

## The Fair Sex.

### The Most Perfect Home

I ever saw a little house into the sweet incense of whose fires went no costly things. A thousand dollars served as a year's living of father, mother and three children. But the mother was a creator of a home. Her relations with her children were the most beautiful I have ever seen. Even the dull, commonplace man was lifted up and enabled to do good work for souls by the atmosphere which this woman created. Every inmate of her house involuntarily looked into her face for the keynote of the day, and it always rang clear. From the rosebud or clover-leaf, which in spite of her hard housework she always found to put by our plates at breakfast, down to the story she had on hand to be read in the evening, there was no intermission of her influence. She has always been and always will be my ideal of a mother, wife and homemaker. If to her quick brain, loving heart and exquisite face had been added the appliances of wider culture, hers would have been absolutely the ideal home. As it was it was the best I have ever seen.—Helen Hunt.

### Send Girls Out of Doors.

How can girls get a chance to live out of doors more? When they are little children their fathers and mothers must provide them with opportunities. This is a sacred duty of theirs, which they should no more omit than to provide them with food and clothing. I have found that the daughters of the poor people get out of doors more than the daughters of rich parents, and that as a consequence they are generally healthier and stronger and often more beautiful. After girls get larger they must go out on their own accord, and seek out-of-door amusements. There are many kinds of out-of-door sports suited to them. Archery is one of them; rowing, riding, skating and walking are others. There is flower-culture and gardening. Some years ago I published a book called "The School Garden," advocating that every school should have a piece of ground where girls and boys could study horticulture and agriculture. I am sorry to say the idea did not take very well in this country, but in France and Germany it has become popular, and already they have thousands of school gardens where the boys and girls work and get out-of-door life, even while at school. Botany and all similar out-of-door pursuits should be encouraged. To study botany, geology, mineralogy and natural history out of doors is worth a million times as much as to study them in books in the house. What can you learn about birds unless you go and live with them?—Dr. Dio Lewis.

### Delightful Old Maids.

Some of the most delightful women in the world are those commonly called "old maids." Undisturbed by husbands or children, they are perfectly willing to assist in bearing less fortunate ones' woes, and are in constant demand as confidants. In nearly every large family there will be found a woman who has not married; and because of her many good qualities, all the world (at least, that which knows her well) will wonder that some gallant knight has not claimed this "lady fair and full of grace," and taken her away to make for him a happy home.

Somehow one does not want to hear these strong, kindly natures, who have sufficient strength of mind to refuse all men because their ideal never came, called old maids. The old English "spinster" seems more appropriate and kindly. And when one thinks of the nephews and nieces cared for, the dainty garments made by industrious and never-tiring hands, the patience with which other peoples joys and sorrows are listened to and the pangs of loneliness that are quietly endured, then the name becomes honorable. Of course there do exist unmarried women who are not like this, but none of them should be called "spinster," because the name itself betokens industry. Not industry in hearing and retelling petty, worthless gossip, or in keeping perfect a home in which she is alone in her selfishness, but such industry as seemeth good for a woman, industry in making clothes for the naked and giving homes to the homeless.

The name spinster is very old, and early used in the jurisprudence of England and Germany as a means whereby distinguished unmarried married females. It is supposed that in remote ages it was customary to bury the spindle-pins with industrious maidens, as in some graves recently discovered in Suabia these were found. Alfred, in his will, distinguishes the men and women as the spear-side and the spindle-side; while in the Germany of to-day the titles *schwert-mazen* (sword members) and *spindel-mazen* (spindle members) are not uncommon.

Thus the spinster, bearing industry in her name should feel that industry is a duty she owes to the world at large; for living up to one's title is a paramount claim. For her there is need to be industrious in making kindly feeling exist, industrious with the needle,

industrious with quick feet when sorrow calls to her "Come," but never industrious with the tongue, save in saying good words—words that will make "spinster" a very crown of glory on the head of her who giveth of her rich store of love and good works.

## Facts and Fancies.

THE "catch" of cod fish this year has been larger than any previous year, and prices are expected to be very low. The production of cotton in the United States, it is now believed, will be fully 1,000,000 bales less than last year.

DAKOTA wheat crop this year amounts to over 20,000,000 bushels.

JOHN B. GOUGH, it is announced, will leave the lecture platform this season. He is perhaps the most effective speaker that has yet appeared on the temperance question.

