



DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND AGRICULTURE.

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NOTICE.

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A GLANCE AT ST. PETERSBURG.

Nothing in the streets of Europe is more entertaining than to stand where the Nevski Prospekt opens from Admiralty Place, St. Petersburg, and look at the passers-by. Groups come and go, walking, driving, riding, and yet, so vast is the square and so



RUSSIAN COACHMAN.

broad are the streets, that there never appears to be a crowd.

You notice at once the difference between the costumes of the Russians (those who have not copied foreign fashions) and that of the people of Western Europe; for with the exception of many of the soldiers whose uniform is also an innovation, there are no short, close-fitting garments, but all are clad in long pelisses or loose tunics, fastened at the waist with a belt of leather, or a silken or woollen girdle; or else they wear a jacket of sheepskin—a natural robe in this frosty climate—with the wool turned inside or outside, according to the temperature of the day.

But their persons are not as filthy as would be imagined from such ways of living, for they are all accustomed to take an occasional hot vapor bath (usually on Saturdays), and a small room for this purpose is attached to most of the houses.

The Church lends its influence in this matter, for without a preparatory bath no one can partake of the communion; thus you will often see the face and hair and beard clean and neat, while their clothing is shabby and dirty in the extreme. It is well that this custom of bathing prevails, for aside from it, they do little washing except to lave their hands after the Oriental manner, before eating.

As to the peasant women, they go about in soiled skirts, shapeless jackets of wadded cloth or sheep skin, heavy boots, and thick handkerchiefs tied under the chin. I seldom saw a pretty one (the Fingal blood which is here largely intermingled with the Russian, and which gives a flattened face and small eyes, is more apparent in the women than in the

men), but perhaps their ugly apparel was quite as much at fault as figure and features. The lot of these women is hard. Marriage is arranged for them by their parents, and is literally a bargain, the father paying the young man from fifteen dollars to fifty or more, as he can afford, for his daughter's dowry. The young wife usually goes to live in the family of her husband, where she is to toil from morning till night at the bidding of her mother-in-law, and bear, perhaps, the indifference and dislike of his brothers and sisters, until she, in her turn, comes to middle age, and is head of a household.

The old peasant songs are full of laments over such marriages. Here is one translated by Mr. Ralston, which shows a maiden's grief at the prospect before her:

"They are making me marry a lout
With no small family,
Oh! oh! oh! oh dear me!
With a father, and a mother,
And four brothers,
And sisters three,
Oh! oh! oh! oh dear me!
Says my father-in-law,
'Here comes a bear!
Says my mother-in-law,
'Here comes a slut!
My sisters-in-law cry,
'Here comes a do-nothing!
My brothers-in-law exclaim,
'Here comes a mischief-maker.'
Oh! oh! oh! oh dear me!"

And another in which the practice of wife-beating is alluded to, and the young bride begs her husband to be merciful:

"Across the stream a plank lay, thin and bending;
No foot along it passed.
But I alone, the young one from the hill,
I went along it with my true love dear,
And to my love I said: 'O darling, dear,
Beat not thy wife without a cause,
But only for good cause beat thou thy wife,
And for a great offence.
Far away is my father dear,
And farther still my mother dear;
They cannot hear my voice,
They cannot see my burning tears."

Carrriages pass swiftly, the wheels often running so close to each other it seems certain they must clash—small droskies—elegant equipages, with out-riders, bearing lovely women robed in the latest fancies of Paris, or grave ministers bound on affairs of state—and troikas, the true Russian turnout, where three horses are harnessed abreast, two to trot while the third runs at the side.

"Na pravo!" (to the right!) shout the coachmen, warning pedestrians to clear the track, and guiding their steeds by the lines rather than by the voice or the whip.

Soldiers are always galloping or marching



PEASANT WOMAN.

to and fro—carrying orders, hastening to a review, or coming from or going to some distant military station. Many of them are in superb uniforms of green or red bedecked with gold; and these with Cossacks, Circassians, Georgians, Tartars, all in their peculiar military dress, make a scene as unique as it is brilliant and varied.

But this activity and splendor are only dur-



WASHERWOMAN.

ing the residence of the Court; for the Czar is the sun of the Russian system, and all things revolve about him. In summer when he is at Peterhof or Tsarskor-Selo (Czar's Village), his country palaces near St. Petersburg; or when, later, he goes to Yalta in the Crimea with the Empress, the city is dull and still.—Edna Dean Proctor, in *Youth's Companion*.

