4	32
Circumference of hips.....	35	30	32
Circumference of waist.....	24	19 3/4	23
Circumference of neck.....	12 1/4	12 1/4	13
Width of shoulders.....	17 1/4	15 3/4	16 1/4

The weights of the first and the last  
are between 130 and 135 pounds, while  
the New York girl weighs about 126.

Polydoretos, an old Greek sculptor from  
Lycion, left rules governing the relative  
proportions of the female frame. He  
said that twice the thumb was once  
round the wrist, which it is not, unless  
the thumb is unusually large and the  
wrist unusually slender; that twice the  
wrist is the size of the neck, which is  
about the case in a well proportioned  
woman; that twice the neck is once  
round the waist, which is about so. But  
he also says that the hand and foot and  
face should all be of the same length,  
which is very rarely the case, and that  
the body should be six times the length  
of the foot, which would limit most  
men, whose feet average ten inches in  
length, to a stature of five feet. The  
gentleman from Lycion is evidently not  
a trustworthy guide.

Referring to the above table, it will be  
observed that the waist of the New  
Yorker is much smaller than that of the  
other two. The fashion of small waists  
is the rage in the east, and the desired  
result is obtained by tight lacing, which  
is carried to such an extent that the  
physiognomist is lost in amazement as  
to where the lady has bestowed her vital  
organs. No statue in existence exhibits  
such a disproportion between the waist  
and those portions of the trunk which  
lie above and below it. The compression  
of the girth is a mere fashionable fad  
which good taste must condemn. Our  
California girl wears a 24-inch corset,  
which might easily be reduced to a 23-  
inch if the wearer saw fit to sacrifice  
comfort to eastern fashion. There are  
belles in New York who are not satisfied  
till they have squeezed themselves into a  
17-inch corset. Such persons, it would  
seem, would have enjoyed the Scottish  
boot.

The bust and hips should, in a perfectly  
formed woman, be exactly the same  
in circumference. They are so in Ball-  
ow's ideal, in the Venus of Milo, in the  
Cnidian Venus and in the California  
girl. In the New Yorker the circum-  
ference of the bust is half an inch  
greater than that of the hips, which is  
probably the work of art, not nature.

Ballow does not give the dimensions of  
his ideal's feet or hands. He merely  
says that they are "in proportion," which  
is rather vague. The rule among sculp-  
tors is that the foot should measure one  
head, which is unsatisfactory, as some  
large women have small heads, and some  
small women large heads.

The female foot is probably smaller in  
New York society than here, for the sim-  
ple reason that it has less to carry. Shoe-  
makers say here that they sell more 4  
and 4 1/2 shoes than any others, but many  
ladies in society buy 3 1/2, 3, and even 2 1/2  
shoes. The knights of St. Crispin do not  
believe in the sculptor's rule about  
feet. They say that small feet, like large  
wits, are a gift from heaven, and may  
be found attached to persons of any di-  
mensions. Everybody has observed that  
there is no necessary connection between  
the hands and the figure; that some slim  
girls have large hands, and some girls  
with opulent figures small hands and  
fingers.

Take all the measurements together,  
and the conclusion is forced that the  
California girl more closely resembles  
the Cnidian Venus than the Venus of  
Medici, and that a representative Cali-  
fornian statue should be cast after a  
study of that masterpiece as well as of  
the Venus of Milo and the Venus Calli-  
pyge.—San Francisco Argonaut.

### Women Carry Daggers.

A prominent jeweler says that he sells  
a number of daggers annually to women.  
These are not ornaments, but serious  
weapons. They are just large enough  
to slip easily inside a woman's gown.  
Some women have these made to order,  
when they are lavishly adorned and in-  
crusted with precious stones. They are  
frequently carried in traveling, when  
they are intended as weapons of defense.  
They are preferred to revolvers, which  
are likely to go off summarily and in the  
wrong direction.—Jewelers' Circular.

### Interpreting the Scriptures.

"There is a queer old preacher down  
in my country," said a native born Mary-  
lander to a party of friends in the Man-  
hattan club one evening last week. The  
man had just returned from a visit to  
his old home after a long absence and  
was amusing the company with anec-  
dotes.

"He is about seventy years old," con-  
tinued the speaker, "and he has had  
little or no education and is utterly in-  
capable of preaching a sermon. He be-  
lieves every word, letter and punctua-  
tion mark in the Bible is inspired, and  
his method of teaching his flock is to  
read from the Scripture and expound  
and explain his reading to the best of his  
ability.

