About the House.

INTELLIGENT COOKING.

Good living is not high living in the ordinary sense. The very acme of good living is the best presentation of good material in simple form; and in that sense it is the best and highest of living. The introduction of cookery as a branch of our public school training will start the coming generations of housekeepers in the right direction; but the crying need of the present, next to a knowledge of materials, is for housekeepers to better understand the importance of the high art of simple cookery.

Many a woman will take infinite pains in making a cake who probably could not tell of the vegetables in common use which should be put on to cook in hot water and which in cold, which should be salted at first and whichp later, and why; how each should be dressed for serving, and the difference in dressing them when young and old. Among housekeepers there are more good pie-makers than bread--makers; twenty who make pretty desserts to one who is expert in cooking meats, and fifty who make fine cake to one who understands good soup-making. Do not, because you have kept house, ten, twenty or thirty years, feel your housewifely dignity would be compromised by beginning all over again in certain things, for that is being progressive. A narrow-minded woman would not do it, be sure of that. The really useful knowledge you already possess will count for its full value; your expertness in the non-essentials is very desirable—as a supplement to more important knowledge. Of course you can cook a potato. But how? When you have really exhausted "the fine art" of cooking potatoes you have finished one fundamental branch of a splendid education. There are others of equal importance, and each alike necessary, if one would be an intelligent housekeeper.

SEASONABLE RECIPES.

Green Tomato Preserve — To one pound of fruit use three-quarters of a pound of granulated sugar. Allow one sliced lemon to two pounds of fruit, first tasting of the white of the lemon to be sure that it is not bitter. If bitter, use the yellow rind grated or shaved thin and the juice. Put the sugar on with just water enough to melt it, add the tomato and lemon and cook gently until the tomato is tender and transparent. Cut the tomatoes around in halves and then quarter the halves. This shape is preferred to slices. This will keep without sealing, but it is better to put it in small jars, as it is so rich that only a little is wanted at a time.

Canned Pears—Remove the peel and leave the stems on firm, ripe pears. Make a thin syrup in the proportion of about half a pound of sugar to a pint of water, or with even less sugar if the syrup is too sweet. Boil the pears in the syrup until soft enough to pierce easily with a broom straw. While boiling hot, carefully place the pears in the jars, stems downward, so arranged that there will be little or no space between the pears. Fill to overflowing with the hot syrup and seal.

Pickled Cauliflower — Two cauliflowers, cut up; one pint of small onions, three medium-sized red peppers. Dissolve half a pint of salt in water enough to cover the vegetables and let them stand over night. In the morning drain them. Heat two quarts of vinegar with four tablespoonfuls of mustard seed until it boils. Add the vegetables and boil for about 15 minutes, or until the cauliflower is tender enough to be pierced easily with a fork.

Grape Jelly—Wild grapes, gathered just as they begin to turn, are the best for jelly. Cultivated grapes, if fully ripe, are quite likely to disappoint one if used for jelly; the color is dark and unattractive and the compound is often a syrup rather than a jelly, but they make delicious marmalade. Wash the grapes and free them from the stems. Put them in the kettle and mash until all broken. Heat slowly and cook until the juice is well drawn out. Then place a square of cheese cloth over a colander and set the colander over a bowl. Turn in the grapes and let it drip without any pressure. Measure the juice and allow an equal measure of sugar. If wild grapes are used, allow a little more than an equal portion of sugar. Boil the juice 15 minutes. Skim and strain again, then add the sugar and boil until the surface looks wrinkled and the liquid jellies on the edge. Skim well and turn into glasses.

A PALM.

