

place, the curtains should be of a kind that can be washed, and no more furniture should be used than is absolutely necessary. The door should be kept closed, and the coal, which should be kept in a wooden box, should be put on with the hands. Instead of stirring the fire with a poker, a stick of wood should be used. The windows should always be lowered from the top, when it is necessary to obtain a supply of fresh air. The bedstead should be single and without curtains or valances.

Medicines intended for internal use, and those for external application, should be kept upon different tables, to prevent mistakes. There should be "a place for everything, and everything in its place." Food should never be kept in the sick room, and fluids should be kept well covered up to prevent them from absorbing the impure air. The containing capacity of each cup, tumbler, wineglass and spoon, should be exactly known. One thing should never be omitted, *always read the label before giving a dose of medicine*. The excretions of the patient should not be kept in the room to pollute the air for a single moment.

The hours for giving nourishment should be as regular as possible. The patient should not be worried to take it, if he be disinclined to do so, it should be kept constantly on hand, so that it may be given whenever an opportunity occurs. When the patient is dangerously ill, nourishment should be given about four or five o'clock in the morning, and at the same time other necessary duties may be performed. After that the patient should not be disturbed, but allowed to sleep as long as he likes. As soon as he awakes he should receive some warm nourishment, and immediately afterward his face, neck, hands, and feet should be well sponged with warm water, his hair should be brushed for the day, his bed-clothing should be arranged, and all things got in readiness before the visit of the physician.

C. D. R.

THE RAILWAY ROUTE IN CAPE BRETON.

To the Editor of the Critic:—

Sir,—A correspondent of the North Sydney Herald, dating from here, describes the people as "convulsed by indignation" in the Counties of Inverness and Victoria. Such is not the case.

The only part of Cape Breton at present undergoing any unnatural disturbance, approaching convulsions, is Christmas Island.

"General Travelling Fees" has been along the line on the war path. Saw "Mickey Free" in the ranks. Grasps Whyccomagh as the spear from which he displays his bloody gauntlet; and with a yell and a whoop, shouts—"Let the battle begin! Let the battle of routes be vigorously fought."

Christmas Island may as well understand that only very small portions of either Inverness or Victoria Counties desire the central route.

Inverness wants Railway communication to its northern border. Its claims are valid and sound.

A Railway to Sydney *via* Grand Narrows, would weaken, if not destroy, those claims, whereas the road to Sydney *via* St. Peter's will strengthen the cause of Northern Inverness and Victoria, and ensure their success at an early day.

Northern Inverness and Victoria can have no sympathy for Christmas Island.

Yours truly,

TRUTH.

Whyccomagh, Sept. 27th, 1886.

OUR COSY CORNER.

CUCUMBER A LA MAITRE D'HOTEL.—Peel a nice straight cucumber, and cut it into four pieces lengthwise; scoop out all the seeds, and then cut it up again into small pieces about three inches in length, throw these into a saucepan of boiling water with some salt. When they bend under the touch they are done, and must be taken out and very carefully drained in a sieve; then put them into a saucepan with a good sized piece of butter, some finely chopped parsley, salt and pepper to taste, toss the cucumber well over a brisk fire until thoroughly heated through, and serve on a very hot dish.

TO STAIN FLOORS, if they are well finished and of clear wood, treat them first to staining, then to filling, and then to polish or varnish. By the first process you give them a color, by the second you fill up all the pores and give them a smooth, hard but elastic, impervious surface, and by the last a durable surface. A good oak stain may be made by adding to every quart of water two ounces each of potash and pearlash. This stain must be handled carefully, as it blisters the hands and softens the brushes; it should be kept corked up, and applied hot. If this stain is not golden enough, the merest trifle of aloes put in the floor polish will produce the desired effect. A good dark mahogany stain can be made by boiling half a pound of madder and two ounces of logwood in a gallon of water, and brushing it well over the wood while the liquid is very hot. When dry, slightly brush it over with a solution of two drachms of pearlash in one quart of water. For a good walnut stain, to every quart of water add one and a half ounces of washing soda, two and a half ounces of Vandyke brown, and one quarter of an ounce of bichromate of potassa, boil ten minutes, and then apply hot with brush. When your stained floor is dry apply a filler, and then a floor varnish.

The newest thing in tea cosies are those with four and eight sides, marked with appeques of velvet on satin or plain wool. They are often made up with wadding, but nothing retains the heat so well as the old-fashioned layer upon layer of flannel.

