

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Women in the Long Ago.

In the essay on "Women in the Fourteenth Century," we read some things which, in view of the omission of the word "obey" recently from the marriage service of the Methodist church, may be read with interest. Speaking of a "Book for Women," by one Geoffrey de La Tour Landry, in the early period referred to, Prof. Wheeler says:

Wifely obedience is pushed to extreme (in the book). Three merchants laid a wager that each had the most dutiful wife. The test should be "leaping" into a basin of water. Then they went to their homes, one after the other. The first wife refused to leap, and her husband "up with his fust, and gave her two or three grat strokes" in the presence of the other merchants. The second wife also refused, and her lord beat her with a staff. The third lady misunderstood an order to bring salt for a command to leap upon the table where they were all feasting, and, being better bred than the other wives, obeyed the order as she understood it, leaped upon the table, and caught it down with a crash. The wager was declared won, without appeal to the basin experiment. "And so ought every good woman do the commandment of her husband, be it evil or well; for yef he bidde her thing that she ought not to do it is his shame."

A Learned Woman.

The life of Miss Anna Sutton, recently published in England, presents a character which it is more easy to admire than to imitate. She was born in the province of Ulster, Ireland, in 1791, and died in 1881. At 20 years of age, having previously received only a rudimentary education, she found a Latin grammar, and forthwith attempted to master it. She learned the language, and read all the chief classics. Next she took up Greek and read the New Testament, Homer, and such other Greek works as fell in her way. French, Italian, Hebrew, Arabic, and Chaldaic followed, and when passed 80 years of age she astonished a learned descendant of Abraham by conversing with him in Hebrew. After the age of 70 she lost her eyesight and learned to read the books for the blind printed in raised letters. She was a devoted member of the Methodist communion and a "class leader" till within a year of her death. She, of course, must have had an extraordinary aptitude for languages. Still, her example shows how much more than is supposed the average mind is capable of doing, in any direction to which the taste may lead.

The Duty of a Woman to be a Lady.

Modesty is a thing girls cannot afford. Delicacy is a thing which cannot be lost and found. No art can restore to the grape its bloom. Familiarity without love, without confidence, without regard, is destructive to all that makes woman ennobling.

"The world is wide, these things are small; They may be nothing, but they are all."

Nothing? It is the first duty of a woman to be a lady. Good breeding is good morality. Awkwardness may be remediable. Bashfulness is constitutional. Ignorance of etiquette is the result of circumstances. All can be undone, and do not banish man or woman from the amenities of their kind. But self-possessed, unshrinking and aggressive coarseness of demeanor may be reckoned as a state prison offence, and certainly merits that mild form of restraint called imprisonment for life. It is a shame for women to be measured on their manners. It is a shame that they need it. Women are the umpires of society. It is they whom all mooted points should be referred. To be a lady is more than to be a prince. A lady is always, in her rights, inalienably worthy of respect. A lady, a prince and peasant alike. The natural sentiment of man toward women is reverence. A man's soul is not wounded when a woman is in worldly wisdom; but if in grace, in tact, in sentiment, in delicate kindness, she should be found wanting, he receives an inward hurt.

Fashion Notes.

Muffs are very small. Black lace is very fashionable. "Skulled back" skirts are no longer in vogue. Gray in all shades grows in fashionable favor. Combination costumes remain in fashionable favor. Hats for children have the long, shouldered cape, or the long, cape, as in former seasons. Children's dresses are still made very full, but with these dresses very long hose are worn at this season. Frocades are not suitable for young

girls. They should wear evening dresses of soft Surah, veiling, or tulle.

Velveteen dresses are popular for little girls not yet in their teens, being warm, durable, and very rich in appearance.

There are no absolute rules in fashion as formerly; people nowadays follow their own individual fancy within certain limitations.

Girls in their teens wear the sailor hat of felt with a broad ribbon tied around it with a bow, and floating ends in the back.

Children wear wool hose this season, and in shades darker than the dress, rather than the pale-colored or black silk hose of the summer.

Evening gloves are of undressed kid, in soft, pale tints, and reach to the elbow or to the shoulder. With the very long glove no sleeve is worn.

For very young ladies evening dresses are made of cream or white blonde, over cream satin, and thickly studded with pearl and crystal beads.

The sealskin casaque, tight fitting and closed the whole length of the front, is very handsome and is in favor among those ladies who can afford it.

