Homes for the People in the City of Washington.

[Read by John Hitz, esq., of Washington, before the American Social Science Association, at its meeting at Saratoga, September, 1881.]

As a house is typical of the man who builds it, provided he intends to occupy it himself, and cities in general terms are typical of their founders and the people who inhabit them, so that city which constitutes the federal seat of government of a land partakes more or less of the individual and general characteristics of the nation at large. More especially is this so where, as in Washington, the nation is actually the founder, and through its representatives exercises direct control over it. Washington, then, from its very inception partook of a national character, and to all close observers it already gives evidence of becoming in time a veritable epitome of the United States. Certainly no feature of the city more forcibly illustrates this distinctively national character than do the buildings scattered over its wide area. Here one finds, both in the city and suburbs, numerous specimens of the primitive hut of the dusky sons of toil from the great "cotton-belt," and likewise the inviting verandah and generous hearth of a genuine Southern home. Neither are wanting the cosy cottage of a New England artizan, and the suburban villa and granite palaces of some of her men of mark. And so also can be seen types of the cheerful Western home, and the Philadelphian interminable uniformity. The opulent New Yorker already finds that his elegant mansion, which wealth has supplied with every possible comfort, is rapidly being duplicated here in the more advantageous and pleasing surroundings afforded by numerous well-kept public parks, and a hundred miles or more of superior paved roadways, shaded by no less than seventy thousand trees.

When we examine into the character of the dwellings occupied by the people in Washington, the relative number of tax-payers, etc., a showing by no means discreditable to this typical city of America will present itself. Only, the peculiar position which the federal capital occupies, as it were, imposes upon it exceptional advancement in the matter of "Homes for the people." The regulations of the inspector of buildings and of the health department (which in the main are strictly enforced,) preclude the possibility of people living in basements and hovels totally unfit for habitation. It will furthermore be seen that the proportion of houses of insignificant value is small, and the number of freeholders quite large. The following statistics, culled from late official reports, will enable all interested in the subject to draw their own conclusions:

POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (CENSUS OF 1880.)

	White.	Colored.	Total.
Washington	99,128	48,179	147,307
Georgetown	8,819	3,759	12,578
County	10,289	7,464	17,753
	118,236	59,402	177,638
Total number of taxpayers (stated)			18,090
" " " families (estimated)			37,500

HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUNE 30, 1881.

Brick or stone houses in Washington	12,765	
" " " " " Georgetown	1,088	
" " " " " County	201	
		14,054
Frame houses in Washington	9,900	
" " " Georgetown	1,005	
" " " County	755	
		11,660
Houses valued at $100 and less in Wash.	1,424	
" " " " " " " G'twn.	116	
" " " " " " " Co	370	
		1,910
Total		27,624

There is no lack in Washington of the spirit of co-operation, which manifests itself in various economic, social, political, and other organizations. One finds any number of excellent building associations, with features like the "Equitable," recommending themselves specially to those in office of "uncertain tenure;" but they all, whilst encouraging economy, tend to supply the place of savings banks rather than in reality to stimulate among members the acquirement of homesteads. There exists every evidence that the people "love to congregate together," but, it would seem, not for purposes of domicile; for one of the most marked features of the city is the total absence of tenement houses, as known in New York and other cities. It is true that the numerous boarding houses absorb a considerable part of the population, and that, here and there, we find two or even three families occupying one house, but the latter is exceptional. Even the poorest laborer seems to prefer a more remote domicile of his own, made up only of refuse lumber, to the most centrally located attic under rent. The great area of the city, in connection with its excellent streets and ready means of reaching the suburbs, enables the laborer to dwell according to the bent of his mind—near the ground, and remote from the inconvenience of upper stories. But no class here, not even the unskilled laborer, more clearly needs to devise some better mode of home life, than in the main falls to the lot of members of Congress, and of the ten thousand or more employes in the public departments.

One of the distinctive phases of the population of Washington, as compared with other cities, is its disproportionately large number of persons engaged in clerical work of a higher than ordinary grade, and the comparatively small number of artisans engaged in mechanical and other like pursuits. Owing to the vast area of streets, extensive sewers, etc., which, in a comparatively new city of such great extent, need improvement and constant attention, a larger number of unskilled laborers find temporary employment than is common in cities having a resident population equal to that of Washington. The exceptionally large number of its transient population during the sessions of Congress, also gives increased activity to tradespeople, and considerably augments the number of those employed for the time being in all branches of domestic service. Whilst much might be done, it is true to improve the domiciles, and, to some extent, the boarding and lodging facilities of these, and so render their service more efficient, yet they are, in the nature of things, comparatively better provided for than are most of the 1,400 employes of the Government Printing office, the 1,600 artisans of the Navy Yard, or the 3,300 persons of both sexes in service of the Treasury department, to say nothing of the large number engaged in the War, Navy, Interior, State and other departments.

