

high education for women emanates chiefly from unmarried women. None are more eloquent in its cause than the mothers—the good mothers, of course—who have felt the pain of their own deficiencies of education when they found themselves mothers, and too ignorant to fulfil their duties to their own satisfaction. 'What can I do for my child? I do not know anything about its needs, of how to supply them; my own education had no system or definite object, and now I feel it worthless.' Such complaints are continual, and give one the feeling that every woman should serve her time, be she sick or be she poor, in practical education, by actually being brought into contact with children, and being taught how to instruct them. I have often ventured the remark that the best educated women I knew were those who had been practically engaged in education. I make it more earnestly than ever, for education is not merely the knowledge of sciences, languages, or systems of philosophy, but consists in the use of the faculties and their application to life thus developed by these and other studies. 'The proper study of mankind is man' is an utterance that has often been quoted to prove that the exact sciences were inferior objects of pursuit to the study of language and philosophy; but man cannot be studied aright without a scientific basis, and this is the greatest argument for the complete education of women, in whose hands is the moulding of the human race. When they do not hold their normal place and function—which they cannot do if uncultivated—the condition of such portions of the human race shows it palpably."

#### BEE SUPERSTITIONS.

In ancient days it was a popular belief respecting bees that morning and evening, like a camp in time of war, sentinels were fixed over the community, who hummed in a peculiar manner at change of guard, like a trumpet sound, as Pliny observes. The same veracious authority states that only clean persons physically and morally could take the honey from the hive; a thief is specially hated by bees. A swarm of bees, it was said, had settled upon the mouth of the infant Plato, as an omen of the entrancing sweetness of his language and philosophic speculations; much in the same way, we suppose, as Byron said that a nightingale must have sung on the head of the bed when Moore was born. Bees were by the ancients supposed to detest strong scents; the smell of a crab, if it were cooked near a hive, would half kill the inmates. If winter killed your bees, ancient Latin folk-lore directed you to expose them in spring to the sunshine, and to put hot ashes of the fig tree near them, when they would come to life again. If a bee stung a person, it was thought that it lost its sting in the wound, and either perished at once or became a drone. Multitudinous were their enemies supposed to be. Swallows, bee-eaters, wasps, hornets, gnats, either seized bees on the wing or stole into the hive and made free with the honey; frogs and toads laid wait for them at the water's edge as they came to drink; even sheep were thought baleful, as the bees entangled themselves hopelessly in their wool. The popular voice at the present day adds to this black list of their foes, sparrows, tom-tits, and hens. It is certain that mice are amongst their worst enemies; happy is the bee-keeper who has not fancied his hives unusually still some winter, and on opening one discovered that a colony of mice has taken up its abode amongst the combs, laying waste the honey. Snails, too, frequently enter and plunder the honey; as the bees have a great repugnance to touching such cold slimy creatures, they are allowed to come and go at will. The death's head moth is also said to enter, deceiving the bees by imitating the buzzing of their queen, and so getting at the stores unmolested. Many are the stories told of the bees immuring such robbers in cells of wax, and so destroying them. The truth, however, seems to be that, when the door is once forced, bees yield the rest of their fortress up to the invader in sheer despair.

Great as is the difference between the facts which modern science and more exact observation have established with reference to bees, and the vague popular ideas on their economy which were entertained respecting them by antiquity, not the least curious circumstance is that ancient and modern bee-keepers alike meet on the common ground of bee superstitions and folk-lore. The hatred of bees to an echo, which was an ancient article of the bee-master's faith, does not seem to be confirmed on investigation. Much modern folk-lore on bees may be picked up by any one who converses with the peasantry in almost any part of England. From some reason or other, bees are looked upon as peculiarly "uncanny" creatures. Thus we are told in Lincolnshire that bees would desert a hive on the occasion of a death in the family, unless some one knocked at their hive and told them of it. The same superstition we find to prevail in Essex, and even Cornwall. Similarly the belief that after a death hives ought to be wrapped in crape or mourning of some kind is current in Lincolnshire and East Anglia very generally. It is even found in Lithuania, and is probably connected with an ancient idea that honey was a symbol of death. In Yorkshire there is a custom of inviting bees to the funeral. If a wild or humble bee enter a Northamptonshire cottage, it is deemed a certain sign of death; if a swarm of bees alight on a dead tree, or the dead branch of a living one, there will be a death in the family within the year. It is curious why the bee should in Europe be so connected with death, whereas in Hindoo mythology the bowstring of Kama (the Hindu Cupid) is formed of bees, perhaps as a symbol of love strong as death. It is worth while mentioning one or two more bee superstitions. They will never thrive, it is said, in a quarrelsome family, nor when they have been stolen. There can be no greater piece of ill luck than to purchase a swarm; it must always be given, and then the custom is to return something for it in kind—a small pig, say, or some other equivalent. Money should be avoided in the transaction as much as possible. In Hampshire it is a common saying that bees are idle or unfortunate in their work whenever there are wars. At the risk of being esteemed credulous, we may mention that the martial year (1870) was an unlucky honey year. East winds and drought seemed in that year to have repressed the secretion of honey in the nectaries of many flowers.—*Sunday Press*, Albany, New York.

