

FOR YOU—BETTER FOR US

MAS CHINA

Prices

gifts if something in the impulse to buy. large—because never number of really exquisite

and you will agree with meets the requirements the globe, and represent

When we say that in the West, isn't Just come in today

uitable for Gifts

China. The shapes and the treatment of women who appreciate fine and delicate, while being delightful in gifts. We are offering special prices in arriving. Here are a few of

- Candle Sticks
- Hair Receivers
- Shaving Mugs
- Marmalade Jars

China is of finest quality, and cups and saucers, teapot, sugar, and cream sets, at \$3.50

plate Sets, \$7.50

offerings in Chocolate Sets—a delectable. One special feature of a handsome china tray is in which consists of chocolate pot, six cups, and saucers, at \$7.50. The treatment of roses. The sets are so arranged that the hundreds of cups arrived during the past few days. The sets are in and spend some time going, don't have to buy.

ation—Ideal Gifts

interested at once. We merely mention decorations, that will satisfy the taste.

- Id, at \$3.75
- Yonah and Stand, at \$3.50
- Orange Bowl and Stand, at \$10.00
- Orange Set, at \$8.00
- Chocolate Set, jug and 6 cups and saucers, per set \$15.00
- Decorated Bouillon and Scr., \$3.00
- Cream Dish, at \$6.00

e China

arming shapes—the newest offered in the store and see for yourself this

- Tea-a-tete Set, consists of teapot, sugar, cream, 2 cups and saucers and tray \$14.00
- Marmalade Jars, at each \$2.25
- Sams, at each \$1.50
- Sams, at each \$1.75
- Spots, at each \$2.00

Gifts For Men

have a special table laden with delectable who is planning to purchase a gift. Here are some that'll satisfy—

- Shaving Brushes
- Earthenware Steins
- Ink Wells

Sterling Silver

These New Pieces

er Mounted Glass Gift Pieces it has—that is, those pieces that are left, the pieces received—there are dozens of separate cases.

- RED CUT GLASS VASES, at \$1.50
- RED CUT GLASS COLOGNE, at \$2.50
- RED SALAD SERVERS Pair \$4.00
- MEAT FORKS, at \$4.00
- BUTTER KNIVES, at \$3.00
- OLIVE FORKS, at \$1.75
- GRAVY LADLES, at \$5.00
- BABY SPOONS, a \$2.50
- SUGAR TONGS, at \$1.50
- BON BON TONGS, at \$1.25

DATE, IF YOU WISH. TRY IT.

THE HOME OF THE IDEAL XMAS GIFT—THE GIFT THAT SERVES A USEFUL PURPOSE—that pleases



THE HOME STRETCH

It is a good plan to save a little speed for the home stretch. This is as true of life as it is of horse-racing. Just as sometimes a good horse loses because his unwise driver pumps all the speed out of him before he has got half way round the course, and comes in weary at the finish so many a man, and many a woman, too, spoils a life by wasting all the energy at the outset, reserving nothing for after years. "Rejoice, O young man, in the strength of thy youth; but know that for these things God will bring thee into judgment." It was a very wise man who said this, and he spoke from an experience a good deal fuller than falls to the lot of any except a very few people. "God will bring thee into judgment." This does not mean that at some indefinite period in the future an avenging Deity is going to visit with punishment those who start life at too fast a pace. We have no reason to suppose that Solomon believed in punishments after death. He had in mind the judgments of this life, or to put the matter more scientifically, he was thinking of the operation of the law of cause and effect. There was once a man, not as wise as the King of Israel, who speaking to a lot of young fellows, who had been having what they called a good time, said: "Boys, you can trade of your constitutions for this sort of thing; but don't forget you can never trade back." It is right to have pleasure while we have the capacity of enjoying it; but it is a great mistake to suppose that the capacity for enjoyment is exhausted before, to use an expression from the race track, you have turned into the home stretch.

