

CAMPING OUT.

Some of the Delights and Benefits Derived from Such a Trip. "Camping out" is, for the most part, becoming merely a name for moving out of one's permanent habitation and dwelling for a few weeks in a well-built lodge, smaller, perhaps, than one's home, but as comfortable and almost as convenient; with tables, chairs and crockery, carpets and curtains, beds with sheets and blankets on real bedsteads, a stove and its full outfit of cooking utensils, wherefrom meals are served in the regular ways of civilization. And so, living in nearly the same fashion of his ordinary life, except that he wears a flannel shirt and a slouch hat, and perhaps fishes a little, and loaf more than in his ordinary custom, our "camper" imagines that he is getting quite close to the primitive ways of hunters and trappers; that he is living the life of a pioneer, and that the rough edges which he has ingeniously smoothed away. But he is mistaken. In ridding himself of some of his discomforts, he has lost a great deal of the best of camp life; the spice of small adventure, and the wondrously varied that its half-hardships and makeshift appliances give it. If one sleeps a little cold under one blanket on his bed of evergreen twigs, though he does not take cold, he realizes in some degree the discomfort of Boone's bivouac when he cuddled beside his horse to keep from freezing—and feels slightly heroic. His slumbers are seasoned with dreams of the wild woods, as the balsamic perfume of his couch steals into his nostrils; his companion's snores invade his drowsy senses as the growl of lears, and the thunderous whir of grouse hurrying out of untroubled thickets. When he awakes in the gray of early morning he finds that the few hours of sleep have wrought a miracle of rest, and he finds himself nearer to nature when he washes his face in the brook, than when he rinses off his splines in the washbasin. The water of the spring is colder and has a finer flavor when he drinks it from a birch-bark cup of his own making. Tea made in a frying-pan has an aroma never known to such poor mortals as brew their tea in a teapot, and no mill ever ground such coffee as that which is tied up in a rag and pounded with a stone or hatchet-head. A sharpened stick for a fork gives a zest to the bit of pork "frizzled" on as rude a spit and plattered on a clean chip or bit of bark, and no fish ever more delicious than when broiled on a gridiron improvised of green wands, or roasted Indian fashion, in a cleft stick.

INDIRECTION.

Fair are the flowers and the children, but their subtle suggestion is fairer. Rare is the roebuck of dawn, but the secret that clasp it is rarer. Sweet the cup of wine, but the strain that precedes it is sweeter. And a success was won, but the meaning outmastered the metre. Never a daisy that grows, but a mystery glideth the growing. Never a river that flows, but a majesty seepeth the flowing. Never a Shakespeare that soared, but a stronger than he did enfold him. Nor ever a prophet foretells, but a mightier seer has foretold him. Back of the canvas that throbs, the painter is hinted and hidden: Into the statue that breathes, the soul of the sculptor is hidden: Under the joy that is felt lie the infinite issues of feeling: Crowning the glory revealed is the glory that crowns the revealing. Great are the symbols of being, but that which is symbolized is greater: Vast the crust and behead, but vaster the inward Creator: Back of the sound hounds the silence, back of the gift stands the being. Back of the hand that receives thrill thousand-fold the nervous of receiving. Space is nothing to spirit; the deed is outdone by the doing: The heart of the wood is warm, but warmer the heart of the woodpecker: And up from the pits where these shiver, and up from the heights where these shine, Twin voices and shadows swing seaward, and the essence of life is divine.

Give Them a Chance.

That is to say, your lungs. Also all your breathing machinery. Very wonderful machinery it is. Not only the larger air-passages, but the thousands of little tubes and cavities leading from them. When these are clogged and choked with matter which ought not to be there, your lungs cannot half do their work. And what they do, they cannot do well. Calf, it cold, cough, croup, pneumonia, catarrh, consumption or any of the family of throat and nose and head and lung obstructions, are all bad. All ought to be got rid of. There is just one sure way to get rid of them. That is to take Bosche's German Syrup, which any druggist will sell you at 75 cents a bottle. Even if everything else has failed you, you may depend upon this for certain.