#### THE FOOD OF LONDON CENTURIES AGO.

Hammond Winter, in the days of Elizabeth, writes:—"The bread in England is made of such grains as the soil yieldeth. The gentry commonly provide themselves with wheat for their own tables, whilst their household and poor neighbours, in

some shires, are forced to be content with rye and barley; yea, in times of dearth, with bread from bran, or pease, or oats, or in part with acorns mingled; and these the poorest have who cannot procure better." Yet great precautions were taken to secure honest corn-dealers. There were laws against having above ten quarters at once; one imposed a heavy penalty on such as bought corn to sell again; another made it necessary for a dealer in corn to be licensed by three justices; they were to be householders not under the age of thirty—they must be husbands or widowers—must renew their licenses annually, and give security against "engrossing" or "forestalling." The plan of setting up granaries to sell corn under the market price to poor citizens never answered. The Pepysian Library at Cambridge contains a drawing representing the granaries and corn mills at the end of London Bridge in 1598. There were two water-wheels under the granaries, between the starlings, and these wheels worked the mill-stones. The companies had also ten ovens, constituting a great flour factory and bakehouse. Of course, the object in view was highly benevolent, but it seems to have yielded no commensurate advantages. The feastings of the sixteenth century were on a grand scale; a reference to Cavendish's "Life of Wolsey" will fully prove this. The "Northumberland Household Book" gives the following prices of provisions:—Wheat, 6s. 8d. per quarter; wine, £4 13s. 4d. per tun; ale, 8d. per gallon; bread, 1d. six loaves; beer, 8s. 4d. per gallon; young cattle, 10s. each; sheep, 1s. 5d.; hops, 13s. 4d. per cwt.; malt, 4d. per quarter; salt, 4s. per quarter; pepper, 6s. 4d. per lb.; mace, 8s. per lb.; cloves, 8s. per lb.; ginger, 4s. per lb.; prunes, 1½d. per lb.; sugar, 4½d. per lb.; currants, 2d. per lb." Thus a pound of mace was more costly than five sheep. Here is a list of provisions for a year:—124 beeves, 667 muttons, 25 porks, 28 veals, 60 lambs, 140 stock fish, 942 salt fish, 9 barrels of white herrings, 104 score of salt salmon, 3 firkins of salt sturgeon, 5 kegs of salt eels, 550 lb. of hops, 40 gallons of vinegar. Here is a set of breakfast bills of fare:—A Lenten breakfast for my lord and lady:—A loaf, 2 manchettes, a quart of beer, a quart of wine, 2 pieces of salt fish, 6 baconed herrings, 4 white do, or a dish of sprats. For flesh days (in addition)—Half a chene of mutton, or elles a chene of beef. For my Lord Percy and Mr. Thomas Percy:—Half a loaf, a manchette, 1 potell of beef, a chebrynge, or elles 3 mutton bones boiled. For the nurserie of my Lady Marguerete and Mr. Ingram:—Beer, manchettes, and boiled bones. For my lady's gentlewomen:—A loaf, beer, 3 mutton bones, or elles a piece of beef, boiled. There is a record of the funeral repast of Sir John Redstone, Lord Mayor in 1531; sugar was charged 7d. per pound (hardly more than its present price), 8 eggs a penny; butter, 4½d. a gallon; swans, 6s.; rabbits, 2d.; pigeons, 10d. per dozen; a strolin of beef, 2s. 4d.; half a veal, 2s. 8d.; claret, 10d. a gallon; salt, 4d. per peck. This was the City tariff for poultry in 1575:—Capon 16d. to 20d.; geese, 8d. to 14d.; chickens, 3s. 1d. to 4d.; swans, 6s. to 7s.; herons, 2s. 6d.; turkey cocks, 3s.; woodcocks, 6d.; snipes, 2½d.; cocks, 5d. to 8d. per dozen; black-birds, 10d. per dozen; geese, 1s.; eggs, 5 a penny. Here are items from a household account dated 1594:—A quart of malmsey, 8d.; a lamb, 5s.; 28 eggs, 8d.; a calf's head, 10d.; a peck of oysters, 4d.; 50 oranges, 9d. The aristocracy under Henry VIII., dined at 10 a. m., Queen Elizabeth dined at 11 a. m., while the merchants dined an hour later. James I. had his chief meal at 2 p. m., George II. waited till 3 o'clock, and now it is the *ton* to dine at 8, and even at 9 p. m.

