

SOME INTERESTING NOTES

(N.Y. Freeman's Journal)

It is remarkable that in all the published memoirs of Englishmen of note, there are constant reference to the church which their forefathers had abandoned. From the quaint diary of Samuel Pepys, whose wife was a "Papist," down to that of the late Lord Bulwer Lytton, whose romances are next to those of Scott and Dickens, the best known by the masses of English-speaking people from the reign of Charles II. to the reign of Victoria, there is much evidence that the church is never entirely forgotten by those who seem most alien to her.

Scott revered her; Thackeray almost accepted her; Dickens a most vulgar bigot, makes in one of his letters the strange admission that he had seriously thought of her claims. In the biography of the late Lord Lytton, we find the following extracts:

"And here," writes his son, Owen Meredith, "he adds a warm tribute of respect to the French religious. It was doubtless well merited, for the calumniators of the conventual orders in France are not those who best know what lives their members lead." Lord Lytton wrote his diary on account of the Hospice des Enfants Trouves, in Paris:

"Noticed the great attention of the Nuns (Sisters). Greatly affected by their supernatural devotion to purposes so truly beneficent."

Later, he writes: "Noted the sensible and true conclusion of Abbe Kiasella, that those who are paid to do good work cannot do it with the zest and efficiency of persons who do it gratuitously from duty. Hence the great and eternal use of the religious."

"Talked with Kinsella to a peasant, near Versailles, about religion. Sensible replies to questions on images and absolution. Invererate ignorance in England about Catholic tenets."

"Observed manner of praying in this country (France). More unostentatious and really devout than ours. Advantages of leaving the churches always open. Recollected the beautiful sentence in Hervey's Meditations, applicable to the Catholic, but not (as he meant it) to Protestant churches: 'the doors of the church, like the religion it was intended to honor, were open to everyone who would enter.'"

Thus it was that common things in the religious life of the French people struck a mind not wholly warped by prejudice.

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KEEPING HOUSE IN VENICE

Anyone who keeps house in Venice will find that the picturesqueness of surroundings is carried out in all the details of life. The kitchen, for instance, will be more primitive than any kitchen you have yet seen, if your apartment is anything short of a palace. It is apt to be a spacious room, around the top of which runs a row of shelves filled with pewter plates. There are rows of copper pots and saucepans, and there are fascinating earthen dishes and casseroles of every size, and in the inventory there is sure to be a round wooden board with a stubby handle, to turn out the steaming polenta on. Polenta is nothing in the world but an excellently made cornmeal mush—a cornmeal mush with the mushiness left out, for to be perfect, polenta must have consistency. Besides the exact proportions of water, salt and meal, polenta, to be good, must be stirred continually, and a long cudgel for this purpose is another item in the kitchen furnishings. Our polenta was cooked in a copper pot hung on a crane over a wood fire; and this brings me to the cooking arrangements. There is no stove in this Venetian kitchen; there is nothing to cook on by means of which an American cook could turn out a square meal. There is a wide, soapstone hearth, the height of an ordinary range, surmounted by an imposing hood. On this hearth, without aid of andirons, is built a wood fire. The sticks are long, and only one end is

lighted—the other end extends out on the edge of the hearth, and as the lighted end burns down, the stick is pushed back into the flame. On either side of this fire stands a "fornello" an earthenware vessel, something like a large, square flower-pot. In these are made charcoal fires, quite large enough to heat two flatirons at the same time. This is all the cooking arrangement; there is no place for roasting or baking. No bread, cake or biscuit is ever made in an Italian house. If you wish to roast a turkey or a large bird, you send it in its pan, with the butter for its basting to the baker, who roasts it to a beautiful brown for from three to five cents. The smaller fowls are roasted in one of the large copper casseroles, and by turning and twisting and basting incessantly, the bird is as perfectly roasted as one would wish. There is no place for keeping anything hot on this embryonic range, and with only three places for cooking something must be cooked first and set aside to make way for other dishes. On the other hand, there could not be a more economical way of cooking. In a very few moments the charcoal fire burns at full pitch, and if one wishes for just enough, and no more, to broil a chop, one may have it without having to light a fire sufficient to cook an entire dinner, as one would have to do with us, for the fuel for an American kitchen range costs anywhere from twenty-five to thirty-cents a day. In Italy, fuel, including both wood and charcoal, costs ten cents a day for a family of moderate size.—The Pilgrim.

FLORA'S MISTAKE

"Everybody is so nice to some folks. I wish they acted to me the way they do to Nannie." Flora heaved a long sigh as she watched the greeting her popular schoolmate was receiving after the brief separation of a week's holiday. Everyone was glad to see Nannie. It was rather hard, Flora thought, that no one appeared particularly glad to see her.

"Have you been upstairs yet? There's a new picture in the schoolroom." There was an eager note in the voice of the girl who told this bit of news. Evidently she thought it rather important and expected her listener to be interested.

"Is there?" said Flora indifferently. She was not thinking about the new picture. She was wishing that she was popular, like Nannie, and wondering how it would seem to have everyone so glad to see her. The other girl turned away. A minute later she told Nannie the same news.

"A new picture!" Nannie cried. "Why, how nice! I love something pretty to look at when I get tired looking right at my lessons, don't you? I'm going upstairs to see what it's like." A young girl passing with a group of Flora's classmates stopped beside her. She was a pretty girl and dressed in exquisite taste. Flora glanced at her and drew suddenly away.

"It's Eleanor Ryerson," she told herself. "I wonder what she came here for? Her father's so rich, I know she looks down on every one of us. I suppose she'd think it dreadful to be friendly with me, if she knew that papa gets such a small salary." She looked half defiantly at the unconscious stranger, as if she had expressed the sentiments Flora herself was responsible for. But she felt a queer little pang later when she saw Nannie deep in a chat with the new girl.

"I'm so glad you're coming here," Nannie was saying, in her usual frank fashion. "There're such nice girls in this room, and we have such good times together." Apparently, Nannie was not embarrassed by the fact that the father of this new acquaintance was wealthier than her own father. She took it for granted that the other girl wished to be friendly, and she responded as if Nannie were not mistaken. At the close of school they walked away together arm in arm, and a group of other girls followed as close as they could get. Flora walked by herself.

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"If only I could make friends!" Flora sighed. She did not stop to think that there was nothing in her downcast face to draw others to her. She did not realize that she had repelled the advances of her schoolmates that very day; and she had overlooked the chance to welcome a stranger; that while she envied Nannie's popularity, she did none of the pleasant, friendly, sympathetic things which made Nannie such a favorite. Least of all did she guess that the chief difference between herself and her popular friend was that her own thoughts were self-centered, while Nannie was profoundly and healthily interested in other people. She went home sighing, not knowing that the love she craved was hers for the taking.—Pittsburg Observer.

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