OUR FASHION LETTER

SIMPLE AND PRETTY SUMMER DRESSES OF NUN'S VEILING.

Smart Novelties in Summer Footwear—Swiss Muslins Retain the Gloss When Laundried—Dress Sleeves A Yankee Invention.

Simple and pretty summer dresses are made of white, pale-blue, or primrose-yellow nuns' veiling or grenadine, with yoke and sleeves either of silk, or of the veiling, crossed with narrow velvet ribbon in lattice designs. The skirts are trimmed with three flounces of the veiling bordered with rows of velvet ribbon, the top flounce headed with a band of beading threaded with the ribbon. This beading is about two inches wide, and forms also the belt and the band which covers the joining of the lattice yoke and lower blouse portion of the waist. This is made of the veiling laid on spaced tucks and arranged in vertical lines. A new diagonal silk serge will be among the popular dress material of the autumn season. It is manufactured in handsome colors and in jet black, and will be used for tailor costumes, jackets, and cloaks. Besides the pretty Etons, boleros, and scarf draperies added to fine lace-trimmed nightdresses of linen

A Natty Walking Costume.

lawn batiste, nainsook, and cambric, many of the summer styles of French make have short puffs for sleeves—even shorter than the elbow styles already familiar. These puffs are full, being gathered into the arm-scye, and again into a band of insertion on the lower part. This band is edged with a fall or rather wide Valenciennes or Cuny lace matching that which elaborately decorates the bolero, jabot drapery, or other dainty accessory on the front of the gown.

The fronts of the waists of many of the handsome tailor costumes of the season are made with triple-front edges shaped in various odd ways and formed of materials and colors artistically combined. A smart costume has a front edge of the dark-blue silk serge forming the jacket, overlying another inserted piece of black velvet, which in turn laps a second edge of damask red corded silk. This arrangement extends up the sides of the bolero and forms very novel and effective lapels and turn-down collar. The vest is in tucked blouse style, and is made of cream-white Liberty satin dotted with red, the plaids stitched with silk of the same shade. The folded stock collar and slightly pointed girdle are trimmed with rows of narrow black velvet ribbon.

Retain the Gloss.

It is claimed that the Mercerized Swiss muslins, batistes, duck, and other cotton weaves when laundered, will retain the silky gloss they show this season. In several known instances this has not proved the case, but in spite of this fact the new finish is an attractive and improving addition to many of the light summer fabrics. Very few of the lighter transparent grades of cotton, Swiss muslin, for instance, look as well after a visit to the laundry. With care a dressy gown of these inexpensive materials will last the summer season through—which in most cases is all that can be expected. They are not as economical a choice for every-day wear as the pretty zephyrs, chambrays, French Madras, pink and white mauve, and white ginghams and similar summer suitings, which appear really to improve in appearance after a skilled laundress has had them in hand.

Great Finishing Touch.

The usual number of open-fronted jackets has caused a demand for underbodices of different kinds, and the season's varied styles include elaborate French gilest, English and Russian waistcoats, and Plain American vests. By a plain American vest is not meant anything at all commonplace or easily made. On the contrary, it is an article of ingenious and artistic workmanship. If the tailor has a hand in its creation, it is flawless in its fit, finish, and natty effect. If the tailor-modiste undertakes its build, it is very dainty. Its foundation may be solid silk, but from collar to waist it radiates fairy frills and zephyr-like draperies. Soft chiffon folds are caught with glittering lace-pins; a costly buckle adorns the belt. Altogether it is the great finishing touch of the season's smartest gowns. A melange of velvet-ribbon straps, a jabot of rare lace, a glimmer of satin, and a glo of rich panne or Oriental brocade, describes some of the newest Parisian gilets. Small waistcoats within waistcoats bordered with lines of gold cord and rows of tiny gold buttons, silk and velvet applique, braiding in Grecian patterns, picot strappings and silk stitchings in decorative designs, characterize some of the effects among exclusive French and Russian styles worn beneath long empire or princesse garment, half covered with heavy lace applique garnitures.

Dress Sleeves.

