

A Tea Room for Toronto.

Written for THE CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL.

NOW and again during the past year or two rumors of a ladies' club-room in Toronto have been afloat. The pity of it is that they seem to have been only rumors! And yet why should ours be so far behind other cities of the same size? Every lady in our beautiful Queen City would willingly give her influence towards establishing something of the kind, for winter and summer she needs it. As things are now, in arranging a shopping expedition with a friend from another part of the town she makes a Hobson's choice of a rendezvous, and says "meet me at such a corner, or at such-and-such a shop." But woman is renowned for her inability to punctually keep an engagement, and nine times out of ten somebody impatiently waits, a frown gathers on a pretty face, and a foot angrily taps the pavement, or the floor, as hundreds jostle past and the right one fails to come. To wait on a street corner, or in some department of a crowded shop for a tardy comer is not the most pleasant occupation in the world, and yet in a pretty club-room, with windows looking down on the crowds below, and papers and magazines to help while away the time, the punctual one could very happily give twenty or thirty minutes to the woman who spends half her days scurrying in the wake of broken engagements. And after an afternoon's tiresome round of the shops, how delightful to have some retreat where everything is daintily done, with an atmosphere of home about it, sweet home-made bread and butter, cut thin and tempting; tasty cakes, such as are never to be found at a restaurant, delicious tea or fragrant coffee, in transparent china, with lump sugar and thick cream, foreign to any but a good housewife's management; flowers and pretty surroundings, and the knowledge that by right of a paid-up subscription, or charge, you may wait as long as you like without the guilty feeling of a trespasser, which eventually makes uncomfortable the man or woman who hangs around a shop watching the hands of a clock slowly creep past the hour of appointment. An hundred advantages of a club-room could be mentioned. Every woman knows them. Every woman appreciating them would willingly give her patronage, for instance, to such a tea-room as has recently been opened at Greenwich, of which we read in Harper's—just such a thing as Toronto has been clamoring for—a thing so absolutely necessary that when it is finally established—as it is sure to be in time—everyone will wonder how the women managed to exist in the days before it was started. To carry it on successfully, it would need at its head someone of refinement, someone who realized that cooking was an art—of which not every woman is mistress—someone with pretty taste and sound judgment. And among our bright Canadian women we have many eminently qualified to undertake and make a grand success, financially and socially, of just such a tea-room as the one at Greenwich, with perhaps, a few improvements. For instance, the counter at one end with tea, coffee, and chocolate drawn from urns savors too much of a restaurant. Everything out of harmony with an atmosphere of home should be well out of sight; and the deal tables and plain wooden chairs could easily be improved on. A woman of innate taste and tact would think of a hundred little things that with only a little added outlay would make the place charmingly attractive,

THE GREENWICH TEA-ROOM.

Following in the footsteps of their older sisters, Mrs. John A. Lowery and Miss Wilmerding, two more society women are about to open a summer tea-room in Greenwich, Connecticut. Miss Elizabeth Vanderpoel Duer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duer, of "Hauxhurst," Weehawken Heights, New Jersey, was the first to conceive the idea of establishing a tea-room in Greenwich, and interested her friend Miss Gertrude Houghton, daughter of the Rev. Dr. George Clark Houghton, Rector of Trinity Church, Hoboken, in the scheme. After talking it over it did not take them long to materialize their plans, and they settled upon Greenwich as a likely place for success, being as it is such a favorite resort for summer boarders. They have taken rooms there, on the ground-floor of a building on the corner of Putnam Avenue, opposite the Lenox House, and have fitted the tea-room up in exquisite taste in pink and white. The wall paper is of a lovely shade of pink, with roses strewn over it, and a border of a deeper shade. The curtains are of dotted Swiss with tiny ruffles, and are tied back with broad pink satin ribbons. Across the end of the room they have had placed a counter, on which will be served hot tea, coffee, and chocolate, drawn from large urns, as in any restaurant. They have invested in two dozen plain deal tables and about one hundred plain wooden chairs. This will be all the furniture of the room, excepting a little desk in one corner, at which Miss Houghton will preside as cashier.

Both Miss Duer and her partner realize the advisability of making their "tea-room" as attractive as possible, so they have engaged two very pretty maids to wait upon their customers. The maids will wear a uniform of pink calico gowns, white lawn aprons with straps over the shoulders, and small caps with pink ribbons.