Palms will do well in a strong light without sunshine. They are often greatly injured by being kept constantly in darkened halls and in apartments that preclude the treatment essential to their health. A daily sponging of their foliage with tepid water may be given by careful hands without damage to surroundings, and if they are carried to another apartment for an hour of morning sunshine, and thoroughly showered once or twice a week, they will remain in a healthy condition, with judicious watering as demanded. Remember always that while limited and early morning sunshine brightens and invigorates the palm, strong sunshine destroys the rich, green color. Palms are easily potted, when received by express, and from a pains-taking florist—coming with the soil and roots intact, just as removed from the pot, these enveloped in excelsior and bound with twine. Provide a pot of larger size and as deep as possible—twice as deep as wide is none too much. The roots of nearly all palms run downward instead of spreading; if you have ever grown one from seed, especially a date, you have an idea of their delving propensities. They must have good drainage, as they will not remain healthy in soggy soil; place three or four inches of charcoal or broken pottery in the bottom of the pot and over this a layer of sphagnum, florist's moss, or some fibrous material to prevent the soil washing into the drainage; over this a generous layer of soil; place the palm on it and fill around with soil, water thoroughly and keep in a light, cool place but out of the sun, for a week or more. The soil should contain a large proportion of fibre—well rotted sod with the addition of some good garden loam and a little sharp sand makes a good mixture. A lighter soil is not advisable because of its drying out too rapidly. When palms are once established do not water them until the surface of the soil looks dry and shrinks slightly from the pot. Then give sufficient tepid water to thoroughly saturate the soil and to run through into the saucer, but do not allow any of the surplus water to remain. Surface watering, or a slight and frequent dribbling is ruinous to all plants, and especially so to the mass of palm. Shower them at least once a week,—better every other day, if you want them to shine as if varnished;. the bent-neck plant sprinklers are excellent, as it is necessary that every part be reached; get the largest sprinkler for best results. If not convenient to shower them so often, sponge the stems and both upper and under side of foliage three times a week with tepid water; daily sponging is better, using a soft fine sponge as least liable of all things to catch and tear the foliage. Treated in this way they will be free from red spider, which appears in dry, heated atmospheres—in fact, no pest will trouble them if the work is thorough. An occasional scale may appear; rub off the first one as soon as discovered and there will be no trouble. No plant is more free from pests than the palm, and with only half care. If small, white worms appear in the soil, give a thorough soaking with lime water, if one application does not answer, give a second. Add a piece of fresh lime as large as an orange to three gallons of water;. when dissolved and clear, pour off the clear water for use. The lime water is perfectly harmless. A saturated solution, which means all the lime the water will dissolve, will not harm the plants. Lime that has been air-slacked is worthless.

Do not repot plants oftener than once in two years, or longer if not root bound. Remove the portion of the old soil from the top without disturbing the roots, and replace with a fresh, rich soil. Do this once or twice a year, and give some good fertilizer once a month. An occasional soaking with weak soot tea, when the soil is dry, will intensify the color and gloss of the foliage. Bone meal well worked into the soil is a most excellent fertilizer; the best time to add the latter is when repotting.

A ROYAL WARDROBE.

The Prince of Wales Numbers His Suits By the Hundreds.

The Prince of Wales is by no means the dumpy little man that most of his pictures seem to indicate. It is not every man turned 50, with a forty-five inch chest, who can boast of a waist of no more than forty inches. If he occasionally appears stouter it is because he likes his clothes to be loose and easy. This is especially the case with those particular suits known as "dittoes." For these he never under any circumstances pays more than $40; A few years ago Sir Francis Knollys, his private secretary, finding that his tailors were overcharging him, fixed upon eight guineas as the uniform price for each suit. They are ordered in half-dozens at a time. There is likewise a regular and fixed price of $12 for his trousers, which under no pretext, whatsoever, save in the case of uniforms, is exceeded.

The Prince has a horror of evening dress, which he considers hideous. He prefers the style to a uniform, however, and uses twelve suits of these a year, at a fixed price of $80 a suit. Let me add that the Prince never wears any pair of trousers more than four times, and then, as the discarded clothes of royalty are not allowed to be appropriated by the valets, but are all preserved, there is a stock of thousands of them at Marlborough house.

This need surprise no one. For when King George IV. died his clothes were sold by public auction, which lasted over three weeks, there being no less than 500 fur-lined coats alone. All the Prince's clothes, old and new, are kept at Marlborough house in what are known as the "brushing room," several men being employed to look after them. All his hats, especially the old ones, are for some reason or other kept at Sandringham. He abominates the high silk hat; his favorite headgear being that which is known in this country as the "derby," and in England as the "bowler." The high hats which he wears are by preference a bell in shape and with a rather wide rolling brim.

HISTORY OF THE SOUDAN.

A LAND WASTED WITH WAR AND ALWAYS UNSETTLED.

Where Egypt at One Time Held Supremacy and Where Britain Avenged Gordon's Death—Land of the Arab and Negro.

