THE HOME.

Table Decoration.

There are very few forms of entertainment more enjoyable than the social tea party which the country people are in the habit of giving in honor of themselves, their neighbors, and the strangers within their gates.

The approach of cold weather fills both young and elderly housekeepers with a strong desire to encourage the sentiment of interest and sociability that exists to a greater or less extent in every rural community.

A tea party goes a great way towards breaking the ice that so frequently forms over social intercourse and proves an incentive to other housekeepers to follow an example that produces such satisfactory results. Both mothers and daughters should give careful attention to the many small details which add so much to the appearance of the table.

Every housekeeper should manage to have one or two extra tablecoths to use on special occasions. The napkins should be of fine linen and of medium size. Have a sufficient number of knives, forks and spoons upon the table. A great deal of embarrassment is often caused by a lack of these necessary articles.

If the weather is cold and cheerless, a particularly good effect is produced by crimson lamp shades. These can made of paper and cost but a trifle. The improved appearance of the table will amply repay anyone for the trouble of making them. If candles are used, let them be of red wax and partly covered with small, fancy shades of the same color.

Thirty years ago very little attention was given to the arrangement of plates, platters, etc., but happily the housekeeper of to-day is sufficiently ambitious and intelligent to realize the importance of pleasing the eye as well as the palate and the result is that housewives vie with each other in the effort to supply each table entertainment with original features so that even though it takes six months to "go round the circle" the last tea party is sure to prove quite as satisfactory as the first.

Every housekeeper possesses a few relics of bygone days in the form of bowls, vases, etc. Fill them with the flowers that are available and place them upon the teatable. A few buds or blossoms a cluster of leaves or ferns can be tied with a bit of ribbon and placed upon the table near the guests. If cut flowers cannot be procured, take a pot containing a blooming plant and fold a strip of colored silk around it. White wadding can be used instead of the silk, and a beautiful effect will be produced if the surface of the wadding is covered with ivy or ferns. These can be sewed on with thread. Ivy can also be arranged around the table and the dishes placed inside the circle. The ends of the ivy should be secured under the lamp or under immovable dishes.

It is customary in many country homes to cover pictures, mirrors, etc., with pink tissue paper. If this color is used for articles in the dining room great care must be exercised in selecting articles for table decoration. If the dishes are decorated, the lamp shade and tissue paper must harmonize with the color that predominates in the decoration. If the color is blue, amber shades will produce a charming effect A crimson light will beautify pink or brown, and give to the whole room the bright, warm appearance, which is so inviting on a bleak wintry day.

If the tea-party is a large one, and if outdoor exercise precedes the supper, it is a good plan to have breaded veal cutlets or fried oysters for the principal dish. There should also be a large plate at the foot of the table containing a generous supply of cold sliced ham. A dish containing chicken salad is placed at the right. Custom decides that there should only be one kind of preserved fruit upon the table. A small sauce dish containing apple sauce should be served with the oysters. Various kinds of pickles are placed here and there upon the table.

If a servant is employed, the tea or chocolate should be poured into the cups before it is brought into the dining-room.

Housekeepers should remember that a well-laid table requires a great deal of light —the more lights there are the better the effect. It is far wiser to put a goodly number of small lamps or candles on the table than merely one or two large ones.

There are many dainty preparations that are "fit to set before a king," and there should be a liberal supply of these "goodies" upon the table. We have all been told to ignore "trifles," but when they make their appearance in the forms of delicious cakes, custards and jellies, we give pleasure to our hostess and to ourselves by partaking of the good things set before us.

Ill Humor and Wrinkles.

Dwelling on the perpetual pin-sticks, instead of covering them out of sight, will make fine lines in the smoothness of the forehead, lift the eyebrows querulously, drop the corners of the mouth downheartedly, and not only spoil present beauty, but hasten future ugliness. And it does not require vexation, dark brooding or worry alone to injure the good looks. The person who allows herself to be bored where she is not interested in what goes on about her gains a lacklustre of eye and skin and feature that is akin to disfigurement; for the eye grows dull and heavy, the features fixed and immobile, the whole air and aspect without alertness or grace. To cultivate vivacity, expression, intelligence—things that are beautifying, that quicken the blood and sends it freely to the surface. It is no extravagance to say that sweet temper and good humor are among the best cosmetics known.

Recipes.

White Cake.—One cup of butter, two of sugar, one of sweet milk, three of flour, whites of five eggs, two teaspoons of baking powder. Ice it, when baked, with confectioner's sugar wet with boiling water.