These observations are directed not only to young people, but to those who have the rearing of young people. Enjoyment is a necessary part of existence; but it ought to be rational enjoyment. It ought to be enjoyment that will not impair the faculty for further enjoyment. There can be nothing more miserable than a man or woman, who reaches middle age having left behind the capacity to get anything out of life that is worth having, and yet there are hundreds of people who do that very thing. They have rejoiced in the strength of their youth, but have forgotten that there is always a day of reckoning. Unfortunately in very many cases the reckoning has to be paid not by themselves alone, but by those who come after them. The sins of the fathers and mothers as well as visited on the children, not by any special edict of the Creator, but because of the infallible working of the law of cause and effect. We admit this is a thing as being well born. There is such in the case of our dogs and horses, our cows and cats we ignore it in the case of mankind, and then we have puny offspring, unable to withstand the first shock of arduous conditions, we blame it upon the Almighty. The other day there appeared in connection with some comments upon Watson's "Woman With the Serpent Tongue," a statement that the person referred to in it was one of a coterie in high social life, whose practices can be best described by saying that they cannot be described. Possibly this did injustice to the woman in question, but it is true of some women. They are satiated with life almost before they have begun to live. To this unhealthy condition of mind a school of modern novelists panders, and the result is a drift in society in a direction that leads to ruin. The tendency in certain circles of young people of both sexes is to seek for sensations rather than for satisfaction that comes from well-ordered lives. Every nerve is strained to make the most out of the first quarter; nothing is left for the home stretch.

This is an aspect of life that calls for more attention from teachers and preachers than it receives. It is vastly more important than the promulgation of doctrine, vastly more essential than the observance of church ordinances. The greatest peril in our civilization lies in the fact that we ignore the tendencies referred to above. The people of Christendom cannot continue as they are going without meeting with disaster. Let there may be no mistake on this point. A thousand churches, more or less, may point their spires to the sky; a thousand robed priests, more or less, may perform all the solemn ceremonies connected with worship. These things will not arrest national decay, unless we are able in some way to strike at the root of the evil, which is undermining the state. There are some who will say that the way to do this is to destroy the liquor-traffic; but that is not a remedy. It is not the practice of the Colonist to discuss controversial questions on this page, and therefore the influence of the drink traffic upon society will not be further considered in this place. But the source of the evil, which is working such deadly harm, lies not in any habit of society, but in the fundamental principles, which govern the lives of young men and women.

Nearly two thousand years ago a man wandered through the wilderness of Judea, and his cry was: "Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Perhaps he himself did not know just what the "Kingdom of Heaven" meant. Today we think of it as a period of unalloyed happiness, and perhaps we wonder what John could have meant when he so preached. Perhaps we have often in our minds thought that the cry was one more proof that the Holy Men of Old were mistaken. But you will search the brief reports of the sayings of John for any proof that he meant that the Kingdom of Heaven was coming with peace and happiness. It came; but it came with a sword. It came; but not with white-robed angels singing hosannas in the clouds, but with fierce warriors out of the North,

with shouts of frenzy as they destroyed cities and shed the blood of millions. The Kingdom of Heaven came, not in Bethlehem's stable in the form of a child; but out on the frontiers of the Roman Empire and it rolled across that great imperial fabric in clouds and darkness. Let us get this thing into our minds in the right way. "I come not to bring peace but a sword," said He whom we call the Prince of Peace.

The Kingdom of Heaven may come again, and come as it then came in judgment. Let us have a care as a people. More virile races than our own are pressing upon our borders. Mental and moral dry rot are eating out the life of the higher strata of society. Wretchedness and poverty are destroying the lower strata. Why should we think ourselves immune from the dangers that destroyed other nations in the past? Who are we that we can defy with impunity the laws, for violating which they perished?

And so we come back to where we started, only now we ought to have a wider view of the application of what was said at the beginning. A nation is no better than the individuals of which it is composed. There is no national existence apart from individual existence. If our young men and our young women exhaust themselves in early life, they also exhaust the state, and the civilized races are today in danger of complete physical, mental and moral exhaustion. The time has come for a change. The time has come when each individual should be taught that it is his bounden duty to save something for the home stretch, for by so doing he not only will serve himself well, but also serve his fellows. Doubtless it is sweet to die for one's country, but it is infinitely sweeter and more useful to live for it.

