# WILL EXPEDITE SHOPPING.

New Air Tube Service in London Will Aid in Delivery of Packages.

The scheme authorized by a bill in parliament to provide the whole of the huge city of London with an air-tube service for the carriage of parcels is ambitious, if not startling; yet the marvelous development of public utiltties in these days gives pause to those who at first blush might regard the project, of the Metropolitan Delivery company as beyond the realm of the feasible. The scheme aims to substistate for the present slow methods of the parcels post and other deliveries in London a system of pneumatic underground tubes, in which purchases at the stores would be shot to their destination at the rate of 30 miles an hour, says the Philadelphia Ledger. The project must overcome powerful oposition and will be delayed; but as a rule public utilities which are feasible are eventually introduced.

In the hearing before the parliamentary committee appointed to consider the matter, it was shown that the average time required for the delivery of parcels by the post office in London is about three hours. By the proposed system it was asserted that parcels could be delivered anywhere in the city in an average of one hour, an averaging saving of two hours for each parcel. The London post office and delivery companies charge according to weight and size. The tube company offers a fixed charge for all parcels under 15 pounds and the toil will be less than that charged by any existing method of conveyance.

It was urged that the company could deliver but a small fraction of the vast number of parcels delivered by the London shops. The company's engineer estimated over a third of this enormous traffic could be accommodated by the pneumatic service. It was declared that 217,486,000 parcels are distributed in the metropolis yearly, and that the company could take care of 80,000,000. The promoters seemed to be prepared to meet all objections to the practicability of the scheme. Counsel opposing the bill endeavored to show that a large proportion of the parcels sent out by the London shops could not be shot through the 12-inch tubes proposed. The company, anticipating the objection, had kept watch at the great department stores, and found that 94 per cent. of the parcels sent out were

While the proposed system would greatly facilitate deliveries of shoppers' parcels to the 172 receiving stations, this method of carriage would scarcely be accepted as a satisfactory substitute for the home delivery of the day's purchases; but it is imaginable that the perfected parcel tube system of the future will have its connection with every house so that the goods will reach home long before the most expeditious shopper arrives there.

# FOUR-BARREL PUNCH BOWL

Once a Gift to a Maine Sea Captain. Now a Plain Watering Trough.

The watering trough in Pickering square, Bangor, was once a punch bowl, says the New York Sun.

Years ago, when Capt. Charles Sanford owned a steamboat line between Bangor and Boston, his friends decided that they would make him an original present on an anniversary, and they ordered a punch bowl five feet high and ten feet in diameter, of rough granite. without inscriptions.

The bowl was shipped from the quarry to Bangor on a schooner, on board which vessel the formal presentaton took place. Capt. Sanford was murprised, but he managed to make a speech and the bowl was christened then and there a ceremony the like of which has never been witnessed on the Penobscot river.

It is said that about four barrels of punch was stirred up in the granite bowl, and the entire water front population was invited to have something. The bowl was kept on board the craft for a week or more, until one day the owner thought he would put it on the wharf, and with all sorts of tackle the task was begun.

At the critical moment a rope parted, and punch bowl and tackle and nearly the whole crew went into the river at once. The bowl staid where it sank for a number of years

But Capt. Sanford finally decided that the bowl must come up, and he offered it to the city as a watering trough if they eared enough for it to move it from where it lav.

They did, and it was put where it stands now, to delight the hearts of dust-covered horses down in the square. It is a strong, well-behaved trough, and looks as though it might wear for centuries to come.

#### He Sold It. Miss Peechie-i want a hammock that

will not break down. Polite Clerk-Can't guarantee any of

em, miss. "Why, that's strange!" "Not at all. We'd do it if you were a

homely girl, but-"-Cleveland Leader. Quite Moticeable,

The Cop-Phwat do you call it. Maggie?

The Cook-Shure 'tis a Welsh rabbit, ye ignoramus! "Faith, t' judge frum th' flavor av the civil, he musht have bin raised on

cheese!"-Brooklyn Life. Monocle Barred.

If one belongs to the German army be cannot wear a monocle. The single eyeglass has been forbidden to officers and men as foppish and savoring too strongly of Anglomania.

#### FIRST OCEAN RACER. COURTSHIP FOR HEALTH.

The Outdoor Exercise and Air Dur-

Is Good.

