

# A WOMAN CROESUS.

ALABAMA'S COTTON PLANTER WHOSE ESTATE IS BIG AS A PRINCIPALITY.

Not a Club Woman nor a Female Suffragist But She Can Make and Unmake Congressmen—Business Managing 1,000 Acres, She Runs a Bank as Well.

Lelia Seton Wilder is the name of an Alabama woman cotton planter who has added lustre to the fame of the woman of the South, and seems destined to add still more. She is a wealthy widow of Decatur, and is the largest woman landed proprietor in the State. If not below the Mason and Dixon line.

Instead of confiding the direction of her estates to superintendents and overseers, and living a life of ease, Mrs. Wilder is her own superintendent and overseer, and has made such a success of it that the men of the State recognize her as a very shrewd business woman.

Mrs. Wilder is a unique figure. She belongs to one of the oldest families



LELIA SETON WILDER.

in the country, of which Mgr. Seton, of New Jersey, is a connection, and on the distaff side descends from Roger Williams. She is a descendant of the famous Seton family, several members of which had their heads chopped off and their estates confiscated for their loyalty to Mary Queen of Scots. In the New York branch of this family is now held a painting of herself, given by the unhappy Queen to David Seton, who was controller of the Revenue in 1586.

Possibly some of Mrs. Wilder's love of politics comes from the old adherents of Queen Mary, for her home on the Decatur plantations is a rendezvous, and Mrs. Wilder a favorite house party hostess of national and State politicians, and the woman planter is not without that political influence so dear to the soul of the true Southern woman as she yields it in drawing room and across the dinner table.

Mrs. Wilder persistently declines to enter clubdom or champion woman suffrage. "All the political power I want," she often says, "is that which my men friends will exercise for me, and it's a heap more fun than those Western women have who run for office and go to Legislatures. I can hit ways and two or three men to vote my way for me."

Among Mrs. Wilder's possessions is the old bank in Decatur, under which she hopes some day to discover a buried treasure. The bank was built in 1832 for a State bank. During the civil war it was used both as a hospital and fort, and was one of the five buildings left standing at the close of the struggle. Several years ago an old soldier wrote to Mrs. Wilder saying that he knew of a large sum of money being hidden in the bank, but he was too poor to come to show where it was unless his fare were paid. It was too fishy a story to notice, but later Mrs. Wilder's brother-in-law, who was in the war, said that while camped at Decatur he heard money was buried in the bank, and was supposed to be the proceeds of the robbery of a government pay car near Decatur. Of course Mrs. Wilder is not tearing down a stone bank for nothing, but any one who can locate the buried treasure will get a hearing from its owner.

## Nissa d'Enclos, Duetist.

Woman as a duetist is not a nineteenth century feminine development, as might be inferred from the representation on the stage with tolls or from Bayard's celebrated picture, "Une Affaire d'Honneur." In the New Illustrated Magazine Col. Wilcock tells a story of the famous and beautiful Nissa d'Enclos, who, stung by a slight to her good name, donned manly attire and publicly slapped the face of a young noble who had affronted her. There was not the slightest suspicion that this most deadly insult had been dealt by a woman's hand. So fireworks were drawn and crossed on the spot, and after a few rapid t-a-c-tac passes had been exchanged Nissa, a consummate swordswoman, made a fresh boutonniere in the gay satin doublet of her opponent and gave him a sharp wound in the shoulder.

## Cradles of Indian Babies.

Babies of civilized nations would open their eyes in wonder if they should see the queer contrivances which babies of the native tribes of North and South America and Africa have in place of cradles and cribs. The Indians of North America strap the infant to a board, which is slung over the mother's shoulder or over the bow of a tree when she is busy. In South America and some parts of Africa reeds are woven together in a long strip, and the ends brought together, forming the letter "U." The infant is placed in it in a sitting position and securely fastened with cords. While in this contrivance the child has free use of its legs, although its arms are securely fastened by the cords.

## A Pectinant Question.

When people come to learn that bread made by machinery is just as good as that made by hand, then there will be lots of labor saved and the bread will be cleaner. Nine times out of ten, probably, cook washes her hands before she begins the bread, but how about the tenth time? And then, when the four seconds she holds them under the faucet remove as much foreign substance from hands that are soiled with wind and work as eleven minutes in most dough will clean them.

