

ASTRA'S TALKS WITH GIRLS.

[Correspondents seeking information in this department should address their queries to "Astra," Progress, St. John.] I am afraid you often grow tired waiting for your answers, girls, but the correspondence seems to get better every week, and unless I made the replies far more brief than you would like, it would be impossible to answer them all each week, with the amount of space at my disposal. So you will have to wait your turn with as much patience as you can summon.

POND LILY, St. John.—I think you must have written under some other name, did you not, as I cannot remember having a pond lily in my garden of girls before, and I seldom forget a name? In answer to your first question, either would be perfectly correct though it is rather more formal to send it by mail. Address to the lady. One invitation is correct, including both names, as "Mrs. Mowbray Smith requests the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Robinson's company on Thursday evening." Always sealed; it is not always done by any means, but it is correct. This would be the proper form.

Mr. and Mrs. Pond Lily request the pleasure of your company at the marriage of their daughter, Edith Eleanor, Arthur Robinson, at St. Mary's church, on Thursday morning, April 7th, at ten o'clock, and afterwards at their residence, 35 Smith street.

And then address the outer envelope to "Mrs. William Jones," and the inner one to "Mr. and Mrs. William Jones." If the ceremony is to take place at the house, substitute the number and street for the name of the church. Write any courteous acknowledgment of the present that you can think of, just a few words of thanks. Your letter did not give me any trouble at all, as your questions were thoroughly sensible, and to the point.

ALMA, St. John.—Nothing in the world will cleanse the face and purify the pores of the skin from dust, so thoroughly, as Pear's unscented soap and warm water. Borax and hot water is good also, but in spite of the prejudice against putting soap on the face, which is so common, I have always noticed that people who habitually used soap on their faces once a day and washed it well off afterwards, had the best complexions, but cheap or poor soap is very bad for the skin, so be sure that it is pure and good. Unless the gentleman is much older, or occupies a more exalted position, the lady leads the way, even in entering her own house; it would embarrass the gentleman very much to insist on his taking the lead. I am very glad you enjoy our "Talks" so much, your questions are no trouble at all.

NEBRASKA NELLIE—I am sorry to say that you have lighted upon one of the subjects on which I am densely ignorant. I know nothing whatever about canaries. I had two given to me when I was quite a child, but in spite of all my loving care, they both died, and I have never replaced them. I did not know they ever suffered from asthma. I know that a little cayenne pepper in their food is excellent for them, and supposed to be good for their voices, but farther than that I cannot advise you; a bird fancier could probably tell you of some remedy. The pup is quite well, thank you, and he is a spaniel; we never have anything "mongrel" in connection with our household, even the cat belongs to the "Caste of Vere de Vere." And the pup's name is not Geoffrey. You seem to have been getting things slightly mixed.

ROLLING STONE, St. John.—It seems to me that I saw your name, which is not by any means a common one, in last week's Progress? Your appreciative words gave me great pleasure, and I am very glad you made up your mind to write; there is always room for one more in my garden of girls. And so you live alone a great deal? Well, I think I should like to know you as much. You can be numbered amongst my friends if you like, for I have made many warm friends since I have been in charge of this department, even though there are many whom I have never seen. It is not so very difficult to find out who I am as you might imagine. You will have to ask me about the recipe again, I am afraid, as it was the only word in your letter that I could not make out and the only trace of the bad pen which I saw. You would have to send your real name, but it would be kept in strictest confidence; nothing is ever published in a respectable newspaper without the name of the author being handed to the editor. All other communications are regarded as anonymous and taken no notice of. But do not let that very necessary precaution discourage you as it really is the bulwark of the newspaper constitution. Thank you for the kind wish, but if I had the sleigh drive I would not enjoy it, somehow I never enjoyed sleigh driving, I feel the cold too intensely, but still I am glad to see the snow. Yes, ours is indeed an exception at least we think so, and so do a great many unprejudiced judges. You see I did consider it quite worth answering.

PETE, St. John.—The gentleman's place most decidedly; he conducts the lady to a seat, bows slightly, and says "excuse me," and then moves away to find his partner for the next dance. You ought to have more sense than to ask me such a question, and if you meant it as a joke it was a very poor one. "When a young gentleman is leaving the lady should his lady friends kiss him good-bye?" No! they certainly should not do anything so silly, and you know they should not, just as well as I do.