—IRON WATCHES.—Crowther Brothers & Co., of Kidderminster, in order to prove the malleability and ductility of their iron, have constructed a watch entirely of iron, which keeps excellent time. Claudius Saunier, on reporting this fact in the *Revue Chronometrique*, adds: There is nothing new under the sun. We have a watch upon which is engraved the date of 1504, and in which all the wheels and pinions are made of iron.

—YORK FARM, on Chester river, Kent county, Md., owned by S. Merritt Wilkins, and containing 400 acres, has a peach orchard of 18,000 trees, which from 1875 have produced 311,500 baskets of fruit, bringing in \$103,000. In 1879 the sales netted \$66,000.

THE decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, declaring the civil rights act unconstitutional, is unduly effecting our negro population. They will not attain the social distinction they seek, by any act of Congress nor by any decision of the Courts. Personal living and personal worth can only secure them the boon they covet; and these will be found stronger than Courts or Congress in its attainment.

## Country Roads.

Too much cannot be said in favor of making good roads. The farmers of the whole country are deeply interested. Transportation is a part of the cost of production which comes entirely out of their pockets, and a part, also, of which they make too little account. If the difference in money cost between hauling their produce over poor roads and over good roads could be footed up and made apparent to the understanding of farmers, they would see that their roads were kept in proper order. But there are other interests besides the farming interest that have a decisive stake in the quality of cross-country transportation. The roads are the feeders of the railroads, and we are pleased to see that the matter is beginning to attract the attention of railway companies. The *Chicago Railway Review*, commenting upon a paper recently read before the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania upon the subject of "Improved Highways," approves the argument of the author, showing the importance to commercial undertakings of paved roads leading to railway stations. The *Review* says: "A well-arranged system of paved or even well-made dirt or gravel roads will some day prove a blessing to this country. And although we are so spread out that the undertaking seems hopeless on the score of expense, valuable beginnings can and should be made at once, taking railway stations as centres to work out from. Such a system would aid the growth of the material interests of the country, through rendering possible a wider segregation of manufacturing industries, the manufactories of which, with good teaming, would not necessarily be upon a line of railway. Farmers could also till their soil with profit at much greater distances from the rails." Then, again, the latter would benefit through the independence of climatic conditions in hauling their produce to shipping points. In this respect, also, would the railways find gain, for they are severely annoyed during wet periods by the inability of shippers to get through the mud to the stations, and the consequent light shipments, which are followed after a freeze-up or drying-up with a rush beyond their capacity to handle. In Illinois last season this matter of improving highways was taken up with considerable enthusiasm, and committees were appointed, etc., but we fear that little has come of it."

While we do not expect any good result from legislative enactments, much good may result from an intelligent self-interest, which may be developed by a proper examination of the subject. The loss to the wealth of the country from bad roads is an enormous total, to say nothing of the loss of comfort.—*Philadelphia Record*.

## The Cholera.

B. G. Jennings, F. R. A. S., writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, "to call attention to the attack of cholera on southern and western Europe now due. Such visitations come with more regularity than most people imagine. It is remarkable that every attack on Egypt is followed by an extension to England. Such cholera is not of the true Asiatic type; it makes its appearance first in the Hadjiz, on the tropic of Cancer, in the neighborhood of Mecca, sometimes the year before, sometimes the same year in which it appears in Egypt. In 1831 it broke out in Mecca, the same year appeared in Egypt, and traveled in a northwest direction to England. In 1837, six years after, it appeared in England again, having started from Hadjiz in 1835. In 1845, eleven years after, it broke out at Mecca, appeared in Egypt, and reached England the same year. In 1854, six years after, it was in England again, having broken out at Mecca two years before, and spread to Egypt.

In 1865, eleven years after, it broke out at Mecca, spread to Egypt, and reached England the same year. In 1871, six years after, it broke out near Mecca, but extended as far as the north of France only. In 1882, eleven years after, another attack on Europe fell due. It will be observed that these outbreaks occur every six or eleven years alternately; a great outbreak happening every 17 years, as 1831, 1848, 1865, and 1883. In every instance in which Egypt has been attacked, southern and western Europe have suffered. There has been some delay in regard to the commencement of the present attack; but that is a reason for believing that the advance will be rapid. In the other great attacks the cholera has advanced from Egypt to England in a few months. On the 25th of March, 1865, the disease broke out at Mecca; on the 2d of June it appeared at Alexandria, killing 60,000 persons in Egypt in three months; and on the 11th of June, only nine days after, it reached France, and on the 11th of September it was in England. It would appear, then, that the cholera which visits our shores is not Indian, but Arabian—diseases generally the same, specifically different.

There are, as I endeavored to show eleven years ago, when I stated that the next great attack would be in 1883, as a matter of fact, seven different species, which descend from the atmosphere at seven different points, situated equally distant from each other along the tropic of Cancer, and move in a northwest direction. The Indian and Arabian streams intersect in England. As a matter of fact, the Indian, from its much longer course, exhausts itself in Russia and Germany, and in all probability we have never had an attack of it, unless perhaps it be when the north of England suffered in 1831. As regards the assertion one so often hears, that all cholera can be traced to the Ganges, what is to be said about which commenced last July in Mexico and last January was carrying off by a fearful ravages an immense number of victims? Before the present year closes I expect to hear that cholera has broken out in every quarter of the globe."

## Dreams.

A writer in *Bow Bells* says: Dreams of nuptials are considered to portend a funeral. The extraction of a firm and sound tooth signifies the loss of a near and dear friend; but if the tooth should be decayed and painful, this dream promises deliverance from a secret and deadly enemy. If such firmly built things as a house or city appear to be shaken, it is an omen of exile or commotion in the state. Two candles signify breaches of friendship and dissensions. Dreams of hares signify flight; of dogs, quarrels; of sheep, wealth, unless they should be shorn or diseased; the crowing of a cock denotes victory, unless anyone should interrupt it, then it is an omen that the victory, which was on the eve of being obtained, will be lost.

The rising sun denotes increase of wealth and splendor; the setting sun the contrary. A dream of the full moon is one of very bad omen, for it signifies that immediate misfortunes and decrease of greatness will follow. Dreams of the eclipse of the sun or moon predict an intermission of prosperity, but that it will again return. Whoever dreams that his hair is pulled, it is a warning that something will happen by which his pride will have a fall. The loss of a hat has at one time been interpreted as an omen of disgrace, at another as protection from some injury; but the loss of a cloak, &c., is a sure sign that poverty will succeed wealth. To dream that the pillow is dragged from our bed signifies that something will happen by which our rest will be disturbed.

Whoever dreams that he is smoking tobacco has a warning that he will turn his wealth into smoke. The best omened

dreams are those in which the dreamer fancies himself carried gently through the air, for they foretell increase of dignity or a happy death. To dream that handsome shoes are presented by a friend is a warning of timely flight; but if anyone in his sleep searches for boots or shoes without finding them it foretells that when in great danger he will be prevented from escaping. Whoever dreams that some one puts a clown's cloak on him, or covers his face with flour, a mask, etc., must be cautious lest a more cunning man than himself should deceive him and then laugh at his simplicity. A dream in which a person seems to follow a cross in some public procession is a signification that he will be persecuted on account of his religion.

If anyone dreams of a violent knocking at his door, or that his ear is pulled, it is a warning of approaching death. If a man dreams that he is dead it is not an omen of his death, because whoever dreams that he is dead also dreams that he sees or speaks after his death; but to dream that our curtains are drawn aside by a man lately dead is an intimation of the death of some near relation.

A man having dreamt that an egg was buried beneath his bed, went to consult a conjuror, who told him there was a treasure concealed under his bed. The man dug and discovered a quantity of silver, in the middle of which there was gold. He ran in ecstasies to the conjuror, offering some pieces of silver as a reward; upon which the conjuror said: "Do you give me none of the yolk of the egg?" meaning that he expected some of the gold also. This dream is related by Cicero, "De Divinatione," libro primo; also by Valerius Maximus.

The dream of Guntramnus, King of the Franks, is very remarkable. This good king, who was passionately fond of hunting, having one day separated from the whole of his train except one servant, and night coming on while in the midst of a thick wood, he sat down on the bank of a stream, and being extremely weary, fell asleep on the bosom of his servant. The servant keeping watch, and having his eyes steadfastly fixed on the countenance of his master, he saw a very small animal of the lizard species issue from the mouth of the king, and make for the stream, which it seemed anxious to pass; then the servant, stretching out his sword, formed a sort of bridge, over which the reptile passed; and having entered a cave at the foot of the mountain opposite, remained there a few minutes, and then coming out, passed over the same bridge, and entered again into the mouth of the King, who just then awakening, said that he had dreamt that he had passed over an iron bridge, and having entered a cave, found there a vast heap of riches. Then the servant having related what he had witnessed, they both entered the cave by the way the beast had pointed out, and found there a great treasure.

## The Kitchen.

BAKED QUINCES.—Quinces baked with the skins on are delicious when served warm. Put one on a saucer at each plate. If mashed with a knife the core is easily removed; then put on a little butter and plenty of sugar. In process of baking the quince loses the strong taste which is disagreeable to many, and retains a delicate flavor that is excellent.

QUINCES AS SWEET PICKLES.—Quinces make delicious sweet pickles. Peel them, cut them in quarters, stick two or three whole cloves in each quarter, then steam them until tender, and let them boil for a very few minutes in the vinegar prepared for them; or make the syrup of vinegar, sugar and spices first, and boil the quinces in it till soft; proceed just as for pickled pears or peaches, only that the quinces being of so tough fibre, need cooking longer. Seal in cans, and they will furnish a good relish in days to come.

CRAB-APPLE MARMALADE.—Marmalade made of the common Siberian crab-apple is not to be despised, and for the children's lunch or for tea with good bread and butter it is looked upon as a luxury. Stew the apples, skins and all, till they are very soft; mash them adding light brown sugar to your taste. This may be put up in cans or in little earthen jars and sealed for winter use. Marmalade may also be made of nice peach parings, with now and then half a peach left in. This latter dish is not recommended except when fruit is scarce, and you feel like making the most of every part of it.

CAULIFLOWER.—Cauliflower is particularly good when boiled until tender, changing the water twice and taking care that no scum is left to discolor it. When done drain off every drop of the water, and pour over the cauliflower, while still in the kettle, some milk, adding a good-sized lump of butter and some pepper and salt; let this just come to a boil. Serve hot.

## Luxuries.

A really vicious-looking reptile is that very harmless and eminently edible monstrosity, the terrapin. Properly cooked—as they cook it, for instance, at Augustine's in Philadelphia or at the Club at Baltimore—it ranks among the most luxurious of luxuries. Some men, it is true, turn sick at the first taste of it, and refuse to face the dish again. Others worship it on the instant, and are fanatics for life. It is always so with very pronounced flavors. Thus, in India, to eat the "jack" fruit is to be held in abomination by your neighbors, but some men smuggle it into their premises, and, regardless of the fact that the astonishing odor of the huge fruit betrays them, make believe to eat it clandestinely. Others, however, know of his horrible infirmity, and as if he were a cannibal given to the secret consumption of dreadful meats, tell each other that so and so "eats jack." Yet the fruit has a cousin, the dorian, exactly like it in taste, and Burmah goes mad over it when it is in season. Mandalay gives itself up body and soul to the luscious abomination. All official business is stopped. Trade puts on its shutters. The steamers will bring no other freight up the river but dorian. It is the formula of the season if a stranger wishes to see anyone who wishes to not be seen for the servant to reply: "Master is eating dorian." This is something more than the "not at home" of civilization. It is equivalent to "He is saying his prayers" of the Mohammedans. A man, while eating dorian, must not be disturbed. His privacy is sacred. So it is with other strong tastes. Some people will flee from musk as from a skunk. Yet half a continent delights in smearing itself with the perfume and eating it in food. However, to return to the terrapin. Seen in all its natural hideous armor of native shell, and prickle, and wart, it would be flattering to the poor turtleish thing to say that its appearance was anything less than loathsome. Yet what miracle does art work more startling or more beneficent than this transmutation or concoction of an odious looking reptile into a dish that men call "terrapin," and ought to call ambrosia? It has been a wonder from all time that any man should have attempted an oyster, "risking the living morsel down his throat," and succeeding ages have perpetuated the compliment to his courage; but what, then shall we say of the daredevil who first conceived the awful notion of eating terrapin? Turtle was venturesome enough; terrapin was positively reckless. Yet men have eaten, and do eat still, the portentous crocodile. It is said to have a slightly musky flavor, but to be "succulent."—*London Telegraph*.

## The Tobacco Industry.

The tobacco industry of this country is much greater than most people suppose, and a few statistics on the subject may not be uninteresting. There are 7674 establishments engaged in the manufacture of tobacco in various forms. Of this total 477 are engaged in the manufacture of chewing and smoking tobacco and snuff, 7145 in the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes, and 52 in steaming tobacco. The total number of people employed, according to the census returns, is 85,597, of whom 55,552 are males above sixteen years, 20,480 females above fifteen years and 11,565 children and youths. The total amount of money paid annually in wages is \$25,054,457, or under \$3000 each per year. The value of the material used in manufacture is \$65,384,407; the total value of product, \$18,660,166. The largest amount of material consumed is for chewing and smoking tobacco and snuff, it being \$34,397,072. However, the value of the product is only \$52,793,056, against \$29,577,833 for material, and \$63,979,575 value of product for cigars and cigarettes, the difference being made up by the amount of money paid in wages; the sum thus paid for the manufacture of chewing tobacco, etc., is \$80,419,024 against \$18,464,563 for cigars and cigarettes.

The amount of taxes paid on tobacco of all kind, including all special taxes for manufacturing, dealing, etc., for the two years, 1882 and 1883, was \$89,406,238.70. Of this total, smoking and chewing tobacco paid the heaviest tax, amounting to \$47,170,144.50. Cigars and cigarettes comes next with \$35,141,067.52.

The tobacco industry, however, does not end here; there is the cultivating part, which is by no means an unimportant branch of the tobacco industry. Last year there were 646,239 acres planted, which produced 449,880,014 pounds of tobacco, of a value of \$43,372,366; Kentucky producing by far the largest proportion, having had 232,911 acres planted, which produced 163,037,700 pounds, of a value of \$14,347,316. Virginia came next, with an acreage of 139,663, and a production of 77,648,854 pounds, and a value of

\$6,677,967. South Carolina was the lowest, only producing 47,528 pounds, of \$6,653 in value.

The total export of leaf for the statistical year ending June 30, 1883, was 235,628,360 pounds, against 223,665,980 pounds for 1882, and \$19,438,966 in value, against \$18,067,721 in 1882. The exports of cigars for the last statistical year amounted in value to \$96,801 against \$113,717 in 1882, which shows a marked reduction. In manufactured tobacco, however, there is a healthy increase in our exports, which amounted to \$2,555,677 in value, against \$2,246,692 for the year 1882, or an increase of \$308,985.—*Exchange*.

## Gold Pens.

The gold from which the pens are to be made is melted and cast into bars six inches long, about two inches wide and one-quarter inch in thickness. It is then passed between cast steel rolls until it is reduced to about one-twelfth of its original thickness. From this sheet the blanks are cut and then pointed by heating the gold until the pieces of iridium selected for that purpose settles into the gold and becomes as strongly attached to it as though it were a part of the same metal. The blank is then reduced in thickness to about one-third by rolling and hammering, after which it is cut out in the shape of a pen, stamped, raised or formed, slit, the points ground finely polished. The inside of the nibs are also roughed with a piece of Scotch stone; which operation is termed "graining," and the object of which is to make the ink flow more readily. The pens are then tried and examined before being offered for sale.

## Behind our Masks.

If we could only read each other's hearts, we should be kinder to each other. If we knew the woes and bitterness and physical annoyances of our neighbors, we should make allowances for them which we do not now. We go about masked, uttering stereotyped sentiments, hiding our heart-pangs and our headaches as carefully as we can; and yet we wonder that others do not discover them by intuition. We cover our best feelings from the light; we do not so conceal our sentiments and dislikes, of which we are prone to be proud. Often two people sit close together, with "I love you" in their heart, and neither knows it. Either thinks, "I could be fond; but what use of wasting fondness on one who does not care for it?" and so they part, and go their ways alone. Life is a masquerade, at which few unmask, even unto their very dearest. And though there is need of much masking, would to heaven we dared show plainly our real faces; from birth to death, for then some few, at least, would truly love each other.

SUNLIGHT A NECESSITY.—Sun baths cost nothing and are the most refreshing, life-giving baths that one can take, whether sick or well. Every housekeeper knows the necessity of giving her woollens the benefit of the sun from time to time, and especially after a long rainy season, or a long absence of the sun. Many will think of the injury their clothes are liable to from dampness, who will never reflect that an occasional exposure of their own bodies to the sunlight is equally necessary to their own health. The sun-baths cost nothing, and that is a misfortune, for people are still deluded with the idea that those things only can be good or useful which cost money. Let it not be forgotten three of God's most beneficent gifts to man—three things the most necessary to good health—sunlight, fresh air and water, are free to all; you can have them in abundance, without money and without price, if you will. If you would enjoy good health, then see to it that you are supplied with pure air to breathe all the time; that you bathe for an hour or so in the sunlight; and that you quench your thirst with no other fluid than water.

—Dress skirts are growing decidedly fuller and wider, and this decided tendency to bouffant styles has, as history plainly reveals, been almost invariably the forerunner of crinoline, and crinoline we are to have, unless scores of manufacturers, who have summoned their hitherto idle forces and begun the work anew of making hoop-skirts, have listened to a delusive rumor of their coming popularity.

—The cost of stopping a railroad train is said to be from 40 to 60 cents.

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