# TRAIN THE CHILDREN.

Do Not Permit Them to Grow Up With Harsh and Disagreeable Voices.

Train the voices of your children. Do not let them grow up with a harsh, disagreeable voice, which grates on the ear every time they speak. French parents are very particular about this, and that is one reason we admire the manners of the French children. They are seldom rude and coarse when playing among themselves. They have games which teach politeness, and some of the street songs and games played by the children of French parents, are almost as pretty as our kindergarten songs and plays. A learned writer says: "There is no power of love so hard to get and keep as a kind voice. A kind hand is deaf and dumb. It may be rough in flesh and blood, yet do the work of a soft heart and do it with a soft touch. But there is no one thing that love so much needs as a sweet voice to tell what it means and feels; and it is very hard to get and keep it in the right tone."

One must start in youth and be on the watch night and day, at work and play, to get and keep a voice that shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart. It is often in youth that one gets a voice of a tone that is sharp and it sticks to him through life, and stirs up ill-will and grief, and falls like a drop of gall on the sweet joys of home. Watch it day by day as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you in days to come than the pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is to the heart "what light is to the eye. It is a light that stings as well as shines."

Juliet's Tomb in Italy. The tomb of Juliet, in Verona, Italy, is to be restored and renovated. It is proposed to make the edifice twice its present size, the small arches now only in the front of the structure being continued along the sides.

Home and Juliet are not the creations of Shakespeare's brain. They lived, loved and died in Verona, and the accompanying illustration shows Juliet's tomb as it is today.

The home of Juliet's parents is to be seen in Verona, as is also the famous balcony on which Juliet stood when Romeo made love to her.

That balcony has been made immortal by the love scene which has drawn every schoolgirl's tears.



THE TOMB OF JULIET.

O, Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou, Romeo? Deny thy father, and refuse the name. Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy. Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.

O, be some other name! What's in a name? That which we call a rose, By any other name would smell as sweet; So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called, Retain that dear perfection which he owes.

The history of Verona is in itself interesting, having been founded and made a Roman colony in B. C. 89, which became one of the most prosperous towns of upper Italy. It is now the capital of a province and has nearly seventy thousand inhabitants.

It is situated on both banks of the rapid river Adige, which is crossed by six bridges, and, next to Venice is the most important and interesting town of ancient Venetia. It came into the possession of the Austrians in 1814, and, after having been strongly fortified, was one of the four towns which were the chief support of Austrian rule in Italy, but was restored to Italy in 1866.

## Bridal Rice.

The custom of throwing old shoes and rice, which has prevailed for many years in America, England and Scotland, came from the Eastern nations, and was originally intended as a sign of relinquishment of their authority over the bride by the relatives. An old Jewish custom provided that a brother of a childless man had the first privilege of marrying the widow, and until her brother-in-law refused, she could not marry again. Another authority maintains that the throwing of the shoe was a sham assault on the bridegroom, who was supposed to be carrying off the bride.

## A Debutante Idea.

Now and then a debutante has a really clever idea. Recently one of our Boston girls distinguished herself for her graceful tact. She was beautifully remembered with bouquets of the rarest and choicest flowers. They were effectively banked near her. Instead of carrying just one bouquet the entire evening, the tactful maiden changed bouquets every little while, and thus she did honor to as many of her friends as possible.

## Splendid Gingerbread.

Splendid soft gingerbread is made with one cup of good molasses, one-half cup of water, one-half cup of butter, one-half tea-spoonful of ginger, one-half tea-spoonful of soda or saleratus, two cups of flour, two eggs and a pinch of salt. Bake in square tins and cut in squares. Cut the squares open and put in bits of preserved ginger, and cover each square with frosting.



# WOMEN'S REALM

Some of the hats seen at a fashionable milliner's are extremely original. One of these, represented in the illustration is a toque, with the crown wide at the base and diminishing in width to the top. It is made of coral velvet embroidered all over with silver and steel. The brim, which turns up all round and is shaped into four corners, is ornamented with stitching.



CORAL VELVET HAT.

