A REALIZED IDEA.

The dawn of cheap postage is China's best new sign of progress. In the writing of many letters there is great spread of civilization.

A woman traveled from London t Chicago to marry and then backed out. Fortunately for her, she had time enough to change her mind.

By putting Martha Washington's portrait on our postage stamps the Government will do something toward meeting the charge that women are not sufficiently recognized in public

According to London's new census returns, just published, there are 1,019,-546 families in the British metropolis and the average number of persons i each family is 4.4. The female exceeds the male population of London by

Fashlonable society in London is jeing dangerously threatened by a new drug whose use it has adopted. It for sleep, and the evil consequences of destroying that restorer of human vitality are becoming conspicuously

The British Museum is to be pro vided with a new fireproof building near Hampstead, at a considerable distance from the main structure, for the exclusive storage of old newspaper files. These files will doubless constitute the chief source of materials for future historians.

From San Francisco to St. Peters burg by rail in twelve days, with only a thirty-mile transfer across Bering Strait in enormous steel lighters. This is the promise of the men who announce that the Trans-Alaska road will be finished in five years. The opinion of the countless explorers who risked and lost their ships and their lives in search of the Northwest Pass age would be interesting.

The demand for American pacers almost wholly confined to England and this demand never has been ver active. On the racetracks of Italy and Denmark, and even of Australia and New Zealand, are to be found representatives of the American thor oughbreds, and in those countries a well as elsewhere the sterling quali ties of these animals have been dem onstrated.

The tide of benevolence and good will has risen to a greater height than ever before. Men and women of means are giving more bountifully, and their benefactions are more widely diffused than in any spring of earlier years. Libraries and hospitals and dertakings of almost every kind are fairly flooded with showers of gold. The world goes very well now so far as the open hand can make it go, ob-

Whether a man shall retire at sixty, or eighty, all depends upon the man Retiring at sixty, as Andrew Carnegle says, seldom brings the happiness expected, "because so many having the abundance to retire upon have so little to retire to." It is easy to understand how a lover of books, of art, of nature, of travel, or of the refinements of life could "devote his time to really living after the age of sixty." But the man who has no tastes of this or a kindred character-who would be so cruel as to consign him to the torture of idleness, the unhappiness that would come from dropping out of life's ever interesting strife?

Minister Thomas, of Stockholm, calls attention to the fact that the American Minister at Stockholm is not permitted, directly or indirectly, to pre sent names for any Nobel prize. There are, however, certain individuals and institutions in the United States that are authorized to present names for the prizes; but it is desired that the names of these individuals and institutions should not be made public. It is presumed that the name of anyone who has been of so great benefit to mankind as to be worthy of a Nobel prize will suggest itself to those among his countrymen who are authorized to present his name, without any solicitation or effort on his part. It is hoped that in all cases the prize shall seek the benefactor, and not the benefac tor the prize.

There isn't much room for sentimen in business these days. It is the effort of every business man to drive hard bargains and to conduct all trans actions on a purely financial basis The emotions are held in leash, social bility is regarded only as a profit-producing proposition, and the human in stincts are kept in subjection by the commercial instinct. This is to be de plored. If more sentiment were infused into our commercial relations business would be a more attractive thing, and there would be less inclina tion to play "sharp games." Sentiment is the life and soul of honor and integ rity. Without it, these virtues become dead letters. It gives a sterling value and an irresistible charm to all things, Let's make room for sentiment in business, pleads Profitable Advertising.



By Elizabeth McCracken.

little side porch. The sun was shining; the morning glories, so carefully trained by Lilia herself, were waving their bright, rainbow-tinted cups; the wrens, who had a nest under the eaves, were George was softly whistling for sheer lightness of heart, but Lilia was wrapped in silence. She gazed George began to take alarm. Silence,

specially at breakfast, was not Lilia's normal state. Unless she went luto town to shop she did not see George rom breakfast until evening. As she had been married but four months one is popularly regarded as a substitute week and two days-to be as accurate as she-she did not often go into town to shop; and she always had so much to say to George!

