

stores in the vaults, I came upon a traveller's box which had remained unopened all this time. In great glee I dragged it up to my sitting-room, where, by means of chisel and hammer, I soon prised it open. I found inside a lady's workbox, a few books, which would be doubly valuable now, a watch, and various other articles.

Part of my time was occupied in the manufacture of candles. Having already a large stock of grease on hand the process was very simple, as I only made rushlights at first, dipping the rushes at intervals in the melted fat. Later on I improved by using twisted cotton instead of rush, and I also arrived at some skill in purifying the tallow, both of which rendered the light produced clearer and stronger. My candles when made were strung from the roof, as in a chandler's shop.

I then arranged the wood I had brought and reduced it to charcoal, during which process I occupied myself with the preparation of the sulphur and nitre, and when all was ready I made some gunpowder. Thinking it best to try a little first, I placed a very small quantity in a boring I had made for a desired enlargement at the side of my cave. I then laid a train of powder and a twist of cotton rag, to which I applied a light, taking the necessary precaution of retiring immediately. In a few moments the explosion took place, and going in I was astonished at the effect produced. At first I could not distinguish anything through the smoke, but, that clearing away, I found I had greatly miscalculated my dose, for a large fissure had been formed up the side of the cave, whilst many fragments were lying scattered. On examining the rent made in the wall, I discovered that it extended inwards, and conjecturing that it might be a natural cleft which the explosion had opened, I proceeded to clear away the broken pieces.

Nearly the whole of the rainy season I was engaged in the work of enlarging and following this passage, which ended in a cave of moderate size with a low roof, having also, like the first, a small hole in the outer wall, through which a glimmering of light was admitted. Increasing the size of this hole, I found it commanded a view along the shore towards Cliff Nest, and that just below me was the entrance to the ravine in which was the door of my castle. I conceived therefore the idea of making one or two of these holes to serve as watch-towers in case of any danger, especially as this cave, from the lowness

of its roof, was less adapted than the other for living in.

All this could not be accomplished in one season, but enough was done to enable me to carry into this armoury all the ammunition and weapons.

At the finish of the season I began to find some inconvenience from the accumulation of wood-ash, and was about to throw it into the vaults, as was my usual plan, when I remembered how my stock of soap was diminishing, and that here I

not tell me where they are going, so my advice will have to be vague and general. I feel almost inclined to begin and end my remarks with an exhortation not to take much luggage, so important do I think it to the comfort of those who are really going abroad for enjoyment.

I have a vision before my mind's eye, of a party arriving at an hotel, with an omnibus loaded with enormous boxes; then of porters staggering up long flights of stairs, looking as though their backs must really break under the huge load they have to carry; nor are their difficulties over when they reach the top of the stairs; for the boxes will not go into the small bed-rooms, and have to be deposited outside the door; and the lady owners have to sally out on to the landing for each article they want out of their trunks. It must be admitted that American ladies are more frequently guilty of taking about these huge "American cottages," as they have been nicknamed, than English ones; and there is this excuse for them, that when they travel in Europe (I wonder why they pronounce it as though it were spelt "you rope") they come usually for a good many months, and so require more luggage than those who are only on a short tour; but surely even they might manage with half the number of dresses and bonnets. I have been told, I do not know with how much truth, that since American ladies have begun to travel in Europe so much, the railway hotel porters either die or break down, on an average, several years younger than used to be the case, owing to overstraining through carrying these immense chests.

But, putting these "cottages" out of the question, ladies who are not accustomed to travelling, and even some who from long experience might have learnt more wisdom, take a great deal more luggage than is necessary. The disadvantages of doing this are, in the first place, that on continental railways very little luggage is allowed, and for all extra a heavy freight is charged. In the second place it at least doubles the trouble of getting about. I should say, however, that I presume your friends are really going to travel. If they are going direct to some place where they intend making a long stay, they can register their luggage through to its destination, in which case they will have no trouble, however much they take, except that they will have to pay for overweight, and that a good deal of luggage naturally makes the Custom House officials suspicious, and more likely to open the trunks at the frontiers, an experience which need not be expatiated upon; anyone who has once had a carefully packed portmanteau turned out will agree with me that it is apt to ruffle one's temper.