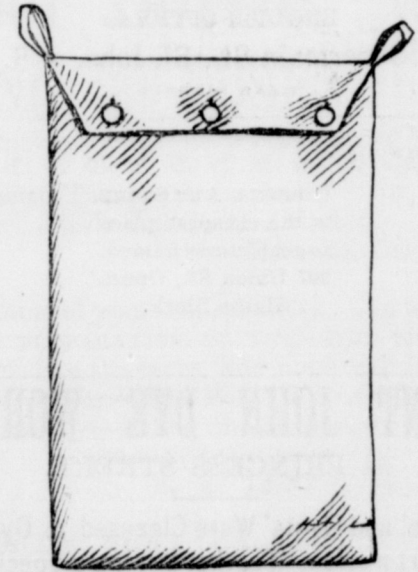
SCHOOL BOY.—Yes, I really meant it, and I am glad to hear from you again. Your question is perfectly natural, and not in the least foolish. It is one of what are called "the dead languages," that is, it is not the language of any race now living, though I believe there are dialects in certain parts of Italy, the more remote parts, which closely resemble the Latin. (2) Invariably, to do otherwise would be most impolite, and be should, if possible, without monopolizing her attention too much, find time to have a few minutes conversation with the hostess during the evening, and never think of leaving the house without seeking out both host and

hostess and bidding them good night with a few words expressive of the pleasant evening he has spent. (3) Leap year dances are quite common and great fun. I think. No wonder you were pleased, especially if she was a pretty girl. It is only fair that we should have a chance of asking the other sex now and then, even if it is only for a dance, just to know how it feels to take the initiative for once. (4) Well, no, I really think you would be foolish to feel slighted under the circumstances; it would have been only an empty compliment, you know. Yes; it was terribly sad about the poor young duke, and my heart aches for the young princess. Since you seem so sure of it, you lovely boy, I really am "awfully nice," at least I know I could make you, think so if I tried. And I do assure you on my solemn word of honor that I am a woman; just imagine a man trying to run this column, and think how he would succeed! You see, Geoffrey has the pleasure of hearing my voice all the time, so he has some excuse for getting tired of it sometimes, poor fellow! But he was only joking all the same. Your letter was very nice, and had no mistakes at all. Good-bye, "School Boy," till the next time.

"GRINNON BARRETT"—I do hope I have got your name right, but it was such a strange one that I was not quite sure. Why, yes, I have numbers of boys on my list, and some of them I am really fond of. I think I have more boys than girls today. I am delighted to think you did not feel afraid of me, and felt in some degree as if I were a friend. I shall always be only too glad to be a real friend to any correspondent who needs one. The contributor referred to is a man, most emphatically; and to tell you the truth I do not consider it at all a compliment to be suspected of being one and the same with him. I don't know why, but somehow I never cared for his writings, though I never even saw him. I quite agree with you about both the poetry and the music, and I love James Whitcombe Riley, but still no one can touch Longfellow in my estimation. I could never learn to like Wagner. Do you know that you are a very, very, nice man. I think? and I thank you for the "unsolicited testimonial" from my heart. I wish I could spare you more time, but I am rushed today.

HERE'S AN IDEA.

For Ladies who Have had Trouble with the Elusive Moth. Apropos of moths Harper's Bazar says: "The protection of clothing from insect enemies when stored away in an unending bother. The wary beetle and the elusive moth miller scold at camphor, enjoy tarine balls, crawl calmly over tarred paper, and persistently edge their way impartially into cedar or pine box. The only safety is to put clean (either sponged, washed or steamed), well beaten, well sunned garments first into muslin, either old or coarse, and then to wrap them closely in newspaper. Insects have no appetite either for cotton or printer's ink." This double precaution, however, makes it impossible to tell one garment from another in its mummy-like wrappings, so it follows that every parcel must be labeled. Then it is difficult to remember which closet has this or that parcel. A large sheet of paper tacked on the inside of each closet door or lid of chest or trunk makes it easy to write down each bundle as it is put away, and will show at any time the contents of each receptacle. The shoe and bundle bags are great aids to orderly closets, and in them there should be a place for wrapping paper and pieces or a ball of twine. First, bags for ball gowns are no trouble to make and save crushing. Make a bag of light undressed cambric twelve inches longer than the gown and a little wider. Make a flap with buttons at the top instead of drawing strings and put loops at the two upper corners to hang it by. This is how it looks:



Put your gown in this and pin it with large safety pins at the top. Then it may hang.

