#### OF SUCH ARE PROOFREADERS

Little Miss Has Painful Struggle During Speiling Lesson Conducted by Her Father.

Ralph Royston, who is a salesman for one of the big printing machiner; houses, lives in Dyker Heights, Brook liyn. He has five children and one of the youngsters, a girl, is a notoriously had speller.

The other evening Mr. Royston was endeavoring to help the child with her studies. The girl had to spell "evenity," and with much painful effort she started "e," then "v," then hesitated and haltingly suggested "e" again, and having progressed thus far stooped.

started "e," then "v," then hesitated and haltingly suggested "e" again, and having progressed thus far stopped. "Well, go on," said the father, as he pronounced "evenly" slowly and carefully, to help the youngster. "What's

after 'e-v-e'?"

The little girl thought and thought and then suddenly saw light.

"R," she said.
Her father, who couldn't understand
why she could not get the word right,
saked her with some impatience, "Why

"Oh, yes," exclaimed the little one with a glad cry of triumph, "that's fti

Mr. Royston laughed and the sisters and brother of the struggling speller laughed, and then the little girl understood that she had blundered terribly. And then she did what a little miss is sure to do at such a time. She wept.

### ASIATICS ON BRITISH SHIPS

Growing Preference for Chinese Seamen Over Britons for Service Under Red Eneign.

One of the principal griswances seemplained of by the union, we believe, is the alleged growing prefersence of ship owners for Asiatic seamen, particularly Chinese seamen, to British seamen, for service under the wed ensign. The recent declaration by Winston Churchill, home secretary, is to the following pertinent effect: With regard to the alleged dumping of Chimese labor on British ships, the figwres show that the number of British seamen employed in the British mercantile marine is steadily increasing, swhile the number of Lascars and Asientics of all kinds was stationary. In 1905 there were 263,686 persons emplayed, of whom 180,492 were British and 43,483 were Lascars and Asiatics. In 1908 there were 198,474 British and 43,960 Lascars and Asiatics, an increase of nearly 18,000 British seamen in four years. It should be reimembered that a very large proportion of Lascars and Asiatics employed were natives of India and British sub-Jects.—Shanghai Times.

#### The Astronomer's Cat.

The Rev. T. E. Espin, who recently achieved considerable fame by discovering a new star, possesses a tabby est, says the London Globe.

The story of Mr. Espin's cut in his own words is this: "Last February, returning from church on a cold night, with the ground covered with snow. I heard lamentations very similar to what Jeremiah would have uttered. and on searching about found a young and guite small cat on the window sill very cold and very starved. I took thim in and fed him and made inquirfiles, but have never obtained the least clue as to his owner. He was then about six months old. We became keenly attached and his affection has ibeen so great that on more than one eccasion he saved me the trouble of eating my dinner by being first in

## Damning Evidence. "Madam," says the agent of the

black hand, "we have a photograph of you and Count de Gayleigh riding in an automobile. Send \$10,000 to us or we will publish the picture." "What care I?" haughtily says the

lady. "The Count is a gentleman in every way and, besides, he is going to marry my daughter. There can be no scandal connected with my riding with him."

"That's not the point. It was an 1908 model car."

With a low mean the unfortunate woman sank to the floor, after giving a feeble indication that on reviving from her faint she would write a check for the hush money.—Life.

## Oplum in Barrel Staves.

Through some clever work on the part of the customs secret services men 199 cans of opium hidden in the staves of barrels containing lamp blacking were seized recently and the would-be importer and his assistants were arrested.

As the staves of the barrels were rather thick just in the center instead of being hollowed out, the smugglers had carved out a small sort of pocket large enough to contain a narrow can of opium in each stave. When the staves were set together it was impossible to see these openings.—Manila Times.

## Then He Struck. A few days ago a second-class stok-

er was paraded before the commanding officer of the Devonport naval barracks on a charge of insubordination. His insubordination took the form of pesistance to being introduced to the swimming bath. Asked what he had to say for himself, the youth replied:

"Sir, I've only big in the navy three days. The first day the doctor drawed day of my teeth. The second day I was vaccinated. And the third day the petty officer he says, 'Cum along, we're a going to drown yer!'"—Lon-

don Truth.