An old physician recommended what

he humorously termed the "courtship

Many married folk, he pointed out,

look back regretfully to their bright.

active and buoyant feelings when they

were young lovers. They do not real-

ize that their robust health in those

lays was not merely a question of

youth, but was due in great measure

to their daily walks and pastimes in

each other's company, and to the fact

that they had then sympathies and

After marriage many couples aban-

don their healthy outdoor pursuits, and neglect to entertain and cheer

each other up, as they did in court-

ship days, and this has a prejudicial

The benefits of courting were so

thoroughly realized by a certain young

health seeker that, it is said, he in-

dulged in no fewer than seven court-

ships, in order to have the advantages

of female companionship on his walks.

When the young ladies eventually

found out the real motive of his at-

tentions they dropped him, the damsel,

in one case, sarcastically remarking

that she wished to qualify for a wife

THE BRIGANDS OF ITALY.

Are Not Quite So Bad as Some Ex-

citable Tourists Try to Make

Them Appear.

A German gentleman was one evening

riding along the public highway near

Imola, when his horse threw him and

bolted, says a Rome letter to a Pall

Mall Gazette. He picked himself up

and lighted a match to see what time

it was, but found that his watch had

stopped. Just at that moment two bi-

cyclists hove in sight, and he went

forward, making signs for them to

stop, but the men pedaled furiously

out of sight. About two months after

the gentleman was reading an account

of travel in Italy, when he came across

"One evening we had an adventure

with a brigand. We were bicycling

near Imola, when an individual in a

long dusty cloak suddenly sprang from

the ground and with a small lighted.

torch, which he flourished with furious

gestures, demanded our watches. We

with great agility, but by the skin of;

our teeth, avoided the ill-intentioned

fellow, and shouting that we had not

watches made off as fast as we could,

whether followed or not we did not

STINGY WITH DOLLAR SIGN

Mutilated Character Finds Favor

Ls Wrong.

the other day in which the cost of

certain staple commodities was quoted

in every other line," said the man of

experience, relates the New York

Press. "As soon as I began to read

I was struck with some peculiarity in

the type that made me feel uncom-

fortable, but I worried through half a

dozen pages before I found out what

it was. Finally I discovered that

somebody had been experimenting

with the dollar mark. Instead of

using the two vertical lines that con-

stituted the framework of the dollar

mark I had been accustomed to, that

magazine had grown stingy and had

"Since then I have seen our most

precious symbol thus mutilated in sev-

eral publications. I wonder if it is

going to be the style to write it so

hereafter? I hope not. I don't like

it. Typographical eccentricities of any

kind are seldom welcome; a dollar

mark minus one of its familiar props

A CROCODILE SUPERSTITION

Washing of Mosquito Net in Borneo

River Followed by One or

More Deaths. .

The superstition that deaths by

crocodiles are the inevitable result

immediately after a curtain has been

washed in the river has been constant-

ly confirmed, says the North Borneo

A curious note upon this supersti-

tion appears in the monthly report of

W. B. Smith, district officer at Tim-

bang Batu. North Borneo. He says:

reported, and there have been several

narrow escapes. Toward the end of

December the enlightened authorities

at Pangkalan Bandau sent up an aged

Chinaman to Timbang Batu under ar-

rest for having washed his mosquito

net in the river. A woman was taken

in the same place by a crocodile a few

hours later, a coincidence which great-

ly enhanced his 'guilt,' while adding,

I am afraid, fresh authority to the

The Only Way.

Mamma-Tommy, dear, you mustn't

be so naughty. When mamma tells

you not to touch the jam, you should

obey her. What would you do if your

mamma should be taken away from

"I'd eat that jam, you bet!"-Cleve

In a Puritan Village.

"I'm afraid your children don't have

"Well, I don't know. They are al-

lowed to walk in the graveyard every

Tommy-Die?

"Two crocodile fatalities have been

Herald..

superstition."

"Yes, dear."

much pleasure."

Sunday."-Life.

land Leader.

would be least popular of all."

limited the sign to only one line.

"I was reading a magazine article

with Some Writers,

the following passage:

wait to see."

interests in common.

effect upon the health.

and not a nurse!

sure," relates Cassell's Monthly.

