

## Woman and Her Work

It has just been discovered that among the bills passed by the last Massachusetts Legislature was one making it a crime to sell or wear bird's feathers, so that every milliner in the commonwealth and nearly every woman is liable to arrest.

Chairman Martin, of the Police Board, said that it would be the duty of the police to enforce this law, as well as every other and the wholesale milliners are in high dudgeon over the prospective ruin of their business.

According to the lawyers, it makes no difference in what State the bird was killed.

So legislation has at last effected what all the efforts of the Audubon societies throughout the United States, all the protests through the newspapers, and all the statistics laboriously collected by enthusiastic friends of the birds, for the past ten years, has failed to bring about. Individual effort is a fine thing and well-directed, concerted effort is better, but after all there is a good deal to be said in favor of legislation which seems to carry a weight with it that all other methods lack. I really did not know that there was any particular agitation going on in the good old state of Massachusetts, over the bird question, but then they have a quiet way of doing things, without talking much, in some of the New England states that is very refreshing, and there is a simple directness about the course they have pursued in this case, that is as impressive, as it is effective.

The new law, about which so little fuss was made at the time of its passage that it has only been discovered recently, is admirable in its thoroughness, and must have indeed descended like a bomb, in the peaceful but blood-stained camp of the wholesale, and retail milliners, as well as their amiable and christian customers who persist, in the face of the facts which have been made public, in adorning themselves with bird's feathers. But their rage is futile, and they may as well submit to the inevitable as gracefully as possible. The bill had passed and became law before they knew anything about it or had time to protest, and it is expressed in such unequivocal terms that there is no possibility of evading it. The selling or wearing of bird's feathers is made not even a misdemeanor—but a crime, and anyone found wearing a stuffed bird on her bonnet is liable to arrest, while the milliner who displays birds' wings and plumage in her window, is in the same position, as the chairman of the police Board seems determined that his officers shall enforce the latter of the law. This is as it should be! There is but one way to put down such abuses, and that is by the strong hand of the law, and our American cousins have set us an example which we would do well to follow, and I only wish our own legislature would do likewise.

There is another subject of a kindred nature which is really in need of ventilation and I have sufficient love for, and faith in my own sex to believe that if it were fairly placed before them in all its hideousness, a great majority of them would feel almost as strongly in the matter as I do myself. I refer to the seal industry and the manner in which the beautiful skins that delight the hearts of women are procured—at least by the American seal hunters. Our own methods are far more humane, in spite of all the arguments used by Americans against pelagic sealing. I have been reading the subject up a bit lately, and this is one result of my researches. It is not a pleasant story to tell; in fact to me it is sickening in the extreme, but if we women can calmly consent to wear fur which we know is obtained by such cruelty, and thereby create the demand which causes it, our nerves are surely strong enough to stand the recital, and it may possibly have a salutary effect upon us.

The young seals, the "bachelors" as they are called, are separated from the main herd when the time for slaughter arrives, and driven out of the sea and overland to the "killing grounds". This precaution is taken lest by any chance the seal mothers, or the old bulls on whose existence the increase of seals depends, should be destroyed, and the next year's kill be decreased; humanity has nothing to do with it. Now anyone who has ever looked at a seal knows just what means of overland locomotion this poor creature is provided with! He has not even a solitary leg, just four flappers almost fine, which are admirably adapted for progress through the water, or for flapping lazily about the shore once in a while when he feels like a little excursion on land, and can take his time, but practically useless for a real land journey; yet the heartless brutes