#### BLACK CATS IN BIG DEMAND

Fur is Used in Making Ladies' Cloaks, Hats, Muffs, Capes and Other Articles.

The market value of black cats is rising rapidly, owing to the fact that their fur is greatly in demand for the making of ladies' cloaks, hata, muffs, capes and other articles of dress. In the London fur market attractive prices are being paid for black cat skins; in fact, the price is so nery attractive that organized gangs of cat thieves are going from towar to town on the south coast of Englands

In search of dusky felines. Within the past week or two the "Lost" columns of newspapers 🐿 New York and elsewhere have recorded the disappearance of some fine black cats, family pets, for the return of which large rewards and "no questions asked" were offered. Of pocrse there may be no connection. between the increasing value of black cats and the disappearance of family peta, but the owners of black cats may be acting wisely in keeping an eyo on "Topsy" or "Smut" until the market price for black cat fur touches rock bottom.

#### LATEST MODEL WORKABOUT

Farmer Creates Same Excitement by Appearing on Streets With Rig of Own Invention.

Walter Lanfair, a farmer living on Dewey street, Tatham, created some excitement by riding through the town in a "workshout" of his own invention. It consisted of a body placed on four rubber tired wheels with a single seas on which he rode. This rig was propelled by the occupant working his sims back and forth after the manner of a person on a hand car, and that was the only apparent source of power in the movement of the "workabout." There was a sort of a gear arrangement under the body of the rig. but just to what extent it operated was not visible to the onlooker. Mr. Lanfair coasted down hills and seemed to experience no difficulty in climbing others, so that the machine worked to advantage both ways. At all events. be was the envy of a small army of school children who ran after him and his "workshout" until he disappeared: pver the hill.—Springfield Republican.

A Dignified Function.
George Ade was out walking with a guide in Kioto, Japan, when he observed a great procession approaching, and he paused while it passed. The people wore gay apparel, and control banners with Japanese inscriptions. Their tyces were grave. They were mournfully chanting to the accompaniment of tomtoms, cymbals and drums. It was a long procession. Ade took off his hat with due respect to the unknown dead. Finally he turned to his guide and asked:

"Buddha?"
The guide shook his head.
"Shinto?" inquired Ade.
Again the guide shook his head.
"Was not that a funeral proces-

"No," said the guide. "That's the way of advertising. It is tooth powder for sale."—The Sunday Magazine.

Bitterly Disappointed. Here's a story in the week's annals of Maine merchants, this time from Portland. A Portland tradesman was visited by a friend from the country. and among attempts to entertain took the visitor to the theater. When the lights were low the merchant quietly drew forth a pair of opera glasses and handed them to his guest. A contented "Ah" slipped from the man from the country and then his arms in the air were faintly discernible. "What's the trouble?" asked the hosts The answer came in a distressingly plain whisper of disappointment: "Oh, nothing, only the thing's empty."

## Vacations for Cattle.

In western Australia one farmer may be heard to inquire of another whether he has as yet sent his cattle on their vacation, and what is meant is just what is asked. Those farmers who live anywhere near the coastand in Australia "near" might mean a distance that would startle dwellers in other lands-send their cattle for a month or six weeks' holiday at the seashore each summer. The change of air and food is said to be extremely beneficial. The grass on the coast is impregnated with salt and has the effect of a tonic on the animals.-Harper's Weekly.

Father of Mia Country Had the Grip.

As the Father of His Country had the grip it is not surprising that it should run through all the family. Oh, yes, George had it. Witness the proceedings of the Lexington Historical society, Vol. I, page 50: "And how thereby he incurred a most vile grippe, which his loyal subjects thereupon took to themselves, being only too happy, so they declare, to share even the infloowenza with the noble Washington."—Boston Transcript.

## Lace From St. Helena.

It is pleasant to read that the work of the St. Helena government lace school has met with the approval of her majesty the queen. Since the withdrawal of the garrison a few years back the historic little island has passed through a period of severe depression. The lace school was started with a view to improving things. It will be a godsend to the island if its lace becomes fashionable in London.—London Globe.

