

night the ghosts of its ancient inhabitants are said to dance for an hour and on every Saturday night for two hours. As the children pass the house on their way from school their whispers are hardly audible. Everything seems to grow silent as it approaches the ghostly countenance of the house. Even the little birds who build their nests in every crevice always seem to sing the same ghostly melodies. It is an interesting place for every child and although we fear to go very near to it, our eyes are always fixed inquiringly upon it as we pass.

—Nora Martinson,
Moorhead, Minn.

Ninth Grade.

In the Days of the Red Man.

There is one building in Eighth street in which I am greatly interested, because it was the first building in this town. The men who were constructing the first railway lived in this house. It is very well built, because before settlements were made in Perham the Indians sometimes attacked railroad men. Now all the Indians have gone and Perham is quite a town. It has many larger buildings than this old one, but the man who owns it takes good care of it and will not sell it. Every time I see that building it reminds me of the stories told to me by the first settlers of Perham. A man who was with the railroad men at that time still lives in town.

—John Rebeck,
Perham, Minn.

Fifth Grade.

In a Flour Mill.

The most interesting building in town is the mill, because of its machinery. In the engine room are the big boiler and large wheels. The next thing of interest is the place where they make the flour; then comes the packing room, where a number of men are engaged in filling the sacks with flour. This is done by putting the sack around a pipe two feet in diameter. Next a lever is pulled and when the sack is full the platform upon which the sack stands drops down, and the flour ceases to run. The sacks are next sewed up.

—Charles Philstrom,
Warren, Minn.

Seventh Grade.

TAGGED FISHES IN THE SEA

The Method Employed by the Government to Assist in Fishcultural Problems.

IT SEEMS rather an odd idea to fasten metal tags to marine fishes and then let them loose in the ocean with the idea of identifying them as individuals in case they happen to be caught at a future time, but this is what the United States fish commission is doing just now with cod, 1,500 of which have been duly tagged and released this year. No two tags are alike, the markings of them being stamped in a series of letters and numbers, record of which is kept in a book in such a manner that if a tagged codfish turns up, a moment's reference to the memoranda will furnish the history of that particular specimen, with date of liberation, weight and so forth. For example, a cod wearing a tag with the raised inscription "S 100" has a complete identification card, so that she cannot be mixed up with any other fish entered in the commission's ledger.

Only "brood fish"—that is, spawning females—are tagged. They are bought from fishermen, stripped of their eggs at Wood's Holl, Mass., and liberated in the waters of Vineyard sound, after having the tags attached to them. The tag is a small piece of copper, securely fastened by a wire passed through a fin near its junction with the body. It does not matter which fin is chosen, though a back or tail fin is best. The tag is very light, and its attachment in the manner described does no harm whatever to the fish. During the last few months the fish commission has distributed a circular all along the coast of New England, requesting that whenever a cod with a tag comes into the hands of a fisherman or other person, he shall remove the piece of metal and send it to the commission station at Wood's Holl, Mass., together with a brief statement as to the date on which the fish was caught, where it was captured, its weight before dressed, its length and the condition of its roe. The object of the tagging is to ascertain the rate at which a cod grows, the frequency of its spawning, and the extent of its travel in the ocean. Knowledge of this kind has an obvious bearing upon fishcultural problems, and there is every reason to believe that the future of the cod fishery off the New England coast must depend mainly upon artificial hatching. The hatching of cod eggs and the planting of the fry in those waters has been carried on for several years, and already the fishery shows a notable improvement, apparently due to this work. During the past year, the work coming to an end in April, there were planted in New England waters 250,000,000 codfish.

This year the fish commission is going to bag many thousands of young salmon, artificially hatched for the rivers of the Pacific coast. Very small tags will be used, the fishes being "fingeringlings," about three inches long. It is expected that in this way will be ascertained the age at which the salmon come from the sea to spawn; also their rate of growth and the percentage of the fry that attain maturity. The work will be carried on in the basins of the Columbia and Sacramento. Some years ago a similar experiment was made at the fish commission station on the Clackamas river, which is tributary to the Columbia, but, instead of tagging the young fishes, the soft dorsal fins were shaved off them with a razor before they were released. When they came back to spawn, three years later, they averaged twenty pounds in weight. From this experiment one or two very interesting conclusions were drawn. If all of the artificially hatched fry had survived and been captured, it is obvious that 1,000 of them would have contributed 20,000 pounds of codfish for the market. As a matter of fact, only one out of ten of them returned, and was taken, the result being 2,000 pounds of fish for every 1,000 young ones liberated.