The present plan, liable to change later in the season, is not to open the "tea-room" until eleven o'clock in the morning. They will then serve ice-cream at fifteen cents a plate, which will be made "at home" and not ordered up from New York. In the same way these enterprising young women hope to make a success of their water-ices.

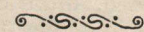
As Miss Duer is a most excellent cake-maker it will be easier for her than most girls who do not understand this art to make a specialty of all kinds of delicious home-made cake, which she intends to do. She will have for sale during all the summer nut cake, pound-cake, sponge-cake, ginger-bread, lady-fingers, macaroons, in fact all sorts of home-made cake, for which she has valuable old family receipts. Any of these cakes may be bought in the tea-room by the slice, or whole, as one wishes, and many a woman may find it a great convenience when an influx of visitors is expected, to have some place where she can get good cake at a moment's notice. Miss Houghton at her desk will be ready to take orders for any of these delicacies all through the week.

Bicyclists are cordially invited to "drop in on their winding way" and partake of any of these "soft drinks," accompanied by delicately made sandwiches of tongue, ham, or chicken; or, if their appetites crave not food so coarse, they may feast upon lettuce sandwiches, or even plain white or brown bread and butter. Ten cents apiece is all they will be expected to pay for them.

Any one who has spent a summer at an hotel or boarding house realizes the fact that it is a very difficult matter to procure a decent luncheon of any kind to take off on a boating or yachting party, picnic or excursion. Miss Duer and Miss Houghton being thoroughly alive to this, have decided to be always prepared to

supply good luncheons neatly packed in square boxes lined with Japanese napkins, and containing Japanese napkins sufficient for a party, to any who may call for them.

The "Greenwich Tea-Room" is a courageous experiment for these young women to undertake outside of New York city. If they had started here they would immediately have had the custom of some of the most prominent people in the city, as both Miss Houghton and Miss Duer come from very old and well-known New York families. However, those who know them well believe that they deserve far more credit in starting off in this way, away from home, depending entirely upon their own exertions, than opening their tea-room in New York and expecting it to be patronized by their relatives and friends. With failure or success they need never feel ashamed of having tried to help themselves! But they are sure to succeed!



Canada's Great Victorian Era Exposition and Industrial Fair.

UNDER the management of Mr. H. J. Hill, Toronto's Industrial Fair promises to be a more monster success than ever. From the opening day, Aug. 30th, to the closing, Sept. 11th, there will be greater and finer attractions than have been offered in its history. The display of manufactures, agricultural, industrial and mineral products, live stock, etc., will be on a magnificent scale. An unusual number of medals are being offered in all departments, and among the special spectacular attractions will be a most gorgeous Jubilee procession, rivalling, as nearly as possible, the actual one which aroused the enthusiasm and admiration of thousands upon thousands in the streets of London, Eng., on Jubilee Day. From all quarters of the globe people flocked to the metropolis of the world to witness one of the greatest sights of the century; but although thousands went, there were thousands who stayed at home, for no other reason than because circumstances kept them there, and for these the Industrial Fair at a cost of over twenty thousand dollars will reproduce the wonderful scene. Mr. Seymour Penson is at present in London securing the costumes; this wide continent is being searched for some one who nearly resembles the Queen in figure and face, and already the six snow-white horses which are to draw her chariot have been secured. Nothing will be omitted which can perfect a fac-simile representation of a scene which will find its way into the pages of every history of the Victorian era—a scene, a reproduction of which, every Canadian should make an effort to see.

For many reasons those who have the management of this colossal affair have determined to make it eclipse any of former years. They remind us that the year 1897 is one of great importance to all subjects of the Queen, and to none more than to the people of Canada. It is the sixtieth anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria; it is the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery by John Cabot of the northern portion of this continent, now comprising the Dominion of Canada, and it is the thirtieth anniversary of the confederation of its various provinces. For these, and many other reasons, they have decided to make the Exposition of '97—their nineteenth annual fair—one equal in importance to the times.

Without doubt they will succeed, and greater crowds than ever will find their way to the grounds—fortunately over a hundred acres in extent—on the shores of blue Ontario, and within a few minutes' ride by electric cars from even the most remote parts of Toronto.