

THE ART OF DINING.

I have a friend who is a convivial fellow. Nothing delights him so much as a nicely spread table, and the company of a few congenial friends. The friends must be few, for he dislikes noise. They must be congenial, for he likes to talk while he eats, and, to talk with satisfaction you must have companions who can answer your questions, understand your allusions, appreciate your jokes, and help you out of their own abundance, to make the current of pleasant entertainment flow on in a continuous stream.

My friend is something of an Amphitryon also. He can put on the white apron and prepare the daintiest of dishes. He does not affect luxury, nor does he countenance extravagance. His partiality is for petits soupers, costing little, but perfect in their minutest appointments. In the circle of his literary and artistic friends, these little suppers are famous. The dishes are unsurpassed at the Terrapin, the Carleton or the St. James Club, and the men that gather about the round table are the best intellectual heads of Montreal.

All his menus are printed on cards and he keeps them nicely bound in an album. I have peeped into this album, and been allowed to make a few selections therefrom, which I think the readers of the NEWS will thank me for laying before them.

Here is a bill of fare in the English style for a party of eighteen.

- Paletine soup. Gravy soup. Boiled codfish. Oyster sauce. Fried snails. Mutton cutlets, tomato sauce. Chicken croquettes. Beef olives. Salmis of partridge. Roast turkey and sausages. Roast salmon of beef. Mashed potatoes, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Stewed celery. Roast pheasant. Roast pheasant. Biscuits on toast. Plum pudding. Tasty cake. Punch jelly. Pine apple cream. Mince pies. Meringues. Cheese, Butter, Celery, Biscuits. Dessert.

We need hardly explain that by duplicating a few of the dishes, more particularly the entrees, sweets, and vegetables, this bill of fare can, if needed, be adapted to a larger party, and in the converse way it can be made to serve for a smaller party by omitting some of the same dishes.

Now, for a dinner of a more artistic character, such as our friend Jones would approve of, or Mrs. K. would place before her guests on a Christmas-day, the following is a good example:

- Oysters. Clear game soup. Baked turbot, Dutch sauce. Consommé of lobster. Larks in cases. Grenadine of beef. Braised turkey, truffis sauce. Roast woodcock, and snipe. Russian salad. Cheese fondue. Plum pudding. Chateaufort of oranges. Mince pies. Small nougats.

This dinner would be quite sufficient for a dozen people; but, as it may be thought too expensive by some, here is another of a more modest character:

- Celery soup. Baked sea bream. Fried trout with spinach. Fillets of beef with olives. Roast turkey, chestnut sauce. Endive salad. Biscuits with cheese. Plum pudding. Snow eggs. Mince pies. Apple tartlets.

And this, we imagine, will also be found sufficient to dine twelve persons.

For a snug party of fifteen, the following is not bad, and one advantage is that it will be found comparatively cheap.

- Consommé à la Nessel. Purée à la Reine. Flanet. Casserole de riz à la française. Galatine à la gelée. Turbot sauce hollandaise. Roshif à l'Anglaise. Entremets. Filets de canotons, à la Mousquetaire. Cotelettes d'Agneau aux petites pois. Potatoes à la fermière. Salade de bonnet à la gelée. Boule. Croquembouche de choix. Biscuit à la vanille. Bûche. Pâtisseries nouvelles. Biscuits et macarons. Legumes. Haricots verts à la Française. Steak au vin velouté. Entremets. Savarin au rhum. Gelée de fruits, garnie. Biscuit à la crème. Pouding à la Chateaubriand.

I would particularly recommend the next one, which I have tried myself and found quite satisfactory indeed.

- Huitres. Pâtisseries. Consommé Condorsat. Biscuits aux écrevisses. Hors d'œuvre. Truffades à la Rothschild. Biscuits. Rockfish à l'amiral. Filets de bonnet aux légumes farcies. Entremets. Escalopes de volaille à la royale. Cotelettes de chevreuil à la Russe. Ris de veau à la moderne. Sorbet. À l'Amalgame. Bûche. Cailles. Canvas-back duck. Entremets. Petits pois. Haricots verts. Epinards. Suettes. Pudding diplomat.