#### ALEXANDRA DEFIES OLD AGE

Secret of Dowager Queen's Youthful Appearance Lies Mostly in Her Diet.

The secret of Queen Alexandra's wonderful youthful appearance never ceases to interest feminine England and some details of her dist have been imparted to the curious.

Queen Alexandra never touches red meat. She eats only chicken, turkey, duck and game. The vegetables she has served to her are cabbage, spinach, peas and beans. She does not eat pudding or pastry and for dessert has simply fruit cooked or uncooked and nuts and raisins.

She is particularly fond of nuts and has been known to make an entire luncheon of almonds and walnuts dipped in salt. She eats toast rather than bread and very little butter, but quantities of cream

She drinks nothing but hot milk, having given up tea, coffee, cocoa and wines years ago. On this diet with a moderate amount of exercise Queen Alexandra keeps wonderfully well and preserves a girlish symmetry of figure and softness of skin which makes it difficult to realize that she is well past 60.

#### LEARNING AMONG THE SCOTS

Many a Man Who Never Had Ang Aschooling Gets Surprisingly Good Education.

Many a man who never had any "schooling" gets an education, and often a surprisingly good one.

A traveler in Scotland once met a farmer whose ground rent was about \$30 a year and who wrote poetry in Gaelio that was of high order.

This same traveler met a youth in Scotland who rode from home on horseback to the seaport and then across Scotland to Aberdeen, where he sold his horse to enter the university.

It is related of another Scotchman

that he was overheard repeating a line of Tennyson, whereupon some one asked him what poet he liked best.

"Homer," he replied.

"Whose translation do you read?"

"Whose translation do you read?",
"I rarely read a translation," he
said, wiping the fish scales from his
apron. "I like best to read Homer in
the original Greek."

#### The Bending of Big Guns.

Among the problems with which army and navy engineers have to deal nowadays is that of the drooping of the muzzles of excessively long guns. under the stress of their own weight. Experiments have shown that wire wound guns of 12-inch caliber and 50 feet length droop at the mussle about four and a half minutes of arc, while built up solid guns of the same size droop about two and a half minutes. Differences of temperature in the body of the gun also cause bendings, which may either increase the droop at the muzzle or counteract it, according as it is the upper or under part of the gun that has the higher temperature. In consequence of these distortions, projectiles on leaving a gun have a wabbly motion, continuing up to 500 yards, and probably more .--Youth's Companion.

## injury in innovation.

Humanity, in ages of experience, has learned that any radical change or decided innovation may mean some great injury to the whole tribe or race. So human beings have first their curiosity aroused by the unusual and then come fear and hate. It is certainly no new thing for women to wear trousers. However, at some or many periods in the history of humanity women have introduced as fashion some absurd similar style, and the race has been greatly damaged thereby. And that may be why the crowd resents trousers for the women. Instinctive resentment here may be in the brain of the race, rather than in the individual brain-racial memory of the effect on men of women wearing the trousers.

# When Codfish Use Ballast. A Gloucester fisherman, one of the protestants again the fish clause in the Canadian Reciprocity bill, was

talking about fish in Washington. "These balloonists and aeronauts." he said, "think they are very clever with their sand ballast, but by crinus, the codfish has been using sand ballast since before the flood. Whenever there's a terrible scarcity of cod, what few you do catch have sand in their stomach. Why? to weigh them, so that they can sink down to deep water where their friends are. Yes, sandfilled cod means scarce fish. It means that the cod for some reason or other are swimming deep, their stomachs ballasted with sand to keep them down."

## Dick in a Crowd.

When a certain mild-mannered representative from a middle western state went to congress he left behind a body of constituents who fancied that great personal benefits would come to them through their powerful statesman. A farmer with political designs followed the great man to Washington.

"Well, Tom," a friend asked him on his return, "did you see Washington and Dick Blank, and did you get what you went after?"

