BRIDES OF ALL NATIONS.

June the Favorite Month for Weddings Some Savage Oustoms.

The "June" bride is not exclusively the product of our social status and civilization. In Burmah, in the wilds of South Africa, in tropic Egypt, in remote Turkestan and in chilly Russia the month of June is looked upon as the marriage month par excellence.

In Burmah marriages are exceedingly simple; there is no display and no excitement. The bride, though, not the bridegroom, is the wooing spirit. When a Burmese beauty spiesa youth with whom she believes she can be happy she gives him a piece of candy. If he takes it and eats it the matter is settled, and the two are pronounced man and wife without any more formality. But if the youth's heart is otherwise engaged, he refases the candy, and the woman has to be content with that.

In countries where it is still customary to win a bride with force, the month of June causes much pain to the elect. In parts of Africa, where mimical tribes inhabit adjacent tertitories, the rape of the bride flourishes still in all its glory. Among savage tribes and the Austral negroes it is not at all unusual for a muchcoveted belle to be almost quartered by three or four dusky admirers who, in the effort to abduct her, pull her in all directions, often crippling her

In New Zealand the bride is surrounded by her relatives and the groom by his. Then a friendly bat-tle ensues, until the would-be husband has an opportunity to snatch the girl from her protectors, whereupon a real wedding feast follows.

In Turkestan the bride mounts a magnificent horse and gallops away. She is pursued by the groom on one of his fleetest steeds. Of course he overtakes her and brings her back in triumph.

On the Molucca islands the wives are treated very tenderly by their husbands. The priest who performs the marriage ceremony over a Malayan bridal couple gives to the husband the following monition: "Do not wound your wife with the lance or knife. If she refuses to obey you, take her into a room by herself and chastise her with a handkerchief!" Provided the cloth is not tied into a dozen knots, no more gentle method of reproval could be devised.—St. Louis Republic.

#### BRUNETTE TYPES.

Are the Predominating Style in South-

ern Europe, In a rough way, the extremes in the distribution of the blonde and brunette varieties within the population of Europe are as follows. At the northern limit we find that about onethird of the people are pure blondes, characterized by light hair and blue eyes; about one-tenth are pure brunettes; the remainder, over one-half, being mixed, with a tendency to blondeness. On the other hand, in the south of Italy the pure blondes have almost entirely disappeared. About one-half of the population are pure brunettes, with deep brown or black hair, and eyes of a corresponding shade; and the other half is mixed, with a tendency to brunetteness. The half-and-half line seems to lie about where it ought, not far from the Alps. Yet it does not follow the parallels of latitude. A circle, described with Copenhagen as a center, sweeping around near Vienna, across the middle of Switzerland, thence up the British Isles, might serve roughly to indicate such a boundary. North of it blondeness prevails, although always with an appreciable percentage of pure brunettes. South of it brunetteness finally dominates quite exclusively. It should not fail of note that toward the east there is a slight though constant increase of brunetteness along the same degrees of latitude and that the western portion of the British Isles is a northern outpost of the brunette type. Thus we see at a glance that there is a gradual though constant increase in the proportion of dark eyes and hair from north to south. — Prof. William Z. Ripley, in Appletons' Popular Science Monthly.

## Transfusion of Blood.

An English newspaper says that a well-known physician declares that Stanley, the explorer, owes the fact that he survived the most dangerous of his African trips to his having submitted five times to a transfusion of African blood into his veins, which believed in Africa to be a great aid to acclimatization. If, as is probable, this statement is based upon the ceremony of "making blood-brother-hood," it involves a complete error, since that operation simply mingles woon the surface a drop or two of blood taken from a slight incision. and there is no transfusion what-

The Height of Denver.

Denver, Gol, the highest of the Barge cities of the United States, is 14 feet higher than one mile above the sea level the exact figures being 1394 feet.

SOCIAL LIFE IN THE ARMY. Mrs. Custer Tells of Its Informal

Good Fellowship Mrs. Elizabeth B. Custer, in speaking about the peculiar conditions; which govern the social life of women

in the army, said:
"It is really hard to find any points of likeness between social intercourse at a military post and that of civil life. You may judge how great the difference is when I say that upon my first appearance socially in the states after my years of soldiering I scarcely knew how to act or how to accustom myself to the greater formality all around me. For that is the keynote of the matter. Army life is informal to the last degree.