Very slight and gradual changes are being made in dress sleeves by all high-class modistes. The bell shapes with full undersleeves were the first concession. Then quickly followed all sorts of pretty conceits in the way of small vertical tucks, plaitings, and shirrings, inset pieces of guipure, puffed and insertion-trimmed caps, and long, slender Vandykes formed of panne, Venise lace, or silk passementerie. This trimming surrounds the top and bottom of the sleeve, and on very ornate gowns also runs up the back of the sleeve to match the elegant applique decorations on the dress kirt, which in not a few cases reach from belt to hem, not only on the front and sides, but up each seam of the gored skirt to the centre back breadth. Each recurring season the stiff, dead white piques of other days are replaed by improved grades and colorings that render this class of good more and more attractive. This year many of them are mercerized, so that they look like bengaline silks, and their effect in some weaves is further enhanced by the daintiest of Watteau devices. There are also delicate arabesque patterns on palest sea-green grounds, and numerous pretty stripes and dots, with plain piques in ecru, silver and turquoise blue, red and soft daffodil yellow.

A Yankee Invention.

Here is a Yankee with a fifteen-cent invention which he insists is as effective as a lifetime of wearing of French corsets in lengthening the waist at the front. The trinket is made from metal, is three or four inches long, half an inch wide and punctured in half a dozen places to allow of different adjustments, depending upon how much of an incline to the belt is desired. The invention has four claws two above two. The lower set holds down the skirt and the upper two fasten upon the belt tightly and "dip" it after the mode of the hour. Hitherto, so say the promoters of the new fifteen-cent necessity, women have sought in vain for a trustworthy method of curving down the belt in front. Pins are unreliable and buttons useless. Nothing less than a natural curve, such as long wearing of French stays produces, or an inflexible piece of metal is sufficient. These waists lengtheners are being sold like ice cream soda by demonstrators in the department shops. I should think that these curios might, indeed, be good for keeping down the skirt and giving an appearance of length in front to the waist. They come in five styles—gilt, silver, light and dark bronze and black. The disadvantage in the use of the toy is that a buttonhole should be worked in whatever piece or pieces of lingerie cross the clap of the corset on to which the shank of the device is fastened. The lengthener is slipped through that buttonhole before it is adjusted to skirt and belt.

Smart Novelties in Summer Footwear.

The girl who buys boots must have a careful eye to certain details or she will not be smartly shod. An absolutely flat last, an "English boy toe" and a straight heel are the good form essentials for the walking boot or the low-cut tie. The new slippers have heels somewhat lower than formerly, and, while the toes are daintily pointed, they must not turn up.

A boot or slipper to be correct must rest perfectly flat on the ground. Careful treeing keeps the last in proper shape. Patent leather is the smartest for dress in both boots and slippers. For the latter, however, black suede is very good, as it makes the foot look smaller. Yellow leather with no suspicion of red or russet in it is the proper shade for sporting footwear and ties to be worn with wash frocks.

Home Hints for Emergencies.

To care for a person who has fainted, lay him down, keeping the head low, and loosen the clothing. See that he has plenty of fresh air and dash cold water in his face. Use stimulants and smelling salts when consciousnes has returned.

To treat a child in convulsions place him in a hot bath to which mustard has been added. Wring a cloth out in cold water and wrap it about his head, changing it when it becomes hot. Sponge him and roll him in a blanket.

When the boy's knife works too well bathe the cut with clean, cold water. Cut strips of plaster an eighth of an inch wide. Draw the edges of the cut together and strap it, leaving a space between strips. Cover the whole with absorbent cotton.

There are many conventional rules for table decorations, but each housekeeper should carry out her own ideas. A table set without individuality is much like a house furnished by an upholsterer. Have for every-day use a potted plant, or, if cut flowers are accessible, a few cut flowers. If the table is large a handsome dish of fruit or flowers in the centre, then the candelabra or candlesticks, and small dishes of ferns near the ends.

She Stopped the Flyer.

(Chicago Record.)

"Pulls" of all kinds are supposed to be desirable things to have, especially when it is possible to acquire them without sacrificing any species of integrity of character. Political "pulls," theatrical "pulls," literary "pulls"—pleasant and profitable all. But perhaps the very nicest kind of a "pull" to have is that which induces railway people to come your way and allow you to go on their ways.

That is emphatically the opinion of a little woman who has been for years living a sweet and useful life on the south side, but who up to a short time ago has escaped distinction further than that of a distant relationship to a railroad official of some prominence.

She had occasion to go away on a visit. It is immaterial where and incompetent and not proper evidence to mention the road she went by, but without more than hinting at the bare possibility of a pass there can be no earthly objection to stating the fact that the relation assured her that he would arrange matters so that the express would stop at a little way station that was situated about eight miles from her ultimate destination.