It is split upon the left side, and is trimmed with a twist of coral velvet, made into a loop, which runs each side of the hat beneath the brim. In the split is a handsome strass crescent, in which are fixed two white ostrich feathers, upright. The sides and ends of these feathers are tipped with chinchilla.

## History of Pocket Handkerchiefs.

Until the reign of the Empress Josephine a handkerchief was thought in France so shocking an object that a lady would never have dared to use it before any one. The word, even, was carefully avoided in refined conversation. An actor who would have used a handkerchief on the stage, even in the most tender moments of the play, would have been unmercifully hissed, and it was only in the beginning of the present century that a celebrated actress, Mile Duchesnois, dared to appear with a handkerchief in her hand. Having to speak of this handkerchief in the course of the piece, she never could command enough courage to call it by its true name, but referred to it as "a light tissue."

A few years later, says Woman's Life, a translation of one of Shakespeare's plays, by Alfred de Vigny, having been acted, the word handkerchief was used for the first time on the stage, and cities of indignation from every part of the house.

It is doubtful if even to-day French ladies would carry handkerchiefs if the wife of Napoleon I had not given the signal for adopting them.

The Empress Josephine, although really lovely, and had teeth. To conceal them she was in the habit of carrying small handkerchiefs, adorned with costly laces, which she constantly raised gracefully to her lips. Of course, all the ladies of the court followed her example, and handkerchiefs then rapidly became an important part of the feminine toilet.

## White Muslin Dress.

The engraving represents an Empire dress in white muslin, with spots worked in feather-stitch. It is trimmed with ribbon.



## WHITE MUSLIN DRESS.

med with sable tails and cerise ribbon and fastened with rosettes of the same ribbon. The sleeves are trimmed with lace.

## Dangers of Laughter.

It is surprising to learn from the highest medical authority in England that laughter may be injurious. Laughter in itself, cannot very well kill, but it may do harm. Hysterical girls and boys with kindred nervous affections are often given to immoderate laughter, which tends to increase nervous exhaustion.

Dr. Felchenfeld relates an instructive case in which a little girl suffered from very definite cardiac symptoms after immoderate laughter. The patient was thirteen years old, and had previously been free from any sign of heart disease. After laughing on and off for nearly an hour with some companions, she suddenly felt stabbing pains in the chest and was seized with fits of coughing, followed by cardiac dyspnoea, very well marked. Felchenfeld believes that the cardiac disease directly resulted from immoderate laughing.

## Women Dress Artists.

Women are developing the new profession of the dress artist. Dress artists are professional shoppers, who go to the home of the woman who is too busy to do her own shopping, take an inventory of her needs, the contents of the pocketbook, and later provide her with an outfit selected especially for her. The commission received for this service varies from \$3 to \$5, and it is often added to by the store proprietors to whom the dress artists bring trade.

# SOME QUEER RINGS.

ODD SUBSTITUTES FOR THE GOLD BAND WORN BY BRIDES.

One Titled Lady Married With a Curtain Ring—A Scarfpin Which Was Used in an Emergency—An Instance Where a Quilt Was Pressed Into Service.

Incidents in which the marriage service has to be temporarily suspended while bridegroom and best man tumble over one another and murmur strange nothings as they vainly search for a missing ring are by no means so uncommon as one might imagine. This class is usually brought about through an excess of caution.

The groom, being afraid perhaps to trust to his own memory upon such a momentous occasion, hands over the precious circlet to the best man for safe custody. The latter, who, by the way, is no more in the habit of carrying loose wedding rings about than is the groom himself, places the ring for safety in an out-of-the-way place as he can possibly think of in the brief time at his disposal. Before he has had time to properly commit the hiding place to memory he is seized by half a dozen importunate small fry and hurried off to attend to something else.

The consequence is that the admonitory stage whisper of the officiating minister to "have the ring ready" falls upon him like a bolt from the blue. Where the dickens did he put it? It was somewhere close handy, he is sure of that. But where, oh where? and a cold perspiration breaks out all over him as he realizes that the service has stopped, and the reproachful glances of the whole company are turned upon him, the rascally culprit who has mislaid the ring.