"What are you thinking about, my dear?" he asked, finally. He was fond of calling her "my dear;" it made them both seem so much older.
"Hats." was Lilia's reply. "I must

you advise?" "Me?" exclaimed George, in ungran

matical dismay. "I don't know any-thing about girls' hats?" "You are an artist," said Lilia, "and besides, you've always admired mine." "Yes," said George. "Why don't you get another one like them?" he

suggested eagerly. Lilla laughed merrily. "What a she had said, "Oh, are you?" sight it would be! They've all been

know about even your hats." "Well, you can tell me how I look in the ones I try on." George laughed; and he laughed

the front steps, said, "Then you will neet me at noon to-day, and allow at least an hour--does it take you an hour to buy

"It takes me two!" said Lilia, impressively. "What are you laughing

"Hats!" retorted George, mirthfully but he met Lilla punctually at noon. "Have you allowed an hour?" she asked, as they went together to what she gravely told him was the only possible place to buy a proper hat.
"An hour and a half." he replied, as

they went into the only possible place He wondered why it was the only pos-sible place; he had seen hats, presumably proper, exhibited in many dows. He followed Lilla is silence; he was suddenly curious as the cost of girls' hats. Lilla's fathe was rich. George knew that until he marriage she had not been in the habit of giving the cost of her hats, or, indeed, the cost of anything, very se

He was very far from rich, and as h looked at Lilia, accustomed all her life to all the things that money can buy, a fear selzed him. He had told Lil once that he was a poor man, and she had smiled a slow, wise smile, and said, "Oh, are you?" He had been so happily sure that she had understood him, and that she had been willing to forego some of the things that money can buy for the sake of those this into the only possible place to buy

proper hat. She smiled at his grave face. "Don't look so solemn, my dear," she whi "The safety of the common wealth isn't at stake."

She was so like her usual self nov that he could not be very solemn, and her all too obvious lack of logic in the buying of a hat interested bim "Don't you know what you want?" he inquired, during the ab sence of the attendant, as Lilla tried on a black hat, and then a white one ind then a brown one.

"Oh, dear, ves!" she said. "Then why don't you ask for it?" he

Lilla laughed softly. "I can't; I never know just what it is until I s

ishment. "My dear girl-"
"It's madness-but it has som

method," said the dear girl, with laughing eyes. "It is so delightfully lomestic-and funny-to have my hu band come with me to buy a hat," she added in a whisper, as the attendant returned with still a different has "That is very pretty-and artistic," said George, judicially, as Lilla gazer in the glass at its gray and black effeet against her golden hair.

"It is a dream!" said Lilia, conclus-ively, as the attendant again left them. 'It is exactly what I want. Do really like it?" she added, with delightul anxiety and deference. "Perfectly charming-and very sim

ole," said George, critically. "Yes, it is simple," Lilia said. Sh clanced again at the hat; then a queer, half-tender, half-amused expression erept into her laughing eyes, and she ooked closely at George. She suddenly cemembered how serious his face had en as they entered the shop.

"How hopelessly stupid of me t ome here!" she thought, in dismay. I actually forgot that I can't just get things now and send papa the bills! Still George doesn't know anything bout hats. I just won't get one now and the dear boy need never know l orgot that I can't send big bills to him She smiled at her husband lescribed with such indignant affeclor, and said to the attendant:

"Thank you for showing them to uite what I want.'

HEY were at breakfast at the | "None of them are quite what I

ively. "We expect some others next week," said the attendant, who had often served Lilla. "Don't you like this gray one?" she added, indicating the one which George had been under the strongest impression that Lilla did

"It isn't quite what I want," replied "I thought you said it was exactly what you wanted," George remarked as they went into the street.

Lilia laughed, "I changed my mind," she said. "A woman always may, you know," she further explained. "Shall we go to some other place?" sald George, still mystified.

do you want, my dear?"
"Something to eat. I'm positively famished!" said Lilia. "But aren't you going to buy a hat?" asked George, in surprise.

"I think I'll wait until next week." She looked up at him and added. get one," she continued, "and I was gently, "Don't talk to me any more wondering what kind. What would about hats; you said yourself that you about hats; you said yourself that you knew nothing about them."