Efforts to meet the want here indicated have not been wanting. Whole squares have literally been built up with two, three and four-story dwellings, many being provided with all the so-called "modern improvements." These structures contain from five to thirteen rooms, and are obtainable at the moderate rentals of from fifteen to sixty dollars per month. These according to location and conveniences in general, find tenants readily. Many are held for sale on liberal terms, such as a cash payment of several hundred dollars, followed by monthly instalments of from twenty-five to fifty dollars for the balance of the purchase money, which includes interest at the rate of from six to eight per cent. But this system of providing homes for the great mass of people in Washington, having moderate and stated incomes, but of uncertain duration, is only partially satisfactory.

It is true many of these dwellings have thus been purchased by their occupants, but, generally speaking, these houses are not constructed or located to suit the taste of the more domestically inclined government employe. Even if not immediately hailing from some rural district when purchasing a homestead, he wants something besides brick and mortar: and, typical American as he is, at heart longs for a country home, or the nearest approach to it possible.

Among other notable schemes to meet the want in question, an eminent topographical engineer, Mr. T. Enthofer, of Washington, in 1870, published a "Prospectus of a Co-operative Enterprise supplying families with a comfortable home and facilities for the education of their children." This project aimed at the organization of so-called "Home Associations." Membership was not to be limited in number, but subdivided into sections, according to the locality and size of each building for associated homes. The money required to erect an associated home building, the projector proposed to raise by subscription to stock in shares of one hundred dollars each, payable in monthly instalments of fifty cents. As soon as the required number for an entire structure had been registered, duly passed on and accepted, officers were to be elected, a charter procured, the desired ground leased or purchased, and contracts for the building entered into. As a type for such a building, the projector recommended selecting a square of ground 330 by 400 feet, and erecting thereon, exclusive of cellar and mansard, a four-story edifice, including a transverse structure, the whole so constructed as to afford two courtyards each, of 158 by 292 feet; one to be laid out in a flower-garden, and the other in a grass plat, as a play-ground and gymnasium for the children of the occupants of the associated home. The entire structure was to contain, besides closets, etc., some 720 apartments; each room having a depth of eighteen feet, and to be from twelve to thirty feet wide. The lodging-rooms were to be so arranged that members could be accommodated with just the number required, from three to thirteen; the partitions to be solid brick walls and flooring sound-deadened and fire-proof. Access to the several suites of apartments was to be had by means of twelve stairways of ample size, so arranged that each stairway landing would have to serve only two families on each floor. Each suite of apartments was to have from 48 to 133 feet frontage, and be entitled to a portion of the cellar and mansard. The whole building to be heated by steam, which in the summer season would be utilized to drive ventilating machinery; the gas to be manufactured upon the premises. An engineer was to be employed and a janitor placed in charge of the entire building, whose duty it would be to keep it in good sanitary condition, and the courts in proper order. The services of a first-class caterer were to be secured and a public laundry provided.

The transverse structure it was proposed to utilize as follows: the basement, for vapor, plunge, and ordinary bath-rooms, for the use of occupants of the "Home" not provided with the same in their own apartments, for hair-dressing saloon, &c. On the first floor there were to be two large school-rooms and a dining-saloon for children under twelve years of age. The second floor was to contain an assembly-room, 40 by 70 feet, for social entertainments and other meetings; also, a dining room for members not taking meals in their own apartments; a reading or sitting-room for ladies, and a reading and smoking-room for gentlemen; these to be supplied with choice reading matter, periodicals and papers, in ample numbers, at an expense not to exceed 50 cents per month to each subscriber. The third floor was to be appropriated to recreation, amusement, and conversation rooms, furnished with billiard tables, chessmen, &c. Regulations for the instruction and supervision of children, providing for the sick, and also in regard to furnishing meals and attending to the laundry work of occupants of the "Home" who preferred not to perform such labor in their own apartments, were given by the projector.

The rentals per year which these apartments should yield to the members or stockholders were stated as follows:

First story, front rooms, per square foot of area, 25 cents.

Second story, front rooms, per square foot of area, 30 cents.

Third story, front rooms, per square foot of area, 20 cents.

Fourth story, front rooms, per square foot of area, 16 cents.

The remainder ranging from 20 cents down to 12 cents. Thus, a front room of 18 by 16 feet, on the third floor, would command $4.80 per month. The expense of living at such an associated home, including board, washing, heat, and light, as also the expenditure for janitor and engineer, were rated as follows per month:

Single persons	$25
Families, per adult, according to number, from	$15 to 20
Children under 14 years	10
" " 10 "	8
" " 5 "	6

The projector sums up by showing in a tabular statement that, for a family of six persons, living in such an associated home, apart from the advantages it would enjoy in the way of educational facilities and increased comfort in many respects, a gain of nearly $500 annually would be the result, as compared with the present mode of living in detached houses.

