

THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

Seasonable Topics Discussed for the Benefit of Fair Readers.
FASHION NOTES, DOMESTIC RECIPES, ETC.

(Compiled by Aunt Kate.)
Artistic Dressing by a Great Actress.
Let our fashionable leaders study Miss Ellen Terry's beautiful *Portia's* gown. The long lines, the folds and length of the sleeve, the collar and the pointed bodice. Miss Terry uses Morris fabrics and respects them. She does not torture and render them insignificant. The gold-colored damask clings about the graceful lines of her form as if it loved them, and the Venetian red silk of which her dress and the plush of which her robe are composed in the trial scene is so pure that there is no trace of harshness or opposition in its tints. The darker changeable damask, with its narrow jeweled belt and with lace which she wears on her return, and when receiving *Bassanio* and his friends, is even more suggestive of the art in dress which may be so noble, but which is so belittled by convention and caprice. Think of a round, very low necked, almost sleeveless black dress upon a long, thin woman. Yet this exhibition is not infrequent, and has been seen several times at the New Metropolitan Opera House, where it looks like a silhouette against the severe tone of the walls and the general simplicity of the coloring.—*Jennie June in the N. Y. World.*

Husk in the Babies.
Because a man knows a great deal about art, literature and philosophy, is no reason for considering him an expert in caring for babies. But still Mr. John Ruskin's ideas of a model nursery are of interest, right or wrong, and so here they are, as given by him in a letter which has just been published in England: "I have never," he says, "written a pamphlet on nurseries; first, because I never write about anything except what I know more of than most other people; secondly, because I think nothing much matters in a nursery—except the mother, the nurse and the air. So far as I have notion or guess in the matter myself, beyond the perfection of these three necessary elements, I should say the rougher and plainer everything the better—no lace to cradle cap, hardest possible bed and simplest possible food, according to age, and floor and walls of the cleanest. All education to beauty is, first, in the beauty of gentle human faces round a child; secondly, in the fields, fields meaning grass, water, beasts, flowers and sky. Without these no man can be educated humanly. He may be made a calculating machine, a walking dictionary, a painter of dead bodies, a twangler or scotchman on keys and oatgut, a discoverer of new forms of worms in mud; but a properly so-called human being—never. Pictures are, I believe, of no use whatever by themselves. If the child has other things right round it and given to it—its garden, its cat and its window to the sky and stars—in time, pictures of flowers and beasts and things in heaven and heavenly earth, may be useful to it. But see first that its realities are heavenly."

Keep the Children Warm.
Half the illness and fretfulness of little children might be prevented by keeping them warm enough. They are often so unequally dressed—some parts covered to excess, and others, more vital still, left almost unclothed—that they are in constant discomfort. They cannot tell the difficulty, and thoughtless mothers dismiss the whole subject with the general complaint of crossness. Warm under-flannels and good home made woollen stockings are a comfort beyond computation in the winter season. When worn in the winter it is common to delay putting them on until the seeds of a sad cold are sown, which may last for the season or even for life.

Domestic Recipes and Hints.
Clean coarse combs with a broom tuft. Water as hot as can be taken is excellent in case of nausea and vomiting. Walking on carpets with protruding nails on shoes digs off the nap fearfully. Brooms soiled once a week wear long. Set brooms away handle downwards. Scrub floors with an old broom and strong lye, little at a time, then mop with warm water. Mix turpentine with stove polish, put on cold stove a little at a time; will shine when rubbed. A little milk in the water in which you are washing your dishes is much nicer than soap. Best way to make coffee is in a filterer, always filter second time. If you must boil it, only give one boil up and let settle. Easily-made Apple Sauce.—Bake apples with a pan over them, plenty water, pick out peel, mash the rest through a colander, sweeten. Easily-washed Dish Towels.—Wet and soap them, put in cold water, stir often till boiled, repeat if necessary with more soap and water, rinse. For burns and scalds, alum water, apply immediately, keep well covered with saturated cloths. Cures in from one-half to one hour, leaves no mark. Syrup.—Wet granulated sugar with water, flavor with vinegar to taste, boil five minutes, adding pinch grated lemon rind. A cup of hot water is a good tonic and stomach cleanser, and a sure cure for constipation. It should be taken in the morning and evening; just after rising and before retiring. To heal out fingers with rapidity, saturate the part with alum water; it will sting sharply for a little bit, but will soon stop for good and heal quickly. I have tried it several times. The deposits of fine coal ashes found on the ledges of the kitchen range or stove, surpasses polishing powder and fluids for cleansing nickel plated ornaments on stoves. Sifted ashes would scratch the ornaments. Griddle Cakes.—No eggs, one-fifth yellow corn meal, four-fifths flour, very sour milk, or buttermilk with cornmeal; add flour till all is in; salt, soda till sweet, beat well. Lamp chimneys will last a great deal longer if, when new, they are put in a kettle of cold water with a handful of salt, boil a

couple of hours, then take off and let the chimney stand in it until cold. Either tea or coffee long boiled drives aroma into the air, and pleases the nostrils, but disappoints the palate. A good way is to scald like tea, clear with table-spoon cold water and let keep hot ten minutes or more, but never boil it. Tea is best drank two minutes after scalding, try it.