He did not talk to her about them, as she sat opposite him at the restaurant table, and she talked very little to him about anything. She was almost as silent as she had been at way that reminded him of the time he had told her that he was poor, and

After luncheon he took her to her different. Imagine—a composite hat!" car, and waited until it bore her from She laughed again, and then she said his sight. As he started to return to soberly, "But the fact remains that his studio he said to himself, "I wonmust get a hat. I really must, and der why she changed her mind about I wish you would come with me and that hat. She certainly said it was exactly what she wanted." Then all "By all means, my dear!" George at once he understood, "Could it have cheerfully replied. "Any time you been possible?" he thought, remem-like; but you see how little I really bering her added tenderness. "The dear girl!"

For a moment he hesitated; then quickly he returned to the only pos-sible place to buy a proper hat. The again as Lilia, before leaving him at proper hat in question was in the simple. He went into the shop, and to nother attendant than the one who The attendant looked at the hat, "Twenty-eight dollars," she said. "It is a new bat from Paris."

> "It is very simple," he gasped to the "Yes," said the attendant, "but it is

"What is it made of?" George asked blankly, wondering how a coil of some-thing gray and soft, combined with one strange black flower, could possibly illusion" said the attendant

"Illusion? What a name! Is illusion so expensive?" "Oh, no: quite the contrary, "Is it the flower, then, that is so e

ensive?" "Oh, no," said the attendant, pity ng his ignorance. "It is the style." "The style?"

"The art in the making of it, "It is artistic," said the artist, as nce more left the shop. The price of the style fascinate him to such an extent that he lingered

at the window and stared at the gray lusion and the black flower. "Twenty-eight dallars! Unon m mystification. Then a new and remarkable idea came to him, an it spired idea! He snatched out his penel nd a card and made a rapid sketch o the Parisian bat. Then he went wit hasty strides from the only possible place to another place, some distance removed. He apparently desired to leave far behind him the atmosphere

of Parisian style and its seemin With the sketch in his hand he ar reached an attendant in this seco hop. "Can you make a hat like that?

"Oh, yes," she said, easily, very simple. What color is it? Wha "It is gray illusion and a black Where does one get gray if usion and black flowers?" "We can supply them," said the at endant. "Shall I show them to you?

"How much will it cost to make it? The attendant told him: he thought very little indeed, and his bewilder ent lucreased.

The illusion and the flowers wer The attendant's curiosity vas violently aroused, but she wa egan to look upon the buying of girl's hat as his distinct vocation. H elected a black flower with the air o connoisseur, and with his artist's eye chose the exact shade of gray if

"How long will it take to make it? e inquired. "I could do it before to-night," th attendant replied. "Will you call for it, or shall I send it?"

He did call for it, and he examine with an elaborate care that would ave convulsed a less well-poised at endant. To his inexperienced eyes it was exactly like the original hat of the nly possible place-save in price

intil he reached the front gate and heard Lilia playing the piano in the little drawing-room did he wonder what Lilia would say. He had been spiration that, like many inspired per ons, he had not stopped to determin als exact route. Actually be faitered He was overwhelmed by a sense his own appalling audacity! rry, but none of them are would Lilla say? He felt shy of approaching her with the hat, and was "But, my dear," George began, "you indeed meditating upon the feasibility of concealing the box in the shrubbery. breeding.

when Lilla herself, hearing his steps,

She had never more eagerly awaited him than on that day, never than on hat day more happily wandered about the little house, which alto gether was scarcely larger than be father's drawing-room, and which yet held a glory that all the money in the world could never have bought. Lilia had never until that day so

She came smiling into the twilight looking like a lily in her white gown "Oh, my dear-" she began; then seeing the hapless hat-box, stopped hapless hat-box, stopped Hat-boxes have never been recon mended for unobtrusiveness. ould hardly have avoided seeing it "My dear boy, what in the world it that?" she demanded. Haltingly, George told her. He told

more than he realized, and she laughed until her eyes were wet and shining. She insisted upon seeing the and took immediate posses ion of it.

