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WASHINGTON LETTER.

Legislators and the Vehicles They Keep. Retirement of Senator Call—Senator Vest's Fish Story.

[Special Correspondence.] Many of the senators have very handsome traps in which they ride to the capitol or make the rounds of the departments. Senator McMillan, for instance, drives in a fine open wagon, with bright red wheels, and Senator Wolcott has one of the handsomest victorias in the city. Other senators, like Mr. Chandler and Mr. Bacon, are content to perambulate on bicycles.

The conveyance which Senator Turpie affects, however, is worthy of a column description. Where he finds it heaven only knows. It is a coupe which looks as if it might have done duty in the time of George Washington. Its former black enamel has turned to a rusty shade of brown, its doors are shaky and its wheels are anything but round. The driver is an old colored man, who wears a derby hat and Prince Albert coat, while the horse appropriately completes the outfit. It is a black horse, very bony as to ribs and very high as to legs and with a tail as stubby as a field of corn after harvest time. In this vehicle Senator Turpie sits deep in thought and just as contented as Cinderella in her fairy carriage.

Call and His Cuban Speeches. The defeat of Senator Call removes a picturesque character from public life. For 18 years Mr. Call was in the senate, and for the 18 years there was scarcely a day upon which he did not make a speech about something.

Cuba was his favorite theme. On this subject he could wax eloquent—everlastingly eloquent, in fact—at any moment. The Post says he has filled columns and columns with his remarks in analogy of Cuba and in denunciation of Spain. The trouble was, however, that no one would ever listen to his speeches. He was without doubt the most uninteresting talker in the senate, and nearly every one of his speeches contained the complaint that he was not given the proper attention.

Senator Vest's Fish Story. Senator Vest has a fish story which he tells with a great deal of gusto and seems to enjoy it highly himself at each repetition. An old lady, fishing in the Missouri, caught a big catfish, weighing about five pounds. He had a string through his gills, and, following the string to a stake in the river bank, he saw the fish swimming about while he went further down the river to find another good fishing place. A small boy, who had also been fishing, came along with a one pound catfish. Spying the string, he pulled it up and lost no time in exchanging the little fish for the big one, promptly leaving the scene for home.

"Soon after the old lady came back and pulled up his fish to take it home. He beheld with astonishment the size of his catch, and as soon as he could find his voice he ejaculated: "'Bress up, but dat ah catfish am shunk powerful!'"

A New Woman and Her Baby. The friends of a certain professional woman here in town tell a story on her which they call a huge joke. There is a baby in the professional woman's family. The baby has a nurse. It has also a doting grandfather, who came to see it very early one morning recently. As he came near the house he saw the baby carriage standing near the side door. The house doors were still locked. Nobody was stirring. The grandfather looked into the carriage, and there, to his amazement, lay the precious baby. It had actually been left out all night, for, as the mother explained, she had been busy all the evening and supposed "nurse had baby, and the nurse had been busy all evening and supposed the mother had the little one. Between the two of them the child had been left out of doors all night. I can't see the joke at all. In my day a mother had what in our old-fashioned way we called "sacred duties" to perform, and one of those duties was to know just where and how her baby was by night or day.

A Dog Under His Arm. A writer in The Post is authority for the statement that Mr. T. Sanford Beatty has set a new fashion. The time when women first took to lapdogs is so far back that history fails to record it. But Mr. Beatty led the way. Washington men did not pay visits with small dogs under their arms. Mr. Beatty has a small and extremely valuable dog, of which he is very fond, and several times of late he has paid visits with that dog snugly tucked under his left arm while he holds it, and already half a dozen men have imitated him, with the intention of following his example.

More men come to Washington to see Senator Mason than any other senator except Senator Hanna. They all want him to go to the White House with them, and he does it. They have become acquainted with his genial and helpful disposition and frequently take advantage of it. The jolly, big hearted and big brained junior senator from Illinois is so popular in his state that constituents in every portion write him asking for favors. All these letters are answered, too, and many of them are dictated by the senator himself.

A western senator, who doesn't want his name mentioned for fear the story might go back to the man upon whom he tells it, was relating an incident that occurred in the legislature that sent him to the senate. A lawyer member had just made an exceedingly tiresome and long winded speech. A member from one of the rural districts of the state rose as if to reply.

"I would like to reply to the gentleman," he said, "but I have allers noticed on the fact that it wenchens me like tarnation to kick at nothing."

Learning to Ride. An article much used in cycling schools abroad, capital for assisting both teacher and pupil, is a leather belt fitting the waist, some six or eight inches deep. Behind it is furnished with a handle, which the teacher holds in her right hand, thereby supporting and regulating the rider's movement, while with her left she guides the machine.