"Of course the good old man quite fre-  
quently runs up against some passage  
most difficult to interpret. His method  
of extricating himself, as I have reason  
to know, is unique. I was listening to  
his exposition of Solomon and all his  
glory the other Sunday and wondered  
how he was going to do justice to the  
great king in the matter of his thousand  
odd wives. All of a sudden he came up  
on the passage, which he read through  
slowly. Then he paused, mopped his  
brow and said:

"Brethren, we have come across a  
difficult passage. Let us, however, not  
shirk our duty. We must look the diffi-  
culty firmly in the face and pass on to  
the next verse.' And he promptly pro-  
ceeded to do so, to the evident satisfac-  
tion of his flock."—New York Herald.

### A Typical Mississippi Steamboat.

The City of Providence was one of a  
long line of Mississippi boats edging the  
broad, clean, sloping levee that fronts  
busy St. Louis. She was by far the  
largest and handsomest of the packets,  
but all are of one type, and that is  
worth describing. They are, so far as I  
remember, all painted white, and are  
very broad and low. Each carries two  
tall black funnels, capped with a bulging  
ornamental top, and carrying on rods  
swung between the funnels the trade  
mark of the company cut out of sheet  
iron, an anchor or an initial letter, a  
fox or a swan, or whatever.

There are three or four stories to these  
boats—first the open main deck for  
freight and for the boilers and engines,  
then the walled in saloon deck, with a  
row of windows and doors cut alternately  
close beside one another and with pro-  
fuse ornamentation by means of jig saw  
work wherever it can be put, and last  
of all the "Texas," or officers' quarters,  
and the "bureau," or negro passengers'  
cabin, forming the third story.

Most of the large boats have the big  
square pilot house on top of the "Texas,"  
but others carry it as part of the third  
story in front of the "Texas." The pilot  
house is always made to look graceful  
by means of an upper fringe of jig saw  
ornament, and usually carries a deer's  
head or pair of antlers in front of it.—  
Julian Ralph in Harper's.

### A Mania for Decorations.

There are Frenchmen, according to M.  
Simon, who collect decorations just as  
others collect postage stamps. In cer-  
tain official positions it appears the one  
thing is hardly more difficult than the  
other. "I knew," he says, "two public  
officials who had this inoffensive mania.  
One was fat. The chain on which he  
hung his medals spread across his ample  
chest and struck downward and was lost  
to view in his waistcoat pocket, in the  
interior of which the imagination pic-  
tured further honorary insignia. The  
other was thin, to his great disgust, and  
he could only exhibit some thirty decora-  
tions in a row. Some one advised him  
to wear a double line, just as unruly  
convicts wear a double chain. He did  
so, and he was quite right. His breast  
was a collection of all the animals of  
creation in gold, silver and enamel. It  
amused people to look at all this while  
he was speaking, and they were very  
glad of this little distraction, for he was  
an ass."—London News.

### The Shape of the Shoe.

Our Puritan fathers wore shoes moder-  
ately peaked. About 1680 square toes  
made their appearance. In the reign of  
Mary, who died in 1658, there was a  
proclamation issued that no person  
should wear shoes over two inches wide  
at the toes. Square toes began to lose  
favor in 1757. In our newspapers from  
1716 to 1735 round toes became more  
common, and peaked ones less, accord-  
ing to descriptions given of shoes on  
runaway slaves and servants. From  
1737 shoe toes continued in a small pro-  
portion and became mostly pointed.  
This shape lasted nearly a hundred  
years. Square toes began again in 1825,  
and in 1836 were succeeded by round  
toes.—Boston Herald.

### A Description of the Heart.

Here is a question and answer of a  
high school pupil:  
Briefly describe the heart and its func-  
tions or work. The heart is a comical  
shaped bag. The heart is divided into  
several parts by a fleshy partition. These  
parts are called right artillery, left ar-  
tillery, and so forth. The function of  
the heart is between the lungs. The  
work of the heart is to repair the differ-  
ent organs in about half a minute.—Miss  
A. C. Graham in University Correspondent.

### A Shocking Organization.

The Liars' club is all that its name im-  
plies. It is composed largely of wicked  
fishermen whose improbable stories have  
given a bad name to honest, truth tell-  
ing worshippers at the shrine of old  
Isaac Walton who would not tell a lie  
about the number of fish they caught  
for the world. The biggest liar is chosen  
president, and several gentlemen of  
prominence in our community have held  
the office.—New York Times.

A good conscience is to the soul what  
health is to the body—it preserves con-  
stant ease and serenity within us and  
more than counterbalances all the calamities  
and afflictions which can befall us with-  
out.—Addison.



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