

Ocean, and the beaches of Guinea in the Atlantic. These waves show their greatest volume during periods of torrid calms, as they have not force sufficient to cross a tropical ocean in the face of a strong trade wind. In consequence of the prevailing gales of the high latitudes being westerly, the western shores of continents are dashed by heavier waves than their eastern coasts, even in the tropical regions where the prevailing winds blow from the eastward.

INDELIBLE INK FOR RUBBER STAMPS.

The following ink is said to be totally indelible. It consists of 16 parts of boiled linseed oil varnish, 6 parts of the finest lampblack, and 2 to 5 parts of iron perchloride. Diluted with 1-8th the quantity of boiled oil varnish it can be used for rubber stamps. It should not be used with metallic type.

THE HIRED GIRL QUESTION.

A lady correspondent writes us as follows on this much vexed question: It is strange that so little is said on a matter so closely connected with the every day life of almost every family, as the hired girl question. It is a matter that needs serious consideration, and for the sake of the hundreds of women who are obliged to be wife, mother, nurse, seamstress and kitchen maid combined, it should be discussed. It seems as if the best of our girls have gone to the States, and one wonders how it is possible for them all to do any better there than they could have done in their own province.

"BUT THE WAGES ARE HIGHER THERE,"

they say; true, but if they would exert themselves as much here as they are obliged to do in the States, they could command as high wages, without going so far from home to get it. To be sure, the girls have not all gone away, but the average girl one gets to hire now-a-days is far from being the help she should be, and few will submit to be taught anything,—indeed it is an insult to some to hint that they need to be told anything more than they know already. Our mothers discourse on the

GOOD, SMART, TRUSTY, CAPABLE GIRLS

they used to get, but one looks in vain for them now, for if a housekeeper comes across such a treasure she wisely holds on to her, and they are "not in the market." The home training must be deteriorating. Girls leave home now days to hire out who do not know how to sweep a room properly, or to cook the simplest dinner, or to do any of the hundreds of little things that must be done in every house, yet they will want the highest possible wages, while you are endeavoring to learn them something of how things should be done, when in fact they are scarcely worth their board. How is it that girls learn so much more readily in the States than here? Is it because that there they are brought into competition with so many others that they are obliged to do their best, or lose their situation, while here, where girls are scarce and when the housewife considers that

EVEN POOR HELP IS BETTER THAN NONE,

she has to give the hired girl more of her own way than is good for either of them. The demand for good girls is much greater than many are aware, for many who now do without help rather than have a poor girl, would be only too glad to have the burden of housework raised a little from their shoulders, if one suitable to take charge could be found. If there was only some institution where

GIRLS COULD BE EDUCATED ON HOUSEHOLD MATTERS,

there would be many applicants for its graduates. But if there was such a building reared and ready for its inmates, it is doubtful if many Nova Scotia girls could be induced to enter it, so few realize how much they need to know to make housework what it should be to all girls, the one art above all others which should be thoroughly learned, and which she cannot afford to neglect, and which she will always find useful in what ever state of life she may be called to fill.

CHESTER EVELETH.

The Provincial librarian acknowledges with many thanks the receipt of autographs of the following eminent men, presented to the Legislative library by Mr. James Whitman:—The late Sir W. Fenwick Williams, of Kars; the late Sir Edmund Head, governor-general of Canada; the Earl of Dufferin, K. P., etc; Viscount Falkland, once Governor of Nova Scotia; Sir Henry James, now Attorney-General of England; the 9th Baron Napier, Ambassador at St. Petersburg, etc.; Lord Lyons, now Ambassador at Paris; Lords Dunraven, Richard Grovenor, M. P., Shelburne (father of the present Governor General), Edesmere; Sir R. B. Harvey, M. P., and the present Duke of Manchester. Mr. Whitman is an old member of the Nova Scotia Bar, a well-known contributor to magazines, and author of a work on international law, which is highly spoken of in the "Bibliotheca Canadensis." Mr. Whitman has recently been editing for the executors of the late Chancellor Kent (the author of the Commentaries) the unpublished manuscripts of that distinguished American jurist. Some years ago Mr. Whitman's report, published by the Council of the Royal Canadian Institute (London) in their annual report, 1875-1876 (which may be found in the Legislative library), attracted much approved attention from all the London dailies; but failed to meet the entire approbation of the *Journal des Debats* of Paris, whose sympathies were naturally opposed to Mr. Whitman's conclusions.

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