

and is made with a tassel by fringing seven or eight inches, and tying a knot above. Each length is there attached to a ring, which is afterward strung upon the portiere pole. Variety is given to this fashionable fancy by cutting the ropes of different lengths to form points at the bottom. In a fascinating beach-house, where everything cost but a trifle but is in excellent taste, there are rope portières at some of the doors in place of the expensive ones of Japanese bamboo and beads. The ropes hang closely from a rustic pole to which they are attached by "screw-eyes." The pole is held in place by a bow-knot of rope with tasseled ends, tied (over a nail) a few inches from each end. These really artistic hangings can be parted anywhere, so are not looped back.

The truest economy, you will find, is not in going without, but in making the most of everything. This often necessitates an additional outlay beyond the first cost, but the result shows the wisdom of this. It is a wise maxim not to let a cent near one's eyes hide a dollar farther off. Take the matter of cooking. The addition of various sauces, condiments and relishes, lend variety to, and make palatable food that would often be wasted without them. Large joints, cold meats and hash did well enough for the table perhaps when people know no better, but we are past that stage now. Freshly cooked meat we are taught is lighter and more easily digested than that which has been warmed over or recooked. Small families then should avoid buying large joints that cannot be divided. We have just learned about mutton some useful things to know. For example, a leg of mutton if too big to roast whole may be very successfully divided. The knuckle end excellent boiled and served with white sauce and capers. The middle part makes nice cutlets gilled over a very hot fire, that is clear and steady. For this purpose charcoal is much better than coal, by the way. The thick end can be rolled and stuffed for a roast, or cut into pieces for curry, mutton pie, etc. A loin of mutton can be divided into two little joints to roast, or the one that cannot be jointed may be kept to roast, while the other half is made into chops. The joint to be roasted may be served as mock venison by soaking it for two or three days in a tumblerful of Port wine (or Tarragona Port, which is good and cheap.) Then season with salt, baste with wine while it is roasting, and serve with sweet gravy and currant jelly. This is a nice dish, that is not extravagant either, to serve at a small dinner party.

How time flies! "It is most midnight," as the nursery rhyme has it.

Yours devotedly,

Boston.

DINAH STURGIS.

THE STORY OF PHENICIA.

Phœnicia, or "the Palm land," was the name originally given to that tract of land lying between Asia Minor and Egypt and facing the Levantine Sea, or "Sea of the Rising Sun." Ultimately the name was given to only the central portion of this region, while the country to the north was called Syria, and that to the south Palestine. The original inhabitants of this coast region were the Canaanites and Philistines; but sometime about 2000 B. C. these Hamitic people were supplanted by Semitic immigrants, who are supposed to have come from the shores of the Persian Gulf and spread westward to the shores of the Mediterranean. These Semitic settlers became afterward known as the Syrians, the Phœnicians, and the Hebrews. From the fourteenth to the fourth century B. C. the Phœnicians were a great remarkable nation, separate from all others, with marked and striking characteristics. To them the eyes of the civilized world were turned, and with them the people of Egypt, Judea, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome came successively into contact. These were the people who first discovered the British Isles, who circumnavigated Africa, and caused the gold of Ophir to enrich the treasuries of King Solomon. The characteristics of these people Professor Rawlinson sums up thus: Physically, they probably in form and feature very much resembled the Jews, who were their near neighbors, and who occasionally intermarried with them; morally, their characteristics were, "first, pliability, combined with iron fixedness of purpose; secondly, depth and force; thirdly, a yearning for dreamy ease, together with a capacity for the hardest work; fourthly, a love of abstract thought; and fifthly, religiousness, together with an intensely spiritual conception of the Deity." Originally they were monotheists, and possessed exalted ideas of the great Power which had created and which ruled the world; but polytheism supplanted and corrupted their early belief, and in the historic period their religion, it must be confessed, was anything but elevating or improving in character. While they fell very far behind the other Semitic peoples in the domain of thought, of speculation, and of ideas, in practical ability they were unsurpassed. They were the first systematic traders, the first miners and metallurgists, the greatest inventors, the boldest mariners, the greatest colonizers; while elsewhere despotism overshadowed as with a pall the whole Eastern world, they could boast of a form of government approaching to constitutionalism. Of all nations of their time they stood the highest in practical arts and science. The four manufactures in which they excelled all the other nations of antiquity were the manufacture of the wonderful purple dye which was the pride, the boast, and the secret of the Tyrians; the production of a glass which was peculiarly characteristic of the Sidonians; the weaving of silk, linen, and woollen fabrics, which were greatly prized by the traders of all countries; the elaboration and magnificence of their works in metal. It was a Tyrian artist who constructed for Solomon those marvellous works in bronze which were the glory of the temple at Jerusalem. The Phœnicians were also carvers of ivory and engravers of gems, and it has been said that the latter art was carried by them to a degree of perfection that has never since been surpassed. In his conclusions, Professor Rawlinson writes: "The race was formed to excel in the sphere of action and of practical ingenuity. They were the great pioneers of civilization, and by their boldness, their intrepidity, and their manual dexterity, prepared the way for the triumphs of later but