It is now upwards of ten years since this plan was proposed in Washington, and despite the unquestioned success of a similar system originated by the eminent social scientist, J. B. A. Godin, in Guise, France, as early as 1859, the beneficent effects of which command to this day the admiration of every votary of social science, this project of Mr. Enthofer has so far totally failed of realization. Various have been the reasons assigned therefor. The projector himself states that most of the subscribers declined to take any other apartments than those on the first floor; others say the scheme is antagonistic to that instinct of individualism inherent in every true American, which makes him averse to anything which shall, even seemingly, hamper his movements or lessen his individuality; whilst a third emphatically declares "the love of dominion in man" to be at the bottom of the disinclination of American men to adopt such a system of homesteads, because it would be a signal movement towards emancipating their wives from the drudgery of house-keeping and render them less domestic.

Various suburban projects have, from time to time, been started to meet the demands of persons of moderate means, who would not be content within the ordinary city dwelling. "*Uniontown*," primarily for the employés of the Navy Yard, is beautifully located on the banks of the "Anacostia," or Eastern branch of the Potomac, on a plateau of gently rising ground backed by a fine range of hills. Along the base and on the rise of these hills, a short distance apart, a suburban negro village called "Hillsdale" has sprung up, as it were, of indigenous growth, which, with its many primitive and rude looking structures liberally covered with whitewash, gives the landscape here, from a distance, a rather picturesque and cheerful appearance. A tramway extends from the city to these suburban villages. The denizens of neither of these settlements seem to have been actuated by any other motive to locate here than that the holders of the ground offered building and garden lots on exceptionally low and favorable terms.

Mount Pleasant Village and Meridian Hill, two suburban settlements situated on the high plateau north of the city, were efforts in the direction of inducing clerks in the departments and other persons of moderate means to purchase lots of half an acre or more on easy terms and erect thereon cottages to suit. Whilst both are delightful locations, neither has attained that degree of prosperity and attractiveness which their denizens at first pictured to themselves. Possibly the distance from a tramway of the one or the detrimental practice of holding lots at a higher price than originally fixed upon, after the first sales were effected, may have caused a lack of the requisite participation. So, whilst some cosy and inviting homes may be found there, the majority of lots remain unimproved or show lamentable neglect. In regard to Pleasant Plains and portions of University Hill, two like suburban settlements, (on the line of tramway however,) a similar tardiness of growth is to be noted.

It would seem that the only approach which has been made in the District of Columbia to solve successfully the problem of suitable associated homes for persons of moderate incomes is the enterprise known as Le Droit Park, comprising some fifty acres of land, subdivided into 190 building sites, adjacent to and fronting some two thousand feet on the northern boundary line of the city. It is contiguous to the *termini* of two tramways, with a third in prospect at an early date, so that at all times for a five cent fare most of the public departments may be reached in from fifteen to thirty minutes. This enterprise indicates an intelligent effort to practically solve the problem of "Associated Homes" adapted to the taste, wants and means of the average American.

The projectors, Messrs. A. L. Barber & Co., constitute simply a copartnership. Purely as an investment the firm purchased the ground in 1872 and 1873, inclosing the entire area with a fence in common. Enlisting in the enterprise the thoughtful, experienced and, in this line, peculiarly successful architect, James H. McGill, the ground was then laid off in suitable building sites, taking care to preserve what trees there were upon the premises, (among them a number of fine oaks,) and utilizing for purposes of landscape effect such inequalities as presented themselves. Like M. Godin at Guise, Messrs. A. L. Barber & Co. showed their sincerity of purpose and confidence in the advantages the project would offer to families; for among the first dwellings erected was one for each partner of the firm, where they continue to reside to this day.

The architect wisely designed plans generally uniform as to the interior arrangements, but on the exterior of the most varied, picturesque and tasteful designs. The projectors then organized, mainly among themselves, what they styled: "The Le Droit Park Building Company," which association erected the dwellings as there seemed a call for them, some singly, others, for the purpose of greater economy in building, in pairs or adjoining each other, but ever careful to preserve proportions in keeping with the general design. Of such dwellings, some with and others without stables or other outhouses, (which latter when erected are all constructed in harmony with the prevailing styles of architecture,) there are now some fifty, of which about half are owned by their respective occupants. The houses are substantially built of either brick or wood, are provided with cellars and have ornamental slate roofs. On the ground floor they usually have, besides one bay window, a porch or piazza and hallway, a parlor, library or conservatory, a dining room, kitchen and pantries or closet, whilst on the second floor, in addition to occasional balconies, bath-rooms and ample closets, there are three or more chambers. A third floor is exceptional and only introduced in case mansard roofs are used. The dwellings are all supplied with gas, water, sewerage, latrobe stoves, ranges, marble mantels, bells, etc., etc. They are sold at from thirty-six hundred dollars, including lot, to ten thousand dollars, according to size and extent of building site. The terms of purchase are such that most government clerks could by dint of economy, within a term of eight years or less, according to the amount of salary they receive, readily pay out of the same the price of one suited to their respective tastes and wants. These dwellings are set back from the curbline some fifteen to forty feet, and range in width from thirty-six to sixty feet. The streets and avenues remain private property, for the sole use of the residents of the park, yet are free to the public to drive through them. The proprietors of the grounds comprising the park, and not the municipal authorities, improve and keep in repair the streets and sidewalks, and provision is made to secure the services of a competent landscape gardener, whose duty it is to keep the entire grounds of the park (devoid as they are of division fences of any kind,) in proper order, whether occupied or not, provide requisite plants for ample floral display on the premises, see to the trees, grass and roadways, and in fact render the place attractive at all times.