Gingersnaps.—Boil together two cups of New Orleans molasses and one cup of lard; when nearly cold, add a teaspoonful of ginger and one even tablespoonful of soda dissolved in a little hot water, mix quite stiff, roll thin and bake in a quick oven. These are simple but excellent.

Fashion Changes.
English girls, it is understood, prefer American plumbers to home noblemen.

The satchel muff of plush or fur is popular for misses in their teens and school-girls.

Children's cloaks of dark velvet and wool are fashionably trimmed with light gray lambskin.

Ostrich tips in panaches are the favorite trimmings for Henri II., Henri III. and Girondin hats.

A pretty tidy is made of pink saxe twine, run with black velvet ribbon, to each end of which should be attached a tassel or ball of pink and black silk.

Cover a square or diamond shaped board with velvet or velvet paper and hang your porcelain plaques against it instead of putting it in a frame.

The latest brides' dresses are trained and trimmed with a puffing around the bottom over a simulated skirt of brocatelle. The opening of the upper skirt showing the brocatelle is fringed with light sprays of orange blossoms.

Brides' dresses are decorated in profusion with orange flowers alone or mingled with white roses, white jessamine and lilies of the valley, all these flower decorations being put on in clusters, chaplets, sprays and garlands, or strewn all over in separate sprigs.

A comparatively new idea in silk quilt circles is to ornament the centre block with the initials of the maker; and by the way, when the silk quilt mania subsides, we may still find an excuse for making our pretty scraps into patchwork, since this placed in windows imitates stained glass better than anything else that has been found.

DETERMINED TO DIE.

Terrible Time the Doctors had Giving Mary Fritz Medicine.

Mary Fritz, a pretty young woman who resides on Lexington avenue, Cleveland, O., attempted to end her life on Tuesday night by taking laudanum. She procured the laudanum three days ago, and on Tuesday night started out to call at a harness shop, where Henry Blackburn, her lover, was at work. Blackburn had been paying her attention, but last spring suddenly ceased calling upon her, and ever since she has been cast down. She persisted in seeing him, however, and often visited his place of business alone. When she reached his shop on Tuesday night she held the bottle up to his view and said she intended to take the poison. He made an effort to restrain her, but before he could prevent it she had swallowed the contents. She was taken to the police station, where doctors attended her. They tried to administer an emetic, but she fought them, saying she did not want to live any longer. Before the doctors succeeded in giving her the antidote they broke several of her teeth in prying open her mouth. There is little chance of her recovery.

The Wheat Situation.
(Montreal Gazette.)

Although the majority of speculators may have made up their minds that wheat is cheap at present prices, and therefore a good purchase, it is folly to ignore the fact that appearances are decidedly militant to any important and immediate advance in prices. For instance, stocks of wheat in Chicago have increased over half a million bushels during the past week, and daily receipts continue very heavy for this season of the year, yesterday's inspection for today being 376 carloads, most of which is spring. If the crop of winter has been deficient, the yield of spring wheat has been immense, as demonstrated by the rapidity with which Western centres have been recently filled up. There can be little doubt that the next returns of the visible supply on this continent will run over 38,000,000 bushels. This, in connection with the heavy reserves of foreign wheat in England and liberal home deliveries, should be sufficient to curb the too enthusiastic speculator who has been so long expecting a big advance in face of the fact that the world's immediately available supply of breadstuffs is largely in excess of consumptive requirements.

How the United States Mint is Guarded.

"It would not be healthy for a burglar to attempt any of his tricks about the mint," said Col. A. Loudon Snowden, the other day, to a reporter on the Philadelphia Record. "About a year ago I caused all the muskets to be changed for repeating rifles and seven-shot carbines that are darlings. Our outside watchmen, who patrol the streets about the place, are well supplied with firearms; in fact, they are walking arsenals. We can readily arm every person in the building who can handle a pistol or gun. There is no trouble apprehended that I know of, and I cannot divine why the Secretary of the Treasury has ordered Gatling guns and carbines for the mints. I have not requested any, because we are sufficiently armed. At this time there are being turned out over a million of standard dollars each month, and we frequently have \$15,000,000 in silver in the vaults. But it would take a little army with cannon to get at it."

They were speaking of a young lady who sings beautifully, and one of the party asked, "Is she a mezzo-soprano?" "No, I think she is a Swede," was the innocent reply.

It is hard to act a part long, for, where truth is not at the bottom, nature will always be endeavoring to return, and will peep out and betray herself one time or another.

Detroit aldermen have decided against adopting the new standard time.

A TERRIBLE PROPHECY.

The Red Sunsets, Cyclones and Earthquakes Foretelling Coming Disaster—How to Meet It.