COMETS

There is some little apprehension concerning the appearance of Halley's comet, and it is due to the wild suggestions of newspaper writers endeavoring to make a sensation out of one of the routine events of the Solar System. On the face of things it is reasonable to infer that the members of that System have assumed the several places occupied by them in obedience to some law, and that their relations are harmonious, so that there is extremely little likelihood of one of them interfering with another. Hence the probabilities of a collision between the Earth and a comet are exceedingly remote. There are many comets and, except in the case of Texel's, there is no reason to suppose that any of them has come into contact with any other member of the system. This comet came within the influence of the attraction of Jupiter and was drawn in among the satellites of that planet, without noticeable results in the case of either, except that the comet did not resume its former orbit, but took a new one. Between Mars and Jupiter there is a wonderful belt of asteroids, or minor planets. About 150 of them have been discovered and catalogued. None of them are large, and the combined mass of those that have been seen is not more than one-fourth that of the Earth. These planetoids are spread out over an area measuring 250,000,000 miles in width, and in their revolution around the Sun they cross and recross each others paths; but they are never in collision. Through this host of little planets the comets dash on their way to the Sun and out again, and so far as any one knows, in no single instance has a planetoid been in the slightest degree affected thereby. The fact that the moons of Jupiter were not affected in any appreciable degree by Texel's comet indicates that even the planetoids might not be, no matter how close to them a comet came. This comet came comparatively close to the Earth, but its presence produced no effect whatever. The number of comets is unknown, for the reason that it is not always possible to be sure if one of these visitors has been seen before. Twenty of them have been tagged, so to speak, by astronomers, and none of them ever goes far away from the Sun as the planet Neptune. The period of their revolution varies from a little over three years in the case of Encke's to upwards of 76½ in the case of Halley's, which is now coming into vision. The comets do not all travel in the same plane. Thus Clausen's has a course, which, if laid out on card would show it to be very nearly on the same plane as that of the orbit of the Earth. De Vico's comes towards the Sun on a course nearly at right angles to the course traveled by the Earth. Halley's comet approaches the Sun at an angle of nearly 18 degrees to the Earth's orbit, and its orbit will be nearly 20,000,000 miles away from it, which is the nearest it can possibly come to the Earth under any circumstances, and it could only be as near as that if the Earth happened at the time to be directly in a line drawn from the comet perpendicular to the Earth's orbit. That is to say, there is one place where, if the movements of the Earth and the Comet were so timed, the two bodies would be within 20,000,000 miles of each other, but the chances against such a thing are almost infinite. This being the case, the coming of the Comet may be regarded without apprehension, although if it is as brilliant as it promises to be, it will afford a spectacle long to be remembered.

The history of cometary appearances is not very complete, and the older accounts are necessarily not very reliable. We are told that in 134 B. C. a comet appeared having a disc larger than that of the Sun. One that was even larger is said to have appeared in 124 B. C. In A. D. 117 another remarkable comet appeared, and in A. D. 479 there was one with a disc of such dimensions that it is said to have caused an eclipse of the Sun. The comet of A. D. 400 extended from the horizon to the zenith, and that of A. D. 531 was even larger and more terrible in appearance. The comets of 1066 and 1505 had discs larger than that of the Moon. The accounts of these comets are all popular and not scientific, and it is possible that their appearance has been greatly exaggerated.

The finest comet, which people now living have seen, was Donati's, which appeared in 1858, and was visible nearly throughout the winter. It presented a most beautiful spectacle. Its nucleus was bright, though not large, and its tail was very brilliant. When the head was at the horizon, the extremity of the tail was on the Meridian, but north of the Zenith. To see that great band of light stretching across nearly a quarter of the sky was a sight never to be forgotten. This comet was for a part of the time it was visible had three tails, although only one of them was noticeable by the ordinary observer. The main tail was curved like an aigrette. The last great comet observable in the northern hemisphere, and perhaps the last observable from any point on the Earth, appeared in 1882. It was in the northern sky, and though its tail was very long and fan-shaped, covering a considerable area in the heavens, it was not very brilliant.