But, if they are really travelling from place to place, there is the additional drawback that it is sometimes difficult to get cabs, and one is sometimes hindered a long time at the station waiting for a turn in the luggage office, amongst a crowd of fellow-passengers all frantically waving their luggage tickets, and entreating the porters to attend to them next.



THE EXPLOSION.

had one of the necessary ingredients for the manufacture of a fresh supply.

(To be continued.)

HINTS TO TRAVELLERS.

As the following letter seems to contain much useful information, we have applied for and obtained permission to make it public.—Ed.

DEAR NELLIE,—You ask me to give you a few hints for some inexperienced friends who are going a tour on the continent; but you do

In the meantime the fortunate travellers whose luggage was so small as to go under the seat of the railway carriage, have taken the first cabs; and, on arriving at the hotel, one finds them already in possession of the best rooms, or, if the place happens to be full, they may have filled the hotel up altogether.

In my opinion, the most comfortable form of luggage is a leather portmanteau; best of all one of the collapsing kind commonly known as Gladstone bags; and a hand-bag of moderate dimensions. The latter is essential, for this reason, your friends may often feel inclined to stay a night at some little way-side place, or to take an excursion for a day or two, when they would not require their luggage, which can be registered on to the next certain stopping-place. In order to do this they would have to book through to the same town to which their luggage is sent, but in most countries a railway ticket holds good for several days, and they can break the journey as often as they like on the way, and by having all they require for a night in their hand-bags, they are perfectly independent, and can stop whenever they fancy, and will find their luggage safely awaiting them when they reach their journey's end. If they leave it too long they will have a trifle to pay for it, but not much. In some countries, Switzerland for instance, luggage can be sent by post, which is in some cases quicker and more convenient than registering it by rail, and obviates the difficulty of taking a ticket through.

The particular advantage of a collapsing portmanteau is, that one always brings home presents or curiosities of some sort, and ought to make provision for doing so by not packing the portmanteau quite full to start with. Then, if it is a collapsing one, it can be strapped up to a small size at first, and gradually expanded as required.

About the contents of the portmanteau. They need not take many changes of linen, as at all good hotels one can get things washed in a day. Therefore, one change is quite sufficient, as they can be washed several times in a week if necessary, and it is far better to do this than to carry soiled linen about. Then, unless they are going to visit friends, or to make a long stay in any place, two dresses are quite sufficient. One a good thin serge or some equally strong and light material; it must not upon any account be a warm or heavy one, or it will not do to wear upon all occasions. It should be nice-looking and well made; and tell them, if they wish to be happy, not to have frills and flounces all over it. It should be as plain as possible, but stylish withal; for we are but poor, vain mortals, and there is no doubt we enjoy a jaunt more if we feel that we are becomingly and suitably dressed. Brown, dark blue, or gray are the best colours, as they do not show the dust as much as black, nor get dirty so quickly as very light colours; unless your friends are going to Spain, in which case they must wear black, as all Spanish ladies do, or they will feel most uncomfortably conspicuous. Some English ladies who are staying any length of time in Spain buy a mantilla to wear, instead of a bonnet, to be as much like the natives of the country as possible; but I do not advise it, as, although the mantilla can be arranged in seventeen different ways, each style requires long practice, and if not put on properly it looks ridiculous.

The other dress should be rather more elaborate, perhaps of a lighter colour or thinner texture, but, in short, one that would be suitable for dinner at the hotels or the promenade at a fashionable watering-place. Anything more than is needed, such as evening dresses for concerts, can be conjured up as required, with the aid of a small box in the portmanteau, containing evening gloves or mittens, and a few yards of lace. With a

little ingenuity the lace can be tacked on to the body very quickly, so as to give it a light and "evening" appearance. If they are girls who intend to travel much, they will find it worth their while to have a dress made with a square cut front, the front being loose, so that it can be taken in or out at pleasure; or, if they are likely to go out very much in the evenings, it would perhaps be better to take a separate low body, to wear with the same skirt; a body alone takes up very little additional room. Natural flowers are so easily obtainable that it is never worth while to carry artificial ones.

