

TO WED THE UGLIEST MEN.

History of Lovely American Girls Which Has Been Formed for That Purpose.

Extremes meet in the Seals feminine fancy. The attractiveness of the Adeals for women is not to be compared with that of the man who is so fearfully and wonderfully ugly as to serve as a living confirmation of the truth of the Darwinian theory regarding the descent of man, says the New York Herald.

A boy of lovely American girls have formed a society, the object of which is to search the land for the ugliest men to be found outside a museum and, when found, to marry them as soon as possible.

Ever since the time when Mirabeau, the ugliest of all Frenchmen, had his host of female admirers really hideous men have been worshipped by women.

This extraordinary fondness of women for extremely ugly men is seen when some especially villainous looking criminal, accused of a particularly atrocious crime, is exhibited in the dock and immediately becomes the idol of all the women who attend the trial. The more hideous his appearance and the fouler his misdeeds the more enthusiastic is the worship of the women.

"He is so delightfully ugly," said a pretty girl, when asked what particular fascination a brutal criminal possessed for her.

It is a fact that in all ages and countries this strange feminine tendency has been strikingly demonstrated.

No explanation that seems plausible has ever been given.

ONE OF DOUGLASS' PISTOLS.

Beverage That Belonged to the Famous Illinois Statesman Has Been Located.

A Derringer pistol, with an unusual history, has come into the possession of Col. Walter French, the file clerk of the house of representatives. He found it not long ago in a pawnshop and promptly observed that the inscription on the handle of the weapon, "H. A. Douglas," was probably the name of Stephen A. Douglas, long a prominent democratic figure in connection with the anti-slavery times, says the Washington Post.

Having purchased the weapon, he made inquiries from Col. James Madison Coates, of this city, a linesman by marriage of Mr. Douglas, who recognized the Derringer as one of a pair that Mr. Douglas owned during the exciting political events preceding Lincoln's inauguration. It seems that a pair of these pistols, such as men were accustomed to wear in those days, one in each of two small top pockets in the trousers, was presented to Mr. Douglas by the superintendent of the Harper's Ferry arsenal. These were subsequently taken to Louisiana, where it was discovered that the springs were fashioned so that the hammer would not explode the percussion cap. This defect in mechanism was corrected.

In just what manner the pistol was secured from the possession of Mr. Douglas is not known. Col. Coates has the mate to it, which the great democrat presented to him.

BEGINNING OF BEST SUGAR.

Originally a Vegetable of France and Developed by Man of That Nation.

The great sugar-beet industry of the world owes its very existence to a discovery of Vilmorin, says Success. The original sugar beet grown in France did not contain enough sugar for commerce. The amount of sugar could be easily determined in the beet, but in making the test the reproductive qualities of the plant were always destroyed. Vilmorin learned how to extract the pulp without destroying the plant, and by selection and cross-breeding he grew a plant upon which the great industry is now founded. We owe also to Vilmorin the present carrot, a vegetable which was nothing more than a thin, hard, woody root, unfit for the stomach of a sheep or a cow. Year after year, he sowed in a bed and carefully examined every root. By selecting seed from only the best plants for the new sowing, he produced a carrot with more flesh and less wood. The horse-radish, the turnip, and, indeed, the potato vine, were once plants with thin, dry, woody roots, without the least suggestion that they would ever develop into food for man or beast.

Artificial Eyelids.

The latest surgical triumph is the grafting of a new set of upper and lower eyelids to the eyes of a man who lost his original set in a fire, says London Science Fiction. The accident had left both eyeballs entirely unprotected, and there was danger of the victim losing his sight entirely. It was resolved to replace them by grafting four new eyelids if possible, by taking the skin from the hip of the patient. It was necessary to proceed slowly, but the experiment was successful from the start. The four new eyelids perform their normal functions naturally.

New Name on the Map.

A little town in Arkansas is called Marybattiana, having been given that name by C. R. Webber, who chose this method of perpetuating the names of his wife and two daughters.

Pigeons Spread Disease.

An epidemic of scarlet fever has been traced to tame pigeons in Cincinnati.

SALARIES OF STATE JUDGES.

They Range from \$2,500 a Year in West Virginia to \$7,000 in New York.

