

STORY OF A COLOR FAD.

Now the Craze for Lilac Had Its Birth in Vienna.
Many years ago, in the days of her radiant beauty, her imperial majesty, Empress Elizabeth, of Austria, sat for her portrait by Schrotzberg, a fashionable Viennese artist. The picture, says Munsey, was painted at the request of the empress' royal cousin, Ludwig II of Bavaria, and was destined to grace the walls of his gallery of beautiful women in Munich. The artist recognized the importance of his commission, and gave to the canvas all the skill of his genius, which, in the matter of color, had no equal in Germany. The robe of the empress was of imperial purple, of so marvelous a tint and so wonderfully painted that it dimmed even the charm of the sovereign lady's matchless beauty. Artists tried in vain to imitate it, pens to describe it, and in time it came to be known as the "historical lilac."

In the ballrooms of Vienna a tint bearing the name of Kaiserilla is in vogue, which is as near the shade of purple in which Schrotzberg clothed his beautiful empress as jocobs and pigments can make it. In this country lilac has long been considered a color for the middle-aged women, but now young girls are taking a great fancy to it, and the coming summer we are told will see it a reigning tint. Max Nordau may be right in the theory that devotion to violet is one of the surer signs of degeneracy, but the stylish woman of today would much prefer to be called "degenerate" than "unstylish."

A COUNTRY OF SURPRISES.

Coral, Lead, Silver and Tin in South Africa.

While there is little doubt that with proper development of its agricultural and pastoral resources South Africa could be made practically self-supporting, the successful development of these industries depends nevertheless upon the creation of local markets through the stimulus given by mining operations, says the North American Review.

With the exception of mining of gold, diamonds and coal there have been no considerable exploitations of its mineral resources. Coal fortunately exists in many parts of the country, and it has been estimated that the known coal fields represent an area of 36,000 square miles, which is equal in extent to the state of Iowa. There exist in some parts of the country large deposits of iron contiguous to the coal fields. But

it is considered somewhat indelicate for the woman to yield too easily. Even after their engagement the minister conducts most of the negotiations leading up to the marriage ceremony.

This always takes place in a church, to which everybody is entitled to admission on the wedding day without invitation. Two weeks before the wedding the "banns" are called from the pulpit and during that fortnight the bride and groom are allowed to meet without the presence of a third party. The first portion of the ceremony consists of a sermon, generally on some such subject as the duties of husband and wife. One such sermon preached at a wedding last summer lasted about two hours, although the minister announced in the beginning that because of the hot weather he would "be brief." At the close of the sermon the contracting parties, who had been seated on opposite sides of the church, walked to the altar, where they answered affirmatively a series of questions and were pronounced man and wife. Then they returned to their seats on opposite sides of the auditorium and the regular services of the day were resumed.

CHINESE OBSTACLES.

EVIL SPIRITS WHICH MUST BE DRIVEN OUT.

And the Bishop Forthwith Dismissed the Driver.

A house is to be repaired, wonder-fully thought is necessary. The evil spirits which are supposed to occupy each dwelling that mortals have inhabited cause the carpenter no end of trouble and no trifling expense, says Lippincott's. First, an astrologer must be consulted with regard to the most lucky day for beginning the work; then a square suspended from the ridge-beam is a notification to the spirits of darkness that their dwelling-place is to be disturbed, wherefore the square thing for them to do is to move out quietly and peacefully. Next the carpenters make offerings to these unseen residents. These gifts seem to say: "If you please, spirits of darkness, accept this bribe and speedily take your flight."

Next, the neighbors must be warned that these evil influences are about to be turned loose, perhaps to seek shelter under a neighboring roof. Every house on that street receives a notice that upon a certain day and hour repairs are to begin on the dwelling of Ah Sin. Each household can then pay the impot not to enter their doorway, but to go to the next neighbor.

Even the farmer cannot begin his work in the spring until after the national festivals are celebrated in honor of the special gods who are supposed to make it their particular business to look after the welfare of those who till the soil. In a land where more than 100,000,000 people are supported by agriculture, where many farms have been in cultivation for three or even four milleniums, we naturally expect to find skill in that line of work. In this we are not disappointed, for Chinese farming is scientific handwork.

BORING ALLIGATOR.

Said to Have Made a Hole in a New Orleans Levee.

The high wind that prevailed did considerable damage to the levees along the Algiers shore, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat of late date. The wind after sunset blew especially hard against that side of the river. The waves were blown over the revetment and in some places did much damage to the earthwork. The guards were very active. They reported promptly all washings, and where the occasion demanded it the damage was promptly repaired.

One of the curiosities of the flood in this section developed at the Morgan railroad wharf early one morning. There had been trouble there for some days with seepage, and a force of men had been employed closing the crevices and cracks through which the water percolated. There was an unusual quantity at one place one night, and the foreman of the gang, going over to the spot the other morning to ascertain the reason, announced the hole had been caused by an alligator, which had burrowed through from under the wharf. His trail could be plainly seen in the mud, and the workmen, in speaking of it to Sergt. Cologne, commanding the Algiers station, said that they judged that he must have been at least four feet long. They think the water covered all the resting places that he might have had under the wharf, and he decided to bore a hole through the bank, and thus mix his time between dry land and water.