who control the American seal industry drive the helpless creature mercilessly over the ground until the butchering ground is reached, the victims, utterly unfitted for such travelling, frequently giving out owing to the weakness of their backs, and hind flappers, and being obliged to drag their lower extremities along by the foreflappers, until they finally fell exhausted, and the butchers who are driving them, club the little remaining life out of their poor bodies. Arrived at the shambles, are they fed, and rested, as cattle are, before being killed? Oh no, we don't want their flesh, it is only their skins we are interested in so the work begins at once. The brawny armed executioners are armed with clubs and as there is no danger of their exhausted and defenceless prey escaping them they can get through a large amount of work in a very short time. If your nerves are not strong ladies, perhaps you had better lay the paper down now, for your feelings may be slightly harrowed, and it is very disturbing to have one's tenderest susceptibilities wounded. But this is the method employed in the first stage of preparation of your sealskins, the young seals are clubbed on the head so violently that "the crystalline lenses to their eyes, fly out from the orbital sockets like hailstones." Very often one blow fails to complete the killing, and the skull is battered in, the animal crying all the time in a truly human manner, and his terrified companions looking on, and frequently crying and moaning with terror of the fate which he knows to well will soon be his. It is a pretty picture, and I would that women could be compelled to look on at a few seal killings! Unless they are as destitute of "bowels of compassion" as the butchers who do the work, I think the seal trade would be done, as far as those spectators were concerned, for I do not think they could ever look at a piece of sealskin again without hearing the cries of the agonized creatures, and seeing the soft brown appealing eyes bursting from their sockets. Our own sealskins are obtained by more merciful methods, in fact our skins are obtained by no more objectionable process than any other fur, the animals being either shot with rifle and ball, or else speared by the Indian hunters as they lie sleeping on the surface of the sea. Our hunting is all done from boats, and the seals are instantly, and mercifully killed—if any killing can be called merciful.

The Americans contend that our methods tend to the utter destruction of the seals owing to the impossibility of distinguishing between the shooting distance, and the danger of destroying not only bulls, but seal mothers, and often their unborn progeny; but this risk is small, the old bull is scarcely to be mistaken even at long range, and for their own sake the Canadian sealers would be likely to use every precaution to avoid killing the mothers. Even if such a thing should happen occasionally, it is better a thousand times that a few valuable lives should be sacrificed in the reason than that Canadians should be guilty of the barbarity which the Americans openly practice, and which they have not even the grace to be ashamed of, but presume to contrast with our methods, to our disadvantage.

The problem of carrying the innumerable flower and feather trimmed hats without injury to them when one is going away for the summer, has been solved by that new invention, the hat trunk; but many home mothers may feel that, after the necessities are provided for, the money is not forthcoming for these much-desired trunks.

A common packing trunk without a tray may be brought into service by providing it with cushions, thus making a very desirable receptacle for holding and transport trimmed hats and bonnets. The cushions are supplied by making a required number of bags or pockets of drilling, cretonne, or some thick material and stuffing them very full of curled hair. Tack these filled pockets to the inside of the trunk, finishing the edge and covering the nails by tacking on cotton gimp around each cushion, using upholsterers' tacks, thus giving the interior a neater and more finished appearance.

A small trunk may be made to accommodate at least eight hats by putting a cushion at each end of the trunk, two upon the bottom, two on the cover, and one upon each side. Supply each cushion with two long flat pins for fastening the hat securely in place. Such a trunk may be made not only useful when one is travelling, but also while one is at home, particularly where closet room is much needed, by fitting a thick pad over the top of the trunk. Cover this with pretty cretonne and have a pleated valance that reaches to the floor. Supplied with a couple of sofa pillows, this piece of furniture will prove desirable and convenient.

I feel sure this bit of advice will fill, as

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Send Size, Width, Style of Toe, and full particulars.

Don't forget the CASH with order, or have sent C.O.D., unless you are well known.

## WATERBURY & RISING.

the saying is, a long felt want; for which of us is without unpleasant memories of the deadly struggle we went through last summer in trying to pack our befloored, and befeathered hats, when we were getting ready for our summer's outing, and the utterly demoralized condition in which those same hats reached their destination? no matter how large the trunk, or how many modern improvements in the shape of hat compartments it might contain, the hats never seemed to look any better when their journey was over, and to take a dainty lace or chiffon hat on a journey of any length was simply to ruin it, no matter how carefully it was packed. This simple contrivance so easily made at home, does away with all this trouble, and should make the transportation of hats and bonnets a pleasure instead of a toil.

