

PANAMA.

I have never seen poor people so poor as they are in Panama, writes a Panama correspondent of the Chicago Chronicle. Many of them do not eat bread at all because they cannot afford to buy it. They find a cheap substitute in rice. A plantain which grows wild in great profusion and which can be obtained by little exertion and no expense is another staple article of food among the very poor. The favorite dish among the lower classes is a sort of meat and vegetable soup. For a few pennies they buy a handful of scraps and undesirable pieces of meat at the butcher's, which is the same class of stuff that is given away as dog meat at our markets, and this is mixed with vegetables, probably the cullings from refused stuff, also, and the whole boiled into a sort of porridge. The pan or utensil containing this questionable mixture will then be put upon the table—more frequently the floor—and after it has cooled sufficiently the whole family will gather around, with forks and spoons, and the way they go after it is a literal example of "every fellow for himself and the devil take the hindmost."

Four to six cents per day will probably be sufficient to meet the scant requirements of grown up persons among this element, with an allowance of half or less for the youngsters. Clothes do not enter into the bill of expenditures at all, because very few are needed, and the cast-off garments of other people may be utilized to meet all their requirements in this way. The children forage around the neighborhood with the goats and the buzzards and seem to be quite as successful as either in the scavenger line, for like both, they are always eating something.

It must not be understood from the foregoing that all the people of Panama are poor lacking in culture, for this would be far from the truth. There are many families who import their meat from Chicago and their wines from Europe. There are many beautiful homes adorned on the outside by the lavish ornamentation that nature so willingly provides in this latitude, if she is but given a chance to show her handiwork, and furnished with taste and elegance within. You meet men who are well dressed, who can speak several languages and who will discuss fluently the big topics that are engaging the attention of the rest of the world. Most of the women of the best circles are Latin or have been brought up according to the Latin standard, and this means they are good women, devout in their religion, devoted to their family, neat in their attire and affable in their manners.

Neither is Panama, unclean and poverty ridden as it is generally, lacking in physical charm. Nature has a way of training a green vine to ornament every rotten stump, and here she has done her best to deceive you by flinging her green banners everywhere, by hanging up gorgeous flowers that nod to you from their ponderous stems, by sending monster butterflies with brilliant coats flit across your path, by putting birds with flashing crests and crimson wings in all the trees to amuse you with their antics and charm you with their serenades. At night when the sea breeze is blowing the mosquitoes and the foul odors inland, and the stars are blinking at each other across the great spaces, it is hard to realize that you are in a land of disease and decay, where death is unusually busy in sharpening its sting and feeding its victims to the grave.

LANTERN SET BARN AFIRE.

The explosion of a lantern set fire to and entirely destroyed the bank barn of James Stayman of near Monersville. Mr. Stayman had gone into the barn to do some work and to get his team ready to go to the mountain. While in the stable the lantern exploded and in a short time it was a mass of flames. By heroic efforts he succeeded in saving all his live stock. A quantity of hay, straw and some farming implements were consumed with the building. Mr. Stayman had \$250 insurance on the barn and \$50 on the contents in the Lurgan fire insurance company.

In searching the files of some old papers recently the writer came across some very unique marriage notices which are well worth preserving. It was customary for the editor to make some personal allusion to the wedding, not in the news column, but immediately following the announcement. Sometimes friends would attach gags and queer doggerel, very uncomplimentary to the newly wedded pair, and some of the editorial comments were enough to place him in peril had it not been that the bridegroom rarely saw the notice until long after the honeymoon had waned.

In the New York Weekly Museum for June 1, 1814, appeared the following:

"On Saturday, May 14, at Charlton, Luther Marble to Miss Sophia Stone."

To which the editor appended the words:

"A very cold hard match."

On March 27, 1815, this notice appeared in the Museum under the heading "Nuptial:"

"In Charleston, S. C., January 31.—Mr. Stephen Lyon, of New York, to Miss Rebecca Lamb."

"The happy time at length's arrived

In Scripture days foretold, When Lamb and Lyon doth unite, Embrace and keep one fold."

Another Museum nuptial notice read thus:

"At Blooming Grove, Mr. John Reeder of this city, to Miss Elizabeth Tompkins, of the former place."

"One volume of the 'Rights of man'"

From maiden errors freed her; She saw the title, liked the plan, And soon became a Reeder."

In the New Haven Athenaeum, of August 6, 1814, there appeared a notice which naturally attracted attention because of the strange appropriateness of the names of all parties concerned.—The editor, evidently a wag, appended a few words, the whole reading as follows:

"Married, at Peterville, August 1, by the Rev. Dr. Cannon, Mr. G. Powder to the amiable and accomplished Miss Sparks."

"[Ed.—We are apprehensive that Sparks among such combustibles as these will produce an explosion at Salt Peterville.]"

In another issue the writer found the following nuptial notice:

"On June 24, at Homestead, the Rev. William Heart to Miss Lydia Moore, of this city."

"Whoever heard the like before, She's got two hearts And he's got Moore."

A witty and punning notice from over the water announced the marriage in Great Malvern of Mr. Nott, the pickle maker, to Miss Burnett in these words:—"Burn it," cried Nott, "it makes me smile."