"It is only at a few of the larger posts, near the cities, where there is anything like the formality of civil life. The people in a garrison are like one great family. Nothing that deeply concerns any member is a matter of indifference to the others, and the spirit of good-fellowship is universal. That great test of intimacy among women-the borrowing practice-is met with everywhere.

"Any article of especial service or desirability which belongs to one household is practically at the service of the whole post. My sewing machine and my piano went on many a visit to other homes, and in return I knew I could have anything my neighbors possessed, from their best cloaks to their saucepans, if I wanted them.

"Official jealousies of various kinds, there may be, but every one in the army or connected with it is careful to keep these entirely apart from the social life of the post

"Many things depend altogether upon the personal example of the post commander and his wife. Civilians have no idea whatever of the extent to which this is true. For instance, if everything in the way of gossip is frowned upon in the commanding of-ficer's house there will be little of it anywhere in the garrison.

"In the matter of calling upon newcomers, too, every one waits to see what the chief will do. There is a close watch kept from the several windows and piazzas, and when the commanding officer and his wife have been seen to enter the stranger's door everyone at the post prepares to toddle after them within 24 hours.

"No distinctions between rich and poor are ever observed; the poor lieutenant who has not a cent besides his pay, and whose dress uniform is shiny at the seams, is just as welcome a guest at the general's table as the richest officer in the post. But if there has been anything discreditable to the good name of an officer or his wife, the circumstances must be investigated before other families of the post will call.

"You will often hear, in reply to comment upon an officer's actions, something like this:

"'Oh, that is an outside affair. It does not affect the regiment at all. Here he has always been above reproach, and we cannot listen to reports of which we know personally nothing. The regiment will stand by him.' The women of the post acquiesce in this feeling their loyalty to the regiment is as great as their husbands, and so the matter ends.

"Anyone familiar with army life knows how rare are the cases where officers fail to exhibit a fine sense of honor. From the nature of their calling they are obliged to put absolute trust in one another on many occasions, and if there was not a general feeling that this trust would be faithfully kept there could be no comfort or peace in a garrison."—N. Y. Trib-

Anything May Be Copyrighted.

Under the law the librarian of congress is compelled to record a copyright for everything that is taken to him. He cannot act in a judicial ca-pacity, and determine whether the person who seeks a copyright is the author or is entitled by priority to secure the privilego he asks. Mark Twain once complained to Mr. Spofford, the venerable librarian who has recently given place to John Russell Young, that a number of his early contributions to western papers had not only been published in book form without his knowledge or consent, but had actually been copyrighted by the literary pirates. Sam Jones' sermons used to be taken in shorthand by unprincipled people and then copyrighted and published, the real author, of course, not receiving a cent of the profits. The same scheme was tried with Ingersoll, but he copyrighted his lectures before delivery. The Bible has been offered for copyright any number of times, and every time the request was granted. As for the protection which such a copyright would give, that is a question which the courts would have to set-

it Made No Difference. "Is that your wife on a bicycle?"

"It is." "I thought you said that you would never permit her to ride one." "I don't permit it, but what difference do you suppose that makes to her?"—Chicago Post.

APACHES AND THEIR HAIR. Indians Don't Like the Shears Applied to Their Locks.

As with Samson of old, the Indians' wildness lay in their long hair, which the returned educated Indians wore because, as they boasted, "it made them wild." All energies were bent to compel the adult males to cut their hair and adopt civilized attire in vain. Even the police would not wear their uniforms. A proposition to cut their hair, from a former agent, resulted in a mutiny. The duties of the police are to arrest offenders and to herd the beef cattle purchased for their own consumption. Rations were considerably increased to the police to make. it worth their while to think twice before leaving the force, and they were informed that when there were no police to herd the beeves the tribe would go without. That was a different proposition. Two members who had been to school were discharged for wearing long hair. One old fellow, as a special favor, cut his hair, but it cost me five dollars. His wife made his life a burden, and he in turn appealed to me to hasten with the rest.

By using rations and other supplies as a lever, I induced a few more to cut, and then I directed the police to cut theirs or leave the force. They reluctantly complied, but once accomplished they were only too eager to compel the rest, and they cheerfully, under orders, arrested and brought to me every educated Indian on the reservation. There were 20 of these, gorgeous in paint, feathers, long hair, breech clouts, and blankets, educated at an expense of thousands of dollars, living in their brush shelters wilder than any uneducated Indian on the reservation, and fully as lazy and ambitionless. The "leaven" had failed to work. The mass absorbed them and compelled them to backslide. They soon had a hair cut and a suit of clothes put on them. The Indian office, at my request, issued a peremptory order for all to cut their hair and adopt civilized attire; and in six weeks from the start every male Indian had been changed into the semblance of a decent man, with the warning that confinement at hard labor awaited any backshiders. There has been none; and the task of moving them upward has been perceptibly easier from the time seissors clipped their wildness.-Outlook.

