of the present month it was sai[d] [illegible] the Grand Duke was making himself very unpopular by efforts [to] suppress fraudulent [illegible] growing out of the corruption for which [the] Russian official world is noted. The fact that he had interfered [in] [illegible] of famine money has ca[used him] to be very unpopular with a c[ertain] wealthy and influential class, w[ho] are doing their utmost to secure [his] removal from office.

Advices received to-day state the the Czar suspects his brother of nursing ambitious designs, though the nature of the designs, in a country where all social and political honors emanate from the Czar, is not stated. It is added that the Czar has been so impressed by the array of evidence presented to him against the Grand Duke that it is his intention to send him into exile.

The wife of the Grand Duke is the daughter of the Grand Duke Louis of Hesse, and a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. She recently abandoned the religious faith in which she was trained, and April last formally joined the Greek church. It is charged in some quarters that the conversion of the Grand Duchess was not the result of a free change in her religious belief but was due to moral suasion of a very brutal kind. This statement was semi-officially denied at the time, but the fact remains that she at one time was so disgusted with her husband that she was with difficulty restrained from leaving him. It is said that the Czar interposed his good offices to prevent the scandal that would have followed a separation.

Cushing Married.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—Marshall Cushing, Postmaster General Wanamaker's private secretary, was married here yesterday to Mrs. Bell McBride Palmer, a wealthy widow of Washington.

International Exhibition in Berlin.

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—A committee of the German commercial diet has declared in favor of holding an international exhibition in Berlin.

A Murderer Dies in Prison.

CONCORD, N. H., Dec. 28.—Isaac Sawtelle, who murdered his brother Hiram, died of apoplexy this morning at the State prison.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

London, Dec. 27.—A Singapore dispatch says Pekin official advices report severe fighting with rebels December 3rd to the 7th, in which 3000 rebels were killed and fifty leaders beheaded.

Vienna, Dec. 27.—A wealthy man named Hamtsch, of Gratz, shot his sons, aged six and seven, and then committed suicide, having an idea that his sons, who stammered, had a hereditary taint of insanity.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27.—It is discovered that the flour for the famine relief, which the municipality purchased at exorbitant rates, is adulterated until it is unfit for food.

Rio Janeiro, Dec. 27.—The revolt in Desterro, the capital of Santa Catharina, aiming at the deposition of the governor, has extended to several other parts of the province.

Berne, Dec. 27.—It has been learned that three men were killed in Gemmi pass. They tried to cross the pass and were swallowed up in an avalanche.

London, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from Hamar, Norway, gives an account of an international five-mile skating contest. A Norwegian named Hagen won in 15 minutes, 11 seconds.

London, Dec. 27.—The Chronicle's Berlin correspondent states that Russia has informally intimated her readiness to negotiate a treaty of commerce with Germany.

London, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from Teheran says the Shah has issued a proclamation ratifying the abolition of the tobacco monopoly.

Paris, Dec. 27.—The express train from Paris to Brussels collided with a freight train near Mons today and ten persons were injured.

Glasgow, Dec. 27.—By the derailment of a train near Hamilton today nine persons were seriously injured.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 27.—Roca and Pellegrini declare that Mitre is the only possible candidate for the Presidency.

Rome, Dec. 27.—The tomb erected by Pope Leo to Pope Innocent was unveiled today with great pomp.

Yonkers, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Lawyer Murphy, one of the victims of the wreck, died last night. Up to late tonight nothing has been heard of Brakeman Herrick whose negligence, it is charged, caused the wreck.

New York, Dec. 27.—Eleven cases of death from grip are reported to the health board of this city today.

St. Louis, Dec. 27.—Sixteen hundred bales of cotton burned tonight in the railroad yards at the foot of Rutger street. Loss, $40,000.

The Brilliant Student's Dilemma.

A Harvard student told me an amusing story about himself the other day. It seems that recently his mother had a young lady guest at their house on the Back Bay, and, when he came from college in the afternoon he was introduced to her. At dinner also she sat opposite him at the table. He paid little attention to the fair visitor, as his mind was engrossed with a problem in his lessons. However, his kindness were as assiduous as possible in entertaining her. As it happened, the latter had [illegible] that evening, and, as Mrs. A. had promised Miss B. to have one of her sons take her to the theater, it fell to the lot of my friend George, the Harvard man.

He accepted the situation gracefully, and in due time the young couple set off for the theater. Arriving, George left his companion at one side of the lobby while he stepped up to the box office and purchased the tickets. Then, turning about, he looked toward the place where he had parted from the young lady, and was surprised to see half a dozen there, and [illegible] was it possible he could not tell which was his precious charge? Here was a dilemma.

