

mer, seventeen by forests, only eleven by arable lands, twenty by meadows for the raising of cattle, and one by vineyards.

The peasants live mostly in quaint little wooden cottages with heavy projecting roofs. Some of these of the better class are very romantic and tasteful, while most of them are blackened by smoke and time. All are innocent of paint. Inside, the rooms have floors, and walls, and ceilings of planed pine or spruce, or other soft wood; very pleasant and comfortable, but rather apt to harbour certain unpleasant nocturnal companions.

In some parts silk manufacturing is carried on to a considerable extent, and there you find, in almost every house and cabin, one or more silk looms at which the women slave to supplement the slight wages of their husbands. In some places watch-making gives better and more remunerative employment to the better class of the poor, but even this is growing less lucrative, because modern machinery can produce a better article than ill-paid manual labour.

Switzerland, small as it is, is divided into twenty-four cantons, containing in all a population of some two and a half millions of souls. In history, Switzerland has not figured very largely outside her own borders. But here, among the mountains, has been a constant ferment, an everlasting tempest in a tea-pot, from the time when the eight cantons, led by the heroic Tell, wrung their independence from their Austrian lords, up to the present century. They defend their own mountain homes and native valleys with a sort of cat-like savageness, but, in their foreign policy, they seem to have been guilty of many an act of small dealing. They pandered to their more powerful neighbours, hired out their armies for gold; and, in the words of Macaulay, they "stood with mercenary impartiality, ready for the cause which had the longest purse and the readiest pay."

Switzerland, almost more than any other country, is shut up to her own little self, so that while here and there a solitary individual shows his power and dignity, towering, like the Alpine peak, the almost universal character of the people is narrow selfishness,—narrow as their own pent-up valleys, which to them constitute the best portion of the universe.

Up to 1848, nearly every canton had its own separate government and distinct code of laws. Many of these crude constitutions still exert an influence, for each canton controls, to a cer-