

gorgeous hues upon her canvas while the summer lasted; and when he watched her in the long dusk of the autumn evenings sit motionless in the chimney corner opposite to him, her fingers lying idly on her lap instead of busily prattling some merry nonsense to him, and with a sad preoccupation in her girlish face, then he felt that he had received his own death-blow, and had no more to live for.

(To be continued.)

BREAD-MAKING AND CIVILIZATION.

Each stage of society's advance, from lowest to highest, may be broadly characterized by the prevailing manner of handling the staff of life; that is, by the methods pursued in making bread. Whether pre-historic races made bread or not is more than can be certainly determined, but we know that existing tribes of cave-dwellers and burrowers made no bread. They are differentiated from the brutes by ability to light a fire, by the practice of cooking, and by that of wearing clothing, but their diet consists for the most part of reptiles and roots. A striking advance occurs when the seeds of the field come into use as food. Grain bruised on a flat stone with a billet of wood is wet into dough and cast on the embers; bread makes its appearance in the world, and progress begins. Several tribes of the Shoshone family of Indians make bread in this way. The mortar and pestle succeed the billet and stone, and a baking plate of clay or stone is added to the household outfit. The mortar and the pestle are the utensils of the earlier nomadic period, and most tribes of American Indians use them until contact with the whites modifies their habits. The hand mill, probably the first, and certainly the most important machine used in the peaceful arts, marks the transition from the barbarous to the patriarchal state. This admirable contrivance, with which two women ground corn in the early dawn of history, and with which two women still grind corn wherever patriarchal institutions prevail, has rendered more service to man, it may almost be said, than all other machines together. It is the type of the patriarchal state, but its use was not abandoned till the advent of the existing form of society. The use of leaven probably originated in the patriarchal period, while the oven—that is, what is now known as the baker's oven—belongs to the era of village communities. The grist mill is the type of existing civilization; being the first experiment in removing domestic industries from the household, the first attempt to set up machinery for doing the work of several households at once.—*Atlantic Monthly.*

OCEAN CURRENTS.

But the currents of the ocean influence something besides the weather. Upon them depends to a considerable extent whether a certain part of the coast shall have one or another kind of animals dwelling in the salt water. This is not so much true of the fishes as it is of the mollusks or "shell-fish," the worms that live in the mud of the tide-flats, the anemones, sea-urchins, starfish and little clinging people of the wet rocks, and the jelly-fishes, great and small, that swim about in the open sea.

Nothing would injure most of these "small fry" more than a change in the water, making it a few degrees colder or warmer than they have been accustomed to. Since the constant circulation of the currents keeps the ocean water in all its parts almost precisely of the same density, and food seems about as likely to abound in one district as another, naturalists have concluded that it is temperature which decides the extent of coast or of sea-area where any one kind of invertebrate animals will be found; for beyond the too great heat, or else the chill of the water, sets a wall as impassable as if of rock. It thus happens that the small life of the hot Cuban waters is different from that of our Carolina coast; and that, again, largely separate from what you will see off New York; while Cape Cod seems to run out as a partition between the shore-life south of it and a very different set of shells, sand-worms, and so forth to the northward. This is not strictly defined: many species lap over, and a few are to be found the whole length of our coast; yet Cape Hatteras ends the northern range of many half-tropical species, and Cape Cod will not let pass it dozens of kinds of animals abundant from Massachusetts Bay northward.—*December Wide Awake.*

THE HIGHLAND SHEPHERD.

The shepherds of Ross-shire and Sutherland are physically a fine race. Many people have a fixed idea that all Highlanders are tall, strong men; others, judging probably from the fishermen they have seen on the east coast, or from the western islands, imagine them small, stunted, and red-haired. Of course, there are some small, poor-looking men, but as a rule they will compare favourably with any race in these islands, and it would be a strange thing if they did not. Their life is eminently calculated to make them do so. Their food, though simple, is abundant; the oatmeal which, with milk and a little mutton and bacon, forms their diet, is well known for its properties of bone-making. They breathe air than which there is no purer in the world, and their hard out-of-door life insures them sound and healthy sleep. If to most men the life of a shepherd would appear strange and almost appalling in its utter loneliness, to some few it has, for this very reason, a peculiar fascination. (We are speaking here of the genuine hillman, not of one who is connected with a coast arable farm.) Some of the straths and glens are well populated—well populated, that is to say, for that country. There may be on twenty miles of road two or three shooting lodges, with their attendant collection of keepers' houses, a few small crofts, perhaps an inn, and possibly a kirk, though these two latter are unfrequent, and the average distance between inns in Sutherland—always excepting a narrow strip on the east coast—may be set down at from fifteen to thirty miles. Many of the shepherds' houses, however, are a long distance off the main road, and a man, after walking from the nearest railway station twenty or thirty miles, and often much further, may have to turn across the heather for five or six more before he gets home,

