

### OF CORN HUSKS AND CARPET.

Two Grinding Wheels Used for Polishing the Teeth of the Combs.

There are many kinds of grinding wheels, but perhaps as curious as any in the cornhusk wheel which is used for grinding combs.

The teeth of some sorts of combs, after they have been cut, still need to be rounded on the edges and smoothed and finished all around, which could not be done on a solid, flat faced wheel. For this there is required a wheel of some material that will work around the edges of the teeth and also in between them. The cornhusk wheel serves this purpose well.

For the making of such a wheel dried corn husks are used. They are laid together and tied in little bundles of a dozen or so, the butts all at one end and the points at the other.

The cornhusk grinding wheel is 20 inches in diameter, made up of such little bundles of cornhusks, placed with their butts against and secured to the spindle on which the wheel is to turn, the husks radiating from it all around. When a sufficient number of bundles of husks to form the wheel have thus been placed against the spindle the wheel is compressed, to make it not solid but compact, and give it the width of face required.

The wheel built up in this way of corn husks is mounted, and run by power. The workman, using water and powdered pumice stone in the grinding, stands with a tray of combs to be ground on a table at hand, and one after another holds the combs against the wheel. The life of a cornhusk grinding wheel is only four or five days.

Another interesting wheel to be seen in the shop where they finish combs is a polishing wheel of carnet, covered with muslin. This wheel has a smooth, and when in use, rim, which, however, will yield anywhere under pressure, and so when a comb is held against it this wheel adapts itself readily to all the comb's rounded or moulded surfaces, and thus can be made to polish it perfectly everywhere.

### SLAVES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The Old House in Which They Were Sold in Town of Hanover.

A relic of slavery days in New England in the middle of the eighteenth century, the old Tilden house on Winter street, West Hanover, the only house in that town where slaves were kept for market, is now being demolished.

The house is one of the best known landmarks in Plymouth county and has stood for nearly 200 years. It was used as a tavern in its early days and later as a residence. Of recent years it has been abandoned to the elements and has rapidly fallen into decay.

No one knows the exact date of the building of the house, but historians agree that it was long before the incorporation of the town of Hanover in 1727.

The Hon. Jedediah Dwyer of North Hanover, who has spent much time in gathering facts concerning the early history of the town, says: "While there was more or less buying and selling of slaves (as in the middle of the eighteenth century nearly all the wealthy families owned one or more) this probably was the only place where the traffic was carried on for revenue. I have seen two bills of slaves sold from this house. One was from Job Tilden to a Mr. Bailey of Scituate, a negro child named Morrow, 9 years of age, of good bodily health and a kind disposition."

One of Mr. Tilden's slaves named Cuffee served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and according to an old payroll he was stationed at Hull, March 1, 1777. He was with Col. Bailey and died at Valley Forge. He was known as Cuffee Tilden, and was so inscribed on the printed rolls.

The books of the First Congregational Church of Hanover record the marriage by the Rev. Benjamin Bass on February 8, 1751, of Jack and Hannah, servants owned by Job Tilden, and also the death of a negro boy owned by Job Tilden, February 12, 1760.

There are many other brief records of slaves kept in different families in Hanover.

### Ready For the Encounter.

It is said that once when the late Dr. Tanner, the Irish M. P. had asked in the House of Commons whether it were true that the Duke of Cambridge had resigned his position as commander-in-chief, a Major Jones of Penzance was so outraged that he challenged Dr. Tanner to a duel, and the following telegraphic correspondence took place:

"In reply to your despicable question about the Duke of Cambridge, I designate you a coward. Delighted to give you satisfaction across the water. Pistols!"

To this Dr. Tanner at once replied: "Wire received. Will meet you tomorrow in Constantinople, under Tower of Galata, midnight. Being challenged, prefer torpedoes. Bring another ass."

Coalite is the latest novelty in the fuel line. As made in Newcastle, by a process similar to that employed by the gas companies for the production of coke, it makes no smoke and gives off, it is claimed, about twice the heat of coal, while a coalite fire lasts at least longer than an ordinary coal fire.

