FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND.

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

What Is Going on in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

Andrew Carnegie has offered the Dumbarton Library Committee £600 to build a new library. The offer has been accepted, and a site is being looked for.

The Marquis of Bute has offered the Town Council of Millport the option of purchasing the pier on behalf of the town for the sum of £500 on certain conditions.

An effort is being made to rebuild Kippford Pier, Dalbeattie, and deepen the accommodation for steamers with the prospect of a regular service being established with the Isle of Man.

Miss Naughton, who has for the last twenty-one years been on the staff of the Dumbarton Post-office, has been appointed postmistress of Gimavedy, sixteen miles from Londonderry.

The destination of the 17th Lancers, at present stationed at Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh, has been changed from Cairo to India. The regiment will stay in Edinburgh in the meantime.

The new bridge over the Urr near Stepend has now been completed, and is proving a great boon to the district. The expense was shared equally between Urr (landward) and Buittle parishes.

The death is announced of Moses Hunter, senior, of the firm of John Hunter & Son, Glasgow, and probably the oldest representative of the local flour trade, in which he has occupied a prominent place for over half a century.

James Brown, who has for many years been master of works on the Doors estates, as well as manager of the home farm, has taken a lease of the farm of Coupland, near Ancrum, of which the Duke of Roxburghe is proprietor.

The Duke of Portland has purchased the barony and estate of Grougar, in the parish of Kilmarnock, from the trustees of the late William White. The estate contains upwards of 3,000 acres, and is cultivated in suitable farms by desirable tenants. The price was £69,000.

Mr Carnegie, in a letter to a Dunfermline temperance society, states he gives a bonus of 10 per cent. on their yearly wages to all employes on the Skibo estate who are abstainers. He believes such men are well worth their bonus from an economic and social point of view.

[illegible] has been added to Paisley Library an addition costing on £8,000, gifted by James [illegible] of Auchendrane. The new [illegible] will have accommodation for 80,000 volumes, compared with 40,000 in the old premises. The formal opening has been provisionally fixed for the third week in October.

The death has taken place at Cranfield, near Dumfries, of John [illegible], for over 30 years factor for Sir Chandler Gregson on Rockhall [illegible]. Deceased, who was 79 years of age, had for many years taken a great part in county government, having served continuously on the Dumfries County Council from 1892 to two years ago.

[illegible] to the increase of population in the mining centre of Cowie, Bannockburn, the St. Ninian's School Board have built a new school, and the other day it was formally opened by Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart, Bart., M.P. The new school, which has been built from plans by Mr Ronald Walker, Stirling, has cost £1,500, and gives an accommodation for 308 pupils.

Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart, of Paisley, has appointed to the vice-principalship of the Troyeville school, Doornfontein, Johannesburg. This school, at present in course of construction, and will cost £18,000, irrespective of the site, and will be one of the finest schools in the Transvaal. Mr Stewart went to Africa two years ago, and has served in the High school, Aliwal North, and the Grey and Suburban school, Johannesburg.

The burgh treasurer has received a bank draft for the sum of £20, being a subscription to the "Hector Macdonald National Memorial Fund," from the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 5th Royal Scots of Canada Highlanders. He has also received a communication from Colonel Mackintosh, 2nd Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs), Richmond Barracks, Dublin, stating that the regiment has collected the sum of £15.

CZAR'S GIFT TO WAR FUND.

Gifts a Small Portion of His Immense Possessions.

The Czar has donated $20,000,000 to the Russian Treasury, to be used as a part of the enormous expenses of the Russo-Japanese war.

[illegible] this will not make the Czar poor. Nobody knows the exact amount of his immense fortune, but it is a fact that Nicholas II. owns [illegible] hundred palaces and castles scattered in all parts of his great empire. On these estates he gives work to 32,000 servants, cooks, [illegible] valets, grooms and gardeners. The wages of this army of employes amount to more than $4,000,000 a year. In his private stables he has 5,500 carriage and saddle horses, and he owns more than 50,000 head of cattle.

The Czar himself knows only a small part of his chateaus, and has only visited thirty-eight of the hundred palaces belonging to him. Should necessity arise he has declared that he will sell half of them or more to raise money for the war, if Russia's foreign credit should become exhausted.

Satan probably had a good excuse for not learning to skate.

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

A Vivid Contrast of the "Old Time Religion" and the New.

(Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Four, by [illegible] at Toronto, at the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.)