While many who draw government salaries and who were excessively unhappy until they "got on the payroll," are now crying out for more, let us turn to the statistics of the salaries of state judges, who, as a rule, are superior to the men who, "not making headway at the bar, seek United States judgeships," as Thad Stevens said. And they are as hardworking if not more so, than the federal judges. The chief justices' salaries are as follows, according to the Washington Post:

Alabama ..... \$4,000 Missouri ..... \$4,500  
Arkansas ..... \$3,000 Nebraska ..... \$3,500  
California ..... \$5,000 Nevada ..... \$4,000  
Colorado ..... \$3,000 New Hampshire ..... \$3,500  
Connecticut ..... \$4,000 New Jersey ..... \$3,500  
Delaware ..... \$3,000 New York ..... \$7,000  
Florida ..... \$3,000 North Carolina ..... \$3,500  
Georgia ..... \$3,000 Ohio ..... \$3,500  
Illinois ..... \$3,000 Oregon ..... \$3,500  
Indiana ..... \$3,000 Pennsylvania ..... \$4,000  
Iowa ..... \$3,000 Rhode Island ..... \$3,500  
Kansas ..... \$3,000 South Carolina ..... \$3,500  
Kentucky ..... \$3,000 Texas ..... \$3,500  
Louisiana ..... \$3,000 Vermont ..... \$3,500  
Maine ..... \$3,000 Virginia ..... \$3,500  
Maryland ..... \$3,000 West Virginia ..... \$2,500  
Michigan ..... \$3,000 Wisconsin ..... \$3,500  
Minnesota ..... \$3,000 Montana ..... \$3,500  
Mississippi ..... \$3,000 Wisconsin ..... \$3,500

Territorial judges, whose courts are analogous to the District of Columbia supreme court, get \$2,500, and I think territorial chief justices now receive \$3,000.

The list of great jurists who first presided in state courts and became federal judges afterward would be very long, and from Joseph Story down would be equally illustrious. A more industrious, conscientious, and competent class of men than that of the state courts cannot be found in this nation. In themselves they illustrate the superiority of the elective system.

TROPICS ARE AT OUR DOOR.

Americans Are Large Consumers of the Products of Warmer Climes and Have Them Handy.

Americans live better, perhaps, than the people of any other part of the world. They are not content with the products of their own country, but draw largely upon the tropics for condiments and delicacies that add to the pleasures of the table. The increase in the contributions of the tropics to the daily life of man has been general throughout the countries where prosperity or an activity in manufacturing and commerce is the rule, but it seems to be especially marked in the United States, which now imports more than \$1,000,000 worth of tropical and subtropical foodstuffs and raw materials every day in the year. The increased reliance upon the tropics is probably greater, proportionately, in the United States than in most other countries, since a much larger share of our sugar is drawn from the tropics than is the case with other, and especially the European countries, which in most cases now produce their own sugar from beets.

The United States has during recent years consumed nearly one-half of the cane sugar of the world which enters into international commerce, and more than one-half of the coffee of the world. In the year just ended the importations of goods usually considered as of tropical or subtropical production amounted to \$400,000,000, or considerably more than \$1,000,000 for every day in the year, including Sundays and holidays, while 30 years ago they amounted to but \$143,000,000, or less than \$400,000 per day.

AMERICAN HAWTHORNS.

Surprises in the Field of Botany That Have Come in the Last Few Years.

The explorations of botanists have developed, during the past few years, certain facts concerning the American hawthorns which constitute one of the surprises in the field of botany, says the Boston Transcript. To the merely lay mind the mention of the hawthorn commonly suggests only an attractive ornamental tree of English, or at least of European origin; the idea that there are species indigenous to our own soil proving generally an interesting but quite novel bit of information. And it may be added that although students of the North American flora have always been well aware of a number of fine native species, they, too, it seems, until very recent years, had but a faint comprehension of the somewhat astonishing facts.

So far as is now known, the principal home of the hawthorn is North America. England has but a single species, Crataegus oxyacantha, which with a few others of continental Europe have, in the hands of gardeners and hybridizers, been so greatly differentiated that their various origins have become a perplexed question. Japan, too, for a wonder, has only one species, and but two or three are yet known as indigenous to China, though this great field may yield others to more exact research. American forests, however, abound in them. They are distributed from Newfoundland to the Pacific, and southward to Texas.