Gelée aux amandes. Crème aux amandes. Gâteaux à l'Anglaise. Meringue Chantilly. Gâteaux Suédois et mille-feuilles. Pièces montées. Boudoirs. Mille-feuilles. Petits fours. Glaces. Napolitaines. Parfait au café. Fruits et dessert.

For a specimen of a Canadian dinner, pure and simple, I refer my friends to this given by Mr. Sandford Fleming, Engineer-in-Chief, Canadian and Intercolonial Railways, to a few professional friends, embracing some of the principal engineers engaged on the Newfoundland, Intercolonial and Pacific Railways. Ottawa, April 12th, 1876.

BILL OF FARE.—Dominion pea soup. Newfoundland—Cod, come by chance oyster sauce. Nova Scotia—

Hallbut, anchovy sauce. New Brunswick—Restigouche salmon. Matapédia sea trout. Prince Edward Island—Oyster patties—Cotelette de Shadine. Honard de Cobequid. Ris de Veau à la Baie Verte. Quebec—Dindon bouilli, sauce au celeri. Langue. Ontario—Roast beef. Potatoes, tomates, parsnips, sweet corn, green peas, asparagus. Manitoba—Poulet de prairie, garnie de sauterelles. Kewatin—Pemmican of the Saskatchewan. Beaver tail. Cariboo tongue. British Columbia—Pouding au Continent, sauce à l'île de Vancouver. Rocky Mountain ice cream. Dessert—Coffee, &c.

A new style of dinner programme.—The following list of fare at the Shaksperian Festival of the Urban Club, held on the 24th of April, is a curious change upon the usual "Menu" à la Française to which we have been accustomed. The president on the occasion was Dr. Doran:—

"Sir I shall not be slack, in signs whereof, Please ye we may continue this afternoon. And do as aduersaries do in law. Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends." The Taming of the Shrew, 1st folio, 1623, Act 1, s. 2, lines 275-9.

Ye Bible of ye Olde Englyshe Fare. Ye Royale Salmon and ye Lobsters Sauce. Ye Fryede Soles. Fryede Eels. Stewede Eels. Ye Turbot. Roaste Fowles. Boyled Fowles. Boyled Turkeys. Ye Anciente Ham and Tonge. Rump Steak Puddynge and ye Jollie Larkes. Ye Ruyne Royale Jaggede Hare. Cheese. Celerie and ye Greene Water-Cresse, &c. &c.

"Sirs bez knyghtly of contenance, and confarthes your selynne. We knowe nighte in this countrie of curious metez; In these larynge landez, brades none other, fore-thy wythoutyn feynynge, enforce you the more To fede you with kyche feble as ye be fore fynde." "MOORE ARTHUR," Early Eng. Text Socy., Reprint 1865, No. 87 p. lines 222-6.

Montreal. A. STEELE PENN.

MR. JOHN GUSTAVUS NORRIS.