#### THEY SMELL A TRIEF.

The Detection of Crime by Abyssinian Authorities.

Abyssinia, the oldest monarchy in the world, had much the same government, laws and oustoms 3,000 years ago that it has now. One of the most curious of these, is that of "thief smelling."

When a robbery has been commitfed and is reported to the lebashi, who answers to the chief of detectives in New York, he compels one of his subordinates to drink a decoction made from a plant which throws him into a state something like that produced by hashish or opium-smoking before the stupor. While thus intoxicated the detective is supposed to have a supernatural power of smelling thieves. The method of utilizing this power, described by the Abyssinian traveler, Dr. Krapp, consists of tying a stout rope around the detective's waist and allowing him to crawl up and down the village street, the free end of the rope being held in the

hand of the lebashi. Whenever the thief-smeller enters a house its master is at once convicted of the theft without further evidence. The person who has been robbed is sent for and made to swear to the value of the stolen property, and this value must be paid at once by the owner of the house to which the scent has led the able detective.

The system has its disadvantages, but perhaps with the right sort of a lebashi-holding the free end of the rope that is tied around the thiefsmeller's waist it will work as well on the whole as related methods of detecting do in New York.—N. Y. Trib-

# British Possessions in America,

The following, according to London Tit-Bits, is a list of the British possessions in America, with their respective areas:

Against this the United States possesses a total area of 3,501,000 square miles, being 250,000 less than belongs to the British crown.

Various Wood Fibers.

The relative hardness of woods is calculated by the hickory, which is the toughest. Estimating this at 100, pignut hickory stands at 96, white oak 84, white ash 77, dogwood 75, scrub oak 73, white hazel 72, apple tree 70, red oak 69, white beech 65, black walnut 65, black birch 62, yellow and black oak 60, hard maple 56, white elm 58, red cedar 56, cherry 55, yellow pine 54, chestnut 52, yellow poplar 51, butternut and white birch, 43, and white pine 35.

SWEET PEAS IN A BOX.

There They Stayed While a Society Beau Wondered-

Some time this spring Mr. Blank, of Jacksonville, Ill., came over to St. Louis on one of his short visits, and while here was invited to dine with a Washington avenue family, who had visiting them two very interesting young women from Tennessec. Of course, our friend accepted, and duly made his appearance at the proper hour. It proved a delightful dinner. The Tennesseeans were all and much more than he had anticipated, One of them especially.

Well, the evening came to an end, and he took his leave of the fair maid, after first asking her permission to call the following night. She graciously signified her pleasure at the prospect of seeing him soon again and said she would be at home. So our friend departed in high feather.

"Actually, you know," he said, in telling the story, "I believe I was completely bowled over. A fellow who will sit up till three a. m. over a brier and moon about a girl the way I did that night-well, now you know for a man of my age, that's perfectly absurd. But I had a 'let-down' the next day, all right. Of course, the first thing I did in the morning was to rush out and buy the biggest bunch of sweet peas I could find. She admitted the night before that they were her favorites. And three months ago sweet peas couldn't be purchased for a song, either, but that's no matter. I shoved my card in the box as they were done up, wrote the address, and felt serenely happy in the thought that I had done the proper thing.

"The day passed slowly. But evening came at last, and I chased over to the house at the earliest hour that was allowable. (The other people had an engagement—she broke hers to remain at home and receive me-and so I found her all alone and looking simply out of sight, in a stunning gown. She greeted me cordially—there was no doubt about that—and we seated ourselves in the drawing-room for what I felt would be the most delightful call of all my life. My eyes roved around the room for a glimpse of the sweet peas, but, strange to say, they were not in evidence.

"Time passed on. We talked first about one thing, then another, I all the while wondering why in the world she didn't say sharething about those confounded flowers, and I'm afraid lay manner grew rather fresty as the clock struck ten, and she hadn't so much as mentione, 'swet peas' even once.

"The other people came horse, and I was about to go, and the mestess invited me to have some hand, in he dining-room, but I felt c and refused, took my hat and went home, reasoning to myself that a girl who would calmly receive six or seven dollars' worth of flowers from a man and then never even thank him for them wasn't my sort at all.