A despatch from Los Angeles, Cal., says, Rev. [illegible] De Witt Talmage preached here [illegible] the following text:—"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

[illegible] depressing and benumbing [illegible] maxim propagated by some [illegible] progressive people as the rule of [illegible] regret and life, that what was good enough for our fathers should be good enough for us." I would [illegible] no man in my revered [illegible] Memory of the sainted dead [illegible] dust lies in our cemeteries [illegible] flowers are there too [illegible] family plots, no epitaphs too [illegible] and or too reverent to [illegible] virtues, nor, when [illegible] adequate, any [illegible] proposing to enshrine [illegible] I have always found [illegible] that if a son [illegible] the memory of a good mother he will not respect the [illegible] becomes the mother [illegible] children.

In the [illegible] place, I protest against the [illegible] which is undermining the [illegible] stones of our ancestral Sabbath. Its desecrators have [illegible] and down the length and breadth [illegible] the land asserting that [illegible] ship can become as [illegible] dissipation as drink [illegible] overexercising can be. They [illegible] a wrong application of [illegible] words that the "Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath." They affirm that [illegible] business man who has been [illegible] work for at least six days [illegible] week from 7 o'clock in the morning [illegible] sometimes until 10 o'clock at night to be compelled [illegible] up on Sunday in [illegible] Sunday school, then [illegible] two long church [illegible] and then perhaps to attend a Christian Endeavor society.

They [illegible] that Sunday should be a day [illegible] and that what a man [illegible] the Sabbath day is recreation. Sunday [illegible] should go to bed later [illegible] hot bath with his mind [illegible] at ease. As he [illegible] he should be able to say to himself: "Now, I can lie here as long as I please. If I awake at 9 o'clock I can sleep to 12 [illegible] right. If I can't sleep to 12 [illegible] still. Then after Lawake I have a cup of coffee and a roll [illegible] brought to my bedside, and I will [illegible] little and then stay in bed [illegible] hour, reading the newspapers. After dinner I will take my [illegible] out to one of the public [illegible] drawn by the seaside [illegible] bath and a view of the [illegible] valleys and hillsides, [illegible] one of our great art galleries [illegible] at the pictures. It is important [illegible] me to go and see the sculptors' masterpieces [illegible] another day. Therefore [illegible] hours should be open. Then in the evening [illegible] church if I feel like [illegible] desire to do so. I [illegible] again and rest—yes, [illegible] with a system of rest [illegible] I shall be [illegible] and small results [illegible] the next Monday morning [illegible] year in mind, more [illegible] lovely, the human race [illegible] God himself. That," says one [illegible] "is my idea of the Sabbath." I do not think a [illegible] has a right to [illegible] day of hard work [illegible] so that he works [illegible] Sabbath than he does [illegible] of the week."

THE LORD'S DAY.

In the second place, against [illegible] clamor which would eliminate [illegible] our lives the divine [illegible] from the welfare of others. [illegible] iconoclastic hands have been running the foundation stones of [illegible] Sabbath. Aye, God have been doing [illegible] been sneering and [illegible] beautiful parable of [illegible]. They have [illegible] a man's neighbor [illegible] family which lives next door [illegible]. The only neighbor who [illegible] he would recognize [illegible] or child who lives within [illegible] walls of his own house. He [illegible] been asserting that [illegible] in life is to him [illegible]. After the members of his family have eaten [illegible] a well filled ward-robe [illegible] comfortable house to live [illegible] has fulfilled his chief end. [illegible] His doctrine is, "Care for [illegible] self and let others care for [illegible] themselves in the same way."

THE BEAUTIFUL IDOL.

"Can [illegible] come out of such a Nazareth?" [illegible] once read of a great conqueror [illegible] a country of the far east. [illegible] the day he entered a temple [illegible] stood an idol so beautiful that [illegible] one of his followers was willing [illegible] to destroy it. With an oath the conqueror said, "If you will [illegible] my commands. I will destroy it myself." He lifted his battle axe. As he raised himself in his stirrups—for he had ridden his horse into the temple—with a mighty blow he shattered the idol into a thousand pieces. Then, to his followers' surprise, he revealed the fact that the inside of the idol was not a vacuum. It had been filled with thousands upon thousands of golden coins, which as a lava bed burst from the broken statue and rolled to the feet of the western iconoclast. The iconoclast who destroys the beautiful image of charity and benevolence may think that he, too, will be able to grasp the wealth which it pours forth on the needy and the suffering, but he will be disappointed. The economy which refuses to give help to those who need prove a canker to prosperity, and those who withhold their charity come to poverty. The command is that he who loves God love his brother also, and the converse is true that he who does not love his brother proves that he does not love his God.