HIS NARROW ESCAPE.

Bagley's Boy Was Too Good a Guesser and Hence He's Been Banished.

When a Mennonite young man desires to marry a Mennonite young woman, instead of telling her about it he confides in the minister. If the latter thinks well of the proposed match he informs the young woman and generally devotes considerable time to pleading the case of the lovesick swain, since it is considered somewhat indelicate for the woman to yield too easily. Even after their engagement the minister conducts most of the negotiations leading up to the marriage ceremony.

This always takes place in a church, to which everybody is entitled to admission on the wedding day without invitation. Two weeks before the wedding the "banns" are called from the pulpit and during that fortnight the bride and groom are allowed to meet without the presence of a third party. The first portion of the ceremony consists of a sermon, generally on some such subject as the duties of husband and wife. One such sermon preached at a wedding last summer lasted about two hours, although the minister announced in the beginning that because of the hot weather he would "be brief." At the close of the sermon the contracting parties, who had been seated on opposite sides of the church, walked to the altar, where they answered affirmatively a series of questions and were pronounced man and wife. Then they returned to their seats on opposite sides of the auditorium and the regular services of the day were resumed.

SUBSTITUTE FOR SWING BRIDGE.

Cartons Engineering Structure at the Mouth of the River Nervion.

At the mouth of the river Nervion, which flows into the Bay of Biscay between Portugal and Las Arenas, a curious engineering structure has been erected within the last few years to transport passengers, cattle and vehicles without interfering with the river traffic. It consists, says the Manchester Guardian, of a couple of towers 200 feet high, one on each bank; from these a bridge is suspended by chains at a height sufficient to clear the masts of vessels—that is, nearly 150 feet above the water level of the spring tide. This bridge carries a line of rails on which a trolley is pulled to and fro by an engine on the Las Arenas or northern side. With it goes a car, hung by steel cables, in which the passengers take their seats. This is not wound up to the top, but stays at the level of the quays. Thus the transit is effected quickly and regularly, without the delay inseparable from a swing bridge.

"You couldn't guess, now, could you, Johnnie, how pap happened to nearly get killed?"

"Yethir, I can," answered Johnnie, promptly.

"Bless the boy. How was it? Tell the company, my son."

"You had a scrap 'tith ma," answered the youngster, and now Bagley's boy doesn't sit up to show off for company.

CURIOS DINNER AT JERICHO.

An American traveling in Palestine describes in the Hartford Courant an interesting dinner he ate recently at a hotel in Jericho. "We sat on the porch of the hotel at Jericho," he wrote, "after dinner at which we were served with butter from Norway, cheese from Switzerland, marmalade from London, wine from Jerusalem diluted with water from the well of Elisha, raisins from Ramoth Gilead, oranges from Jericho (in no respect inferior to those from Jaffa or the Indian river, Florida), and almonds from the gosh of the Jordan, smoking Turkish tobacco, which, like the Turkish emperior, is inferior to its reputation, and a cup of coffee from the corner grocery of Jericho."

"Dear sir—We are here. What shall we do?"

It was signed with the names of the two men sent to "write up" the fire.

The news editor made a few remarks, which, while they were appropriate to the occasion, would not look well in print; then he wrote on a telegram blank this brief message:

"Find out where the fire is hottest, and jump in."

A RUSSIAN JOKE.

One reads in a Russian periodical which has a corner devoted to the "comic," this pleasant: "What, Vanya, drunk again? I thought you only got drunk on the great holidays?" "To-day is a great holiday; my mother-in-law has gone away."

SPIDERS AS PETS.

Spiders are not generally popular creatures with either sex. Yet a lady writer affirms that they can be made the dearest little pets in the world.

She tells how she collected a common garden spider and kept the sweet lady under a glass tumbler for three weeks.

She watched her "building her house of snowy silk" and raising a family, and, says the writer, "she soon learned to take flies from my hand and drink water from a leaf which I gave her fresh every day."

There are, indeed, according to this lady, few things so agreeable as a spider, whether regarded as an architect, a thing of beauty, a player of peeps or a household pet.

HE SWEARS AT THE MULES.

EVIL SPIRITS WHICH MUST BE DRIVEN OUT.

And the Bishop Forthwith Dismissed the Driver.