When she went down to the train, however, she found that the porter who was standing guard at the sleeper was altogether unbelieving. He tried to convince her that the train would not and could not by any possibility short of a boiler explosion stop at any way station. He told her that man and peanut boy, he had been with the road for twenty-five years and had never heard of such a thing, and at last called the conductor.

The conductor confirmed him. He said he had received his orders and that there was nothing in them about stopping. The accommodation train that left the depot at 8.10 the next morning might do so if there was any pressing occasion for it, but not this one. "Why do you know that there is only a general store, a blacksmith shop and the telegraph office there?" he concluded.

"I don't care if there is," said the woman. "That's where I intend to get off and if you won't stop you will have to carry me on," the exact style which she entered the car and began to settle herself for the journey.

The conductor simply shrugged his shoulders and went away. It seemed to be about the only thing he could do. The passenger was serenely confident. The relative had told her that the train would stop, and she knew that he knew better than any mere conductor.

Her faith was justified at the first stop the conductor got telegraph orders to stop at the way station, and he went back to the sleeper to inform the passenger that she was all right and had no occasion to hurry. There had been a suspicion of brusqueness in his manner before, but now he was the very incarnation of deferential courtesy. As for the porter, he simply became an obsequious and officious nuisance from that time on. He woke the lady out of her first real wink of sleep to ask if he could bring her some coffee. Then he wanted to take her order for breakfast [illegible] He brushed her with reverent tenderness of touch that would hardly have disturbed the bloom on the wing of a butterfly, opened her window and affixed a burst guard over most her window and hovered about her all morning. Then the brakeman coming through looked at her with awe-stricken curiosity. She began to feel that at last she was a personage.

But it was only when the train stopped that the little woman realized her full importance. Almost as soon as the train began to grind down to a standstill the population of the settlement came to their doors, and when it actually stopped all seven of them, and a farmer who was getting his horses shod ran down to the track. The telegraph operator was perhaps the most excited of them and he was first on the scene. The two brown and bare legged boys appertaining to the storekeeper were next followed closely by their father and mother and the blacksmith's married sister. The blacksmith stopped to gather up a few tools which he thought might be needed before he started. The farmer, with his hands in the pockets of his overalls, came lounging along in the rear.

The porter was out with his little stool and he and the conductor helped the little woman to alight with great care, and then brought out her baggage, while the baggagemen lifted out her trunk as if it were charged to the lid with the most sensitive kind of dynamite.

"It's all right," said the conductor briefly, to the pale-faced operator. "We just stopped to let the lady off. You'd better see if you can do anything for her."

Then he signaled to the engineer and a minute later the train was a small dark plumed blotch on the horizon after which the assembled crowd stared in blank amazement. The little woman turned to the operator, who was an intelligent-looking man, and asked him if her friends had not arrived from the town to drive her over.

"How in the world did you manage to stop that flyer," asked the operator. "Excuse me——No'm there hasn't been anybody here this morning, except Mr Barker from Willow Springs. That's him over there with his hands in his pockets. I'd like to know——"

"Couldn't you telegraph for me?"

"Sure thing. Just step up to the office. I'll tell you what, there's telephone in the store. May be it'd be more satisfactory to talk to 'em."

The little woman thought maybe it might and left the operator unsatisfied and walked over to the store. The storekeeper's wife and the blacksmith's sister, who were in advance, turned to look at her, and the small boys gamboled along her side; the storekeeper waited before his door and gaped and the blacksmith stood at his door and gaped.

"Can I telephone to Waterloo from here," asked the little woman.

"How did you stop the flyer?" gasped the storekeeper.

"I didn't stop it—it was the engineer. Did you say I could telephone?"

"Certainly, marm; right back here. He led the way to the back of the store and considerately cranked up the cheese box, then rang up Waterloo and retired. As the little woman waited she heard the blacksmith ask the store keeper:

"How'd she stop the flyer?"

