

Saint Mary's Beacon.

EXPOSITION LETTER.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]
PARIS, FRANCE, July 25, 1900.
Paris has been justly called "A Paradise for women and dogs, hell for horses." One of the chief attractions of the city to the feminine heart consists undoubtedly in those delicate productions of art and industry, including dresses, millinery, jewelry, art goods and bric-a-brac, for which Paris is famous. There are certainly an enormous number of stores and shops in the city. They line the streets in all quarters in countless thousands. There are many more establishments in proportion to the population than in American cities, but with the exception of a few notable ones they are very small affairs. As a customary thing the room of a shop is not larger than an average sized room of an American house. The stock of goods carried is very small. While the men of the family are engaged in bureau positions, the women, the wife and daughters, tend the shop. At the noon hour or at six o'clock the visitor to the shop will find the whole family at meal either in a little room adjoining the shop or in the salesroom itself.

The excessively retail character of the mercantile system of Paris may be partly accounted for as follows: There is in vogue a system of buying in small quantities which keeps alive the small dealer. In the United States a family will think nothing of putting into its cellar, in the fall, a couple of barrels of potatoes, one barrel of apples and other vegetables in proportion. Sugar and other groceries are purchased in some quantity. In Paris a family buys for each day's wants a couple of dozen potatoes, a small bag of sugar not larger than a salt bag etc. This method of buying is made necessary for all perishable articles by the fact that there is no cold storage among merchants or in private houses. Scarcely any ice is taken by families and a refrigerator is an article of furniture five times more rare than a piano. Again there is no city in the world perhaps where the servant class is so numerous and so highly organized and where the toil of this class is taken so much as a matter of course as in Paris. The labor which continual buying in small quantities occasions falls chiefly upon the servant class and thence excites no comments and awakens no idea of change. In addition to this, as we have seen, the shops are chiefly tended by women who make this a tributary earning for the family.

In the ordinary districts of Paris the streets contain at the corners wine shops and restaurants. In succession between these there are always the bakeries, cake shops, creameries, butcher shops, cleaners and, more rarely, furniture dealers, stationers, picture framers etc, etc. One misses the banks on the principal corners as in America. The barber shop has not a striped pole but a bright brass dish swinging in the wind. Tobacco is manufactured only by the state and is sold only under public control. The street sign is a red lamp. Wherever tobacco is sold stamps may be bought.

A French merchant usually does not deal with his customer on the basis of a fixed scale of prices as does an English or an American merchant. It is an exceptional store that has any prices marked in plain figures. Selling to a Parisian shop-keeper seems to be regarded as an exercise in practical psychology. Every customer is "sized up" and treated accordingly. Concessions in price may be gotten by skill in management and by insistence and force in bargaining. They show traits of character which hinder them from becoming great traders in the world's commerce.

Out of the mass of petty shops in Paris a few establishments rise into prominence by reason either of their size or elegance. The most elegant stores are to be found on the boulevards in the neighborhood of the Opera House. In this vicinity one can find specialty houses dealing in jewelry, or art goods or fans, lace etc. The district corresponds to lower Fifth Ave., and Broadway in New York and to Regent Street in London. In these shopping districts more frequently than elsewhere may be seen the announcement "English spoken." Beware of this sign and enter not for it may be likened to the unfortunate advertisement once posted

by an American merchant, "Don't go elsewhere to be cheated, come in here."

At the top of the store-keepers world are a dozen or more large department stores most of which have grown up in recent years in imitation of the "Bon Marche." One can enumerate the Louvre, Printemps, Samaritaine, Belle Jardiniere and Pygmalion. There are several more. In methods these establishments resemble in many ways the department stores of the larger cities of our own country.

