

MATYRDOM OF THE HOUSEWIFE.

(From the New York Evening Post.)

The difficulty of securing domestic help is not new, and it is not peculiar to New York. A century ago, an English writer, William Fordyce Mavor, in his "Survey of Berkshire," remarked pathetically: "It is greatly to be lamented that good servants every year become more scarce and difficult to command." Such also was the complaint of our own grandmothers and mothers; such is the complaint of our wives to-day. It is true, however, that servants are harder to find than for some years past. Housekeepers from one end of Manhattan, to the other unite in a chorus of grief, which is echoed from Brooklyn, Staten Island, and the Bronx, from Westchester County and Rockland, and from the whole State of New Jersey. The trouble may be more acute here because population is more congested, but if the newspapers of Philadelphia and Chicago are not deceived, the situation in those cities, and indeed in the whole country, is unusually distressing.

Some of the reasons for the present plight are obvious. There have been and must continue to be certain inherent difficulties in the problem. These have often been pointed out; long and irregular hours, confined and often lonely routine, varying quantities of work, vagaries and caprices of mistresses, and the so-called "social stigma." All these combine to draw women into factory employment, with its fixed hours, opportunities to be on the street in going and coming, congenial companionship while busy, definite tasks, formal rules for conduct, consistent supervision, and general independence outside of hours of labor. For the many women to whom the kitchen and its duties are not positively attractive, the factory will always be a strong magnet; and the growth of manufacturing must make even deeper inroads upon domestic service. Various suggestions have been offered for improving conditions, but few or none of the remedies are practicable for people of moderate means, who must continue to meet these inherent difficulties as best they may.

There are, however, some new factors in the reckoning. The demand for the work of women is keener than ever before. With the last decade a number of occupations have opened to them for the first time. Women are, for example, acceptably filling positions as factory inspectors and sanitary officers. Most of these new occupations are above the skill and intelligence of the housemaid, but the women are drafted into the higher service leave room in other callings for the better class of maids to enter, and thus drain off the household service from the top.

The greatest demand for female labor is due to the era of prosperity. Our manufacturing has expanded enormously. With all our factories running full time and paying high wages, the housekeeper is facing a sharp competition at a desperate disadvantage. To add to her troubles, she must compete also with her own class. A few days ago the New York State Department of Labor, in its quarterly bulletin, declared: "Prosperity is so widely diffused that the servant-keeping class is larger than ever before, and has thus created a demand that exceeds the supply." With families that kept no servant now employing at least one, and wealthier families adding an extra nurse, waitress, or laundress, the unfortunate housewife is ground between the upper millstone of the factory and the lower millstone of their own companions in adversity.

Not only is the demand greater than before but the supply is smaller. The very prosperity that has enlarged the servant-keeping class has tain their daughters at home or enabled poorer people either to maintain them to school; and many girls who in 1893 would have been seeking places are now living in ease on the abundant earnings of their fathers and brothers. Statistics on this point are not available, but the facts are patent. It is plain, also, that employment at good wages has allowed many young mechanics to marry, and has thus transformed possible housemaids into actual wives. The "steady company" has been much in evidence, and his attentions have still further disturbed our domestic economy.

Some people ask why the enormous immigration of the last few years has not filled up our depleted stock; for generally in times of heavy immigration household servants are comparatively abundant. An exam-