The Soudan embraces the vast region of Africa that stetches from the Atlantic to the Red Sea and the Abyssinian highlands, and from the Sahara and Egypt proper in the north to the Gulf of Guinea, the central equatorial regions, and the Albert and Victoria Nyanza in the south. This is the home of the true negro race, though there are other pure and mixed elements in the population, derived principally from Hamitic and Semitic (Arab) stocks. The Soudan is divided into three parts, the Eastern Soudan being that portion of the area east of Wadai, mainly the basin of the Middle and Upper Nile. This part of the Soudan is also frequently styled the Egyptian Soudan. Until 1882 it formed one ill-organized province, with its capital at Khartoum. But in that year it was subdivided into four sections—(1) West Soudan, including Dar-Fur, Kordofan, Bahr-el-Ghazal (the province on a western tributary of of the White Nile south of Kordofan,) and Dongola; (2) Central Soudan, comprising Khartoum, Sennaar, Berber, Fashoda, south-east of Kordofan, and the equatorial province, stretching along the Upper Nile to the great lakes; (3) East Soudan, along the Red Sea, including Taka, Suakin and Massowah; Harar, east of Abyssinia, and north of the Somali country, abutting on the Gulf of Aden. All this region is

WATERED BY THE NILE

and its tributaries, possessing highly fertile soil, capable of yielding immense quantities of cotton, durra, indigo, sugar, rice, maize, tobacco, fruits; while Kordofan and Dar-Fur are bare and waterless, except in the rainy season, after which their wide, grassy steppes give sustenance to numerous herds of camels, cattle, sheep and goats. Besides the products mentioned, ivory, ostrich feathers, caout-chouc, salt, cloth, gums iron, gold, honey, wax and hides, are important articles of internal traffic and foreign trade. The area of this portion of the Soudan has been estimated at 2,500,000 square miles, and the total population at about 15,000,000. The Egyptians established themselves at Khartoum in 1819, and, during the next fifty years, gradually extended their power over the provinces lying west and south of the city, and were more especially active during the third quarter of this century. In 1874 Dar-Fur was conquered with the help of Zebehr Pasha, a noted slave hunter. He did not receive the reward he considered himself entitled to, and provoked insurrections in that district, and in Bahr-el-Ghazal province (1877-79) which were successively crushed by Gordon and Gessi.

The revolt of Arabi Pasha in 1881, and its consequences, loosened the hold of Egypt on the Soudan, which by Baker's annexations in 1874 and following years had gradually extended to the shores of the Victoria Nyanza.

A WIDESPREAD REBELLION

broke out in Dar-Fur, and Kordofan under Mohammed Ahmed, calling himself the Madhi, a word meaning "the guided by God." The modern Mahi is not necessarily a descendant of Ali, or a resuscitated Iman, but he puts himself forward as a prophet whose mission is to free Islam from external enemies and re-establish the pure, primitive faith. Mohammed Ahmed claimed to be the Mahdi when about 40 years old. Gradually, at his call, the eastern Soudan stirred itself against Egyptian misrule; and so it came to pass that in 1883 he seized El' Obeyd, the chief city of the Kordofan, and made it his capital. An army was sent against him by the Egyptian government, under an English officer, Hicks Pasha, in November, and was annihilated near El' Obeyd. The Mahdi's influence extended to the Red Sea shores. An Egyptian force under Count Moncrieff was routed with severe loss in the same month near Suakin; and Baker Pasha was twice disastrously defeated at Teb and Tamanieb, early in 1884; but these reverses were afterwards wiped out by the hard won successes of a British expedition under Sir G. Graham.

Meanwhile, in January, 1884, Gen. Charles George Gordon had gone at the request of Mr. Gladstone's Government, as English representative to Khartoum, to secure the withdrawal of the Egyptian garrisons from the Soudan, Egypt having, on the advice of England, agreed to give up all her possessions in the Soudan, save the Red Sea littoral. Gordon though supported by only one other English officer, gallantly maintained his position in Khartoum against the Madhi's followers, and even ventured successfully on the aggressive. He found, however, that he had attempted

AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK.