Sealskin jackets in the jersey style, but quite short and untrimmed, are more popular with young ladies than the long sealskin sacque of former years.

Round hats with both square and conical crowns, and both rolled and straight brims, are used by young and middle-aged ladies for street and visiting wear.

The full lace waistcoats of evening basques are frequently studded with silver, pearl, gilt, or colored beads, both large and small, and in a variety of shapes.

Louis XIII. costumes are even more popular this season than last, but the surpassing richness of the new material admits of more gorgeous and striking effects.

Sealskin redingotes are double breasted, Jersey backed, and closed both bank and front. They are trimmed with Directoire collar of sea otter or black fox.

Large wigogne cloaks of the color of the dress and lined with quilted satin of a shade of the same color or checked in the colors of the dress and bonnet, are being worn by Parisians.

When Valenciennes lace is used it is put on in full frills, pleated waistcoats, and wide jabots, while the flounces and trimmings of *Duchesse* and *point de Venise* are almost invariably quite scant.

The French are trimming satin circulars in gray with chinchilla; in golden brown, with red fox; when blue or brown, with the light and dark shades of natural beaver, or gray lynx of the blue-gray shades.

Tunics are made of woolen broche fabrics, while the skirt is of plain bison or paillasson, and the basque and short *jupe*, if there is one, are made of still another broche, frequently of contrasting color.

Standard of Education.

According to Ruskin, an educated man ought to know these things: First, where he is—that is to say, what sort of a world he has got into; how large it is, what kind of creatures live in it, and how; what it is made of, and what may be made of it. Secondly, where he is going—that is to say, what chances or reports there are of any other world beside this; what seems to be the nature of that other world. Thirdly, what he had best do under the circumstances—that is to say, what kind of faculties he possesses; what are the present state and wants of mankind; what is his place in society; and what are the readiest means in his power of attaining happiness and diffusing it. The man who knows these things, and who has his will so subdued in the learning of them that he is ready to do what he knows he ought, is an educated man; and the man who knows them not is uneducated, though he could talk all the tongues of Babel.

Stepping-Stones to Success.

Learn your business thoroughly. Keep at one thing—in no wise change. Observe system and order in all you do and undertake.

Be self-reliant; do not take too much advice, but rather depend on yourself. Never fail to keep your appointments, nor to be punctual to the minute.

Never be idle, but keep your hands or mind usefully employed except when sleeping.

Use charity with all; be ever generous in thought and deed—help others along life's thorny path.

Make no haste to be rich; remember that small and steady gains give competency and tranquility of mind.

Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day, and never trouble others with your complaints.

WHAT KINGS COST.

The Expense of Maintaining Monarchs on Their Thrones.

It is interesting to compare the expense of maintaining a monarch on a throne, and that of supporting a President in the executive chair of a Republic.

For many years the salary of the President of the United States was \$25,000 a year. This sum, indeed, did not represent the entire cost to the country of the executive office. The White House was supported, to some extent, from the public purse; and there were sundry other sums spent on the President's office. The salary of the President was raised to \$50,000 a year during Gen. Grant's term, and continues at that figure; and the whole expense to-day of the Presidential office is probably something less than \$100,000 yearly.

The cost of kingships in the various monarchies of Europe is much greater, in the smaller nations. The sovereigns, in the old days, used to spend pretty much what they pleased out of the public revenue. They were mostly absolute, and would impose taxes at will, and so raise an indefinite income for their own display and pleasure. This is still the case with the Czar of Russia, whose expenditures are never reported and cannot be estimated. The Sultan of Turkey, too, has power to raise all the taxes he can squeeze out of his impoverished and indolent subjects, and cannot be called to account for his spendings. But in all other European monarchies the sovereign is restricted. Absolute despotism with them has been replaced by constitutional systems. The Emperor or King can only spend what is voted to him by the Parliament or Congress. A device new to this century, called the civil list, has been adopted by nearly every monarchial country, and also by the French Republic. The civil list is designed to provide the sovereigns with a fixed income. It comprises a number of items, or heads of expenditure; and these are discussed and passed upon each year by the several legislative bodies. Of course, each sovereign has a greater or smaller private property of his own as a family inheritance; with which his subjects have nothing to do. The revenues he receives from the civil list, therefore, are what might be called his salary in his public capacity, and by no means show what his entire income is. The English civil list, for instance, provides Queen Victoria with an income of about two million dollars.