Into every wilderness God sends some rain.

### LITERARY DANDIES.

Disraeli's Gorgeous Clothes—Stevenson's Quaver Getup.

Lord Lytton and Dickens prided themselves on being literary dandies, but in the matter of clothes their light parade before that of Disraeli, in the days when the novelist was paramount to the politician, says the London Tit-Bits. A black velvet coat lined with satin, purple trousers with a gold band running down the seam, a scarlet waistcoat with elegant lace ruffles of such a length as to cover his hands, and white gloves, the outside of which were decorated with a number of valuable rings, were, with the addition of a profusion of gold chains that meandered about his person, his not infrequent attire.

Stevenson's getup is thus described by a fellow member of the Savile Club. "He wore a black flannel shirt, with a curious knitted tie twisted in a knot, he had Wellington boots, rather tight dark trousers, a peajacket and a white 'bombre' hat." But the most astonishing item of all in his costume was a lady's seal skin cape, which he wore about his shoulders, fastened at the neck by a fancy brooch which also held together a bunch of daffodils.

The dress of Gerard de Nerval, the French poet, was, on one occasion at least, in keeping with the lobster which he was wont to lead abroad on a gayly colored ribbon. Trousers, coat and waistcoat were of green satin, each, however, of a different hue, to represent the varied colors of the sea under diverse conditions. His hat was adorned with long strands of seaweed, while around his neck he wore a string of coral beads. The buttons of his coat and waistcoat were of shells, while on his breast were pinned several pebble brooches. To complete his marine garb he carried in his right hand a Neptune's trident.

Dumas the elder was certainly "loud" in the matter of personal adornment. He was not infrequently seen abroad in a uniform plentifully besprinkled with medallions, decorations of his own design, while he once attended an Ambassador's reception wearing a shirt covered with red diamonds, and a pair of trousers of crimson and gold on one occasion.

On another occasion he presented himself at a bal masque in the character of Bacchus, but although considerable latitude was allowed in the matter of dress his costume or want of it—was too realistic to permit of his being allowed entry.

Gautier was at times very gorgeous in the matter of his raiment, a dress of crimson and gold on one occasion adorning his sturdy person. Paul Bourget in his youth wore green trousers; "Monk" Lewis amused his friends by appearing in the streets in the guise of a Venetian bravo; Benford, the author of "Vathek," presided at an entertainment at Fonthill in the costume of a Roman Emperor, while Boswell, at the time when Gen. Paoli was his especial hero, appeared at the Shakespeare celebrations at Stratford-on-Avon wearing a hat whereon was inscribed "Corsican Boswell."

On the other hand the eccentricity of unfitness prevails in authors' dress as it did in the case of Leslie Stephen who when a don at Cambridge might have been seen running with the boats wearing a pair of ancient flannels, the seat of which had been mended with a large patch of red flannel the memento of a holiday among the Alps, when a piece cut from the petticoat of his guide's wife had been used to conceal sundry dilapidations.

Not a few writers have assumed singular garb while at work. Balzac used to don the dress of a Dominican monk ere he took pen in hand; Samuel Richardson, the author of "Clarissa Harlowe," could never write save in a laced coat and with a favorite diamond ring sparkling on his little finger; Rousseau's working costume was a court dress; Thomas Moore, the poet, penned his poems with kidgloved hands; and Buffon, the eminent French naturalist dressed himself as a dandy previous to sitting down to his desk.

### OUR PRIZE GUNNERS.

Remarkable Improvement Made by the Pacific Squadron.

The result of target practice shows a notable increase in the general efficiency of American naval gunners.

The scores recently announced indicate that this year there are ten star slips those whose final merit is at least 85 per cent of that of the trophy winner of their class whereas last year there were only three.

Last year the average final merit of all ships was 64 per cent of the highest final merit, while this year it is 71 per cent.

Another remarkable fact in connection with the result is that the efficiency of the Pacific squadron, which was the smallest in final merit last year, is this year the highest of all the squadrons.

