

SHAKERS.

Nearly every one has heard something about the Shakers, but few realize that there are upward of five thousand of those God-fearing people in this country, that have lived among us more than one hundred years, and have been the most successful communists in the world.

The Shakers claim that the one grand fundamental cause of this continued success is the religious bond that holds them together. Of their religious opinions little is generally known, and a few words of explanation may be of interest.

They believe that the second coming of Christ was made manifest in the person of Ann Lee, their founder, a little more than one hundred years ago, when she came to this country from England and settled in the State of New York, near Albany.

Each member is bound to perform some kind of honest labor, and to owe no man a dollar. They dwell together in families of about one hundred each, presided over by a deacon and deaconess. Several of these families usually congregate together and form communities. In the United States there are eighteen of these societies.

Persons desirous of visiting any of the societies of Shakers may be informed that there are three of them in the State of New York, the first and largest of which is at New Lebanon, county of Columbia, two and one-half miles south of Lebanon Springs.

Each one of the Shaker family has a large room or hall set apart for religious worship, and here they gather together and join in singing songs of praise and exhorting one another to be steadfast, and live the Christ-life they have pledged themselves to follow.

While singing, they march around the room, keeping time to the music by a motion of the hands.

A question often asked is, how can the Shakers keep good their number, living as they do, lives of Celibates? The answer is, that they take orphan children, and bring them up and educate them; a portion of them, on arriving at the age of maturity, become Shakers, and remain with them; others go out into the world and battle with life alone.

To learn about this peculiar secluded people, the writer was induced to visit the Parent Society at Mt. Lebanon, N. Y. What strikes one most when visiting the Shakers is the cleanliness of the people—everything is extremely clean. Industry everywhere prevails. There are no drones among them. Every one performs some kind of useful labor.

The writer was struck with the excellence of everything they produced. Their butter was of the very best. Their looms were of the best. Their chairs were of the very best. Their dunnets of an extra quality. Indeed, everything they made was of the very best, and commanded an extra price when offered for sale. Each family had some special industry, by means of which a living was made.

BABIES.

"Horrid little babies!" Eh! Well! it is the fashion to dispise babies now-a-days. In fact this is the age of contempt—for all things of which poets sing in bygone times.

After a beautiful love song, which has been copied into a paper, we find the comment, "Carry them out on two chips."

Should any man serenade his lady-love, he would be the laughing stock of his acquaintances.

Married men are congratulated by their friends on the absence of their wives, and married women are supposed to like to go alone to theatres and play girl again.

"Pooh!" and "Bah!" are the expressions that greet any assertion to the contrary; and love for parents, fondness for home, delight in nature's beauties, are too generally regarded as afflictions.

I heard a man say one day, "A woman's most wretched moment is when she finds her daughter is able to cut her out with the men in society."

"You know nothing of a mother's feeling," I answered. "A good wife gives up all that; a good mother rejoices in her daughter's attractions."

"Oh! keep that good-by talk for Sunday-school books," sneered the speaker. "You know better."

loul to a 'der, and regard them as miserable little nuisances; that your philosophers falsely state that "very intellectual people never have large families;" or that many a fashionable man feels that the nursery or the nurse's arms are the places for his child, and the ball room the place for its mother!

An excellent caricature that I smiled over the other day shows two ladies playing guitars, surrounded with admirers who are gazing with rapt admiration into their faces; at a little distance sits an anxious looking man to whom a maid with a baby carriage is whispering, "The poor little fellow seems very ill. Shall I take him to misus?"

"Oh, no; on no account!" cries the father; "she must not be interrupted. Take him into the house and I'll follow you."

This is what they would have us believe motherhood has come to in these days. Perhaps it has, in such society; but, thank Heaven, there are hosts of quiet, home-loving women yet, and let heartless folks mock as they will, each of these mothers could tell you what her baby is to her—what a pleasure when she is sad; what a treasure at any time! Tired? Why, if she is ever so tired, now it rests her to "take baby!" What a thing it is to hold it close to her in the quiet night, to feel its little hand holding tightly to her thumb, and to be awakened by its crows as it tangles its hand in her hair.

You can buy almost anything with money, but just try to buy her baby of the proud mother who loves it truly! Try—that is all!

You may make young folks sneer at love, and old folks doubt all honor and honesty; you may make romance a thing to be mocked at, and turn the word "sentiment" to a sneer; but you cannot change the hearts of women to their babies, as long as they are not too fashionable to hold them in their arms, and be all that Heaven meant a woman to be to her own child.—Maggon's Illustrated World.

Interesting Experiences.

Hiram Cameron, Furniture Dealer of Columbus, Ga., tells his experience, thus: "For three years have tried every remedy on the market for Stomach and Kidney Disorders, but got no relief, until I used Electric Bitters. Took five bottles and am now cured, and thank Electric Bitters the best Blood Purifier in the world." Major A. B. Reed of West Liberty, Ky., says: "Nothing has ever done me so much good as Electric Bitters. Sold at fifty cents a bottle by G. M. Shindler."

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According to Professor J. Norman Lockyer, the English astronomer, the total number of stars of which some knowledge can be gained with the optical and now available is from 49,000,000 to 50,000,000. Only about six thousand are visible to the naked eye—three thousand in the northern hemisphere and three thousand in the southern.

A remarkable illustration of the enduring character of human hair may now be seen in the British Museum, where has been placed a wig lately found in a temple at Thebes, which is supposed to have been worn by an Egyptian priest at a period not less than 3400 years ago.

An eminent physician is reported as having said that many lives were lost by starvation owing to an over-estimate of the nutritive value of beef-tea and meat-juices. In typhus and typhoid fevers, he says there is no good substitute for milk and eggs.

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