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PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

IN ORDER TO PLEASE BE PLEASANT.



It is an undimable fact that a woman's attraction for men is not regulated by her age, by her beauty, which is largely a matter of individual fancy, nor even by her power to draw attention, since this may be transient. It not infrequently happens that a plain woman is more sought after than a beauty. It is the soul which looks out of the windows of the eyes which is really the center of magnetism, the body is merely the case which contains the jewel. In a ballroom one sometimes sees queenly creatures in faultless gowns, "splendidly null," playing the part of wall flowers, while some bright eyed, freckle faced girl, whose only charm is the all powerful one of piquancy, has more partners at her disposal than dances to bestow upon them.

"If you want to have heaps of beaux, you must entertain the agreeable features and do the pretty polite." This advice, given by an old colored mammy to her nurslings, holds the gist of the whole matter in a nutshell. Courtesy is the flower of love and good will for all men. "He who would have friends must show himself friendly." People like people who put them into a good humor with themselves, who say and do the pleasant and the proper thing, and who never rub one the wrong way. This then, is the magical talisman which renders one woman infinitely more fascinating than another, and draws men to her as though with a magnet. Some may term it individuality, others may call it her personality, but it is really her attitude of mind, her adaptability, and above all the sympathy which puts her rapport with whoever she meets. Some women are born with a calm indifference which has a wonderful fascination for many men, the sort of men who always desire the unattainable, and who flee the woman they suspect of trying to attract them. Such a man quickly wearies of the woman whose chief diversion is himself. A woman in such an attitude of mind lacks individuality, she is nervous and anxious, she lacks repose and self-poise, is invariably self-conscious, and is apt to betray the fact that she is struggling to make herself agreeable, whereas the agreeability should be spontaneous. This is indeed the root of the whole matter, "to be the thing we seem."

THE CITY AND THE FARM.



The editor of a great newspaper told me recently that nothing which he could print attracted the attention in a metropolitan city like a story of marked success by some original adventurer upon a farm. A recent story showing how a young man had cleared the price of his new farm in one season's crop brought out more letters of further inquiry than anything printed in the papers in months. And naturally enough they were city inquiries from men who were anxious to return to nature.

On the farm in summer the city man who goes for a visit naturally sees the farm at its best. It is the fruit, vegetable, and egg and chicken season—the season of fishing, and driving, and hay making, according to the Maud Muller standard—and the farmer host as far as possible slacks up on the season's work and lets his guest see the glories of the summer. There may be a hay ride in the moonlight; a drive to the quaint little rustic church and two hours of old fashioned, refreshing service; everywhere the guest's pleasure will be consulted, to the end that when the city man goes home it will be with the impression of a country life that is one long delight to tired nerves.

On the other hand, the country visitor goes home, telling how the Jones family in the city doesn't know just how well off it is. According to his interpretation of it, they are on the go to places of amusement of all kinds every night in the week and spend money like water. He hasn't realized that it may have been the first time that the Joneses had been out in weeks when they broke away with him on the rounds, and he does not know that it may be weeks more before they may feel able for more of it. But in the meantime it may be pretty safely guessed that while each side to the visiting is considering what an easy, de-

lightful life the other leads, both sides are tucking in industriously to the inevitable hard work that is in hand to each.

Man probably never will progress beyond the point when he is interested in planting and growing things from the earth. But it is well for him to know that not anybody can farm successfully, and certainly few of the elect in the field can conduct a farm without close application, the exercise of judgment and expert knowledge, and at all times with a dependence upon the seasons that makes the farmer seem at times a creature of the elements.

WHY ARE CHURCH BELLS RUNG?



Why are church bells rung? The practice is apparently of mediaeval origin, and I was once told by one who affected a knowledge of such matters that the idea was to drive away the devils from the scene of divine worship. I can understand that it might have this effect; but may it not drive away the sinners, too? Besides, is it justifiable to drive away the poor devils? I suppose the idea is that a devil would only come to church for his own devilish ends; but I do not know that we have any right to assume this.

The practice clearly cannot have the authority of the primitive church, on which modern Christians take their stand more and more. The early Christians worshiped mostly in back parlors or in the convenient seclusion of places like the catacombs, and the last thing they desired, as a rule, was to obtrude their religious gatherings on the notice of their neighbors. Nor, when the Christian religion became "by law established," was there any reason to announce the hour of worship by ringing bells. Everybody knew the time of the church services, and if any one stopped away on the ground that he did not hear the bell the excuse would have been as little use to him as it would to a modern schoolboy who failed to get up in the morning for the same reason.