Ordeal for Diplomats.

Foreign ambassadors in China are required to go through a difficult ordeal, as the following incident shows: Young Lu, cabinet minister, recently invited the foreign representatives at Peking to a dinner, which began at ten o'clock in the morning and did not end until three o'clock on the following morning. During that time 126 different dishes were placed before the guests. "As dinners of this kind are not rare," says one of the foreign representatives, "it is evident that no one should go as an ambassador to China who has not a good stomach."

DROPPING OF A PENNY.

Other Passengers in Street Car Caught by More Interested in Its Fate Than the Owner.

Have you ever noticed the interest that money attracts, even if it is only a single cent? The next time that you see a copper coin dropped in a street car just observe, advises the Chicago Tribune. Every eye in the car will turn to the spot where it dropped, and there will be manifested a real general concern over its recovery. Two or three heads are likely to come in contact over the point of its disappearance, and then the owners will draw suddenly back and try to appear unconcerned; but in another second they are again leaning forward.

The man who dropped the cent is usually the first who appears to have brushed memory of the trivial occurrence aside, but just as soon as the eyes in the car have turned from him his own are sure to go back to the floor in the hope that the truant coin will be seen.

When he has gone there is a renewed interest among the passengers for the stage of "finders keepers" has arrived, and those near the spot of disappearance become quite diligent until they are aware they make a center of attraction. But interest in that little coin is not lost while there is a passenger left, and when the car is empty the conductor takes his turn and resurrects the cent.

COUNTING THE STARS.

A Task That Will Take Two Greenwich Clerks Three Years to Complete.

Two clerks at the observatory at Greenwich are essaying the extraordinary task of counting the stars. They are attempting in all seriousness a feat which has always been used satirically to typify the impossible. So far they have counted 212,567 stars which, if astronomical calculations be correct, is about one-fiftieth of the total number to be found in the firmament, states the Philadelphia North American. The method of the tabulation is a new evidence of the far-reaching scientific possibilities of photography. The cameras do not sit out in the starlight, and strive to count the infinitesimal spots of light outlined against the blue background. Instead, they have made a great photographic chart of the heavens. This chart consists of a number of plates exposed at different times in order to get all the planets and heavenly bodies.

After the entire chart was complete the two astronomers began the work of counting with the aid of microscopes. It is estimated that before the task is completed some three years must elapse, for to insure accuracy the greatest care must be exercised, and any attempt at speed is out of question.

SHAVED THACKERAY'S BUST.

American Collector Didn't Like the Whiskers and Had Them Taken Off.

The bust of Thackeray in Westminster abbey had several years ago upon its cheeks those pendant whiskers that are called "weepers" from their resemblance to the foliage of the willow. Today the whiskers are no longer there, says a London paper. Their destruction was due to William H. Lambert, of Philadelphia, the greatest collector of Thackerays in this country, who has many portraits in oil and many in ink, pencil and wash sketches of Thackeray, and hence should know how the novelist looked at every stage of his life. Mr. Lambert is sure that Thackeray never wore "weepers," and, therefore, he volunteered not long since to stand the expense of the removal of the objectionable whiskers from the otherwise accurate and spirited Marochetti bust. Mrs. Thackeray Ritchie arranged the matter; the bust was taken for a brief space out of Westminster and the whiskers were trimmed down to the proper length. Mr. Lambert was permitted to have a replica made of the Westminster bust, and it now stands on one of the landings of the stairway of his house in Germantown.

Where Newspapers Are Scarce.

In Paraguay there is a little communistic colony known as the Cosmo colony, which was founded several years ago by an enthusiastic band of Australian socialists. After many hardships and privations the colony is now in such a flourishing condition as to boast a newspaper of its own, called the Cosmo Monthly. The manner in which news is dispensed to the colonists is interesting. A horn is blown, generally twice, with half an hour's gathering time between. The colonists assemble and the reader for the occasion gives out his news, which consists of interesting items selected from the latest weekly papers and dispatches from the Ausonian daily paper, which the colonists receive twice a week.

Continuous Performance.