After Dangers of the "Grip." Boston papers facetiously remark that "La Grippe is seldom fatal unless you use all the remedies recommended for it." They are correct. The writer fully believes that the end of the poor "grip" victim is he tried all the patent medicines that have adorned the pages of our leading newspapers as "sure cures for La Grippe," would be like Mark Twain, who for his famous cold tried every remedy advised by friends, until his stomach became so weak he began to vomit and continued until, as he avers, "he was like to throw up his immortal soul." We notice one of the leading advertisers of the day has been conspicuous at this opportune time by the absence of any claim to cure the "grip." They certainly deserve a "chromo" and we feel like giving them a free "ad" for their compassion upon our readers. The more so for the reason that probably more people have used their remedy, that good old family medicine, Johnson's Anodyne Liniment for this foreign influenza, than all others combined. And why not? Certainly no other will relieve catarrhal colds, coughs, bronchial troubles, or neuralgic pains, as promptly as that same old Anodyne Liniment, and the above are all symptoms or results of La Grippe. Herein lies the real danger from this epidemic of influenza; it leaves the mucous membrane linings of the nose, throat and bronchial tubes tender and very susceptible to the catarrh, bronchial troubles and pneumonia, which come with February and March in our northern climate. We shall still pin our faith to a remedy for this after danger which acts promptly to allay inflammation; for therein lies the chief danger from throat and lung troubles. And surely a remedy that has the friends that Johnson's Anodyne Liniment has, after eighty years' trial by a critical public, and has been used for the "grip" more extensively than all the advertised remedies, deserves, as we said, a medal, and has before it we hope a prosperous year as an octogenarian. I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass., the manufacturers, will send you a valuable pamphlet free—Advt.

MARRIAGE IN PARIS.

Saturday is the Popular Day for Workingmen—What is Necessary. Before Pierre can with safety select his particular Saturday he has a multitude of civil and religious requirements to attend to. Neither he nor Lizette can think of such a thing as marrying without the consent of their families. If father, mother and grandparents are dead, a family council must be called of the nearest living relatives to consider the case and give or withhold permission. If it is refused to Pierre and he is under 25, or to Lizette and she is under 21, the marriage cannot go on.

For eleven days before the civil marriage can take place there must be posted at the door of the mayor's office in the arrondissement in which each lives a bulletin giving the names, occupation and residence of the persons to be married and full data about both parties.

If there is a religious service the bans will be published three Sundays running in the church of the parish attended by each party. While these preliminaries are in progress Pierre is collecting the documents necessary for the civil ceremony. It is no small outlay, for each must be made out on official paper—an expensive luxury in Paris. There must be certificates of the births of himself and Lizette. When all this has been done it will be safe to sign the marriage contract—that is, if they have one, which is doubtful. A marriage contract means that there is property to be regulated, and Parisian workman and his fiancée are not often inebriated in that way. But even if there is little property and Lizette has no dot at all, there are certain social requirements for them both. Etiquette taxes them less in trouble than in law, but more in purse. If Pierre were rich he would present Lizette with a corbeille made up of jewels, lace and perhaps a cashmere shawl, but as it is he will give her some article for her wedding toilet; a white shawl perhaps, or a veil, or gloves. He will send her a bouquet, too, in the morning of the wedding, and he will provide a ring and a "marriage piece." As for Lizette, she must buy for her future husband his wedding shirt, hose and cravat.

The Japanese Girl's Peculiar Beauty.

Grotesque as she may look when pictured on a fan or embroidered in silk on the tapestries of her country, the Japanese girl as nature is a very pleasing and seductive little person. Her skin is like tinted porcelain, and to set it off she puts a dab of brilliant red just in the center of her pretty rosebud mouth. This red stuff is peculiar to Japan. It is not an ordinary pomade, but has a delightful odor and taste suggestive of sandalwood and lotus blossoms. When properly applied her little mouth looks like the heart of a ripe pomegranate, and her soft eyes, and her hair with its queer sticks run into it, and her fragile baby hands, and her graceful, sinuous body all combine to make the daughter of Japan a very strong, and in some ways delightful, contrast to her sisters of another hemisphere. This Japanese girl, with her gentle ways, her quiet, amiable manner of speaking, her contentment and her ruddy lips, lives in a land of enchantment. She has a charm all her own, and such a strong attraction does she prove to the young men who wander Japanward that it is with many a sigh of regret that they tear themselves away to return to the bustle and activity of American civilization and American women, with their advanced ideas and their progress.

MILLER BROS.' EXHIBIT.