The recent mysterious appearances following sunset and preceding sunrises have attracted wide attention from students of the skies and the people generally. During the days of recent weeks the sun seems to have been obscured by a thin veil of a dull leaden hue which, as the sun receded toward the horizon, became more luminous, then yellow, then orange, then red; and, as night settled down upon the earth, a dull purple. At first it was thought these appearances were ordinary sunset reflections of light but it is now pretty certain that they are either the misty substance of the tail of some unseen comet, in which the earth is enveloped, or a surrounding stratum of world dust or very small meteors. Professor Brooks, of the Red House Observatory, Phelps, N. Y., has turned his telescope upon these objects and discovered what he thinks are myriads of telescopic meteors. If it is unorganized world dust, or decomposed vapors, as the *Democrat and Chronicle* of Rochester, N. Y., remarks: "How is this matter to be disposed of? Will it settle and form a deposit upon the earth, or remain a partial opaque shell about the earth to cut off a portion of the sun's light upon it?"

Whatever the mystery is, there is no denying that some very strange forces are at work in the upper airs. The terrible tornadoes and cyclones which have swept our own country, and the fearful volcanoes and earthquakes which have destroyed so many cities and thousands of people—the tidal waves which mysteriously rise and fall on coasts hitherto unvisited by them—the tremendous activity which is evident in the sun by the constant revelation of enormous spots upon its surface—all indicate unusual energy in the heavenly bodies.

These circumstances recall Professor Grimmer's prophecies that from 1881 to 1887 the passage of the five great planets—Mars, Neptune, Jupiter, Uranus and Saturn—around the sun would produce strange and wonderful phenomena. He says: "The waters of the earth will become more or less poisonous. The air will be foul with noisome odors. Ancient races will disappear from the earth." He attempts to prove his prophecy by the fact that in 1720, when Mars and Saturn made their passage around the sun coincidentally, great destruction and mortality visited all parts of the globe. He also found the same results in previous perihelion passages of the planets, and argues that these circumstances always produce epidemics and destructive diseases which baffle the skill of the most eminent physicians; that the poor will die by thousands, the weak and intemperate falling first, those whose blood have been impoverished by excess of work or dissipation next and only those who are in comparative vigor shall escape to enjoy the era of renewed activity and prosperity which will follow the period of destruction.

Inasmuch as the entire world seems subject to the sway of the heavenly bodies, no part of the earth, he thinks, can escape scourging. He even predicts that America will lose over ten millions of people; that farmers will be stricken with fear and cease to till the soil; that famine will make human misery more wretched. That hundreds will flee to overcrowded cities for aid in vain. That sudden changes in ocean currents, temperature and surroundings will entirely transform the face of nature and climate of countries; that the air will be so foul with malaria and other noxious gases that those who survive will be troubled with disorders of the digestive organs. That many who escape other ills will blot with dropsy and suddenly pass away, while others will grow thin and drag out a miserable existence in indescribable agony for weeks. Neuralgic pains in different parts of the body will torment them. They will easily tire and become despondent. A faint, hot feeling will be succeeded by chilly sensations, while hallucinations dread of impending ill will paralyze all effort. "The birds in the air, the beasts of the field and even the fish of the sea will become diseased, poisoning the air and poisoning the waters of the globe." We are told on the other hand that those who shall pass through this period of trial will have larger enjoyment of life and health. The earth will yield more abundantly than ever before. The animal kingdom will be more prolific and life prolonged very materially. This prolongation of life will be owing to the healthy electric and magnetic influences that will pervade the atmosphere. It would perhaps seem that the present redness of the sun, and the presence of a belt or veil of cosmic matter, justified, in a measure, the prediction of Professor Grimmer, but disturbing as his prediction may be we are told for our comfort that the strong and pure blooded need have little to fear in these calamities, that those who are delicate or indisposed should adopt means to keep the system well supported and the blood pure and that the most philosophical and effective method of accomplishing this is to keep the kidneys and liver in good condition. From the testimony of such men as Dr. Dio Lewis and Prof. R. A. Gunn, M. D., Dean of the United States Medical College, New York, and thousands of influential non-professional people, it seems almost certain that for this purpose there is no preparation known to science equal to Warner's Safe Cure. This medicine has acquired the finest reputation of any preparation that was ever put upon the market. It is a radical blood purifier, which soothes and heals all inflamed organs, strengthens the nervous system, washes out all evidences of decay, regulates digestion, prevents malassimilation of food in a philosophical and rational manner, fortifies the system against climatic changes and malarial influences and the destructive agencies which seem to be so abundant in these "evil days."

It is not our purpose to dispute the correctness of Professor Grimmer's prophecies. As we have said, the marked disturbances of the past few years would seem to give a semblance of verification of his theory. It is certain, as above stated, that we are passing through what may be regarded as a crucial period and it is the part of wise men not to ignore but to learn to fortify themselves against the possibility of being overcome by these evils. It is a duty which each man owes to himself and his fellows to mitigate as much as possible the suffering of humanity, and in no way better can he accomplish this purpose than to see

to it that he himself is fortified by the best known preparation in the strongest possible manner, and that he exerts the influence of his own example upon his fellows to the end that they, too, may share with him immunity from the destructive influence which seek his ruin.

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