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AN ENCHANTED PRINCESS.

I found her deep in the forest,
The beeches and elms between,
A delicate amber plane tree
'Mid masses of bronze and green.

A sorrowful, spell bound princess
Awaiting her lover there.
She said: "He will know me, surely,
By the coil of my yellow hair.

"He seeks me the wide world over,
He seeks me the whole year through,
To [illegible] the charm that binds me,
My prince, and my lover true!"

She shivered beneath her foliage,
And sighed in the twilight chill;
"Ah, well will time find me sorry,
The love that thou seekest still!"

"I saw him," chirruped a blackbird,
"He passed by this very spot;
He is come and gone, Oh, princess!
He passed, and he knew you not."

The cold wind rustled her branches
Till the yellow leaves fell slow;
"He is dead and gone, O princess!
Many a year ago."

A TALK WITH A DRESSMAKER.

Any Young Woman May Learn to Make Her Own Dresses for Twenty Dollars.

"I have traveled north, south, east and west, selling our patterns," observed the fashionably attired teacher of dressmaking, "and now I have settled down for a spell to give lessons in dressmaking. Folks look me up and look me down when I talk about my business, and if I am not wearing a dress made according to the latest fashion they seem to think that I'm a humbug. There isn't a woman alive that cares less for such things than I do, but if you will look at this three-year-old basque I have on you will see that every seam is in its place, and there isn't a wrinkle in it.

"Look, too, at the drapery of the skirt; it is out of fashion, of course, as it was done before the bouffant style went out, but you can see it isn't what you might call homemade work. I've no new dress in fig leaves as yet, but if I did you may be sure they would be properly put together and not botched. I have been thoroughly taught our dressmaking system, and it goes to my heart when I walk along Broadway or Sixth avenue to see women just in front of me who have spoiled a lot of nice goods in trying to make their own dresses without knowing the simplest rules in regard to cutting and fitting. I say better to have one dress that fits well than a dozen that look as if they had been thrown at you.

"Am I going to change all that? I am going to try. I have got a partner, you know, a lady who used to be draper at Mme. [illegible], and she and I have rented a large room for our workshop, and have got it furnished quite respectably. We bought an ingrain carpet in preference to Brussels, because it will be so much easier to sweep—shreds of dress material, and ends of thread, and pins and needles do stick so to Brussels! We have long tables to cut out work on, and a lot of camp chairs for our pupils to sit on—for our purpose they are better than ordinary chairs, as they can be doubled up and piled in the corner when not in use. We advertise in two papers, and have a little boy to distribute circulars, and I guess we'll get along all right, as new pupils are coming in most every day.

"What are my charges? Twenty dollars for teaching the business, and it isn't a penny too much. Just think what a woman would save in one year by making and altering her dresses for herself! There are dozens and hundreds of saleswomen, to say nothing of other working girls, who have to be forever planning how to look stylish on salaries of five and six dollars a week. By purchasing their goods in the stores where they work they can get them at a considerable discount, and if they can save the expense of a dressmaker so much less money goes out of their pockets. Too tired to sew after working hours? That's all you know about it! I've seen girls who could dance all night after standing all day behind the counter, and look as fresh as daisies the next morning. Sewing is no harder work than dancing.

"How many lessons? As many as they care to take. We don't like to have any one go away from us until she has learned all we can teach her in the way of cutting, fitting, draping and the rest of it, and some learn fast, while others learn slow. Dressmakers born, not made! No, I don't agree to that. Folks say it about cooks, I believe, but it is different with dressmakers, though of course some women are handier with their fingers than others, and some have got more sense about listening when you give 'em directions. I myself was a real slow coach when I was learning the business, and more than once, after spoiling good material, I felt like throwing down needles and scissors and giving up, but I stuck it out, and now what I don't know about making a dress isn't worth knowing.

"The trouble with some girls is that after they have taken a few lessons they begin to think themselves first class dressmakers, and want to leave us and start away for themselves. I tell them I don't want them to leave me until they get it well into their heads that there's all the difference in the world between the right and the wrong way of doing anything about a dress. What are my hours? I open shop at 8 o'clock in the morning and close it at 10 o'clock at night. My room is much fuller in the evening than during the day, as that is the time the girls come who can't leave their work till 6 o'clock. We teach Fifth avenue ladies and saleswomen and living out girls and—well, any lady that comes along. I believe our hardest working pupils are housemaids who are trying to fit themselves to be ladies' maids. They come when they can and stay as long as they can, and after taking their money we do our best to give them the worth of it.

