

## A PROPOS

## IN WIFE'S CLOTHES.

How Dr. Andrew Decker Escaped the Clutches of the Law.

Sensational Case Is Redaded by an Interesting Suit in Kentucky Involving \$300,000 Worth of Property.

An interesting suit in which 150 persons are interested and \$300,000 involved, is soon to be tried at Somerset, Ky. The action has been brought by Eliza J. Decker to recover a large part of the territory upon which the town is located and embracing in its boundary some of the handsomest residences in what is usually called South Somerset, and also including the railroad roundhouse and machine shops, the electric light plant and the Baptist chapel. The fact leading up to the case is peculiar and rather romantic. About 30 years ago Mrs. Decker's husband, Dr. Andrew Decker, had a difficulty with a neighbor by the name of Chaney and, it was charged, waylaid and shot him.

Decker was apprehended for the crime, and on account of the intense excitement and prejudice against him then existing in the county the case was transferred to Rockcastle county, where, at the end of one of the most exciting trials in the history of that county, he was found guilty by the jury and his punishment fixed at confinement in the penitentiary for life. For the reason that there was no jail at Mount Vernon then Decker was placed under guard, and his wife was permitted to go with him to a room, a guard standing at the door. Mrs. Decker passed out several times during the night, each time returning to the room where her husband was. Finally the woman again passed out, but did not return, and when daylight came the guards found that they had been imposed upon and that Decker himself had passed out by them dressed in his wife's clothing. He made his escape and has never since been heard of.

After his escape his wife returned to Somerset, and to pay his attorneys for defending her husband deeded them her land there, and everyone thought there would be no further trouble about it, and when the Cincinnati Southern railroad was built through here its depot was established near the land through which it passed, and it came upon the market and was rapidly built up, until it has become very valuable, and at least 1,000 of the population of Somerset reside upon it.

The suit has recently been brought, Mrs. Decker claiming that, as she was a married woman at the time the deed was made, she could not legally convey the land. Mrs. Decker resides in Knox county, and her suit was brought by Judge Tinsley and Mr. Faulkner, while the whole of the local bar represented the defendants.

## TO SHATTER SPANISH SHIPS.

Chicago Man Invents a Shell Which He Confidentially Claims to Be a Terror.

Emil Gathman, of Chicago, an expert in the manufacture of steel, who has held important positions at the Krupp and other celebrated gun factories, visited the Carnegie steel works at Twenty-ninth street, Pittsburgh, Pa., and made arrangements for a test of a new explosive shell recently invented. The results of the test may determine the duration of an encounter of American ships with Spanish men-of-war.

The manufacture of sample shells began at once. George W. McMillin, the inventor, arrived from Chicago and with Mr. Gathman has been working on the shells. About a dozen are to be manufactured by the Carnegie concern. They are all to be forwarded in a few days to Sandy Hook, where they will be put through rigid examination by government experts.

The invention has already been offered to the government, and the navy department stands ready to accept it provided the shell fills all requirements. The inventor refuses to say anything regarding them except that they are of a more dangerous nature than any projectile now in use. The shells are intended for the large coast-defense guns, and will, it is said, destroy a warship within a distance of 300 yards of their striking point.

## NO VALUE AS HARBOR DEFENSE

Suggestion of Burning Oil in Fighting the Enemy's Ships Is Not Considered Feasible.

The war department is in receipt of innumerable suggestions, most of them of an impractical character, in relation to the coast defenses. One prominent man in Petersburg, Va., who has the contract for making some army gun cartridges, has suggested that a system of distributing kerosene oil over the water be adopted. He desires the application of this ingenious system to the James river, the desire being to convert bodies of water which are traversed by the enemy into sheets of flame. The objection to this idea is that it is an uncontrollable system and carries with it as great menace to our own country as it does to the enemy, and that it threatens property along a river front; besides, as a naval constructor remarked: "Iron and steel ships of war cannot be seriously affected by burning oil."

CORNING THE WHOLE WORLD.

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Road Persifage.

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"No, but I'm too much for you!" replied the tick gently, puncturing his tire.—N. Y. Herald.