The daintiest delicacies ever cooked in the mother's stove were not for the growing boys, with healthy, vigorous appetites. They were for the poor consumptive young girl who used to sit day after day upon the neighbor's veranda in the noon sun, smiling at us as we trudged away to school. My, how we cast longing eyes at those jellies! We then at times almost wished we could be sick, at least for a little while, to get a taste of them. And how warm and comfortable the mittens looked which mother knitted for the poor children living over the hill! And when the farmer who lived down in the valley was prostrated with typhoid fever and lay for months, hovering between life and death, don't you remember how your father and the neighbors took turns plowing his fields and sowing his grain and getting in his harvests? They say that that sick man was once a strong athlete. However that may be, when upon his sick bed he heard what his neighbors had done and how they had kept the wolf of hunger from his door he cried like a little child. He became just such a sick man as Ralph Connor depicted in one of his backwoods tales.

Then the funerals of our fathers and forefathers. They never allowed a neighbor to be buried like a dog or a friendless pauper, as sometimes we do. No. They literally practiced the gospel rule: "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting." When their neighbors wept, they wept. When their neighbors were lowered into their open graves, they themselves held the ropes that gently let down the coffins. Was not their way better than our way? We live and breathe only for self. Was not the Christian helping hand our forefathers extended to the troubled ones in their midst better than the icy stare with which we regard our neighbors? We grumble in a street car because we have to wait for two minutes while a funeral procession, wending its way to the cemetery, is holding us at a crossing. The Golden Rule which our forefathers practiced should never be allowed to slip out of our lives. The sick man who lives next door to us should be just as carefully cared for and nursed by us as if he was our own son.

CLUBHOUSE VERSUS HOME.

Do you, my brother, think for one instant that the advent of the modern clubhouse and public reception hall and Delmonico banquets is a moral improvement for modern men over the old fashioned quilting parties and merrymaking frolics which once made the rafters of the old farmhouse creak like the beams of a ship at sea and bend almost like William Tell's bow? Do you think this? I do not. I believe that any enjoyment which a man is compelled systematically to find outside of the society of his wife and children and home is a depleting, enervating and ultimately degrading enjoyment. A believe that any enjoyment which systematically makes a mother relegate the care of her children to nursegirls and to hired hands is an enjoyment which is poisoned, through and through by evil influences which will ultimately bring forth harvestings not for God, but for Satan. I believe this tendency of the human race, this evil poison almost everywhere prevalent, to find enjoyment anywhere, everywhere except by your own fireside, will ultimately result in a second downfall of man as dramatic and overwhelming and complete as when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree unless man himself, by the grace of God, halts and learns again to find his chief pleasures in the associations of his wife and children within the four walls of his own home. I once heard father say to my mother, "I hope after we are dead that our children will believe we have loved them and have wanted to be with them more than with any one else on earth." They lived for us. Yes, our parents lived for us. May we be like the old folks. May we find our chief enjoyment not only in living for our children, but also in the companionship of our children, no matter how old or how young they may be. May modern society not be involuted into the pleasures of a clubhouse or a public reception hall, but be evolved into the sanctified enjoyments of a Christian home.

WORLDLY SUCCESS.

O man, I ask of you one question. It is a blunt question. Will you answer me? What would you sooner have had your father to be—a great speaker, a great financier, a great general or a simple, noble, pure hearted and devoted servant of Christ as he was and is to-day in heaven? You answer well. There is but one right answer. Then, if the noble, pure, gentle Christian life of your father meant so much to you, can you not, will you not give to your boy the same Christian heritage? By the sacred altar of God's love will you not follow their example? Will you not carry out the dying wishes of your new redeemed and glorified parents and consecrate yourself to your Divine Master? Will you not here and now lead your boys and girls to the feet of Christ and consecrate them to the Master also? Shall not the chief purpose of your Christian parents in reference to their children be duplicated in the chief purpose of your life, to bring to Christ your children and your children and your children's children? To-day let us have some of the old fashioned purposes and ways and habits of our forefathers. When we are dying may we never be ashamed to utter the words which Dwight L. Moody said to his children. You all have read them: "May we not be ambitious to make money. May we not be ambitious for worldly fame and honors. May we simply be ambitious to find a consecrated, earnest place to work in God's vineyard and have in that vineyard our wives, our children and all our friends working by our side in the Master's name." That purpose is a noble purpose. That purpose God will bless as he has blessed that holy purpose in the lives of the old fashioned folks who are now in heaven awaiting the home coming of their children. That purpose forms the true foundation, the maker and builder of which is the living and true and pardoning and redeeming and ascended and glorified Christ. May God answer the fulfillment of this prayer for pulpit and pew alike.