, ing the Love-Making Period

SMALL YACHT NAMED "ALICE" CROSSED THE ATLANTIC.

Voyage of the Little Sloop Served as an Example for Yachts of Greater Dimen-

sions.

The recent international yacht race recalls a voyage across the Atlantic, made 39 years ago, says the Boston

Globe. The vessel making a voyage was a small racing and cruising sloop, the Alice, owned by Thomas Gold Appleton, of Boston, the famous wit, story teller and art critic, who was a brothin-law of the poet, Longfellow.

The Alice was 48 feet long on the water line, and 54 feet on deck, but she made the passage of the western ocean safely, while carrying the same mainsail and jib in which she was raced in home waters, and a mainboom as long as herself. Up to her time she was the only small sloop yacht that had crossed the Atlantic, and she still holds the record of being the only sloop to cross without reducing her

Her voyage was so successful that it served as an example to the owners of large yachts in the New York Yacht club, and after the return of the amateur yachting-men who sailed in her, data regarding her voyage and advice from her sailing master were eagerly sought by the owners of the three large schooners that subsequently made the famous ocean race of 1866-The Henrietta. Fleetwing and Vesta.

The Alice was built at Portsmouth, N. H., for Mr. Appleton, and was launched in the spring of 1866. She was intended for use in Massachusetts bay, with headquarters at Nahant, and for cruises along the eastern coast. She was not primarily intended for deep-water sailing, but being of generous beam-17 feet 6 inches-ample height of side above the water, and a generally seaworthy model, she was fit for cruising anywhere.

About the time the yacht was completed Mr. Appleton, who was a great traveler, changed his plans for the summer and booked for Europe. He regretted leaving his new yacht unused for the season, but fully expected to do so, until one day, while walking on Tremont street, he met a young seafaring friend, Capt. Arthur H. Clark, who was then about starting for China, after a winter in Boston, to resume command in the eastern seas, where, before reaching the age of 25, he made a considerable fortune as

captain of a square rigger. Mr. Appleton told Mr. Clark of his plans and Capt. Clark suggested that the new yacht be sent across to England and used there for the summer. The idea pleased Mr. Appleton and he accepted an offer made by Capt. Clark

to take the boat across. Capt. Clark chose as a companion for the trip, "Charlie" Longfellow, son of the poet, who was his close friend, and Mr. Longfellow invited a friend, Henry Stanfield, of New York. Three sailors and a Chinese cook were shipped in Boston. The preparations for the voy-

age had been simple. On the morning of July 11 the Alice sailed from Nahant. The voyage from Nahant to the Needles was made in 19 days, eight hours and 50 minutes, which is two days better than the time of the America in 1851 from New York to Havre. In the first week of the voyage strong westerly winds were encountered for three days off the banks of Newfourdland. The remainder of the passage was more moderate, with two days of calm weather, and the prevailing winds from southwest

around to northwest. Various vessels were spoken and several going the same way, were passed and sailed hull down in a few hours. Only one vessel outsailed the Alice on the voyage. This was an East Indiaman bound into the English

channe!. The yacht was invariably hailed as if in distress and in need of provisions. This amused the enthusiastic yachtsmen, who declined all proffered aid with thanks, saying they were very comfortable. Until well to the eastward of the Grand Banks vessels halling seemed to think the yacht had been blown off the American coast and obliged to "run for it."

As the English coast was neared the answer to the question: How many days out? was received with unmistakable evidence of disbelief. No selfrespecting salt was ready to believe such a cockle shell had made the "v'yage" from Boston bay to the longitude of the Lizard in 17 days.

The Alice sent up her long topmast while still at sea and entered Cowes roads with all her summer canvas on as if she had just dropped in from a neighboring port. British yachtsmen took the deepest interest in her and har arrival was a sort of nine days' wonder. At a dinner given by the Royal Yacht squadron, Mr. Appleton, who joined the yacht at Cowes, and his young friends were guests of honor.

The message of Capt. Clark announce ing the arrival of the Alice was the first commercial message filed at the west end cable office in London for transmission by the Atlantic cable,

which had just been laid. The Alice cruised the remainder of the summer in channel waters and was brought back to the United States in the spring. She was used for many years in Massachusetts bay, and in 1888 was sold to go "down east." So far as known she is still affoat on the Maine coast.