"Yes, I seen Washington, and I seen Dick Blank," he replied, "but Dick couldn't do nuthin' for me. He was havin' a hard time to keep from gittin' tromped on hisself."—Success.

#### SHIRT-BUTTONS FOR TEETH

Ingenious Old Woman Tries Her Hand at a Little Home Dentistry.

Shoe-button eyes are frequently seu on the woolly dogs, cats and other animals sold for toys, penwipers and pincushions, but shirt button teeth worn by a human being are a decided novelty.

The only set ever made is worn by an old woman living in Pittsfield, Mass. Finding herself unable to buy a new set of false teeth she was driven by necessity to make them. She had worn for many years a gold plate, a relic of more prosperous days. This plate bore only four teeth, two on each side. In course of time her remaining front teeth fell out and she decided to try her hand at a little home dentistry. With infinite care and trouble she drilled eight tiny holes in the plate by means of which she firmly attached four white bone buttons of the proper size to it with strong linen thread. The "makeshift" teeth," as she called them, were a great success, and when fitted in place in her mouth it took a second glance to tell how they differed from the ordinary dentist-made molars. As the edges of the buttons wear away with use she turns them upside down. When one is accidentally broken it is easily replaced, as she keeps a stock of bone buttons on hand for the

#### STYLE IN ENGLISH NECKWEAR

**Broad-Ended Tie Has Been Rage for Half Decade and is Likely to Continue.** 

For the last half decade the broadended tie made from the piece has been the rage in England, and haberdashers will not look at anything else. Its vogue is 'lifely to continue for another year or two, particularly as it is to the interests of both manufacturers and dealers to keep it going as long as possible. This type of tie has a maximum length in England of 42 inches, the average for such fourin-hands being 36 to 88 inches.

A good grade of Irish poplin tubular tie retails at about 50 cents, the highest quality Irish poplin, however, which comes in the piece, when made up, retails at about 75 cents. Other styles are priced at 60, 45 and 35 cents, and ties of these classes are to be found in the men's furnishings stores of any of the larger British cities. Wholesslers pay about \$2.90 per dozen for ties that retail at 45 cents each, and sell them to the dealers at \$3.40 per dozen, less two and one-half per cent.

#### Solone on Strike.

Logislation in the Isle of Man. off the shore of England, is at a standstill because the house of keys has gone on strike. Manxmen can afford to mark time, for their laws have long been advanced. Every woman, widow or spinster, in the Isle of Man, whether she be owner, occupier or lodger. enjoys the parliamentary franchise. Every widow enjoys half her husband's personal estate and has a life interest in his real estate, and she cannot be deprived of this by will. The sale of cigarettes and intoxicants to children was forbidden in Man for years before such a prohibition was enforced in England itself. England has legislated mildly against money lenders. The highest interest that can becharged for a loan in the Isle of Man. is 6 per cent., and that has been the law for over two hundred years. And there are many other instances in which Manx lawmakers have adopted progressive measures with entire suc-

Leper Colony of Molokal.

"The leper colony in Hawaii has not grown any the last several years," said O. B. Thomas of Honolulu. "In fact the number of lepers confined on the island of Molokai has been decreased by the discovery that some of them were not suffering from the discovery.

"The district in which the lepers live in sepenced from the main and the by a high range of mountains and the lepers have a regular municipal government of their own. They have their schools and their amusements and pur sue their daily work with as much pleasure and industry as the inhabitants of thriving villages."

## Doeed by Doeer by Arithmetic. Before wireless telegraphy was

thought of, and the patient could communicate with the shore doctor, the captain was the ship's doctor, says the London Chronicle. He had a medicine chest with numbered bottles. and a book of instructions. There is a ship's carpenter still living who owes his life to the captain's treatment. It was rheumatism. The captain read in the book of instructions: "In cases of rheumatism one tablespoonful of No. 11 three times a day." There had been a run on No. 11. But "6" and "5" were full. "I reckon that makes '11,' " said the captain: And he cured the carpenter by arithmetic.

The Galaxy of Double Stars.