WOMEN AND FASHION.

Fashionable Millinery For Summer Wear. "Friends In Common"—Learning to Ride a Wheel.

Large hats made in fine black chip are a feature in this season's millinery, and an admirable example had a wreath of roses carried round the crown, the rest of the trimming being principally lace. White ostrich plumes appear on black hats, and in a great many hats and bonnets kilted velvet or ribbon is



A VICTORIAN TOQUE.

introduced. One of Virot's imported models has a double crown of bright green straw veiled with tulle, the feathers set at the side, while a large gold brimmed hat had a crown resembling a large bee in black lace, with a couple of feathers at the side.

There is a new rich magenta peach tint which is becoming and has been most successfully applied to a bonnet of a darker tone of straw, with violets and poppies. Certainly the newest make of ribbon is more, with an almost imperceptible waterwing employed for eyes, bows, and the lily of the valley, is a favorite flower, especially when mingled with gauze.

Among gems in way of victorian headgear is the victorian turban, a reproduction of the turban headresses worn at the beginning of the century, adapted to our era. It is made of black chiffon drawn on wire, so that it assumes the rounded shape necessary, and is liberally trimmed with roses and foliage and an orange.

Many new notions prevail in straw, and a black hat with a soft crown and a crown gathered in the center beneath a diamond ornament trimmed with shot silk and blazes, is quite original. The new canvas hats are especially pretty trimmed with brown, yellow, and a quill, and so are the small, wide brimmed hats, with high straw crowns and lace trim, which minimize the troubles of the amateur milliner. Then there are flexible straw hats shaped to set back on the head when the hair is dressed, or a pompadour. To wear with lace and organdy dresses are garden party hats of straw, lace and flowers. The brims are not wired, but bend in irregular fashion.



TYPES OF TRIMMED MILLINERY.

under the weight of gauze and flowers. In conclusion, it may be said that the straw hats and bonnets represent every size and shape. Many of the hats in fancy straw are trimmed with the favorite French mixture, shot blue and green ribbon, with cornflowers and a lace alight.

"Friends In Common." There is no more continually committed ineligence of speech than the substitution of "mutual" friends for "common" friends, according to Vogue, which says: Many fairly well educated persons are apparently unaware that they are speaking incorrectly when they refer to "mutual" friends. In general conversation it is certainly the exception when "common" friends is used. Even those whose training in rhetoric keeps them from misapplying "mutual" rather shrink from using the word "common" in its significance in so many other connections because of the reverse of compliment. Indeed, in many cases it amounts to a stigma—as she is a "common" woman; they are "common."

It is used as nearly synonymous with vulgar, the latter implying something more of self assertion. To employ a term which is never used in an exclusive or flattering sense to designate one's friends goes against the grain, even though it carries the mandatory rule of the rhetorician. A certain woman, who is disturbed by this divergence between the correct and the agreeable, somewhat softens the statement by putting it in the form of "friends in common."

Learning to Ride. An article much used in cycling schools abroad, capital for assisting both teacher and pupil, is a leather belt fitting the waist, some six or eight inches deep. Behind it is furnished with a handle, which the teacher holds in her right hand, thereby supporting and regulating the rider's movement, while with her left she guides the machine.

CURRENT MISCELLANY.

Mercury in a body devoid practically if not absolutely of air, water and of vegetation and consequently incapable of supporting any of those higher organisms which we know as living beings. His surface is a vast desert. It is rougher rather than smooth. Whether this roughness be due to mountains proper or to craters we are too far away from him to have been able yet to say. The latter are the more probable. Over the greater part of his surface change either diurnal or seasonal is unknown. Three-eighths of his surface is steeped in perpetual gloom, while the remaining quarter slowly turns between the two. The planet itself as a world is dead.

Tidal friction, the closing act in the cosmic drama, has brought it where it is. The machine has run down. Whether it ever supported life upon its surface or not the power to do so has now forever passed away. Like Venus, and for like cause, it is now a dead world. And it was the first thus to reach the end of its evolutionary career, earlier to do so than Venus, inasmuch as tidal action was very much greater upon it than on her, and consequently produced its effect more quickly. Mercury has long been dead—how long, measured by centuries, we cannot say, but practically for a very long time. Venus must have become so comparatively recently. Both, however, now have finished their course and have, in a most literal sense, entered into their rest.

