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An Old Virginia Home.

Not the least in contrast to the fashionable rooms of to-day, with the open grate of coal or fanciful gas log burning beneath the marble mantel, the luxurious furniture, bric-a-brac, and a room which I visited one evening. The family were seated around a fire place eight feet long and five feet high, while back, inside the recess at one end of the blazing log stood a child 12 years old. The size of these fireplaces seems incredible unless one has seen them. Sometimes in the winter a huge log is hauled to the door by horses, then brought into the house and placed in the fireplace, where it will burn two or three days. The fire is covered with ashes at night and raked out in the morning, and the rooms are quite as comfortable as those heated with the modern coal stove. In olden times, before the invention of matches, a neighbor would hurry to the nearest house in the morning to get fire to rekindle her own. From this arose the old saying, when a person makes a short visit, "Have you come to get fire?"

The old-time hospitality is still extended to strangers in old Virginia, and has become proverbial, as in the case of the young man who was invited to spend the day and stay overnight in the morning. The fireplaces in these old mountain houses still have a crane and hook, upon which are hung a large kettle for heating water on wash days, "killing" time, etc. Down on the broad brick hearth there stood an oven in which bread was baking. This oven was about the size and shape of the largest iron kettles in common use, and had an iron lid. After the bread was molded and put into this kettle it was covered with the lid, upon which coals and ashes were heaped. In due time a loaf of delicious light bread, evenly browned, was taken from the oven, and we, who had looked on with interest, now ate with satisfaction.

Another object that attracted our attention was the spinning-wheel. Several skeins of yarn were hanging on a peg in the wall, and as there were rolls on the wheel we were given a lesson in spinning. It proved a disastrous one, however, and called into use a reel—a real Virginia reel—to repair the mischief done by unskilled hands. One old man told me he could remember when all the bedding, blankets, flannel, woolen-cloth, linsey-wolesy, yarn and thread were made at home—to buy them was unheard of. These homely places are comfortable and pleasant, and the people more contented than ambitious. Are we not told that to those who have it, contentment is better than wealth?

How St. Louis Lost the Cattle.

In regard to the cold shake St. Louis has received as a cattle market, one of the delegates to the national convention of cattlemen told the following anecdote: "When the cattle-growing business was in its infancy a tall, gaunt, grizzled, homely-looking party, having made arrangements for a great cattle-drive to Kansas City and St. Louis, called upon one of the then St. Louis railroad magnates. He was snubbed by the clerk and stared at by underlings, but with pants in boots and sombrero on the back of his head he stalked by the attendants into the private office of the magnate. The big man looked up against the partition. "Howdy, Cap'n," said the ranchman. "I thought I'd jes drop in and see what rate you could give on cattle to St. Looney." The big man appeared more dumfounded, and, jumping at a very hasty and magisterial conclusion, he assumed an air of snobbishness and frigidity, and told his visitor to tell his employer to come around, as he did not do business with anybody except gentlemen. "I'll make you and your town suffer for this," muttered the disgusted cattle-owner. Two hours later the Hannibal & St. Joseph road made the biggest contract of the year to carry several hundred thousand head of cattle from Kansas City to Chicago. The man induced all his friends to do likewise, and the action of the railroad magnate directed the main run of cattle trade for many years to Chicago."

How to Produce a Dimple.

The following is an account of the manner in which dimples may be artificially created: The situation of the depression having been chosen, a small glass tube is placed on the spot, and the air having been sucked out, the protuberance raised is tied about with a fine silk thread, much as an ordinary wart is treated. The skin, I believe, is snipped with a pair of scissors, and a minute silver cone inserted, and in time the wound heals and leaves a resemble or give the effect of the natural charm.

Manufactured dimples can only be a clumsy pretense after all, and a lasting memorial of the vanity and folly of the subject operated upon. I believe my readers know I am no enemy to the use of innocent means of enhancing and preventing a woman's personal attractions; or to assist in any legitimate design to ameliorate or remove existing defects, and never fail to give my best attention to inquiries addressed to me on this subject. But more than ever does it behoove one to be cautious in using such means of "beautifying."

A man's trials cannot be insufferable if he lives to talk about them.

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The main entrance is on the second floor, to the right of which are the elegantly furnished parlors. A broad passage-way leads from the main hall to the dining-room. These apartments open on to broad verandas, where a magnificent view of the Nuuanu Mountains may be seen through the wealth of tropical foliage that surrounds the balconies.

The fare dispensed is the best the market affords, and is first-class in all respects. Hotel and cottages are supplied with pure water from an artesian well on the premises. The Clerk's office is furnished with the Telephone, by which communication is had with the leading business firms of the city.

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