INDIANS HAVE LITTLE NOTION OF THE LARGER VALUES.

It is not so easy now to cheat the Indians as in the days when they harbored their minds for glass beads and worthless trinkets. They are now pretty sharp in making ordinary trades which come up in their daily life; nevertheless, it is true that when it comes to a question of large sums of money—thousands or even hundreds of dollars—the average Indian is bewildered at the mere idea of so much wealth. An incident which happened not long ago in New Mexico illustrates this point. An Indian was killed by a railroad train, and his widow demanded \$8,000 as an indemnity. The company was willing to settle, and sent an agent who knew Indians thoroughly. He took with him several bags of Mexican silver dollars, which pass freely among Indians in that part of the country. Sitting down gravely with the aggrieved widow, he began counting out the big, shining dollars one by one. When the pile had reached 100, glanced inquiringly at the squaw, but she shook her head firmly. The agent went on with his counting, and at the end of another 100 he looked up again. She repeated the negative shake of her head; but her eyes began to brighten at the heap of silver. At 300 the agent paused a little longer. The squaw still held out, though with unmistakable signs of weakening. The agent counted more slowly and impressively, and when he reached 348, the squaw stopped his hand. "Heap plenty," she said, with decision; and, gathering up the silver, she accepted in perfect contentment this settlement of her claim for \$3,000.—Golden Days.

## TO MAKE A MIRROR.

A New Process for Silvering Glass Described.

In a new process for silvering glass it is practicable to give a fine polish to the silver after it is spread on the glass. This is accomplished by means of two solutions which must be prepared with great care, inasmuch as delicacy of treatment is required. To a silver-nitrate solution is added, drop by drop, sufficient ammonium to redissolve the original precipitate, caution being observed to avoid an excess. Afterward enough distilled water is added to make the liquid measure one liter. A second solution is prepared containing ten per cent. of formaldehyde. The mirror-maker selects his plate of glass, and after polishing it deftly with rouge and chamois skin, wipes it perfectly dry and clean. Then a rapid mixture is made of two parts of the silver nitrate solution and one part of the formaldehyde solution, this mixture being poured evenly on the glass. From ten to fifteen minutes will be required for this application to be completed, and then the plate may be washed with water and allowed to dry. In the production of an ordinary mirror the dull upper side is treated to a coating of varnish, but if the silver side is the one to be used, as in optical instruments, the layer of silver is to be polished with fine rouge. The attempts to make mirrors of tin amalgam, experts say, have not yielded satisfactory results.—N. Y. Times.

## GERMAN TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Scientific Education in the Arts of Industrial Production.

It is no small wonder that "made in Germany" is already the most familiar trade-mark in the world, for the whole German people are being educated scientifically in the arts of industrial production. Nowhere in the world does manufacturing become so nearly a skilled profession as in Saxony, for in this small kingdom there are no less than 111 technical institutes; Prussia has 260 such schools, with over 12,000 pupils; 35 of the schools are for painters and decorators, 16 for tailors, nine for shoemakers, etc., other trades having at least one school. The government appropriates \$600,000 for their support and the various towns and cities give liberal subsidies. Berlin alone giving \$70,000 per annum. Baden, with 1,600,000 inhabitants, spends \$280,000 year in technical schools. Hesse, with a population of 1,000,000, has 83 schools of design, 43 of manufacturing industries and many others for artisans of various trades. Bavaria and Wurtemberg and other cities have similar systems.—Scientific American.

## A Questionable Compliment.

Mrs. Borer—You heard my appeal last night in behalf of the advancement of women?

Mr. Blunt—Oh, yes, I was an attentive listener.

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## KLONDIKERS RETURNING.

Many of Them Discouraged by the Hardships Met at Chilkat and White Passes.

Many Klondikers are returning, or preparing to return from Chilkat and White passes, being disheartened by the discouragement on the trails and the loss of life caused by the Chilkat avalanche. The steamers Queen and Rosalie, have brought down to Tacoma, Wash., several dozen men who had started for the Klondike, but concluded to sell their outfit and return. They say that many will follow them.