MOTHERS OF GREAT SONS

Women Who Have Helped to Mold Noble Minds and Careers.

A LOVELY picture, dear to all our hearts, is that of the mother keeping the cradle ajar with her foot while her hands are busy with the tiny socks or the bigger socks, whose mending is sometimes the mother's only touch upon the household understanding. But the mother who would keep her hand upon the growing life must learn to deal with other points than those at the end of a needle, to weave stronger bonds than can be made of darning cotton, and to sing the music to which the young new life keeps step, after the cradle is deserted and lullabies have ceased to charm. That mothers have been doing these greater things all down the centuries is proved by the record of the noblest men of every nationality, says Mary Lowe Dickinson in the Christian Herald. The list is so long that a few names which it is possible to choose should be considered suggestive of the riches of the field rather than as illustrative of the great, amply proven fact

that the dominant factor in most great lives has been the influence of the mother.

Notwithstanding everybody's familiarity with her history and characteristics, the name of the mother of Washington has rightful precedence in our list. She was a beautiful girl, called the "Rose of Epping Forest." She married Augustine Washington, a widower and a gentleman of high standing and noble character, of large property and considerable personal attractions. She was brought to the large, old-fashioned colonial house on the banks of the Potomac, where we can fancy the bride covertly exploring her new home and scanning the footprints of her predecessor. In this voyage of discovery she was arrested by a small but rare treasure of books. The fly leaf of one revealed the name of the owner, the first wife, "Jane Washington." Finding the inkhorn she wrote firmly beneath, "And Mary Washington," probably the first time she had written her new name. We all know how she read this book—it was Sir Matthew Hale's "Contemplations"—to her stepsons and her own sons; how it was revered by George Washington, and how it is treasured today at our national Mecca, Mount Vernon, where, both as mother and mistress, Mary Washington led and guided her boy into the manhood that made him his country's leader and guide. Here, also, as the revolutionary war went on, and her neighbors thronged her with plaudits and praises of her noble son—their idol and hers—she restrained their extravagant words, saying simply, "George seems to have deserved well of his country, but we must not praise too much; George has not forgotten his duty."

Abraham Lincoln's mother, says Mrs. Bolton, to whose sketches we wish to acknowledge our debt, possessed but one book in the world, the Bible, and from this she taught her children daily. Of quick mind and retentive memory, Abraham soon came to know it by heart, and to look upon his gentle teacher as the embodiment of all the good precepts in the book. Afterward, when he governed thirty million people, he said: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother. Blessings on her memory!" When he was ten years old, this saintly mother died of consumption, and was buried in a plain box under the trees near the cabin. For her boy the loss was irreparable. Day after day he sat on the grave and wept. A sad far-away look crept into his eyes, which those who saw him in the perils of his later life well remember.

Henry Ward Beecher says of his mother: "I have only such a remembrance of her as you have of the clouds of ten years ago, yet no devout Catholic ever saw so much in the Virgin Mary as I have seen in my mother, who has been a presence to me ever since I can remember. Do you know why so often I speak what must seem to some of you rhapsody of woman? It is because I had a mother, and if I were to live a thousand years I could not express what seems to me to be the least that I owe to her. From her I received my love of the beautiful, my poetic temperament; from her also I received simplicity and childlike faith in God." She studied literature and history while she spun flax, tying her books to the distaff. No wonder, then, that her great son was an omnivorous reader. She wrote and spoke the French language fluently, painted on ivory, sang and played on the guitar, and was an expert with her needle. So meagre was the salary for the increasing household, only \$400 a year, that she started a select school in which she taught French, drawing, painting and embroidery, besides the higher English branches. With all this work she found time to make herself the idol of her children.

