

Some Phases of German Social Life.

By Mrs. J. F. McCurdy.

The attention of a stranger in a foreign country is naturally first directed to what takes place on the streets. One of the first things to strike an American in a German city as decidedly "foreign" is the number of small traders sending their wares in carts of manifold variety—big carts which a horse, ox or cow draws, middling sized carts which a woman and a dog often pull, and by side, heavily loaded two-wheeled carts, vegetable or fruit, and smaller carts, similarly loaded, to which one or two dogs are harnessed. These are brought by them often from little villages miles away across the flat country. The energy with which the little fellows pull and their obedience to orders excited our admiration; but we could not help pitying them too, hampered as they were and worn and tired, what with the load behind them, their harness, and the strong wind which blows in all German cities, the workers as well as their more favored idle brothers, must wear, according to law, when away from their masters' house.

The partnership between women and dogs in this work of pulling carts is as common as the sight of a dog in the streets. Among the peasants, if they are not rich enough to own a little cart and a dog to help pull it, the wife shoulders her heavy basket, and bareheaded trudges long miles to the nearest market there to sit for hours on the roadside, or offer her farm produce for sale from her house. Scarcely second to the little cart is this same basket in its use. You meet it everywhere, and sometimes on the crowded city pavements it is as difficult to get safely past the loaded basket as the open family umbrella. It is made in various sizes. We have seen a mother and family of children gathered withered faces, each with her or her basket. The size most in use measures from two to three feet square across the top, has sides of about three feet in length, graduated to a narrow base—one foot perhaps. Down the side nearest the body of the wearer run two strong bands of wood, a broad, strong strap is attached to the top of each, and these are passed around the shoulder and made fast at the lower end when carried. One would scarcely believe what heavy loads are brought from the country in these baskets and often by very distinctive women—for the present woman is generally underdressed. Goods of all kinds are transported in them, hay, straw, wood, as well as farm and dairy produce, often making up a load greater in weight than the heaviest cart. We had regular visits from some of these market women and tried the weight of their burdens in testing the weight of their burdens and trying to help them shoulder the basket again, and after the purchase was made. And here we might tell what honest, sympathetic, kindly souls we found them. They were recognized us as foreigners from our accents, instantly, and many were the curious questions asked about the far-away wonderful America—about the Indians whom they believe overran our whole continent, was paint, tomahawk, feathers and all—whether one could live with less or easier work in America, etc., etc. This was followed, sometimes by the tearful story of family troubles, of how hard it was to earn the daily bread, and often of brothers, sons or daughters, gone to America.

Mentioning Indians recalls an amusing incident related to me by a young German friend of ours. She was visiting the lady friend in Chemnitz, which city, being more of a manufacturing than literary or artistic center, has fewer American residents than many other German towns. The young lady's hostess came to her one morning saying, "Fraslein, would you be so kind as to come to the kitchen a moment? My butler woman is there. She says she has heard that an American woman is here, and begs as a great favor to see you." Now Miramichi is a blonde, with a pretty face and dainty figure, and, as she appeared at the kitchen door, the butler woman gave a sudden exclamation of great astonishment. "Ah," said the German lady to her, "you thought the Fraslein was a wild red Indian woman?" Curious, as well as supremely ridiculous productions are the absurd stories circulated in Germany in the form of paper covered romances, in which Indians are the leading characters, and thrilling accounts of their wild deeds, in the very centres of our civilization, captivate the heart of the German school boy, and turn his head so completely that he is sometimes inspired with the desire to "go West and fight the Indians." Not long ago two such eager youths ran away from home and travelled as far as Hamburg, where they were fortunately captured and sent back. We glanced over one of these thrilling books and found that it described a wild tribe of Indians located just outside the city of Montreal. A young student saw the Chief's daughter in church, fell in love with her, managed to win her affections and visit her at the paternal wigwam. Manifest troubles followed, but the happy lovers escaped at last from all opposing influences, by jumping into a friendly stream and floating down its swift current.

The social condition and standing of women in Germany are something different from those accorded to them in America. Not alone among the working classes is this observable, but in every circle, on every hand it meets you, and impresses you disagreeably. Woman, among those in modern circumstances as well as in the past, is the principal burden bearer. A tradesman, in nine cases out of ten, expects his wife, besides attending to the household and family duties, to help with the business. She can stand behind the counter and deal out groceries, etc., or if his business is such that she cannot work beside him, he proposes to her that she open a shop on her own account, or the rents and furnishes a few more rooms than her family requires, then lets these to lodgers by the month, and, in the amount she realizes from the rent and attendance she gives her lodgers, she adds very materially to the family

Law Etc.

Notice of Sale.

To James Barrett, of the Parish of Beauséjour in the County of Northumberland, for executor of the last Will and Testament of Donald Buckley late of the Parish of Beauséjour, deceased, and to all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three and a male named the said Donald Buckley, of Chatham, in the Parish of Beauséjour, in the County of Northumberland, Merchant, the first part, and the now deceased John Metcalf of London, England, John Sterling of Montreal, in the last Province of Quebec, and Joseph Sheehy of Quebec, in the said Province of Quebec, of the second part, which mortgage was duly recorded in the Records of the County of Northumberland on the nineteenth day of September, 1883, in Volume 62 of the County Records, pages 113 and 114, and in numbered 100 in said volume, there will in pursuance of the power of sale and for the purpose of satisfying the moneys secured by the said Indenture of Mortgage, be sold at Public Auction, in front of the Post Office in Chatham, on the nineteenth day of March next, the lands and premises in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 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General Business.

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