"It would often be easier for me to get the wrinkles out of a waist by giving it a jerk or two with my own hands, but that wouldn't do my pupils any good, and so I expound and explain until at last they get the idea. Some of 'em drape without any [illegible] hardly, while to save me I can't help laughing at the way the others fidget around the dress forms, making their skirts look worse and worse the more pins they put in. However, if they have patience and perseverance, and are willing to listen to what they are told, they get there right at last—and when they can drape skirts more than half of the dressmaking battle is over."—New York Tribune.

We give to all prospective brides the this winter the thrilling information, as cabled across the Atlantic, that in the costume of Miss Mary Theresa Olivia Cornwallis West, who was married in Westminster abbey, the mantua was edged to correspond with the fourreau. This once we drop into fashions.

MANURE IN WINTER.

Fermenting Manure in Heaps—Joseph Harris' Method of Piling Manure.

Joseph Harris, recognized authority on the subject of manures, believes there is much to be gained by properly fermenting manures. Following are some remarks made by him in The Rural New Yorker on this subject:

Fermenting manure makes the insoluble plant food more soluble, and consequently more active and valuable. I feel confident that we can pile manure out of doors and allow it to ferment all winter without any loss of ammonia worth talking about. Many farmers say they have tried to ferment manure in winter, but the pile lies dormant and cold, and the manure they throw on every day from the cow still freezes solid. No doubt fermentation is caused by the microbes. These microbes, or fungus plant, will not grow at a low temperature, but must have food—heat and air. If you are going to start a fire you get kindlings that will burn quickly and heat the wood until it burns. Cow manure is wood and needs plenty of kindling to make it burn. Horse or hen manure is easily started and ferments so rapidly that a heap of it is apt to firefang. It is just what is needed to mix with the cow and pig manure. In starting a pile of manure, especially if it contains much cow dung, it is a good plan to get a few loads of fermented horse, sheep or hen manure. We start the fire with horse manure and pile on anything we have in the yards or stables or pens. In my own case we wheel the manure up a plank on the heap and spread it every day as soon as it is wheeled on.

The pile should be about five feet high, less or more, according to the rainfall. The more rain or snow the higher should be the pile. When the pile is high enough start another alongside. In doing this, especially in cold weather, take a quantity of hot manure from the old pile. If there is any accumulation of manure in the sheep or pig pens draw it out and spread it on the pile. Break up the hot manure from the old pile and mix it with the fresh manure. This hot fermenting manure is full of the microbes that act as "yeast" and cause fermentation. Do you turn over the pile? Sometimes and sometimes not. It is a good thing to do. It mixes the manure, breaks up the lumps and starts fermentation afresh. If the manure is to be used on a pile some distance from the barnyard, I draw it out from the piles in the barnyard and make it into piles in the field. In the field make the pile about five feet high and five wide and of any desired length. In making the new heap it should not be forgotten that we are "turning the pile"—the object of which is to mix the manure and get it uniform and induce it to fresh fermentation. In the old pile the outsiders will not be fermented. Some layers that were put on in very cold weather will be cold and raw while others will be warm. Pains should be taken to mix these all together. Another important point is to build up the pile square on the sides and ends like a hotbed, and not sloping like the roof of a house. A conical heap is the worst possible form, as the greatest proportion of a given quantity of manure is exposed to the atmosphere, while if carefully made into a square heap a less proportion will be exposed. Again, the heap needs water, and the sloping sides carry it off.

If the manure is very rich, or you have mixed with it bone dust or other matter rich in nitrogen, or a considerable quantity of hen manure, there may be danger of too rapid fermentation. In that case the best remedy is to saturate the heap with water, and it would be an excellent thing to mix some superphosphate with the water, say a pound to a pail of water. If this cannot be conveniently done, the heap should not be made over three or four feet high. In farming no ironclad rules can be laid down. We must exercise our judgment and run our chances. It may be remarked that driving over the heap or even tramping it down with the feet will check excessive fermentation.

Profits in Poultry Keeping.

The Stockman thinks that women value the hens at something like their true worth, and if they were given entire charge of the poultry and had fair facilities for keeping them they would make something out of them surely. Whether you count in comparison, the labor or the food or the house, the hens will draw ahead of any other kind of farm stock when it comes to result in dollars. Say a good cow costs fifty dollars and you make a profit on her of twenty-five dollars a year; that's 50 per cent. on your investment. Now fifty dollars will buy 100 large pullets in the fall, and in one year those pullets can be easily made to pay a profit over cost of feed of $125.

Color in Horses and Cattle.

The white color of horses and cattle has been developed from tropical resources, and it is clearly shown by the superiority of the white horses of the desert and the tendency of horses and cattle taken from the colder climates of the north to the hot climates of South America and our southern states, that the gray colors increase and withstand the heat better. The gray horses are more popular in the southern states and hot climates.—Western Agriculturist.

Here and There.