THE OBJECT OF SUMMER SCHOOLS.

The teacher in our public schools who graduated from college or seminary twenty or thirty years ago finds himself bearing much the same relation to science which Rip Van Winkle, after his twenty years' nap, awoke to find himself bearing to the daily gossip of his neighborhood. While the teacher has been absorbed in his school-room work, science has not only vastly enlarged its boundaries, but it has also simplified its principles to the understanding of children. By the simplicity of these principles, and by the constantly recurring illustrations which they receive from the every-day phenomena of nature, science has become a study peculiarly adapted to the student in the high school and the academy. But the same advance which fits it to form a part of the young student's course unfits it as a subject upon which the teacher may lecture or instruct. The student, therefore, demanding that his instruction shall be at a level with the high-water mark of scientific investigations, obliges his teacher to acquaint himself with at least one department of modern science. But this knowledge the teacher cannot gain with satisfaction from the ordinary textbooks; for nature, like a tenth century manuscript, must be studied in its various phenomena at first hand. The daily work of the school-room, also, usually prevents a teacher from attempting voyages of discovery into new departments of learning; and he is, moreover, seldom able, for pecuniary or other reasons, to establish a laboratory, which is necessary to his pursuit of scientific studies. To furnish teachers, therefore, with instruction in the various departments of natural science is the primary design of the establishment of the numerous schools which are held each summer.

But this is not their only design. As the courses of instruction in our colleges are enlarged by means of elective studies, the student finds he is able to avail himself of hardly a tithe of the privileges his college offers. He finds that four years are too short for him to gain a liberal education in all the departments of knowledge. If he wishes to make a careful study of either the classics, mathematics, or philosophy, he is compelled to neglect the physical sciences. But the summer school provides him with a royal road to either chemistry, zoology, botany, or geology. By its advantages he is able in the course of six weeks to gain a comprehensive knowledge of a single department of science, and also to lay up an amount of mental energy sufficient to meet the drafts of his next year's work. After a tramp through the Catskills, with genial professors and jolly fellow-students, engaged in studying the geological formation of the region, he returns to New Haven or Cambridge as well fitted for a year of hard work as if he had spent the summer in yachting alongshore, or casting a fly on the Rangoly Lakes. He brings back with him, moreover, a knowledge of geology clear in its principles and of greater practical use than his chum is likely to gain in his whole college course.

But a third purpose remains which the summer school fulfils. To a young woman of scholarly tastes a course of experiments in chemistry is more attractive than Saratoga, or the White Mountains. She would rather be door-keeper in a chemical laboratory than dwell in the Profile or the Grand Union. Many a young lady of wealth and of culture finds more happiness, not to speak of knowledge, in spending six weeks in dissecting a clam and a lobster's ear than her sister is able to extract from a life of Sybaritic leisure at the sea-side.—C. F. Thwing, in *Harper's Magazine for March*.

A WISE DOG.

A NEAR neighbor of mine has a large mongrel dog, a terrible nuisance to all passing the house, which unfortunately stands near the highway. The brute has the nasty habit of rushing out and attacking every passing vehicle. Complaints were numerous; and at length the owner hit upon a plan which he thought would effectually cure his dog. He attached a small log of wood, or a "clog" by a chain to his collar. This answered admirably; for no sooner did the dog start in pursuit or anything than the clog not only checked his speed, but generally rolled him over. Doggie was evidently puzzled, and reflected upon the position and if he did not possess reasoning powers, he certainly showed something very like them, for he quickly overcame the difficulty, and to the surprise of all, was soon at his old work, nearly as bad as ever. And this is how he managed. No longer did he attempt to drag the clog on the ground and allow it to check and upset him; but before starting he caught it up in his mouth, ran before the passing horse, dropped it, and commenced the attack; and when distanced, would again seize the clog in his mouth, and resume his position ahead, and thus became as great a pest as ever. Even on his ordinary travels about he is now seen carrying his clog in his mouth, instead of letting it drag on the ground between his legs.—*Chambers Journal*.

IT AROUSED considerable newspaper talk when a young Jew carried off a high prize at the recent Yale Commencement, his theme being his own people. A more noticeable case is that of another young Jew, of Troy, N. Y., who turns out to be the valedictorian at Williams College. These are straws which indicate the way the wind is blowing in Jewish quarters as regards education, and we are not surprised to learn that the project of a Hebrew College is being agitated.—*N. Y. Independent*.

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