Then, for bonnets, the most troublesome part of one's luggage. The travelling hat should be soft and light and of such a make that it will neither blow off easily, nor crush out of shape if they chance to fall asleep in it in the train. One would think it unnecessary to say do not have feathers that will come out of curl, but that I have so frequently seen dishevelled looking objects travelling abroad, with cotton dresses from which an unexpected shower had taken all the stiffness, and hats trimmed with long, dripping ostrich feathers which I presume had once been curled; they could hardly have started in that sorry plight, so I give them this word of warning in case they should not think of it themselves. The other hat should also be rather small, for the simple reason that large hats are the most awkward things possible to pack, and take up the most unreasonable quantity of room. Otherwise it should be bright and pretty, to accord with the promenade dress, and so much the better if it is of soft material such as beaver, that will not be injured by a little crushing. In addition, if they are likely to have much night travelling, it would add considerably to their comfort to have a hood to wear in the train, in place of the hat. Travelling hoods are usually made of silk or velvet and lined with quilted Persian silk.

Strong boots or shoes, in which they will not be afraid to venture out in bad weather, are a necessity; and it is a convenience to have a few holland shoe-bags into which to put them when packing; one cannot pack them amongst linen without covering them up in some way, and the objections to being dependent on sheets of paper are too obvious to need mentioning.

Then about wraps. The dress should be made so as to look well without any jacket on warm days, but a light mantle will constantly be required in the evenings, and at other times too, as the temperature varies so much in different places. A good ulster is a necessity too, for it is disastrous to the enjoyment of a tour if one is afraid to venture out in wet weather; but it must be a light one, that is not a great burden to carry about, when rain is only expected. I always take a shawl, too; for in travelling at night one gets very cold, and it is impossible to sleep without being well wrapped up.

Some people always wear paper collars and cuffs, and there is nothing so convenient, if one does not mind the appearance; but, however good they may be, there is never any possibility of mistaking the fact they are paper. Others again wear linen, trusting to get them washed at the hotel; and there is no difficulty at all in getting them done, the only trouble is the way they are done. At most good hotels they are beautifully got up, but in the course of a long tour one frequently finds oneself at very inferior inns, and one's linen washed at such places is apt to present a limp and dejected air, which does not improve one's general appearance. There is still another alternative, which many old travellers find the most convenient of all. They carry with them a quantity of cheap lace, which they tack into their dresses, and throw away when soiled. Which of these plans is fixed upon is a matter

for individual taste. For my own part I must acknowledge that I think nothing looks so nice as the most troublesome of the three, the linen collars, which reminds me that very few girls seem to know how to pack a collar in a small space, without crushing it. The proper way is to open out any article of underclothing, a night-dress is perhaps the best, and lay the collars side by side lengthwise upon it. Then roll the whole thing up, beginning at one end, so that the collars retain the circular shape so much admired by laundresses.

I need hardly remind you that soap is always needed, and very convenient soap-boxes to carry it in can be bought for a trifle; also that a small clothes brush is constantly required.

Now for the contents of the handbag. I must premise that I have been accustomed to travel with people who liked wandering at their own sweet will, without any carefully considered plan, so that I have been liable to have to stop at most unexpected places, if the scenery happened to look pretty, or any old ruins attractive. Consequently I always found it advisable to carry necessities for a night or two in my handbag, as we generally either left our luggage at the station till we called for it, or registered it on to our journey's end, with a pleasing uncertainty as to when we should overtake it.

First of all, then, at the bottom of the bag I put a pair of heelless slippers, the older and easier the better. Heels cannot be allowed, because they take up too much room in a small bag, and a more ornamental pair can be kept in the portmanteau, though it is hardly necessary, for one rarely wears slippers except in the bedroom, when travelling. Then a book of soap. Little books containing about fifty leaves of soap can be bought now for a few pence, and though they are not nearly so pleasant to use as a proper cake, which should by no means be omitted in the portmanteau, these books take up very much less room in a handbag, and one can manage with them quite well for a few days. There must also be at the bottom of the bag a brush and comb bag, a small bottle of Eau de Cologne, or some toilet vinegar, a small chamber towel, and a sponge bag, containing a sponge, which should be always thoroughly moistened before starting on a long journey. What a comfort this is, no one can quite appreciate who has not been a long hot journey without one.