Coburg, Lane county, a village of 300 people, boasts two pairs of twins born within the last six weeks, and six pairs of various ages in attendance upon its public schools. Upon the basis of these facts Colonel Roosevelt is to be invited to visit Coburg while in the state and say a rew encouraging and congratulatory words to the parents of the vilage.—Portland Oresconian.

## The Fear of Honorary Title

Baron Steuben Alarmed Lest He Should Meet Mishap That Befel Lafayette.

Some men have shunned honorary titles almost as earnestly as others have coveted them.

After Lafayette had been made a doctor of laws by a New Jersey college shortly before the close of the Revolutionary war, Baron Steuben was in great fear lest he should meet with a similar mishap. Having to pase through a college town where the marquis had been thus distinguished, the old warrior, so the story runs, halted his men and thus addressed them:

"You shall have to spur the horses well and ride through this place like the devil, for, if they catch you, they will make doctors of you."

There is another story that only a few years ago, when college degrees were scattered somewhat lavishly, an illiterate old man of great wealth, having been honored with a degree by a college which he had laid under obligation, made a wager that he could obtain a similar honor for his servant. He won the wager and, encouraged by his success, made another that he could obtain a degree for his horse. This time, however, he lost. The college authorities got wind of his game, and in answer to his request for a doctorate for So-and-sothe president wrote a courteous note, saying that though the trustees were anxious to oblige so good a triend of the college, they had found on examination of the records that though they had once conferred a degree upon a jackass, there was no precedent for conferring one upon a horse.

#### MYRIAD FOES OF THE OAK

Most Afflicted of Trees is the Prey of Over Fifteen Hundred Kinds of Insects.

Along the Hudson river, from Spuyten Duyvil to Ossining, according to reports of foresters, thousands of elm trees have been saved from destruction since last fall, the spraying process, more freely employed than ever before, (having killed the eggs of devastating beetles by the million. Men, provided with machines that throw a poisonous finid even to the highest branches of the threatened trees, have been busy at this work for several months when the weather was favorable for such operations.

"Strange," said a workman in charge of a spraying apparatus, "but the beetles never attack a maple or a horse chestnut or any other kind these. These pests always go for the elm, but the oak has troubles of its own that are entirely different from those of other trees. We've found that the oak is greatly afflicted. No less than fifteen hundred kinds of insects feed upon it at one time or another during the season of verdure. What do you think of that? The great wonder is that the elm, as a species, is not extinct." And the man wanted to read the names of the devouring pests from a list of them he had in his pocket.

Complex American Legal Problems No country has such complex and warled problems to cope with as the United States. Conditions arising by reason of the heavy tide of immigration from all countries, including gentiles, Jews, Greeks, Turks, Mohammedans, those of all religious and those with none; those coming to promulgate socialistic doctrines, the perplexing Chinese and Japanese questions in the west, the abolition of slavery, the rights of trusts, the organization and rise of federations of labor, haveraised perplexing questions which have demanded the attention more or less of the criminal arm of the law.

A War on Wild Pigeons.

A great slaughter of wild pigeons took place all over the Isle of Wight this week and it is estimated that quite a thousand guns were enrolled for the campaign, among them being landowners, occupiers and shooting tenants who were publicly invited to take part.

The guns were stationed in woods and coppies over a wide area. Some big bags were obtained. The farmers have suffered terribly owing to the deprehations caused by the wild pigeons.—London Evening Standard.

## Origin of Dollar Sign. "Pieces of eight" mean the Spanish, peso duro, or hard dollar, bearing the numeral eight and being the value of

eight reals.

Our commercial sign for the dollars is supposed by some authorities to have reference to this eight, the vertical strokes representing the Pillars of Heroules, which is the beginning were stamped on some of the Spanish dollars. According to another account the dollar sign is derived from the stamp "SR," accompanied by two vertical strokes.

What She Porgot.

A lady who had given a workman, engaged on some work at her house, a glass of beer, afterwards asked him, if he liked it.

"It is pure beer. I brew it myself, and it is composed of nothing but mait and hops."

"And water," joined in the man,
"Ah, yes, certainly, and the water,
I had forgotten that."