THE WOMEN OF JAPAN.

Social Barriers of Feudalism Swept Away by the War.

There may be better workers than the Japanese women, but I have not seen them, and their work during the present war cannot be measured by any ordinary scale of human values, says a letter from Japan.

With characteristic nicety of detail they set about the work at hand, seeking neither praise nor criticism as they solve their problems. Possibly they have their petty jealousies like other women, and their differences to adjust, but these are not in evidence, and no machine could run so smoothly if not well oiled.

Their wisdom and foresight in large and small matters are as remarkable as the nation's preparedness for war, and it is the more wonderful when you consider that many of them have been reared in luxurious ease and most of them in close seclusion.

A few have gone out into the world with their husbands since the Restoration; a few more have participated in official life at home, but the majority knew nothing of work prior to this war. With an ability that challenges the admiration of foreigners on the spot, they stepped into the arena with the fighting men.

The barriers of feudalism that made it impossible for a woman of rank to associate with one of no rank, or to come into personal contact with the lower classes, are removed forever. Even the imperial princesses work side by side with the wives of army and navy officers, officials, merchants and teachers. They are banded together in a common cause—Japan in the hour of need!

Of course rigid etiquette is observed in the outward formality of rising and bowing when the imperial princesses enter and leave the room on the occasion of gatherings to do Red Cross work. No conversation is addressed to them, and they work at tables with their ladies in waiting, with whom they chat, as others do throughout the room, no further restriction being imposed.

And this in a land where but forty years ago the eyes of the Mikado's subjects could not look upon his face, and the imperial court was as securely safeguarded from the outer world as the sacred confines of Lhasa have been up to the present time.

GENERAL MA POPULAR.

Empress of China Marks Him Out for Favors at Court.

General Ma, whose name has been the subject of many indifferent, not to say painful, jests, is apparently in high favor with the Emperor and Empress of China. As a token of their appreciation of his conduct since the commencement of the war—during which period he has adopted an attitude of stern neutrality—their Majesties have presented the general with two pieces of the finest gauze, wherewith to make a suit of summer clothes, as well as a gilded fan, on one side of which is a painting by the Empress-Dowager and on the other a poem by the Emperor himself. The latter, it is chronicled, bears the title, "A Wall of Defence to the Empire," a delicate compliment to the general's strategic skill in guarding the environs of Pekin. The talk in mandarin circles now is that if General Ma acts with discretion he may, in the fulness of time, obtain a viceroyalty for the mere asking.

JACK FROST BY MACHINERY.

It is no longer necessary to wait for cold weather to secure a supply of ice. It can be produced easily and cheaply in the warmest weather by chemical processes. In those localities where in former years the harvesting of ice for market was carried to enormous proportions, the total quantity cut of late years has dwindled rapidly.

The advantages offered by chemistry and modern machinery for the production of ice and the perfect control of temperature at whatever degree desired, when and wherever needed, irrespective of climatic conditions, render their mechanical acquirements cheaper than can be obtained from natural ice when transportation from remote districts, cost of storing, and the great wastage of original bulk through melting are taken into consideration. In all manufacturing necessity for cooling and for maintaining uniform degrees of temperature, as well as certainty of control of such conditions, together with their greater economy, present systems of artificial refrigeration are crowding Nature out of the field of competition and reducing the latter to chiefly local value.

The Home

SELECTED RECIPES.

Molasses Drop Cakes—One cup molasses, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup mixed shortening, 1 cup sour milk, 3 eggs, 2 teaspoons soda, 1 tablespoon ginger, salt to suit. Mix thick enough to drop into pans clean from the spoon.

