

COLOR OF THE SEA.

How few there are who realize that the ocean is aught else than a raging mass of weltering waves lashed by storms, to be regarded only with dread, and avoided with aversion! How many gain from it but one or two one-sided impressions! To one the sea is always blue; somehow that idea early fixed itself in his mind, and he has never cared to observe further, and revise a first partial impression. To another it always looks green. Nothing more fairly indicates the exceedingly limited habits of observation of the average mind in matters out of its beat than the excessively meagre notions which many have of the sea, even after repeated familiarity with it, as in the case of those who cannot plead the excuse of sea-sickness for their ignorance. How few there are who fully appreciate the matchless suggestiveness of that Homeric passage—"The innumerable smiles of the many-voiced sea!" That line only touches on the countless aspects of ocean, and yet it is the finest definition of the sea in the whole range of literature.

Take, for example, the question of color alluded to above: the sea is like a vast kaleidoscope representing in many combinations all the colors of the rainbow; it is not impossible to imagine that if one were at a sufficient height above the sea, and endowed with the condor's keenness of vision, the round disk of the sea might at once present all these hues to him as in a kaleidoscope; as things are, however, it is not often one sees more than two or three tints at once, except during a sunset of unusual magnificence, when the reflections are very varied. I remember a sunset during a calm preceding a storm, when the sky was festooned with the pomp and splendor of every variety of cloud; the hues and cloud-forms were nearly equally divided from zenith to horizon in four distinct types of form and color, and the corresponding reflections on the sullen swell of the sea were awful in their dread and varied magnificence. But if such scenes are rare, it is not at all uncommon to see half the ocean a deep purple toward one-half of the horizon, dark-iridian green in the opposite direction, especially toward evening or at early morning, and this regardless of reflections, at a time when the surface is so broken as to be filled with local color. And, after all, it is the local color more than the reflections which is meant when we speak of the color of water, although, in an artistic sense, both have a significance. At sea the color is not only a form of beauty conveying pleasure to the mind, but also has a use, like everything beautiful in Nature. As a rule, light green indicates shoal water, the lighter the tint the more shallow the depth. The local color is ascertainable by looking down rather than on the surface. Dark-blue water is a sign of great depth—"off soundings," as goes the technical phrase. But, if one looks at blue water at a distance, it is then found to be a very dark green when analyzed and separated from the reflections, which it is sometimes very difficult to do, especially in gray, lowering weather, when the sea is found to give the impression of a sort of leaden purple grey. But after very careful observation through a long, narrow tube, in order that no conflicting rays of light might disturb the vision, I am convinced that, even in the deepest water, the basal color is some tint of green. In the Bahamas, and among coral-islands in general, where the bottom is a white sand and the water of little depth, it is found to be of the most brilliant, exquisite green, ranging from emerald to the lightest tints of malachite. It is impossible to overstate the vividness of the colors in those waters, and almost as impossible to try to reproduce them on canvas: for, by one who has never seen them, the artist so daring as to reproduce those colors would be considered stark mad. The red is scarcely less vivid in West India waters, being the complementary color of green, and, wherever a rock near the surface or a cloud-shadow obscures the green tint, red is immediately produced, and even the cloudless sky at mid-day is also a soft rose-color. By this means the sponge fishermen and wreckers are able to navigate their sloops about through the most intricate reefs, which are indicated by purple patches as clearly as on a chart. The Bermudas present similar colors, but with less vividness.—*From Appleton's Journal.*

STANDING TREATS.

No American custom causes more genuine surprise and amusement among travelling foreigners than that which is known in our saloons as "treating"—consisting in the entertainment of two or more with refreshments, for which one volunteers to pay. It is a pure Americanism; all over the Republic it is as common as in Europe it is unknown. There is probably no minute of any day in the year when two or three hundred citizens of Chicago are not guzzling something stronger than water at somebody else's expense.

The casual meeting of two men who have never exchanged a word together is a signal for both instantly to exclaim, "Come let's have something!" and for both to dive down into the nearest subterranean cavity below the sidewalk. The one who spoke first usually insists upon "paying the shot"—the word "shot" being a metaphorical reference to the deadly character of the contents taken into the stomach. If two old friends meet, the regular thing to say first is, "Let's drink to old times;" and the resident must invariably "treat" the stranger. If a man be well acquainted, it is considered the princely thing to seize upon all his acquaintances as often as possible, take them to a saloon, and give them a complicated stand up drink at the bar.