The ships which compose the second squadron of the Pacific fleet, and were last year the Pacific squadron, under command of Rear Admiral Swinburne, won all that they could win—that is, the cruiser, gunboat and torpedo boat trophies.

The battleship trophy, of course, went to the Atlantic fleet, as there is no battleship in the second squadron of the Pacific fleet. The final merit of Admiral Swinburne's squadron is 20 per cent higher than that of the next highest squadron.

It is a good thing to be rich and a good thing to be strong, but it is a better thing to be beloved of many friends.

### FEATHER BEDS DOWN SOUTH.

It's Turning Time Now From Maryland to North Carolina.

Now is the time when the people living south of Mason and Dixon's line from Maryland clear down to North Carolina turn their feather beds. They do not turn them inside out or even upside down but the feather bed is put next the stairs or backing bottom or spring and a hard mattress of hair or felt is placed on top.

Some folks like to sleep directly on the feather bed all summer long and there are hotels in the region where the guest is asked in July whether he will have feathers or not. But most people turn them.

The feather bed is the Southern sign of respectability and ancient lineage. Every family of old respectability had half a dozen feather beds, a generation ago, and a good many are still in use. They are handed down as heirlooms, cherished with peculiar care, and in the best families cleaned and reticked from time to time, sunned thoroughly at least once a week and treated as articles of the highest consideration.

Whenever there is a county vendue in the belt from Mason and Dixon's line 200 miles southward half the county is on the lookout for a chance to buy feather beds cheap. The regularly sold by the pound, and the oldest, if in good condition, fetch pretty good prices.

Really old fashioned folks still use their goose feathers to make beds, though the fetch of the feather bed is not what it used to be, and the doctors are against it as an article of unwholesome luxury. Nevertheless, when Southerners come along their feather beds. There are old ladies who would sooner leave behind the family Bible than their feather beds, and every night there will be some of the Southerners in New York sleeping on feather beds.

There is no possession that a colored family in the South takes greater pride in than a feather bed. It usually comes into the possession of such a family second hand, but sometimes it is the result of patient vigilance to the treasuring of goose feathers.

An old colored woman who came to New York from Virginia leaving her husband behind was vastly displeased when she learned that he was in the family in which she was employed, and she tried to get her up but abandoned the attempt when the old woman said: "I feared of he dies devil will be feather bed."

He did not die, but the old woman had the bed sent North before he had a chance to fall ill again.

The value of the feather bed lies in the fact that it is practically indestructible and is always an available asset if the feathers are properly cured and the bed is properly cared for it is as good at the end of a hundred years as on the day it was made.

There is already somebody south of Mason and Dixon's line who is ready to pay a fair price for a feather bed and if by any accident it has lost part of its contents so that it is too thin to serve its original purpose the dealers are always ready to buy it and make the feathers up into pillows. In this form the feather bed has a new and long lease of life. People in the country over are pilloving their heads upon feather beds that once soothed the slumbers of Virginia's first families.

### EARNINGS OF A THOROUGHBREED

\$3,500,000 to the Credit of St. Simon and His Stock.

A great feature in racing during the last five and twenty years has been the enormous amounts that have been gained by thoroughbred sires, and consequently their extraordinary value.

It can scarcely be conceived, says Bally's Magazine, that in twenty years St. Simon's stock had won in stakes the monstrous total of £10,247,148, of which his stud fees during that period amounted to £227,692 10s.

This is £737,840 4s. to the credit of one horse, and he is alive now, looking hearty and well at 26 years, with a full complement of foals this spring and with every promise of some usefulness to come.

I have paid a visit to St. Simon within the last month and I have never seen a veteran of his age look fresher. On his toes as usual, all life, and with the quick, sharp manner of a gamecock, the old warrior looks every inch a gentleman, and he is well worth a journey to see—the unbeaten hero of the racecourse, the gainer of over three parts of a million, with one of his sons disposed of for 30,000 guineas a daughter for 12,600 guineas and 10,000 sovereigns refused for another son.

It is no wonder that great prices are paid for thoroughbred sires, as they are worth fabulous figures.