George said he immediately decided that, rather than risk speaking to the wrong person, he would stand still till the young lady spoke to him. So he gazed at [illegible] for what seemed to him an age, but was probably only a minute, when Miss B. came up and said, "I fear you did not recognize me." "Oh, yes—yes," stammered George, equivocating—"yes, I did; I thought they had not given me the seats I asked for, and was considering what was best to do in the matter."—Boston Herald.

What Girls Can Do.

Many a volume has been written to encourage and inspire boys, and many a boy sitting by the wood fire in a country farmhouse has felt his heart burn within him to be gone and enter the battle of life, fight his fight and come off victorious. In difficulties he has fought and conquered, inspired all through his successful career by the words he read at the country fireside. Books are plenty showing how poor boys have started in life poor errand boys, or filling some other position [illegible] humbler, and gone on till they have become millionaires "by their own efforts," as the story books always say.

But nobody has hitherto performed this service for poor girls thrown on their own resources. Nobody has seemed to think girls wanted any inspiration to cheer them along a rough and uphill road. Perhaps nobody thought girls were worth it till a devoted friend of her own sex, Mrs. J. C. Croly (Jenny June), wrote just such a book for girls as the story writers hitherto have always made to encourage boys. It is probably the most helpful book for working girls that has ever been written. In her long experience as housekeeper, journalist and club woman the author has met with hundreds of instances in real life that are deeply interesting and instructive to those for whom this little volume is written, the girls "Thrown Upon Their Own Resources." That is the name of the little book. These facts are liberally sprinkled through the work. We know when we read these stories that they are true, and the half discouraged working girl will say to herself: "What other women have done, I can do. I will not give up." Indeed, one of the wise sayings of the volume is this, "Half our misfortunes in this world come from giving up just when we should have perhaps gained our object by holding on."

In the chapter on Concentration of Energy is this: "A great secret of success is concentration of energy in any given direction. All the great successes in the world are marked by this quality. General Grant possessed hardly any other that was remarkable." The chapter on "The Genius of Work" is full of the strong, sweet inspiration of happy employment, and is good to be read by men or women. But Mrs. Croly thinks we must drop from our vocabulary such expressions as "working woman" or "working girl." What girls who are thrown upon their own resources need is sympathy and recognition on equal terms of their womanhood. "To be a worker is to be a part of the ministry of God on earth."

The Wyoming Irrigation Laws.

It is likely that the agriculture of the future will depend more on artificial watering and less on natural rainfall. It has been found that even in states where the rainfall is normal, the productiveness of the soil can be increased threefold by a good system of subsurface irrigation.

In several of the richest of the new western states irrigation is a prime necessity. Such difficulties, lawsuits and even fist fights over water rights have arisen, however, that at length the states have been obliged to take the matter in hand and pass laws distributing the water supply as justly as might be among claimants. Wyoming is so far believed to have the best irrigation laws of any of the new states that have been obliged to legislate on this question, without any precedent to guide them, for the older states never needed any irrigation laws.

Wyoming's new law divides the state into four great water districts that follow the natural lines of hydrographic basins. The districts are put in charge of the state engineer, who takes care of the water distribution. Inspectors watch constantly that no man in any of the four basins gets more than the fixed water supply, which is rated at the amount of one second foot to seventy acres. All individual rights are determined by the state board of control. Thus a long and vexed question in Wyoming has been satisfactorily settled.

There is no danger that the world will become overpopulated so long as calamities occur like the earthquake in central Japan, Oct. 28, in which 7,500 persons lost their lives. China is the most thickly populated country on the globe, yet disasters like the inundations of the great Yellow river [illegible] and 3,000 human beings in half an hour's time. The tremendous volcanic eruption at Krakatoa, in the straits of Sunda, in 1883, destroyed no less than 50,000 lives. Such wholesale catastrophes of nature have not yet occurred in the historic period in Europe or America. It is not impossible that they might do so, however, by the time these western continents become as thickly populated as Asia now is.

The eloquent reporter has been at it again. In a recent bit of fine writing describing the death scene of a distinguished man, the newspaper young man remarks, "The first intimation the watchers had of death was that he had ceased to breathe." How else would they have known it, pray?

The flying train between New York and Buffalo still continues to make its regular average time of 52 1-3 miles an hour. But this is nothing to what they can do in Nevada. A citizen of Nevada tells us what it is to ride down a lumber flume in his state. He rode once down one of these flumes in the Sierra Nevada range to Carson. The distance was sixteen miles, down hill, and the party made it in eight minutes, two miles a minute. "Holy Smoke!" says the citizen. "Talk about your Vanderbilt specials!"

The farmer who would not be cheated by middlemen must take a good newspaper and keep himself informed of the market prices of the products he has to sell.

THE BIRTHDAY CAKE.

Something That Brings Intense and Lasting Delight to Little Children.

