

AN OLD PHOTOGRAPHER.

VETERAN BOGARDUS WRITES ABOUT SECRETS OF THE TRADE.

Why the Amateurs Are Doing So Well. Results of Carelessness—The Photographer's Patience—Good Advice—Production of Colors.

It required work, money and time, and great quantities of it, to bring photography up to its present standard; it required the combined intellect of the best chemists and the best manipulators; it required the finest mechanism to construct the necessary apparatus, and it required great care, taste, skill, judgment and experience to make a good picture.

One man will excel in lighting and posing, and perhaps is not successful with the chemical part, another is good with the chemicals, but cannot pose or light the sitter; another is perfect with the mechanical part, and cannot pose to satisfaction or use the chemicals to produce good work; few are made the operation has been simplified. It was not so simple to men who worked with hand and brain to simplify it. Again, the amateur does not have to prepare his chemical plates; he can be trusted already coated. The camera and amateur will often expose the same plate twice. A gentleman usually successful exposed his plate on an organ grinder and the monkey. The next day, forgetting which plate had been exposed, he focused on a beautiful country seat. When the plate was developed, man and monkey were somewhat mixed, the head of the organ grinder coming out of the chimney and the monkey perched on the head of the "lady of the house," who had so carefully struck an attitude on the piazza. More plates spoiled by careless working than by bad chemicals, happened into a "raining" in the fraternal hall. A photographer sees many little histories. A young gentleman has some pictures taken of his wife in a style. We understand the situation. Before long the new bride is taken in her bridal dress. Next the baby in its long dress, then in its short dress. In the course of time his first mistake at college and then he begins to be a regular progression from generation to generation.

Many sitters spoil what would otherwise have been a good picture by trying to get an expression. "Try to look like yourself!" is the best advice I can give. One looks too cross, the next smiles too much. A miss from the camera brought her lover for a picture. "Now," said she, "look kinder smile and kinder not." That was about as sensible advice as I ever heard given. After over forty years in making faces, photography has been called "justice without mercy," but by retouching the sitter one is made to look much younger than in real life. Retouching the negative is done in a dark room, with a small opening in a frame that covers the window. The negative is placed over this small opening and the work is done by the use of pencil and brush, to remove all the roughness of the skin, and can remove all frowns and lines. Thus the prints are beautiful and sometimes improved. But in many instances the retoucher does too much, by taking out all the character of the face. People wishing a true likeness never wish this done. Others do. It depends very much on the age of the sitter. I have had people 60 and 70 years old ask, "Can you take my likeness without showing any wrinkles?" The answer always is, "Yes, but where will the likeness be?" Many, many complaints I have had of the picture looking too old, and but very few instances of its being pronounced too young. I remember several instances where the parties expected a promise to break the plate after one impression had been printed. They wanted one for sale, but none for friends under any circumstances.

Efforts to get pictures of young ladies are often made. Of course, pictures of actresses and public people are sold to any purchaser, but the picture of private individuals honoring me with their patronage I always considered sacred. All kinds of permissions are made by young men to get the pictures of pretty young ladies.

Will the colors ever be photographed? Well, in these days of wonder we are hardly surprised at anything. Electricity had long been known and used for various purposes, but it remained for Morse to send it whispering around the world, and photography has made rapid strides, and some mind more fertile than others may produce the colors, but all attempts by the best chemists of the world have not been successful thus far.

Several claims have been made, but on investigating have been found false. About the year 1850 a man named Hill, of Catskill, N. Y., claimed to be able to daguerotype the colors. Of course, it was a great secret. All the daguerotypes I immediately suffered from color blindness on the brain. A meeting was called at the gallery of Mr. Lawrence to investigate. It was decided to send a committee to Catskill with money to buy the wonder, but he could not show anything satisfactory.

Photography has been disgraced by the making of pictures unfit to be shown among intelligents and virtuous people. It has been used to gratify the lowest and most depraved tastes, and although there is a law against the production of such pictures, yet they are produced in this city in places unknown to the public, and have been made in galleries bearing the name of the artist, and by men contemptible enough to do anything for money.

Sometimes you hear people say, "The photographer put me in such a bad light it made me scowl." Now, if the model will observe the next one hundred people he meets on the street he will find two-thirds of them wearing a scowl, perhaps without being aware of it. They never find out they have a scowl until they see an impression of the face, and say the photographer has done it.—A. Bogardus in New York World.

The present London fashion of carrying the arms protrudes that the shoulder should be thrust out as far as possible, giving a square look to the body.

Don't Experiment.

You cannot afford to waste time in experimenting when your lungs are in danger. Consumption always seems, at first, only a cold. Do not permit any dealer to impose upon you with some cheap imitation of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, but be sure you get the genuine. Because he can make more profit he may tell you he has something just as good, or just the same. Don't be deceived, but insist upon getting Dr. King's New Discovery, which is guaranteed to give relief in all throat, lung and chest affections. Trial bottles free at H. H. Watkins' Drug Store.

DENMARK FARMERS.

THE PEASANTRY DIVIDED INTO FOUR DISTINCT CLASSES.

Feeding and Lodging the Laborer—Home-stead of the Yeoman Farmer—The Law of Inheritance—Class Distinctions—Concerning Marriage—Keeping Fidelity.