It is useless to pursue the scene further. Any one possessed of the slightest fund of imagination will readily picture to himself the frantic scene of hurry which inevitably follows. More especially if the contracting parties are sufficiently well known to secure a large and fashionable attendance at the church. Suffice it to say that it is a position in which not a few best men find themselves in the course of a year, and many are the expedients by which they endeavor to extricate themselves from what is at the best of times a particularly unpleasant dilemma.

The duchess of Hamilton is said to have been married at Mayfair with a curtain ring, while a bridal party at Colchester were forced to fall back upon the ring of the church key. Even this case, however, was capped by one which occurred at Stratford when the only ring obtainable was an extemporized one of kid, cut upon the spot from the bridegroom's glove.

Some couples are particularly impatient in this respect. One couple who were at their wits' end what to do for a ring, were considerably relieved by an inspiration of the best man gallantly plucking forth a huge horse-shoe scarf pin from his tie of many colors. He broke off the pin, bent the soft metal shoe round his finger, and with the air of an angel, advising his shoe boy to hand the brazen circlet to his pal. Another couple got over the difficulty by using a coin from which the center had been removed, and which curiously enough, the groom was carrying in his pocket at the time.

The most curious ring of all, however, was that employed by a dock laborer, who by some means or other, had mislaid the more conventional article on his way to church. Casting about in his perplexity for a suitable object wherewith to embellish the finger of his chambermaid, his eyes suddenly fell upon one of the quilts with which he and the best man were subsequently matched to play for the price of the dejeuner at a neighboring tavern.

Despite the protests of the lady and the guffaw of his companions, the groom insisted upon going through the ceremony with the aid of this ponderous plaything; and, since the only alternative was to indefinitely postpone the event, the lady put the best face on the matter by accepting the quilt—and the dock.

## Where Women Propose.

In the Ukraine, Russia, the woman does all the courting. When she falls in love with a man she goes to his house and informs him of the state of her feelings. If he reciprocates all is well, and the formal marriage is duly arranged. If, however, he is unwilling, she remains there, hoping to coax him to a better mind. The poor fellow cannot treat her with the least discourtesy, nor has he the consolation of being able to turn her out, as her friends in such a case would feel bound to avenge the insult. His remedy, therefore, if determined not to marry her, is to leave his home and stay away as long as she is in it. A similar practice to that in the Ukraine exists among the Zuni tribe of Indians. The woman does all the courting and also controls the situation after marriage. To her belong all the children, and descent, including inheritance, is also on her side.

In the island of Banquet there is a tribe of Dusuns differing widely in language, religion and customs from other tribes bearing that name. Marriages are performed in the forest in the presence of two families. There is no public gathering or feast. The rite consists in transferring a drop of blood from a slight cut in the calf of the man's leg to a similar cut in the woman's leg. After marriage the man takes the bride to her home, where he resides in future as a member of the family.

## Washing the Hair.

Hair should be washed once in three or four weeks, and then not in borax or soda, but with a well-beaten egg, rinsing the scalp and long locks in many waters to remove all stickiness. Some advise brushing, others think it is best to comb the hair, but all agree that the tresses should be loosened at least once a day, and allowed thoroughly to air.

## Pearl Trinkets.

An exchange tells us that the wealthiest Chinese ladies have trinkets carved from enormous pearls, with bands of fine gold, on which are engraved all sorts of fantastic things. The etchings serve for catching the needle. These trinkets have cases of mother of pearl.

# MANY STYLES IN GARTERS.

They Are Beautiful and the Fad Is a Very Expensive One.

Garters of silken rubber, resplendent with gold and bejewelled buckles and caught with coquetish butterfly bows are the fad of the moment. The fin de siècle young woman chooses her elastics with an eye to artistic effect. The colors of the ribbon must correspond exactly with the hues of her silken lingerie. The glistening jewels which stud the elaborate buckles must be of the purest water. Finely chased monograms must be wrought to preserve the owner against loss.

That the fad is an expensive one goes without saying. One belle received as a souvenir a pair of garters valued at \$1,500. They came in the form of golden snakes. The gold was laid in tiny scales over silk elastic, and thickly sprinkled with tiny diamonds. The head was thickly encrusted with larger diamonds. Emerald eyes and forked tongue of rubies completed the head, which rested in an airy rosette of white satin ribbon. A gold clasp of particularly strong workmanship was concealed under the rosette. This was engraved with the full name of the owner.