Buttercup Cake.—Cream three-quarters of a cup of butter with a cup of sugar until very light. Add the beaten yolks of three eggs, and whip to a smooth batter. Stir in a cup of lukewarm milk (or water). To this add two cups of flour sifted three times, with two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Beat into this the egg and milk mixture; finally fold in the whites, whipped to a standing froth. Stir in very lightly, and with few strokes. Bake in layer tins.

Kalops.—For this any small scraps of beef can be utilized, even from the toughest parts. Put some fat into the pot; salt and pepper each piece of meat, and arrange in a layer in the pot. Over this sift flour, and scatter finely cut onions and a few bay leaves. Repeat until all the meat is in. If there are some bones these may also be put in to give strength to the gravy. Pour water—not too much—down by the side so as not to wash off the herbs. Cook slowly, and covered, stirring frequently, adding water as it boils away. The toughest meat will be tender and juicy if prepared in this way.

Jellied Bouillon.—In serving bouillon in hot weather make it the day before; when cold remove all grease, and set the bowl on ice, adding a tablespoonful of prepared gelatin to each pint; break into irregular bits and half fill the cups with this jelly, which must not be stiff, but only a little set. Such bouillon needs much higher seasoning than when served hot, otherwise it is insipid. Sherry wine, spices, cayenne, and lemon juice should be added to the usual seasoning of herbs. The addition of gelatine is better than to make the bouillon too heavy with meat. Where preferred, the best beef extract may be used, gelatine and seasoning added, and the whole boiled a few minutes.

Cream Candy—Boil, without stirring, two pounds of granulated sugar; one-third pint of water; four tablespoonfuls of vinegar; butter the size of an egg, and one tablespoonful of glycerine. When in dropping in cold water it quickly hardens, add a small teaspoonful of cream of tartar, pour into buttered plates, and pour two tablespoonfuls of vanilla over top. Pull when cool enough.

Cuban Eggs—This recipe is for six people: Use eight eggs, one teaspoonful of minced onion, four tablespoonfuls of sausage meat or minced bacon, one-half teaspoonful salt, and one-eighth teaspoonful of pepper. Cook the meat and onion together thoroughly over a hot fire five minutes; beat the eggs thoroughly, and add the seasoning; put the pan on a cooler part of the stove, and pour in the eggs; stir till the eggs become thick and creamy, then pour over buttered toast and serve.

A way of cooking beefsteak that is a wee bit tough was accidentally stumbled upon one day. Company came when it was too late to order, and the contents of cupboard and refrigerator were very lim. Two ends of porter-house steak were hastily run through the meat chopper, using the medium knife. A coffee cup of rice was put on to cook in salted boiling water, then the rest of the dinner was prepared and ready to serve before the meat was cooked. Have skillet smoking hot, and grease just enough with butter to keep from sticking, stir in chopped meat, and stir until meat is cooked through; one or two minutes is long enough. Heat meat plater and place meat in centre of plate, heaping it up with a lump of butter on top, then salt and pepper to taste. Make a border of the rice around the plate and serve together. Sometimes I serve maccaroni with the meat instead of rice. None of it is ever wasted, and twice a week is not too often to serve it to my family. Round steak is a good steak to buy to chop if you have no odds and ends to use.

USES FOR GREEN GRAPES.

Green Grape Jam.—Stem the grapes and let them simmer in a porcelain kettle with just enough water to keep them from burning. When soft, rub through a colander, then through a sieve, and measure. To every pint allow three-fourths of a pound of granulated sugar, and boil them steadily together for fifteen minutes, stirring constantly to prevent scorching. Seal hot in small fruit jars, or if preferred, it may be turned into jelly glasses, and when cold, sealed like jelly.

Green Grape Jelly.—The grapes for this should be gathered when just beginning to turn ripe. Stem them, wash and cook with a cupful of water in a preserving kettle for half an hour or until soft. Let them cool a little, then put them, a little at a time, through a jelly strainer, pressing hard to extract all the juice. Measure the liquid and allow one and one-half cupfuls of best granulated sugar to each two cupfuls of juice. Bring the juice quickly to the boiling point, and boil rapidly twenty minutes, then draw the kettle to the back of the range and add the sugar (which should be made very hot in the oven while the juice is boiling), stirring steadily until it is dissolved. Return to the fire and boil briskly for two minutes, pour into jelly glasses and set aside where it will not be disturbed for two days then cover.