#### A PEEBESS ON TRIAL.

A writer in the *Boston Commercial Bulletin* says: "A few years after George the Third's coronation, on the 15th of April, 1776, Westminster Hall was the scene of an event which the wits and writers of that day have made famous. It was the trial of the Duchess of Kingston for bigamy. She had been a famous beauty in the latter days of the last reign, had married the Earl of Bristol, and after a course of profligacy on the Continent, had wedded Augustus, Third Duke of Kingston, the Earl being still alive. There seems to have been little sympathy for the prisoner, and small care for the result, but the trial of a noble lady in Westminster Hall was too uncommon an affair not to be made the most of by the pleasure-seekers of London. Of course neither civil nor military pomp was lacking. Galleries and balconies, guards and pursuivants, crowds and processions made Palace Yard a lively spectacle. The hall itself was glorious. The beauty of the decorations, the richness and rarity of dresses, the ceremonial, the benches of peers and peeresses, the waving feathers and powdered tresses, and flashing jewels and pontifical robes, and ermined capes and gold staffs and diamond blazing crowns, made it a scene more splendid even than had been the coronation. The avenues leading from every side were lined with soldiers. Space for the procession was kept clear by cavalry. As it moved through Charing Cross and wended its slow way past Whitehall and the Guards towards the Hall of St. Stephen, drums beat and fifes played and trumpets brayed and bells rang and artillery fired and the people shouted. Of all this, Hannah More writes: 'Mr Garrick and I were in full dress. You will imagine the bustle of twelve thousand people getting into one hall; yet, in all this hurry, we walked in tranquilly. When all were seated and the king-at-arms had commanded silence, the Black Rod was commanded to bring in the prisoner. Elizabeth, calling herself Duchess Dowager of Kingston, walked in, curtsying profoundly to her judges. The peers made her a slight bow. She was dressed in deep mourning—a black hood on her head, her hair powdered, a black silk sacque with crape trimmings, black gauze, deep ruffles, and black gloves. The fair victim had four virgins in white behind the bar. She affects to write very often, though I plainly perceived she only wrote as they do their love epistles on the stage—without forming a letter.' The character of the Duchess of Kingston's trial may be judged from this quotation. There was a great deal of ceremony, a great deal of splendour, and a great deal of nonsense. It concerned no great principle, stirred no wide sympathies, evoked no splendid oratory. The lady was convicted and unduchessed, though she escaped branding in the hand."

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss Du V——. You forget to give your address, in ordering change of direction.  
FREDK. S. L——. No stamps enclosed for reply.

## Literary Notes.

M. Alexandre Dumas has been admitted to the French Academy.

Lieut. Colonel Paget, 5th Punjab Cavalry, is compiling under official direction, a history of the Punjab Local Force.

Messrs. Longmans are about to publish a posthumous work of John Stuart Mill's, with the title of "Human Nature."

The death is just announced of Mr. Ed. Hyde Clarke, who was fifty years ago a prominent writer on West Indian questions.

The third and concluding volume of Mr. Foster's "Life of Dickens" is advertised to appear at the end of this month.

Prof. Karl Elzle, the author of a Life of Lord Byron, is going to publish a translation into English of some essays on Shakespeare.

A Paris bookseller has just published a book entitled "Mémoires de Chislehurst," and Mr. Rouher has subscribed for 2,500 copies.

Prof. Geikie is making rapid progress with the life of Sir Rodrick Murchison, and the work will, in all probability, be issued in the Spring.

Mr. Martin F. Tupper has, it is stated, received a pension of £120 a year on the Civil Service List, as the author of "Proverbial Philosophy."

Mr. Evelyn Jerrold is concluding a series of French articles on Ireland in the *Illustration*, and will shortly publish a book in the French press on the same subject.

The *Athenæum* is authorized to state that the letters and journals of Lord Macaulay are in the hands of Lady Holland and Mr. Trevelyn, with a view to publication.