"You are a goose!" she told and re-told George. "A perfect goose!" Do you suppose I care how much mone ou have? Do you suppose I care whether my hats come from Paris or not-under the circumstances? Really you are a goose-but I am very fond of you. To think I missed seeing you get that hat! What fun it must have

plained to him so fully and so warmly hat she did not care whether she had any hats at all, or he had any money af all, that he could not under tand-and she admired the hat pro fusely. "It is a perfect dream?" she said; and certainly she looked far more

charming, all flushed and bright-eyed

in it than she had looked in the Par Islan original. Lilia keeps it very carefully and she never tires of relating its history.
"No," she always concludes, "I don' think George will ever again have the courage to select a hat for me, ever did select. Oh, I have had a great many other hats-naturally-and some of them were from Paris, but no other hat that I have had ever gave me such complete and happy and unusual sat-isfaction as that absurd Paris hat that was really not Parisian at all."

A CIRCULAR COLOSSUS. Thirty Cars Bequired to Move a Whee

An enormous wheel is now in pro cess of construction at Paterson, and I will be shipped to Michigan on a train and so recently shown Lilia the hat. of thirty cars, to take its place in the "How much is that gray but in the Calumet and Heela Company's works. The inills where the copper ore is ground are so large and the debris accumulates so rapidly that it takes a small army of earts to carry it away, "Lilia did know!" George said to and at great expense. It was there-fore declared to build a sandwheel to lo the work.

The apparatus will be set up in the stamp will in such a position that the buckets fistened to the wheel will scoop up the waste as they revolve, and automatically dump their contents into an elevated trough or sluice extending from above the wheel, where be water will wash the long distance. It is really an enormous cogwheel, and is revolved by a smaller cog, which fits into the rim of he big wheel, on the rim of which ere are 520 teeth. As the teeth of the cogwheel must fit exactly, the toothutting will require two or three nonths. In appearance the wheel, ex epting for the teeth, resembles a huge devele wheel. The spokes are shaped like those of a bleycle, but consist of steel rods two inches in diameter and thirty-two feet long. The hub is like those of a blelcle, and the axle is twen ty-seven feet long, thirty-two inches in diameter and weighs 42,000 pounds It was east at the Krupp works in Germany. The wheel itself is sixty with four lines," he thought, in his five feet in diameter, and swinging upon the inner surface of the rim will be the buckets, four and one-half feet long and three feet wide, formed like r dredging scoop. There will be 55 nckets on the wheel, and it is calculated that each revolution will carry away as much as fifty horses could draw. It will make ten revolutions per minute, and will require 700 horse power to drive it. The motive power will be electricity.-New York Post.

Good Things Go Begging. Washington is known as the abiding ace of men who have gone daft or ventions and patents, and yet it is stonishing to know by what narroy narging some people escape making rtunes. Professor Alexander Grahan Bell tried again and again to persuade enator Don Cameron to buy for \$10,-000 a one-third interest in his telepho nventions. Cameron thought Bell : wild dreamer, refused to put up a dol orders that the inventor should no longer be admitted to his office. Tha ne-third interest is to-day worth not less than \$20,000,000, There we nany long and weary days that Professor Bell scarcely knew where h vas to get the money to carry through

his inventions, and he haunted the ho tel and Capitol lobbles constantly, eneavoring to get some one interested in what he felt and knew would make There is scarcely a day that som nventor is not haunting Senators and Congressmen with appeals to help iem get through some fortune-is-jus ight patent, and the struggles that Professors Bell and Morse went rough in getting their inventious b fore the public demonstrates the fact that a good thing is about as difficult to shove along as some worthless clap-

trap.-Washington Post. Ameer a Breeder of Horses. It may not be generally known that Abdur Rahman, the Ameer of Afghan scale. Some years ago he founded a about 2000 animals. Some are English thoroughbreds and some Australia while others are Arabs, Turkoman and Indian country-bred horses. To look lish veterinary surgeon named Clem ents, who teaches twenty young Afghans his profession and imparts to them the correct principles of horse TALES OF PLUCK PAND ADVENTURE

played the role of aeronaut for a wager, three years ago, his experience cost that region, while dressing a bear, dis-him his reason. To-day Condon is a covered the half-closed entrance to the tramp-one of the variety known as tunnel, and thinking that perhaps wild "stew-bums." He came into Denver animal might be occupying the place, Friday morning on a freight train; left sent his dogs in to investigate. In a the same afternoon or evening on a brake beam, to where, no one knows, ally covered with wildcats, and howl-Condon was once highly respected and was one of the leading young men of cat fight" which followed, the dogs Oakland, Cal., where he was in the were thoroughly whipped, although, as commission business. He was an athlete, a club member and a general

good fellow. One Sunday, in a spirit of banter, he voluntereed to make a balloon ascension in the stead of a man disabled who was to have afforded entertain ment for crowds at a public resort. Some of his comrades took him up, offering to wager that he would not dare to go up on a trapeze, swinging beneath the great hot air bag.

to the park manager that he was an aeronaut of experience and was willing to satisfy the cravings of the crowd tights and was greeted with plaudits as he appeared ready to undertake a perilous feat he had not dreamed of an hour before.