"Into an ounce of brandy put a small dose of cocaine, drink the mixture and in ten minutes you will find yourself in the mental and nervous condition which is the normal state of the citizen of Butte, Mont.," says the Boston Transcript. Men work in the mines and smelters in three eight-hour shifts, and the stores, restaurants, theaters, etc., are regulated accordingly. So the life of Butte is literally a "continuous performance." There is no distinction between night and day. It is glare and hustle all the time, and there are no old men in Butte.

WASHINGTON'S FACE IN STONE.

Features Appear on a Rocky Wall on the Boston Post Road After a Blast.

Where the old Boston post road turns toward Orient Point, just south of Mamaroneck, the rock adjoining the old Dabrow house was blasted away about 18 years ago to improve the grade, says the New York Tribune. A ragged, rocky wall was left, and nothing peculiar was noticed in it until last August, when the wife of a well-known resident on the point, while driving to the village, suddenly saw the features of Washington in the stone. She looked again and again, and the more carefully she scrutinized the rock the more distinctly she saw the features of the father of his country.

The woman told her friends of her discovery, and they told others, and within a month all Orient Point and most of Mamaroneck had gazed upon the striking accidental likeness. It is not at all difficult to see when one is told it may be found there, and is in plain view for a distance of nearly 100 yards to within one-fourth as many feet. The image is about six feet the longest way and about four the other way across.

The eyes, nose and mouth are naturally darker spots in the stone, which, being apparently softer than the remainder of the mass, broke out to a greater depth, so the image is there in bas-relief as well as in color. The outside of the face is almost perfectly formed by the edges of the broken rock. The image is best lighted from 12 o'clock until 12:30 on sunny days.

DEEP WELL BORINGS.

United States Geological Survey Has List of Many in This Country.

The deep well borings of the United States, made for water, oil and gas, are the subject of a statistical report by N. H. Darton, in the series of Water-Supply and Irrigation Papers of the United States geological survey. The list of deep wells is arranged by states, in alphabetical order, and appears in two pamphlets, known as Water-Supply Papers Nos. 37 and 61. All wells 400 feet or over in depth are carefully listed. Depth, diameter, yield per minute, and other characteristic data are given, and many instructive details are noted indicating for what purpose the borings were originally made, the character of the product obtained, and whether the wells are in use or abandoned. For the benefit of persons desiring more detailed information concerning wells in any particular region, references are given to the literature or other sources from which the data were obtained. The large product of natural gas in the east and the west, the enormous output from the oil fields in California, Texas and the east, and the considerable and indispensable water supply furnished by the deep wells on the plains and in the arid and humid states, make concise and accessible information of this nature valuable for economic and scientific purposes.

BILLIARD MAN'S LAMENT.

The Crane for Ping-Pong Has Caused Billiard Halls to Be Deserted.

"Ping-pong has undone us," complained the proprietor of a well-known Broadway billiard parlor the other day, reports the New York Times. "Look at those \$1,500 billiard tables covered over with boards and turned into ping-pong tables. We had to do it. No help for it."

"Our customers grew fewer and fewer, and I was hardly making expenses. One day I saw several of my best patrons going into a place around the corner, and I read the reason on a cheap sign: 'Ping-pong, 50 cents an hour.'"

"A fellow who couldn't get together enough capital to buy one billiard table had set up a lot of cheap wooden tables and was earning money running a ping-pong place. I surrendered. Carpenters came next day and fixed up half my fine billiard tables for ping-pong."

"Ton bad, isn't it? I feel I ought to apologize ten times a day to every table. But my patrons are coming back. There's consolation in that."

To Free Palestine.

Plans for freeing Palestine from Moslem rule now take the shape not of an armed crusade, but of a money crusade. The sultan is poor and the Christian nations are rich. The Christian world does not feel exactly easy in its mind to see the Holy City in the possession of the unbelieving Turk. The agitation for its redemption is not dead by any means. With all its quietness, it is gaining strength and enlisting the interest of people of wealth. It will not be surprising to see, some day, a powerful religio-commercial syndicate arise, full-anoplied in its resources of millions, ready to buy Palestine from the Turkish government and organize it into an independent under the protection of the great powers.

Electric Bath.

The electric bath is one of the newest things, although it isn't a bath at all. A thick robe is entwined with wires, and this is done. Then a current of electricity is switched on, and the wearer of the electrical robe soon finds his body getting warmer, until in a little while he perspires as freely as if he were in a Turkish bath.