Dr. Karl Marx, the leader of the elder branch of the International Association, is engaged in translating his work on "Capital," which has not yet appeared in an English form.

M. H. Taine is engaged upon a history of the French Revolution, which has for the past three years exclusively occupied his time. The first part is now approaching completion.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. expect to be able to issue Sir Samuel Baker's new book about April. The work will be more a record of personal adventure than of geographical interest.

The famous Miss Longworth, now advertising herself as Lady Avonmore, will again appear before the public as an author. She has in the press volumes of travels, entitled "Terresina Peregrina."

Some incidents in the life of Prof. Gellert, of Leipzig, the poet and fabulist, we understand, will shortly be given to the public, mainly written by Mr. J. Russell Endean, of the firm of Kerby & Endean.

A popular edition of the works of the Poet Laureate is shortly to be published, consisting of one 6s. volume. It will be issued by King & Co., who have succeeded Strahan & Co. as Mr. Tennyson's publishers.

According to the *Printer's Register*—the trade organ—there are now published in Great Britain and Ireland 181 daily newspapers, distributed as follows: London, 24; Provinces, 72; Scotland, 18; Ireland, 18; Wales, 2; Channel Islands, 2.

The death of M. Philartès Chasles has left vacant the chair of Northern Languages and Literature at Paris. After mature examination two candidates have been found for succession. One is M. Bossert, a learned professor in the Faculty of Letters, at Douai; and the other M. Guillaume Guizot.

The first volume of a work devoted to the popularization of the history, religion, and literature of Egypt and Assyria is on the eve of publication. The title is "Records of the Past." Dr. Birch, president of Biblical Archaeology, is the editor.

The *Peking Gazette* is the oldest journal in the world. It is printed on a large sheet of yellow silk, and appears in the same form, with the same characters, and on the same kind of stuff as it did a thousand years ago. The only change is in the writers.

A communication from Privas states that the police have seized in the offices of the *Réveil de l'Ardèche* 8,000 copies of the "Almanach Républicain" for 1874, prosecuted for outrages on public and religious morals, and other contraventions of the law.

A new Hebrew monthly magazine is just being published at Frankfurt-on-the-Main. It will be chiefly from the pen of the celebrated Hebraist, Joseph Kahen Zedek. A new Hebrew fortnightly magazine, edited by Dr. Berliner, will be published at Berlin.

The Rev. Mackenzie Walcott, B. D., precentor and prebendary of Chichester Cathedral, is about to publish a history of all cathedral, conventual, and collegiate churches, and other religious or benevolent foundations in Scotland. It will be entitled "Scotti Monasticon."

A curious book is being published by two French firms and Messrs. Trubner & Co., of London. It is a manual of the Chinese, mandarin language, compiled after Ollendorff's method. The object of this publication is to teach Chinese to all who speak English.

Mark Twain lectured on the 8th January at Leicester. On the 9th and 10th he was announced to lecture at Liverpool. He sails for America in the "Parthia" on the 18th, and after lecturing three nights in New York, he retires from the public platform for ever.

A new book from the pen of Azamut-Batuk will shortly be issued by Messrs. Hurst & Blackett. It is entitled "Spain and the Spaniards," and will comprise an account of the author's experiences in Spain during the past year, with many interesting particulars.

The Oriental Society, of Italy, on the proposal of the vice-president, seconded by the general secretary, have elected the Princess Dora d'Istria a fellow of the society. The Princess is authoress of "Indian Studies in Upper Italy," "The Rāmāyana," "Popular Poetry of the Finno-Mongols," &c.

A reporter says: "For thirty seconds it rained buffaloes, and the white sand at the foot of that bluff was incarnadined with the life-blood of wild meat, and not until the tails of from fifty to seventy-five of the herd had waved adieu to this wicked world did the movement cease."

An impromptu epigram has been composed in court, by a wearied auditor of the Tichborne case:—

"Kenealy states if Orton's ear  
Were pierced or bored, it must appear.  
If true, our ears some sign should show,  
Since he has pierced and bored them so."

A Californian *littérateur*, objecting to terse phraseology, alters the normal wording of a well-known proverb about stones and glass houses into the more refined and somewhat flowery remark that "Dwellers in crystal palaces should refrain from the propulsion of irregular-shaped particles of granite formation." Another Trans-atlantic writer, however, is the reverse of long-winded. Here is his account of an attempted suicide: "Lizzie Smith, weak woman, laudanum, Sunday, doctor, stomach-pump, life again."