When his friends saw that Condon was in earnest, they begged him to dedst, but his spirit of bravado would not allow. Before the park manager calized he was sending an entirely nexperienced man up in the balloon, guy ropes were cut loose and Condon with a running bound sat on the trapeze and was a hundred feet in the air.

A number of men and boys had held one of the ropes, either holding on or afraid to drop. Up went the balloon. The people

evolutions on the trapeze, believing the imult below to be applause for his dar

feet before Condon caught a glimpse of the lad, clinging for life to the fruit rope and utterly without support other than his own strength. Then realizing that the cutting loose of the parachute would mean death to the lad, he schemed to get him on the trapeze beside him

The boy was swinging from a rop on the other side of the balloon as the wind swayed it, and Coudon found it impossible to reach him. The only At an elevation of nearly 2000 feet the youngster's strength gave way and he dropped. The fall was wil sed by the thousands in the park. The little body fell on the doorster of a house less than a mile from the park. On the doorsten was an to ter, who had watched the flight of the balloon. The mother died shortly after from heart failure and the daugh. ter was sent to the hospital Insane There her child was born a few weeks later. On seeing the lad fall, Condon pulled the cord which cut the parachute loose. He came down safely, but was picked up unconscious as a result of his fright. When he recovered weeks after he was not right mentally. His business went to ruin and he took t He disappeared within a year and friends failed to find him. It was carned he tried to enlist for the Cuba war, but was refused. What he has ie in the meantime or how he has lived is best explained by his appear ince as he reached Denver. Stoop-shouldered, unkernet, with

covering his face, he shambled to the Union Hotel. The porter put him out, and he sought a resting place in a nearby saloon, where he promptly

"Where have I been?" he querler with the unmistakable leer of a mind mentally unbalanced. "Why, I've been verywhere. I'm a bum, just a com mon bum. I went up in a balloon ouc and it was my finish. I'd go up again if there were no kids hanging to it and I could drop out.

"Tell you about it? No, that's dead o's the kid. Awful thing it was. My first time up and my last till I go up o die myself." The Condon, the wreck of the former man, grew slient, where you are?" was asked.

"Friends? I haven't any since vent up. I had 'em once, but they've orgotten all about me, and I want to orget about them. I don't want to see inv one I know.

"Where are you going to-night?" ""Hit the beam, I guess. I don't where te. Anywhere will do. Good-by." -- Denver Post.

A Sure-Enough Wildcat Mine. Several mining men who chanced to net in the office of a hotel in Portland vere discussing the various mines in certain district in Oregon, when one of them spoke of a "wildcat" min logger who was sitting near pricked p his cars at this and chipped into the onversation. He said that there was ne most productive wildcat mine he ad ever heard of near the logging amp where he had been working on One of the mining men remarked

ents, and asked what this wildcat nine produced. "Why, wildcats, of course," replied he logger. He then proceeded to exhad run a tunnel into the side of the number of short branches, and had

of the bill, but, finding no coal, had fin ally abandoned the workings. There were wildcats in that section, and the partles who had been prospecting for The wildcats and the tame cats had iffillated and had taken up their abode TOTHEN Charles T. Condon in the tunnel and had increased in

Finally a celebrated bear hunter of few minutes the dogs came out liter ing like lost spirits. In the "dog and were thoroughly whipped, although, as the hunter said he thought any one in wildcats.

While the fight was going on the old hunter took a hand to help his dogs. and with his clubbed rifle killed twenty-seven wildcats, but they finally bowed an intention of attacking him when he used the business end of his rifle and shot a lot more. The cats were scared at the reports of the rifle. and finally retreated into, their hole Condon placed his money, announced in the ground. The dogs could not be persuaded to enter the tunnel again and the hunter did not care to enter himself. The cats killed were a curlby making the ascent. He quickly ous mixture of the colors of the tame changed Sunday clothes for a suit of and wildcats and had tails of all lengths, from the rabbit-like tuft of the genuine wildcat to the clongated

the next two weeks to clean out the dog nor man could be found who dared to go any distance in the tunnel.

Finally a cold-blooded scheme was put up on the cats. They were obliged to go out at night to seek for food, so man was dressed up in half a dozen sults of clothes which no cat could bite or scratch through, and furnished with the balloon captive by the guy ropes in several giant-powder cartridges and a readiness for its flight. All but one coil of fuse, penetrated to the extremity let go as the balloon was released. On of the cavity.

Next day a crowd gathered about being caught in a tangle, was a lad the entrance of the tunnel, and the utterly powerless to help himself and fuse was lighted. As it burned along into the tunnel the flame, smoke and smell of powder scared the cats and shouted from below, beekening fran-tically to Condon to bring the big bag back to earth, fearful for the life of down. The shooting and the dead cats the daugling lad. All unconscious of terrified those in the rear, and they the boy's presence, Condon continued held back until the tunnel was fairly choked with a surging, squalling, spitting army of cats, and then the giant nowder exploded, and several tons of eats were shot out of the hole, and it rained fur, fiddle strings and cats' meat for the best part of half an hour. "Were there any cats left?" inquired

"Nary a cat," said the logger, "The nine was worked out, and was closed permanently with rocks and earth."-

Bruin as a Fisherman.

Old hunters say that the black bear does a good deal of fishing at this seahope was to make the lad hold on until son. It is said that carefully studying the hot air bag became sufficiently the sun and approaching so that his cooled to descend. Condon cried to the shadow will not be east upon the lad; begged him to hold tight; egreed, waters, bruin creeps cautiously to pleaded, threatened, knowing it was where he sees the telltale fins, and ally to shortening the time of passage dexterously throws the fish out water with a sweep of his paw. A couple of lads came across a ferent kind of bear at St. Mary's Lake.

near Hull, Canada. This one preferred having some one else do the fish catching for him pike, which they had left near a stump while they amused themselves on a raft they had thrown together. They bear walking off with the bag of fish over his shoulder.

He paid not the least attention to their shoutings, having, as it transpired; taken the precaution of breaking the stock of their gun across at the grip before carrying off the fish.

Lovers' Thrilling Experience Fred Tieman and Miss Rosie Beard ving a few miles below Evansville. ind., in trying to reach a preacher's cross a long streak of bottomland cov red with about ten feet of water. The buggy was upset and the occupants heart in his left arm while he cut the narness, freeing the horses from the ouggy. The lovers then held on to the orse's tall until the shore was reached, distance of nearly a mile. The weddlng ceremony was postponed for day .- St. Louis Republic.

To Save Tempers and Collars. "You button your collar the wron vay," said the salesman, as he was elling neckwear to a customer.

"You have buttened the right side ast. Now when you go to take it off you will have to tug at the end of the ilar and crumple it, because you can't get proper hold of it, but if voi had the left end on top you could get t off easily, then loosen the collar b hind, and the right end could be easily detached. That's why men have s much trouble taking off well laundered collars. Remember to fasten the right side first, and then the left, and you will save your collars and your tem

"I never supposed there was a right and a wrong way of putting on col-"Try both ways and you will see."-New York Times.

As He Understood It. A teacher in one of our public school and been endeavoring to instill int he minds of the children in her clashe meaning of the word "effervesce to work-and called on them for entence including the word in that ense. This was one child's effusion 'My father drives a sprinkling cart and effervesces on the Boulevard.'

hat his idea of a wildcat mine was one that yielded nothing but assess Alaska Agricultural Stations Three Government agricultural sta-tions have been established in Alaska, and from all come more favorable re clain that many years ago some one the temperatury last winter heached hill in search of coal, and had run a planted in the fall was protected by several feet of snow and matured sophered about generally in the howels perfectly.

INDUSTRIAL

In a paper lately read before the New York Academy of Sciences Dr. Julien brought forward evidence to how that the injury done to the bluffs along the coast is often due as much to the wind as to the direct action of the waves. Sand and sea-spray, when driven for hours by a violent wind, act as a great sand-blast, eating away, with surprising rapidity, the layers of sand and gravel of which many of our projecting headlands are composed.

The Belgian Consul-General at Chicago has made a report on the magnitude of the commerce of cereals there, from which the following figures are extracted. It is not every American who realizes the enormous done: In the first place the flour is expressed in terms of wheat by calling one barrel of flour the equivalent of five bushels of wheat. The figures of of grain were received in the last statistical year. Wheat in bulk was re-ceived to the amount of 31,000,000 bushels, and maize to the amount of

The average reader fails, perhaps, to see any connection between printing paper and spruce gum, and yet the con-stantly increasing demand for the paper has run up the price of the gum and may, in a few years, make it unobtainable. The explanation is in the fact that the printing papers of to-day are largely made of wood pulp of spruce trees, vast forests of which are found in the New England States and in Canada. Thousands of the biggest trees are cut down every year to sup-ply the paper mills with pulp, and it is from these big trees that the greatest quantity and the finest quality of spruce gum is obtained. So that the gum has gradually become scarcer and dearer, and the chances are that it willafter a while be held at a prohibitory

The proverbial conservatism of the Chinese, by which customs are per-petuated generation after generation, finds an odd exposition in the tool steel used by them. It is known in the trade as "bamboo steel," probably from its similarity to the bamboo, their favorite structural material. From thi bamboo steel, which comes in bars about an inch square, with rings abou every inch, which project about a sixteenth of an inch, they make all their tools. The material is made all over Europe by firms which cater to the Chinese trade, a ready sale being found for their product, notwithstanding the fact that it is not nearly as good quality as commercial tool steels The Chinaman, however, knows that his father and great-grandfather used bamboo steel, and he steadfastly sticks to it, refusing all other kinds.

One of the most helpful aids to fast time for long distances is the railroad dining car. Procluding, as it does, the necessity of stopping trains at lunch and dining stations, it contributes materiway it is more kelpful than profitable This feature of railroading is compare tively of recent origin. Probably it I still in its original stage of develo mine how or where it can be improved The railroad, which operates more of these cars, as well as more sleepin and parlor cars, than any other in th world, has twenty-eight dining cars and eight restaurants, and is now feed ing more than 8000 persons a day Each dining car costs \$15,000. In cluding the food supply constantly o hand the company has therefore about half a million dollars invested in the enterprise of feeding passengers whil they are moving.

Something New "Under the Sun." In an article in Lippincott, on "Ad-

vance Hints to Travelers," the author says:
"I recently met an Englishman who told me he had been interested in company formed for the purpose of serving ice by wagon in Loudon after the American plan. He said tha the company falled of success because householders did not know how to keep the ice after they had bought it The refrigerator idea had not yet dawned on the British mind. My in formant went on to say that his com pany had now turned its attention to the introduction of refrigerators as a regulsite to the use of ice. I asked him if he expected success in this second venture despite the failure of

the first. He answered: "Yes, because we have prepared statistics showing the annual v thousands of tons of provision in London because of the lack of means to preserve them. When we have touched the Londoner's pocket-nerve

we shall win.' "The statement struck me as an exaggeration at the moment, but I received a confirmation of it a few days later in London, when I passed a housefurnishing shop at whose door was hung a placard reading thus: "The Public is invited to step inside and inspect a refrigerator in operation. No charge.'

Dickens's Unfortunate Love. Concerning Charles Dickens, it is well known that though he married Catherine, one of George Hogarth's three daughters, in 1836, he was later devotedly attached to her sister Mary Why he did not marry Mary in the first place is not certainly known, un less it be that Mary, a young woman of great leveliness of character, had suc cessfully concealed her own affection for Catherine's betrothed, in order to save her sister from disappointment. Percy Fitzgerald, a friend of Dick ens's, expresses this idea in an article in Harper's Magazine entitled "Dick ens in His Books." There seems to be much popular interest in this author now, and if his vogue returns, it will assuredly be a revival, as well as sur vival, of the fittest, for where can we find greater charm in fiction than

Some people remain poor because they throw so many bouquets at them-

It's often very hard to find
A man who has good sense,
A man possessed of breadth of mi
Most people are so dense. I know a man who is the most.
Hard-headed I have met;
To talk to him you'll have to post
Yourself on things, you bet. His information of all sorts
Is at his finger's ends—
Statistics, Shakespeare and reports
All in his talk he blends.