In his new book, "Three Acres and a Living," Bolton Hall quotes a Hebrew proverb: "If a man make but a mousetrap better than his fellows, though he makes his tent in the wilderness, the world will beat a path to his door."

It is all right to while away your time providing you have done something worth while before you begin to while it away.

A woman who marries a man to spite some other woman, is quite apt to get a divorce to please herself.

### PRUSSIA'S RULE IN POLAND.

Colonization of the Country a Work of Civilization, Says Observer.

A Frenchman, Jules Huret, who has been touring Germany, for months, has made a visit to the Polish regions of Prussia near the Prussian frontier, where there has been great friction in the last year or two owing to the efforts of the Government to Germanize the country. He went into the region with strong anti-Prussian prejudices.

After going over the field and comparing the German and Polish settlements he completely changed his mind. First he pictures a German village.

There is a public water supply in the middle of the settlement. There is a public bathhouse, a neat church, a good schoolhouse. The houses are roofed with tiles or slate and they are surrounded by orchards, duck ponds, well built poultry runs and outbuildings. The planted land is neatly laid out.

In the neighboring Polish village of Lagiewnik dirt and misery confronted him at every step. The houses were falling to pieces from neglect. The roofs were thatched and out of repair, the doors so low one had to stoop to go through them. Children in rags wallowed in the muddy village street.

He entered houses in both places and he thus compares the furnishings. The interior of the Polish one is a single narrow room with one tiny, dirty window.

The furniture consists of one big bed, a table and a few heavy wooden chairs. The only adornments were a couple of big faded chromos of the Madonna. Dogs and hens wandered about the room.

A typical German settler in Golenkowo had begun with practically nothing but he owned and had paid for a house and barn worth \$2000. He had about sixteen acres of arable land which he leased at \$145 a year. He had two cows, six calves, seventeen pigs and two horses. His animals were well housed, his land well cultivated and he had a good kitchen garden behind his house.

His children were clean, well dressed and full of health.

In the living room of his house the fireplace was prettily tiled and a dresser with well washed plates and dishes and cups and glasses was a handsome ornament to the room. There was a sofa, two armchairs, a fine mirror and a knickered tea outfit. The room was decorated with all sorts of pretty odds and ends.

The sleeping room contained two good beds, a dressing mirror, wash table, sewing machine and cradle, and Bible texts and mottoes in wool-work adorned the walls.

The proprietor of this neat place employs two native laborers who live on the farm. The civilizing effect on these, Huret says, is remarkable.

Their ambition now is to set up for themselves and live like the Germans. He considers that the Prussian Government is doing a great work of civilization, is exploiting the country through German colonists.

### BOODLE MONEY.

Advantage of Paper Over Gold Shown in San Francisco.

Here is a new phase of the paper money question.

The banks of San Francisco had for a year or more been mystified by an unprecedented demand for currency. The people of the Golden State have always eschewed Uncle Sam's notes; they have insisted on the heft and ring of gold. So when calls came on the cashiers for thousands and thousands in bills the demand was without explanation.

The currency that reaches the Pacific Coast is such as travelers take out with them from the Eastern States. The banks make a practice of gathering it up for the accommodation of customers about to travel in the mails. When this great demand suddenly arose cashiers were puzzled to meet it.

The revelations made before San Francisco's Grand Jury as a result of the work of Francis J. Heney and Secret Service Agent William J. Burns have furnished the solution of the mystery.

"Bring me the money in currency," was the command of Boss Ruef to the bribe givers.

The grafting to which Ruef has confessed amounted to about \$1,000,000 within a year, and in the light of his testimony the drain on the banks is easily explained. Ruef invariably insisted that the boodle money should be paper.

There would be no jingling, no metallic sound to betray; he handled very large sums, much larger than a man could carry in gold. The boss was cautious itself.

Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz, the convicted pal of Ruef, did not seem to appreciate the virtues of paper money. Under his bed in his Fillmore street home he had a box constructed in the floor in which to conceal his wealth.

The Mayor vacated the Fillmore street house for the mansion that he built in Vallejo street. In the rush of his activities he neglected to remove the box. Detective Burns found it there.