Testing Cement. The Boston School of Technology is becoming noted for its valuable researches in the line of testing the tensile strength of various materials. One of the latest tests is that of cement, which is performed by a machine constructed expressly for this purpose. The cement which undergoes the test is prepared and put into molds which give a casting one inch square. The ends of this casting are so arranged that they fit into sockets, the attachments being fixed to grating and screws, by means of which the pull is made. Tensile strength has much to do with the breaking. The power is supplied by a dynamo, and at the rate of 400 pounds per minute. The pull or weight is applied by a wheel, which runs along the weighing beam and is connected to a small slide running along an upper beam, which is fixed. The scale of weights on this beam shows the amount of power which is brought to bear. One of the features of this machine is the smoothness and ease with which it is controlled. The weight can be shifted without any perceptible jar of the machinery. —New York Ledger.

"Symptoms" of a Punishment. Elementary schoolteachers who are at a loss as to the proper method of restraining their disorderly pupils will be interested to hear of the charges of an "evil" child brought at a Norfolk police court, the other day, against a schoolmistress. The child had complained to its parents of an unpleasant taste of soap in its mouth, and upon inquiry it was found that the teacher had established a new punishment for the use of foul language—the formal washing out of the offender's mouth in presence of the class as a symbol of the direction of the expression used. The taste of soap is not a pleasant one, but the school managers came forward and expressed their strong approval of the system. They felt that they could not suggest anything better, and the unfortunate dismissed the case. In effective news we should say that it beats any of Mr. Gilbert's well known list of "punishments that are the crime." —Westminster Gazette.

Breakfast in England. Tea always goes with the English breakfast—Indian tea, of course, as a matter of patriotism, since it grows in the queen's dominions. The English can, if they will, make very good tea, but their coffee is usually an abomination. Their bacon is also good and nicely cooked, but they know nothing in the way of dainty little breakfast dishes made from the remains of last night's dinner, such as the American cook is able to prepare. At the hotels they ask you if you will have a "big or a little breakfast." The little breakfast is composed of tea, bread and butter and jam. The big breakfast may be composed of almost anything and everything, and a terrible price they charge for it.

But even in that "big breakfast" the American will not be able to find his old biscuit, butter cakes and good coffee.—Elizabeth Banks' London Letter.

A Grecian Goddess. Professor E. A. Grover of Amherst college, who has spent many years in Greece, says that the English language has changed more in a few generations than the Greek in 20 centuries. The ancient Greeks, he says, were both in men and women. The modern English could find models among the goddesses of those after whom the old masters modeled their masterpieces.

"The most beautiful woman I ever saw in all Europe," says Professor Grover, "was a Greek goddess. She was lovely, a servant, and totally uneducated, but her beauty was almost divine. She died afterward, I learned, of starvation. Her employer's circumstances caused it, I believe."

Safe to Grow Tall on Meat Diet. It has been written that no man by giving thought unto himself can add one cubic to his stature, but the enterprising Jap does not despair, and an ordinance has gone forth exhorting the people to eat more freely of meat, with a view of increasing the average height of the race. Whatever results may follow the method proposed, they are certain to be a long time coming, but it is only another instance of the determination on the part of the Japanese not to let the slightest chance slip for attaining the all time Japanese ideal of height. —United Press.

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HUMOR OF THE HOUR.

"I guess," remarked Farmer Hornback slowly, "that I admire enterprise as much as anybody does, but I am kinder of the opinion that it can be carried to excess. Even a good thing can be run into the ground, you know."

"What are you referring to, Karst?" asked the wife of his bosom.

"Why, you know when that tract society up in the city sent out a man to paint religious signs and warnings on the barns and rocks he inscribed the question in red paint everywhere. 'Do you want to be saved?' Well, now I see that another painter, working in the interest of a patent medicine concern, has just been over the same ground an added beneath each question this answer in letters a foot long. 'It's take Erichsen's Peppermint Pills.' That may be all right, but blamed if it don't look to me like enterprise carried to the point of offensiveness." —New York Sunday Journal.

Reflections of a Bachelor. After a woman gets to be 30 she always claims she had much pretty hair when she was married.

You can always tell how old a woman is by seeing how much of what her husband says she believes. A woman will either believe everything she hears about her husband or nothing. It depends on the weather. Every girl has an idea that she looks a good deal like some picture of Cleopatra, admiring Anthony that she has once seen.

What Happens to Him. A girl happens to twist up his mustache just before he bids a girl good night, she always looks kind of queer and interested.

The girl who never believed in chaperones when she was young is generally very willing to be one when she gets older. There are some women who, whenever they see a man look happy and contented, think there must be something wrong with him. The reason why women cry after they have quarreled with their husbands is because they always think of something they ought to have said. —New York Times.

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