Letter carriers, venders of bread, meat, milk, fruit, vegetables and ice, make their regular calls upon the denizens; physicians and the police are readily summoned by telephone. A book and magazine club has existed for several years, and the excellence of its social sphere is a well established fact. What more, then, could be wanted in this locality? Is not this the commencement of a veritable American Utopia such as "Bedford Park," near London, is to the eyes of Moncure Conway, Nast, Renan, and the inhabitants of its 350 quaint Queen Anne Cottages? The projectors, and those participating with them as residents of Le Droit Park may laudably entertain such hopes. Will they be realized? The future alone can tell. Whilst the projectors and denizens of this park deserve great credit for what they have accomplished, much remains yet to be done to make it (or any similar enterprise) the Arcadian home which (within the present limited period that they feel their term of office assured) the great majority of government employes here can reasonably expect to attain.

But why should not such a model city block, or suburban park of associated homes, be feasible, if constructed within the means of those for whom they would be intended? Homes, we will say, in one or more quarters, for those now inhabiting cramped and vermin-breeding structures, would aid in elevating them and their children to a higher standard of moral and intellectual culture. In another section, easily accessible homes for government employes and others engaged in similar labor, comprising cosy cottages, supplied with the conveniences which the more modern applications of electricity, steam and gas in domestic economy afford; a co-operative dining hall in charge of a first-class caterer, a public laundry, a nursery and kindergarten, so that the mothers of the place, if so disposed, could at all times, temporarily or permanently, be relieved of the drudgery of the kitchen, the worry with servants, and the wearing care of small children, cheerful apartments for, and good attention to, the single of both sexes, a Rochdale store, a school and circulating library, places of worship and amusement, public greenhouses and conservatory, a swimming pool and skating rink, a gymnasium, a livery stable, a post and telegraph office, in fact everything calculated to make such an associated home attractive at all seasons, promote refinement, and afford true comfort. All might be so arranged that, to some extent at least, it shall be within the means of every denizen to enjoy these advantages, whether his salary be only that of a messenger, or be that of a Cabinet officer.

Considering the practice which prevails of apportioning the appointments in the several departments pro rata among the states, will not some wealthy public-spirited New Yorker lead off with such an associated home building, or a suburban park, at the federal capital, named in honor of his, the great empire state? wherein provision might even be made for its Senators and Representatives, of which New Yorkers would be proud, and where they would delight to congregate? Or will some farsighted New Englander first step forth and show how it can be done? The several state headquarters at the Centennial Exhibition gave abundant evidence how gladly "birds of a feather flock together," and not less so the entertainments of certain of the state associations in this city within a more recent period. It is merely in a suggestive way that these ideas are presented; back of them, however, is the accumulated observation of years.

The advent of the so-called board of public works, of which ex-Governor Alexander R. Shepherd was the master spirit, did much to stimulate the erection of a better style and higher order of dwellings in the city. The parking or widening of the sidewalk area along all streets not devoted exclusively to business purposes, allowed the introduction of bay windows and other ornamental projections. Thousands of dwellings in the city now enjoy the advantages of this wise innovation upon former rules for building. This parking, together with the extensive tree-planting feature of Washington, has greatly added to the pleasure and comfort of its denizens, and contributes largely to mitigate the drawbacks incident to life in large cities.

The grading and paving of the city, in a manner that even exceeds in excellence the carriageways of the most advanced capitals of Europe, induces the more wealthy frequenters of Washington, and also many of the prominent public men of the country possessed of the means, in increasing numbers, to erect elegant and costly mansions. The federal Capital promises thus in time, not only as a writer has recently observed, "to be the winter end of New York, as Newport is its summer extension," but the favored resort during half the year of the cultured and wealthy throughout the land. In anticipation of this increasing influx of the wealthy, apartment houses are being erected upon a scale equal to any in the country. Such a structure, recently completed, called "*The Portland*," contains three complete suits of six rooms, each on the lower floors, commanding respectively a rental of $1,500 per annum, unfurnished, whilst the smaller suites on the upper floors are held at from $780 to $1,200 per annum. Of course all conveniences which it is possible to supply are introduced, including elevators and steam heating, whilst on the first floor, those who desire to dispense with cooking in their own apartments, can be served at a *table d'hote* or *a la carte*.