A bridal garter is very elegant. Of purest white elastic, with satin ribbon shirred thickly in ruches on either side, the rosette is caught with a love knot of pearls and diamonds. Tiny bands of the jewels clasp the ribbon circlet at intervals. Another pair intended for the bridal trousseau has the clasp formed of two hearts, thickly set with diamonds.

A pair of the buckle of sapphires and diamonds flashes from another pair, fashioned of white satin ribbon. Turquoise and topaz set in old silver buckles of quaint flange patterns appeal to lovers of the unique.

Beetles and bugs vie with dragon flies in the brilliancy of their gartered armor. Flowers come in for a share of attention and are copied in close resemblance to nature.

For women of modest means exquisite gold and silver clasps are chased and monogrammed to nestle in the folds of the garter.



STYLES OF MOSTLY GARTERS.

Dainty knee-ribbons. Many are beautifully embroidered, but the plainer ones are apt to be more elegant.

One handsome pair of buckles can be used for many garters. A girl with deft fingers can have numerous pairs at trifling cost. An artistic eye, a knowledge of needlework, and a few moments of time are all that is necessary to make as pretty a pair of garters as one could possibly want.

The fashion of wearing elaborate garters is so universal that custom even in most conventional circles sanctions the giving of them as gifts and souvenirs.

## Walk in the Sunshine.

When the work of the busy woman will permit her to travel her two miles in the sunshine she should surely make the most of such a priceless advantage. For beneficent as the breathing of plenty of oxygen and the regular exercise of the muscles are at any time, sunshine is a tonic for mind, heart and body, which no woman, sick or well, can afford to despise.

The society girl, who has a little more leeway in arranging her time, should walk each morning directly after breakfast, and not less than two miles. The busy woman of household cares can plan to take her morning trip when she is out marketing for the day. She should never delude herself, moreover, with the idea that shopping, dragging about from store to store carrying parcels and breathing the impure air of the average shop is "getting exercise." It is only the full, free swing out of doors, in the pure air, that will take her home with red cheeks and bright eyes.

Schoolgirls should walk either before school hours or at noon. An hour each day given to brisk walking will prove far more valuable in after life than the usual assortment of half-learned accomplishments, "parlor tricks," with which children's spare hours are usually filled.

## Wagner's Exaltation of Women.

No poet ever lived who exalted woman as Wagner does in almost every one of his dramas. The purity of a spotless female soul was for him one of the great powers of Nature. What God's angel could not accomplish—the rescue of "The Flying Dutchman" out of "Satan's clutches"—"Senta," the virgin, achieves by the sacrifice of her life. "Elizabeth" dies in order to kneel at God's very throne and there pray for "Tannhauser," whom the Pope himself had not dared to absolve from eternal perdition. "Brunnhilde" is, there can be little doubt, the sublimest—female character that was ever put on the stage. And what the poet dreamed of, the man sought for in real life.

## Costly Jewels.

The pearl necklace which the Emperor of Austria presented to the late empress on the christening of the Crown Prince Rudolph has been left to the young Archduchess Elizabeth, together with many other jewels, by her grandmother's will. The empress's own jewels, independent of those belonging to the crown were not long since valued at over \$7,000,000.

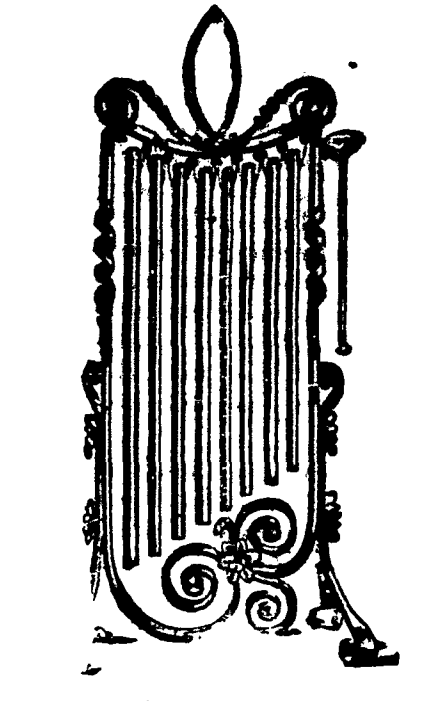
## Children's Luncheons.