As well as feverish and hot: My wife she loves me all the while, But still declares she loveth Nott."—John De Morgan, in Printers' Ink.

POISONED THE COWS.

"If you don't make the things right which you made wrong I will return and send your dwelling and barn in the air in smoke in addition to what you will find I have done. An enemy." Thus read a note pinned to the barn door on the farm of Elias Shughart, north of Newville, Cumberland county.

Shughart went early to the barn and on opening the door he found that some person had cut all his harness into fine shreds, smashed his buggy and wagon into splinters, killed a calf and poisoned several of his cows and tried to poison his horses with Paris green. The cows were found in time to save their lives and the poison was discovered in the watering trough before the horses drank.

Next morning a further evidence of malice was found. Mrs. Shughart took some wood from the pile near the barn and soon after she had placed it in the stove of her home, the powder with which the kindling had been loaded exploded, and the stove was blown to pieces and the room wrecked. Mrs. Shughart was not near the stove and the larger of flying bits of iron passed, but she was struck on the head by several pieces of stove plate and deep cuts were inflicted.

How to Dry Nappery and Prepare it For the Ironing Board.

Hang your linen to dry, using two lines comparatively close and parallel for your tablecloths; also for sheets. Throw one selvage side of your tablecloth over one line toward the other, allowing it to hang down about a quarter of a yard and being careful to pin it in a short distance from the ends. Take the opposite side of your cloth and throw it over the other line facing the first line and pin it in the same manner. This will form a sort of bag and will prevent to a considerable extent the wild blowing of the tablecloth in windy weather. After the tablecloth is thoroughly dried remove it from the line and prepare to dampen it. A whisk broom is excellent for this purpose. Table linen, in order to bring out the bright gloss that makes it so attractive, should be dampened very considerably. Sprinkle the tablecloths very freely, being sure that the selvage ends or hemstitched borders are thoroughly damp. Roll up tightly, patting the roll frequently to spread the dampness. The napkins and doilies should be arranged alternately one upon the other, first a napkin dry from the line, then one which has been wrung out in warm water, then a dry napkin, and following it another wrung out in hot water, and so on. Then roll tightly together. —Woman's Home Companion.

To Make Jelly Right.

Whatever fruit is used, cook until soft; then let it drip from a suspended sack made from thin but strong material. Never squeeze it with the hands. Give it time, and the juice will drip through into the receiving vessel, which should be an earthen bowl. Put the juice into a porcelain kettle and over a brisk fire; boil twenty minutes. At the same time place on an earthen platter the quantity of sugar you will be likely to use; set it in the oven and heat through thoroughly, being careful that it does not scorch or discolor. When the juice has boiled briskly twenty minutes from the top of the stove, remove and measure it and allow as many pints or quarts of sugar as there are of the condensed juice. Stir all together and boil up about three minutes. Strain into a pitcher, fill your jelly glasses and let stand until next day. —Exchange.

A Nursery Hammock.

As the advancing season shuts little children more or less indoors a hammock in the nursery will be very helpful for the mother or nurse. It may be adjusted from the window sill across a corner of the room to a strong hook in the wall. Knit with two large wooden needles, using macramé or other strong cord of one or two colors. Cast on twenty-five stitches and knit plain or with any preferred fancy stitch a strip five feet in length. Knit four such strips and join with an overland stitch. Now fasten the ends to wooden horns, which can easily be fashioned. Knot a fringe of the cord on the edges and across the bows. For a baby's hammock cast on fifteen stitches and knit the strips not more than a yard long.—Country Gentleman.

To Call the Children Home.

"A policeman's whistle," says the mother of four small boys living in a suburban town, "solves the problem of how to call the children home with the least expenditure of vocal energy and precious time. Of course this would not answer in a city, where bluecoats abound, but here or when off in the country it is most efficacious. A child can't make excuse that he 'didn't hear' if anywhere within the radius of a half mile, and there is something in the insistent note of the whistle that brings them scampering with as much celerity as those who followed the Pied Piper of Hamelin."

Warmed Up Meats.

To make warmed up meats appetizing there are various commodities which ought to always occupy a place in the pantry. Have a small jar of onion butter, a bottle of caramel, a glass can filled with browned flour, a jar of finely rolled bread-crumbs, Worcestershire sauce, celery salt, mace, bay leaves, a bottle of Oscar sauce, tabasco, cayenne, gerry, catchup, canned mushrooms, paprika, kitchen bouquet and horseradish. The secret of appetizing food is good flavoring, and a frequent varying of flavor has more to do with a tempting table than a large butcher bill.

Sycamore Furniture.

When one wishes something light, a little different from the enameled bedroom furniture, there is something new in furniture which cannot be found everywhere—sycamore finished in the natural wood. These sets are simple in design, being made on straight lines, with tall, slender, square posts, tapering at the ends.

FARMING IN THE SOUTH.

The Passenger Department of the Illinois Central Railroad Company is issuing monthly circulars concerning fruit growing, vegetable raising, stock raising, dairying, etc. in the States of Kentucky, West Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. Every Farmer or Home-seeker, who will forward his name and address to the undersigned, will be mailed free. Circulars Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and others as they are published from month to month.

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I will make monthly visits to these places during the season, and will receive work and return it.

Thankful for past favors, and soliciting a continuance of the same. I am, respectfully,

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