Great Tea Drinkers.

Australians hold the world's record as tea drinkers, consuming 7 1/2 pounds a head yearly. New Zealanders drink 7 1/4 pounds.

CHINAMAN AND THE PEN.

It Was the First of the Kind He Had Ever Seen, But It Was No Pen at All.

A certain newspaper man who was induced to "try" a stylographic pen got it out of order by reckless treatment and took it to a penshop for repair. The man there soon showed him that there was nothing serious the matter with it, the only trouble being that he had neglected to do some little thing in using it. Then he began to take the pen apart for the newspaperman's instruction, so that he might see how very simple a thing it is, relates the Philadelphia Record.

"Simple!" cried the indignant owner of the instrument, "it is as complicated as a Chinese puzzle! I don't wonder that I cannot make 'it go' when I want to!"

The penman laughed. "You remind me," he said, "that there is a Chinaman in this town who used a stylographic regularly. He came here to buy one several years ago, and when I showed it to him he began to take it all apart. I hurriedly stopped him, supposing that he would do it an injury, but he at once put down the value of the pen, saying that it was his, and then continued the dissection of it. I give you my word that he handled the pen more deftly than the man who made it, and in five minutes he had put it together again so that it worked better than it did at first. Those fellows beat the world at understanding little details. Now, an Irishman or an American—I beg your pardon—could never have done that; and, remember, it was the first pen of the kind the Chinaman ever saw."

MARRIAGES INCREASING.

Figures Gathered in England Confirm the Fact as Regards That Country.

It is a little surprising to learn that the marriage rate is substantially increasing. In 1900 it stood at 16 per thousand, which, though below the rates of 1898 and 1899, is higher than the rate in any other year since 1878. This fact should furnish a sufficient answer to such questions as: "Why don't the men marry?" which periodically reappear in the dull season. Marriage, so far from being a decadent and unpopular institution, is more flourishing to-day than it has been for at least a quarter of a century, says the London News. It is in the industrial and urban centers that the marriage rate is highest, London leading the way with 18 per thousand of the population. In the agricultural districts marriages are relatively fewer, falling to 11.9 per thousand in Rutlandshire. Although the majority of marriages continue to be performed in the Anglican church, the proportion is not so great as formerly. There were 257,480 marriages in England and Wales in 1900, and 672 per thousand were solemnized by the Church of England, against 654 in the five years 1895-99. The decline in Anglican celebrations is balanced by an increase in those performed in nonconformist churches, and at the offices of the registrars.

A DIET OF WOOD.

German Chemist Invents an Animal Foodstuf with Sawdust as Principal Ingredient.

"Wood is to be the newest food, says Heinrich Reh, a professor of chemistry in Berlin. He has secured a patent upon a form of animal fodder which has sawdust as its chief ingredient, says a London report.

He argues that animals have a decided liking for young shoots, roots of shrubs, tree bark and other heavy food of the same nature, and, since experiments have proved that the nutriment contained in such growth remains in it even after it has become wood, he observes that with a little salt and water added to it the sawdust will prove to be a highly nourishing diet.

He has statistics to prove it. Pine, birch, alder, acacia, beech and walnut woods and straws have been analyzed chemically by him and he finds that the wood has vastly more albumen, nitrogen and fatty substance than the straw.

The inventor claims that "a very cheap cattle food can be prepared in this manner, to which may be added potato peelings, corn husks and shells of grain and the residue from the sugar beet after the sugar has been extracted."

The Superstitious Czar.

The czar wears a ring in which he believes is imbedded a piece of the true cross. It was originally one of the treasures of the Vatican, and was presented to an ancestor of the czar. Some years ago the czar was traveling from St. Petersburg to Moscow. He suddenly discovered that he had forgotten the ring. The train was stopped immediately, and a special messenger sent flying back on an express engine for it, nor would the czar allow the train to move until, several hours afterward, the messenger returned with the ring.

Historic Trees.

Litchfield, Conn., has more historic trees than any other town in New England. Among others are two elms planted by John C. Calhoun; a sycamore said to be one of the 13 planted by Oliver Wolcott, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and named after the 13 original colonies; an elm which served as a whipping post in colonial days, and a willow tree which grew from a walking stick stuck in the ground by Col. Talmadge, an American officer who captured Maj. Andre, the British spy.