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THE FRENCH ALPHABET (By An Old Subscriber.) In "Le Journal de Francoise," last issue, under the heading of Biographical Curiosities, is a strange paragraph. It runs thus: "If you were given to read the following verse which, it appears, cost its author long and wearisome efforts 'Qui flamboyant guidait Zephire sur les eaux,' and you were asked what you found peculiar or remarkable about it, certainly you would find it embarrassing to answer. Now, the merit of this verse consists in the fact that the author of it has made it contain all the letters of the French Alphabet, except the 'j' and the 'v,' which at the period when this feat was performed were confounded with 'i' and 'u,' and less the 'k,' in French generally appears only in words of foreign origin." The author of that verse also makes exception of the letter "w" which we admit plays about the same part in the French alphabet as did the letter "k." But surely the same excuse cannot be made for the letter "c." No place in the verse can you find a "c." Yet that is one of the oldest of the letters used in that alphabet. So the author's wonderful feat has been but partially accomplished. Although we cannot pretend to the genius of that hard-working author, of a more remote date evidently, nor yet to an academic knowledge of the French language; still, we would humbly suggest that the verse should read thus: "Qui flamboyant guidait Zephire sur ces eaux."

An Industrial League.

The Irish Industrial League of America has just issued a letter requesting Irishmen to become members of that body. The League is absolutely non-political. The only condition to membership is sympathy with its objects. These objects, as stated in its articles of incorporation, are to aid in the promotion, by voluntary pecuniary aid, or otherwise, industrial, commercial, agricultural, technical and artistic pursuits in Ireland; to promote and develop the economic and material resources of Ireland; to aid and promote the development of agricultural and technical instruction in Ireland, and in general to aid in the development and advancement of the material resources and common industrial interests of Ireland. The League has been founded by a number of men who recognize and wish to assist the work that is being done by the Irish Agricultural Organization Society. The letter thus closes:—

"The aims of that society are (1) to improve existing agricultural industries in Ireland; (2) to establish subsidiary interests to agriculture; (3) to establish small town industries; (4) to do all those through the medium co-operation. The society has already succeeded in establishing nearly 800 co-operative societies with a membership of 75,000. The effect of economy and improvement in production due to these co-operative societies has been an increase in return to their members of from 20 to 30 per cent. in the price of their products. What has been so advantageous to 75,000 farmers must be fully as advantageous to the remaining 400,000 farmers in Ireland, and there is no reason why with some assistance from this country the society cannot succeed in bringing in to these co-operative societies the great body of Irish farmers.

"The annual dues of members are \$2 a year, payable semi-annually in advance, or the entire amount may be paid at once. Cheques should be sent to John D. Crimmins, treasurer, 56 Pine street, New York city, N.Y." This is "certainly one of many ways, and a very important one, of aiding the national cause. For, after all, the principal thing is to have a contented and prosperous country, and with a population that is thriving and industries that are flourishing Ireland's sons and daughters will know "Want" instead of "want," and will be in a position to enjoy and profit by the ever increasing measures of self-government that come.

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The Examples of Rulers

When Edward VII. of England, paid a visit to the late illustrious Pontiff, Leo XIII., we all remember how the "Protestant Alliances" sent in their protests, and even one of these bodies had the hardihood to telegraph its disapproval to the monarch himself. It is well for them that they live under a constitutional monarch, for were they subjects of Russia, and had they they suicidal temerity of thus addressing the Czar, they would soon find themselves on the way to Siberia. In sending an intimation to the Pope of his intended visit to Rome, the Czar stated that he considered it a "duty" to call upon His Holiness. Now that is going very far for a monarch who owes no religious allegiance to the Sovereign Pontiff. Yet we remember that when the German Emperor was about to visit Rome, after the King of England, he informed Pope Leo XIII. that he would do himself the "honor" of paying his respects at the Vatican. Emperors and autocratic rulers, who are independent of the Catholic Church, take the trouble to characterize their visits to the Pope as a "duty," and "an honor." How very small, then, appears beside these tributes, the narrow and prejudice-bound spirit of the people who cannot see that it is the duty of a monarch to be a gentleman, and that no gentleman will entertain ideas such as he would certainly possess were he to pay disrespect to the venerable Head of the most venerable institution on earth, and the ruler of two hundred and fifty millions of subjects. It is a good thing that those who are in positions to give examples do so with such effect.

