

SAN FRANCISCO, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1903.

LADIES OF THE ENGLISH ARISTOCRACY ORGANIZE FOR PROTECTION AGAINST HOODLUMS WITH THE SIMPLE PARASOL AS THEIR WEAPON

London Women Start Vigorous Campaign to Stamp Out "Hooliganism."

LONDON, Nov. 7.—For some unexplained reason there has been a great interest in what London folk call "hooliganism." The riotous street demonstrations on "Mafeking Night" and in celebration of the close of the Boer War taught the stream of toughs who poured out from Whitechapel into the West End that the renowned London "bobby" would not be everywhere at once, and that with a ratio of twenty hooligans to one bobby quite a bit of law-breaking might be done in more safety than had been supposed.

Since then a number of solitary wayfarers have been attacked and robbed and two or three have been murdered—all of which was most disconcerting to the independent English woman, who has taken to going on bicycle rides into the country by herself and to walking about the city streets in the daytime without the chaperone who was considered so necessary a few years ago. Lady Jeanne had her purse wrenched from her recently by a hooligan in the fashionable Kensington district of London, and Lady Mary Sackville was robbed of her bag and chateau not long ago by a rough, who assaulted her and decamped. Many other attacks of the sort have been made on less famous folk.

PARASOL THE WEAPON.
In consequence of this state of affairs it occurred to a young French woman, the wife of the famous French swordsman, Pierre Vigny, to undertake the instruction of Englishwomen in the art of self-defense with a parasol or walking-stick, according to a system devised by her gallant husband, who has devoted years to its perfection. It may best be described as a mixture of the various methods of self-defense practiced in England, France, Germany and Japan. Many of the passes, thrusts and wards used in fencing are comprised in it. Some of the guards used by boxers and the movements of the leg and foot practiced by exponents of French boxing are introduced, as well as certain methods peculiar to German swordsmen and professors of the rapier. Numerous tricks

by "invincibles" soon after the Phoenix Park murders in 1882, has since learned fencing.

INVINCIBLE IN THREE MONTHS.
But fencing must not be confounded with the method of self-defense with an umbrella or walking stick. This system

both write and have decided leanings toward practical journalism. Her Grace has written two books, "A Lover of the Beautiful" and "Capricious," while as a contributor to the English reviews she is well known. The Duchess of Leeds is a philanthropist in her own way, which way



are borrowed from the marvelous Japanese system known as "ju jiu su," or weakness against strength, against which Fitzsimmons would be as helpless as a babe, and any delicate lady who becomes proficient in the art can rest assured that she is a match for at least one or two roughs so long as she retains her presence of mind and her umbrella.

The accompanying photographs, made for this article, and for which Mme. Vigny consented to pose, give a better idea of the system than any description could.

KING PETER AS A BOXER.
Mme. Vigny and her husband have had quite a number of distinguished pupils, including the present King of Serbia, Peter Karageorgevitch. Vigny says King Peter is a splendid, all-round athlete, and adds that, should another revolution deprive him of the blood-stained crown he wears, King Peter could readily earn his living as a boxer or teacher of fencing.

"He is so clever with a walking-stick," said M. Vigny, "that I would back him against any twelve men, armed with sticks, swords or daggers—anything, in fact, but firearms. If the late King had but known the system, there would have been a different tale to tell! He is a bold fellow in King Peter, unassuming, frank, with eyes that pierce you through and through—the eyes of a swordsman."

A CURE FOR STAGE FRIGHT.
Queen Elizabeth of Roumania (Carmen Sylva) is another royalty who has been taught fencing by Mme. Vigny. Her Majesty learned this art because she declared it gave her so much confidence in herself, especially when she was about to lecture. She has no fear whatever of assault, but Queen Elizabeth declares that the self-possession which the knowledge of fencing has given her has proved to be an excellent antidote to stage fright and nervousness from which she used to suffer whenever she lectured.

An English society lady who is famous as a fencer is Miss Toupie Lowther, who could probably hold her own against any champion of the small sword or rapier on the continent of Europe.

