

24th. . . . Loud discussion in English parliament on the motion of censure ; Mr. O'Brien, home ruler, suspended.

25th. . . . General Brackenbury with his troops and baggage safely crossed the Nile ; reports of a defeat of the rebels near Suakim were confirmed.

26th. . . . Lord Salisbury moved in the English House of Lords a vote of censure on the Egyptian policy of the Government.

27th. . . . The vote to censure the English Government was rejected in the House of Commons, vote 302 to 288, and adopted in the House of Lords, vote 189 to 68. =General Buller and his command reached Gakdul Wells=A large number of Anarchists arrested in Switzerland.

28th. . . . A complete list of President-elect Cleveland's cabinet published=General Grant's illness reported to be a hopeless case of cancer of the tongue.

SELECTED.

THRIFT LESSONS.

LEARNED FROM THE EUROPEAN PEASANTRY.

The homes of the German peasantry are not built upon the small patches of land which the men and women cultivate. They are huddled together in villages. The church spires form the centre around which are grouped the cottages, built with walls of heavy wooden frame-work, filled in with mortar and surmounted by thatched or red-tiled roofs.

The slovenly condition of these German peasant villages has led to much misconception of the character of their inhabitants. The peasants have not yet awakened to the necessity of making their outside surroundings beautiful, or even tidy. I have waded through accumulations of rubbish to reach the door of a cottage, in which not a particle of dirt was tolerated by the neat housewife.

The floors were scoured until they shone ; the wooden chairs and tables, simple and substantial, were clean as hands could make them, and the beds were decked with snowy linen fit for a palace.

In many of the rustic districts in Germany and France the spinning-wheel plays as important a part in household industry as it did in New England a hundred years ago. I was on familiar terms of acquaintance with a peasant family in a village not far from Heidelberg. The family belonged to the better class of peasants. By a systematic course of careful economy they had amassed what to them was wealth. They owned their cottage and a productive patch of land in the valley, besides which there was a goodly sum of money well invested.

But because their needs were no longer pressing, it never occurred to them to change their simple life, or indulge in greater expenditure. On summer afternoons this family formed a pretty picture of domestic thrift and industry.

The mother in her simple peasant costume, with the inevitable white handkerchief crossed over her breast, was busily engaged in knitting stockings for her family. The daughters, picturesque in short petticoats and red bodices, sang as the spinning-wheel flew round, and the thread twisted between their deft fingers. Dreams were no doubt dancing through their heads of other cottages where sometime they would reign as

mistresses, and the wheel flew fast as they thought of the great chest which must be packed to overflowing with homespun linen for their marriage dowry.

There is no idling among these people. Every moment as well as every penny is made to do its mission: All domestic duties, in-door and out-door alike, are attended to in their proper time, and for the leisure hours the spinning-wheel, or knitting, or sewing for the household, is always ready, and is never neglected. Thrift of time is very marked among the Germans.

In this country we are too much inclined to consider work as drudgery, and wait for pleasure until the work is finished ; but the common people of Europe whistle and sing as they go along, and take delight in a thousand simple things, which we either overlook or fail to appreciate.

One morning last summer, I was riding on a horse-car in one of our Northern cities. A small band of music was passing up the street, followed by a German target company in holiday attire. The conductor of the car an overworked and weary-looking American, gazed at the merry party with sorrowful eyes.

"Just look at those fellows," he said to a gentleman standing with him on the platform of the car. "They are marching off to some grove where they will meet their wives and children and sweethearts ; and they'll have more innocent fun for twenty-five cents than I could get for two dollars."

This ability to find amusement in little things, and at small expense, we in this country should do well to study. Give a German or a Frenchman, be he peasant or tradesman, a leisure afternoon, sunshine, a small band of music and a crowd of friends and neighbors, and his happiness is complete.

There is no pleasanter sight than a simple German family taking supper in the summer-garden of the small town in which they live. The day's work has been hurried a little, for perhaps the village band will give a "Mozart night," and not a note of the sweet harmony must be lost. The supper, consisting of thin slices of sausage, and bread and butter and cheese, with sweet crackers for the little ones, is carefully packed in a basket, and coffee, milk and beer can be obtained at the garden for a very small sum.

The whole family start together, the father, mother, children down to the baby in arms and the grandparents. The women carry their knitting in their pockets, and as they sit around the little table in the garden, chatting quietly, or listening to the music, which is sure to be good, the needles click merrily in the busy fingers, whose owners comprehend no such word as idleness.

The same simplicity prevails in all indoor life. Economy in dress is rigidly practised. A good quality of material is always purchased, and it is made to do service in one form or another as long as there is a thread of it left. Among the peasantry the peculiar costume of their district is their pride, and scorn falls heavily on the maiden who forsakes the quaint dress of her grandmothers to adopt new fashions of the neighboring town.

Some of these peasant holiday costumes are very costly, but the quilted silk petticoat, the embroidered bodice and gold comb, are carefully laid away when not in use, and often pass down in unsoiled splendor through several generations. Among the middle classes of the towns where modern fashions rule to a certain extent, the mother takes special pride in the dress of her daughters and herself.