"Of course, I telephoned the florist the first thing next morning and found they had been derivered all right, so made up my mind she didn't consider them of sufficient importance to mention, and resolved henceforth to 'tear her image from my heart.'

"One day last week I opened my morning's mail and in it found a letter from Mrs. Washington Avenue, which read as follows:

" 'My Dear Mr. Blank .- How can I ever explain! And what must you have been thinking about us all these weeks! I will begin at the very beginning and tell you that yesterday, while engaged in putting away some winter clothing in the attic I chanced to see a large, round, pasteboard box in one corner, opened it and found within a withered bunch of sweet peas with your card attached.

"'I reasoned that they must have been intended for Maysie, who is here now and leaves with us for the summer in two weeks; so took the box down to her, and together we thought out an explanation.

"It seems—I have to stop and laugh over it even now-that the day you sent the flowers my niece had purchased a new spring hat. She put it on at the milliner's and proceeded to wear it to a luncheon, leaving her old hat, which bore profuse ornamentation of sweet peas, to be sent home. That afternoon I noticed a large box in the hall directed to Maysie, lifted one corner, spied sweet peas under some tissue paper, concluded it was her last spring's hat, which she wouldn't be likely to need, so told the maid to carry it upstairs till Maysie packed her trunks for home. This was done, and as a result the flowers never reached their proper destina-

"I believe Maysie is now writing you a note of thanks-late though it may be but as I have unwittingly been the cause of her seeming rudeness in not thanking you at the proper time. I felt that an explanation was certainly due to you from me.

"'Can you not dine with us some night within the next two weeks? We do not leave till about July 15. Very cordially yours, Martha S. B. Washington." - St. Louis Republic. THROUGH THE NILE RAPIDS.

A Lively Description of the Pangerous Descent.

Voyages down the Nile through the rapids are undertaken only by the special boats which are made for the purpose in the Soudan. About ten per cent. are smashed on the voyage, and that the percentage of deaths is not equally high is simply due to the matchless swimming powers of the Nubian boatmen. Even when they are dashed by the waves against a rock, they do not always drown. A. E. Brehm, in "From North Pole to Equator," describes one of these de-

At length each skipper orders his men to their posts. "Let go the sail!" he shouts. "Row, men, row-row in the name of Allah, the All-Merciful?" Then he strikes up a song with an ever-recurring refrain in which the men join.

Slowly the bark gains the mid lie of the stream; quicker and quicker it. glides onward; in a few infinites it is rushing more swiftly than ever among the rocky islands above the rapid. More and more quickly the oars dip into the turbid flood; the men are naked to the loins, and the sweat pours down their body's as they strain every muscle.

Praise and blame, flattery and reproaches, promises and threats, blossings and curses fall from the skinper's mouth according as the boat fulfills or disappoints his wishes.

"Bend to your oars; work, work, my sons; display your prowess; do honor to the prophet, all ye faithful! Larboard, I say, ye dogs, ye children of dogs, ye grandchildren and greatgrandchildren and litter of dogs, ye Christians, ye heathen! Better, better, better yet, ye cowards, ye strengthless, ye sapless! Help us, help us, O. Mohammed!"

The rocks on both sides seem to

whirl round; the surge floods the deck, and its thunder drowns every order. Inresisting, the fruit craft is borne toward the neck of rock-the dreaded spot is behind the stern, the foaming backwash has saved the maperilled least—but two ears have been shivered like glass. There less himders central of the beattern in the rudier. on to a flumphible material.

A wild ery from the enterior in all throw the results after any look and held on like grant out and afening erash and an evidence rush of hissent, total to the space of a non-continuous action over all, and then two long to say leap upwards they have been accounted and escaped the catamet and escaped the catameters.

#### Fate of a Greedy Shark.

Special agents of the long in Sons. many strange things. strange stories, then In the long custom house building every has from nine o'clock until f ur there sits a man, who is a very treasure none of anecdotes. He is so modest, that githat he won't allow his name to be used in connection with this partie ular story. "It was off to bir Kovs," said he, "I had been shark fishing and was talking of sharks to an eldtime sponge fisher, when le told me that he had found, some vermil soft the keys, the largest shark it had ever been his fortune to see, floating belly upward, starved to death. Why, the shark was as thin as a poker,' said the sponge fisher, and I determined to find our what ailed him. I pulled him aboard and out him agent. There, in his stomach, open end toward the head, was half of a barrel, which had contained mess pork. The half bar rel had evidently been thrown overboard from some vessel and the shark had gobbled it up as it hit the water without looking to see what it was It was too bad that he swallowed it butt end first, for whatever he ate after that went into the barrel and did the shark no good. So he just starved!"-N. O. Times-Democrat.