It will thus be seen that in Washington, for the wealthier class of people, temporary and permanent habitations upon a commensurate scale, are amply being provided, but homes adapted to the means, and in keeping with the advancing spirit of the age, for the unskilled laborer, and the large number of people called into the service of the government (including a suitable dwelling for the family of the President of the United States), are wanting. These will no doubt in time be forthcoming, when greater stability is given to the civil service, and some enlightened man or woman of this country "possessed of means and goodly will," shall, as Godin did in France, and Lindley in Great Britain, show here how it can be done. Then we may expect to see clusters of model dwellings at the National Metropolis, which, provided their inmates make the two great commandments their rule of practice in life, shall constitute the best types of American homes for the people.

A London Street Exhibition.

From the New York Sun.

LONDON, February 18.—The London season has commenced. It would be useless to say that instead of May sunshine and balconies filled with flowers the town is still shrouded in its winter fogs and clad in furs, and that the time for crowded balls and lengthy dinners can only be in sultry weather. The season has commenced with the opening of Parliament and the first drawing-room of the year. At 2 in the afternoon the fashionable street around Buckingham Palace presented that remarkable aspect which only London can wear.

In the broad daylight, or at least in as much of it as is ever visible—a moon and water radiance—ladies of all ages drive in toilets suitable only for the charitable gaslight. No women are as fond as Englishwomen of displaying their charms at a time when they have ceased to exist, and even to the roughs and street Arabs they deem it a duty to exhibit them. Old duchesses, faded spinsters, fat dowagers, carelessly allow the ermine tippet to drop from their shoulders, and the crowd catches here and there the glitter of a dimond on a shriveled neck, or the scintillations of a tiara on a trembling brow. The spectators are not reticent, and freely bandy their observations, mostly of a personal and uncharitable nature. In fact, royalty itself is not spared. On one occasion the crowd getting impatient as it waited for the Queen, vociferously inquired if "Mother Brown" was not soon coming. This frank but uncomplimentary allusion to the Scotch gillie was universally appreciated, and met with no rebuke.

Why He Would Not Stay.

"Do not go, darling"—and as she spoke the words, spoke them in low, tender tones that thrilled him from main-truck to keelson, Gwendolen Mahaffy laid her soft, white cheek on Plutarch Riordan's shoulder and gave him a look with her lustrous, dove-like eyes that would make your head swim.

"I cannot stay," he replied, kissing the peachy-red lips as he spoke, and feeling wistfully in his overcoat pocket for a plug of tobacco; "I must go now, right away."

But the girl placed her arms around his neck—arms whose soft, rounded curves and pink-tinted skin would have made an anchorite throw up his job, and pleaded with him to stay a little longer. "I cannot," he again said, looking at her tenderly.

"Cannot?" repeated the girl, a shade of anger tinging the tone in which the word was uttered. "And pray, sir, what is it that so imperatively calls you hence?"

Bending over her with a careless grace that artfully concealed the slight bagginess at the knees of his pants, Plutarch said in low, bitter tones that were terrible in their intensity:

"I have broken my suspender!"—*From "A Jersey City Idyl," by Murat Halstead.*

Conundrum by President Arthur: "Why is my friend, Mr. Conkling, the most unpunctual person of my acquaintance?" [The Cabinet all say they give it up.] "Because he won't keep his appointment."—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

Bishop Berkeley.

From Temple Bar.

One of the most curious circumstances in connection with Berkeley's life is the belief that once prevailed that he had succeeded in making a giant. According to an account given in Watkinson's "Philosophical Survey of Ireland" (1777), he took a poor orphan, named Magrath, and reared him on certain hygienic principles, with the result that the boy, at the age of sixteen, was seven feet high, and that he was seven feet eight inches in height when he died, with all the symptoms of old age, twenty years old. Others say that the good Bishop merely took pity on Magrath, who, having perhaps lost the use of his limbs on account of his extraordinary growth, was taken under the protection of the prelate and fed on good and nourishing food until he regained his strength.

Suffering a good deal from nervous colic toward the end of his life, and having received benefit from the use of tar-water, he wrote a treatise (1744) on its virtues, on which he said he had bestowed more pains than on any of his works. His last book, published (1752) but a few months before his death, was "Further Thoughts on Tar-Water." Whatever other people may have thought of the efficacy of tar (and we know by the advertisements that this remedy is largely believed in by people of our own time), there is no doubt that the Bishop had great faith in it; indeed, he owned that he regarded it as a panacea. Swift, in his "Bouts Rimes," refers to it:

"Let nobles toast in bright champagne
Nymphs higher born than Domitilla;
I'll drink her health, again, again,
In Berkeley's tar or sars'parilla."

Why They Do It.