The plain skirt seems really a thing of the past, so loaded with trimmings are all the newest dress skirts now. Perhaps it is chiefly a summer fashion, necessitated by the popularity of thin materials and that with the heavy materials of autumn the plain tailor made skirt will reappear, but I am really afraid we shall have to go through an era of elaborate trimmings before we get back to plainness and simplicity. Some thick materials are already appearing in the guise of travelling, and street dresses for the early autumn. One model, which possesses the double merits of being both serviceable and very stylish, is of black and white check, the eon jacket lined and faced with black silk, and worn over a pleated vest of white grenadine, which has a cravat of fine white lisse, the ends finished with cream colored lace. A black sailor hat with a perfectly plain band and bow of white satin completes the costume.

Charming as the fluffy gown of muslin and lace is to the eye it is so perishable and easily soiled that only people with long purses can afford to indulge in it except for very best, when it can be worn with extreme care. But the foulard, or India silk has nearly all the advantage and none of the drawbacks of the lawn, and organdie. Indeed it is by far the most useful gown of the season filling all demands, and being always ready; it is always the correct thing, because it is dressy without being either conspicuous or too fine as a lawn might be on certain occasions and it affords a wonderful license in the combination of colors which are so daring this year. One of these dresses is in bright blue trimmed with quantities of colored lace and finished at throat and waist with bright green ribbons; under the falls of lace there are gleams of dark red, and as the skirt flies out, it shows the lining of dark red silk. Another very stylish combination of color is blue and violet but unless the proper shades are selected and the harmony is perfect, the result is likely to be disastrous. Very narrow silk fringe, sometimes slightly curled, is used to trim a great many of these light quality silks; and one in brown and ecru is trimmed with narrow brown fringe on the edge of little ruffles which are lined with bright red. The bodice has a deep fall of broader fringe falling from a yoke of Irish lace over the red silk, and the waist is finished with a sash of red chiffon fringed at the ends.

The jaunty little bolero jackets are still

holding their place in general favor, and much of the trimming on dresses is put on in imitation of them, when the actual jacket is not used.

The fashions seem all for slender people now-a-days as the full waists wide folded belts, and profusion of puffs and frills make a slender figure look plump and round, but they are most trying to those whose charms are of more solid description. The full bodice for instance, with its multitude of tucks and frills all running around the figure, is an utter impossibility for the woman to whom nature has been generous, as the horizontal trimming is likely to give her the appearance of a much hooped barrel. The best she can do, if she wishes to keep in the fashion without making herself look ridiculous, is to adopt the plain full muslin skirt gored at the foot, but not extending too far up the skirt, and the simple full bodice shirred on a round yoke, but neither "pouched" over the belt, nor ornamented with tucks or horizontal trimmings of any kind. The yoke may be as elaborate as possible, and tiny frills of narrow lace may be sewed up and down, at intervals. Such a dress may be worn by a woman who weighs a hundred and fifty pounds, provided her figure be reasonably good, without adding to her apparent size in any way.

Some of the newer bodices show decided eccentricities in cut, many of them being cut up at each side to show the silk lining beneath, while others are slashed up all around the figure, for the same purpose, making the whole waist look like a succession of straps. The effect is very striking and pretty, if well done, but it is needless to say that the hand of a very skilful dressmaker is required in order to make such a bodice a success.

Topeka has the distinction of being the home of the only colored female lawyer on earth. Her name is Edna Lytle daughter of J. R. Lytle a colored barber. Miss Lytle graduated recently from the law department of the colored university at Nashville. She is a very bright young woman and headed the class. She will return home next week and will then prepare for a lecture tour of six months. She proposes to make enough money lecturing to fit up a law office with a library and furniture. Next year she expects to enter the practice of law in Topeka.