though there is often a peat track to help him. His most probable neighbour will be a keeper, and keepers and shepherds do not always pull well together, there being knotty questions about heather-burning, and sheep straying over marshes—the latter being especially frequent when the adjoining land is under deer—which have to be settled afresh every year, and which cause no little amount of jealousy and ill-felling between the two. Sometimes, however, they are great friends; and as a rule they get on pretty well together, partly, no doubt, for the sake of companionship, and partly, on the keeper's side at least, from motives of policy, for he knows well, if he is worth anything, how essential it is for the welfare of his game that he and the shepherd should be on good terms, and how great the power is which the latter has over it.—*Macmillan.*

A SENSIBLE MOTHER.

It is really pitiful to see a good, conscientious little mother resolutely shutting herself away from so much that is best and sweetest in her children's lives, for the sake of tucking their dresses and ruffling their petticoats. How surprised and grieved she will be to find that her boys and girls, at sixteen, regard "mother" chiefly as a most excellent person to keep shirts in order and to make new dresses, and not as one to whom they care to go for social companionship.

Yet, before they are snubbed out of it, by repeated rebuffs, such as "Run away, I'm too busy to listen to your nonsense," children naturally go to their mothers with all their sorrows and pleasures; and if "mother" can only enter into all their little plans, how pleased they are! Such a shout of delight as I heard last summer from Mrs. Friendly's croquet ground, where her two little girls were playing. "Oh, goody, goody, mamma is coming to play with us!" She was a busy mother, too, and I know would have much preferred to use what few moments of recreation she could snatch, for something more interesting than playing croquet with little children, not much taller than their mallets. She has often said to me: "I cannot let my children grow away from me; I must keep right along with them all the time; and whether it is croquet with the little ones, or Latin grammar and baseball with the boys, or French dictation and sash ribbons with the girls, I must be 'in it,' as far as I can."

A JUDICIOUS WIFE.

A judicious wife is always nipping off from her husband's moral nature little twigs that are growing in wrong directions. She keeps him in shape by continual pruning. If you say anything silly, she will affectionately tell you so; if you declare that you will do some absurd thing, she will find some means of preventing you from doing it. And by far the chief part of all the common sense there is in the world belongs unquestionably to women. The wisest things a man commonly does are those which his wife counsels him to do. A wife is a grand wielder of the moral pruning-knife. If Johnson's wife had lived, there would have been no hoarding up of orange-peel, no touching of all the posts in walking along the street, no eating or drinking with a disgusting voracity. If Oliver Goldsmith had been married, he never would have worn that ridiculous coat. Whenever you find a man who you know little about, oddly dressed, or talking absurdly, or exhibiting eccentricity of manner, you may be sure that he is not a married man; for the corners are rounded off, the little shoots pared away, in married men. Wives have generally much more sense than their husbands, even though they may be clever men. The wife's advice is like the ballast that keeps the ship steady.

A TIDY HOME.

As a general rule for living neatly and saving time, it is better to keep clean than make clean. If you are careful not to drop crumbs of bread and cake on the carpet, and take similar precautions, you will escape an untidy room and the trouble of cleaning it. In working, if you make a practice of putting all the ends of your thread into a division of the work-box made for the purpose, and never let one fall on the floor, the room will look very different at the end of a morning, from what it does when not attended to. A house is kept far cleaner when all the members of the family are taught to wipe their feet thoroughly on coming from out of doors, than it can be where this is neglected. There are a thousand ways of keeping clean and saving labour and time which it is well worth while to learn and practise.

THE LOWER CLASSES.

Who are they? The toiling millions, the labouring man and woman, the farmer, the mechanic, the artisan, the inventor, the producer? Far from it. These are nature's nobility. No matter if they are high or low in station, rich or poor in pelf, conspicuous or humble in position, they are surely upper circles in the order of nature, whatever factitious distinctions of society, fashionable or unfashionable, decree. It is not low, it is the highest duty, privilege and pleasure for the great man and the high-souled woman to earn what they possess, to work their own way through life, to be the architects of their own fortunes. Some may rank the classes we have alluded to as only relatively low, and, in fact, the middling classes. We insist they are absolutely the very highest. If there be a class of human beings on earth who may be properly denominated low, it is that class who spend without earning, who consume without producing, who dissipate on the earnings of their relatives, without being anything in themselves.

THE American Board have secured permission from Umbela, a powerful chief of the country on the east coast of South Africa, north of Delagoa Bay and of Zululand, to establish a mission among his people.