Those who have reached the summits and lakes Linderman and Bennett are reported to be moving rapidly forward. Since the storm of two weeks ago good weather has prevailed in the interior, and thousands are starting down the lake, hoping to reach the Lewis river, at the foot of Lake La Barge, before the ice breaks up. Their sleds are fitted with sails, and when the wind is blowing hundreds of outfits and men may be seen gliding over the smooth lake ice toward the gold land.

All reports from Dawson are encouraging except as regards scurvy and pneumonia, which has prevailed there since February. J. E. Ray, of Detroit, who arrived the other night, says the Dawson hospital was full on March 7, when he left, and Dr. Leblanc said there was not room for another cot.

The scurvy is caused by uncooked food and uncleanness. Ray says the victim is himself to blame in nearly every instance. The pneumonia cases are generally men who have become exhausted while searching for claims.

Important gold finds have been made on Barney creek, a tributary of Seventy Mile creek, which empties into the Yukon on the American side 130 miles below Dawson. The diggings are 50 miles above Seventy Mile creek's mouth. The gold is very pure, being worth two dollars an ounce more than the Klondike product. A hundred men from Dawson have staked claims.

## WHITE HOUSE GATES.

Will Not Be Shut and Locked to Keep Out the Curious Crowds of Sight Seers.

Workmen were engaged the other day in digging a miniature excavation for a block of granite one foot square, in the center of which is an aperture for a bolt attached to the gate which forms a portion of the fence leading to the white house. A curious crowd gathered about them, and it was said that the work was being done to enable the employees of the white house to protect the president by closing the gates during the coming year. The Chicago Tribune correspondent saw one of the attaches of the white house and learned that the president's horses had frequently stumbled over the block which was being replaced and its removal was simply to protect the feet of the president's horses, and not himself, as many supposed. Col. Crook, who has been an attache of the white house since Lincoln's administration, was asked if the gates were closed during the civil war. He replied that they were not, and had been closed but once since the erection of the executive mansion. During the war Lincoln came and went and made no effort to shut himself up in the white house. He never had any fears for his own safety, and always laughed at those of his friends who insisted upon surrounding him with a cordon of soldiers. But when President Garfield lay dying from the effects of a cowardly assassin's bullet crowds of idlers flocked about the gates. As his condition grew worse the crowds increased, and it was impossible to keep them out of the grounds the gates were closed for the first time during the history of the government and a cordon of police placed on duty there.

## HARDSHIPS OF THE YUKON.

Four Men Who Went North Full of Hope Are All Brought Back in Coffins.

The following is an extract from a letter received by Mr. David Henderson, a lawyer of Hamilton, Ont., from a friend in Victoria, B. C., who says: "We are beginning to see the true horrors of the Klondike. A Seattle farmer brought down 40 corpses last week, and on Saturday last a Victorian came from Dawson City bringing the sad news of the death of L. C. Hamlin, C. E., and his companion from exposure. He left home in October upon government work. Dr. Richardson, son of Dr. Richardson, of Toronto, has a small hospital in Dawson City. He did all possible for him, but without avail.

"It is fearful, the greed for gold. We see it here in all classes going out to this cold region. Many will never return; others will probably come back to be a burden upon the coast cities. You will say I have not much faith in the Yukon. I have not. The merchants, contractors and hotel men will make their fortunes, and there will be left to Canada a lot of useless inhabitants, although, it is said, after the first wash-up there will not be less than 20 tons of gold brought down. The most of this will go to the United States."

## CINEMATOGRAPH IN ASTRONOMY.

The cinematograph was used in the recent eclipse observations in India, testing its value in such surveys, and Prof. Flammarion, the great French astronomer, now applies it to taking during the night a continuous series of pictures, showing sunset, the sidereal procession, the Milky Way, moonrise and the moon's motion in the sky.

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## North American Fish.

The waters of North America are stocked with 1,800 different varieties of fish.

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## EN ATTENTE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

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## Bulletin Financier.

Jundi, 5 mai 1888.

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