Green Grape Catsup.—Select grapes just beginning to turn ripe. Stem, scald and strain them. To five pound grapes allow two and one-half pounds of sugar, one pint of vinegar, one tablespoonful each of cinnamon, cloves, allspice, salt and pepper; boil until rather thick and seal at once. Tie the spices in a piece of muslin.

Green Grape Chutney.—Seed two pounds of green grapes and put them in a preserving kettle with one and one-half pounds of chopped green apples. Add four ounces of salt, one ounce of garlic, one teaspoonful of onion juice, one ounce each of grated ginger and horseradish, half a teaspoonful of cayenne and one pint of best vinegar. Cook slowly until reduced to a pulp, turn into an earthen bowl; add half a pint of brown sugar, cover and let stand for one week, stirring daily. Then seal tightly in small jars.

Spiced Green Grapes.—Stem four pounds of grapes, scald and strain them. Put them in a preserving kettle with one cupful of water, mash them slightly to extract the juice, simmer slowly until soft. Then strain through a coarse sieve, pressing all the pulp through. Return to the fire with two pounds of brown sugar, one pint of vinegar, and one tablespoonful each of cinnamon and allspice. Simmer for twenty minutes and seal.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

If sticky fly paper is turned wrong side up on floor, carpet or furniture, it may be removed with benzine.

A particularly good layer cake is the result of stirring grated cocoanut into the chocolate filling made to put between the layers.

A sandwich dear to childhood is simply bread, butter, and sugar, with a liberal sprinkling of powdered cinnamon. Try this for the school lunch basket.

A handful of dates is an excellent addition to the lunch basket. Also an envelope full of shelled nuts. Soft dairy cheese now comes in tiny pots costing five cents. One pot should serve for two days' luncheon; the little pots afterwards serving to hold jellies and preserves.

Brass may be polished with electrolicium moistened to a paste with lemon juice and water. Apply with a flannel cloth, let stand a few minutes, then rub with dry flannel and polish with chamois.

An old Scotch woman keeps her preserves from moulding by pouring a little pure glycerine on the surface after the preserves have cooled. This is said to be both sure and good.

Sometimes, in a small bedroom, to have a window up during the night means a direct draft upon the head, which makes the occupant fearful of taking cold. Set a screen before the window, have a piece of table oilcloth the width of the window, sew small brass rings to each corner and have corresponding nails in the frame to slip them over. The oilcloth should be wide enough to reach half way up the sash, and if tinhtacks are used instead of nails the window frame will not be defaced.

JAPANESE BEANS.

Few of Them Would be Enough for an Army.

It is all very well to be told that the Japanese soldiers can get along with tea and a handful of rice or beans or dried fish. But has anyone met a Japanese bean face to face? An American horticulturist, who has been experimenting with them, has produced a vegetable measuring 42 inches and filling a quart measure. That explains the whole mystery. The Jap soldier starts out on his day's pursuit of the Russian with a bean strapped around his belt, and when meal time arrives, bites off a foot or two, according to his appetite. We must always remember the size of these things. A recent writer of Manchuria tells of his surprise at hearing that a cabbage was on its way to him from an admiring friend. He did not quite appreciate the gift till he found that it weighed 400 pounds and lasted a good-sized family, with friends and relatives thrown in, a whole winter.

DON'T GRUMBLE.

How full the world is of grumblers! The same people who are grumbling this summer because it is warm will grow next winter because it is cold. There is no point between zero and the nineties that suits them. If skies are clear, somebody needs rain; if the showers descend, somebody's feathers are ruffled. It would add much to our happiness and detract much from the fatal tendency to grow old if we would strive after contentment and cease worrying over the inevitable.

The truly happy are the happy-go-lucky, who take everything as it comes and make the best of it. If it rains, all that is left to do is to put up our umbrella, if we are so fortunate as to have one, and trudge along. Wet feet and bedraggled skirts won't kill one any more than poverty and drudgery will, if there is something within us too sunshiny for poverty to cloud and too noble for drudgery to debase. The person who spends his life scolding because things do not go to suit him is like the fly on the king's chariot wheel. Things may not be planned exactly for the comfort of the fly, but his protest will never stop the procession. The best tactics for flies and grumblers to pursue is to take what comes along and be glad that it is no worse.

IT'S SOMETIMES THAT WAY.

She was surprised when she heard of the engagement and she showed it.

"Why, I was perfectly satisfied in my own mind that you liked Tom better than George," she said.