In point of fact, the bell-less little bethel is often filled both fuller and more punctually than its haughty neighbor with the clanging peal. It is true bells are rung at railway stations when a train is about to start, but this is a convenience to the people who are seeking hurried refreshment. If a peal of bells were set up in a tower at every railway station and rung for every train there would be an insurrection.

DO WE EAT TOO MUCH?



A comparison of the food required per day for the support of a man doing ordinary work reveals certain interesting features. If we take the mean or average calculations derived from food tables compiled by three of the most distinguished physiologists who have investigated this question, and making no allowance for water either taken as water or for that contained chemically in the food, and likewise neglecting the question of any waste, we find the average amounts required by the man per day to work out as follows: Nitrogenous food 4.31 ounces, fats 3.53 ounces, starches and sugars 11.71 ounces, and minerals 1.00 ounce. The total water free food per day thus amounts to 20.55 ounces.

After all, it is the wise individual regulation of life connected with foods and drinks which alone can guide it in the pathways of health. Each person is a law unto himself or herself, not merely in the matter of foods and drinks, but even of the drugs by aid of which the physician treats our diseases. It is undeniable that the tendency of our age lies in the direction of luxury, overfeeding appearing naturally as part and parcel of the luxurious mode of living in which too many of us indulge. Those who have experienced the increased vigor both of body and mind which results from the adoption of a dietary which is just sufficient for the due development of their bodily and mental work and no more, will readily testify to the fact that the man who overeats loses much of the rational enjoyment of life.

A BLOODTHIRSTY VICEROY.

Great Power in the Hands of the Chinese Ruler of Manchuria.

The most interesting figure of the moment in the east is neither Russia nor Japanese, but a Chinaman, the chung-choong, or Chinese viceroy, of Manchuria. To afford him a spectacle, to impress him with the might and potency of civilized arms, Gen. Kuropatkin halted his troops at Mukden. To earn his approbation and the approval of Peking, the Japanese pushed on their advance north of their natural frontier at Liao-Yang. In the hands of this man, the viceroy of Manchuria, the Tartar general of Mukden, the keeper of the imperial tombs, the guardian of the sacred palace, lies the key of the political situation in Manchuria. Fifteen million Chinese wait the indication of his pleasure. The safety of the long lines of Japanese communications from Dalny to Liao-Yang, from the Yalu to the Taitse-Ho, and of the longer lines of Russian communications from Mukden to Manchuria, lies at his disposition. Quiet of manner and gentle of voice, it is difficult to realize that the Tartar general of Mukden condemns to death each year in his yamen a thousand of his subjects. Each afternoon of a correspondent's five months' stay in the province of Mukden two or three, sometimes five or six bedraggled Chinamen were decapitated in the barren potter's field beyond the little west gate of the capital. In the outer courts of his yamen he saw such exhibitions of torture, such bastinadoings and slipperings, such racking



VICEROY.

NEW THEBES BRIDGE OVER THE MISSISSIPPI.



This great structure, which connects Illinois with Missouri, known as the Thebes bridge, is 3,672 feet in length and consists of spans over seven piers, exclusive of the approaches. The lower pier is 482 feet above the level of the sea, and the center span will have a clearance of 160 feet above high water. The approaches are of concrete, and the entire structure has cost over \$3,000,000. It extends from Thebes, Ill., 130 miles south of St. Louis, on the Mississippi River, to Illinois, Mo., on the opposite bank.

of joints and twisting of muscles as turned his heart sick at the recollection.

Mexico Has a Small Navy. The Mexican navy at present consists of four small boats in the Gulf of Mexico and two in the Pacific, besides small patrol boats in the southern waters. The Democrats, the first boat bought by Mexico, of 450 tons displacement, is on the Pacific coast, and with her is the Oaxaca, an old slopp-rigged boat of steel, of about 1,000 tons, but of only seven knots speed, used as a transport.

Two new gunboats just bought in the United States, named the Vera Cruz and the Tampico, are in the

gulf. They have steel hulls, are 200 feet long, displace 1,000 tons, have shown a speed of about fifteen knots and have two four-inch guns and other smaller rapid-firing guns each. The Zaragoza and Yucatan, 1,228 and 659 tons, respectively, the former having six 4.8-inch Canet guns, are also in the gulf, and are used as training-ships for the naval school which was established at Vera Cruz in 1897. The Bravo and Morelos, being built in Italy, will displace each 1,200 tons.

There are sixty-five cadets at Vera Cruz, also an arsenal and a small floating dry dock. There is a small wooden dock at Guaymas in the Gulf of California.

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