The Supervisors in their confessions all declared that the money came to them in heaps of small paper money. But on the whole noiseless paper money helped the San Francisco bootleggers in the secrecy of their crimes.

### FILIPINO FAMILY CIGAR.

Embarassing Use of an Instrument of Hospitality in the Islands.

"I like a good cigar," said a man recently returned from the Philippines. "The family cigar—good in material, in make and in size; but the Filipino family cigar I never could enjoy."

"It is from fifteen inches to a foot and a half long and is somewhat more than an inch in diameter. When not in use it is thrust into a hole in one of the upright bamboo posts of the dwelling. The hole is not so far above the floor that the youngest walking members of the family cannot reach it."

"When any member of the household, the old man or his four-year-old daughter, feels like taking a smoke the family cigar is dragged from its hole in the post and fired up. When the cigar gets too short for comfortable smoking another takes its place."

"It is a queer sight to see a Filipino infant puffing away at a big black cigar about a third as long as the child is, and so large around that it distorts the little yellow face into which it is inserted."

"The family cigar is not taken away from the residence; it remains always at hand as a vehicle of hospitable expression. When a visitor calls the family cigar, if it is not in use, is withdrawn from its hole in the post, and offered to the guest with a gracious gesture."

"If the cigar happens to be in use, perhaps by a little girl squatted back in a corner, the person doing the honors snatches it from the mouth of the smoker and proffers it to the guest without delay."

"To decline this offer of hospitality is not considered good form in Filipino society. In fact, it amounts to a scorn of friendly intention. Knowing the career of the average family cigar, it is not easy to accept and smoke it with an appearance of enjoyment when it is taken from its hole in the post, but it is considerably harder to receive it from the mouth of some member of the not overworked-looking family and Europeans and Americans frequently balk at this stage of the call."

"There is a queer thing about the etiquette of smoking in the Philippines," the traveler added, "for which I have never been able to find any explanation. It is this. If a Filipino asks you for a light from your cigar, you must not flick off the ashes as we do almost invariably in this country, before handing it to him."

"To do so is regarded as an affront, to no degree of gracious manner in extending the weed to him can atone for. I never found any one who could suggest an explanation."

### HOW COLOR AFFECTS GROWTH.

Result of Experiments Upon Plants. Forcing Flowers by Anaesthetics.

Color agriculture is the latest Cambridge Flammarion put seedlings of the sensitive plant into four different houses: an ordinary conservatory, a blue house, an ordinary greenhouse, a red house.

After a few months waiting he found the little plants in the blue house practically just as he had put them in. They seemingly had fallen asleep and remained unchanged. In the green glass house they had grown more than in the ordinary glass house, but they were weedy and poor. In the red house the seedlings had become positive giants, well nourished and well developed, fifteen times as big as the normal plants. In the red light the plants had become hypersensitive. It was found that the blue light retards the processes of decay as well as those of growth.

Perhaps the most extraordinary development is that of forcing plants by the use of anaesthetics. It was the discovery of Dr. Johannesen of Copenhagen. The plants are put into a box into which ether is evaporated. The heavy vapor descends and envelops the plants. After forty-eight hours the plants are taken out and placed in a coolhouse. The buds and plants at once begin to sprout far more rapidly than those plants that have not been treated with anaesthetic. Chloroform also can be used.

Dr. Johannesen suggests that we here come on the question of repose in plants. In France, by setting up a field and connecting it with a network of wires running through the soil of the field, an increase of 50 per cent was secured in a potato crop. The electricity was drawn from the atmosphere.

In the village of Poitou a woman fell into a trance. After the Poitevin custom, she was wrapped in a sheet and carried to the cemetery; but as the procession was passing through a narrow road a thorn of the wayside pierced the sheet, wounding her so that the blood flowed, and she awoke. Fourteen years later the woman really died, and again was borne toward the grave. As the procession passed through the narrow road the husband cried: "Not so near the hedge, friends; not so near the hedge!" Boston Post.