"Well, to tell the truth, I did" replied the engaged girl.

"But you say you are engaged to George?"

"Yes, that's true."

"Well, I don't understand it at all."

"Why, it's very simple. You see, George was the one who proposed."

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, OCT 23.

Text, of the Lesson, II. Kings v., 1-14. Golden Text, "Jer. xvii., 14.

A man of God is not only one who is wholly the Lord's, as His messenger, His faithful witness, but if he is truly a man of God he is supremely indifferent to the titles, positions or rewards of men, as Elisha in this lesson. The contrast is between the captain of the host of the king of Syria, a great and honorable man, a mighty man in valor, but a leper, and the humble man of God, unknown to the world as such, yet in touch with God Himself.

The connecting link is the little Israelitish maid who had been taken captive by the Syrians and was acting as maid to Naaman's wife. Over all and through all is the God of Israel, who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will, and who only doeth wondrous things (Eph. i. 11; Pas. lxxii., 18).

A leper is in human estimation hopelessly unclean and as a rule doomed to a slow and lingering death. The disease is the most remarkable type of sin in Scripture. Consider the most honorable man of wealth of whom you know or have heard, held in great esteem by his fellows, if he is an unsaved sinner, a spiritual leper, and should depart this life as such, see his future described by our Lord Himself in Luke xvi., 22-23, and see also Rev. xiv., 10; xx., 15.

A million times rather be the little captive maid of Israel, knowing the God of Israel, than the leper Naaman, even though so great a man, but not knowing God. "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matt. xvi., 26.). The little captive maid might have pined and fretted because of her captivity, but she seems instead to have felt more for her master, who was a leper, than for herself, and with a heart-felt desire for his healing she said to her mistress, "Would God, my Lord, that is Samaria, for He would recover him of his leprosy" (verse 3). I have seen little girls of ten or twelve years in Porto Rico who go from house to house among the neighbors singing, "Peace to this house," and then ask the privilege of singing of Jesus and of reading about Him from His word. How this Israelitish maid and such children as these put to shame many Christians who never speak of Christ even under the most favorable circumstances. How is it, that the love of Christ does not more fully constrain us? To know Him, and do we in a separate life Him? The messenger maid reached Naaman, and his master, the king of Syria, sent him to the king of Israel with great pomp, bearing a letter from the king of Syria and taking with him a present of much silver and gold and costly raiment. But "the man was wroth" and said, "I thought, Naaman, my servant, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy" (verse 6). The misunderstanding king of Syria, king of Israel, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive?" Truly man, even of a king, in such a case, God heard of it and said to the king of Israel, "Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel" (verse 8). So he came in his pomp and stood at the door of the house of Elisha, thinking that the prophet would come out and with some great demonstration call on the name of the Lord, his God and make him whole. Oh, these thoughts of ours as to our own importance and as to how God ought to work or as to what might happen. See even Abraham learning by his thoughts (Gen. xx., 1). Hear our Lord's question, "What do thoughts arise in your hearts?" Luke xxiv., 38) and note carefully Jer. xxii., 11; II Cor. x, 5.

When Elisha sent a messenger to tell Naaman what to do, assuring him that if he did so he would be clean and his flesh like a little child, that in anger he had his blessing his servants. Do as he bid the prophet is offered to reward the prophet Elisha. "As the Lord liveth before whom I stand, I will receive none" (verse 16). We think of Abram blessed by Melchisedec with the blessing of the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth, and refusing to take a thing of Sodom (Gen. xiv, 22, 23; xv. 1). Contrast the baseness and the covetousness of Gehazi as told in the rest of the chapter, but note in the last verse his punishment. Our Lord said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke xii. 15). Again it is written, "Godliness with contentment is great gain; having food and raiment, let us be therewith content" (I Tim. vi, 6, 8), but there are few who seem to believe these words. Even among those who bear the name of Christ there are not wanting those who manifest the spirit of Gehazi. The Elishas and Abrams are very rare; but inasmuch as every one of us shall give account of himself to God (Rom. xiv. 12) it should not concern us so much as to others as it should as to ourselves. How do I stand before God? What does He see that I am seeking? Should be the great questions. Is it easily seen that I am standing before Him living unto Him?

A silk hat that's worn all night loses its nap.

Sunbeams of wit quickly melt the ice of sarcasm.

WHY THE JAPS SUCCEED

EVERYTHING IS CAREFULLY PRE-ARRANGED.