The storekeeper did not reply, and the little woman inferred that he had shaken his head mysteriously. The blacksmith remarked that she was "probably some big stockholder." Then the Waterloo people came to the phone and asked with a pleasing variation on the original question how in the world she ever got that train to stop. They said that they received the letter, but they all thought that there must be some mistake about it, because there was no regular train in until 6.30, when Henry had intended to drive over with the buckboard. It would take nearly two hours now, the way the roads were, to get there. The little woman said that perhaps she could find a team to take her over and went and consulted the storekeeper who said that Mr. Barker was over from Willow Springs, which was three miles the other side of Waterloo, and that he would be proud to give her a lift. It turned out that he was right. Mr Barker, who was the horse farmer as soon as his horses were shod was going to "light out," he said. He said it bashfully, and when he had said it he slouched rapidly off and came back presently with the trunk on his shoulder. He put this in the wagon with a sack of flour and a soap box full of groceries, and before long the horses were shod.

As the little woman came out she noticed that there was a third boy waiting with the other two, who pointed to her and said, "That's her." The third boy said "Gee!" which is probably about as large sized tribute of admiration and wonder as can be received by any mere mortal. The blacksmith came out to pull the rein from under the tongue and looked as if he guessed he was missing the opportunity of his life to find out something he particularly wanted to know, but couldn't quite summon the courage to avail himself of it. The storekeeper made one feint toward effort as he helped the little woman into the wagon. He remarked that the flyer didn't stop for everybody and looked wistfully for an explanation. Mr Barker said "Gedlup" and the horses leaned forward in their collars and broke into a walk.

It could not be said that Mr Barker was a garrulous man. His fair passenger tried to draw him into conversation on the subject of the crops several times, but his replies were generally monosyllabic and he seemed in an abstracted mood. The little woman once wondered whether he was pondering over the silver question and asked him whether he thought Mr Bryan would be elected to the presidency, but he only said, "I dunno." After a little he cleared his throat and added "Some folks think he will an there's others that think he ain't got no show on arth."

As they crossed a little corduroy bridge over a gully four miles out Mr. Barker cleared his throat two or three times and at last said

"You come in on the flyer, didn't you?"

"Yes," replied the little woman.

"I reckoned you did."

He relapsed into a silence which was unbroken until the little white wooden steeple of the First Methodist church of Waterloo came into sight. Then he cleared his throat again and said.

"How did you get her to stop?"

The little woman sojourned in the midst of Waterloo for two weeks and she had the time of her life. It was currently reported that she owned the railroad that brought her there.

K. F. H.

WORTH KNOWING

To keep the household linen spotless is one of the anxieties that careful housewives have always with them, yet there are few stains that cannot be removed if their reagents are understood. As to the table linen, every housekeeper of even the shortest standing knows that it is the freshly laid cloth that comes to grief the quickest, that it is the snowy cover without wrinkle or blemish for which every liquid and solid on the table feels an especial affinity. In households where the size of the week's laundering is an item of interest, a slightly cloth may be preserved for several days by removing spots from meat and vegetable saucers or from milk as fast as they appear. To do this it is only necessary to place the part of the cloth that is stained over a bowl, and with warm water, soap and a soft cloth wash away the spot, carefully rinsing the place by pouring water through it, leaving it to dry partially over a thin plate and then ironing it smooth. The best linen will crack if folded the same way each time that it is ironed. By careful supervision this can be avoided by folding in twos one week and threes another, and varying the methods. A table cloth will give a better appearance if the ridges are smoothed out with iron after the cloth is laid. Many housekeepers who do not like the appearance of folds iron them out entirely after the cloth is on the table. A table cloth which is shown the creases should be folded to lengthwise through the middle, and the two halves should be folded back in the opposite directions, instead of together. This will leave the two creases each side of the central one outward and matching. A liberal use of tea and tray cloths, centre pieces and doilies every day adds to the dainty appearance of the table, and saves the long cloths a great deal of wear and tear, the laundress being spared, meanwhile, much work. Before linen goes to the laundry it should be carefully inspected, and all pieces with stains should be removed for treatment before being put in water containing soap or ammonia, as most stains are hopelessly "set" after such an immersion.

For ink stain that is still fresh soak the clothing in milk changing the liquid as often as it becomes discolored. If it is dry and obstinate, use Javelle water or salts of lemon. If the former, pour it on the cloth over a bowl and allow it to stand for a short time, then wash thoroughly. If salts of lemon is employed, place the cloth over a bowl of steaming water, sprinkle the salts of lemon on the stain and allow it to stand until it fades away.

Lemon and sunshine are the antidotes for mildew. Rub the lemon on the spot and place it in direct sunlight.