The mother of Napoleon Bonaparte was the mother also of twelve other children, eight of whom were living when she was left a widow, at the age of thirty-five. Napoleon said of her: "She managed everything, provided for everything with a prudence which could neither have been expected from her sex nor from her age. She watched over us with a solicitude unexampled. Every low sentiment, every ungenerous affection, was discouraged and discarded. She suffered nothing but that which was grand and elevated to take root in our youthful understandings. She abhorred falsehood, and would not tolerate the slightest act of disobedience. Losses, privations, fatigue, had no effect upon her. She endured all, braved all. She had the energy of a man, combined with the gentleness and delicacy of a woman." Such was Napoleon's love for her that he confessed to his friend, when in exile at St. Helena, that in all his vicissitudes, once only had he been tempted to suicide, from which he was saved by the loan of a sum of money from a friend, which sum he sent at once to relieve the distress of his mother.

It was Samuel Johnson's mother to whom he said in his last letter: "You have been the best mother, and, I believe, the best woman in the world. I thank you for your indulgence to me, and beg forgiveness of all that I have done ill, and of all that I have omitted to do well." It was to defray her funeral expenses that in the evenings of one week he wrote "Rasselas," for which he received \$500.

ROYAL HOUSEKEEPING

Queen Alexandra Will Have to Oversee One Thousand Servants.

St. Louis Globe Democrat.

ONE of the Queen Alexandra's important occupations is the government of her new household, which numbers just under 1,000 persons. Queen Victoria was in every sense mistress and head of her household. All housekeeping questions were settled by the royal mistress herself, who personally ordered the meals, and even kept an eye on the household linen, the smallest details of domestic economy not being regarded as beneath her notice. To this watchfulness was due the fact that the queen's was considered the best regulated household in the entire kingdom. The new queen will not shirk her domestic duties, although they may be in a degree irksome and worrying. No servant is ever dismissed from the palace, and to this is attributed the freedom of gossip about royal domestic arrangements. When a marriage occurs the couple are usually provided with a small post, carrying with it a residence. Most of the royal lodges are occupied by couples who have served royalty for many years.

The only additions to the royal household since the time of Henry VIII. are two steam apparatus men. It will hardly be credited that even now it is the lord

steward who still orders the fires to be laid, but the lord chamberlain alone who can cause them to be lighted! A servant in receipt of £80 a year arranges all the candles—waxfitter is his official title—but two others—a first and second lamplighter—at a salary of £100 each, are required to light them, as well as the lamps, while it costs £492 to have the table laid by five functionaries, whose official title is table deckers. Their sole duty is to lay the dinner cloth and see that the plates, dishes and cutlery are fairly set forth. The salary of the chief butler, who looks after the wine, is £500 a year.

There are sixty housemaids at Windsor, and the late queen knew the name of each and her special line of duty. Going into an unused room, upon one occasion, she noticed a cabinet that had not been dusted that day. She promptly wrote the royal autograph in the dust, and beneath it the name of the particular maid whose duty it was to dust the room.

The kitchen is ruled over by a chef, whose salary is £700 a year. Under the chef are four master cooks, who are on duty about a fortnight at a time. Then there are two assistant cooks, two roasting cooks, about sixteen apprentices, half a dozen kitchen maids, two yeomen of the kitchen and the clerk of the kitchen, who keeps the accounts and does the carving. He receives £300 a year. The confectioners get £300 and £250 each. The chef has a small room set apart on one side of the kitchen; the others work in the one room, and one can imagine that the entire scene, with its mingled noises, the rush of feet, the hum of voices, the clatter of pots, and pans, the many different odors that rise in a cloud to the oak roof, is like another edition of Walpurgisnacht. At the moment when dinner is being served there is a constant stream of stalwart pantry-men bringing in the grand, golden dishes, tureens and sauce boats. Out at another door flock the footmen, bearing the same dishes, daintily dressed and served. The functionary who receives the lowest salary is the rat catcher. He must eke out an existence on £75 a year. He is the only servant whose salary is provided outside the civil list, and every session of the house of commons, in committee of supply, consider this vote and gravely agree to it. The royal washing costs £2,000 yearly, and it is done at a picturesque building near Richmond Park, called the Royal Laundry. The linen is carried to and from the laundry in cedar boxes, bearing brass plates inscribed with the different names, for example: "The King, 1"; "The Queen, 2"; "Princess Victoria." The boxes carrying the household linen are marked with the initials of the palace, as "W. C." or "B. P." Primrose soap, slightly scented, and quite free from alkalies, is used, and is extremely costly. Queen Alexandra's body linen is exquisitely fine and severely plain, and she never wears a flannel petticoat after it has been washed.