A youngster sat watching his mother while she "pitted" cherries. She inadvertently passed one without removing the stone. He immediately picked it out, with the remark, "Here's one you did n't unbutton, mamma."

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What can make amends for the loss of the camp-fire, with innumerable pictures glowing and shifting in its heart and conjuring strange shapes out of the gloom, and suggesting unscen mysteries that the circle of darkness holds behind its rim? How are the wells of conversation to be adventured by a black stove, so that tales of hunters' and fishermen's craft and adventure shall flow till the measure of man's belief is overrun? How is the congenial spark of true companionship to be kindled when the people brood around a stove and light their pipes with matches, and not with coals snatched out of the camp-fire, edge, or with twigs that burn briefly with a baffling flame?

But it will not be long before it will be impossible to get a taste of real camping without taking long and expensive journeys, for every available rod of lake, shore and river bank is being taken up and made populous with so-called camps, and the comfortable freedom and seclusion of a real camp are made impossible there. One desiring that might better pitch his tent in the back woodlot of a farm than in any such popular resort. This mistaken camping out has become a fashion which seems likely to last till the shores are as thronged as the towns, and the woods are spoiled for the real campers, whom it is possible to imagine seeking in the summer of the future a seclusion in the cities that the forests and streams no longer can give them. Let those who can study the delightful and practical pages of "Woodcraft," and so while they may practice its lessons and get a taste of real camp life.

Yet, let it be understood that make-believe camping is better than no camping. It cannot but bring people into more intimate relations with nature than they would be if they stayed at home, and so to better acquaintance with and greater interest in the mother who deals so impartially with all her children.—Forest and Stream.

Sitka as a Summer Resort. The old Russian town of Sitka, in Alaska, has already acquired celebrity as a summer resort, and the stream of travel thitherward increases apace. A splendid steamer, the finest on the Pacific coast, now makes fortnightly trips in twelve days, and table luxuries are supplied now which were lacking a year or more ago. Last year a large number of public officials, including the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, made the excursion, moved by curiosity to learn the real truth regarding our new Territory and its wants and capabilities, and also incited by the multiplied descriptions and photographs of its marvelous scenery. This season the miscellaneous rush of tourists has not only been much increased, but we find that several of our members of Congress have been prompted to make personal investigation of a problem which has long been before our National Legislature. We hope, therefore, from what we are sure they must report, that Alaska will next winter receive that legislation which she has so long prayed for, and that her political and industrial disabilities will be removed.

Those who visit Sitka in 1887 find very much of the old rust and decay removed. Eyesores which disgraced the town for almost twenty years have disappeared. The quaint and very picturesque Greek Church has been refurbished within and without, at a stated cost of \$15,000; the public buildings have been repaired, or at least partially repaired; the old Russian bath houses at the neighboring hot springs have been replaced, and a sanitarium established; the Indian River Park has been embellished; the ascent of the extinct volcano of Mt. Edgecumbe has been made easy; excursion steamboats run to the Lake Mountain Mines and ply among the islands; balls and hops on board the mail steamers and naval vessels, as well as ashore, are of regular occurrence, and the Indian ceremonies and performances add to the interest and gaiety of the passing season.

Last year several yachting parties from San Francisco, Chicago and Seattle passed very agreeable weeks and months at the old Russian capital, and every month a steamer brought artists of both sexes to transfer the inimitable scenery of the archipelago to canvas and camera. Some photographers obtained complete sets of the most picturesque and interesting places along the entire coast. On the coast of Sitka is a lively and interesting place, and those who have read Mr. Hallcock's graphic work entitled "Our New Alaska" will feel assured that none who make the excursion to that far-off locality will be disappointed or regret the journey. The front begin to run by the middle of July and are at their best in the month of August. Some shooting of bay birds and deer may be obtained.—Forest and Stream.

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