Smallest Details of Workmanship Are Never Overlooked.

Geo. Kennan, writing in the New York Outlook, says every great move made by Japan during the present war was pre-arranged. This prearrangement appears to apply to everything in the land of the Mikado. Recently a distinguished party, including a number of foreign press correspondents, were invited to take a trip on a Japanese transport for the purpose of visiting Japan's arsenal and naval bases. In describing what followed, Mr. Kennan says: "Capt. Takarabi, of the Manshumaru, with half a dozen of his officers, was on the platform to meet us; three large, comfortable steam launches were waiting to take us off to the steamer, and a systematic pre-arrangement had been made for the collection, transportation and orderly distribution of hand baggage and trunks. When we reached the Manshumaru we found, at the head of the companionway, a complete passenger list, in Japanese and English, with assignments to staterooms, as well as a plan of the saloon dining tables with assignments to seats. Down below, at the door of every stateroom, there was a card bearing in Japanese and English the names of the persons for whom that room was intended, and in the saloon every man's seat at table was marked by a little wooden tablet, on which his name had been inscribed again. There was no necessity for asking questions. Everything, to the most trivial detail, had been thought out and pre-arranged, and every passenger knew exactly what to do."

JAPANESE WORKMEN.

In describing his visit to a Japanese gun factory and arsenal, Mr. Kennan says: "We saw the casting of a 25-ton ingot of steel to be used in the construction of a steel gun. Here, as elsewhere, the work was proceeding in the most orderly manner possible. The pouring of the 25 tons of fluid steel into a mould for a 12-inch gun is a job of some magnitude and importance, but it was executed without the least noticeable manifestation of worry or excitement and without any shouted orders. Every workmen seemed to know exactly what to do and when to do it, and the great gun was cast with no more fuss than would have been made over the casting of a three-pounder field-piece. This foundry was full of blast furnaces, and it had overhead, a great travelling crane for lifting and transporting the immense masses of cooled steel from the molds. It was also connected by means of trams with all the other buildings of the cannon manufacturing plant. A short distance from this foundry was a ship yard, where 75 to 100 men were at work on a torpedo boat, which was in process of construction. The keel had been laid only the day before, but the frame was already assuming shape, and the boat would be ready for use in less than three months.

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS.

"We were taken across a very large drill ground to a group of wooden buildings used as places of instruction for seamen, marines, stokers, and assistant engineers. In these buildings there were models and plans of Russian and Japanese warships, marine engines, and plans of engines of all sorts, model ships to show methods of rigging, pumps of various types, and walls covered with greatly magnified knots, bends, and splices, intended to illustrate every possible method of using cables and rope. One shed-like building on the drill ground was devoted exclusively to the training of stokers, and in it long lines of men were engaged in shovelling large water worn pebbles (to represent coal) into a series of oven-door-like boxes, at a height of about three and a half feet, dumping them upon the sheet iron floor, and then shovelling them back again into the boxes. The men seemed eager and interested in their work—monotonous and wearisome although it was—and they put as much energy into it as if the speed of the cruiser or battle ship in action were depending upon their exertions. Just outside of this building other lines of men were turning and pounding pieces of cold iron with hammers and sledges of all sizes. In such exercises as these, and many others that I have neither time nor space to describe, Japanese seamen, stokers and engineers are trained for their work, and when the strain of war comes there are thousands of men who have been so thoroughly instructed and so persistently drilled that they may fairly be regarded as experts in their respective lines of duty. This is the method—or, at least; this is one of the methods—by which success in war is pre-arranged."

FOR YOUNG COUPLES.

If love is to flourish between two people, they must each be slow to take offence, and not only willing, but glad, to pardon at the first and faintest sign of penitence; still more, to overlook entirely the sin which has been a blunder and an accident. Life and love are in great part the art of bearing with other people's shortcomings. Every offender, whatever the offence is in the eye of the law entitled to a fair trial, and no one should be condemned unheard. The exercise of a modicum of commonsense and justice would nip most quarrels, whether between lovers or others, in the bud. Someone has wisely said that scarcely a novel was ever written which could have run to the end if the hero and heroine had been fully frank with one another. Most dissensions are founded upon misunderstandings. Much may be forgiven to those who love much by those who return such affection. Nor is it sufficient to forgive without forgetting the offence. The slate should be wiped clean, and the transgression be as though it had never been.