

So far as the value of a tree concerns only the individual the government is not called upon to interfere, but it is evident that each tree has a general as well as a special value and it is the duty of the government to see that this general value is not converted into a source of general loss.

PEOPLE OF THE PAST.

It is often remarked that if the people who inhabited this world of ours in bygone ages could return to-day they would be astonished at the wonderful changes which have taken place, and if the people of our age could go back a century or two they would find as much to interest them in the



Fig. 1.

queer methods and customs of that time, although the prevailing feeling would be amusement rather than astonishment. The dead cannot return, but we can in a certain sense go back to the past by the study of history. So much time is spent in trashy reading that history is neglected, the popular impression evidently being that history is too "solid" to be interesting or amusing. This belief is not altogether without justification as nearly all historical works do contain a great deal of matter which can only be appreciated and enjoyed by students who concentrate their minds on what they read. When school days are over, very few have more than dipped into history and after a hard day's work on the farm, in the office, the workshop or the house, it is not easy to pursue a course of study. Yet there are many interesting and amusing things recorded in

the numerous histories and biographies, and OUR HOME will save its readers the hard work of hunting for them in bulky volumes by publishing a series of bright and interesting articles about the people and the things of the days gone by under the heading, "People of the Past." The first of these articles follows:

In the eighteenth century the streets of Paris were only repaired at rare intervals and it was difficult to ascertain when the roadway wanted mending, concealed as it was beneath a layer of rubbish or thick filthy mud. The drain in the middle of the street, to carry off the water from the houses, formed a stagnant pool, which was stirred up by the carriage wheels and horses' hoofs. When it rained the stream, being greatly swollen, became quite wide and a moveable bridge was laid over it. The man in charge of this lifted it up to let carriages pass and expected to be paid for his trouble. If the plank which formed the bridge happened to break foot passengers had to be carried across if they did not wish to get their feet wet. It was not an unusual thing to see a fashionably dressed lady crossing the street on a man's back with her arms around his neck as shown in figure 1. This amusing spectacle may have a touch of sadness in it for the student of history if the thought of a lady on a man's back reminds him of a most pathetic incident which occurred in the streets of Paris many years ago. A young man attended a popular demonstration in company with a beautiful girl to whom he was engaged. There was a panic in the immense crowd assembled and in the mad rush many were crushed to death. The young man guided the girl through the crowd for some minutes, but at last, she exclaimed that she could go no farther. He told her to get on his back and put her arms around his neck, and he would carry her through. He stooped to receive her and feeling the clasp of soft warm hands about his neck, raised himself with difficulty, forced his way through the crowd with much hard fighting, and finally reached a place of safety. Then, putting his fair burden down, he turned with an exclamation of triumph to receive her thanks, but alas, to his astonishment and grief, he found that he had rescued a strange woman and the beautiful girl whom he loved had been crushed to death.

A century ago and in times more remote children of the better class were in the matter of dress, but men and women in miniature. Figure 2 shows how Marie-Antoinette and her children were dressed when painted by Madame Vigée Lebrun. Figure 3 shows the Holbein dress worn by little Dutch girls one hundred years ago, and not so very different from those that may be seen even now upon the shores of the Zuider Zee. Figure 4 represents the dress of a little English girl of the time of Charles I. The little dress in figure 5 is taken from an old Venetian picture of the