Cocoanut Tarts.—Dissolve half a pound of sugar in half a pint of water; add a pound of grated cocoanut and stir over the fire for five minutes. Let cool. Add the beaten yoke and the white of one egg. Line little tart pans with puff paste; fill with the mixture and bake. A lemon or almond mixture may be used to fill the tarts in place of cocoanut if desired.

Preserved Apples.—Weigh equal quantities of good brown sugar and apples, peeled and sliced thin, allowing one pint of water to every three pounds of sugar; skim it well and boil until quite thick; add the apples and the grated peel of one or two lemons and two or three pieces of white ginger root; boil until the apples look clear white and yellow. This will keep for years, is the testimony of one who has used it, and is an especially nice way when apples are plenty to keep some for future use.

Snow Custard.—Dissolve half a box of gelatine in a cup of cold water; add one pint of boiling water, two cups of sugar and the juice of a lemon. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Beat the whites of three eggs; add to the mixture when cold, a spoonful at a time. Mix carefully until thick, and pour in small cups to mold. When firm, turn out on a large dish, and pour custard flavored with vanilla around it. Serve with white cake.

Angels Food Cake.—Whites of nine large eggs, one heaping cup of fine granulated sugar, one cup of flour sifted five times before measuring. One half teaspoonful of cream of tartar, and a teaspoonful each of lemon and vanilla extract. Separate eggs, add salt and cream of tartar to the whites and beat to a stiff froth. Add sugar and flavoring and beat thoroughly. Then carefully fold in the flour and bake in a moderate oven from forty to fifty minutes. Invert pan to cool when the cake is done. This cake is much nicer if baked in a tin made on purpose. This special cake tin is in two parts, side and bottom. The side part can be removed from the cake without disturbing it.

THE LAND OF THE YUKON.

An Inspector's Statements About a Part of Canada of Which Little is Known.

Inspector Constantine has furnished the Hon. Mr. Ives with a very complete report of his recent journey to the Yukon district, accompanied by Staff-Sergt. Brown, where he was sent to look over the territory and report on what was needed to preserve law and order in that region. He recommends a large police force. The inspector was also commissioned by the Customs and Interior departments to collect revenue and mining dues.

Speaking of the resources of the country, he says that the timber along the Yukon river is of small value, but he was informed that on the Stewart river the timber was longer and of better quality. The principal fish of the region are salmon. The seasons on the Yukon are extreme. As low as seventy-seven below zero has been reached in winter, while in summer as high as 120 has been known. The amount of land fit for cultivation is very limited. Wood is the only fuel used.

As to the mining industry in that locality Inspector Constantine says it is only in its infancy. The country has not been thoroughly prospected, and the returns up to the present show that while a few men have done well, the majority have made nothing. The miners are anxious to have the international boundary in the gold bearing belt fixed without delay.

The inspector says that the liquor traffic in the country is assuming large proportions and will have to be dealt with by a strong hand, and a sufficient force will be necessary to enforce the provisions of the law. The country at present is ruled by a whisky ring, of which a Fort Cudahay firm named McQueston & Co., is supposed to be at the head. At present there are five saloons running, and more will be opened as the miners come in for the winter. The liquor sold is of good quality and retails at fifty cents a drink. Three thousand gallons have been taken in during the year just passed. The Indians make up an alcoholic compound called "hoochinoo," which is very strong, like pure alcohol in appearance and taste. Talks with the miners elicited the information that they would like to see a high license rate imposed and a stop put to the sale of liquor to the Indians.

With the exception of the schools of the Church of England mission there are no schools in the district. These district schools are three in number and have an attendance on an average of sixty per day. These schools are kept up by the generosity of friends, and are purely voluntary.

Furs are fairly plentiful in the region. The exports for the year would amount to between $40,000 and $50,000.

Inspector Constantine creditably carried out the work entrusted to him by the Customs department. The levying of duties was a distasteful task and at one time there was a prospect of trouble, but eventually better counsel prevailed and the inspector brought out with him cheques, drafts and orders amounting to $3,248 for the Customs department and $485 for the Interior department. It is expected that Staff-Sergt. Brown, who is wintering at Fort Cudahay, will collect between two and three thousand dollars more.

The inspector has gone to Ottawa to talk over with the Hon. Mr. Ives the question of a special force on the Yukon. He has done good service to the country, and despite the hazardous position in which he was placed, went through the ordeal creditably. It speaks well for the respect with which the law is regarded when two men can go into a rough district among a lot of men who had never seen a police officer there before and collect such a large sum of money.

He—"You saw some old ruins while in England, I presume?" She—"Yes, indeed! And one of them wanted to marry me."