he could not leave the garrisons to fall into the hands of the Madhi, and he required reinforcement of British troops before he could drive the latter from the neighborhood of Khartoum. Timidity and indecision marked the whole of the policy of the English Government, both toward the Soudan and the Red Sea littoral. In October, 1884, when it was too late, an English expedition, under Lord Wolseley, was despatched to Khartoum and arrived in touch of it only to learn that the heroic Gordon had been assassinated two days before (January 26. 1885.) The expedition thereupon withdrew, without attempting to retaliate, but with the fall of Khartoum perished Egyptian influence in the Soudan. Since then anarchy has prevailed among the native tribes and the followers of Sheik Senussi, a Moslem confraternity of austere and fanatical doctrines, increased their power in Kordofan and the adjacent districts. One of Gordon's lieutenants, Dr. Schmitzler, known as Emin Pasha, was still holding out in the equatorial regions in 1888, when he was visited by the explorer Stanley, at the head of a relief expedition. The Madhi died at Omdurman June, 1885, and his calif, Abdullah, reigns in his stead. Sheik Senussi, of Tripoli, is said to have obtained possession of much of the Soudan; beyond this the affairs of the Soudan are obscured by mystery. In 1892 the Madhi's successor was besieged by the Senussi in Omdurman, whither the headquarters of Mahdism had been transferred.

A WASTED CONUTRY.

The extent of country governed by the Khalifa is practically the same as that originally occupied by the Egyptians. But places that were once prosperous have been laid waste and the industrious Nile dwellers have been despoiled by normal tribes. Hope has gone from the people, and they are waiting for the hand that will restore them to their own.

Gordon and Khartoum will ever be associated, and it was because of the world-wide attention which he drew upon himself when he undertook the mission and the circumstances attending his death that gave a peculiar interest to the ruined city. A great man, already famous, had undertaken what was soon found to be an impossible task; but Gordon's heroism and devotion to what he regarded as the right are revealed in his celebrated "Journals." While Gordon's primary object was to evacuate Khartoum by withdrawing the Egyptian garrisons, he was expected afterwards to establish a local form of government in the interests of Great Britain. It is shown by his journals that Gordon was opposed to the permanent retention of the Soudan by Great Britain; he thought that it should be left with decency, and the people given a man to lead them, around whom they could rally. When neither the evacuation nor the local government seemed likely of accomplishment, the British Government wished to be rid of all responsibility of the Soudan in the matter of garrisons. In fact, the instructions conveyed to Lord Wolseley were to the effect that the primary object of the expedition was to bring away General Gordon and Colonel Stewart from Khartoum. To this Gordon objected. He would not leave

THE GARRISONS TO THEIR FATE

no matter what the result might be. In his journal Gordon writes; "The more one thinks of it the more impossible does it seem for her Majesty's Government to get out of this country without extricating the garrisons and establishing some government at Khartoum." But the Government he wished was not one under the authority of Great Britain. He thought the country should be given to the Turks, or to Zebehr Pasha, to govern, but not Egypt, as in a couple of years there would be another Mahdi.

It has been stated that the conquest of the Soudan means also the retention, of Egypt, and that France is looking with eager eyes in the same direction. When Egyptian finances were in a muddle some years ago a dual English and French control was established, and the finances were placed entirely under European management It will also be recalled that in 1882, during the Arabi revolt. British and French warships were despatched to Alexandria to overawe the rebels. Arabi persisted in the rebellion despite the order sent him to desist, and the French sailed away in dismay. The French took no share in the bombardment, in the military expedition, or in direct co-operation with England in the re-arrangement of Egyptian affairs, and it is a question what steps they will take now to establish their claim.

THE MILD LONDON "PEELER."

Never Draws His Club Except on Extraordinary Provocation.

Foreigners are always impressed by the power of the London policeman as he lifts a magisterial hand and directs the congested traffic. They do not know that there are times when this demi-god faces a raging mob, and risks his life rather than use force in the discharge of his duty. The arrest of a disorderly woman is no unusual event, but it gave great umbrage to the public spirit of Drummond street on Friday night.

The constable who had the woman in charge was attacked by the Somers Town gang, and, though reinforced by four comrades, would surely have had the worst of the encounter if one of the policemen had not drawn his truncheon. Nobody was hurt by this weapon, which caused the crowd to hold off; but in the meantime the champions of Somers Town had been letting fly with bottles, and it was their Spanish gunnery, not their lack of spirit, which did no damage to the police. The Somers Town gang are happy, no doubt, if they can lay open anybody's head with broken glass, though, for choice, they would rather hit the official target.