Fancy vests are made of colored surah and ribbons.

MOUNTAIN ASH BERRIES will keep, if tied in bunches and hung up with the berries down, they should be soaked in water for twenty-four hours before they are used. Barberries keep well immersed in strong salt and water. These berries would be improved by being painted with a solution of scarlet sealing wax and spirits of wine when you want to use them. Dried peas or beans can also be painted and used, they are not difficult to wire.

All sleeves are now very much trimmed in the upper part, and quite plain downward from the elbow.

Goranium red, Ophelia purple and almond green are the hues which had many admirers.

Velvet bodices will be worn this autumn and winter, with skirts of different material.

Watered silk and camel's hair are a fashionable combination for both street and house costumes.

Skirts of crocheted silk are worn over surah of a contrasting color. This makes work for busy fingers.

Bar pins and bracelets made of a combination of metals, including gold, silver and copper, furnish attractive ornaments in rococo style.

The class of furniture most in favor at present is the English and Colonial style of one hundred and fifty years ago.—*Godley's Lady's Book*.

COMMERCIAL.

The condition of the wholesale trade in all departments is quite satisfactory. Though it cannot be said that there has been a largely increased activity, still it must be borne in mind that a good, healthy business has been done right along for some weeks and its volume is certainly larger than it has been in the corresponding periods of recent years. Country orders come in freely, prompt payments are made, and all means of transportation are kept busy. The outlook continues to be decidedly encouraging. Unfortunately the unhappy state of the West India markets renders it impossible for much to be done in that direction, but what is accomplished is fairly remunerative. Considerable quantities of fish, both on ice and in pickle, are being shipped to the United States, where the demand is active and the prices favorable. This relieves our hardy fishermen of the spectre of want during the coming winter, which the bad promise of the early part of the season held out to them.

The horse railway company is rapidly laying its rails, and expects to have its cars running as far as the Post Office by the end of the week.

Work on the dry dock is being pushed as rapidly as circumstances will permit and much faster than many persons thought would be found practicable.

The city is arranging to construct a large sewer which will drain all the eastern front of the city from Almon street to North street. It is estimated to cost about \$18,000—one-third of which amount will be defrayed by the Imperial Government, when completed it will relieve their dockyard of three ill-constructed drains that now run through it.

All these works give, or will give, employment to hundreds of men who would otherwise be idle. They put money in circulation where it is most needed and enliven the retail trade which has been languishing for a long time. They add to the purchasing power of the community, and thereby increase the comfort of all.

It is much to be regretted that the directors of the "Halifax" sugar refinery at Woodside, Dartmouth, have not yet, so far as known, found a way out of their difficulties. They reserve their confidence, however, so much from the public that no one but themselves knows what their prospects or intentions are. All will hope that they may be able to straighten out their trouble without serious loss, and be soon able to resume on a firmer basis for operations than ever before.

DRY GOODS.—The wholesale trade is excellent, and many of our city houses are kept busy till late hours in filling orders received during the day. On the other hand the retail business is smaller than it should be, but even it shows symptoms of revival that we trust will be realized as the fall advances.

BREADSTUFFS.—Wheat continues to fluctuate in a very bewildering manner, but the general tendency is in favor of lower prices. In the past ten weeks a decline of 11c. has actually been achieved. Some of the shrewdest dealers confidently predict that it will fall to 70c. before October is out, and that it will not recover from that figure. Of course this makes all other grains and grain products weak and causes flour to be decidedly panicky. It must be understood that our quotations are strictly millers prices in car lots delivered at Halifax. Jobbers and retailers prices must of necessity be dearer to cover the items of labor, expense and profit, we make these explanations because some complaints are made that broken lots are charged in excess of market quotations. We quote as follows for to-day: Flour—Graham, \$4.40 to \$4.50; high grade patents, \$4.50 to \$4.60; medium patents, \$4.30 to \$4.40; choice roller superiors, \$4.15 to \$4.20; extras, \$3.85 to \$3.90; low grades and sour flour, \$3.10 to \$3.50. Oatmeal—standard, \$4.20 to \$4.30; granulated, \$4.40 to \$4.50; corn meal, K. D., \$2.85 to \$2.90; fresh ground, \$2.70 to \$2.75; wheat bran per ton, \$16.50; shorts, \$17.50 to \$18.50; middlings, \$19.50 to \$22.

PROVISIONS.—Pork has generally ruled low, but, as we write, it appears