If there is anything absurder than this habit, we are unable to put our finger on it. Men do not always "treat" one another to car tickets because they happen to meet on the same seat. We never saw a man take out his pocket-book on encountering an acquaintance, and say, "Ah, George! Delighted to see you! Do take a few postage stamps! It's my treat!" Do men have a mania for paying each other's board bill? And is drinking together more "social" than eating together or sleeping together?

A traveller may go all over the continent of Europe, of Asia, and of Africa, without seeing any man except a Yankee offer to "treat," and the Frenchmen are quite social enough, but when they turn into a cafe to sip their wine or brandied coffee together, each man pays for his own. When

two Germans long separated meet, they will be likely to embrace, and then turn into an adjacent beer cellar, sit down and drink lager and eat pretzels and chat, but when they part again, each man settles his own score independently. So in Italy. The Italians are proverbially merry and generous, but each man pays for his own wine, macaroni and cigars. They never go into each other's pocket-book in the sacred name of friendship. They would as soon think of transferring to each other their washerwoman's bill.

The preposterous fashion of "treating" is responsible for the terrible drunkenness in America. There would be as little need of temperance societies and as little work for the Good Templars as there is in Germany, France, and Italy, if this pernicious and insidious habit were abolished. It is, take it all in all, the most ridiculous, the most unreasonable, and the most pestilent custom that ever laid its tyrannical hand on civilized human beings.—*Chicago Post.*

For the Canada Presbyterian.

SUNRISE AT THE OLD FARM.

When the first faint flush of the morning
Is tinging the eastern skies,
And the lambent, quivering rose-light
With night's pale ensigns vies.

Then the tremulous gleaming lances
Creep up in the clear pale blue,
And the stars shrink back from the splendor,
And the moon fades meekly from view.

The air is filled with the fragrance
From the clover wet with dew,
And the twitter of birds at their matins
Is ringing the whole air through.

While under the forest arches
The shadows are lingering yet,
Far above on the myriad leaflets
Morn's arrows of light have met.

Still dark are the aisles of the forest,
Like the shadowy cloisters dim
Of some old ruined convent
With mossy towers so grim.

But the soft, green sward is under,
And a green roof o'er it spread;
And God's praise is hymned full sweetly
By the warbling choir o'erhead.

Now the gates of the sky are uplifted,
And forth, with a lordly mien,
From his cloudland palace appearing,
The monarch of light is seen.

At his smile the last faint shadow
Flees far from his lofty home.
As the billowy tide of saffron
Rolls up in the brightening dome.

The earth from her sleep is awaking
All sparkling in dewy gleam,
And in each lakelet's bosom
Is mirrored his dazzling beam.

And now from the old brown farmstead,
Up, up to the morning sky,
The smoke arises slowly,
In snowy pillars high.

Gene is the glamour of morning,
With its mystical shadows and gleams;
And the glare and the toil of noontide
Will banish our sweet early dreams.

HELEN LYNNE.

THE NATIONAL SCOURGE.

It is estimated that the annual damages caused by the ravages of insects and worms exceed \$150,000,000 in the United States alone. Truly an enormous loss! Yet it sinks into insignificance when compared with the ravages of that more terrible scourge, Consumption, which annually sweeps hundreds of thousands of human souls into eternity. The causes of consumption are various, depending in every instance for the development of the disease upon the scrofulous diathesis, or temperament, of the victim. Thus the same cause which will produce in one person an attack of acute disease or a slight nervous prostration, will engender consumption in a person of scrofulous habit. That consumption can be cured by proper treatment will be readily perceived when the exact nature of the disease is understood, viz. the accumulation and deposition of scrofulous matter (tubercles) in the lungs. Obviously, the principal remedies required are (1) a powerful alterative, or blood-purifier, to arrest the accumulations and also cleanse the blood of the scrofulous matter, and (2) a mild cathartic to expel the diseased matter from the system. This course of treatment, in conjunction with a strict hygienic regime, has proved the most successful method of curing this disease. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Pleasant Purgative Pellets are the best alterative and cathartic remedies before the public, and have been alone used in thousands of cases of consumption with the most marked efficacy. Dr. Pierce's Invalid's Hotel, at Buffalo, N.Y., affords special and unequalled advantages to consumptives, not only possessing the best medical and hygienic means of treatment, but having the essential advantage of being situated in a climate where the inhabitants are notably free from this disease.

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BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

KING HUMBERT of Italy is the latest royal mark for the assassin.

THE interest in Joseph Cook's lectures at Boston continues unabated.