How well I remember on one occasion when I had to take a long railway journey alone in Germany. I had settled myself in one of the comfortable ladies' carriages, and after a few hours was glad to eat some of the usual German sausage-sandwiches, with which the friends I had been visiting had supplied me. Having finished these most awkward and inelegant sandwiches I felt that my hands were extremely sticky and uncomfortable, and, judging by the appearance of my fellow-travellers, I knew I must be begrimed with dust; so I took out of my bag the sponge and soap leaves, and had a good wash. Never shall I forget the look of astonishment on the face of an old German lady opposite me. "Lieber Himmel," she ejaculated, "have you then your whole luggage in that bag? But take my handkerchief to dry your face, you will surely take cold; you are welcome," and she handed me her pocket-handkerchief, which honesty compels me to say was extremely dirty, and it was a great satisfaction to me to be able to produce my own chamber towel, and a little Eau de Cologne as a finish, at which she gazed in speechless surprise. I felt very selfish not to offer her the use of my sponge, but her face looked so very black; so I soothed my conscience by inviting her to help herself to my Eau de Cologne, which she did very freely.

All these toilet arrangements being at the

MISCELLANEOUS.

bottom of the bag, they are covered up by a nightdress-case, which also serves as a receptacle for sundry little things, such as tooth-brushes, in porcelain cases.

This leaves the upper part of the bag clear for a book, housewife (containing any needles and cotton they or their male companions are likely to require, and a few buttons, tapes, and elastic), a smelling bottle and a sketch-book; and, however little talent your friends have for drawing, they should not omit this, for the roughest sketches of quaint buildings or costumes will serve to recall them to their memories in after days.

The bag should also contain a double strap, unless it is fitted with one outside it. It is never safe to travel for even a couple of days unprovided with wraps of some kind, but one does not wish to wear them all the time; and it is the greatest comfort to be able to strap a shawl or mantle on to the bag, so as to have only the one thing to carry. One's possessions seem to increase, too, in a mysterious way on these short excursions; and my own experience is, that, before rejoining my luggage, my bag has generally overflowed, and the strap has to hold a good many things besides the cloak.

But I must not forget to mention umbrellas. If the girls have or can get sunshades with sufficiently short handles to go into a portmanteau, they had better take them and keep them packed up, except when they are in towns or anywhere else where they have to think a great deal about appearances. For other occasions I always take one of those small umbrellas, commonly known as "en tout cas," and use it for both sun and rain. It would be a pity for them to take good umbrellas, as they would probably either lose or break them; and the various uses to which they are put in travelling, not to mention the strapping up, inevitably spoils them.

I must not forget to mention those dreadful little torments, mosquitoes. In the south of Europe the beds are generally provided with mosquito curtains, and if one can contrive to get into bed without either setting fire to the curtains, or shutting two or three of the creatures inside, they answer very well; but in the few northern lands where they are troublesome they seem to be looked upon as one of the necessary evils of existence, and no such defences as curtains are provided. A lady with whom I travelled once in a land of mosquitoes, and who was exceedingly sensitive to their bites, always enveloped her head and hands in gossamer veils at night, which so far protected her that she was able to sleep, though it was by no means a complete shelter, as the more vindictive mosquitoes will sting through a veil. They are a real and serious hindrance to one's enjoyment; for the swelling caused by their stings on the face and hands is most unsightly, and the irritation sometimes becomes almost unendurable. The only precaution one can take is to keep the windows closely shut at night, as long as there is a light burning in the room. If this is neglected the room gets full of them at once. In a "Guide to the Alps" lately published, travellers are recommended to carry with them always a small bottle of diluted caustic ammonia. This is efficacious if applied to the sting at once, but is useless after any lapse of time.

I think that is all your friends will require to know. I would advise them not to neglect to take a small tin box of matches with them, and to be careful always to lock their bedroom doors on leaving the room, and give the key to the porter, or else hang it on the key-board which is always found in the hall. If this is not done, the landlords will not be held responsible for the loss of any valuables; but they will understand, without my telling them, that the fewer valuables they take the better.