The people of Canada have, within the past few months, heard a great deal of the gentleman whose portrait appears on another page. Mr. Norris is by no means a stranger to us, but having been absent from this portion of the Dominion for the long period of eighteen years, his name and fame may not be as well known to the younger portion of our readers as they are to the older Canadians. A little brochure, printed for private circulation, a copy of which we have been privileged to possess, tells the story of his successful mission to England in 1858 to invite the Prince of Wales to visit Canada. This was a wonderful achievement for a private gentleman, unaided and alone. Red Tape was opposed to him; the Circumlocution Office was opposed to him, and the whole Tite Barnacle tribe was opposed to him. Yet, in spite of all, he triumphed, the expenses of his journey to and fro—no trifling sum—being borne by himself. Mr. Norris, as the narrative runs, was not present in Canada when the good Prince made his celebrated tour. He had gone, some time previously, to search for nuggets in the gold fields of Cariboo, and we are happy to chronicle that he was successful, as an English Parliamentary Blue Book will testify, Mr. Norris there receiving "honorable mention" for being the first to bring a bag of gold from the diggings into Victoria! Had Mr. Norris been in Canada when the Royal visit took place, he could not well have been passed over in the distribution of honors that followed. As it is, we hope it is not too late for the proper authorities to make amends in this respect. The Prince of Wales has just returned from a second successful tour, this time through his Royal mother, "the Empress of India's" great domain, and there has been a rather heavy showering of ribbons, stars and crosses on those whose merits commended them to the notice of the Heir-apparent. We hope we may not lay ourselves open to a charge of officiousness if we suggest—as we now do—that some mark of Royal favor be extended to the subject of this sketch for his good work in 1858. It is the almost universal opinion, of those whose opinion is worth notice, that some such recognition has been well and ably earned, and it is not because eighteen years have been allowed to come and go, without its taking place, that it should never be done. Canada has received scant justice in this particular respect. Let a "new departure" be inaugurated in the person of Mr. Norris. As to Mr. Norris' personal history, we have only to add that he is the youngest son of the late Captain Patrick James Norris, of the British army, and that he was born at Queensferry, County Galway, in 1829. He was originally intended for the army, but the death of a relative, Colonel Meyrick Shaw, Military Secretary to the Marquess Wellesley, interfered with this design, and he entered commercial life. In 1856 he came to Canada, and with his subsequent course, both here and in British Columbia, in which latter he was a member of the Yale Convention and subsequently a candidate for Parliament, our readers are sufficiently familiar.

typified the highest delight of the eye arising from the sight of precious stones and gold. The Jews, indeed, in the year nought A.D., were not civilised enough to derive conscious pleasure from scenery. And, in fact, none but the Anglo-Saxons would seem as nations to do so. "Les beautés de la Nature," said the Parisian exquisite, "pour moi je les abhorre." And as a jolly little girl said to us when climbing up Ben Cruachan, "It is not the scenery I care for, it's the lark."

But who that has regularly "gone in" for real music and real mountain scenery but would say, "One hour of a passion so holy is worth Whole ages of base gastronomical bliss."

We reluctantly own to little taste for statuary or "stone gals," but the enjoyment of melody, harmony, pictures, architecture, scenery, are free even from Satiety, that Demon which the Greeks believed to haunt all human bliss. From the fount of their delicious springs, no bitter flings its bubbling venom over the flowers, nay the appetite for them grows by what it feeds upon. A musician and art student is like a man climbing a mountain. Fast as by a little self-denial he learns to appreciate a higher grade of art or music, so fast a vista of other and higher grade still opens out on his de-lighted eye and ear. The rule is simple. Gaze at the best pictures, hear the best classical music within your reach. You will soon learn to enjoy it.

The higher senses divert us from sensuality. The artistic eye or ear beguiles the mind, like a diverted river, into moving less strongly in the channels of lust and gluttony, and even that middle sense which refines itself into patchouli and pomade.

We double human happiness then by training our children to take pleasure in these two higher senses. Our daughters must be gently turned to it when young plants. As the twig is bent the tree's inclined. We need not restrict their enjoyment of delicately flowered fruit or food. These, too, are God's good gifts.

But we should speak somewhat scornfully of the pleasures of the table, And we can do more than this ON A RATIONAL SCALE.

We have already advocated in these columns that every child in our national schools (which work under one of the best systems in the world) should be taught to sing. It is good for health, for school discipline, and increases the amount of other studies learnt. But also in Canada, EVERY BOY SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO DRAW.

By this means the Dominion will be somewhat diverted from the costly national outlay for spirits and tobacco, and lured to take the inexpensive unlimited pleasure offered by the beauty that's all around our paths. For no one enjoys scenery like the artists; and, moreover, a half hour drawing (alternately with singing) in the middle of a forenoon of book-study increases the amount of book-lore, permanently acquired.

