

struction, and for several weeks locomotives and cars were run from bank to bank, until the fires were actually put out on the engines by the water which covered the melting ice, and the hazardous passages were discontinued and the track removed a few days before the frozen bridge yielded to the rising current of the river. General Rosser's venturesome exploit attracted wide notice, and the Northern Pacific ice-bridge was pictured in the illustrated papers." It has been stated that the prototype of these two railways on ice is to be found as far back as the winter of 1851-52, when the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railway ran their cars across the frozen Susquehanna at Havre de Grace, where it is about three-quarters of a mile wide. According to a contemporary paper, however, the cars were drawn over by horses and not by engines, and the passengers drove across in sleighs or walked. But, nevertheless, this has been claimed to be the original of railways on ice.

SONNET—FANCY'S OWN.

LET sober Reason, gowned upon her throne,
With all her stern disciples at her feet,
Proclaim her laws of life, for some most meet;
Her sovereign ruling will I never own.
Fancy's my goddess: to her power alone
I bend the knee, for she is gracious sweet,
And hath provided me with sandals fleet,
That instantly transport from zone to zone
Around this motley world; to me hath given
Unchalleng'd passports through the realms of time
Or past or future; by her leave I climb
From hell's abyss up to the arch of Heaven—
And at the secrets of the earth and sky and sea
I marvel, moved to fear, at each new mystery.

Paris.

E. G. GARTHWAITE.

BERMUDA.—II.

BERMUDA contains numerous boarding-houses capable of accommodating from six to twelve persons; of these, the Melbourne House is the largest and most important; terms in all are from \$10 to \$12 a week, so that they are much cheaper than the hotels, but I imagine inferior both in accommodation and living. I have already referred to furnished houses; any number of these may be had during the winter for £7, £10, or £12 sterling a month, all more or less supplied with requisite articles, but without linen or cutlery. I know of only one house fully provided with every household requirement; this is rented by Mr. Trott, of Trott and Cox, the well known agents of the Steamship Company in Hamilton. The cottage in question is situated on a rocky point beyond the Princess Hotel, about twenty minutes walk from Hamilton, and its price is £14 a month. The great difficulty with regard to housekeeping in Bermuda is the question of domestics. The visitor must either bring her own servants, or depend upon such natives as she can get, and face the consequences, which, in the kitchen department, will mean considerable picking and stealing; the better the cook the greater the evil; and the sufferer must remember that the blacks do not consider it wrong, but, on the contrary, quite moral and justifiable, to support one family or more off the proceeds of their mistress's table. Wages are low, from \$6 to \$9 being paid to housemaids and cooks. White servants, when they arrive, are generally very much tried by the state of Bermudian civilisation; they may have to contend with stoves that are cracked, and with coal that is not suited to them; with salt that becomes damp and sticky when the south wind blows; with currants that blend into one undistinguishable and united body; with tiny red ants possessed of a demoniacal curiosity, that insist upon investigating everything; with meat that will not appear till the eleventh hour if then, and with milk often forgotten altogether. These are a few of the minor evils which upset the equanimity of the northern domestic, fresh from all the modern conveniences of the nineteenth century. With a white maid and a coloured cook, great comfort could be enjoyed, as the former would control peculation.

The blacks, in spite of their little weaknesses, are a good-natured and happy people, more like grown-up children than reasonable beings; they are very grateful and appreciative of kindness, and one is always impressed by their courteous and respectful bearing. Whether in town or country, every man or woman you meet gives you a pleasant nod, in which respect they offer a refreshing contrast to their brethren of the West Indian Islands, who harbour a most objectionable animosity to the white population, and seize every opportunity to annoy them. Living is expensive, compared with Canada, the price of everything but groceries being double. Beef is 1s. 3d., nearly 30 cents per lb.; mutton, a shilling, or 25 cents, and none but such as is imported fresh-killed, per steamer, from New York, is fit to eat; veal, 1s. per lb.; chicken and turkeys sell at 1s. a pound with their feathers on; fish is cheap, as a rule, and nasty, 4d. per lb.—some kinds are good boiled (as it is seldom or never eaten, and was an experiment of our own), but the majority is coarse and tasteless; it is very difficult to get, the hotels and boarding-houses consuming the moderate supply; bread is 6d. a loaf; milk, 6d. a quart; vegetables can be produced in fair abundance, but the potatoes are all imported from Nova Scotia, and are 1s. 3d. a peck. Fruit, in the way of bananas, is plentiful and cheap, 3d. a pound. Apples are a staple article of

food and largely imported; also, Florida oranges; but no fruit except bananas is grown by the natives for sale. There are any number of orange, lemon, loquat, avocado pear, Surinam cherry, and other queer tropical trees in the gardens of private houses, but, for their consumption, one is indebted to the kindness of friends.