In none of them can an American breathe freer or feel safer than in the admirable Bon Marche. This is the largest of the stores of Paris and is preeminent for fair and courteous dealing. The organization possesses points of interest. The capital stock is entirely in the hands of 2741 employees or former employees. A savings fund is laid by each year out of the earnings of the concern. The pensions of the establishment amounted last year to nearly \$33,000 and were distributed to 208 persons. A reserve fund is now being accumulated to build a home for disabled employees.

A home is furnished for girls who have not families in Paris and another is maintained for young men. In these homes regular hours are prescribed. Rent is free and two meals are given each person daily at the expense of the house. In many other ways the health and welfare of the force is cared for. There are classes in bookkeeping and others in English. The best pupils in English each year are sent to England for some months free of expense. There is a musical society for which the house provides rooms and instruments and for whom the expense of traveling to compete for medals is paid.

RAMBLER.

It is now almost two full centuries since England and Scotland were united, in 1707, under the name of Great Britain. Yet up to the present time the world continues to employ the familiar terms English queen, English army and so on, with no mention of Scotland. This slight has often been commented upon by Scotchmen, but never, perhaps more happily than at Trafalgar. Two Scotchmen, messmates and bosom friends from the same little clachan, happened to be stationed near each other when the now celebrated signal was given from the Admiral's ship, "England expects every man to do his duty."

"No a word o' pair auld Scotland on this occasion!" dolefully remarked Gordie to Jock. Jock cocked his eyes a moment, and turning to his companion, "Man Gordie," said he, "Scotland kens weel enough that nae bairn o' hers needs to be tell't to do his duty—that's just a hint to the Englishers."

It is said that Professor Blackie often told this anecdote on himself. The genial old professor used to form a very picturesque feature in the Edinburgh streets. He was a wiry old patriarch, with handsome features and hair falling in ringlets about his shoulders; no one who had seen him could possibly forget him. One day he was accosted by a very dirty little bootblack with his, "Shine your boots, sir?" The professor was impressed by the filthiness of the boy's face. "I don't want a shine, my lad," said he. "But if you'll go and wash your face, I'll give you a six-pence."

"A' right sir," was the lad's reply. Then he went over to a neighboring fountain and made his ablutions. Returning, he held out his hand for the money. "Well, my lad," said the professor, "you have earned your six-pence. Here it is."

"I dinna want it," returned the boy with a lordly air. "Ye can keep it and get your hair out."

THEY SAY

That a tongue may inflict a deeper wound than a sword.
That Cupid is a bad marksman. He is always making Mrs.
That the pedestrian is one man who puts his whole sole into his work.
That it takes a brave man to tell a funny story when his wife's around.
That most men can be made to talk if the corkscrew is used to draw them out.
That the average compositor may not be a writer of fiction, but he is usually studying types.
That pictures of kin hanging in the parlor look dutiful, but they can't be classed as decorative.

That the most appreciative of fathers likes to talk about something besides the baby now and then.

That a satirist is a man who discovers things about himself and then says them about some one else.

That success in life is like catching a chicken; it seems pretty easy, but in reality it is surprisingly difficult.

That it is in such weather as prevailed last week that the man who treats you coolly is after all your best friend.

That soon the man who sits on the lemon pie will once more figure in the thrilling episode of the Sunday school picnic.

That none of us suffer to ourselves alone, since there are always curiosity seekers willing to listen to the story of our lives.

That it's only the woman who feels sure of the answer who can afford to ask her lover every ten minutes if he loves her.

That there is no prouder moment in a young man's life than when he first sees his picture exhibited in a showcase outside a photographer's studio.

That a traveler was tempted to go into a cookshop by this inscription: "Roast and Boiled at Two-pence per head. He was not a little disappointed by two courses of potatoes."

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Professional.
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ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW,
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Jas 31-41

WALTER I. DAWKINS,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
LEONARDTOWN, MD.
Jas 31-41

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FLOUR, MEAL AND FEED on hand or sale all the time cheap for Cash. Hereafter, in order to avoid having to keep mill books, all orders must be accompanied by the cash.
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