Words of Brass. Stience is golden-and some remarks are very brassy.-Chicago Daily News.

### "NOT ALUM, BUT ALIMONY"

Joman Reporter Puts It All Over Smart Young Man Who Tries to Be Funny.

The new reporter was a woman, and the first who had appeared in the city room of that paper within the memory of the oldest reporter, relates the New York Tribune. She was a smart looking person of about 30, who wore next, severe, well-fitting clothes, mannish boots and gloves; and walked with a swing that made one invariably look up when she passed.

She sat at the next desk to Rice, a bright, cheeky young fellow from up state, who had been on the paper for a year, and so felt a right to consider a woman's entrance into the office an intrusion. Nobody paid much attention to her for some days, until she was sent to Rice by the city editor to get some information.

The other reporters sat round and watched Rice explaining things to her. She took it in rapidly with an airy nonchalance which nettled that young man. When she had assimilated allithe information she thanked him with a profound bow and flashed a diamond, solitaire in his face in a most impu-

Rice accepted her challenge at once and, touching the ring with his finger, he straightway raised it to his lips. with a show of tasting it, and made the terse remark: "Alum!"

"No, young man," replied the young woman, sternly, but with a twinkle in her eye: "Not alum; allmony!"

From that day the city room accepted her at par value.

# ANTS BORE THROUGH ROCK

Cable Laid in Concrete Trough Suffers from Depredations of a White Species.

The engineers in charge of a telegraph line at Hong-Kong were surprised recently by the discovery that about seven miles of their cable, though it was well protected and laid underground in a concrete trough, had been severely damaged. For the greater part of the length oval holes had been hored right through the casing down to the copper wire itself.

It was agreed, says the London Spectator, that insects must have been the author of the mischief, though what kind of insects was not obvious. It might be possible to find one which enjoys perforating lead. But these insects seemed to have drilled the holes. not in order to make a passage, but by way of making a meal! They had taken a dinner of six courses, consisting first of tarred rope, then of lead, then of twisted rope, then of tape, then of hemp fiber, and lastly of india rubber. The copper strand had been too much for them.

Portions of the damaged cable were sent to the Natural History museum with a hope that some opinion might. be given, and the oracle replied that. there could be very little doubt that the damage was caused by white ants. Specimens of their peculiar forms of appetite and industry are kept in the museum, which show not only that they will eat lead, but will also bore through hard sandstone rock.

#### QUEER CURE FOR OLD AGE Bulgarian Becipe for Preparing Milk a Remedy Against Growing Aged.

Curdled milk of a special kind, prepared only on a Bulgarian recipe, is now supposed to be a remedy against growing old, says a Paris correspondence of the London Telegraph. M. Xavier Dybovsky has made a communication on the subject to the Academy of Medicine. The substance is called yaghurt, and can now be obtained in tins in Paris. It is supposed to be death to all the inimical bacteria in the intestines, while those friendly microbes to which Prof. Metchnikoff pins his faith positively adore it. Hence the property of yaghurt to prolong human life to what is its normal span—a century or so. The substance looks very like ordinary cream cheese gone bad, and tastes similarly. The solid portion is mixed with a white, thin liquid, which is exceedingly sour. People who wish to live to a hundred breakfast off yaghurt exclusively.

# Self-Reliance of the Jap.

Whether we look to the dookyards which she has built for the making and repairing of her own fleet, to her strenuous maintenance of her own agriculture and industry or to her self-reliant retention of the financial responsibility for her own undertakings, we find revealed the same determination to stand independent and self-contained. It is a patriotism so comprehensive that it can stoop without loss of dignity to the consideration of the minutest detail and it holds the secret of the great future which seems to be opening up before the youngest of the nations.-London Express.

Hard to Keep Track of Them. "Do you remember, dear," he asked. as they sat down on one of the rustic seats at the summer resort, "that I cut our initials on this tree behind us three or four years ago?" "Why, no, George," she replied. "I

don't remember that. Are you sure?" He arose, walked around the tree. and inspected the bark closely. "Yes," he said. "It's the tree, all right, but it was another girl."-Chi-

cago Tribune.

Few White Women. White women are scarce in the German colonies. There are only 254 in East Africa and 229 in the German Islands in the Pacific ocean.