ASTRA.

### CHRISTMAS LEGEND.

A Beautiful Legend of the Indians of North America.

Howison's 'Upper Canada,' published in the early part of the century, contains reference to a belief among the North American Indians, which is strangely similar to one of our Christian legends. We all know that the cattle, on Christmas night are said to kneel in their stalls, but we are not alone in that fancy. This traveler says:

"When it was midnight, I walked out and strolled in the woods near the house. The moon had risen, and poured a flood of light on the silent world below. The motionless trees stretched their boughs toward a cloudless sky, and the rustling of a withered leaf or the distant howl of a wolf alone broke upon my ear."

I was suddenly roused from a delicious reverie by observing a dark object moving slowly and cautiously among the trees. At first I fancied it was a bear; but a nearer inspection discovered an Indian on all fours.

For a moment I felt unwilling to throw myself in his way, lest he should be meditating some sinister design against me. However, on his waving his hand, and putting his finger on his lip, I approached him, and inquired what he did there.

"Me watch to see the deer kneel," replied he. "This is Christmas night, and all the deer fall on their knees to the Great Spirit and look up."

### The Modern Dramatic Critic.

First Nighter—The man who writes the dramatic criticisms for your paper does not know a good play from a bad one.

Editor—I know it, but what can we do? He is the only man on the staff who is tall enough to see over the bonnets.—Tid Bits.

## Alcoholism.

### THE LIQUOR HABIT.

A New Method of Curing the Liquor Crave by Means of a Simple Vegetable Medicine Taken in the Ordinary Way, no Minerals or Injections being Used, and which is now being Successfully Demonstrated in Montreal.

Read the following: MONTREAL, July 14th, 1897.

Mr. A. Hutton Dixon.

DEAR SIR,—

Since using your treatment all desire for liquor has gone. I have now not the least crave. I was run down so that my family were in despair of me. I had often tried hard to stop drinking of my own accord, but could not do it. I thought I could never get over the crave for liquor. But when I took your treatment I was the most surprised man you ever saw. Even with all your strong testimonials and all I was told by friends about your cure I could not believe it possible that anything could have the power to effect such a change in me as it has done. I now feel just as I did when I was a boy. And the change in my home is worth ten years of my life. Instead of heart-broken and anxious faces there are now smiles and gladness. I tell you no pen can paint the picture so as to show the difference.

I know there are hundreds of victims who want to stop drinking and who have squarely tried many times, as I did, without success. To all such I would say, "Use the Dixon Cure," for it is only by using it faithfully that anyone can be made to believe what wonderful good it will do. I or any of my family will be glad to answer any interesting inquiries. Wishing you God-speed in your good work.

Yours very truly,

Rev. Father Strubbs.

Vicar of St. Ann's, vouches for the above.

I have been acquainted with the case described in the foregoing letter and I testify sincerely to the contents.

E. STRUBBS, C. SS. R.

Mr. Dixon has been called to Montreal by a philanthropist who has watched the results of his cure, to treat a number of cases here. He will be here for a short time and has offices at 40 Park Avenue. He will be pleased to receive, to call upon by appointment, or to mail full particulars, on application to any who are interested. Letters addressed Mr. A. HUTTON DIXON, No. 40 Park Avenue, MONTREAL, will receive prompt attention and be treated in strict confidence, and results are guaranteed.

### A Congressman's Horseshoes.

Congressman Russell, of Connecticut, has something like a bushel of horseshoes which he has picked up. Six or eight fine specimens ornament or disfigure his apartments at the Hamilton in Washington, and the remainder of the bushel, except a few, are stored in an old box at his home in Killingly. The few which are especially reserved from the collection in the box are hanging on the port waist oar which Russell used to pull a winning stroke with in the old six-oared crew of Yale College in '73.

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