Germany provides the veteran Emperor William with a civil list of about three million dollars; which it must be difficult for a monarch so frugal and simple in his tastes and habits to get rid of in the course of a year. His private property moreover, adds at least a million to that vast sum. King Humbert of Italy's civil list is three million eight hundred thousand dollars a year, somewhat larger than that of the German Emperor; while young Alfonso of Spain has only about a million and a half, so impoverished are the people of his historic kingdom.

The lesser nations are, of course, more economical. The sovereign of Denmark has a civil list allowance of two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars a year; which, however, is three times what our President costs. The King of Holland gets three hundred thousand dollars, and the King of Greece two hundred, and twenty thousand dollars.

Thus it is evident that, without regard to any other aspect of the difference between monarchies and republics, at least the former is much the more costly luxury of the two to the masses of the people who have to pay the bills.

Distributing the Surplus Revenue.

A correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune*, who remembers receiving as a girl from her father the surplus revenue of the National Treasury, desires to know in what way Congress distributed the surplus, how much there was of it, etc. In June, 1836, a law was passed providing that the surplus remaining in the Treasury on January 1, 1837, above \$7,500,000, should be deposited with the States in four quarterly instalments in proportion to their representation in Congress, subject to recall under certain conditions in case of necessity. Three instalments, aggregating \$28,000,000, were thus deposited, but owing to change of sentiment and a decreasing revenue, the fourth instalment was first postponed and finally withheld by Act of Congress. "Some of the States," says Mr. Wharton Barker in a pamphlet lately published on the distribution of the National surplus, "used their shares well and wisely. In some their interest still continues to defray the expenses of the public schools. New Hampshire illustrated extreme democratic principle by distributing the money among her citizens."

NURSING THE SICK.

Some Good Advice to the Attendants of Those who are Ill.

To minister to the sick, says *All the Year Round*, is one of the noblest ambitions of the present age, as evinced by the number of people who voluntarily devote themselves to such duties, independently of the calls of affection or considerations of reward. To be a good nurse requires a rare combination of excellences in the same individual—intelligence, physical strength, a kind disposition with firmness, a light hand and foot, courage greater than that which animates the soldier on the battlefield, and, above all, untiring patience. Given these, and the nurse becomes more than half the remedy, not only inspiring confidence on the part of the patient, but the surgeon or physician also, who can rely that his instructions will be carried out with implicit obedience to the letter. Such a paragon, however, is rarely to be met with, except as an emissary from one or another of those admirable institutions where ladies are trained under skillful management for this work; and in the vast majority of cases an invalid is placed in the hands of his immediate friends or relations, who, with the best intentions, it must be confessed, often prejudice his comfort and retard his recovery by the very over-anxiety which is bred of affection. The object of this paper is not to convey the instructions necessary for the education of an accomplished nurse—a difficult task—but to enumerate a few small points which should be avoided, as tending greatly to the discomfort of the patient, and for the guidance of those who, without previous experience, find themselves suddenly thrust into this most responsible position.

Quietude is a great thing, of course, but real quietude means the absence of all excitement, and it must be remembered that anything out of the common will tend to excite the mind of a sufferer. Do not, therefore, walk on tiptoe, for this, in addition to its unusual elaboration of the gait, invariably causes a certain amount of creaking. Speak in low tones, but don't whisper; a whisper will often awake a sleeper who would not be disturbed by ordinary conversation; and never say "Hash!" Let your clothes and foot-covering be of as noiseless and unobtrusive a character as possible, and instead of gliding and tottering about like a rickety ghost, do not hesitate to walk. If you have occasion to say anything in the room, say it so that the patient can hear it if he wishes, and do not let him be aware of your conspiring privately with the others, especially at the door. That door has much to answer for. If it be visible from the bed, people open it cautiously, put their heads in and slowly withdraw again. If, as is more frequently the case, it is screened by the bed curtains, mysterious openings and shuttings are heard, unattended with any apparent ingress or egress and sotto voce colloquies go on outside. When you enter do so honestly and at once; do not spend five minutes in turning the handle, like a housebreaker, thereby producing a series of irritating little clicks, finally terminating in a big snap, with which the door flies open. If the latch be at all rusty, a handle that is slowly wound back in this way will often stick, and either require to be rattled back into position, or, if left as it is, may start back suddenly, after a time, of its own accord, with a report like a pistol shot. It is always well to recollect that it by no means follows that a sick person is asleep because his eyes are shut; he may be acutely conscious of all that is passing in the room, though unable or unwilling to make any sign; and nothing can be more maddening under such circumstances, than to have people hush-sh-shing and whispering around and creaking about on the tips of their toes.