In all, about 260 comets have been noted by astronomers. Of these about 60 move in ellipses; the course of the remainder cannot be distinguished from parabolas; that is, they seem to move in great open curves, and may never revisit the Solar System. Biela's comet was supposed to visit the Sun once in every seven years or thereabouts. In 1846 it came on schedule time and looked about as usual, but as it approached the Sun it split into two parts. When it returned in 1852 these parts had separated widely from each other, and since that time it has not been seen, although a meteoric shower, which occurred about the time of its next appearance, was supposed to be composed of cometary fragments.

It is not known of what the nucleus of a comet consists, for none have ever been seen, because of an envelope of gaseous matter, which surrounds all nuclei. We have absolutely no data from which the character of the solid core, if there is such a thing, can be determined. The great comet of 1680 passed, according to Newton's calculations, not much more than 500,000 miles from the Sun, and would therefore be exposed to a heat which would convert any substance about which we know anything into an intangible gas. The envelope of the nucleus and the tail are so attenuated that the light of stars shining through it is not diminished. The spectroscopic does not give much assistance in the solution of the composition of these bodies. The fact that a comet will whirl around the Sun in a few hours, and swing a tail many millions of miles long without deflecting it from its shape, seems to show that we know anything composed of anything that we know anything about. The terrific speed with which the tail about the nucleus would completely dissipate any solid or gaseous matter. Hence the suggestion finds favor with some astronomers that the nucleus of a comet acts as a lens and the tail is caused by the light of the Sun streaming through it. But there is nothing about which there is more scope for speculation than the nature of comets. They are wonderful things; when brilliant they are marvelous to look upon; their course through the sky is full of mystery, for no one can suggest why they should fly off to such vast distances and return again; but with all the mystery surrounding them, and notwithstanding the fact that they have in all ages been regarded as objects of fear, a visit of a comet is only an incident of unusual interest and need cause no alarm.

BEGINNINGS OF HISTORY

The archaeology of the Northwest Coast is worthy of more study than has yet been given to it, and it so happens that in the vicinity of Victoria there are places where it might be investigated with every prospect of interesting results. At many places are large deposits of broken shells, as, for example, at the head of Esquimalt Harbor and along the highway road on the west side of the Saanich Peninsula at Union Bay. In places like these there are interesting fields for research, and a small party of students would be almost certain to discover something that would repay them for their labors. Lying on the table at which this is written is a stone bearing evidence of workmanship of a high order. It was taken out of a shell heap a foot or so below the trunk of a tree that was possibly a hundred years old. How far the shells extended below the place where the stone was found could only be ascertained by an investigation that was not made. A forest growing on a shell heap establishes the fact that the shells were placed there as long ago, at least, as the age of the oldest tree. Let us suppose that the oldest tree shows by its rings a hundred years of growth. We know that we will have to allow some time between the deposit of the last of the shells and the germination of the seed of the tree; how long would be a matter of guess work. It might be possible by careful study to reach some measure by which the time occupied in the accumulation of the shells could be roughly approximated, and in this way, by digging to the bottom of the heap, it might be possible to fix a date in a general way for the beginning of the heap, the next step ought to be to compare the level of the bottom with the adjacent sea. In level of the bottom with the adjacent sea. In this way it might be learned if the land had sunk since the first Indians made the spot a rendezvous, or there might be found between the heaps and the sea deposits of sand, gravel

or soil or growing trees or boulders from which certain inferences could be drawn.