THE receipts of the French Exposition were 12,653,746 francs, or over \$2,500,000.

LEWISTON, in Maine, with 20,000 population, has not had an arrest for drunkenness in twenty years.

A SOCIETY is being formed in London to carry out the reprinting of the old works of early Presbyterianism.

THE Boston City Mission has received, free of express charges, over 100 bushels of apples this fall for distribution among the poor.

REPORTS from Ireland show that the people accept the Sunday Closing Act peacefully, and that the liquor dealers respect the law.

A COPY of the catechism issued in French by Calvin soon after his arrival in Geneva has been recently found in the National Library of France.

THE workmen in the Pittsburgh glass factories have started a strike by which about 3,000 are out of employment, and the winter at hand.

IN the last Kaffir war in South Africa, one large tribe was kept back from fighting against England by the influence of the German missionaries.

THE Mexican Government offers to give \$50 to each European immigrant who comes to settle permanently, with \$50 to each member of his family over four years of age.

THE latest decree of the goddess of Fashion in France is said to do away with bridesmaids at weddings, and substituting two of the prettiest relatives of the bride as her pages.

THE Duke of Sutherland has set a good example to other large landholders, in giving a milch cow, with land for its pasture, to each of the 120 tradesmen on his Trentham estate.

As the British frontier has advanced in Western Asia, so has the Russian frontier. The separation now is a country of about a breadth of 200 miles, with an average elevation of 10,000 feet, with passes of 12,000 to 13,000 feet.

NEW firms have been obtained by Hermuzd Rassam for explorations throughout the whole of Mesopotamia, and the hitherto untouched field of Northeastern Syria. This is the region which once formed the seat of the Hittite kingdom.

REV. S. G. McFARLAND, of the Presbyterian mission to Siam, has been intrusted by the king with the charge of a Christian college for the education of youth in the Siamese and English language, to which the king has given a large endowment.

THE Evangelical schools of Naples, Italy, so well known to travellers, are receiving a great aid just now in a remarkable bazaar of pottery of all nations and classic bronzes to be held in Kurtz Hall, New York, for one week, beginning November 30.

MADAME MACMAHON, wife of the President of the French Republic, was deeply affected by the death of Bishop Dupanloup, and left the ball which she was attending, on the occasion of the recent fete at Versailles, to be present in time at his funeral.

THE Duchess of Sutherland, who has long been a member of the Crown Court Scotch Established Church, London, of which the well-known Dr. Cumming is pastor, has left, it is stated, and united with an extreme Ritualistic Church in the West End.

THE kingdom of Prussia annually expends the immense sum of \$18,000,000 for its educational interests. Last year 56,680 teachers were employed. It is stated that at least 8,000 more teachers are needed. The average salary paid to teachers is \$250.

THE exiled German bishops, in reply to the request of the Vatican to state their views about the pending negotiations between Germany and the Vatican, have addressed a memorial to the Pope expressing a wish that an equitable arrangement may be reached.

INVESTIGATION reveals that the loss by the Glasgow Bank is about thirty million dollars, which it is stated means ruin to four-fifths of the shareholders, it being calculated that of the 1,300 persons holding stock, the burden of payment will fall on 200.

THE trial of the man who attempted to assassinate the king of Spain, October 25, took place last week, and was easily finished in one day. The confession of the man that he had premeditatedly attempted the crime was adduced in opposition to the plea of insanity urged by his counsel. The culprit was condemned to death.

DR. SORG, said to have been a prominent physician of Newport, Ohio, has renounced his family and entered the Catholic priesthood under a special permit from the Pope. He was formerly a priest, but abandoned the office twenty years ago, married and raised a family, which he now leaves to return to the Roman Catholic Church.

ON the steamer Colima's recent voyage from Montreal to Glasgow, with a deck-load of 167 cattle and 200 sheep and swine, in order to relieve the vessel, which threatened to sink in a fierce storm, orders were given to cast the live stock overboard. Force had to be employed to drive the poor creatures into the waves, save in the case of one cow, which, when she saw her calf flung over the bulwarks, jumped overboard after it.

PROFESSOR WAITE, a minister of the Church of England, and one of the members of the Faculty of the University of Oxford, has united with the Roman Catholic Church, and expects to be joined in this in a short time by two others, nearly equally prominent in Oxford. So they go. And is it any wonder that so many of the young ministers of the English Church enter the Church of Rome when so many of the professors in their Universities and institutions of learning are in sympathy with the Romish system?