The deep philosophy of *Texas Siftings* has solved one of the women problems as follows: "You can see it down here in Texas already, and, in a short time it will make its appearance all over the United States. Like the prickly heat and boils, it comes out regularly every spring. We refer to the specter of the front yard. Perhaps the reader does not quite comprehend our meaning. We refer to the woman who plants shrubbery, and grubs about generally, early every spring, in the front yard. Early every spring the average woman, rich or poor, dresses herself in a faded calico dress, disguises herself in a big poke bonnet, and, armed with a garden rake, she goes prowling about like a scarecrow on wheels, a darkey with a water pot usually bringing up the rear of the procession. The question arises: Why does the average female strive to make herself so hideous as to fill a dead man with distrust, if he were to walk past, when about the only returns for her trouble are a $40 rheumatic pain in her back, and a suggestion from her husband that she hire a wagon and go around selling vegetables? The reason why women will persist in fixing up a garden is simply because they cannot help themselves. They are acting from an irresistible impulse. It is because their ancestors did so. Why, in the spring of the year, do picnics become epidemic, and old and young, rich and poor, rush off into the woods to eat their lunch under trees, and be fed on by ticks and mosquitoes? It is simply because for tens of thousands of years man was in a nomadic condition. He wandered about with his family in the woods, living on berries and being annoyed by insects, and although man has become civilized, and lives in a house, yet, nevertheless, about once a year an irresistible desire to return to his old vagabond life comes over him, and he just has to go on a picnic, after which he cools down for the rest of the year, and puts sweet oil on the tick bites. Just so it is with women gardening. Until quite recently woman had to do all the hard work in the field. She had to dig up the ground, plant the crop, and gather it until it became second nature to her. Her husband was kind enough to encourage her to keep on by shaking a stick at her when she wanted to sit down and rest, but it was below his dignity to work. Such was the condition of woman from the beginning of time. It will be remembered that Adam was too lazy to gather in the apples, so Eve had to do it for him. Of course all this is changed now. All that most women do in the way of hard work is to dress up and go to parties, but every spring she cannot resist the impulse to put on her worst clothes and drudge with a hoe out in the front yard, as she used to do thousands of years ago."

Recognizing His Master's Voice Through a Telephone.

A citizen of Denver is the owner of an intelligent dog, which is a great pet of the family. A few days ago it was arranged that the master should come down in the city and talk through the telephone to the dog, to see what effect it would have upon the animal. When the master called out "Hello," the dog was held upon a chair, and the audiphone placed close to its ear. The gentleman talked to the dog in his ordinary tone of voice, and called to it and whistled several times. The canine recognized its master's voice, and almost went wild because it could not find him. The animal could not be held upon the chair, jumped down and ran about the room barking at a furious rate, and seeming to be utterly nonplussed because the master could not be found.

The English Professional Beauties.

"H. C." writes from London to the New York *Times*, of the professional beauties out riding:

"And there, see! from the direction of the spacious Marlborough House comes a carriage which, though perfect in every detail of appointment and attendants, is not nearly so pretentious or showy as many of the others around it. Yet there is a commotion, a turning of heads and straining of necks as it passes. The quiet-looking gentleman with full beard, a pale, fluffy face, and faultless attire, who sits in it, is the Prince of Wales. But even he, the heir to the throne, creates only a passing ripple of excitement in the world of the West End. His carriage dashes past and is lost sight of in the distance. Then comes a double coupé. Two ladies are in it. The youngest is the celebrated Countess Dudley—celebrated for the moment as a great beauty, though why she should be so many people are at a loss to know. Her face is thin, and begins to have a careworn look. There is much of the American type about her—the difference being that she carries her shapely head wonderfully well, as do but few of our countrywomen. She is dressed richly, though plainly, in dark blue velvet and black lace. Her really beautiful throat and neck are well displayed—that is, well for the crowd. It is just possible that a husband, even a noble English husband, with a grain of fine feeling, would be quite as well pleased if she did not make so lavish a show of her charms. The same criticism can not be made in regard to Mrs. Cornwallis West. She, passing in a neat brougham almost side by side with her rival Dudley, appears in a tight-fitting costume of amber cloth, which is almost too high in the neck. It may be that, despite her fresh complexion, full lips, and laughing eyes, there are ravages of time which she finds it well to conceal. For be it understood that she, like the rest of what are rather profanely known as 'the professional beauties,' is not exactly in her teens. But upon this point even the quickest observer has no time to moralize or make theories. She passes out of sight like the rest, giving place after a time to that most attractive woman of them all—Mrs. Langtry. A characteristic English face is hers, English, with a dash of Scotch in her violet-blue eyes and red-brown hair. Her eye-brows are straight, strong and regular, the rest of her face irregular as irregular can be. Not one feature in it, excepting always her eyes, could, taken singly, be called beautiful. Her nose is positively bad, long, thin, slightly overhanging, and essentially commonplace. Her mouth is very large and certainly not suggestive either of a bent toward asceticism or of great power to resist temptation, while her chin and cheek bones are decidedly angular and out of proportion. Yet none who see her can deny that she has a most charming, almost a bewitching face."

The Burden of the Sea.