They should remember, too, that almost

everything except their personal necessities is liable to duty. Scent, jewellery, new dresses, and any other superfluities are likely to be taxed at one or other of the frontiers.

If your friends have really never been abroad before, they may be at a loss to know what money to take. There used to be an idea that it was a great safeguard against robbery to take circular notes, but now they are accepted by any hotel-keeper, and are really no protection at all; while they are infinitely more troublesome than bank-notes or gold, either of which can be changed anywhere into the gold of the country, without the least difficulty. Only, let them beware of tendering English money in payment at a hotel. There are always money-changers to be found who will give a good exchange, which hotel proprietors never do.

If there is any other information your friends require I shall be very happy to give it. I presume they will be travelling almost entirely by land; if they are likely to be much on the water they would require quite a different outfit.

Believe me to be

Your affectionate friend,

RUTH DANBY.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EDUCATIONAL.

LE LION DE FLANDRE.—The correct pronunciation (not "pronunciation") of the name you quote is "Natal," accenting the second syllable, not the first. Say "It is I," not "It is me." "Nominative, I; accusative, me; nom., thou; accus., thee," and so forth. We regret that you received no reply to your last letter, for which we are unable now to account.

SHIP AT SEA.—We are sorry that three of your letters have been unanswered. You say you cannot "get attending classes." What are they? You want to "get" the benefit of music and other classes. As you require us to give an opinion on your composition, we must draw your attention to this style of expressing yourself, and to the fact that you form the letters "m" and "n" like a "u"; thus you have written "four mouths ago." In reference to the classes you require, could you not form one amongst your neighbours, and hire a master between you all? Geology or archaeology would interest you, or ought to do so.

WORK.

DESTROUS.—See page 37, vol. i., for a pretty edging in crochet work. Also see page 269, vol. iii., and "My Work Basket," pages 748 and 749, vol. iii. We may also refer you to the "Dictionary of Needlework" (170, Strand, W.), under the heading "Crochet," and at page 108 you will find "Crochet, Honiton, or Point;" "Crochet Insertion" and "Crochet Lace," page 110 and 111; "Crochet Raised Rose," page 114; and "Crochet Yak Lace," page 119. These designs are illustrated as well as described.

ISMENE.—We should advise your sending the fur to a good furrier; very white sand made hot is sometimes used to rub into fur, and perhaps might answer in your case.

BABY.—If the light-coloured silk will bear a careful sponging with tepid water, perhaps you might remove the stain thus. If not, you must alter the make of that part of the dress; make a pleat, or put on some description of trimming to cover the soiled spot. Ribbon or lace, or a piece of dress material, might be employed. You do not name the part so injured, so that we can only speak in general terms, and cannot advise you as well as we otherwise might. A silk dress should be protected by an apron whenever suitable to wear one.

HOUSEKEEPING.

HAZEL DUCHESS.—A paste, consisting of equal parts of washing soda, whiting, and borax, well powdered and wetted, and rubbed on the marble, and left on a few days, will be found to have taken out most stains on it. We could not answer your question unless we knew what was expected of an income of £100 a year; and how many it was supposed to keep.

PEARL VINCENT.—To clean a carpet, see page 282, vol. iii. A washing with a little oxgall and water, in the proportion of a wineglass of oxgall to a gallon of water, applied in the same way as described at page 282, is also excellent.

J. YETA.—To make furniture polish, see page 80, vol. i.; and to stain a floor, see pages 64, 80, and 399.

TOPSY TURVEY.—It is said that the new iron of stoves or ranges should be well rubbed with a little grease first, and not blacklead until after there has been a good fire in them. You probably come into the heat from a cold outside air, and of course become flushed and uncomfortable.

COMBERBACH.—We regret to say that your verses need much revision. No two verses in the seven have the same number of feet in their corresponding lines, nor is any one verse correct in itself alone. This great irregularity throws out the beat in each. For instance, the second verse numbers its feet thus in the four lines, 7, 8, 10, 9. Were there any striking or beautiful and original ideas in the verses, we should advise you to study prosody, so as to correct the composition. Your writing is not formed yet.