A bishop's coachman must not swear, especially when he is on the bœuf and the bishop inside, says the Pall Mall Gazette. "T'is to be a certain place in Spain called Corrales and it is in the province and diocese of Zamora, and the bishop of Zamora recently went in his coach and four (but they were mules) to hold a confirmation at Corrales. When the children of the diocese were duly confirmed the mules, being confirmed already in stubbornness and original sin, refused to start and backed the carriage, with the bishop inside it, against the churchyard gate, thereby making a breach in the sanctuary of the churchyard wall. At this point the coachman is reported to have uttered one of those thunderous Spanish curses in which the language of Spain is so infinitely superior to the language of France, and which even a bishop must feel has the dignity of power. Unfortunately for himself the mayor of Corrales, Sig. Tome, had just taken leave of the bishop and was standing by the carriage when the word reached him. He sprang forward and fined the coachman four pesetas on the spot for blasphemy and profanation, for in Spain a parishioner of the parish of Orléans, No. 53,230—En vertu d'un writ de saisis et vente à moi adressé par l'Honorable Cour Civile de District pour la paroisse d'Orléans, dans l'affaire ci-dessus intitulée, je procéderai à la vente à l'encherre publique, à la Bourse des Encanteurs, Nos 629 et 631 rue Commune, entre les rues Camp et St Charles, dans le Premier District de cette ville, le 1^{er} JUIN 1897, à midi, de la propriété ci-après décrite, à savoir:

Un certain lot de terre avec les bâties qui s'y trouvent, dans le quartier District de cette ville, dans l'île 24, maintenant 46, borné par la rue Roman, Prieur, Kierster et Replatine, et mesurant 100 pieds de long sur 50 de large, à la Bourse des Encanteurs, le 1^{er} JUIN 1897, à midi, de la propriété ci-après décrite, à savoir:

George Honold.

COEUR CIVILE DE DISTRICT POUR LA PAROISSE D'ORLEANS—No 53,230—En vertu d'un writ de saisis et vente à moi adressé par l'Honorable Cour Civile de District pour la paroisse d'Orléans, dans l'affaire ci-dessus intitulée, je procéderai à la vente à l'encherre publique, à la Bourse des Encanteurs, Nos 629 et 631 rue Commune, entre les rues Camp et St Charles, dans le Premier District de cette ville, le 1^{er} JUIN 1897, à midi, de la propriété ci-après décrite, à savoir:

Conditions—Comptant sur les lieux.

FRANK MARQUEZ.

Sheriff Civil de la paroisse d'Orléans

11 juil.—11 18 25—jul 12 9 20 15

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

Vente du Shérif d'une Grande Propriété de Valeur et Améliorée dans le Sixième District,

Connue comme l'ancien Nos

52 et 52 1/2 et les nou-

vaines Nos 526 et 528 rue

Sorapuru.

Germania Savings Bank vs Christian

Jules Fontenot vs Charles Ebliq.

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

Vente du Shérif d'une Propriété de Valeur et Améliorée dans le Sixième District,

Connue comme l'ancien Nos

50 et 50 1/2 et les nou-

vaines Nos 506 et 508 rue

Hurst.

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

Jules Fontenot vs Charles Ebliq.

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

COEUR CIVILE DE DISTRICT POUR LA PAROISSE D'ORLEANS—No 53,240—En vertu d'un writ de saisis et vente à moi adressé par l'Honorable Cour Civile de District pour la paroisse d'Orléans, dans l'affaire ci-dessus intitulée, je procéderai à la vente à l'encherre publique, à la Bourse des Encanteurs, Nos 629 et 631 rue Commune, entre les rues Camp et St Charles, dans le Premier District de cette ville, le 1^{er} JUIN 1897, à midi, de la propriété ci-après décrite, à savoir:

Conditions—Comptant sur les lieux.

FRANK MARQUEZ.

Sheriff Civil de la paroisse d'Orléans

11 juil.—11 18 25—jul 12 9 20 15

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

Vente d'une grande propriété de valeur améliorée dans le quatrième District,

Connue comme l'ancien Nos

52 et 52 1/2 et les nou-

vaines Nos 526 et 528 rue

Sorapuru.

Germania Savings Bank vs Christian

Jules Fontenot vs Charles Ebliq.

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

Vente du Shérif d'une Propriété de Valeur et Améliorée dans le Sixième District,

Connue comme l'ancien Nos

50 et 50 1/2 et les nou-

vaines Nos 506 et 508 rue

Hurst.

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

Jules Fontenot vs Charles Ebliq.

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

COEUR CIVILE DE DISTRICT POUR LA PAROISSE D'ORLEANS—No 53,242—En vertu d'un writ de saisis et vente à moi adressé par l'Honorable Cour Civile de District pour la paroisse d'Orléans, dans l'affaire ci-dessus intitulée, je procéderai à la vente à l'encherre publique, à la Bourse des Encanteurs, Nos 629 et 631 rue Commune, entre les rues Camp et St Charles, dans le Premier District de cette ville, le 1^{er} JUIN 1897, à midi, de la propriété ci-après décrite, à savoir:

Conditions—Comptant sur les lieux.

FRANK MARQUEZ.

Sheriff Civil de la paroisse d'Orléans

11 juil.—11 18 25—jul 12 9 20 15

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

Vente d'une grande propriété de valeur et améliorée dans le sixième District,

Connue comme l'ancien Nos

50 et 50 1/2 et les nou-

vaines Nos 506 et 508 rue

Hurst.

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

Jules Fontenot vs Charles Ebliq.

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

COEUR CIVILE DE DISTRICT POUR LA PAROISSE D'ORLEANS—No 5