"Who stole my breakfast?"
From the Boys' Own.

butcher, the baker and the candlestick-maker," and the other tradespeople who feed the members of the household. The ultra-private apartments of Queen Alexandra at Windsor, which is the official residence, consist of four rooms—the audience chamber, the sitting room, bedroom and dressing-room. They are on the first floor of that portion of the castle known as the Victoria Tower, and are approached from without by a secluded portico, where the queen may enter unobserved by any one except those in immediate attendance. The suite of rooms is entered through two large double doors of oak, picked out with gold and paneled in Gothic style. A cosy lift, oak, upholstered in crimson, conveys the queen from the portico up to her rooms. In the audience chamber the queen receives people with whom it is her wish to speak, either on matters of business or pleasure. Her sitting-room, which faces south, is of great height. From a wide oriel window is a fine view of the Long Walk, the Home Park and the Great Park. There is a magnificent marble mantel and fireplace, in which is burned nothing but beech logs. In a cabinet in this room are kept the sixty leather-bound volumes or catalogues in which is the inventory of all the furnishings of Windsor Castle—china, glass, silver, draperies and furniture of the 700 apartments. This inventory was made by order of Queen Victoria, and in accordance with her ideas. Like a good housewife, the queen was fully aware of the individual merit and the places where they ought to be kept, of hundreds of her possessions, although there were, of course, thousands of which she had no reckoning. The most costly dinner service in the world is at Windsor Castle. It is of solid gold and is valued at £800,000. Of the numerous services of plate and china, but three are ever in use. In the crimson drawing-room is kept a magnificent collection of china.

AN INTERESTING RELIC.

An interesting relic in the shape of a piece of a granite boulder, containing what appear to be two human footprints, has been loaned to the museum at St. Johnsbury, Vt., by William A. Chase of Morrisville. The rock from which the piece was quarried has been a curiosity in Granby for a century. It is a granite boulder weighing several tons, situated one and a half miles from Gallups Mills.

OPPOSITION TO STEAM.

The rise of steam navigation was slow. Like most things new, it had opposition. In the sixteenth century an unsuccessful Italian genius tried to apply steam to navigation. In 1736 a British patent was taken out for a steamboat. It was 1807 that witnessed Fulton sailing up the Hudson in a boat driven by steam. In 1838 steamships crossed the Atlantic.

PREFER GAY COLORS.

Matrons of infant asylums say that a young infant will be cross all day if dressed in a gray frock, but contented and happy if dressed in a bright red frock. Children from two to four are much less affected by the color of their dress. It is commonly observed in kindergartens that the younger children prefer the red playthings, while the older children prefer the blue.

THE NINETY-THIRD EDITION.

Admirers of General Lew Wallace's best known book will be impressed by the fact that the forthcoming holiday edition of "Ben Hur," in two volumes, will be the ninety-third that has been made of it. Nearly 1,000,000 copies of it have been sold.

A FAMOUS STREET.

Berlin boasts that Unter den Linden is the broadest street in any great city. It is 215 feet wide. The Ringstrasse in Vienna is 185 feet; the Paris Grand Boulevards 122 feet, and the Andrassy Strasse at Budapest is 155 feet wide.

THE BUTTERCUP

*Buttercup! Buttercup!
Hold your shining clusters up!
In each little house of gold,
What is it that I behold?
Many soldiers, straight and slim
Golden-helmeted and prim;
All day long so still they stand,
Never turning head or hand.*