

LIFE IN EAST LONDON.

Mr Walter Besant's Description of the "Hive of Working Bees" That He Knows So Well.

The dominant note of East London is that it is a hive of working bees. There are, it is true, a few drones in it. They are not the fat and luxurious drones of the other London, those who live in luxury without labor, and are down-trodden with the curse of idleness.

It is a city of working bees. As we wander and loiter among the streets multitudinous, we hear, as from a hive, the low, contented murmur of continuous and patient work. There are 2,000,000 of working people in this city. The children work at school; the girls and boys, the men and women, work in factory, in shop, and at home; in dock and in wharf and in warehouse, all day long and all the year round, these millions work.

Imagine, if you can, what would follow if you held up your hand and said: "Listen, all. There will be no more work. You may stop the engines, or they may run down of their own accord. You may take off your aprons and wash your hands. You may sit down for the rest of your lives. Your food will be waiting for you when you want it. Eat, drink and be happy if you can." If they can! But can they, with nothing to do—no work to do, only, like the sheep in the field, to browse, or, like the wolves in the forest, to rend and tear and slay?—Century.

ENGLISH SOLDIERS' WILLS.

Queer Testaments Left by Two Who Were Fatally Stricken on the Field.

How does the soldier, killed in battle or fatally wounded, dispose of his property, providing he has any to leave behind him? The list of casualties reported regularly from South Africa and the Philippines lend pertinence to the inquiry. Every English soldier has served out to him when he enlists a little volume which contains, among other things, three blank forms of will which he is at liberty to fill out at his leisure. In a majority of cases, however, he pays no attention to this pocketbook and goes into the battle with his will still unmade.

Financial Strangement. "What could glances Wiggins give you, Billy." "Yes; he owes me five dollars, and I owe him four dollars; he's mad because I don't pay him."—Indianapolis Journal.

NOT BUILT LIKE THE EAST.

Some Interesting Reasons Why the Western Country Has Its Own Characteristics.

Merely spotted and stained with habitation is the country across the Missouri, and more particularly that beyond the eastern line of Colorado. Nearly 1,200,000 square miles—a third of the total area of the union—with only 4,000,000 population out of the grand American census of 77,000,000. Surely geology has done its work in the Rockies and beyond. If there is breeziness that blows from scattered centers to scattered centers, it is but logical. If the politicians will assume tasks and experiments, and presume occasionally upon an abnormal capacity against the world, as when a solid west votes for silver, it is to be expected. The people are used to long reaches and big movements and heavy undertakings. They have to be in order to get things done at all.

Interesting as the land itself, even interesting as the monstrous canyons through which the Rio Grande railway has constructed its marvels of engineering skill to afford pleasure to the sightseer, are the marks which populations have left upon the surface. Many of them stand like the ruined cities of ancient nations, less venerable only because less ancient, but equally fruitful in suggestions of history, equally pregnant with memories that concern man. Beginning with the border of British Columbia and running continuously southward to the Rio Grande, these landmarks remain. Deserted forts and trading stations they are in the far north, where the Hudson Bay company made fortunes in furs long before American agriculturists or miners stepped out of their eastern homes.

The mountains that lie eastward of the Great Salt lake, and through which the Union Pacific twined its way, first among the transcontinental railroads, are marked in places unnumbered with the signs of sturdy thrift and humble religious obedience, where the Mormons worked out their incomes in building the railroad for which the leaders of the church had taken the contracts of construction.

LOVE IN THE LIBRARY.

The Elevator Man Finds So Many Living Romances That He Reads None.

"Do I read novels?" the elevator man at the public library solicited in answer to a question. "Nope; novels is mostly romance, so's plays, and I get enough of it right here." "How's that?" "Just wait now till we get down to the first floor, and you'll see." The elevator brought up on a level with the marble tiling of the splendid Washington street entrance and stopped with a thud. On the white marble seat to the east of the staircase sat a youth with red hair, making love to a pretty girl with a tailor-made frock.

A WASHINGTON RUNAWAY.

The Man Afoot Managed to Dodge, But He Didn't Know What He Had Escaped.

A runaway in Washington is an interesting study to a man from any part of the country where runaways are common. A man left the capitol and looked down the hill by the Peace monument, and turned into that strip of Pennsylvania avenue which has no crook in it. At the place where an employe of the traction company manipulates the shifting of the current by which the yellow car goes in one direction and the green car goes in another, the man from the capitol stopped and asked a question. The employe got up from his chair and moved over toward the south side of the street before he replied.

