

smilingly, shakes her head. "Then please don't touch me. I'm very susceptible—to bids. Every time you touch me means a dollar." "One dollar, or eight days," remarks a gentleman connected with the Police Court, who happens to be present. "Ah, come now, I never said anything of the kind. Those Police Court people are not accustomed to respectable society." "Don't say any more, I apologise!" cries the gentleman. "All right. Don't speak again, unless you bid—twenty cents each for these fine port wines—going at twenty—twenty-one, two, three," "Fo-ah!" from a tall Englishman. "Fo-ah! going at twenty-fo-ah! Gone! Mr. Newport. Oh, I fear you'll be drinking old-port out of these!" The dining-table is put up next and soon reaches fifty dollars—"Fifty dollars for this fine dining-table, going at fifty!" "One!" a loud voice from the hall. "One! that's right, speak up like a man." "O-n-e!" Gentleman in hall thinks he has not been heard and shouts back more loudly—"Y-e-e-s!" "What's the use of shouting at me? I was paying you a compliment." And so the ball of mirth is kept rolling. Of course the ladies' bids are made and taken more quietly. But it is at sales of real estate that the chaff flies most freely. "Thirty-three hundred and fifty for this beautiful cottage. Say thirty-four for you, sir?" addressing a gentleman with "Orburn" hair. "No, I think that's quite enough for it," replies he of the sanguinary locks. "Ah, now, is that your opinion. Isn't it a good thing we're not all of the same opinion in this world? Now you and I might go driving up and down St. James street, thinking that red whiskers were just the thing," spreading out his blonde whiskers, which are not at all red, or he would not be so ready to say so. "We might think them just the thing, but it wouldn't do if everybody else were of the same opinion. Why all the ladies would be falling in love with us, and some fellow would be after putting a bullet through one of us—perhaps spoiling our beauty for life—so you see it wouldn't do at all if we were all of the same opinion." Mr. Orburn hair does not make any further deprecatory remarks, and presently a villa with grounds is put up.

"This handsome villa has a beautiful orchard at the back as fine an as fine an orchard as you'd wish to be seen in"—"I was in an orchard once and I didn't wish to be seen in it at all," remarks Mr. Auctioneer's assistant sotto voce. "Ah, Tom! Tom! you shouldn't allude to such things now that you belong to a respectable establishment like this. Of course that was a many years ago when you were young and charming and your innocent, boyish soul soared no higher than the summit of the green apple tree," and so our good auctioneer runs on well knowing that there is nothing like plenty of fun and good humour to keep the bidding lively.

N. Clitheroe.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

MR. EDITOR,—In reading the papers last Saturday evening, I read the statement that it was proposed to form a Domestic Economy Club, one of the purposes of which was to be the training of servants; it is a very good proposition, and one to which no right-minded person will object. But there are serious difficulties in the way. In the first place, who is going to train the servants? Secondly, it is not admissible that all ladies, so-called, are competent teachers. Thirdly, it would be necessary to establish a training-school for ladies, so as to fit them for housekeeping duties. I have been in service twelve years in Montreal—eight years in one place and four years in my present situation. I have found that the duties required in each house were very different, and that the apportionment of household duties in this country is not at all understood; so it is very absurd for ladies of no experience to appoint themselves as trainers of servants.

The letter, of which we give this portion, is signed "An English Servant," and sensibly enough written, were it not that the writer looks at the subject from a mistaken point of view.

Montreal ladies have never dreamt of undertaking the public training of servants. Should we succeed in establishing these schools, they will be superintended by thoroughly competent instructors,—graduates of English or American training-schools. Of course a servant cannot be expected to be conversant with a fact of which most ladies are now cognizant,—i. e., that training-schools have been for some years established in all the large cities of England, Scotland, and the United States. These schools are of various grades, and are not all for servants. Some are merely demonstration courses for ladies, such as we have already had in Montreal, through the energy and enterprise of our Ladies' Educational Association. It seems a pity that the interest which was last winter awakened on this subject, through Miss Corson's lectures, was allowed to die away without some permanent schools being established; but the ladies are again discussing matter, and it is to be hoped that larger results may be forthcoming. Even another demonstration course would be better than nothing; but what we really require is regular training-schools, both for ladies and servants, and if possible the introduction of cooking classes into all our schools.