Mrs. Johnson, of Norwich, Conn., is very fond of diamonds, and usually wears, when in full dress, stones to the value of several thousand dollars. Among her ornaments is a circulet of diamonds which form her name—"Mary T. Johnson."

A Modern Residence at Low Cost.

To design a neat, cheap, convenient and roomy cottage, is no easy task. People are not satisfied to-day with the plain house which would have pleased them twenty years ago, for they have become educated in architecture and have seen what can be done in the artistic designing of houses. The picturesque homes dotting the landscape throughout the land are the direct result of this education. One must follow the laws of common sense in designing homes, and not sacrifice interior arrangement for exterior show, which is distasteful to the cultivated eye. To be satisfactory, a house must be planned with special reference to the needs of the occupants, and such houses are really the most pleasing in appearance, as they clearly show the use for which they were intended. Many of our houses are ugly because of their lack of proportion and harmony of expression, and others are ruined more by an excess of "tacked on ornament" than by too little. The beauty of a house lies in its proportions; and an attractive outline costs no more than one which is ugly. The accompanying illustration presents a simple, straight-forward building. It has a tower of moderate dimensions, but the details are not rich, they are not expensive, and it is not obstrusive. The outline is simple, and the general finishing of the house is of a modest character. It is a comparatively inexpensive building, and one which would reflect credit on those who would have the good taste to build it. It has eight main rooms, conveniently and economically arranged. It is economical in matter of cost, expense of furnishing and labor of caring for it. There is no waste or useless space. On the ground floor their is sufficient room to meet the requirements of comfortable living, and at the same time any ordinary social requirements. The rooms are well shaped, proportioned to each other, and a general air of light and cheerfulness pervades the house. The building is set well above the grade and entered from the front by a porch through a vestibule into the sitting room. This room is of good size, with the addition of an octagonal bay nine feet across. The bay is alcoved by means of artistic grille work, and fitted with built-in bookcases, altogether making a very cozy reading nook. The general aspect of the room is enlivened by an open grate. To the right is the parlor of the same size, and back of this is the dining room. To the rear of the sitting room is a chamber, furnished with a rear outlet and connected with the kitchen and dining room through a lobby. In the lobby is a dumb waiter, furnishing convenient connection with the cellar, which we reach by stairs also from the lobby, and a stationary wash bowl in the angle next the chimney. The pantry is well furnished with all the modern conveniences. The kitchen has a sink and brick-set range, with waterback and boiler, and communicates with the dining room through the lobby and china closet. A cellar is provided under the dining room eight feet deep, under the chamber seven feet deep, and under the remainder of the house six feet deep. Going up stairs, we land in a small hall, from which are accessible the three chambers, the bath room, and the stairs to the attic. The interior of the first floor is trimmed in natural finished cypress. The second floor is trimmed in white pine and painted in suitable tints. Constructionally the house is of the best, using good materials and workmanship. The cellar walls are of stone to one course above, thence a brick underpinning. The outside walls are sheathed diagonally, papered and covered with half-inch siding. The second story of the octagonal tower and the roof are covered with cypress shingles. The entire first floor is double, of yellow pine, with paper between. The plastering is of three-coat work on seasoned pine lath. The hardware of the two floors is of bronze. The painting outside is of three-coat work in colors well selected. The house is heated by a furnace placed under the dining room. Dimensions, 35x46 feet over all, except the projection of the front porch. The height of the stories is ten and eight and one-half feet respectively. Such a house can be built thus complete, in most localities, for from $2,000 to $2,600, according to style and quality of interior finish employed. Without the furnace, the cost might be considerably reduced even from this in some places. If a furnace is used, that portion of the cellar should be walled off by itself, for a warm cellar injures fruits and vegetables stored therein. [In our engravings, which explain the text very clearly, Fig. 1 presents a perspective view of the cottage. Fig. 2 shows the first floor, and Fig. 3 the second floor plan.]

FIG 1. A NEAT MODERN RESIDENCE.