The story illustrates the self-control of the London policeman; but we wish the truncheon had been used earlier in the struggle. Forbearance is wasted on the heroes from Somers Town. They would have been none the worse for a broken head or two and Drummond street would be less eager in its sympathy with disorderly ladies if they knew that a constable, when facing great odds, would use his truncheon without hesitation.

ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

Old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly—Interesting Happenings of Recent Date.

Australian rabbitskins are being converted into sealskins for the American market

London is to have soon its first roof garden. Charles Wyndham will be the innovator, in his new theatre near Leicester Square.

A Protestant monastery is to be erected by the Duke of Newcastle, who is a strong High Churchman, at East Markham, in Nottinghamshire.

On the day the Czar unveiled the memorial to Alexander II. in Moscow the first train of the Siberian Railroad reached Irkutsk and Lake Baikal.

Cargoes of New Zealand and Australian butter recently shipped to London have been reshipped to their starting points, as the home price for butter is now much higher than the English prices obtainable.

Rome expects an unpleasant sensation on the publication of the memoirs of Mgr. Pila Carrocci, a sharp-tongued abbe of the old school who died recently. He knew all the scandals of sixty years, and, it is feared, wrote them down.

Red Scotch granite from Peterhead is to be employed for the national monument which the Transvaal is to erect to Pretoria to commemorate the repulse of Jameson's raid, and an Aberdeen firm has been found ready to provide the granite and execute the work. The Boer's sense of humor seems stronger than the Scotchman's.

Germany is bound to lose no chance in the grab for territory. The deep-sea expedition recently sent into Arctic waters surveyed part of Bear Island south of Spitzbergen, and thereupon took possession of it in the name of the German Empire .The island was discovered by Barents, a Dutchman, 300 years ago, and has been used for many years by the Norwegians as a fishing station.

A torpedo boat destroyer, the Hailung, built by the Schichaus in Germany for the Chinese Government, made, according to the London Times, 33.6 knots on its trial trip, with its armament and equipment and sixty-seven tons of coal on board. No details of the performance are given, though this is by far the highest speed ever attained by anything afloat, save the Turbinia, being equivalent to 38 2-3 miles an hour.

Having started the report that Queen Victoria intends to confer the Order of the Garter on Queen Wihelmina of the Netherlands, some over-proper English newspapers are worried as to where the young Dutch Queen will wear her garter. Queen Victoria wears hers on her arm. The Order has rarely, if ever, been conferred on a woman in modern times. Queen Victoria has abstained from giving it to any of her daughters or to any other Queen regnant.

Kaiser Wilhelm has struck another blow at the French. A recent army order commands the suppression of the terms Premier Lieutenant and Second Lieutenant and the substitute of Ober and Unter Lieutenant instead. The title remains, therefore, half German and half French, and First Lieutenants will be easily confused with Lieutenant-Colonels, Oberst Lieutenant. An imperial attempt at Germanizing the French title Lieutenant would have been interesting.

A Montpellier court has had to decide a suit between Saint Anthony and Saint George. A rich manufacturer of the town wished to erect a chapel in memory of his dead son, and to dedicate it to his patron, Saint George. He arranged with the prior of a neighboring convent to contribute 60,000 francs for the building. The prior thought he could do a stroke of business by interesting in the work the devotees of Saint Anthony of Padua, and on the completion of the chapel, though it was dedicated to Saint George, the statue placed over the entrance was that of Saint Anthony. The manufacturer objected; the prior would not give way; the matter was taken into court, and a writ of ejection has been issued against Saint Anthony.

Frau Regina Deixner died recently at Werschetz in south Hungary at the age of 111 years. The death notice read as follows: "Filled with grief, we inform all relatives and friends of the decease on Aug. 22 of our beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother and great-great-great-grandmother," followed by the signatures of three sons, two daughters, thirty-five grandchildren, ninty great-grandchildren, twelve of the fourth and three of the fifth generation, in all 145 living persons directly sprung from her, besides those of their husbands and wives. She had lived under the Emperor Joseph II., Leopold II. and Francis I. of the Holy Roman Empire and under Francis I., Ferdinand V. and Francis Joseph I., Emperors of Austria.

SHE HOLDS THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

You don't mean to tell me that Doemy's wife circulates more gossip than he does? It seems impossible.

Not at all. She can talk a third faster than he can.