Abdul Hamid, the Sultan of Turkey, has a hobby for carpentry and cabinet work. Before he came to the throne and when there seemed little prospect of his succeeding to the heritage of Osman he spent a good deal of time in the joiner's shop, and indeed, became a fairly skillful workman, capable of earning his living anywhere.

### ELIMINATING BILL POSTERS.

In France They are Subject to a Tax According to Size.

Temporary "affiches," or posters, are subject to a stamp tax, according to size, of from two to six cents per sheet. This is attached either in the form of stamped paper on which the revenue stamp is applied to the sheet before being printed in such a way that the stamp is cancelled by the text being printed over it, or it may be attached adhesively afterward and cancelled by a rubber stamp provided for that purpose.

Before being publicly displayed each poster is required to be presented in duplicate at the office designated for that purpose, dated and signed either by the person in whose interest it is prepared or by the bill poster who is charged with posting the same. One copy is filed at the office of registration, the other, signed and stamped by the official in charge, is returned to the applicant.

It will be obvious that a system so rigid and elaborate as this gives the authorities of every village and commune in France absolute control of all posters and announcement displayed in public places and practically suppresses the abuses which prevail in that respect in certain other countries.

No one is permitted in France to deface streets and public places with crude, ostentatious announcements of his business or other subjects. Billboards are infrequent in France, and are generally built permanently into a wall, where they are taxed according to their superficial area.

When a building is in construction and board screens are erected to shield the public from dust and other annoyance, such temporary screen will soon be covered with posters of amusements and other business, but each poster so displayed has been previously submitted to the authorities, a license obtained, and each sheet bears the cancelled revenue stamp, according to its size.

The department stores and other large popular retail establishments have permanent spaces in the stations of the Metropolitan subway, and their colored posters which are there displayed are always in good taste, and often interesting as works of decorative art.

The walls of market houses bear permanent framed billboards for the display of administrative announcements. Agencies for the sale of theatre, opera and other amusement tickets are permitted to display colored announcements of such performances inside their windows as posters, but the promiscuous placarding of patent medicines and drinks on houses, fences and dead walls is not permitted.

Electrical signs are permitted and used to some small extent in Paris but not so generally as in Berlin, London and some other European cities. For each sign of this class of public advertisement a special permit must be obtained from the prefecture, and the tax thereon is regulated by the size and character of the sign to be displayed.

### STRUCTURE OF SATURN.

Mathematicians Claim It is the Lightest of All Planets.

Perhaps the most surprising thing of all respecting Saturn's constitution and structure is that it should be composed of materials so slightly condensed that were it cast into water it would float with the buoyancy of a wooden ball. Weighed in the mathematician's balance, the planet, taken as a whole, is only three-fourths the density of water or one-eighth the earth's density. In substance, then, Saturn is the lightest of all the planets. In this respect the results obtained by Professor Darwin from investigation based on the figures of equilibrium of rotating liquids show that both Saturn and Jupiter, though so light in bulk, are toward their centers comparatively very dense. Under the operation of the law of gravitation this effect is inevitable with matter in globular form. In the case of Saturn the amount of its equatorial bulging shows that its density increases centrally. The planet's exterior materials visible to the eye must certainly be of a specific gravity so low as to be wholly inconsistent with the supposition that they are either solid or liquid.

The arguments in favor of a high temperature for Jupiter apply with increased force to Saturn. There is reason for thinking that a large proportion of the planet is composed of heated vapors kept in active and violently agitated by the process of cooling. Striking evidence of great disturbances—eruptions from below which in some instances have been noticed to send forth bright lights lasting for weeks together—were occasionally observed during the close scrutiny of the planet's surface made in the summer months of 1903. The agitations were of a character which left no room for doubt that Saturn is in an earlier stage of planetary life than even Jupiter. At the present moment comparative quiescence rests upon the recently disturbed surface.

Opium imports from China increased from 6,992,667 pounds in 1905 to 7,215,600 pounds in 1906, and it is stated that the use of native opium also showed a general increase, while morphia importations, in spite of 20-0 per cent duty, have grown larger, although the total volume imported is insignificant.