Instruction in practical cookery is now a part of the new system in all the public schools of London, the School Board having assumed the responsibility of making domestic economy a part of the regular school course; lessons are given on food and its preparation in every girls' school, and for advanced classes there are twenty-one practice kitchens established in different parts of the city, presided over by skilful teachers of cookery. These teachers have been trained in the South Kensington National Training School for Cookery,

which was established in 1873 under the superintendence of Lady Barber. The object of this school is the training of teachers of cookery as well as the diffusion of general information on the subject. The lessons are now given by experienced cooks in accordance with the directions contained in the Official Handbook for the National Training School for Cookery, by Miss Rose Cole, the daughter of Sir Henry Cole, one of the most active of the founders and trustees.

If the Montreal ladies would club together it would not be at all too great an undertaking to secure the services of one of these South Kensington graduates, who could first give instruction to a number of ladies who would wish to become teachers, for it would be well that we should endeavour to employ local teachers, thus opening up a new avenue to reduced gentlewomen who would gladly undertake any respectable occupation.

We have other letters this week—for which we have not space—in which the writers state that they consider it quite as necessary that we should have training schools for ladies as for servants; but we do not quite agree with these correspondents. Indeed, if we had plenty of well-trained servants there are many ladies who have other occupations and would gladly give over their domestic duties to competent servants and housekeepers, and there is no reason that they should not do so in this country as well as they do in England. Of course, if our servants are to remain ignorant it is necessary that we should learn, so that we may instruct them. But that seems a roundabout way of doing business. We might as well tell the capitalist who wishes to establish a manufactory that he must first go to work and learn the business in which he is about to embark, and after spending a number of years in mastering the details of the trade he must take in a number of ignorant men and set to work to teach them. But this is no more absurd than it is to insist that a lady must learn all the petty details of housekeeping simply that she may be able to teach her servants, who will certainly give her more trouble than thanks in return—should they even accept her teaching at all. Surely it is more necessary that the cook should know how to make the dinner than her mistress. If the mistress takes pride or pleasure in learning, let her do so by all means, and if we can have our girls taught domestic economy in schools it will be well; but first of all let us have better trained servants, and they may rest assured their mistresses will appreciate them whether they be themselves competent housekeepers or not. However, we shall be pleased to publish any sensible remarks that may be sent us on the other side of the subject.

THINGS IN GENERAL.

THE FRIENDLINESS OF NATIONS.

The growing friendliness of the civilized world supplies one of the most admirable pages of the history of our country. Begun by a few illustrious savants, who held the interests of science superior to political and national antipathies, it has been aided by the rapidity and precision of communication by sea and land. The national expositions, which each country has held in turn, have given activity and distinctiveness to it. Pacific congresses open, and are periodically repeated for the study of the highest questions of general interest, literary, scientific, and administrative. The feeling of fraternal charity which leads us to relieve the sufferings of our fellows, could not be indifferent to this general intellectual sentiment. There has been concert and devotion to prevent or assuage the disasters of war. A scourge which falls upon a distant country is regarded as a domestic calamity. We shudder at the recital of the frightful sufferings which have befallen the population on the banks of the Theiss and the Segura. We hasten to collect for them assistance which can never equal their loss, but which at least assures them of our profound sympathy for their misery. May not the friends of peace take hope that this generous sentiment of our time may some day exert a more active influence on the fate of nations, under the conditions, however, that they remain masters of themselves, and do not surrender themselves to the capricious ambition or the dangerous proclivities of single assemblies.

WAS CROMWELL A BREWER.—Robert Cromwell owned certain lands around Huntingdon and farmed them himself, and the income was computed then to be about £300 a year, which (as Carlyle remarks) was a tolerable fortune in those times, perhaps somewhat like £1,000 (or even £1,200) now. After his father's death, from about 1620 to 1631, Oliver Cromwell lived in the same place and farmed the same lands, but afterwards removed, and acquired and farmed estates at St. Ives and Ely. On one or all of these estates Oliver may have done brewing for his own tenants and household, but that he ever had any regular trade as a brewer is most unlikely and improbable. There is no mystery about Oliver's method of life before he entered the army, and if he had really been a brewer (instead of being a country gentleman farming his own lands) it is impossible but that some authoritative evidence to that effect would have been preserved.—*Notes and Queries.*

CHARLES E. SMITHS appears at Baltimore. The *Danbury News* says: "This is a new phase of the name; one at a time, if you please."