"No, you didn't forget the water, ma'sm; maybe it were the mait and hops you forgot."

#### NAVY BUILDING IN EUROPE

Austro-Hungary and France Plan Extensive Operations for the Shipbuilders.

The Hungarian delegations have approved the Austro-Hungarian naval program, which calls for an expenditure of \$65,000,000 in building four Dreadnoughts, three fast cruisers and a number of torpedo boats in the next six years. A squabble with the Austrian delegations has arisen over the partition of contracts for the new. work. Admiral Montecuccoli is accused of promising Hungary a larger share than her contribution to the work entitled her as an inducement to pass the naval budget. The Austrian delegations refused to ratify the deal, and Montecuccoli threatens to re-

France's naval program, so far as fixed, provides for laying down this year two 23,500 ton battleships.

Turkey has definitely arranged with the Armstrongs for the construction of two first-class battleships at once. A special commission is visiting foreign navy yards in search of information in order to determine on the displacement and armament.

#### PASSING OF TUATARA LIZARD

la One of Most Ancient Forms of Andmai Life Now Found on Earth.

The tuatara lizard, found in New Zealand, is one of the most succent forms of animal life now found on earth. Originally this lizard possessed four eyes, but in the course of the ages it has lost one pair and must now get along with two. The tuataral lay eggs which are remarkable in that they require 14 months to hatch, the embryo passing the winter in a state of hibernation.

These small survivors of past ages are found only in a few localities and are becoming very scarce, collectors, from every part of the world being continually on their trail. They are about two feet in length, and, in common with other lizards, have the fortunate characteristic of being able to replace portions of their limbs or tails which have been destroyed. It is. asserted that one of these lizards, owned by a naturallat, had the misfortune some time ago to lose an eye and that a complete new eye, perfect! in every way, has grown in the place of the old one.

### An Officer's Ready Wit.

An ancestor of Tolstoy's, an army officer, was an excellent mimic. One day he was mimicking the Emperor Paul to a group of his friends when Paul himself entered and for some moments looked on unperceived at the antics of the young man. Tolstoy finally turned and beholding the emperor he bowed his head and was silent. "Go on, sir," said Paul. "Continue your performance."

The young man hesitated a moment and then folding his arms and reproducing every gesture and intonation of his sovereign he said: "Tolstoy, you deserve to be degraded, but I remember the thoughtlessness of youth, and you are pardoned." The czar smiled slightly at this speech. "Well, be it so," he said

## Tell It to Rostand.

"Did you ever notice," inquired the woman who has just moved to the country, "that when you hear a rooster crow early in the morning it aiways sounds a long way off? I used to observe that when I took my vacations in the country. Even when staying at a place that had a barnyard full of chickens. I never heard a rooster crow close by. It always had a distant sound, sort of mystic and almost poetic in the early dawn. Now I am living in the country I notice; the same shrill, small note, far awayalways far away-although there are: lots of chickens in the yard next door and across the street, too. I'm sure: there's some arrangement between the chanticlers about this, only we! are not clever enough to understand;

## The Crying Need. An irate old lady, the wife of a

prosperous farmer on the outskirts of Philadelphia, stepped off a train in Broad street station the other day with a face like a thunder cloud. Any one could see in that scowling countenance the smoldering fire that might break forth at any minute. Stamping excitedly on the platform, she gnashed her teeth in a struggle to keep back the tears. Finally she buttonholed the first person who would listen to her tale of wos. "What's all this here talk of educating young men to be civil engineers?" she screeched, indignantly. "What we need in this here country is more civil conductors and less samey brakemen."--Philadelphia Times.

## A Trunk-Packing Hint.

One girl who is something of a traveler has for her trunk a large sheet of blue muslin. This is put in the bottom of the trunk before the packing is started. When everything is in it is folded over the top of the clothes and firmly pinned with safety pins.

With this precaution the girl is sure; to find her garments as smooth at the end of a trip as at the start. Another of her packing methods is.

Another of her packing methods is to stow in the hatbox of the trunk all the loose tisue paper that comes to the house. This does away with a mad search for tissue paper when packing is to be done.

## L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS