

THE QUEEN "AT HOME."

A PLEASANT PICTURE OF THE DOMESTIC LIFE OF HER MAJESTY.

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But, if you look at the Queen's life as it is really lived, you will find it to be a very interesting and pleasant one. You will find that she is a very happy woman, and that she is very much loved by her people.

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BRAWNY AMAZONS WHO DO THE WORK OF MEN.

Graphic Description of a Piece of West India Life—Old Seamy The Master of the Elements—Will Congo Songs—Kaiser Laughters.

A correspondent who recently visited the West Indies writes:

The scene was a strange one to unfamiliar eyes—the coaling of a ship by women. You will witness it at St. Thomas, Kingston, Jamaica, to the best advantage. Scurried had the Alliance's nose pointed around the fort at the entrance when numerous boats containing the "coal ladies" appeared approaching the coal station, located on an island half a mile from town. The ship was quickly laid alongside the wharf, and the taking in of fuel commenced. The coal is piled on the shore a distance of 200 feet from the ship, and 150 stepping ladders bore it to the fore-and-aft, the ladders on board. Each of the women carried on her head a course split basket containing 10 pounds of coal. Their raiment was severely simple—a cotton bodice and a scanty skirt drawn up to the knees by a cord around the loins. Very black were the brawny legs which appeared below the Eve-like droupy, and large and naturally formed were the bare feet with their hard, yellow soles.

Before the work commenced the dusky Amazons stood in a double row in front of the heaps of coal. They grained like so many monkeys, and their jagged—the strange, mongrel English, the Jamaica and Barbadoes negroes utter—peered from their lips a babel of unmeaning sounds, startling every one of the jokes they threw at one another.

"Do you see that woman?" said the agent, as he pointed toward a powerfully built woman with a head, shining black face and grizzled wool. "That is old Nancy. She is six years old and is the foulest mongrel wench in the West Indies. Every shipmaster who has sailed in these waters knows her. She especially interested Anthony Trollope when he came to inspect the islands for the British government. Besides the habit, noticed here, she can carry 400 baskets of coal a day."

A tall black man armed with a heavy stick was master of ceremonies. When all was ready he called: "Take your baskets, ladies, and march toward the coal pile." "Ready" was the verbal signal, and quickly the baskets were filled with large lumps and the dust of coal. Afterward there was no cessation of the toil. The women would carry the heavy basket to the top of the head with a single and apparently easy motion, resting the bottom on a small mat of cloth which lay on the wood. Down the wharf they trotted, some bearing the 100 pounds of dead weight without supporting the basket by a hand. The sound of Nancy, as previously mentioned, drew her pipe from the rags of her bodice, struck a match, lit it, and smoked after she had swung the basket of coal on her head, and was jogging to the ship. The "ladies" had one thing to say in anything but a ladylike manner. The more active ones endeavored to get ahead of others who were in their way as the living stream of workers reached the gang-plank. The women are paid for each basket of coal raised to the deck. As they pass a small building at the head of the wharf with full baskets a cent is handed to each of the carriers. There are some women who can move 400 baskets a day, or 20 tons of 2,000 pounds. Others carry a less number of baskets, and as the gangplank admits only three carriers abreast, the slow ones hamper the fast workers. The latter endeavor to get ahead. I saw a woman drop almost to her knees on the plank and, with basket on head, seek to crawl under the uplifted arm of a tall wench in front.

The master of ceremonies stood at the side of the gangplank with uplifted stick. When he detected any unfairness he exclaimed in warning tones, "Ladies! The officers reported led to depositing 'Oh, don't do so, ladies.' Next came 'Oh, Caroline, don't do that.' By this time patience was exhausted, and a sharp call to "Caroline," or to "Miss Clem," or to "you dar, bigger," was followed by a resounding thump of the stick on the back or leg of the offender. The sound of the blows would rise above the din of the coaling. The victim would grin and the others would jeer at her, but no one appeared to regard the punishment unduly, or for that matter seriously. One woman after another would break down, no doubt, from their ancestors who roamed in the Congo forests. Wild and weird the strange scene arose above the bustle of the wharf. When the sun set and the dark tropical night quickly fell on ship and shore, the women—leaned on poles and containing dry wood—were ignited, and the flickering flames cast their radiance over the middle ground. The energy of the women seemed to increase when the beams of the moon shone through the shutters, and laughter and laughter with greater zest followed.

Three hundred and forty tons of coal were piled on the ship between 1 and 7 o'clock, despite heavy rain during the night. The women were sent to the dock, and the lights on the hillside of Charlotte-Amelia behind her and proceeded southwest toward the equator.

Feminine Pictorial.

Wedgwood pitchers of all sizes, cream jars, teapots, sugar bowls, cruet jars, candle dishes, and salad bowls can be bought now for \$3 each. This is hard to believe, but it is true. With intricate designs in white, and is both durable and artistic.

The "foot slipper" is made of silver kid on a modification of the Venetian last, the foot being long with a pointed toe, and light upper, pointed back and front.

No woman weighing less than 250 should wear black, and even then a vest of some delicate color should be inserted to save the face.

Oilives, almondine, humons, and hairpins are now served in fancy trays or baskets of royal Worcester, in plays of silver. These precious bits of china are worth \$5 and \$10 each, and when the exquisite lines of taper in the service can be put them in her drawing room.

Stripes will reduce the width of a fat woman, and even Sarah Bernhardt would be fat in a plain dress.

Women with big hands should never wear white gloves, or any gloves with white fingers; and the big solid woman can only hope to reduce her understanding by wearing black shoes or slippers.

The girl with a lilylike or sallow complexion becomes a fish jaundiced yellow when she puts light green orange, blue or black against her face; and the pale girl who attempts to wear gray becomes a wren.

Some Characteristics of New Orleans.

A visitor in New Orleans says that there are three features of life in the Creole City that are sure to impress the stranger forcibly. They are the cancan, which is veritable flower garden; the language of the French residents, which is spoken everywhere; and the pure Parisian society, and the fact that the negro on the lower river still sings the old popular songs that were heard in slavery days.

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