"Why did you have to shift your place before you answered my question?" asked the man who had come from the capitol. "To get out of the way of that runaway horse," was the reply.

"You wait here long enough and you'll see him," was the rejoinder. "He can't be coming very rapidly," said the man from the capitol, who, having received an answer to the original inquiry, resumed his walk. At the end of a ten minutes' walk he went into a cigar shop. The proprietor got out of a camp chair on the sidewalk, picked up the chair and took it inside, and then waited on his customer.

"Do you carry your chair with you when you move?" asked the customer. "Depends," was the reply. "When I see a horse running away and the chair is on the line of the gallop I take the chair in. No use of letting a runaway horse smash a chair just 'cause you got a chair there a runaway?"

"If you stop here long enough you'll find out. He was cantering right lively when I saw him." "I heard up the street that there was a runaway, but I saw none." "Just the same, there is one. Better stop in for a few minutes." The stranger, however, decided to proceed. When he reached the Hancock station a policeman said to him: "Better step around the statue. There is a runaway coming, and a runaway horse has no sense."

The stranger thanked the policeman and crossed over. Then he looked back in the direction of the capitol, but saw no unusual commotion. He continued his walk, and halted at a venerable tree on the corner, and again looked back over the avenue. He went into another cigar store, bought a cigar, read the weather bulletin, and passed out. He walked over to the east front of the treasury building. A gang of negroes were at work patching the asphalt. The foreman said:

"Better knock off, boys, for a minute, and step up on the walk. I hear there's a runaway coming." The gang stepped aside deliberately, and the foreman sat on the step and scratched his head. The stranger concluded to see it out. After a ten minutes' wait the gang resumed work. The stranger said to the foreman: "Somebody must have headed off that runaway." "Don't know 'bout that. Maybe so. But he was golt' right lively when he passed here. Diggo see him?" "See him—the horse?" "Why, to be sho'. Jest past up and swung 'round by the bank." "You mean the horse that a boy was driving?" "Drivin'? That boy was tryin' to ketch up; he wa'n't drivin'." "Was that a runaway?" "That was a fast-class runaway, if I'm any judge." "Is that a sample of a Washington runaway horse?" "Don't know 'bout that; but if you mean is that the gal of a runaway horse in Washington, I'm bound to say it's about up to the average."—N. Y. Sun.

AN OYSTER CHOWDER.

A Seasonable Delicacy That Will at Once Meet with Favor.

For this delicacy a quart of cream, a pint of milk, a pint of oyster liquor are necessary, with two table-spoonsful of butter, two table-spoonsful of flour, a teaspoonful of salt, a salt-spoonsful of white pepper, a dash of cayenne and two table-spoonsful of celery. Put the cream and milk in a double boiler and set over the stove. Put the oyster liquor on to scald, and chop the celery to a very fine mince and put over the fire in cold salted water. When the oyster liquor is at boiling point put 75 large selected oysters into it and leave for three minutes; skim them and throw into ice water and skim the liquor. Froth two table-spoonsful of butter in a steppan, stir carefully into this the flour and add pepper and salt. Stir slowly into this the hot oyster liquor until perfectly smooth, and then stir this mixture into the cream and milk scalding in the double boiler. When the celery is boiled until tender, strain it out and add to the thickened cream; skim oysters out of ice water and throw them into the seasoned cream and serve at once.

Vegetables for the Christmas Turkey. The proper vegetables to serve with turkey are rice croquettes, boiled rice with cream sauce or stewed celery. If white potatoes have been served with a previous course, baked sweet potatoes or sweet potato croquettes may be used.—Ladies' Home Journal.

PASSING OF THE CAPES.

Coats Are Now the More Popular Wraps—The Various Styles.

Capes have gone out and coats have come in—box coats. It is an accepted fact—accepted by the fashionable with a sigh, and by the aesthete with a smile—that box coats are to be the rage.

However, they are not so alarmingly ugly as they have been. Some of the models are graceful and elegant, some are severely plain, but they are all expensive. An exclusive style could scarcely be otherwise.

The box coat has one feature at least to recommend it. It can be worn over an elaborate bodice without fear of crushing it, and that is an advantage which trim, tight-fitting jackets cannot claim.