Again the spread of artistic knowledge is proved to enormously increase the value of a nation's manufactures. At the Exhibition of 1851, England was last but one and the United States last in the list of nations exhibiting manufactures requiring artistic skill. England took alarm and established art schools throughout the country. At the next Exposition, England was first, and the United States still contentedly last. And these manufactures pay the best in the world.

The mere commercial man, anxious to see his country increase in wealth, can do it best by devoting national attention to Art. Art is too often mistaken for the foe instead of the foster mother of money, while it is Art alone that enables us to enjoy that wealth with which her own teeming womb is pregnant. Lennoxville. F. C. E.

THE DUNDAS FRESHET.

Owing to a prolonged and heavy thaw, and the frequent showers prevailing during the early part of April, the waters of the creek were swollen to a degree previously unknown. At one time such was the force of the current that serious fears were entertained lest the embankment should give way, as in such case a large portion of the town would have been flooded and incalculable damage to property resulted. It was while endeavoring to prevent the encroachment of the water at the point shown in sketch that the late sad accident occurred, resulting in the death of Mr. Thomas Ireland, "a gentleman well known in the community and universally esteemed by all who knew him as an upright and honorable man." It appears he got on top of the flume to assist in dragging a tree into place which was intended to over come the force of the current at the above-mentioned point, and while pulling on one of the limbs the branch broke, and he was precipitated backward into the stream and instantly dashed away by the current. The doomed man was seen once or twice afterwards, and every effort made to save him, but in vain. Immediate search for the body was begun, and has been vigorously prosecuted up to the present time. A large reward was offered, and nothing which the affection of his brother John could suggest has been left untried. Mr. Thomas Tindell, of Hamilton, who has had considerable experience in such matters, with a number of his men, have been constantly employed. Every part of the creek has been searched over and over again, and torpedoes have been called into requisition, but all useless. It is the opinion of Mr. Tindell that the body lies buried under

an accumulation of stones and earth carried down by the current. Deceased leaves a wife and two children, who have the sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement.

SCIENTIFIC.

PERSONS who work late at night are often troubled with sleeplessness. A light wrapper just before bed is a certain cure.

A NOVEL suspended railway car for sick and wounded has been successfully tried by the Great Eastern Railway of France. This will prove a boon, as hardly any movement is felt by the patient, even when trains are stopped with extreme suddenness.

PROF PERREY of Toulouse, has reported to the Académie des Sciences at Paris that there are more shocks of earthquake at new and full moon than at the quadratures. Of the quakings noted between 1843 and 1872, no many as 3,290 occurred when the moon was nearest to, and 3,015 when she was farthest from the earth.

Formerly rain was unknown upon the northern part of the Red Sea, but since the building of the Suez canal showers have fallen regularly about once a fortnight. The result has been to start vegetation up, even upon the Asiatic side, in the most wonderful manner. If things go on as they have begun, the sands of the Isthmus will be covered with forests in another fifty years.

A NEW TRICYCLE.—The Field says that an inventor has come to the aid of the very numerous people who are unable to use the bicycle, and has with some considerable ingenuity overcome most, if not all, of the difficulties which have hitherto stood in the way of a successful tricycle. The instrument has been subjected to a public trial, a test which it has endured very satisfactorily, though here and there a modification may have to be made. Hands and feet work together in the propulsion of this machine, and the steering arrangements are said to be satisfactory. Though users of this machine will not get the pace out of it that can be got out of the bicycle, yet they will have an instrument which is safe and easy to sit, and in which they can make their time or ten miles an hour on ordinary roads in comfort.