Miss Baden-Powell, the sister of the famous general, impressed by her brother's adage that "a smile and a stout stick will carry one through any difficulty," has become proficient in self-defense with a parasol and walking cane. Lady Florence Dixie, who was attacked

is helping impecunious literary women. It is said that she will become practically interested in an organization shortly to be formed which has for its purpose the securing of good living quarters for women who write.

The Whites, Mrs. White and her daughter particularly, go one step higher in the scale of English society every time they make a visit. The Duchess of Leeds, while wonderfully democratic in her actions, is one of England's most powerful aristocrats by birth. Her father was the Earl of Durham, and her husband, the tenth Duke, is descended from the great Minister of the time of Charles II. This was the first Duke and he was Lord High Treasurer of England.

Sleeves and bodice proper cut in one piece! This is the latest development of Franco-British dressmaking. The most "swagger" tailor in London has produced within the last week a marvelous gown for the thin woman. In it there is absolutely no chance of her being thin any longer. There is no telling where her arms begin—where her body stops. And yet it is the most fascinating of novel creations. The model gown in this unique style is made of broadcloth, one of those new terra cotta reds which are to be so fashionable. Heavy plaits hang from the shoulders, elaborately embroidered in fine Persian braid. The sleeves enter the garment in the side plaits about three inches above the waist line. The effect is much more interesting than it sounds. This fashion it is prophesied will find special favor with the English on account of their style of figure. It is admirably adapted to long, angular women and to small ones with flat chests.

Speaking of the color question, one shade which is about to vie with the resurrected terra cotta is our old friend, maroon. It and other infrequent shades of red are heralded loudly as the first definite decision with regard to winter wear for women.

Mrs. Evans and Miss Anita Evans, wife and daughter of the Beresford family, has recently made one radical change in the domestic arrangements of her husband's ancestral place near Waterford, Ireland. Everything suited Mrs. Beresford except the ancient bedsteads with which the house was stocked. She stood them as long as she could and then revolted. As a result American bedsteads have sup-

her solicitors who would accept service on her behalf. The auctioneer, a man named J. H. North, collapsed.

Duchess Consuelo Has Dread of Ghosts.
LONDON, Nov. 7.—According to a true story just told to me by a close friend of the Duchess of Marlborough, there appears to be an entertaining element of superstition in her character. Four years ago she was negotiating for the purchase of Kylesmore Castle, which became the property of the Duke of Manchester a few weeks ago; thanks to Papa Zimmerman's millions. The Duchess was so satisfied with its beautiful situation and magnificent appointments that money would not stop her from possessing it.

She was on the point of paying a deposit and the auctioneer's fees when she heard that the only daughter of Mitchell Henry, who built the mansion, was drowned in the lake within the immediate sight of the drawing-room. She sent a special messenger to the auctioneer asking him if the story was true, and on being informed that it was so, she invited him to send in his account for any out-of-pocket expenses the negotiations had cost him, at the same time advising him that she would not have the mansion as a gift.

The auctioneer was not pleased and he insisted that the Duchess should carry out the contract. The price agreed upon at the time was \$350,000, which was \$25,000 more than what the Duke of Manchester has now paid for it. The auctioneer was entitled to 1 1/2 per cent on the sale, and he felt that the Duchess should pay him an amount equivalent to that. The Duchess retaliated by saying that if he desired to give publicity to the ghost stories she had heard about Kylesmore castle, its lakes and beautiful waterfalls, she was ready to go into court, and she there and then submitted the names of

Miss Fuller has another deep affection besides that for her home. She is devoted to her invalid mother. Only intimate friends of the family have any real understanding of the bond existing between this mother and daughter. The sacrifices of both time and money the dancer has made for Mrs. Fuller's sake are infinite. Once when, after a long and tedious journey, she had reached the Russian frontier on route to fulfill an engagement in St. Petersburg, Miss Fuller received a telegram saying her mother was ill and "wants to see you." As a result the contract was broken, thousands of pounds forfeited and Miss Fuller returned to Paris.

How Tragic Story Stops Sale of an Estate.

WOMEN OF LONDON'S ARISTOCRATIC SET AND THE METHODS BY WHICH THEY ARE DEVELOPING THE PARASOL INTO A SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE WEAPON OF SELF-DEFENSE.