From deep mid-ocean in the solemn night,
No wandering sail abroad, no shore in sight,
What voice goes up sonorous through the spheres,
And what its burden that God only hears?

The burden of the Sea! that infinite woe
Of ages, endless as its ebb and flow—
Endless and hopeless—hark, the mystic song!
"How long"—it seems to moan—"O Lord, how long!"

T. WESTWOOD.

His Crazy Bone.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

The man that struck his crazy bone
All suddenly jerked up one foot
And hopped three vivid hops, and put
His elbow straight before him—then
Flashed white as pallid Parian stone,
And clinched his eyes, and hopped again.

He spake no word—he made no moan—
He muttered no invective—but
Just gripped his eyelids tighter shut,
And, as the world whizzed past him then,
He only knew his crazy bone
Was stricken—so—he hopped again.

—*J. W. Riley.*

A new map of Boston has a certain open space designated as Haynutsmallm square. A printer would readily see how the error occurred. The square was marked in the original draft Haymarket, but in printing it was changed to Hay Market. In correcting the proof the reader marked it, "Put small m," and the printer followed his copy literally.—*Boston Traveller.*

WASHINGTON DRAINAGE.

The Evils Complained of and the Remedies Proposed.

From the Sanitary Engineer.

For many years there have been occasional complaints as to the drainage and sewerage of Washington city. Before the war it was a straggling village of boarding-houses and oyster saloons, with a few large and handsome buildings scattered about. The greater part of the drainage was superficial, the paved gutters were often foul, and many of the streets were unpaved, and in winter almost impassable. The streets intersecting Pennsylvania avenue between the Capitol and the White House, had in their centers large, roughly-built brick sewers, which emptied into the canal, and from the avenue to the canal had but little fall—being, in fact, nothing more than elongated cesspools. The foul gases from one of these sewers produced the famous National Hotel epidemic in 1857. The greater part of the city, however, had neither drainage nor sewerage.

After the war the increase in population was such that village methods of providing for excreta were no longer sufficient, and when the board of public works was created it entered upon the construction of a general system of sewers in connection with the extensive opening and paving of streets, which it carried out. The work was done in haste—on plans not fully digested, under very poor supervision, and at a relatively enormous expense; but it made Washington one of the most beautiful cities in the country, and put an end to the schemes for removing the capital, of which for a year or two so much was heard.

A better class of buildings made its appearance, although at the same time the Jerry builders ran up their long rows of cheap brick tenements by the hundred.

Now, Washington is fast becoming a great literary and scientific center, a winter resort for that class of people who in summer are found at the sea-side or in Europe.

But there is a cloud on the fair fame of the city, and that is with regard to its healthfulness. The Washington malaria has become celebrated. No doubt its amount and its danger have been exaggerated, if we use the word in the sense in which it is now for the most part used. But there is also no doubt that there occurs each year in Washington a large unknown amount of disease, and a certain proportion of deaths due to defective sub-soil drainage, badly constructed sewers of deposit, and a marshy and polluted river front. The registration of deaths in the District of Columbia is a fairly accurate one—a permit from the health office being required for every burial; and the results of this registration have been carefully tabulated and presented in the reports of the health officer. In his annual report for 1880, he gives a summary of data relating to the deaths occurring in the District from September 1; 1874, the date when accurate registration commenced, to June 30, 1880; the total number of deaths during this period being 24,520.

It is well known that the disease which presents most intimate relations with soil moisture is consumption. The following table shows the number of deaths from this disease during the period above referred to, as compared with the total number of deaths from all causes:

	Total Deaths from all Causes.	Number of Deaths from Consumption.
White, males	6,516	985
White, females	5,951	948
Colored, males	5,909	934
Colored, females	6,152	1,252
Total	24,519	4,119

The mean annual death-rate from consumption for this period has been: for the whites, 2,762 per thousand; for the colored, 6,416 per thousand. The mean annual death-rate from all causes during the same period was: for the whites, 17.812; for the colored, 35.372 per cent. The percentage of deaths from consumption to the whole number of deaths was 16.7, being a little higher than the same percentage in the state of Massachusetts for the five years, 1874-'78 in which it was 16.5.

Striking as these figures are, they become still more striking when we examine the map of the district upon which are marked the precise localities in which these deaths occurred. This great mortality from consumption, greater relatively than in Massachusetts, is seen to be concentrated to comparatively limited portions of the city, forming a sort of band which corresponds almost precisely with the low parts where a few years ago were marshes only.

It is very true that low sites and bad drainage are not the only causes of consumption in Washington; it is on these sites that the poorer classes live—and poverty, filth, want of ventilation, which is totally given up to save fuel, and other things connected with poverty and race, have each their share as causes, but probably damp soil is the chief factor.

With regard to the sewers, the maps show an increased percentage of deaths, and especially from deaths from such diseases as typhoid fever and diphtheria south of the avenue, where the large brick sewers are, as stated above, little more than elongated cesspools.