A POOR MOTHER.—If you can afford to pay £13 per annum, you can place your child in the Cripples' Nursery, 14, Park-place, Clarence-gate, Regent's Park, N.W. Address Mrs. Kirk. The children have the benefit of a three months' sojourn at the seaside, as they have a branch at Margate at 10, Seaview-terrace. Both sexes are eligible in the homes.

CURIOS MADGE.—What is called "anthracite" coal is non-bituminous, and is almost pure carbon. The faint blue flame which it produces is from the carbonic oxide which it contains. It has to be kindled with charcoal, and then gives intense heat without smoke. Anthracite coal is found in Wales, and is much employed in the preparation of iron; but it can be had in abundance from America. In Pennsylvania it is very abundant.

ALICE GLADSTONE.—If you have selected the place which you think offers the most advantages—in climate and otherwise—write to the English chaplain for his advice, and then take your son or daughter to that place and select the school for yourself after personal inspection and investigation. Oatmeal porridge is wholesome and nutritious, although of a rather heating character. Try it for yourself, and so judge for your own special case.

MONDAY.—Never send a visiting card in lieu of a personal visit. You should call as soon as possible; if not next day, at least within two or three.

MAY.—There is a society called the Bee Reading Club, of which the secretary and treasurer is Miss Rogers, 44, Henry-street, Limerick. Write to her for all information.

DECIDED DOLLY.—Read the articles called "Sketching from Nature" in vol. ii. You will find all the pages named in the index. But we think that you should first get a transparent slate, and draw on the glass what you see in the drawing behind it. When you have had a little practice in this way, you will be able to copy easy drawings without tracing them over a glass. You write very well for your age.

HIAWATHA.—You have forgotten that our rules forbid our giving addresses. Inquire for any instrument you require at a musical instrument shop, and for the music at a music publisher's. We regret that we cannot name any in particular. We thank you for so kind a letter.

GARDENER.—You could not make a lawn yourself; you must hire a gardener for the purpose. The ground must be prepared; a good foundation laid, mould thrown over that, the surface properly levelled, and properly cut turf laid down and well rolled. As to the flower-beds, read "Some Talk about Gardening," page 410, vol. ii.

TWO COIN HUNTERS.—Queen Victoria three-halfpenny pieces are worth 6d. to 1s.; a well-preserved guinea of William III. is worth from £1 4s. to £1 15s. if with the elephant and castle. You will find Gill's manual of coins an excellent one, published at 170, Strand, price 5s.; manual of value of British coins, 1s. The other coins you mention do not appear of value.

VERNA.—The best way to learn is by unfolding some paper rosettes and finding out how they are done. No date has yet been given.

STAMMUS.—The whole of the lines, "Be good, sweet maid," will be found in the first volume of "Canon Kingsley's Life and Memories." You will find suitable texts in the New Testament.

M. C.—Shoulder-straps and braces can now be purchased, at nearly all ready-made linen shops, of much stouter manufacture than any made at home.

MIGNON.—1. Inquire at any music-shop. 2. The "Flower de Luce" is the title of a poem by the poet Longfellow. The flower is referred to by Shakespeare, *Henry VI.*, part ii., act v., scene 1, and is believed to be the white lily, or *lilium album*.

A MISTRESS.—During the lifetime of the late Prince Consort there was an institution founded by himself to encourage servants by granting certain premiums and medals as rewards for faithful service during a certain number of years. We are acquainted with two servants who were recommended for them, and who also obtained them; one, if not both, still living. It would appear, however, that this society does not exist in its original form, although others, somewhat similar in character, have survived—for example, the Female Servants' Home Society, for the encouragement of faithful female servants, under royal patronage, which provides four homes, registries, certificates, and rewards, according to the length of satisfactory service. Secretary, Mr. Daniel Cooper, 85, Queen-street, Cheapside, E.C.

* * * The Editor is glad to be able to inform his readers that the next Monthly Part and Weekly Number will contain the opening chapters of a new and extremely interesting story by Sarah Doudney, author of "Michaelmas Daisy," etc., illustrated by M. Ellen Edwards.