more advanced nations. By their natural vigor and adventurousness, their rough lives, and hardy habits they were well qualified to resist for long ages the corrupting influence of that luxury which is almost certain to follow the accumulation of riches." When her decline came it was not caused by internal weakness or corruption, but by the necessity of yielding to superior force. Trampled upon by Assyria, Babylon, Persia, by Alexander and his successors, the unhappy country dragged out a feeble existence until the relentless Roman destroyed every vestige of her nationality and she became only a "geographical expression."

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The Sydney *Advocate* says:—"The contractors for the Public Building are making good progress. The excavations are about completed. A large quantity of fine building stone is being hauled to the site from local quarries, thus giving employment to a number of men and teams. Sheds for workmen have been erected, derricks are being put up, and masons will be put to work at once on the foundation. Native labor is being used entirely, of which the contractors speak very highly."

NEW ENTERPRISE—Two gentlemen, Messrs John A. Crossman, of Sackville, N. B., and John A. Laws of Windsor, N. S., arrived at Parrsboro on 21st June for the purpose of looking out a site for the establishment of an iron foundry. We understand they have about succeeded in getting a good location, and will shortly begin the erection of their shops. Both gentlemen come highly recommended, and we trust that every encouragement will be extended to them, as every such enterprise adds to the growth and importance of our town, and every inducement should be held out to them to come, and come to stay.

Whether a continued excess of imports is or is not prejudicial to the interests of a country, is a complex and much debated question. The imports into the United Kingdom have for many years largely exceeded the exports, yet the country is steadily augmenting its wealth. India on the other hand has had a large excess of exports for several years, and yet it is by no means in a prosperous financial condition. The numerous financial transactions between England and her colonies also tend to increase the excess of imports. As Mr Coghlan says: "The loans raised in England do not come as coin but as merchandise, and form the greater part of the excess of imports over exports which is so marked a feature of these colonies."

It is stated that two or more capitalists are about to start a new distillery in this city and will soon apply for a manufacturing license. They intend turning out pure alcohol only. A very large quantity of alcohol is used annually in this country for industrial purposes, but all the distilleries now running in Canada turn their spirits directly into rum or Scotch whiskies, etc., so that the manufacturers who require pure alcohol in their processes often have a difficulty in obtaining it without importing. The projectors of this new enterprise think that they see a profitable field for them in this line.

A French chemist has spun nitrated cellulose into artificial silk more wonderful and more beautiful than the well known spun glass. It is colored at pleasure while in solution, and after drying is unaffected by acids, alkalies, hot or cold water, alcohol or ether.

Canada has not been able to make much of its mineral oil deposits, owing to the presence of sulphur in the oil, which caused a disagreeable smell, and fouled the lamps when burning. A means has now been discovered of removing the sulphur; so that the Dominion will no longer require to import great quantities of oil every year from the States, and may even begin to export on its own account.

Judge Bickerton, of Honolulu, who was in Ottawa on his return from the United States, called on the several Cabinet Ministers on the 5th inst. He affirmed confidently that if a direct steamship service is established between Vancouver and Australia an extensive trade will develop between Canada and Hawaii.

Robert Taylor, whose expanding boot and shoe business compels him to enlarge his already extensive factory, has given the contract for a large brick addition to his premises on Brunswick street to S. A. Marshall. It is to be 40 x 60 feet and five stories high, and is to be finished by October 1st. Mr. Taylor's factory will then be one of the largest, if not really the largest, in Canada. The work is to cost \$7,500. On its completion about 100 men will be added to the already large force of workmen.

NEW ZEALAND FROZEN-MEAT TRADE.—Here is an example of the magnitude of the New Zealand frozen-meat trade. In 1888 15,384,169 lbs. were exported from the Provincial Government of Otago alone. Of this quantity there were 355,639 carcasses mutton, 17,846 carcasses lamb, 3,379 quarters beef.

In regard to the natural soap mines of Owens lake, California, it is said by one of the company now working there, the waters of the lake contain a strong solution of borax and soda. In these waters there breeds a grub that becomes a fly. The flies die in the water and drift ashore, covering the ground to the depth of a foot or more. The oily substance of the flies blends with the borax and soda, and the result is a layer of pure soap. These strata repeated from year to year form the soap mines, where large forces of men are now employed.