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ST. PATRICK'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY.—Meets on the second Sunday of every month in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St. immediately after Vespers. Committee of Management meets in same hall the first Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. Rev. M. J. McKenna, Rev. President; W. P. Doyle, 1st Vice-President; Jno. P. Gunning, Secretary, 716 St. Antoine street, St. Henri.

ST. ANN'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY, established 1863.—Rev. Director, Rev. Father McPhail; President, D. Aallery, M.P.; Sec., J. F. Quinn, 625 St. Dominique street; M. J. Ryan, treasurer, 18 St. Augustin street. Meets on the second Sunday of every month, in St. Ann's Hall, corner Young and Ottawa streets, at 8.30 p.m.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY organized 1885.—Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Father Flynn, C.S.S.R.; President, R. J. Byrne; Treasurer, Thomas O'Connell; Rec.-Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

A.O.H. LADIES' AUXILIARY, Division No. 5. Organized Oct. 10th, 1901. Meetings are held in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander, on the first Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m., on the third Thursday at 8 p.m. President, Miss Annie Donovan; vice-president, Mrs. Sarah Allen; recording secretary, Miss Rose Ward, 51 Young street; financial secretary, Miss Emma Doyle, 776 Palace street; treasurer, Mrs. Charlotte Bermingham; chaplain, Rev. Father McGrath.

A.O.H. DIVISION NO. 6 meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 816 St. Lawrence Main street. Officers: W. H. Turner, President; P. McCall, Vice-President; J. Emmet Quinn, Recording Secretary, 931 St. Denis street; James Scullion, Treasurer; Joseph Turner, Financial Secretary, 1000 St. Denis street.

C.M.B.A. OF CANADA, BRANCH 26.—(Organized, 13th November, 1873.—Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., on every Monday of each month. The regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. M. Callaghan; Chancellor, F.J. Sears; President, P.J. Darcey; Rec.-Sec., P. J. McDonagh; Fin.-Secretary, Jas. J. Costigan; Treasurer, J. H. Feeley, Jr.; Medical Advisers, Drs. H. J. Harrison, E. J. O'Connell and G. H. Merrill.



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NOTE: If the English-speaking interests, they would prefer Catholic papers.

NOTES

ALL SAINTS' day of the year by the Church to some there are some of these curious, and for various widely known than of numerous have been God, that it would be to find one day in that has not its saint. But apart from whose names figure in the dar of the Church—and yond number—there are saints of whom the hu never heard of, and lives, virtues and glories, absolutely no record. To the tens of thousands that suffered death during Roman persecution, anic family of the ins came one member after the number of twelve, deeds of barbarism and Christianity. Take the sands of Christians, during second, and even third c were cast to the wild be murdered by other near all over the Roman have no trace of them; martyred in groups, in it is a question if even Rome could tell who an were. Yet all these are heaven, powerful there, any saint who has been canonized. And they have days, for it would be ar dity to have such.

The Church, ever mindful members, be they on ear Church Militant, or in P the Church suffering, or in the Church Triumphant one day of the year; and she dons her brightest vest she celebrates the glories saints. Consequently, A Day becomes one of great lime importance for ever in the world. How does dual Catholic know that not have been a saint among ancestors—some good, virt soul, whose name was un worldly fame, but whose none the less transcendent to-day? At all events the lions of saints whose powercession are only limited sets of those on earth their help. And they have special day in the year faithful are called upon them and to rejoice with their reward.

To-morrow, the first day of the year, will be All Saints' day. This year it falls on Sunday. Consequently, it will be a day of rejoicing in the religion, and not only will there be ceremonies and all the circumstances of the Church ritual on earth, but heaven there will be greater unqualified rejoicings that day, from the thousands of altars over the universe will the great Calvary be repeated, prayers that will ascend to heaven, will awaken the gr the saintly host around throne; and, in response, the gifts of grace and the benediction of God will pour down upon the race and upon the Church militant. That we may all part in the benefits of such a feast are conditions that every true Catholic knows, and is glad to accept, these conditions are:

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