If the children are obliged to carry their dinners to school, don't put up sweet stuff and nothing else. Let there be cold meat and something in the way of a relish—at least a mayonnaise dressing on the sandwich.



# Household Hints

A New Gong. Every one admires the bell-shaped Japanese gongs which hang in so many dining-room doors. This is a variation on the idea which is apt to



THE "CHIMING" GONG.

be so popular. The hanging pieces of the metal chime sweetly when struck by the padded hammer provided.

## The American Housewife.

Miss Edith Young gives an entertaining glimpse of the American woman as a housewife. "She keeps her house bright and beautiful; but not at the expense of her personal appearance," says Miss Young, "she being always neatly and prettily dressed, whatever she does. Her house is most conveniently appointed for the saving of labor and useless drudgery—the reason being that the prevailing stubbornness of servants in trying new appliances has small weight in a country where 'brassy' women have so often to do their own housework, and who naturally choose the best ways of accomplishing it. It would be a revelation to some ardent English housewives to know that the Ladies Societies at an afternoon whist party in America, who have a club meeting for every day in the week or who lounge in their piazza hammocks as though life were one long holiday, who are all animation and vivacity, have now and again, perhaps all the time, been doing housework of a kind we should have two or three servants for in this country, getting up in the small hours to cook their elaborate breakfast or hot bread and various indispensable dishes, and later making cakes, candies and dainty stuffs, besides the real meals of the day."

## To Stop the Window Shades Flapping.

The flapping of the window shade, when the sash is raised and the shade lowered, is a serious annoyance to nervous people, who are generally light sleepers. The noise which the air and the shade produce is like nothing so much as a rattling, as of some one gently tapping, tapping at the chamber door, accompanied by a soft rustle as of stiff skirts. This in a gentle breeze; when the wind is high the noise is louder and the shade makes one too early in the morning, yet ventilation is absolutely necessary to health.

The way to prevent the tapping is very simple when one knows how. Screw two little brass hooks, one on each side of the window frame, opposite each other about twelve inches from the sill. At night tie a ribbon or broad tape across the open window, from one hook to the other, as sailors say "taut." Screw a third hook in the molding below the sill, exactly in the center. Pull down the shade over the ribbon, and tie the cord to the lower hook. The shade will be firmly held in place, and nothing short of a high wind or a rainstorm will cause noise enough to awaken you.

## Scrap Book of Styles.

After years of patient attention a Boston woman has acquired a scrap-book of fashions that is truly unique and amusing. In the early days of the Civil War she began clipping plates and fashion photographs from mode journals until her proposed volume has now formed several. It is wonderfully odd to review the fads and fancies that flashed like so many meteors through the skies of the past thirty-five or forty years. There are the Grecian bend, the chignon, the waterfall, the pullback, the crinoline, the tiny bonnets and the pokes, the large bustles, hoops and the large sleeves. Only extremes of style and oddities are used, or the collection would swell beyond all proportion. As it is, it is the source of much mirth whenever she brings it out as a "company trap."

## Care of Woollens.

The secret of washing well any woolen goods lies chiefly in having the different waters of equal temperature, with none of them at any time too hot to put the hand in comfortably. Soap should not be rubbed on the article, but used in the form of thin suds. It should be a good white soap, too. A little borax is probably the best thing to soften the water. For washing blankets or baby flannels it is to be preferred. Woolens should not be wrung by the hand, but rinsed or dried by squeezing. Woolens of any sort should never be allowed to freeze.

## The Ubiquitous Scallop.

Apron fronts, graduated ruffles, the edges of bodices, and almost every part of a gown, even the sleeves at the wrist and the epaulettes at the shoulder, are cut in scallops.

## Onions Are Good.

It is said that onions stimulate digestion and promote circulation. Eat them freely. Your health is worth more to you than an untainted breath.