The state of the s

### GAVE THE RIGHT NAME.

Ourlous One for a Ship, and It Brought Ridicule Upon Those Who Questioned It.

Boats trading in the Medway in former years rejoiced in rather curious names, and the following, says the New York Tribune, was only one of the many amusing incidents resulting from this:

A boat named What's That to You?. passing a dockyard at night time was hailed, as usual, by the coast guards-

"Boat shoy! Your captain's name?"

"Capt. X-.." "And what are you laden with?"

"Coals." "Where bound tor?"

176 "Chatham." "Ship's name?" "What's That to You?"

"I asked you the name of the ship?" "What's That to You?" "You shall be reported for your insolence." roared the coast guardsman.

Again he put the question, and, receiving the same reply, the boat was commanded to remain where she was. In the morning two boats were seen keeping guard. The officials, as they

boarded the vessel with full authority to seize the offenders, observed for the first time the name painted in large letters. Amid the laughter and jeers. of the crew of the What's That to You? they pulled moodily away.

#### SEIZED HIS ONLY CHANCE. Long-Suffering Husband of Woman's Rights Lecturer Rises to

the Occasion.

"Is there a man in all this audience." demanded the female lecturer on woman's rights, "that has ever done anything to lighten the burden on his wife's shoulders? What doyou know of woman's work? Is there a man here," she continued, folding her arms and looking over the assemly with superb scorn, "that has ever got up in the morning, leaving histired, worn out wife to enjoy her slumbers, gone quietly downstairs, made the fire, cooked his own breakfast, sewed the missing buttons on the children's clothes, darned the family stockings, scoured the pots and kettles, cleaned and filled the lamps, and done all this, if necessary, day after day, uncomplainingly? If there be such a man in this audience let him rise up! I should really like to see

And in the rear of the hall, relates the Novel Magazine, a mild looking man in spectacles, in obedience to the summons, timidly arose. He was the husband of the eloquent speaker. It was the first time he had ever had a chance to assert himself.

#### FEMININE FEET OF WORLD. American Woman Shapely Than Those of Other

Nationalities.

"The American woman's foot is the prettiest," said the shoemaker, relates the Minneapolis Journal. "It is at once slender and robust and very supple. The instep is high and beautiful. In a word. a perfect foot-charming and serviceable alike in a pink satin slipper in a ballroom, or in a white, rubber-soled shoe on a tennis court, or in a stout hobnailed boot on the side of the Jungfrau or the Matterhorn.

"The Frenchwoman's foot comes next. It is long and slender and elegant, but weak. No good for service. Very ornamental. A foot for show. The Spanish foot is small and its instep high and arched. Here, too, there is not enough strength. There is a tendency to softness, and in later life

"The German foot is larger but shapely and strong. It resembles the American foot, only it is much bigger. The English foot is the-is the-well, is the limit! It is long, it is bony; it has no instep; it wears its shoe over on the side. Nowhere in the world will you find a race with such ugly feet as those of the English."

# Origin of Lloyd's.

Two centuries ago a man who had a cargo to send to the Mediterranean contriver to get rid of some of the risk by inducing a friend to take an interest with him. It was necessary to write out a statement of contract to which the guarantors subscribed; this was the first underwriting. These two men happened to be frequenters of Lloyd's coffee house in London, which was a favorite place for the merchants of the town to gather to discuss business or to gossip. Others immediately saw the advantage of the scheme which their colleagues had devised and on the next voyage the risk was parceled out among a larger number of the patrons of the coffee house. Out of this small beginning has grown the great European maritime agency, still bearing the name of the humble coffee house proprietor, and which not only writes risks on vessels, but rates them and publishes their arrivals at every port the world over, no matter how small or how remotely situated.—Mexican Herald.

... Knew the Sex. The aid-Mr. DeJones has asked me to marry him. Would you advise me

to accept? The Man-But you don't love him. "How do you know I don't?" "If you did you wouldn't ask my advice."-Chicago Daily News.

Betwixt and Between.

Grandpa-Oh, come, come, Tommy! You're getting too old to cry like that. Tommy-W-well, then, I w-wish I was old enough to say what you did when you hit your finger with the hammer.-Judge.

## DOG THAT GOES VISITING.

Regular Round of Morning Calls Made by Canine in New York Town.