Anything can be raised in Bermuda were it not for the laziness of the negroes; but since a disease blighted their orange and peach trees some years ago, they have abandoned the cultivation of anything but the prolific and profitable banana, together with tomatoes, potatoes, and onions for the New York market. Loquots are the fruit *par excellence* of Bermuda. They are of Chinese extraction, yellow in colour, and the shape of a tiny pear—about an inch long—they grow in clusters of eight or a dozen, upwards instead of downwards, in large leafy trees with queer straggling branches.

One great want in Bermuda is a market, which would be an immense economy of time and money; nearly every West India Island, however small, possesses one, and it is curious that none should ever have been established in Hamilton. Various notable old women travel about with vegetables, eggs, scallops, and oysters. Beware of the Bermuda oyster; it is a delusion and a snare, and the purity of the scallops' watery bed must be investigated.

The climate during the winter is decidedly variable; the temperature ranges generally between 60° and 70°, and frost is unknown; its essential characteristic is dampness, whatever may be said to the contrary. This is only natural in a small group of islands lying far out in the Atlantic, but there is neither fog nor mist of any description, though there are frequent squalls of rain which are soon absorbed by the porous nature of the ground. When a north wind blows, as it generally does after Christmas, it is cool and even bracing, making a fire in the morning and evening an enjoyable luxury; but when a south wind wafts the soft air of the Gulf Stream over the ocean, it is damp and enervating. This is supposed to be essentially a summer breeze, but it keeps its memory green in the winter also. November and December are fine warm months when cotton dresses may be worn, and doors and windows kept open night and day, also a prevalence of mosquitos expected. January, February, and March are stormy and unsettled, and thick dresses may be donned with comfort, and a heavy wrap worn in a north wind. April and May are again bright and beautiful; the sun increases daily in power and penetration, and cotton dresses can be resumed. A thick jacket is always useful, also a light ulster, and a mackintosh no family should be without, as an umbrella is practically useless in the heavy squalls of wind and rain which constantly occur; a couple of good dresses for state occasions, a few ball gowns, and a lady's wardrobe is complete, with the addition of an ancient cloak of some kind for boating, the salt water spoiling anything it touches. Boots and shoes should be taken, but gloves can be obtained better and cheaper than in Canada, provided that Americans who prevail in Bermuda have not bought up all the sizes you happen to require.

One great and inestimable advantage of the Bermuda climate is that you can stay in it just as long as you please. Indeed April and May are often the pleasantest months, with their lengthening days and their spring-like atmosphere, and in this respect its qualifications for invalids are superior to those of Florida and the West Indies, which the visitor must leave in March, when it is too early to return to Canada from any southern resort. Whether it is suitable for consumptive patients is a much-vexed question. I consider it entirely too damp and too variable; you see very few, if any, invalids. Bermuda is almost entirely the winter headquarters of Americans, who are pleased with its English flavour, and come down simply for pleasure and amusement. I heard there were upwards of 1,500 there last year, between Christmas and Easter. Many business men, who suffer from overwork and insomnia, will find the island, with its fortnightly mail and absence of cable communication, a capital recruiting ground; also persons troubled with nervous affections, to whom fresh air and out of door life are recommended. There is a great and perceptible change of temperature as soon as the sun sets, and a damp chill creeps over the ground in the winter months, which is felt even by the robust, and must be guarded against.

The naval and military society is a great attraction of Bermuda; there is always one regiment stationed there (at present the 76th, the Duke of Wellington's), besides a few companies of engineers and a battery of artillery. The North American squadron, with the flagship, the *Northampton*, under Vice-Admiral Lyons, and three or four smaller vessels, comes down from Halifax in November, and spends six weeks or more at the dockyard, then goes on to the West Indies and returns again for two months in March. The Admiral's official residence, Admiralty House, Clarence Hill, is a quaint old building, with very extensive gardens, laid out by some horticultural predecessor. It is beautifully situated on high ground, and commands an extensive view of the north shore of the island with the dockyard lying immediately opposite about two miles away, and the grand sweep of the Atlantic washing the rocks below.

The present Governor is General Gallwey, R.E. Government House, Mount Langton, lies on the north shore of Bermuda, and is an old-fashioned colonial residence, soon to be succeeded by a really handsome and commodious building, which is being erected on a better site than the present house, but within the grounds, which are more extensive and appear to far better advantage than those of Clarence Hill, and contain two excellent tennis courts. It is customary for strangers upon arrival to drive out, and inscribe their names in the books kept at Clarence Hill and Mount Langton. After paying their respects they are eligible for invitations to such general entertainments as may be given.

L. C.