LICENSES to sell liquor in Nebraska are hereafter to cost \$1,000. There is a hot and bitter contest over the law, and the Liquor Union has raised considerable money to contest its constitutionality and prevent its enforcement.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

PARIS has now fifty-one non-Roman Catholic places of worship, besides the thirty-one stations of M. McAll's mission.

IN Calcutta there are 199 Hindoo temples, 177 Mohammedan mosques, thirty-one Christian churches, and two Jewish synagogues.

THE General Synod of Baden has petitioned the Imperial Parliament to appoint a day of fasting and prayer for the whole of Germany.

THE Spanish Minister of Justice has informed the Chamber of Deputies at Madrid that slavery no longer exists in the Spanish colonies.

THE Protestant church at Aghabullogue, Cork, has been wrecked by a party of men, who stripped the roof and then smashed the windows.

THE 50,000,000 of population of the United States have a Protestant minister for every 728 persons, and a Sabbath school teacher for every 36.

JOHN TAYLOR, the head of the Mormon Church, has shewn his contempt and defiance of the laws of the United States by taking another wife.

M. LEDOUX, Consul-General of France at Zanzibar, reports a great famine in equatorial Africa. The tribes in despair have pillaged the caravans.

THE United Brethren (Moravians) report 377 mission stations, 386 missionaries, 329 meeting houses, 753 Sunday schools, 25,394 church members.

M. GAMBETTA says that France must remain on good terms with all the Powers, but that the country requires more decided action against the clergy.

A CONGREGATIONAL pastor in Connecticut attempted to eat a piece of pie on his fiftieth birthday, but found his teeth failed him. It was stuffed with fifty gold dollars.

COLOGNE has recently experienced a violent earthquake shock. How deplorable it would have been if it had caused the lofty spire of its beautiful cathedral to topple to the ground!

THE colonies of Natal, discontented with their form of government, demand the institution of a parliamentary rule upon the model of that which has been granted the colony of the Cape.

THE Christian students of the University of Kieff, in Russia, have petitioned the Minister of the Interior to withdraw the rule requiring its Jewish students to reside in the outskirts of the city.

MR. J. P. LUDLOW, of Seattle, Washington Territory, is building a steam-launch for the purpose of distributing the Gospel in the inland waters of that Territory, British Columbia, and Alaska.

A BENEVOLENT society for work among women and men has recently been organized by young ladies connected with some of the most wealthy and prominent families of the Greek sect at Beyrout.

THE death, at Madeira, is announced of Mr. Adam McCall, the leader of the Livingstone Inland Mission on the river Congo, in Central Africa. He was but thirty-one years of age, and appears to have been a man of splendid promise.

AT a fair recently held by St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, New York, a pitcher was voted for to be awarded to the most popular rum-seller in the Twentieth ward. There were two candidates—one receiving 83,000 votes, the other 75,000.

THE Roman Catholics of Naples, instigated by the 30,000 priests and monks in the city, are shewing the persecuting spirit of Popery by threatening those who attend Protestant meetings, and by seeking to prevent them from securing places where to hold their meetings.

THE rumours which have prevailed so long respecting the removal of the Pope to Germany arose, it appears, through offers being made for the purchase of the ducal palace at Fulda, it being wrongly conjectured that the purchase was to be made on the part of His Holiness.

A FRENCH Protestant soldier was punished not many months ago for refusing to attend mass with a detachment of his regiment. Some of the Reformed Church confessions have petitioned that soldiers should not be compelled to attend the services of a church to which they do not belong.

It speaks well for the independence of the Italian courts that, after a fair trial, the editor and manager of a newspaper in Rome were found guilty by the jury of publishing articles insulting to the Pope, and were each sentenced to fine and imprisonment. In spite of the slanders to the contrary, Italian justice protects the rights of the Pope.

DR. GUTHRIE used to say that beautiful Edinburgh would have to raze many of the old buildings that make the city so picturesque, before it would be safe to live in. Since 1867 the authorities have ordered 2,500 houses to be pulled down, as they were unfit to live in, and have spent over \$2,500,000 in city improvements. One result is that the death rate, which was 26 in 1,000 in 1863, is reduced to 20.

"ON THE HIP."

This rather inelegant expression, used popularly to indicate that condition of things in which one person holds another securely by some circumstance, word, or act, finds literal exemplification in the following narrative by Mr. John Rouk, of Ottawa, Canada. Mr. Rouk says: "I have been subject to hip disease for eight or nine years, and have tried all kinds of remedies, but found nothing to give me any relief until a friend advised me to try St. Jacobs Oil. I tried it, and after using one and a half bottles I am entirely relieved of pain, and have not been troubled since, now nearly six months." This is what people would call getting hip disease "on the hip."