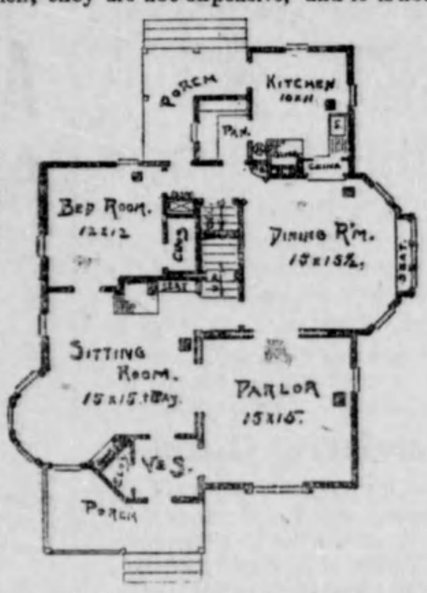

FIG 2. PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

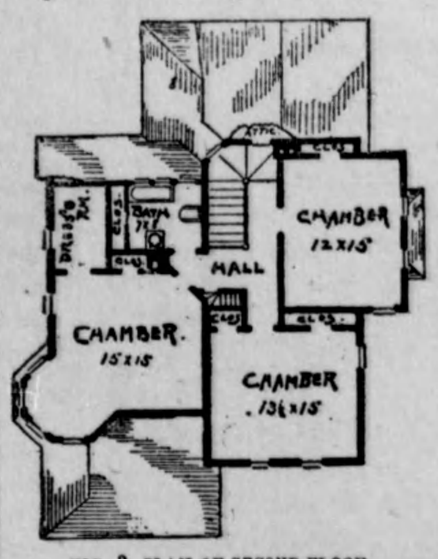

FIG. 3. PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.

CHINESE PROVERBS.

In Meaning They Bear Resemblance to English Old Saws.

The following proverbs are familiar specimens of the Chinese coinage; the English versions are also given:

"Virtue is the surest road to longevity; but vice meets with an early doom." (Virtue is its own reward.)

"Time flies like an arrow; days and months like a weaver's shuttle." (Time and tide wait for no man.)

"Let every man sweep the snow from before his own doors, and not trouble himself about the frost on his neighbor's tiles." (Mind your own business.)

"Attend to your farms and mulberry trees, that you may have sufficient food and clothing." (Take care of your business and your business will take care of you.)

"To paint a snake and add legs." (Drawing the long bow.)

"Let us get drunk to-day while we have wine; the sorrows of to-morrow may be borne to-morrow." (Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.)

"Abstain from false accusing, that the good and honest may be in safety." Bear not false witness against thy neighbor.)

"The court is like a ship at sea—everything depends upon the wind." (Put not your trust in princes.)

"For him who does everything in its proper time one day is worth three." (A stitch in time saves nine.)

"To cut off a hen's head with a battle-ax." (Much ado about nothing.)

"The truths which we least wish to hear are those which it is most to our advantage to know." (The truth is often disagreeable.)

"If you don't enter the tiger's den you cannot obtain her young." (Nothing venture, nothing win.)

"One strand of silk doesn't make a thread." (One swallow doesn't make a summer.)

"A thousand chiefs, a thousand plans." (Too many cooks spoil the broth.)

"There is a time to fish and a time to dry nets." (There's a time for all things.)

"The teacher should not leave his books or the poor man his pigs." (Let the cobbler stick to his last.)

"It thunders loudly, but little rain falls," (Much cry and little wool.)

THE RESOURCES OF CANADA.

An English Banker is Amazed at What He Has Seen and Invests two Millions in British Columbia.

More and more do the great resources of the Dominion become known to the outside world and their unsurpassed wealth appreciated by the capitalists of Great Britain. Between two and three months ago Mr. Robert Horne Payne, an eminent banker, of London, arrived in Montreal with the object of visiting our great western provinces, in order to ascertain by personal observation if the new Dominion be a profitable field in which to invest capital. Mr. Payne was accompanied by Mr. R. R. Sperling, of the metropolitan banking firm of Sperling&Co., and these gentlemen have been engaged ever since in looking over the vast undeveloped resources of the coast province, arriving back to Montreal the other day by the Canadian Pacific. Mr. Payne expresses himself as simply amazed at what he has seen in British Columbia, and so great is his faith in the future of that province that the London banker invested no less than two million dollars in different enterprises. He is of the opinion that hundreds of millions of British and foreign capital will find its way into British Columbia and the North-west within the next few years.

Conceited Japs.

Theodore Wores, the artist, lived in Japan for five or six years, and intended to return there. Now, he says, he will not. "The Japs," he says, "will be insufferably conceited if they finally whip China. The Chinese have for many years dominated them in a way which does not seem to be understood here. They have been the bankers for the Japanese, have superintended nearly all of the business affairs in Yokohama and Tokio, and the Japanese have bowed to their superior financial and commercial abilities. Every shipping house in Yokohama has had a Chinese in charge of every department, and the Chinese have always treated the Japs as a weaker and inferior people. The Japanese have always been arrogant with all other foreigners, but have ever stood hat in hand before the Chinese. Now, if they master the Chinese, there will be no living with them in comfort for any foreigner. They will want to start out and whip all creation, and will naturally begin on the foreign material at hand. I'm going to India which has already been whipped."