## A Student's Crime.

A curious combination of logic with lack of principle has sent a French medical student of good family to jail for ten years. He had failed in his examination and thereby lost his exemption from military service. If obliged to serve two years he saw no way of making up his deficiencies in scholarship, but he knew that a widow's son would be exempt from the conscription. He proceeded, therefore, to make his mother a widow by shooting his father, with whom he was on perfectly good terms, twice in the head. The father recovered and succeeded in get fing his son's sentence replaced.

## The Telephone Ear.

It has been ascertained by experiments that a number of persons who use the telephone habitually hear better with the left ear than with the right. The common practice of the telephone companies is to place the receiver so that it will be applied to the left ear. In order to educate the right ear to the same point of efficiency it is recommended that the receiver be held in the right hand half the time.

THE SHAH'S DAY'S WORK

Persia's Ruler Is a Busy Man-Slovenly Personal Habits.

A vivid account of the daily life of the shah of Persha is contributed to the Illustrated Magazine by J. F. Fraser, who has just visited Teheran in the course of his world's tour on a bievele.

"How does the shah spend an ordinary day? Well, he is a busy man. He rises early, performs his devotions, has a piece of thin, pasty Persan bread and a glass of sweetened tea. Then, at eight o'clock, he receives his ministers. He is slovenly in habit and walks up and down the room with his slippers thotapping, indeed, the story goes that the reason he parted with his first wife was because she constantly complain of that he did not wash homself.

"He dictates lozens of letters, lears dispatches read, consults and proper attende ministelle is accepted and business. This continues for six hours at a storely. Then decreasely be akfast. All the following at 112 prepared and a pun e fit o real blood is responsible to the transact played. The shan, a line of question eats alone of the in-CO dishes are served, or mergers or only touches two or the light and forks are theres with the light court, and the shahads on our reg with his fingers-greass i r. ., n. dton and fruit.

"During breakfast systems from European papers, chiefly Fron Lar, read to the shall. If I winz treakfast the shall probably has an learns sleep, and them after a meglesses it tea, he will amuse houself with working a little telegraph instrument, playing backgame, in well his elin-isters—who are careful to the himsetting and resorting places of gardens, or taking place of the Hi has even been that graphs in the and his pattures of himself its selice uncomfortable Prossum a litary as-tire, and even in the gard of an Finglish curat ."

#### DENTISTS AT THE ZOO.

Filling an Elephant's Tooth-Extracting a Pythian's Molar.

District a strongents, s us librilling englants's

Did you ever train a tigar's clause

Manieuring is a necessity total moor tan conditions and it is a line truly surely and it is Annuals of the feling masses on its line are swith wooden if sors the year root, it as those in the menageries usually are chave no means of wearing off their claws.

Big snakes, of the various species found in Africa and South America, are perishable producty. From no cause or another, all the est crean their morths and of the following in its rest, will eventually cause the during the smaller. It is a delightful sensation to set and held the head of a Co-foot python while the veterrary, after propping his snakeship's mouth open a foot or so with a stick, rapidly picks out the diseased teeth with a pair of short, strong-bladed tweezers.

# Heirloom Cheeses

One of the most peculiar bridal or marriage customs known is one that has prevailed for centuries in what is called the "cheese regions" of Switzerland. In that portion of the Alpine country, when a pair join in wedlock, it is the custom for their intimate friends to buy a "register cheese" for the young couple. This cheese is presented to the newlywedded people on the evening of the wedding day, and is ever after reteined by them and used as a family register. On these heirloom cheeses the whole history of the family is carved, such as births, marriages, deaths, and other incidents which it may be desired to make matters of record. Some of these old Swiss family cheese records are said to date back to the middle of the seventeenth century.

## The Pitch of Bells.

The secret of success in casting bells of large size for chimes or given tones is in getting the thickness of the ring just inside the mouth of the bell exactly right. In preparing the mold for a ball a cross section of this ring, or extra thickness, is made, and the pitch of the bell depends almost altogether on the diameter and relative thickness of the ring thus laid out.

Seul journal français quotidien au Sud, fondé le ler septembre 1827.-Nouvelles du jour, locales et étrangères.--Services spéciaux et par fils des dernières nouvelles du monde entier.