

A YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER.

While every one is speaking of the present season as being remarkable in its characteristics, I have gathered for your readers, says a writer in the *Boston Globe*, some reliable facts of the year 1816, known as "the year without a summer." Few persons now living can recollect it, but it was the coldest ever known through Europe and America. The following is a brief abstract of the weather during each month of that year:

January was mild, so much so as to render fires almost needless in parlours. December previous was very cold.

February was not very cold; with the exception of a few days it was mild, like its predecessor.

March was cold and boisterous during the first part of it; the remainder was mild. A great freshet on the Ohio and Kentucky rivers caused great loss of property.

April began warm, but grew colder as the month advanced, and ended with snow and ice, and a temperature more like winter than spring.

May was more remarkable for frowns than smiles. Buds and fruits were frozen; ice formed half an inch thick; corn killed, and the fields again and again replanted until deemed too late.

June was the coldest ever known in this latitude. Frost, ice and snow were common. Almost every green thing killed. Fruit nearly all destroyed. Snow fell to the depth of ten inches in Vermont, several in Maine, three in the interior of New York, and also in Massachusetts. Considerable damage was done at New Orleans in consequence of the rapid rise of the river. The suburbs were covered with water, and the roads were only passable with boats.

July was accompanied by frost and ice. On the 5th ice was formed of the thickness of a common window glass throughout New England, New York, and some parts of Pennsylvania. Indian corn was nearly all destroyed; some favourably situated fields. This was true of some of the hill farms of Massachusetts.

August was more cheerless, if possible, than the summer months already passed. Ice was formed half an inch thick. Indian corn was so frozen that the greater was cut down and dried for fodder. Almost every green thing was destroyed, both in this country and in Europe. Papers received from England state "that it would be remembered by the present generation that the year 1816 was a year in which there was no summer." Very little corn ripened in the New England and Middle States. Farmers supplied themselves from the corn introduced in 1815 for the seed of 1817. It sold at from four to five dollars per bushel.

September furnished about two weeks of the mildest weather of the season. Soon after the middle it became very cold and frosty: ice formed a quarter of an inch thick.



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October produced more than its share of cold weather; frost and ice in common.

November was cold and blustering. Snow fell so as to make good sleighing.

December was mild and comfortable.

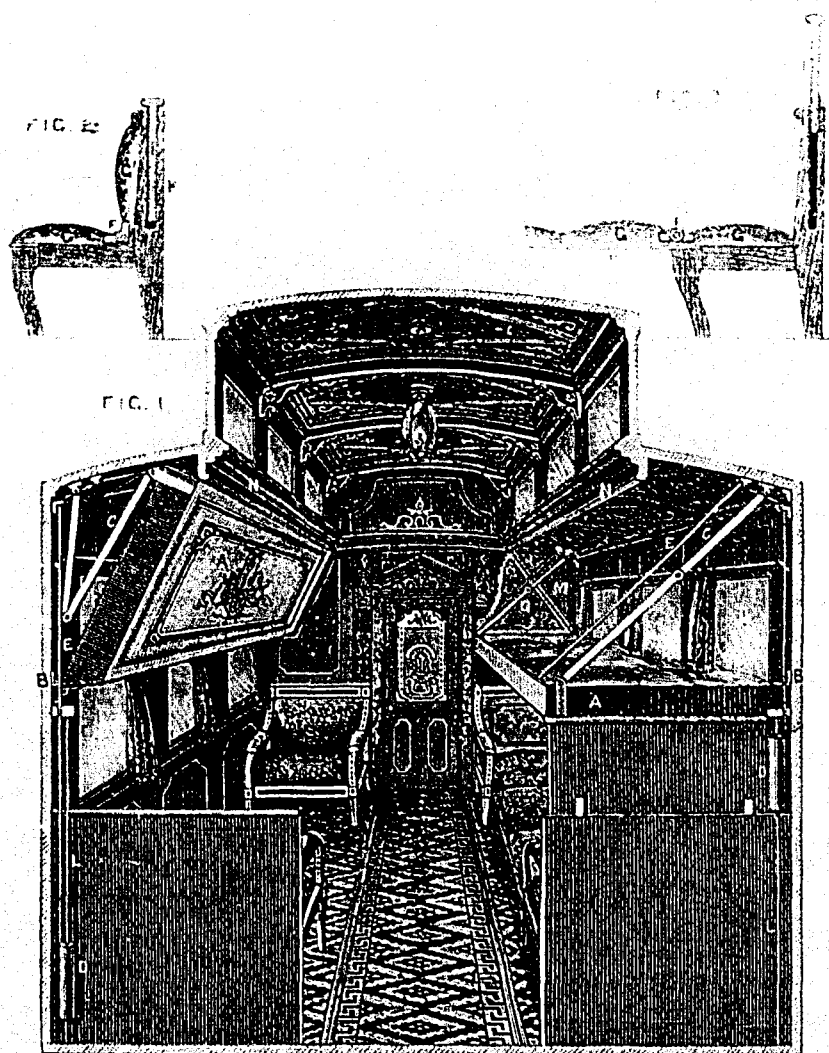
The average wholesale price of flour during that year, in the Philadelphia market, was thirteen dollars per barrel. The average price of wheat in England was ninety-three shillings per quarter.