"There's a dog in our neighborbood," says a lady who resides on one of the residence streets uptown, reports the Utica (N. Y.) Observer, "that has a regular round of visits to make every morning

"I find out by comparing notes with a number of my neighbors that this particular dog makes a visit to each house every morning, and to some places he makes a call each afternoon. He is a good-natured fellow, and he will come in, act greatly pleased to, see those who talk to him, accept with gratitude any bit of sweet or little morsel of meat that happens to be left from the breakfast, stays around a few minutes and then go on to the next house, where he goes through the same programme. I suppose he makes the trips because he gets something to eat at each place, and is petted and made a good deal of by all the women and children.

"There have been some changes im the neighborhood this spring and some of the old friends moved away, but that never bothered this dog. He made early calls upon the new\_families, and without the formality of an introduction. Within a week he had them all upon his calling list. I have watched from the windows many times, and I find that he makes his calls in regular order."

# AN EXPENSIVE OCCUPATION

Collecting Signatures and Letters of Historic Value Takes Much Money.

Autograph hunting is a sport hard to understand, writes Andrew Lang. in Longman's Magazine. Somebody has paid £900 for a draft of a letter written by Mary Queen of Scota Where is the value? It is a long letter, perhaps 2,500 words, in the queen's large, legible hand. But it had been published in a photographic fac-simile, with text and translation in print, and every drop of historical information had been wrung out of it by Father Pollen, S. J. If the original draft had then been burned, nobody would have been the poorer, except the heirs of the late Mr. Scott, of Halkshill, the owner. His family generously presented Father Pollen's adimrable edition to the Scottish Historical society a year ago, so it is not the novel historical contents that make the seven pages of old paper sell for £900. I hope that the purchaser of a small parcel of state papers of 1576, about a robbery of jewels from Queen Mary when a priconer, will print the contents, as they may have artistic; if not precisely historic, interest

# SOME DIMINUTIVE ARMIES.

That of Monaco Has But 150 Soldiers -Several Others Less Than One Thousand.

Hachette's Almanach gives the statistics of the smallest armies of the world. The smallest of them all is that of Monaco, with 75 guards, 75 carabiners and 20 firemen, says Stray Stories.

Next comes that of Luxemburg, with 135 gendarmes, 170 volunteers and 39 musicians. In case of war, says the laws. "the number of volunteers may be temporarily raised to 250.".

In the republic of San Marino they have universal compulsory service, with the result that they can put into the field nine companies, comprising 950 men. and 38 officers, commanded by a mar-

This, however, is the war strength of the forces. On a peace footing the republic can only put one company of 60 men on the parade ground.

In the case of the republic of Liberia. the most striking feature is the proportion of officers to privates. There are 809 of the former and only 700 of the latter. None the less the republic issues proclamations of neutrality where wars break out between the great pow-

ers of Europe.

How They Break the Egg. Birds while still in the egg have sharp, horny spike attached to the upper part of the beak, by means of which they are assisted in breaking out of the shell. This prominence becomes opposed to the shell at various points in a line extending all around the egg at about one-third of the egg's length from the large end. It makes a series of little holes, thus weakening the shell, and when the chick arrives at a certain stage of strength and development it has no difficulty in breaking out. In the common fowl this litle weapon drops off a day or two after it is hatched, but on the pigeom and birds that are fed by their parents it sometimes remains for two weeks.

During the half century from 1853 to 1903 over 13,000,000 people emi-

Britain's Loss by Emigration.

grated from the British Isles, and of this immense number the great maority went to swell the population of the United States. Happily, in quite . recent years the tide of emigration. has set in more strongly toward the Dominion of Canada; but even last year 80,000 people from these islands 14 entered the United States, carrying with them at least £1,000,000 in hard cash and in all probability more than twice that amount.-London Post.

All Lost. The doctors were holding a consulta-

tion over the case. "Gentlemen," remarked the physician in charge, "I am unable to dis-

ofver any change whatever." "Then we might as well give him up," they remarked, in chorus.-Kansas City Drovers' Telegram.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

Est très rémandres en Louisians et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Se publishé offre dons su commerce des avantages executionneus. Prix de l'abonnement; ses l'aprè : Beitieu. Orotidienne Il 2.06. Bittion hebderendater \$5.00.