The custom of having a special cake, [illegible] for the birthday gives a pleasure to the smaller children of a family, and sometimes to older ones, [illegible]. The cake need not be rich or difficult to make, for the fact that it is specially prepared gives the plainest loaf a flavor [illegible]. It must, however, be frosted and decorated, and cut by the happy child's own hand [illegible]. In nearly every home one kind of cake [illegible] birthday cake [illegible]. But though the cake may be familiar, the frosting and decking may be varied to please the [illegible] every recurring birthday.

Besides the well known frosting made of whites of eggs and sugar there are several other kinds [illegible] to make. A frosting of granulated sugar and boiling water in the proportions of one teacup of sugar to five tablespoonfuls of water, is satisfactory and is quickly made. [illegible] The sugar and water should boil briskly for four minutes, and should be stirred only enough to keep it from burning.

If the fire is hot, placing the saucepan of boiling sugar in a basin of hot water—making a sort of double boiler—is a preventive from scorching. At the end of four minutes the sugar will thread slightly if dropped from the tip of a spoon. Then take it and pour the syrup in a dish of cold water [illegible] the frosting cools and thickens. Spread it on the cake rapidly, as it hardens fast, dipping a broad knife in hot water to smooth over the loaf. The frosting is not to be stirred so long as uncooked frosting, for it will harden beyond spreading. A [illegible] knife or spatula is most convenient for spreading the frosting.

This same frosting can be made into chocolate icing by adding three tablespoonfuls of grated chocolate to the boiling sugar. Delicate pink or straw colored frosting is particularly attractive to childish eyes, and is made by adding a tablespoonful of colored sugar [illegible] in the same way the chocolate is added. If eggs are plentiful, the white of one added to the boiling frosting makes it of finer grain and easier to spread. The white of egg should be beaten to a stiff froth, and then the sugar poured upon it gradually after having boiled four minutes, and the whole then well beaten. Frosting made of maple sugar is delicious, and is particularly well suited to spiced cakes. It is made by the same method as the white sugar frosting, but requires one minute longer boiling. Milk frosting is another favorite with children, and is pertinent to [illegible] jelly cake. Boil together a teacup of sugar and half a cup of milk, with a teaspoonful of butter, until a little dropped in cold water will thicken. Then beat it thoroughly and flavor with vanilla. Long beating makes the frosting white and creamy.

Surrounding cakes with candles, one for each year, is a German custom. The candles are melted slightly at the ends, and then stuck upon the edge of stiff white paper which is put between the cake and the plate, and is cut two inches larger than the loaf. Tiny little flags, whose sticks will run easily down into the cake and float the stars and stripes during the birthday feast, are liked by both girls and boys. The plate is encircled by a fringe of red, white and blue tissue paper. The paper is folded in stripes, and then cut like fringe, and the circular form given it by tacking little pleats in it with needle and thread. The fringe is laid on the plate first and the cake settled in it.

Pink sugar hearts on white frosting, with a fluffy pink paper fringe, delight a little girl, and make an apt St. Valentine's cake. Favorite flowers arranged in a bunch, smilax or their own foliage never fail to please, while candy stars and letters greatly a child who has just learned to read. The name and date spelled out with colored sugared caraway seeds, however awkward the lettering, give a satisfaction far greater than the effort expended. Candy rabbits and little sugar Cupids will bring a shout of joy from the younger children, while Santa Claus, with the spirit of a Christmas tree, will be voted "just right" for a December baby.—Agnes H. Ormsbee in Harper's Bazar.

Don't Boil the Clothes.

Do not boil your clothes on washday. Nothing will ever induce me to return to the old method of boiling except as a [illegible] cleansing or disease. There may be times when a boiling heat would be desirable. Many times when boiling my clothes I have wondered why people so universally did it, for I never could get any very satisfactory results from it myself, and I have always been particular about the manner in which they were boiled. I have found too, that unless most stains and dirt were removed before boiling they would be returned from the boiling more deeply set and harder to remove than before.

After washing the clothes have a boiler of boiling water, soap the clothes well and put into a tub, pour the boiling water over them, cover the tub for fifteen minutes and your clothes will then be ready for the rinse. Your clothes will be much whiter and give better satisfaction than when subjected to the old treatment.—Exchange.

How to Put Two Things at Once in One Place.

A simple trick, easily performed, will puzzle any one who has not seen it. Take a common tumbler and pour water carefully into it until it will not hold another drop without overflowing. Ask the witnesses if anything more can be put into the glass without removing or spilling the water, and the chances are that all will say no. You can, however, add (if you do it carefully) a very considerable quantity of salt, and when no more salt will go in you can add sugar without increasing the bulk of the water or spilling any. You may do something still more surprising. Instead of salt and sugar, you can put a great many pins or needles into the water without making it overflow. Philosophers declare that the particles of water rearrange themselves around the pins.

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150 Children's Cape Overcoats, 4 to 8, worth $4.50 and $5.50, go for $2.50

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