It Contained the Best Pianos and Organs and Was Admired. At the recent exhibition, says the Halifax Mail, Miller Bros. (Granville street) occupied a large space (nearly the whole of the south end gallery), and their show presented a fine appearance. It was all enclosed by a nice neat railing (of turned bannisters) and the place raised about eight inches, while all was covered by a nice carpet, the walls and ceiling being nicely papered, and suspended from the ceiling were three electric lights, and their whole place tastefully and richly decorated and some nice paintings hung. They showed fifteen fine organs and pianos. The Karn organ in church and parlor styles, some of which are very fine in both appearance and tone, ranging in price from \$75 to \$450. Also some fine Karn pianos in mahogany, walnut and rosewood finish. The Evan Bros. piano in mahogany, walnut and rosewood finish; both of those makes of pianos are becoming very popular. Music could be heard from their department. They also showed in a separate booth ten of the celebrated Raymond sewing machines in different style of oak and walnut. Among them was a very fine cabinet machine, which attracted much attention, it being so simple to open and close and to operate; and a writing desk. This machine has become of late years a general favorite with the public. This firm deserves credit for going to the trouble and expense they did in making so fine an exhibit. They received three diplomas on their organs and pianos. The highest award given, no prizes were offered. They have now been in business over twenty years and during that time have worked up a very large business in the lower provinces, which territory they control.

The monthly concerts at the school for the blind have been resumed. The first of these took place on Wednesday afternoon in the assembly hall of the institution. The visitors were conducted to different parts of the buildings, and were loud in their praises of the arrangement of the music rooms. Through the plate glass doors of each of these rooms a pupil could be seen practising upon one of the new Evans Bros. or Karn pianos recently put in by Miller Bros. of the city, who are the sole agents. Their pianofortes are particularly fine in tone and are giving every satisfaction. MILLER BROS., Granville street, at the recent exhibition, received three diplomas on their organ and piano exhibit.

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SEE A FEW OF THE MANY TESTIMONIALS:
Opinions of some Distinguished Guests on the "Myrtle Bank" Hotel.
From the Hon. Villiers Stuart, King's House, Jamaica.—Having been staying on several occasions at the Myrtle Bank Hotel, I have found it well appointed, and the Staff most obliging. The Hotel is well situated, the verandahs have the benefit of the sea-breeze and command very interesting views. We found the beds especially comfortable.
From Arthur Harvey, Esq., Toronto, Canada.—I have spent some weeks at Jamaica, every hour of which has been delightful, and much of the pleasure has been due to the excellent accommodations of the Myrtle Bank Hotel. The rooms, the cuisine, the service and the civility received at your hands, call for this acknowledgment.
From the Hon. Thos. J. Clayton, Thurston, Penna.—We have spent ten days at Jamaica, making the Myrtle Bank Hotel our headquarters. We have found it the best Hotel on the Island. We can recommend this Hotel to our countrymen as an agreeable resting place.
From John M. Oakley, of Pittsburg, Pa.—On leaving your hospitable house, the "Myrtle Bank," after two weeks' stay, we wish to say to our countrymen, through you, that we have found your location favored by the sea-breeze as cool as the mountain top. We shall advise all our friends visiting at Jamaica to stop at this Hotel.
From Rear-Admiral Seymour, R. N.—For the four weeks I have lived in your Hotel, I have been struck with the civility of the Staff to guests and visitors. I wish the undertaking every success. I advise any one visiting Kingston to stay at Myrtle Bank.
From Hon. T. A. and Lady Brassey.—The Hotel is about the best planned I have seen in the Tropics. The broad verandahs and passages entirely open to the air make it deliciously cool. The bed rooms could not be more comfortable.
From Senator Warner Miller, U. S. A.—I desire to express my appreciation of your Hotel. I have found it a most delightful place and have enjoyed my visit to Kingston. Your Hotel furnished me with perfect accommodation.
From Cleveland Moffet, Correspondent of the "New York Herald."—It gives me pleasure to state that during the ten days I have passed in your pleasant Hotel, I have been treated with the greatest courtesy and attention. No trouble spared in the interests of the guests. The Hotel is certainly well managed.
From John C. Klein (Sept. 3rd, 1891), Correspondent "New York World."—During the stay of myself and wife at Myrtle Bank we have received every attention. The accommodations are most excellent, the beds could not be better, and the table is first-class.

JAMAICA can be reached via Steamer Alpha from Halifax, sailing twice a month, \$75 for return passage; or via Steamers of the Boston Fruit Company, sailing from Boston twice a week, \$50 for return passage. For further particulars address:
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