One came from their embrace looking much as though pressed between the leaves of a monster book, and chiffons and laces presented a pitifully bedraggled appearance. The box coat is warm and comfortable, and does not rumple one's waists.

The dearest coat made in this style—and it is dear in more ways than one—is a magnificent creation in sable and seal skin. It reaches clear to the ground, is body-sacked and has long front pieces of rich brown sable. This coat stands its owner in something like \$1,800.

A jaunty wrap is of red cloth with white velvet facings. It has a cape of graduated ruffles, and also has four graduated flounces about the bottom. Each flounce and ruffle is faced with white velvet. There are smart revers of red and white satin, and a red-dotted white chiffon throat bow to set it off.

A handsome three-quarter coat of tan broadcloth is elaborately embroidered with Cluny lace, appliqued.

Another coat which reaches to the ground is made of dark green cloth and has corded velvet sleeves. A rather severe model is trimmed merely with strapped stitchings of its own material. It comes in a delightful shade of pearl-gray broadcloth, and is made very plain except for the strapings and a high standing collar.—N. Y. World.

DECORATION NOTES.

Flowers and Ferns Are in Great Favor for the Table in Winter.

There are no more decorative objects in the world than flowers. In the winter, when cut flowers are expensive, growing plants in blossom and otherwise give a touch of beauty to the room that nothing else can equal.

Rubber plants that are kept fresh and clean looking are very decorative. Palms take the lead, however, for beauty and distinction of appearance.

Among beautiful and handy palms that also stand gas well are the Japanese sago palms, with their strong yet frail-looking frond-like foliage.

A fern-dish is an acceptable gift and an almost unequalled bit of decoration for the dinner table, especially if it is of embossed silver, kept well polished and filled with clean, lovely ferns.

The tiny dwarf palm known as Cocos Weddelliana, are well adapted for table decoration, and will grow in a good-sized fern-dish or in a jardiniere. All foliage plants kept for decorative purposes must be carefully cleaned by sponging or spraying, in order that they may show their full beauty.

Crystallized glasses are lovely ornaments, but there must be no attempt at coloring them by dyes; only the natural greens and touches of color seen in nature are permissible. Nothing is more inartistic than bunches of dried grass made crude and ugly by dyes. Properly crystallized grasses look as if wet with dew or frosted with the rime of early winter.

Lovely decorations for the Christmas dinner table are composed of wreaths and evergreens of fine leaf; a large one for the center of the table, and wreaths of graduated sizes reared in a horizontal position in pyramid form, one above the other, and studded with holly berries and small candles, to be lighted just before the guests appear.—Ladies' World.

Kris Kringle Salad. Mix together equal parts of sliced celery and chicken; add one-fourth the amount of broken walnut meats and a few green grapes, from which the seeds have been removed. Marinate with a French dressing, very delicately flavored with onion. Have ready some sour oranges peeled and torn into sections. Remove carefully all seeds. Lay two endive leaves or curly lettuce leaves on each plate and two sections of orange. Put a large table-spoonsful of the salad on each plate and cover with mayonnaise.—Good Housekeeping.

Hyalanth in the House. For house-growing, hyalanth would better be planted in amalgamated coco-fiber and charcoal than in water alone. Press this mixture down in the glass bowl rather tightly, plant the bulb and cover with the same. Water about three times a week with tepid water until they are in bloom.—N. Y. World.

Grandmother's Muff. Muffs grow larger and larger—the veritable muff of our grandmother is with us. Rose-colored satin linings are considered the proper accompaniment of a sable, mink, or baby bear muff, pale blue and pink linings being used with chinchilla, gray fox or ermine.—Detroit Free Press.

Potatoes Scalloped with Cheese. Lay sliced boiled potatoes in the bottom of a baking dish, sprinkle with pepper and salt, then scatter over a layer of grated Parmesan cheese. Continue till the dish is full, having the last layer of cheese. Add a little white sauce, if preferred, and cook till the cheese is thoroughly browned.—Housewife.

Poor Consolation. "Stone walls do not a prison make," quoted the prison visitor. "Mebbe not," said the convict, "but they make it darned hard fer a feller to get out."—San Francisco Examiner.

THE FIRST SILVER DOLLAR.

One Hundred and Five Years Ago Last October It First Came Into Existence.

The silver dollar as a national piece of money, minted by Uncle Sam's servants under laws passed by Uncle Sam's congress, is more than 105 years of age. It was on October 15, 1794, that the first few hundred silver dollar pieces were coined at Philadelphia and were sent out into the world to help transact its business.

Not at all bad-looking coins were the first of the United States silver dollars; they were almost as handsome as any that have ever been put out by this government, and that is saying a good deal, for American coins have generally ranked among the most goodly to look upon of any in the world. The dollar of 1794, however, would look strange to modern eyes. In the first place the value of the piece was not shown upon either the obverse or the reverse of the coin, but stamped in fine letters on its edge were the words: "Hundred cents, one dollar or unit." On the obverse was a Liberty head, facing right, with flowing hair; over the head was the word "Liberty," beneath, in the usual place, was the date, "1794," and to the right and left were the stars, 15 in number, typical of the number of states then in the young union.

On the reverse was a spread eagle, surrounded by laurel wreaths, crossed, and the words: "United States of America." The metal was 894.4-thousandths fineness and the weight was 416 grains.

The dollar of to-day weighs 412 grains and is 900-thousandths fine.

In 1782, six years after the Declaration of Independence and 12 years before the first silver dollars were actually turned out, Robert Morris, then head of the finance department, submitted to congress a scheme for the establishment of a United States mint and the coinage of various denominations of metal money, including silver dollars. The authorship of this plan was claimed by Gov. Morris, a relative of the man who proposed it. It was received with some favor and the following year congress authorized the erection of a mint. But nothing came of it then, objections, chiefly on the ground of expense, being raised in many quarters.

In 1783 Thomas Jefferson submitted a scheme providing for the coinage of golden eagles, silver dollars, half dollars, double dimes and dimes and copper cents and half cents. In 1786 congress adopted this plan and queer-looking cents and half cents were coined under its provisions. Inasmuch as there was then no federal mint, however, the striking of these pieces was let out by contract to a man named Jarvis, who did the work in the old colonial mints, situated at New Haven, Conn., and Rupert, Vt.

In 1792 the first United States mint was built in Philadelphia. It was a small, old-fashioned three-story affair, but it was considered a great institution by the citizens of the young republic, especially those who chanced to reside in Philadelphia. Men were not wanting then, however, who declared it to be a useless piece of expense for a struggling government to saddle itself with.

It was in 1792 also that congress declared that the dollar should henceforth be considered the unit of federal coinage, and ordered that all business accounts must be kept according to the decimal system.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

OLD APOTHECARY ART.

Strange Things Entered into the Study of Medicine in Early Times.

In the old days the magi ordained that "the prethrum parthenium (the fever-few) should be gathered with the left hand, that the fevered patient's name must be spoken forth, and that the herbalist must not look behind him."

Later we hear that "gout was treated with henbanes only when the moon was in Aquarius or Pisces, i. e., three times a year, before sunset. It must be dug up with the thumb and third finger of the left hand, when one must say: 'I declare! I declare! holy wort to thee. I invite thee to-morrow to the house of Eleas to stop the rheum of the feet of M. or N., and say, I invite thee, the great name, Jehovah, Sabaoth, the God who stretched the earth and staid the sea, the filler of flowing rivers, who dried up Lot's wife and made her a pillar of salt, take the breath of thy mother earth and her power, and dry the rheum of the feet and hands of M. or N.'"

Henry VIII., who studied medicine and took great interest in inventing new mixtures and remedies, devised many quaint "cramp" rings, to be worn for the cure of rheumatism, and curious liniments and cataplasms, for the full benefit of which a large amount of faith was necessary.

This was, however, the romantic side of the apothecary's art, to which there were two other and more practical sides. The study of poisons, which was regarded as an interesting, necessary and praiseworthy occupation, and the supplying of drugs and spices for the concoction of medicines and unguents. This was, in fact, the grocery department, and the apothecaries were originally grocers, trading in such goods as rue, hyssop, fennel, mustard, elecampane, southern-wood, rosemary, lovage, coriander, savine, chervil, lupin, cummin, flax, savery, obstratum, quicksilver, brimstone, myrrh, frankincense, ginger, petroleum, vulvaige, mastick, ammoniacum, scamony, and many other drugs, and elements of drugs.—Humanitarian.

What We Must Have It. He—Is there nothing in the world you care for except money? She—Lots of things, but they all cost money.—N. Y. Journal.

PITH AND POINT.

The average young man of the day thinks himself about 50 years ahead of the times.—Philadelphia Press.

An argument is a wordy effort by which the other fellow is convinced that you are wrong.—Chicago Daily News.

Juggles—"What's his war record?" Waggles—"He has made application seven times for a pension.—Town Topics.

The Maiden—"Claude, dear, hold th' umbrella over me or, else th' people 'll think we're married."—Melbourne Weekly.

Any kind of religion that can be figured out on a slate can be rubbed out with a sponge.—"Ram's Horn Brown," in Indianapolis News.

Keen—"Isn't your wife afraid to drive that horse?" Steam—"Not at all. It's the people she meets who are scared."—Sydney Town and Country Journal.

"Success," observed the famous pugilist, "comes all at once!" "It certainly doesn't come by degrees," replied the scholar, but with no trace of bitterness.—Detroit Journal.

He Wanted Credit.—"Loafit is going to move to Rhode Island." "What for?" "Oh, he's exhausted his credit here, and he has heard about lots of people trusting in Providence."—Philadelphia Record.

Old Widower (in an effort to propose)—"Do you think, Miss Blank, that you could learn to care for me more than you do?" His Housekeeper—"I'm sorry you ain't satisfied, sir, but I'm doin' th' best I can on \$12 a month."—Ohio State Journal.

RUINS OF CLIFF DWELLERS.

New and Interesting Discoveries of the Extinct Race in Southern Colorado Hills.

More remains of the cliff dwellers were found recently in southern Colorado by Cecil A. Deane, a United States deputy surveyor. "We found," he said, "extensive ruins of the cliff dwellers and of prehistoric peoples, and I doubt if ever before they have been visited. It is in a locality where the scientists and relic hunters never come and I have no doubt that they will prove entirely new to the scientific world. In one locality west of the La Plata river we found an area of some 6,000 or 7,000 acres in one body that was dotted with the ruins of a people that doubtless subsisted by agricultural pursuits solely. The land was literally covered with the ruins of stone houses. While the original inhabitants of this vast tract subsisted by means of farming, yet no evidences of irrigation were found, and the nearest water at present is the La Plata or Mancos river.

"In other localities we found similar evidences of a prehistoric race and under the same conditions, indicating that if they did their farming by means of irrigation all traces have long ago vanished or else there were streams nearer than at present. It may be possible, too, that in the past generations there was more rain in that section and that it was not then, as it is now, an arid region.

"The surface is now covered with a dense growth of sage brush and of pinon or cedar trees. In parts it is almost impossible for a man to make his way. In surveying a dense forest was discovered the ruined walls of one house that originally must have been several stories high. The walls were massive, indicating that it was more than a single story. The stone that has fallen out of its place forms a pile over ten feet in height and is strewn about everywhere.

"This house must have been one of great importance to the people of that day. It may have been one of their great temples or it may have been a community house. It is, of course, entirely speculative as to its use, but its immense size would indicate that it was not an ordinary dwelling. In places parts of the wall are exposed, just as it was built by the people who long ago passed away, leaving only the remains of their buildings to indicate to the present generation that they have lived. It is probable that a systematic and careful search in the vicinity of these ruins and an exploration of the ground would bring to light many evidences of the people that would shed much light on their modes of life and on their history. We, of course, had no time for this work, as we were taken up entirely by surveying.

"Inside of the walls to the house of which I have just spoken large pinon trees are now growing, which is another indication of the antiquity of the ruins. Large cedars, too, are growing within and all about the ruins. The forest where we found the big house is dense, the trees being a large growth, and is practically inaccessible.

"In another locality we found the homes of the cliff dwellers. They were built of stone and perched, eerie-like, on the beetling cliff, hundreds of feet above the bed of the canyon, and they can only be reached by means of ropes reaching down from the top of the almost vertical cliffs."—Denver Republican.

A Photographic Rock.

On a ranch at Bradley Flat, near Hot Springs, S. D., is a ledge of rock which seems to possess all the properties of a photographic plate. When the rock is moist the rock will show after a thunderstorm a clear photograph of the surrounding trees and bushes. Gradually pictures so taken seem to fade out, being renewed by each new thunderstorm, though the same objects are not always reproduced. The rock seems to be a combination of flint and sandstone and is of a dirty red color.—Chicago Chronicle.

What We Must Have It. He—Is there nothing in the world you care for except money? She—Lots of things, but they all cost money.—N. Y. Journal.