

ally coffee is supplied, but seldom anything else; never beer as a beverage. At tea, or supper rather—for both terms are used—the cold meats from dinner are served up, and, as a relish in meats, dried or smoked beef cut or rather shaved very thin, and eaten uncooked; salt fish, also, sweet cakes, sweetmeats, as marmalades, &c., stewed peaches, pears, and other fruits, new bread again, and tea instead of coffee, as at breakfast. At both the first and last, and indeed all meals, a plentiful supply of apple-sauce is mostly to be found, sometimes peach-sauce—made in the summer of fresh fruits, in the winter of dried. In the proper season, radishes, pepper-grass, onions, cucumbers, and at all meals during the whole of the year, boiled beet-root, plain or in vinegar.

"This is the customary fare at houses of this description; as before stated, some are much better than others, and if the mechanic fail in obtaining what is satisfactory at one place, it is really his own fault if he does not get it at another."

One great drawback to the enjoyment of these good things is the helter-skelter, hot haste in which they are disposed of. Almost as soon as things are served up, they are gone, and in general each person rises with the last mouthful; the stranger must of course follow the example. Another inconvenience is the want of domestic accommodation in the evenings; a place to while away time must be sought for in the tavern, or other places of public resort; and this, with washing, mending, &c., increases the sum total of the weekly expenditure. With all this, however, a considerable surplus remains in the hands of the young unmarried man. Housekeeping, by married people in the cities, is, in consequence of rent and other matters, nearly as high as at home, in similar circumstances; but in the country, of course this is materially lessened, and, in both cases, the wages received leave a surplus in the hands of the workman. "The Mechanic's and Labourer's Guide" has some statements on the situation in which a mechanic with a large family is placed, which we deem most important to be generally known. It states that:

"In America, whatever be the extent of a man's family, and whether girls or boys, they will not be found the very heavy burthen they too frequently are in old countries. Except in the difficulty of getting them over there, number will be no disadvantage, owing to the constant demand there is for their services. It is the custom to send children out to employment at the early age of nine or ten years, and very desirable situations, with fair remuneration, may readily be obtained for them. It is plain, therefore, that they are likely to be a benefit rather than an incumbrance to the parent, as soon as they are at all able to be employed. There may be said to exist also a prejudice in favour of "old country" children, the same as for adult help, particularly in the cases of females. In advertising for female aid, a customary plan upon most occasions is to specify that English or American would be preferred, or that none other need apply. Girls from the age of eleven and twelve are sought after as day-helpers, either to nurse children or attend about house, getting from half a dollar to a dollar a week, and board; while the adult female help (there are no servants in America) will get from five to eight dollars a month, and every necessary. Girls are also employed in trades. In all employment which comes within the province of the needle, there is a great demand for them, notwithstanding their being already so numerous.

"These, therefore, are the prospects which the mechanic has before him for the one portion of his family; and now let us turn and see those which he has for the other. Boys, even at the early age of ten years, are fully able to provide for themselves, and thereby assist their parents—in short, are able to gain their livelihood, and it is customary for them to do so. There is a constant demand for them, and, as all minor as well as inferior labour is exceedingly well paid for in the United States, they get, by comparison at least with anything of the kind in Great Britain, highly remunerated. A boy of eleven or twelve years will get two dollars a week, no less being offered; if from fourteen to sixteen years, whether as an errand boy or assistant in general trades, three dollars; the object being, in all cases, to give sufficient for support. This is in fact the amount considered requisite for their boarding and other expenses. At mechanics'

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