Never stand at the foot of the bed and look at the patient. While talking to him, it is better to sit by the side of the bed, and as near the pillow as possible, so that you may converse easily, while your face and body are turned in the same direction as his. By this means you can make all necessary observation of his features without enforcing the arrest of his eyes to your own, which is so embarrassing and disagreeable to one lying in bed, and is almost unavoidable when facing him. Keep him in as comfortable a position as possible, by all means, but don't be too demonstrative in smoothing the pillows and little offices of that sort. Fidgety attentions will worry him, and do him more harm than downright neglect.

Why General Sheridan Walks.

Gen. Sheridan never wants a carriage for himself. He never uses one in Washington if he can avoid it. If the day is fine he walks. If not, he rides in a street car. When his war-horse, Winchester, died, a few years ago, says the *Washington Post*, his

love for horseflesh went out of him. A gentleman who knew him well in boyhood says that the first time Sheridan ever bestrode a horse was when another boy put him on a fiery colt, unsaddled and unbridled, and told him to hold on by his knees. The animal galloped across the country for several miles and then came to a halt, and Sheridan was still holding on.

Newspapers.

Here, now we have it—the newspaper? Wonderful product of the brain and toil! One would think that it should be dearly bought and highly prized, and yet it is the cheapest thing in the world. One to five cents will buy it; one to two dollars will bring it to your home every week in the year. And yet, strange to say, there are men "too poor" to take a newspaper. They can pay five cents for a glass of beer, or ten cents for a beverage of unknown composition, called a "cocktail;" they can pay half a dollar for a circus ticket, or twenty-five cents for the theatre, but they are too poor to buy a newspaper, which is a ticket of admission to the great Globe Theatre, whose dramas were written by God himself, "whose scene shifter is Time, and whose curtains are rung down by Death." It is not necessary to speak of mighty responsibilities which necessarily attach to the control of such a power in the land as the newspaper is to-day, nor to say that the editor who rightly apprehends the importance of his work must bring to it a reverent spirit and a constant care. The humblest sheet in the land goes into some homes as the only authoritative messenger from the great world outside; its opinions are accepted as truth, and its suggestions have the force of law. The editor stands on the widest pulpit known in modern society. "The lawyer has a narrow sphere before him; the senator and the representative—the walls hedge in their voices; the minister has the parish walls about his church. But there is a pulpit that has no limit—it is the Press. It is, literally, the voice of one that cries in the wilderness; for all across the populous land the papers speak; and there is not in modern civilization a place or power that can compare with this." Rev. DeWitt Talmage once said: "In the clanking of the printing press, as the sheets fly out, I hear the voice of the Lord Almighty, proclaiming to all the dead nations of the earth: 'Lazarus, come forth!' and to the retreating surges of darkness: 'let there be light!'"—*Typographic Messenger*.

Man and the Sun.

One hundred years ago the diameter of the sun was four miles greater than it is at present. One thousand years ago the sun was forty miles greater than it is at present. Ten thousand years ago the diameter of the sun was 400 miles greater than it is now. The advent of man upon the earth took place, no doubt, a long time ago, but in the history of the earth the advent of man is a comparatively recent phenomenon. Yet it seems certain that when man first trod our planet, the diameter of the sun must have been many hundreds, perhaps many thousands of miles greater than it is at present. We must not, however, overestimate the significance of this statement. The diameter of the sun is at present 860,000 miles, so that a diminution of 10,000 miles would be little more than the hundredth part of its diameter. If the diameter of the sun were to shrink to-morrow to the extent of 10,000 miles the change would not be appreciable to common observation, though even a much smaller change would not elude astronomical measurement. The world on which the primitive man trod was certainly illuminated by a larger sun than that which now shines upon us. It does not necessarily follow that the climate must have been much hotter than now. The question of warmth depends upon other matters as well as sunbeams, so that we must be cautious in any inferences drawn in this way, nor are any such inferences needed for our present purpose.