Verdigris can be removed by covering the stain with lard and then washing it thoroughly.

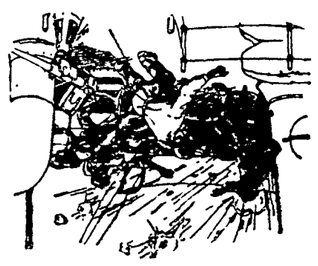
CHINESE TROUBLE

SOME FORMER TROUBLES THE POWERS HAVE HAD.

Admiral Foote's Campaign—A Former Alliance Against China—Some Chinese Artillery—We Were Allies in 1858—Territory Secured by Other Powers.

This is not the first time that American marine and bluejackets have encountered the hostile forces of China. In 1856, when China was just on the eve of her war with England, Commander A. H. Foote, afterward destined to play an important part in the civil war, lay off Canton in the sloop of war Portsmouth. The city and the surrounding country was in a disturbed state, and he had gone to Canton to protect the American residents and their business interests.

Then, as now, all China rang with the cry of "drive out the foreign devils," and the government at Pekin was backing the movement in an underhand way, while professing to be friendly. Canton was defended by four big forts. They were masonry affairs with walls eight feet thick and mounted 176 guns. In these forts was a garrison of 5,000 men.



One of the Effective Shots.

One day one of the forts fired on the Portsmouth. Commander Foote demanded an apology from the Chinese Governor, but all apology or explanation was curtly refused. Then Foote got angry.

Having been reinforced by two other warships, the San Jacinto and the Levant, Commander Foote decided to take matters into his own hands. On November 20, after his ultimatum had been treated with silent contempt, Foote ordered his ships to open on the forts. Under cover of a furious bombardment he landed 287 marines and bluejackets and proceeded to storm the defenses. He had with his landing party four howitzers. The water was so shallow that the boats could not approach close to the land, but the men jumped into the water and waded ashore, dragging their howitzers after them.

They then made a detour through the rice fields so as to take the first fort in the rear. This fort mounted fifty three guns of heavy calibre, and had a large garrison, but the Yankees charged it with great fury and carried it at the point of the bayonet. Fifty of the defenders were killed and the rest fled in a panic. As soon as the American flag was seen flying from the first fort, a second fort across the river opened on the captured works. The Americans turned the guns of the fort they had taken against the fort across the river and soon silenced it. An army came out from the city to try to recapture the fort occupied by the Americans, but was driven back with loss.

The next day an attack was made on the fort which had been silenced temporarily the day before. The fort was lively enough now, and the landing party, which this day was composed of detachments from all three of the ships, was met by a heavy fire from this defense, and from the two other forts still occupied by the Chinese. A heavy shot plunged into one of the San Jacinto's boats, killing three men and wounding seven, and another shot sunk the launch of the Portsmouth. But the Americans pressed on with dash and determination, and by 4 o'clock that afternoon the Stars and Stripes flew over the second fort. This fort mounted forty-one guns and commanded the third fort. The guns were at once turned upon the third fort, which surrendered.

We Were Allies in 1858.

In the year preceding the failure of the British to silence the Taku forts those same defenses had been taken by the British and French, who were in alliance. The combined fleets of the allies and of the Russians and Americans arrived at the mouth of the Peiho river about the middle of April, 1858. On board were envoys from France, England, Russia and the United States who were empowered to make definite treaties with China and put an end to the desultory, though unofficial, warfare which had for some time been waged against foreigners. The Chinese government tried shiftings and delays and, finally seeing that nothing could be acomplished without force, the French and English fleets bombarded the Taku forts while the Russian and the Americans looked on. The Chinese made only a slight resistance. As soon as Taku was captured a force was landed from the assembled fleet, and the expedition pushed on rapidly to Tien-Tsin. Here the foreigners were met by envoys from Pekin, who said they were willing to sign the proposed treaties. On April 14 the Russian treaty was signed, and four days later the American. The British treaty was not signed until June 16, and the treaty with France was signed the following day. In the British and French treaties it was stipuated that representatives of foreign Powers should be allowed to live in Pekin, additional ports were to be opened to trade, the Yang-Tse-Kiang was opened to navigation by foreign vessel, and an indemnity of $5,500,000 was promised England. A smaller sum was promised to France. At the time that these treaties were being signed the Chinese troops in the neighborhood of Canton were conducting hostile operations against the foreigners there. It was the next year, when, the envoys provided for by these treaties reached the mouth of the Peiho river on their way to Pekin, that the forts of Taku drove back the British fleet and Tattnall made his "blood-is-thicker-than-water" remark.