CONVERSATION.—Of the two sexes, I should say that upon the whole and in the long run women were, *ceteris paribus*, superior to men as conversers. For even admitting (what I think is very doubtful) that they are not generally so well read, and have not so many ideas to communicate as men, their moral and intellectual constitution enables them, when in society, to make a better use of the materials they possess, and that for several reasons. First, because they are less egotistical, and also less selfish than men; consequently they have less of that *mauvaise honte*, which so often makes the

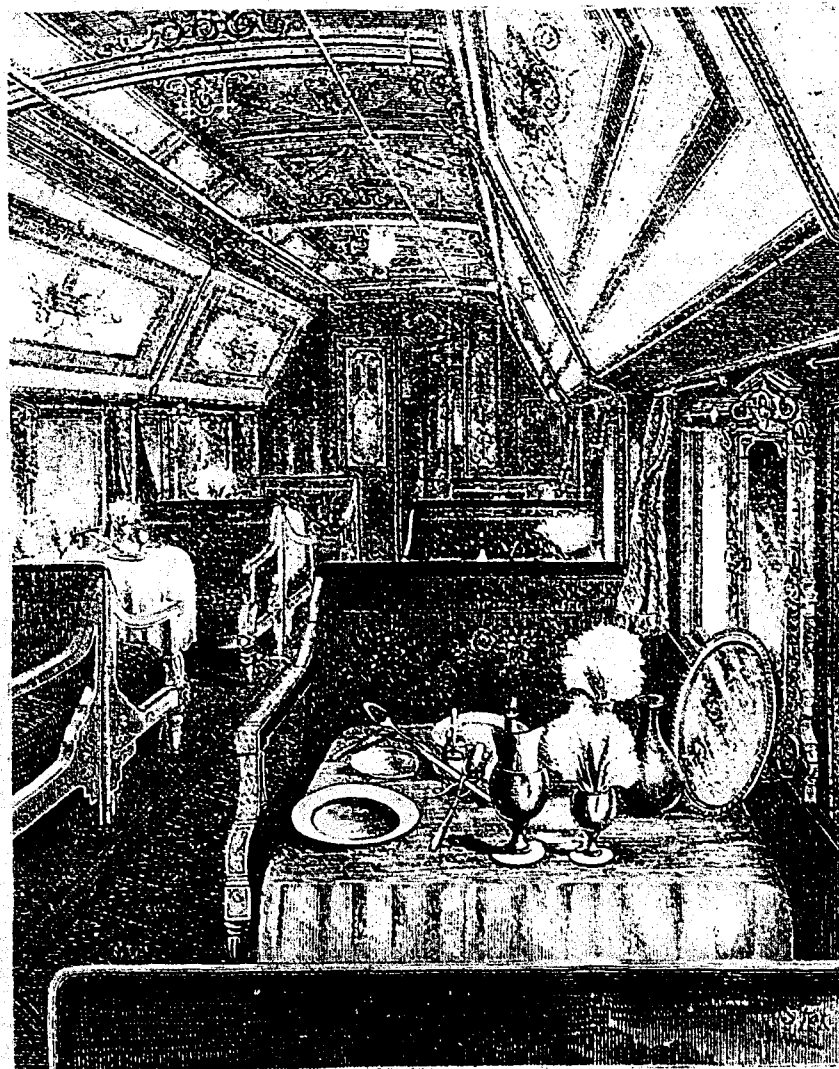
latter silent or awkward in company. For the same reason they are also less likely to be absorbed with their own ideas and opinions, and to treat slightly those of another. Then they have stronger sympathies, greater tact, and more readiness and presence of mind than men. This superiority in conversational power in women over the male sex extends itself even to the lower classes. In agricultural districts, as the clergy well know, the women are much easier to get on with than men, and appear to be much less dull, though probably the difference in this respect arises, not so much from intellectual superiority as from the causes already mentioned; and I suppose it is partly owing to these causes, that women who are believed, by some at least, to be more secretive than men, and who certainly have greater powers of concealing their feelings, are generally less reserved in conversation. We will now consider the relative merits of nations, with reference to the subject we are discussing. On the whole, we should say that the French stand first on the scale; for they possess more of the requisite qualities, with fewer drawbacks, than other nations. They are lively in spirits, witty, ready and full of tact, nor are they at all deficient in reading and observation. Moreover, though a vain they are not an egotistical or a proud people, and, therefore, are not subject to bashfulness. Indeed, they do not seem to dread anything. Now these latter qualities, which the French want, are essentially characteristic of Englishmen. And to these, in a certain degree, we owe our greatness, our superiority to them in dignity and self-respect, but they are also one cause of our inferiority in conversation. The Irish, on the other hand, who have none

of the English bashfulness, and who also have much greater readiness than we have, might stand higher as regards their conversational powers, were it not that they are, generally speaking, less highly educated, and not very intellectual in their tastes. I am speaking here of the better classes, for the peasantry in Ireland are generally more conversable than in England. The Scotch are, generally speaking, too cautious, too much afraid of committing themselves, to shine in conversation. The Germans are grave and taciturn; they think more than they speak. The Italians are rather a conversational people, they seem to have a flow of language and are born orators, but they have more languor and less intellectual cultivation than the French.—*Golden Hours*.

Mr. Henry Prince, of Montreal, has received instructions from Max Strakosch to make arrangements for a grand concert to be given early in October by the great tenor, Signor Mario, Carlotta Patti, Lucca, &c., &c., &c.



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