

a sea-voyage and a change in holiday programme, cannot in a fortnight or three weeks leave get better value in every sense for a reasonable expenditure. Bermuda being out of the range of the trade winds and beyond the cooling influence of northern breezes, the almost uniform temperature ranging from 80° to 90° F., day and night, and continued calms during August and September, render these months the most trying period of the year.

The products of Bermuda are onions, potatoes, arrowroot and tomatoes, which are the chief ones; others are melons, cucumbers, cabbage, cauliflowers, turnips, carrots, peas, beans, &c., &c. The onion and Irish potato season lasts from January till June and sometimes July. The sweet potato which is cultivated to a great extent is not so important a crop as the Irish potato and is not a great export. The arrowroot which grows there very abundantly is considered to be the finest that can be obtained. And on a summer's day it is quite refreshing to get a good "feast" of melons, especially those large musk melons which "fairly melt in your mouth," as the saying is. The other vegetables are all very nice and have a delicious savour. I forgot to mention the *bananas* and *plantains*, oranges and lemons, grapes and other fruits, which are among the principal products in the way of delicacies.

Bermuda is divided into nine *Parishes*, viz: Sandy, Southampton, Warwick, Paget, Pembroke, Devonshire, Smith, Hamilton and St. George, the principal being Pembroke, capital Hamilton, and St. George with a capital of the same name. Paget is where the Princess is staying, and there she occupies the beautiful residence "Inglewood," which was expressly given up for her use by the owner, Hon. Mr. Trimingham. Hamilton is also the capital of the island, but formerly it was St. George. At Hamilton is the seat of government. Here the Assembly meet in May and the session lasts till November. It consists of thirty-six members, four from each Parish. The Legislative Council is composed of the Governor and nine members and is the same as the Executive Council. The term of duration of the Colonial Parliament is nine years. St. George, the old capital, is noted for having one of the finest harbours in the world. It received its name from Sir George Somers, who was shipwrecked and afterwards died there, (1610). It contains the oldest church, (St. Peter), in these islands, the present walls being built in 1713. Ireland island, called the "Dockyard," is noted for containing the largest "Floating Dock" in the world, and as being a great naval station. This dock was thirty-five days in towage from England to Bermuda. Its length is 381 feet, breadth 124 feet, depth 75 feet, and total weight 8,340 tons. The flag-ship Northampton has been four times on the dock. In the Parish of Southampton and situate on Gibbs' Hill, 302 feet above sea-level, is a "Light House" exhibiting one of the largest and most powerful lights of that description in the world. It is a revolving dioptric lens of first order, with mirrors, with one centre lamp of three concentric wicks. It cost £5,500.

There are stationed at Bermuda troops to the number of about 3,000, besides Royal Artillery and Engineers. The present Governor commanding the troops is Lieut.-General Gallwey.

Education is not neglected in Bermuda. Schools cannot be said to be altogether free as parents have to pay a small

sum for the education of the young. A good Grammar school exists in Hamilton, known as the Pembroke Grammar school, conducted by Mr. C. E. Clay; besides this there are several other good schools in Hamilton and other towns. At St. Georges there are two Grammar schools, one under the direction of Mr. Alex. Penny and the other under that of Mr. W. B. Onkes.

I forgot to state that as it has (there) no lakes or rivers. Bermuda may be said to rely exclusively on rain for its water supply, which entails the cost of constructing large tanks and maintaining them in order. Every private house is required by law to have a tank provided, and once a year the roofs of nearly all buildings are whitewashed to preserve the purity of the water which is all the better of having some iron thrown into it by means of iron hoops being put in the tank. There are several wells through the island which are found of much service, especially in seasons of drought.

Nearly all manufactured goods, flour, meal, butter, &c., are imported from New York.

As I think that I have written sufficient for a new beginner, I now conclude by stating that the visitor to Bermuda must go prepared with various changes of clothing adapted for warm or moderately warm or even cool weather; and let the sojourn be ever so brief the visitor will carry away with him a store of many memories of beauty to which remembrance will afterwards recur with delight.

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## VARIETIES.

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Nearly ninety thousand dollars is the amount of Mr. R. R. Springer's gift to the College of Music, Cincinnati.

The Czar's new throne for the coronation is of black oak, carved richly, costing about \$9,000. Its style is sadly suggestive.

The first telegram ever sent by a Chinese sovereign to a European court was read by the Crown Prince Frederick William on the anniversary of his silver wedding.

Nearly two hundred thousand acres of Mississippi delta land have been bought by General Gordon of Georgia. It is the richest and perhaps the most unhealthy land in the world.

The British squadrons belonging to the West Indies and North American stations are to make a search for the body of Sir Francis Drake, who nearly three centuries ago was buried at sea in a leaden coffin off Puerto Cabello.

Count Aquila, an old Bourbon prince, uncle of the last King of Naples, who lately visited the King of Italy, and excited Rome by asking to become an Italian once more and subject of the King of Italy, is an Admiral of the Brazilian navy, and his wife is sister to the Emperor of Brazil.

In the early days of California when the drinking water was very poor and scarce, Henry L. Goodwin, of East Hartford, Connecticut, angry at being charged half a dollar for a drink for his oxen, bored eighty feet into his own town lot and established a free drinking fountain for all passers-by. For other uses he sold the water, which proved to be the best on the coast, for a cent a gallon and realized a fine fortune from it.