One he Hadn't Met.

One day a pompous little fellow at a dinner-table was boasting of the great men with whom he was on intimate terms. He had been in constant correspondence with Longfellow, had lunched with Tennyson, was in friendly relations with the Prince of Wales, and in short, knew everything and everybody. At length a quiet individual at the further end of the room broke in on the conversation with the question: "My dear sir, did you happen to know the Siamese Twins when they were in this country?" "Our hero, who evidently had a talent for lying, but no real genius, at once replied: "The Siamese Twins, sir? Yes, sir. I became very intimate with one of them, but I never had the good fortune to meet the other."

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Failure should be the stepping-stone to success.

Who can answer where any road leads to?—*Lucile*.

Stay not until you are told of opportunities to do good; inquire after them.

The best rule for good looks is to keep happy and cultivate a kind disposition.

Be always displeased at what thou art, if thou desire to attain to what thou art not; for where thou hast pleased thyself, there thou abidest.

Of all the gifts that nature can give us, the faculty of remaining silent, or of answering apropos, is perhaps the most useful.

In enterprise of every kind, it is better to lose the game by a card too much than a card too little; for it sounds better to be rash and daring than timorous and cowardly.

Success is obtained by mixing two parts of common sense with three parts of will, and stirring both in the bowl of ambition, with the spoon of perseverance.

Laziness grows on people. It begins in cobwebs and ends in iron chains. The more business a man has to do the more he is able to accomplish, for he learns to economize his time.

Oddities In Fur.

Some there are, with an abundance of wealth and a thirsting desire for novelty, who indulge their taste in oddities. A wealthy New York lady last season wore a full set of furs of leopard skin, and not to be outdone, one of her neighbors secured a similar set of tiger skins, and since then both of these furs are in moderate use.

The tiger skin rose in price, and one season about two years since the market was completely exhausted. Some gentlemen wear vests of this skin, thus following the eccentric style adopted many years ago by the far-famed General Sam Houston, of Texas.

Our common wild cat is much used, being a handsome fur at moderate prices. As for skunk skins, in Europe they are readily sold for trimming muffs and dresses, but here they must receive a new christening before being used to any considerable extent. Sometimes they bear the name of the Australian mink, at others, any name to suit the fashion.

The fur of the house cat is much used—black, white, Maltese and tortoise-shell having the preference. Last year the fur of over 1,200,000 house cats was used by the trade.

Monkey skins are by no means overlooked, and 42,000 skins were used last season by furriers. The fur of the Abyssinian Diana and black monkeys are preferred, they being mostly used in trimming. In the trimming of garments oftentimes a most incongruous set of animals are made to harmonize. For instance, monkey, skunk and cats are all side by side in a trimming known only to purchasers as Hoang Ho seal. The skins of rats, mice, dogs, opossum, kangaroo and bay lynx are saleable, the latter finding much use in muffs and boas. The coon hair finds special favor in Germany, where it is made into hats. Hair of the ox and calf is used in the imitation of woolen goods. Our skunk, white backed and striped, is in Germany dyed and made up into muffs and boas, and so disguised we readily buy it as Alaska sable. Tartar sable dyed passes off readily as Russian sable, bearded sealskin finely imitates leopard skin, while the beach marten copies the sable and fox skins pass for lynx. Three million muskrat skins were collected last year, and 15,000 American bear skins and the same number of buffalo robes were used. Every year there are used 5,000,000 rabbit skins, 6,000,000 squirrel, 3,000,000 lamb, and there is scarcely an animal that has hair but what is used in some way. The beaver sacques so largely sold in Canada are rarely seen here, as they are deemed too heavy for this climate.—*Cincinnati News*.

The Farm.

There are 4,000,000 families in the United States. An exchange wants to know if anybody can conceive of the value of even a little improvement on each one of these farms in a year. It says that on every farm there should be "more thorough cultivation, better implements, and above all, better care taken of them; better fences, better barns, better stock, better homes, and more home enjoyments, more social gatherings, more family picnics, in which the help are allowed to participate; more products about the farm for boys and girls to have a personal interest in; more good books and papers; more smiles and fewer frowns; forbearance; less impatience; more pleasant words at home; more time and sunlight in the parlor, and no room about the house, nor anything about the farm "too good" for father, mother, boys and girls to enjoy.