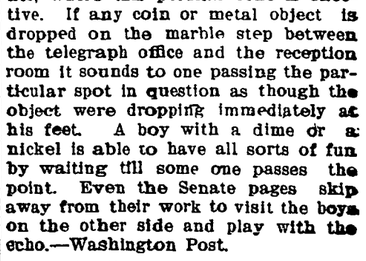
Their Artillery.

What sort of forts constitute the defenses of the Chinese Empire may be imagined from the report made recently by Lord Charles Beresford, which he embodied in his book "The Break-Up of China." He said. "By permission of the Viceroys I visited forty of the forts and batteries which form the coast and river defense of the Chinese Empire. At all these forts I asked that the guns' crews might man the guns in order that their state of efficiency should be tested. The guns were laid and trained and some of them were fired. Some of the forts are immensely powerful, and a few guns' crews knew how to handle the guns. Physically, the garrison artillery throughout the empire are a splendid body of men. The forts are armed with every conceivable sort of gun; the modern forts with heavy modern breech-loading artillery of the best description. In one of the forts was a heavy battery of sixty-tone muzzle-loading guns, which were loaded by depressing the muzzle into the magazine. I ventured to point out to the general the danger of this proceeding and the likelihood, through careless sponging, of the magazine blowing up. The general congratulated me on my acumen and immediately showed me where a magazine had exploded a year before from the same cause and had been rebuilt for a probable repetition of the accident, which had cost no less than forty-two lives. At another fort I asked to see the powder used in the heavy guns, and was shown some powder of Chinese manufacture. I suggested that such powder was not suitable and might burst the gun. The general in command replied 'Yes, it does, we have lately blown the breech off two twelve-inch fifty-ton Krupp guns and killed and wounded thirty men.'"

In Tien-Tsin is a fell-equipped arsenal and in the arsenal a mint capable of turning out $30,000 a day. Close to the arsenal is a government powder factory. The Chinese Naval Academy is also located at Tien-Tsin. It has sixty students learning to become naval officers. Next door to the naval academy is a school under Russian supervision, where Chinese are taught the language of the Czar at the expense of the Pekin government.

Territory Secured.

The principal cessions of territory by China to foreign powers are as follows. The Island of Formosa was ceded to Japan in 1895, after the war with China. In 1897 Germany seized the port of Kiou-Chou on the east coast of the Shantung Peninsula, her excuse for so doing being a massacre of missionaries which had taken place there. Two months later she received from China a ninety-nine year lease of the port and district. In 1898 Russia obtained from China a twenty-five-year lease of Port Arthur, Talienwan



A Group of Chinese Naval Students.

and their adjacent territories and waters. The lease can be extended by mutual agreement. The same year the Chinese government gave permission for Great Britain to occupy Wei-Hai-Wei for as long a period as Russia shall hold Port Arthur. To compensate France for the concession given to Great Britain and Russia a ninety-nine-year lease was given her of the bay of Kwang-Chau-Wan, on the coast opposite the island of Hainan, and last year two islands at the entrance of the bay were definitely ceded to her.

Echoes in Statuary Hall.

The mischievous pages of the House have discovered a new trick of the echoes in Statuary Hall. They play it upon the tourists by the score and upon pretentious statesmen occasionally, when they can do so without discovery.

There is a certain spot, near the beaten path of travel from the central beaten path of trave from the central doorway of the House toward the Senate, where this peculiar echo is effective. If any coin or metal object is dropped on the marble step between the telegraph office and the reception room it sounds to one passing the particular spot in question as though the object were dropping immediately at his feet. A boy with a dime or a nickel is able to have all sorts of fun by waiting till some one passes the point. Even the Senate pages skip away from their work to visit the boys on the other side and play with the echo.—Washington Post.

An Automobile of 1834.

The accompanying pitcure represents an automobile which was run in England in 1834. It was a sort of omnibus in the rear of which a steam boiler

Dr. Churche's Steam Coach, Invented in 1834.

supplied the motive power. The machine, which was known as Dr. Churche's steam coach, was too clumsy to gain popularity.