EFFECT OF EXTREME COLD ON MIND AND BODY.—M. Payer, the eminent Arctic explorer, referring to a certain day on which the thermometer indicated 35° below zero, Farh., says that so great an amount of cold paralyses the will, and that, under its influence, men from the unsteadiness of their gait, their stammering talk, and the slowness of their mental operations, seem as if they were intoxicated. Another effect of such cold mentioned by Mr. Payer, is a tormenting thirst, which is due to the evaporation of the moisture of the body. It is unwholesome, too, to use snow to quench the thirst, as it brings on inflammation of the throat, palate, and tongue; besides, a temperature of 36° to 37° below zero, Farh., makes it taste like molten metal. Snow-eaters in the North are considered feeble and effeminate, in the same way as is an opium-eater in the East.

THE curious fact has recently been pointed out by Dr. R. W. Richardson that the changes of the seasons have a potent physical influence upon the body. Some years ago, in a convict establishment in England, a number of men were confined amid surroundings of clothing, room, food, etc., practically the same for each individual. The medical superintendent of the jail undertook investigations, extended over some nine years, and during which over 4,000 individuals were weighed. It was found that during the months of winter the body wastes, the loss of weight varying in increasing ratio; that during summer the body gains, the gain varying in an increasing ratio; and that the changes from gain to loss and from loss to gain are abrupt, and take place, the first at the beginning of September, and the second at the beginning of April. This is shown in the following figures, indicating the ratio of loss or gain: Loss:—January 0.14, February 0.24, March 0.55, Gain:—April 0.03, May 0.01, June 0.52, July 0.08, August 0.70, Loss: September 0.21, October 0.10, November (exception) a slight gain, December 0.03.

HUMOROUS. ONE who is sharp in business is apt to be blunt in manners. KINGS and authors should be very careful how they treat their subjects. NO MAN will ever regard you as his dear friend if you make yourself too cheap to him.

Speaking of a new club "with home comforts," some one asks, "Why not have a home with club comforts?" ANYTHING Midas touched was turned to gold. In these days touch a man with gold and he'll turn into anything.

The Chicago Times is authority for the statement that a pair of Indiana twins, each fifty years old, wish to pass themselves off for a centenarian. A homely Scotch proverb says: "A door plate wif a man's name on it is a very guid thing, but a deener plate wif a man's deener on it is a better."

IN Nevada, when a building falls and kills two or three people, the jury first hunt up the contractor and hang him, and then bring in a verdict that nobody is to blame but the contractor who cannot be found.

LADY HOLLAND was rather fond of crowding her dinner table. Once, when the company was already tightly packed, an unexpected guest arrived, and she instantly gave her imperious order to Luttrell—generally most subservient to her ladyship's wishes—"Luttrell, make room. 'T must certainly be made," he answered, "for it does not exist."

THE following cure for gout is taken from an old work:—1st. The person must pick a handkerchief from the pocket of a maid of fifty years, who has never had a wish to change her condition; 2nd. He must dry it on a parson's hedge who was never covetous; 3rd. He must send to a doctor's shop who never killed a patient; 4th. He must mark it with a lawyer's ink who never cheated a client; 5th. Apply it to the part affected, and a cure will speedily follow.

ARTISTIC. ENGLAND has now about 140 art schools, which have an attendance of nearly 30,000 pupils. M. BARTHOLDY, the French sculptor, who made the great statue for Bellin's Island, is in New York.

THE statue of Columbus, the gift of Italy to America, is to arrive from Carrara in time to be inaugurated on the 4th of July in Philadelphia.

THE Paris papers just at hand tell us of the intended departure for the United States of Dr. Thomas W. Evans, one of the most distinguished American residents in Europe, author of several scientific works, and proprietor of the American Register. While one of the objects of his visit is to participate in the national Centennial, another is to organize, if possible, some action in behalf of his proposal to erect in Paris a monument commemorating the services rendered the country by the French during the Revolutionary struggle. Everybody in Europe is familiar with the project of Dr. Thomas W. Evans, who has himself headed the subscription list with ten thousand dollars.