



THE MT. PILATUS RAILWAY.

having to clamber up to the summit, or to have themselves lowered over the precipices by means of ropes. The workmen who are engaged in this work are for the most part Italians.

PICTURES AS EDUCATORS.

BY MARY M. WARD.

In every well-regulated periodical of the day, even to the fashion magazine, there is somewhere reserved a corner or perhaps a column for the review, or at least the brief mention of books.

It should be to us a cause for thankfulness that good literature is considered a moral and mental necessity, but outside of the journals especially devoted to art, comparatively little is said about pictures. We are apt to think of pictures as one of the luxuries that can be dispensed with, and that really fine ones are only within reach of the very wealthy.

Hence perhaps it seems of little consequence to us what hangs on our walls. We fill up the bare spaces with family portraits, the relatives of several generations, it may be, taken singly or in groups, and in all varieties of posture. These we alternate with highly colored chromos or with some bit of fancywork, forgetting that copies of the finest works of the world's greatest artists come within the limits of the slenderest purse, and unimpaired of their value in our own self culture and in the proper education of our children.

In a certain way they have quite as much of a refining influence on the mind as books themselves, and a dearth of them is almost as conspicuous and deplorable as a scarcity of books. One can scarcely imagine how dreary it would be to have absolutely no pictures at all, unless they have had a chance to see for themselves how a house looks without them.

I spent several months last winter in southern California. I was very fortunate in securing on

of the brightest and cosiest of south rooms with everything else about my living arrangements quite to my mind. The people were pleasant, the house was large and sunny, conveniently situated, and nicely furnished with the sole exception that there were few books and no pictures.

Up stairs, down stairs, in every one of the ten large rooms it was just the same. Nothing but bare white walls greeted the eye, for the house was new and consequently not papered. For once the regulation family portrait was lacking, absolutely nothing in the whole house to relieve the staring whiteness of the walls except two paper owls and an Insurance Co., calendar with a gorgeous peacock on it. I scarcely expect to be believed when I tell it. I think I should be incredulous if I had not seen for myself, but the fact remains, notwithstanding.

Perhaps you are explaining the situation by presuming that they were young people who had not been keeping house very long. I wish I could be as charitable, but I happen to know that their Lares and Penates were of some twenty years standing, and although I shall certainly never forget their kindness to me when I was "a stranger in a strange land," I cannot quite forgive them for those dreary bare walls.

Again, I want to tell you of a little lady, a friend of mine who is obliged to practice the closest economy in her housekeeping. She does not even afford the luxury of a servant and yet I do not know of another among all my acquaintances whose walls are more tastefully or even richly adorned. Round and about her are much more elegant homes, where the frames are more costly, where there are more square feet of surface in the pictures themselves, and where the cost in dollars and cents was infinitely greater.



CLEANING THE ROCKS.

Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

MONTREAL NOTES.

A few weeks ago Mr. E. H. Brandt, a graduate of the Presbyterian College, was appointed to take charge of the Point St. Charles and St. Henri French Mission and the Presbytery at its last regular meeting decided to ordain him. The ordination services were held on the evening of the

13th inst. in the Mission Hall 3,497 Notre Dame street, St. Henri. The Moderator of the Presbytery of Montreal, the Rev. G. Colborne Heise, presided and the meeting was composed of the Revs. Prof. Cousirat, C. Amaron, F. M. Dawey, S. Rondeau and H. J. de Montreal, and the Rev. Dr. Bourgoin of Pointe aux Trembles. The ordination sermon was preached by the Rev. S. Rondeau, from the text Colossians i. 28, his subject being "The true preaching of the Gospel." In the absence of the clerk of the Presbytery the Rev. Calvin Amaron occupied the position. The Rev. G. O. Heise delivered the charge and Prof. Cousirat led in the prayer of consecration,

afterwards addressing the newly ordained minister. The Rev. F. M. Dewey addressed the congregation, and Mr. Rice supplied a very pleasing musical programme during the evening. The services which were entirely in French, were of a most impressive character and were well attended, and a very large number of friends offered their congratulations to Mr. Brandt at their conclusion.

The *Presse* publishes a communication from the Rev. Cure St. Pierre of St. Alphonse de Granby, concerning the alleged miraculous intervention of St. Ann in saving his church from destruction by fire. The rev. abbe states that during the heavy