The American Southdown association will expend $1,000 in special premiums at the World's Columbian exposition.

A recent report says that in the state of Virginia there are 15,000,000 acres of land lying untilled from year to year.

According to one estimate the cranberry product on Cape Cod exceeded last year the largest yield of any previous crop.

A $500 prize is offered by E. A. Mansell, of Shropshire, England, for the best American bred Shropshire ram which shall be exhibited at the World's Columbian exposition.

The government of Victoria, South Australia, is going to prevent the destruction of the wild turkey, which is considered the best destroyer of locusts and other insect pests that can be found.

He Slept Soundly.

A crowd of men were standing on Clark street, near Taylor, when a man came along with no shoes, his feet being incased in white cotton stockings. Without waiting for any formal introduction he said in a loud voice, apparently for the benefit of all present: "Gen'l'm, I have seen some pretty hard times in my time, but when a man goes to sleep on a step and they steal a new pair of eight dollar shoes off his feet, that rather beats me, and I'm going to get out."

Here the shoeless man was plied with a number of questions, but all he would answer was that he went to sleep on a step about an hour before and when he woke up all his pockets were turned inside out and his shoes were gone. "At first I thought I was dreaming," he said, "and I smiled at having such a funny dream. I reached down and felt of my feet and finally I got up and walked; then I was satisfied that I had been robbed."—Chicago Times.

Electric Signaling at Sea.

Mr. Kelway has introduced an exceedingly simple system of signaling at night. A board is provided with incandescent lamps arranged so that different sets form different letters. If the letter N is wanted, for instance, a key is pressed which lights all the lamps which go to form this letter, and so on. The machine can be worked like a typewriter.

Signaling by this means corresponds with the use of the black board in the daytime, but is, of course, much more rapid, and at the same time more easily followed. It is incomparably more rapid than any system of flash signaling, and is easy to read. As nearly all large ships are now provided with the electric light, it is likely that this system will soon come into general use.—Industries.

Footprints.

There's a deal of character in the wear of a shoe. Every clever detective knows that. Give a good detective the imprint of a criminal's foot on yielding soil and he can size his man up pretty well, especially if the shoe be rather worn. That's the only thing a man can't disguise. Lots of first class detective stories have been written on this, but there is nothing remarkable about it to me. The individuality in a footprint is the individuality of the wearer of a shoe, and I've been noticing that for thirty years.—Interview in New York Herald.

Opposed to Cremation.

A genuine Florida cracker has been peddling oranges about the city, and his uncouth air and ingenious and original conversation won him admirers. To one lady who purchased his fruit he gave a brief but interesting dissertation on cremation.

"Naw, sir," he said, "I don't believe in cremation. It's a shame to burn anything that might do some good. When I am dead I want to be buried [illegible] in Florida under my favorite orange tree, an you just bet I'll make 'er whoop."—[illegible]

A Pigeon Without Legs.

A black pigeon which is without legs and never had any, is often seen in Cincinnati, in the neighborhood of Broadway and Front street, picking up seed and grain left by the market people. It has an odd way of getting its food. The bird alights on its breast, and seeing anything it wants rolls or wallows over to it and picks it up.—Yankee Blade.

Lime Water and Tall Men.

Lime water, it is said, has a tendency to make children grow, and it is a noticeable fact that in those countries where the water is very hard the men are apt to be tall. In Texas the water is strongly impregnated with lime, and the men are veritable sons of Anak.—New York Tribune.

Curious Apple Trees.

In Japan there are apple trees growing four inches in height, which bear fruit freely about the size of currants.—New York Journal.

How Serpents Move.

King Solomon acknowledged that there were "three things which are too wonderful for me—yea, four which I know not," and one of these was "the way of a serpent upon a rock." For hundreds of years after the time of Solomon the snake's mode of progression remained a mystery. Latter day men of science have learned that his snakeship's ribs furnish him with a means of progression. So, instead of having a pair or two pairs of "feet," they really have from 150 to 200 pairs.

Aristotle thought that serpents had as many ribs as there are days in a month, but had he examined a python he would have readily detected his mistake, that species having 400. Snakes move in this way: Each vertebra supports a pair of ribs, which act like a pair of legs, the extremities being connected by a broad plate. The hind part of this plate is free, and when the ribs are moved forward that end is raised, so that it takes hold of the surface underneath, even though it be glass, the straightening of the reptile propelling it forward.—St. Louis Republic.

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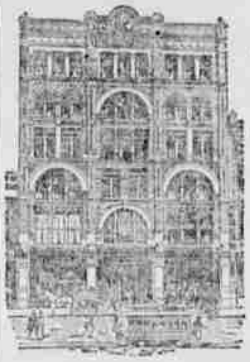

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