

did have! The country seemed never so pretty before.

TEACHING POLITENESS.

A mother noticed a remarkable change in the deportment of her six-year old son. From being rough, noisy and discourteous, he had suddenly become one of the gentlest and most considerate little fellows in the world.

"Miss Smith teaches you to be polite?" she remarked, in a tone of interrogation.

"No," said the boy, "she never says a word about it."

The mother was puzzled, and all the more when further questioning brought only more emphatic denials that the teacher had ever given her pupil lessons in good breeding.

"Well, then," the mother asked, finally, "if Miss Smith doesn't say anything, what does she do?"

"She doesn't do anything," persisted the boy. "She just walks around, and we feel polite. We feel just as polite as anything."

That was all he could tell about it, and his mother began to see through the mystery.

THE COWBOY.

The cowboy is essentially a nomad. From early spring to early winter he is almost constantly in moving camp and rarely sees the inside of a ranch house. With the great ranches of the Northwest, an "outfit" is made up of a foreman and five to twelve men. The cook drives a four-horse wagon, which hauls the provisions, the men's blankets and the simple camp furniture. Each rider is assigned from three to ten horses for his individual use, the number varying according to the work he is expected to do.

sure sooner or later to bring on rheumatism.

In the South-west the old Texas style is sometimes followed, where cowboy "outfits" are sent out with their whole camp furniture and outfit on a pack-horse. The mild climate makes this possible. Each man rarely has more than one pair of blankets; and the camp equipment and commissary is limited to coffee-pot, frying-pan and stew-kettle, with coffee, a small sack of flour and a few beans.

The cowboy character is very different from the commonly received idea of him in the East. Very often he has been well-educated and well-bred. As a class, drunken ruffianism is the rare exception. As a rule, the cowboys are remarkably faithful to their employers, and tireless in their service. Until recently they have had to go armed with rifle and pistol in many parts of the frontier for self-protection against hostile Indians, and, as with most men who habitually carry arms, a dispute among them generally results in bloodshed; a pistol or a knife is more convenient, handy and natural to them than fists, that is all. This is more or less the result of their hazardous, daring lives.

The cowboy's daily routine is one of ever-present peril to life or limb. No soldier takes greater risk than the cowboy encounters in his wild, hard rides after wild cattle through brush or heavy timber, among gaping holes of a prairie-dog town, or over the treacherous undermining of rat beds. To be sure, the native ponies become very clever at dodging and leaping these obstacles; but a tired horse is often unable to avoid them, and then down comes horse and rider, and the latter is lucky to come off with nothing worse than a broken leg or collar-bone.

—The wise will watch against temptation and sin; they will watch for Christ's coming and the day of judgment. Our ignorance of the future should lead to constant watchfulness, and watchfulness is best manifested in faithfulness in the duties of our calling. "Blessed is the servant whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing."

—To have right notions and tempers with relations to this world is as essential to religion as to have right notions of God. And it is as possible for a man to worship a crocodile and yet be a pious man, as to have his affection set on the world and yet be a good Christian.

—It seems a small error to call the Lord's Day the Sabbath, but the general misuse of the word Sabbath has propped up the senseless cause of the modern "seventh day" sects.

—"Wouldst thou taste to the full the sweetness of life? Then keep thyself low at humility's feet. The sweetest of the cane is the part that grows nearest the earth."

—"Lord Jesus, I am not my own, but Thine."

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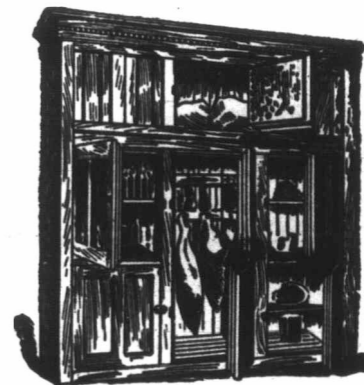
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