His business judgment's superfine;
The tips he's given me
Show that his views are just like mine
I like sagacity.

In politics he's hard to beat.
His logic's clear and sound;
To hear him argue is a treat,
He covers all the ground.

The books he reads are what I call.
The proper mental food: The proper mental food;
I think if people read at all.
They ought to read what's good

Religion—well, that's where he's strong, I hold a certain creed. And this man backs it right along As what all people need. On any subject you can name Opinions he has got That any one who holds the same Knows hit the proper spot.

In short, as I before had.
You'll very seldom spy
A man with such a level head—
He thinks the same as I.
—Chicago News.



latest painting." "So did the critics, when they viewed it."-Baltimore Her

"I dream my stories," said Hicks, the author. "How you must dread go ing to bed!" exclaimed Cynicus.-Tit "Do you ever have any quarrels in

your woman's club?" "Oh, no; we sall them 'debates.' "-Philadelphia Bul-

In counting life's worries
"Tis little things that tell.
All girls with snall brothers
Know this very well.
—Philadelphia Press. Ted-"Has the count come here to marry an American girl?" Ned-"It looks that way. His creditors paid his passage over."-Town Topics. Mrs. Nebb-"Why do you think Mrs.

De Peyster is mentally unbalanced?" Mrs. Keeptab-"Well, she permits her husband to sit on her sofa pillows." -Ohio State Journal. A lucky man the iceman is,
His chance for failures slim;
While others work to earn their bread
The weather works for him!
--Cincinnati Observer.

"Poor man," said the inquisitive old woman, "I guess you'll be glad when your time is up, won't you?" "No, ma'am, not partickerly," replied the prisoner. "I'm up fur life."-Philadelphia Press. Grindleus-"A man can't get an edu

cation nowadays without money.' Sporticus-"In other words, you claim that the tree of knowledge sprouts Little Elmer (who has an inquiring mind)-"Papa, where do those pe alsts that we are always reading about live?" Professor Broadhead-"On at

Island of egotism in the midst of a sea of woe."-Smart Set. Lady-"What on earth, Mary, have you been doing with that dog? He is dripping with water." Mary-"It's at Master Tom; he's been and tied hi to the end of a pole and cleaned the

Willis-"They tell me there was very pathetle scene in the crimina-court to-day." Tommas-"Yes, every body was in tears, except the cor shed a tear in his life."-Boston Tra

ther day about a third who had in come engaged to a widower, wi plays the cornet and has four children What could be worse," exclaimed one than four children and a cornet? "Nothing," said the other, "except, perhaps, six children and a trombo

Archaeology in London. Archaeology, according to Dr. Fresh-

field, who lectured at the London Institute, becomes an absorbing passion when once the initial stage is passed and the victim is too engressed to find time for any other occupation. He can London-even without the aid of the steel excavator. He can see excellent Roman remains while doing business at the money order department of the postoffice. With a little more trouble he can study Saxon remains in Edward the Confessor's Chapel or the Chapel of the Pyx, at the Abbey. The Tower and the Bow Church woo him with allurements of the Norman style. They the parochial records of th of the city companies call for the explorer who has caught the fever. He will have the joy of learning that the plague of London was preceded by three other worse plagues in the same century, and that the dog-not the rat -was officially regarded as the diseminator. After this we may expect to see stockbrokers forsaking golf and gold and rubbing brasses in Westmin ter Abbey.-London Chronicle

. The Largest Sailing Ship. The American builders of many masters will have to bestir themselves if they wish to retain pre-eminence in the size of their ships. The five master now being built for Messrs, F. Laeisz, of Hamburg, will, when completed, be the largest sailing ship affeat. She will. e named the Preussen, her designed displacement being 12,000 tons and registered tonnage 8000. This Ger nan-built vessel exceeds in tonnage any of the American five-masters, and schooner now under construction at Quincy, Mass., and which has a dis placement of 10,000 tons. Our Gernan friends are finding the Yanke chooner idea a good thing, and blg schooner will no

in German