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

Mr. Joseph Duhamel, Q.C., the well-known Montreal lawyer, died on Tuesday morning. He was fifty-eight years of age.

The Railway Department at Ottawa has called for tenders for the construction of about nine miles of the Trent Valley canal.

The losses by fire in Ottawa for the nine months ended September 30 amounted to more than four hundred thousand dollars.

The past season of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company has been so successful that it is expected that a supplementary dividend will be declared.

Mr. Armand Larocque, one of the best-known figures in French-Canadian circles in Montreal, died suddenly on Wednesday morning. He was in his fortieth year.

A despatch has been received in Ottawa from Esquimaux Point, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, stating that Captain (Gathling-Gun) Howard is safe.

Mr. W. R. Meredith was on Wednesday sworn in as Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas of Ontario. The ceremony took place in the Parliament buildings in presence of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Oliver Mowat, Sir Thomas Galt, and Mr. G. W. Ross.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is semi-officially announced that the Princess of Wales and her daughters have taken to riding the tricycle.

Numbers of leading English and foregin Anarchists are vacating their haunts in London, and the majority are proceeding singly to America.

The London Daily News learns that Sir William Harcourt, who has returned from consulting a Wiesbaden oculist, can see better than for many years.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador to the United States, who is now in London on leave of absence, will not return to Washington until December.

A movement is under way in England to present a suitable memorial to Sir Joseph Lyster, who recently retired from active service at King's College hospital in London.

In a speech on Thursday night Home Secretary Asquith said that the statement that the Cabinet had been recently summoned to consider grave complications between Great Britain and France was the idlest fiction that had ever entered the brain of man. The statement that British diplomacy had sustained a serious rebuff in the great capitals of Europe was also utterly destitute of the smallest foundation.

UNITED STATES.

Seventeen cases of smallpox are reported at Manchester, Mich.

The statue of Gen. McClellan, Little Mac, the hero of Antietam, was unveiled on Thursday in Philadelphia.

Between two and three thousand aliens have become citizens of the United States and of Buffalo since June 1 by process of naturalization.

The Buffalo Evening News says that the free lumber clause is rapidly driving business away from Buffalo and Tonawanda to Canada.

A consignment of anti-toxin serum, the new diphtheria cure, the first to reach this continent, passed through the New York Custom house on Thursday.

Clarence and Sadie Robinson, the self-confessed murderers of Montgomery Gibbs in Buffalo, were on Tuesday jointly indicted by the grand jury for murder in the first degree.

A committee of the Bay City, Detroit, and East Tawas lumbermen will shortly wait upon the Dominion Government to protest against the Canadian duty of twenty per cent.

Inspector DeBarry, of Buffalo, has had a warrant issued for the arrest of Vice-President Metcalfe, of the Piano Manufacturing Company, of Brockport, N. Y., on the charge of importing George Dodds, an alien laborer, from Toronto.

The Very Rev. Samuel Hole, known as the Witty Dean of Rochester, who was an intimate friend of Thackeray, Dickens, Tennyson, and Leech, has arrived in New York by the steamer Majestic. He is on a lecturing tour in the United States, the proceeds of which he will devote to rebuilding the central towers of Rochester cathedral as a memorial to Charles Dickens.

GENERAL.

Prince Bismarck and his wife are enjoying excellent health.

Mgr. Boeglin, editor and proprietor of the Moniteur di Rome, will be expelled from Italy.

By the bursting of a steam-pipe on board the French cruiser Arethuse, which was being tested at Brest, six men were killed and many severely injured.

A controversy is prevailing among the scientists of France as to the exact date of the termination of the nineteenth and the commencement of the twentieth centuries.

Several heathen peasants of the village of Staraia, Russia, have been arrested and charged with murdering, beheading, and disembowelling a man whom they sacrificed to their gods.

Lieut. Count von Starhemburg, who won the military ride between Berlin and Vienna in 1892, fell from his horse on Thursday while hunting, and sustained concussion of the brain.

An Imperial decree was published at St. Petersburg on Wednesday declaring Grand Duke Michael, the third son of the Czar, heir-apparent to the throne after the accession of his brother, Grand Duke Nicholas, the Czarewitch.

George Peffer, who recently died at Pewaukee, Wis., is now subjected to his second burial. A number of years ago, while digging a well, the earth caved in, and on his broad shoulders a mass of earth rested for twenty-four hours, before he was dug out.

Figg—"Came over from England with Stillman. Always had a prejudice against that man, but got well acquainted with him on board the steamer and found him a first-rate fellow." Fogg—"Yes, nothing like a sea voyage to find what's in a man."

The Portuguese were the first to import tea into Europe, and used it early in the sixteenth century.