The above are the general features that might be examined; but in the course of the examination other things might be observed. The stone above mentioned was found near the surface and belongs to possibly the Neolithic Age. The workmanship is remarkably accurate, much more so than is the case with stone implements of the Palaeolithic Age. There is a probability that by excavation to the bottom of this particular heap one might find stone implements dating from the Eolithic Age. If this sort of investigation is undertaken a little preliminary study would be necessary. The first investigations into Eolithic deposits did not recognize stone implements as such. The first investigations of this kind made in America were in New Jersey, where in a great deposit of stones and other detritus there were found a number of stones which had been chipped away so as to form points more or less sharp. At first these were supposed simply to be accidental shapes, but the find became so numerous and they all bore evidence of the same general design, that no other conclusion was possible than that they were artificial. They were clearly designed for cutting purposes, and, when among them a chipped flint arrow head was found, all doubt was removed. Subsequent investigation showed that in the higher portions of the deposit the flint arrow heads became more numerous, until at length the implements formed from the softer stone disappeared, and only the flints remained. Here we have history in outline, the history of a people who, by slow stages, were advancing towards civilization. Results equally interesting might be obtained by the study of the shell heaps near Victoria.

The examination of such a shell deposit as is found at Union Bay ought to take place at more than one point, for this heap is very long, and admitting that the number of Indians was at one time very greatly in excess of what it is now, and that clams formed the greater part of their diet, many centuries, apparently, must have been necessary for the accumulation of the fragments composing it. Such deposits ought to be cut transversely at points some distance apart, and the lower strata ought to be compared so as to warrant, if possible, some conclusion as to whether all parts of the heap are of equal antiquity. Thus it might be that one part of the heap only related to the Neolithic period, which, by the way, embraces the present day. Another part might go back into the Palaeolithic Age, and yet another to the Eolithic. Or it might be found that they are related to the later ages, in which case we would have to conclude either that all the earlier inhabitants had nothing to do with the formation of the particular deposit examined, or else that the aboriginal peoples of Southern Vancouver Island had already made some progress in civilization when they first came here. These observations may suggest to some readers an interesting field of research, and in a subsequent article mention will be made of some discoveries made elsewhere.

A Century of Fiction

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(N. de Bertrand Luyin)

A CENTURY OF FICTION

Georges Sand, Baronne Dudevant—Born Aurore Dupin

If this talented woman had never written a line, she must have become famous through the seemingly endless influence of her remarkable personality. Alfred de Musset, Liszt and Chopin are all great names associated with hers, and they are only three of the many who came under the spell of her magnetism. There is no doubt that the deaths of de Musset and the talented young Chopin were hastened through the knowledge that their friend and companion had become weary of their worship, though the greatest of their works were probably inspired by her genius. She was a woman distinctly feminine in all that makes woman most charming, but with none of the weaknesses of femininity, and with far more strength and stamina than is the possession of most men. Her sympathy was unbounded, she entered instinctively and wholeheartedly, for the time being anyway, into the interests of her friends. She was an enthusiast of the broadest type, and her life was full of contrasts; for all humanity interested her, she knew nothing of narrowness or bitterness. But to love her with the passion of a lifetime meant to suffer, for just as she seemed the embodiment of a half a dozen personalities rolled into one, so it was that the love that satisfies and completes the life of a normal woman could only be classed as one of the incidents in the life of this great writer.

Aurore Dupin was born in 1804 of illustrious ancestors, though the family escutcheon was not unsmirched. One of her ancestors was Augustus II., Elector of Saxony and King of Poland. Her grandmother was the natural daughter of Marechal de Saxe, and lived long enough to convey to her granddaughter the influence of her own musical and literary ability, and the dignity and strength of her character. Her father, inheriting his mother's brilliant gifts, but also the family weakness, died young, after having married a girl very much beneath him, but one who had sinned through innocence rather than with any evil intent. And Aurore was the child of this union, with the blood of kings and that of the lowest class of Parisiennes in her veins. Her mother's father had been a bird-seller, and her love for the birds was always a characteristic trait of

Georges Sand. The feathered folk instinctively trusted her, too, and, we are told, always surrounded her in her garden at Nohants, to perch on her shoulder or feed from her hand. We can see how all the prenatal tendencies went to form the complex and remarkable character of this wonderful novelist. She was passionately devoted to her ostracized mother, and loved all the sinful and suffering because she seemed to her as her representative. She inherited her grandmother's Voltairean and philosophical temperament, and yet, sent to a convent to be educated, she came under the influence of religious idealism, and almost decided to take vows. The wise nuns themselves did not encourage her, foreseeing the direful consequences attendant upon such a step.