The peasantry of Denmark are divided into four distinct classes, namely, the "Gardmand" (pronounced Gormann), or yeoman farmer, who either owns or rents from thirty to eighty five acres (English), secondly, the "Parcelist," who owns or rents from eight to thirty acres, thirdly, the "Husmand," or cottager, with from one to eight acres; and lastly, the "In-sidder," who generally rents his cottage and garden plot, and from this last class it is that the laboring men are principally drawn.

Until marriage the laboring men are fed and lodged upon the farm where they work, and in one of the buildings just referred to are the dormitories for the "Karle," of which upon such a farm there would be about twelve, besides the foreman and his wife, in the roomy kitchen, and the refectory, where these stalwart hungry youths are fed, and particularly well fed, too, partaking of no less than five good meals a day. At 4 in the morning their breakfast is served, consisting of huge slices of bread and butter—cut by a machine—with coffee and a small glass of "snaps," or corn brandy, on the island of Zealand this early meal is a kind of thick soup made of rye bread and beer, with which a salt herring is eaten. At noon dinner which is soup or porridge, followed by meat, or codfish, or pork, with vegetable and beer, at 4 p. m. beer and butter, cheese, beer, and more snaps, and finally a supper of porridge with milk.

The farm hands are hired by the half year, and the whole system has hitherto worked to the mutual satisfaction of both laborer and employer. This, however, is greatly due to the fact that there exists a code of hiring laws which provides an easy settlement of all disputes between master and man. Every peasant farm domestic, it is under these laws compelled to keep a book which is officially registered, and wherein are written all his or her certain acts of character, such one of which is necessarily counterchecked by the master of the district wherein the master or mistress resides.

The Gardmand's homestead is substantial square and detached; the barn, stables, etc., are joined to it, forming together a quadrangular farm yard, with the entrance gate facing the dwelling. At the back is a garden, usually of about three quarters of an acre, devoted to fruit, vegetables and hops, and a few roses and gilly flowers near the house door. A farmer working from sixty to eighty acres will have upon his farm two "karles," a boy, and two girls for the dairy, all of whom assist in the work of the farm, the master and his family. Generally such a farmer keeps upon his land fifteen or more cows, four sheep, four horses and two goats, for every farmer is a horse breeder more or less. The country is his wife's care and perquisite, and forms a highly important item in her yearly budget. These farms, when owned by the yeoman, are, generally speaking, mortgaged for half their value, a fact to be attributed to most instances to the repeal of the law of primogeniture.

At present the parent is permitted, if he pleases, to leave one-third of his property to his eldest son, a clause in the law of inheritance much appreciated and in general use. As the valuation for probate is extremely low, the eldest son generally inherits a loss with which to buy out his brothers and sisters, with their consent, and the more being a practical one, is provided with generous instincts, this modified form of "partage forcé" does not appear as yet to produce the jealous feuds to which the law of primogeniture in other countries, though, as indeed the system has not been long in force, it is perhaps rash to predict that it may effect no change for the worse during the lapse of a century. In cases where a loss is impossible, owing to a previous mortgage, subdivision steps in, and in some instances has been repeated until the minimum area has been reached under the new law already referred to. Necessarily, if the family be numerous, and all elect to retain their share in the land, they sink to the position of Husmand, and have to resort to a trade to eke out their livelihood. Should, however, a younger member of the family have had the good luck to have married the child of a wealthy Gardmand with a good dowry, then the newly married pair proceed to buy a small farm of about twenty-five acres, and become Parcelists.

Class distinctions are clearly marked and rigidly adhered to among the peasantry. Not so very long ago it was argued from certain political platforms in the Middle Ages that the farmer laborer who possessed "three acres and a cow" would no longer have the need to touch his hat to the squire. Judging from the Danish peasantry, however, a race fully as sturdy and as independent as our own, it would appear that an increase in the number of owners of land does but augment the number of those who demand a respectful salutation from the laborer, whether he possesses a cow or not. Also as regards marriage, a Gardmand's son, married to the most invariably a Gardmand's daughter, and the peasant society of the district is put in a flutter, and the match is considered a grave misalliance, not at all to be encouraged. The younger sons of Gardmand who have neither the prospect of a good inheritance nor of a good "match," usually learn village trades, such as that of wheelwright or blacksmith; those with a better education and more enlightened may become village schoolmasters and village "vets," and sometimes, if they have a preference for horseflesh, they may take the post of coachman at the Hermand's, though it is rare for the yeoman class to enter domestic service. Those who do so, like those who take to a trade, lose caste, and may freely choose their wives from the Husmand's daughter, but not so the veterinary, or schoolmaster, for whom it would be unpardonable. Fowls are kept invariably. They help to pay the rent, and often more besides. Upon the highway one meets the tiny child of 4 or 5, fair haired and blue eyed, her mother in miniature as regards dress, from the close fitting cap and large apron to the little sabots peeping out from under the long, full petticoats. She is armed with a wicker basket is there alone to guard the flock of poultry searching for a meal by the wayside, and which, ever living on terms of close intimacy with the family, are scolded birds, easily amenable to discipline. In winter they are stored away in all sorts of places, in the loft, or more often in hutchens.—Fortnightly Review.

A Sound Legal Opinion.

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