KING OF NEW ZEALAND

Title Won for Himself by Premier Seddon in the Antipodes.

The Important Part Played by Him in the Interests of Great Britain—Some of the Man's History.

Richard J. Seddon, the premier of New Zealand, now on a visit to England, is popularly known as his home as "King Dick Seddon." Mr. Seddon is in many respects a remarkable man, says a London paper. He made a hit recently by giving, in one of his speeches in South Africa, where he stopped on his way to England, the first official hint that peace actually was in sight, but what has made his especially popular in Great Britain is the part he played in supporting the empire during the war. At the head of his colony's government he "came out strong" for the mother country's side in the controversy, and in the most hopeless days of the campaign insisted that the struggle must be fought out to a finish. He headed the movement to send a contingent of New Zealand troops to South Africa and promised that men should be supplied until there was no longer any necessity for reinforcements. This attitude won him as much applause in New Zealand as it has done in England. His recent journey along the southern coast of his country was such a succession of fetes and receptions that it seemed like a royal progress, and there is now a project on foot to make him a gift of a purse of \$25,000 in gold as a national testimonial.

Seddon is a type of man that is much commoner in the United States than in England—the sort of a man that begins life with nothing but his bare hands and comes out on top by sheer force of bigness of energy and purpose. A boy of 18, he went out to New Zealand in 1867, when the gold fever was on, and during his first days there got his bread and butter by washing bottles in a cheap tavern. He lived the hard life of the mining camps and then his rise began. At 34 he went to the New Zealand parliament, and after that kept on up the ladder until he got the premiership, with which he now dovetails in a few other little posts, such as colonial treasurer, minister of labor, minister of defense and commissioner of trades and customs. Like all men who spend their lives in pushing on big things perhaps he may have given some of the qualities of the Juggernaut to some of them. His success has made him enemies. At any rate, there is a section of New Zealand people to whom Mr. Seddon is "King Dick" derisively, and he has had to fight through many a bitter political campaign. The best proof of his popularity with the majority, however, is that he has held the premiership for 12 years.

The man who has risen from "bottle-washer" to "chief cook" is rugged and burly and looks rather oddly in court dress. He is especially fond of telling how he owes his life to a brass band. "As a boy," he says, "I once came very near drowning. A passing bandman noticed my frantic struggles in the river and, reaching his long trombone over the shore's edge, he pulled me, gasping and grateful, out of the water on to dry land. I have encouraged brass bands ever since."

When it was reported that he was to give up the New Zealand premiership and become governor of the Orange River Colony, he said: "When I leave New Zealand for good it will be for Heaven."

Mr. Seddon may, however, be induced to change his plans, for it is rumored that pressure will be brought to bear on him from high quarters to persuade him to give up the New Zealand premiership and take some important post in London, there being a growing feeling that the more strong shoulders that can be got against the government wheel the better it will be for the country.

Princesses of Burmah.

Your smile may break into wrinkles and make the perpetual joke that you have no teeth left; all the same if you are a Burmese princess, you are privileged to laugh more than anybody, which really makes it worth your while. Very dainty, very much the lady, were the princesses in a row, and in the black hair of every one of them sat a flower, a spray of white lilac or a rose, out of a box, and the more coquettish for that. Powdered they were to assure detection; nay, to claim it; and around their slender throats hung strings and strings of diamonds, white sapphires and topazes. Then the short white jacket, the gay silk square slipping off the shoulders, the tight twisted petticoat of rose or yellow brocade, and in the ingenious bare instep over a velvet sandal. And in each little beehived right hand a large pink cheroot, unlighted, cherished till the ceremonial moment should be past. Pretty pensioned princesses, waiting to acclaim a king in a frock coat, arriving by "special" and likely to be punctual.—Scribner's.

Surely Not.

Accum—Don't you think it would be interesting to know how and when our proverbs were first used? Bungle—Well, I'd like to know who the idiot was who originated: "It's never too late to mend."

"I'll bet he never put on a hired bathing suit and didn't discover till he got into the surf that it was ripped."—Philadelphia Press.