The vicinity of the river front, with its marshes opposite also, is distinctly indicated as being an unhealthy locality. It is here that the influence of malaria—that is, the specific cause of intermittent fever—is most apparent, although at times, and especially in the fall, this influence is felt in almost every part of the city. It is rarely fatal—or at least is rarely reported as such—sixty-eight cases only of death from this cause being reported in the year ending June 30, 1880, but it complicates many other diseases, often indeed, when its presence is not suspected.

In his last annual report, of which we have seen only a newspaper abstract, the health officer of the District rather appears to ridicule the idea that Washington is an unhealthy or malarious city, and gives figures to show that four cities show higher death rates from zymotic diseases, etc., etc. This view of the case will probably meet with the cordial approval of the Washington hotel and boarding-house keepers, but it is to be hoped that it will not induce Congress to think that there is no special need for improvement.

There are many localities in Washington which are marked by unhealthy, localities where no prudent man would live who could afford to live elsewhere; and there is every reason to believe that these localities could be made much more healthy than they are by proper drainage and sewerage. There seems to be too great a tendency in the legislation proposed to Congress to confine the work wholly to the river front. From a sanitary point of view this will be a mistake. In this article we have considered the subject from a sanitary point of view only, and it may be stated as a general conclusion that for sanitary reasons it is highly desirable that some action should be speedily taken to secure better drainage, sewerage and water front, than Washington now possesses. The healthfulness of our capital city is not a matter of mere local interest only, and the wrath of some persons in the District at what they seem to consider impertinent intrusion in the shape of criticism and advice is simply foolish.

Washington belongs to the nation, and the nation must assume the responsibility and to a great extent bear the expense of making it what it ought to be. What this implies, and the relations of engineering and financial sides of the problem, to the sanitary aspect as sketched above, will be discussed in succeeding articles.

MODERN WOMEN'S BIG HATS.

The Weird Romance of Poor Philip Vanderdonk from the West.

From the Burlington Hawkeye.

All his life he had toiled and saved and scraped, and pulled every string that had a dollar at the end of it. And now all his hard-earned wealth was gone, and a great hateful, interest-eating mortgage spreads its black wings over all that he owned and loved on earth. He sank into a chair, and, folding his arms upon the table before him, bowed his gray head upon them and groaned great groans from groanville, groan county. His heart seemed breaking.

"Did you mortgage the farm?" asked his wife anxiously, stealing softly to his side.

"Yes," he growled, "both farms, and sold the wood lot over on Big Island."

"And did you have to mortgage the town house, too?" she asked, with quivering lips and glistening eyes.

"Oh, yes," said the man in hollow tones. "Oh, yes, and sold all my stock in the Northern, and hypothecated what I had in the Sixth-street bridge."

"And was it enough?" she asked, trembling with eagerness. "Was it enough?"

"Not quite," he growled, and then, as he saw the ghastly pallor of deathly disappointment spread over her face, he added, "but the milliner let me have it on ninety days' time for the balance at 8 per cent."

"And you've brought my new hat home, then?" she caroled joyously. "Oh, Philip, you dear old duck!"

"Well, no; not all of it," he said. "I brought the plume and one of the boys down with me in the express, but the hat stuck in coming down from Chicago on a flat-car."

Embroidery for Bedrooms.

From the Art Amateur.

One of the decidedly attractive pieces of needlework shown at the rooms of the Society of Decorative Art was a bed-cover made of fine soft crash, so neatly joined in lengths that the stitches were almost imperceptible, and embroidered in fine crewel with a branching "all over" design of singular grace and beauty. This style of embroidery has no special name, but for want of a more specific title, has been called "grandmother's crewel-work," repeating, as it does, the old conventional roses and carnations that spring from a common stem, and are varied by pretty flourishes, all produced in grayish blues and reddish pinks and amber yellows, with greens that suggests the stalk of growing lavender. The price set upon this quilt was one hundred dollars, and the worker is reported to have said that her labor was barely covered by the sum affixed. I see, however, no difficulty in undertaking such a piece of bedroom decoration if one has fair acquaintance with the methods of ordinary Kensington stitches. The chief difficulty to an outsider lies, of course, in finding an appropriate design, and in having it applied to the ground for working. Where conventional coloring is so freely used—and one would think it no shame to perch a blue bird on a rose-colored branch, or to bestow yellow foliage on a gray-green blossom—the artist has certainly a comfortable liberty of choice.

To show what ingenuity has done, a lady sitting at breakfast one morning in her country home, was invaded by a persistent peddler, so intent on vending his wash-cloths, woven in squares, to be cut apart when used, that she could only get rid of him by investing one dollar in the purchase of a dozen. The coarse, cream-colored web of woven cotton, as it lay upon the floor suggested to her a ground for needlework. With her needle alone, having no pattern indicated, she worked upon the meshes of each square some flower or sprays plucked in her daily walks. In the wide connecting threads between the squares she interwove blue ribbons. With threads