Returning from school an avowed Catholic, she began to read philosophy voraciously. But nature-lover as she was, she flew when satiated with books, to the charms of the great out-of-doors, riding and walking every day for hours; thus she kept her physical strength and health unimpaired.

She married, or rather was given in marriage to a man in no way congenial to her. Nevertheless she became the tenderest and most devoted of mothers, and a model of many domestic virtues. The ill-assorted couple lived together for ten years, and finally the court set her free and gave her the custody of the children, whereby we must conclude that the conjugal unhappiness was not the woman's fault. It was to earn her living that she began to work at literature, and in the beginning she was in no sense successful. Her first novel she destroyed. "It was not good," she said; "but it showed me that I could do better."

All her early stories are works of passion and decidedly extreme. It was the time of extremes in France, and the more bizarre a thing was the greater its share of admiration. The novelist at this time adopted male attire, though she insisted that it was only on account of convenience and not for the sake of the effect produced. She was a little woman with wonderful dark eyes and an abundance of brilliant dark hair. She cut off the latter, and in her odd costume looked like a lad in her early teens. She cared little for public opinion, and was at all times beyond the limitations of her sex.

Her pastoral romances followed her more stirring and complex novels, and later she produced plays. But her last works of all are her best, which is surely as it should be. They have no trace of sensuality, and are all written under the stress of the most beautiful idealism.

When old age put its quieting touch upon this woman she welcomed it smilingly. "It is good of God," she said, "to calm us by taking away those stings of personality that are so sharp in youth. How can people complain of losing some things with age, when, on the contrary, they gain so many others? when our ideas grow broader and more correct, when our heart softens and grows larger, and our victorious conscience may look back and say, 'I have done my task!'"

All her large fortune was given to the poor, and she died believing that death was not the end, but one of the stepping stones to infinite peace with God.

Little Fadette

This is one of Georges Sand's best pastoral romances, and the charm of it lies in its many poetic descriptions and its simplicity. The story deals with the life of two brothers, twins, who are so passionately devoted to each other that their parents decide to separate them for their own good. The stronger of the two leaves home and meets with success and happiness, but the one who remains home is idle and discontented. Later the two fall in love with the same woman, "Little Fadette," and the story is an outcome of this situation.

IN THE DARK OF THE MOON

(New York Sunday Magazine)

Many people have wondered why the part of the moon that receives no sunlight is often visible to us, the term being the "old moon in the young moon's arms." The dark part is easily seen as a copper-colored globe reposing in the bright crescent. This that we see is nothing more or less than the earthshine on the moon. We appear in that phase, and our dark part is where the moonshine appears and the bright part the sunshine.

The reason the copper color appears is because light has to traverse the atmosphere of the earth three times—once when reflected to the moon, and again on being reflected back to us. Our atmosphere possesses the peculiar property of absorbing the blue rays of this white light and allowing only the red and orange to go through, thus causing the appearance of copper color by the triple absorption. An odd thing connected with the phenomenon, though having nothing to do with it, is this: That part of the moon which appears light to the moon at any specified time, and that part of the moon which appears bright to us corresponds to the portion of the earth appearing dark to the moon.

Of course, it is well known that the moon gives out no light whatever itself, the moonshine being merely the light of the sun on the moon reflected to us. The same applies with the earth in its shine on the moon, save that we do not give out glows, no doubt, around great cities at night, on account of the enormous number of lights. One thing, however, in which moonshine excels the earthshine is its constant character. Where the earth possesses varying clouds the old moon never has any at all.