

TRAFFIC IN NEW ENGLAND FERNS

Among the new industries of the last few years is the collection and sale of the creeping ferns so common in the New England woods...

The season for gathering these ferns begins about the middle of August and lasts till late in the autumn. Originally only fresh ferns were sold, and those largely for Christmas decorations...

The above illustrates that we have often urged upon habitues that they will make more money upon small things indigenous to the soil than the large crops. The business above referred to of pressing ferns has been the source of support to many families in New England for years.

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NIAGARA.

I took a run down to the Falls the other day. I had a little money and a great deal of that description of time, which, as Mr. Twain quaintly remarks, is not money. I was just recovering from the crippled condition (financially), in which a former visit to the same place, had left me.

the children outside, and pass on by himself to the next barrier where he would observe in large gilt letters. "The Falls \$5." ("Through smoked glass \$2.50.") He would then tell the man at the gate that he was going back for the children and explain to the old lady how much grander they looked when seen from a distance, &c.

A CODE OF TABLE ETIQUETTE.

The N. Y. Graphic has the following:— When seated at the table do not be betrayed into that cheap boarding-house habit of sticking your napkin up under your chin, nor even the French restaurant trick of pulling one corner of it through the buttonhole of your coat.

Also when wine is served drink of it whenever you like it—the custom of nodding to the hostess or host before drinking has gone out.

Clicking glasses is still retained as an accompaniment to drinking choruses on the stage; but is no longer indulged in at the repasts of the beau monde.

On no account refuse to take the last helping on a dish. To decline it seems to infer that you suppose the dish cannot be replaced; or it may be your refusal to take might be construed into a contempt of it as "leavings."

If there are wines at table and servants do not keep the glasses well filled you may nod, indeed this is your duty, even at another table than your own till the glass of the lady or ladies near you. They cannot very well help themselves, nor can they ask to be helped to wine; but you must remember to pour out sherry or sauterne with soup and fish, hock or claret with roast meat, sparkling wines between the roast and confectionary, madeira for dessert; liqueurs come after coffee, and are served by the servants.

A special point to be remembered in going to keep an engagement to dinner is to be at the house of your host exactly at the time fixed for the dinner. If you come before, you are in the way; look at your watch before you enter the house, and if you are ten minutes early, sit in your cab or take a few turns before the door prior to going in.

To a people so universally well dressed as the Americans it is scarcely necessary to say much on this branch of the subject. Yet unless the dinner be a formal one Americans are likely to shirk putting on a dress suit for dinner.

who live all summer and part of the winter in a very quiet old homestead away in a lonely place in one of the northern counties of New York State yet whether they had company or no these gentle-folks always dressed for dinner—the gentleman put on his dress suit; the lady something more fanciful than what she had been wearing all day.

I am greatly pleased to see that English ladies are falling into that mode which I maintain is a true Americanism, namely, the dinner toilet made as richly as one likes, and from that fact most indubitably entitled to be called "dress," and yet made without being out of the neck and short in the sleeves.

AN OLD POCKET DIARY.

The Hamilton Spectator says that a most remarkable pocket diary, kept by some one unknown in that city between the years 1825 and 1830, was picked up in the street, the other day, by a policeman, and is now in the office of the Chief of Police.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes entries like 'Paid for dying a handkerchief', 'Bell sweet currier', 'Silk handkerchief', etc.

The Diary winds up with the following:—"Wish to have no more money transactions with Relations, have found them, almost without exception, the cause of an unpleasant feeling on the mind, without thanks or gratiude where such might have been expected—always without profit."

OUR PICTURES.

In a previous issue we gave an account of the splendid stand which Canada has made at the Centennial Exhibition. She carried off fully three hundred prizes, some of them placing her at the head of all competitors.

REVIEW.

Messrs. Belford Brothers, Toronto, have just issued editions of "The Earnest Student" and "Wee Davie"—well-known works of the late Dr. Norman Macleod.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

A NEW opera by Lecocq is to be brought out in Paris in about a month at the Renaissance, under the title of "Le Mikado."

THE Prussian Government has instituted an inquiry into the condition of the theatre in Prussia, and the advisability of establishing an academy of the dramatic arts, endowed by the Government.

A WORK entitled "Musical Myths and Facts," by Herr Carl Fageb, and comprising essays on the art of music, and musical instruments, folk-lore, &c., is now in the press, and will shortly be issued.

Pauline Lucca is about to begin a farewell concert through Germany, after which in compliance with the wishes of her husband, who longs for a quiet home life, she intends to quit the stage for good.

THE son of a well-known actor recently, at a public examination, in reply to the question, "Who was the greatest English divine?" said, promptly, "The divine William." The boy spoke more wisely than he knew.

SOTHERN has brought out a new play called "A Hornet's Nest," in Boston. He enacts the part of a supposed noodle, against whom nearly all the other characters lay plans for monetary spoliation, but who turns out to be bright-witted, and consequently circumvents them. It is farcical and improbable, but entertaining. H. J. Byron is the author.

Celina Montaland was very stout when, in Fisk's life, she sang in the Grand Opera House, N. Y. Lately, having increased so much in size that she had to abandon the stage, she employed a Paris physician who promised to reduce her to moderate plumpness.

FEW plays have been as variously adapted as "Le Procès Vauradieux," now running in Paris. It is acted in London as "The Great Divorce Case," Sir Randall Roberts uses it in Canada as "The Brighton Scandal," Mr. Daly as "Life at the Fifth Avenue," Mr. Wallack at his theatre as "Forbidden Fruit," Mr. Byron has prepared it for the Eagle as "French Flats," and at the Boston Museum it is "Wanted a Divorce."

THE Bishop of Manchester, speaking at Ransbottom, referred to Mr. Irving's recent performance of Hamlet at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester. He had, he said, learned with delight that 17,000 persons in Manchester had gone to see Mr. Irving act that character, into which he had thrown a new life.

THE reception given to Madame Christine Nilsson during her short stay at Christiana was quite as enthusiastic as at Stockholm. A crowd of some 10,000 people assembled in front of the hotel where the celebrated artist was staying, and a choir of students serenaded her, when suddenly Madame Nilsson stepped out on the balcony, and after thanking the students, sang an old Norwegian ballad, her voice in the quiet evening being heard all over the square.

MR. IRVING has just received a graceful and appropriate present from the Baroness Burdett Goussin in the shape of a ring, with a beautiful portrait of Shakespeare, which was formerly the property of David Garrick. It was presented by him on his death bed to his butler, and came into the possession of Mr. Patrick, a well-known theatrical antiquary, and was from him purchased by its late owner some ten years since.

MR. MAPLESON, who has introduced some of the best singers to the English operatic world, including Adeline Patti and Christine Nilsson, has just had another lucky "find" in Paris. This consists of a young girl not yet out of her teens, and who for many years has followed the occupation of a mould maker for plaster images in an obscure Italian village.

SCIENTIFIC.

AN interesting observation, referring to the power of germination in seeds which is hundreds and even thousands of years old, is said to have been made by Professor Henderich, in Greece. In the silver mines of Laurium, only the slags left by the ancient Greeks are at present worked off, in order to gain, after an improved modern method, silver still left in that dross.

A CENTURY plant is now in blossom in Boston. A horticulturist from the North happening to be on the grounds of the old John C. Calhoun estate, in Florida, one winter, discovered indications of a flower stalk in the centre of an old neglected plant, standing near a cart path on the premises.