

# Moonshiners in Ireland.

Despite the unending activity of the police, "poteen," illicit whisky, is brewed in large quantities in Ireland. Numerous arrests and convictions have had no permanent effect in stamping out the "poteen runners" and in all likelihood the people will always be within reach of a "sup of th' crathur."

A "running," said to relate, in most cases usually follows one or more of the poorer families being plunged into debt. A cow, pig or other animal may have died, perhaps the potato crop is not up to expectation, or the oats have given a small return, and there are a few pounds necessary to settle with the landlord. As it takes a very small capital to start a "still," soon the news is flying across the hills and bogs that "there's goin' to be a chance to kill a dhrap of the rale thing."

From the oozy depths of turf banks the several parts of the still are uncovered, where they are hidden from the quick eyes of the "blue coated gentlemen." On a dark night the still is set up in some desolate and forsaken corner, and always in a place where the entire countryside can be searched with the naked eye.

**Preparing for Poteen.**  
In the western parts of Connaught and the islands lying a few miles off the coast in the Atlantic ocean the "poteen workin'" is carried on to a great extent. Here the people have changed little during the last one hundred years, and few of the common conveniences of modern civilization are known. An instance of this backwardness is illustrated herewith, where a woman sits grinding oats for poteen in a quern, the same crude mill that was used in the Holy Land in biblical times, and is still used in that country. The quern is simply two stones fitted together. A hole in the top stone receives the grain, which is prepared for grinding by being dried over the turf fire in an iron pot. By turning the top stone the grain is passed through the stones, and finally falls from the rough side into a white cloth spread on the ground for its reception. Nearly all the meal consumed by the natives of the districts mentioned is ground in querns, the crushing of oats for poteen being only one of its many duties.

A "rale Irish still" is shown at work in the second picture. The liquor is just beginning to trickle through the worm into the cup, and until there is a "tidy sup-of spirits" in the small keg the children will superintend matters. Long experience, in spite of their tender years, has made these "gossoms" expert brewers, and more than once the "sargent an' his m'n" have been fooled by these tricky youngsters.

**Simple in Construction.**  
The simplicity of the still will be seen at a glance. The turf fire sends the steam through the connecting pipe into the copper worm in the barrel. The barrel is filled with cold water, which condenses to steam and sends it forth "th' ginalne stuff."

Little attention is paid to the age of poteen in Ireland. The worm works very slowly when compared with the demand for the output, therefore age becomes a secondary matter. In fact, it drops out of the reckoning altogether. There is only one case on record of poteen "ripenin'," and that was when it was buried in a garden and its place of concealment forgotten. However, that is another story.

When a "wee dhrap" has been successfully run public interest in it reaches an acute stage. If the still is located on an island in a lake, as is often the case, at a given time the "cots," long, flat-bottomed boats, will be seen shooting out from the shores of the mainland and making for their destination by circuitous routes. The cots are beached at different places, and left in positions admitting of ready escape. Soon the fringe of natives around the still grows into a well defined circle.

The "runner" of the still stands over the keg of liquor with a tin cup in one hand and with the other keeping a firm grasp on the wooden "tap" that draws off the poteen. In bottles of all shapes and makes the liquor is car-

ried away and the demand for mugs and cups far exceeds the supply. Shillings and sixpences are taken out of the corners of colored handkerchiefs where they have long lain toward a settlement with landlord on rent day.

By and by this one and that dispose themselves on the grass to get a much-needed nap. There is a big decrease in the call for mugs and cups, and a decided increase in the amount of noise. This even grows sometime, despite many recruits to the ranks of the sleepers. Then, in most cases, the cry "po-lee, po-lee," will come echoing over the water. In an instant all is excitement. The wooden tap is pulled out of the keg and a bung inserted. They take to boats moored in the adjoining water and are soon pulling away with the police in pursuit.

Gradually the unfailing regularity of the "cot-men" begins to hold their pursuers even, and, when the excitement of the chase has to an extent counteracted the effect of the poteen, their increased strength of arm sends them ahead. When the gap is seen to be widening loud cheers come from the pursued. Such as are not rowing wave their arms and hats wildly and shout derisively at the policemen. The



GRINDING CORN IN A QUERN.

latter now know that they are on a wild goose chase, but at least they must bend to the work for a little while longer so as to live up to the duties imposed on them. One by one, however, they rest their oars, and soon they are talking it over and laughing the while they blame the luck which gave them such exertion without results.

Often the pursuit takes place on land, and here the police generally succeed in making a haul. The poteen drinkers are not half so lively in escaping ashore as afloat, and, besides, the "bobbies" are all active men. Over bogs and hills such as are able scatter and run for dear life. A coat is thrown away here, a waistcoat there, suspenders are unbuttoned, the hard leather belts tightened a hole, and if the pace is a "killer" the old cloth hat, held in hand, will follow the rest of the wardrobe.

**Police in a Trap.**  
At the start the police also scatter in order to capture the most prisoners. In this way the pursuers frequently find themselves great distances apart at the end of a long chase. The great object is to arrest the owner of the still. When this is accomplished the victim seldom escapes a heavy fine or else imprisonment. Many amusing instances are recorded of police being led into traps by the pursued. On one occasion a policeman found himself in a log-hole nine feet deep, and from which escape was well-nigh impossible. His comrades had gone in an opposite direction, and no one heard his cries save a couple of his intended victims. They hauled him out of the mire, and when he stood on the bank,



CHILDREN TENDING AN IRISH STILL.

a perfect picture of dejection, one of his rescuers suggested "th' blist rimedy in the world for a duckin'."

It was never known how much poteen the three consumed before they parted, but Mickey's Pat was always willing to swear that they "wee that had they couldn't till their own farther's."

The bog hole covered the sins of the policeman, and it was rumored afterward that when the sergeant heard of the occurrence he declared: "Och,

holy smoke! Wasn't I th' fool I didn't think of such a thrick meself."

**Ribbon Stockings.**  
Ribbon stockings are one of the latest fads of Dame Fashion and clever girls who like to keep in the forefront of the dress procession, but who also have to count the pennies carefully, are making their own. The foundation for the ribbon trimmed stocking is a plain black stocking, silk or lisle. Bands of ribbon half an inch wide and three inches long, each end finished with a little loop, are fastened upon the stockings in such a way that they form a gradually widened figure. At the ankle the ribbon bands are side by side and almost touch, but at the calf, where they terminate, with a small buckle, they are two or three inches apart. This gives a pretty shape to the ankle and makes a flat leg appear round. The most refined of these ribbon-trimmed stockings are of fine black lisle, trimmed with black satin ribbon. The bands are fastened to the stockings with very small safety pins or with tiny jeweled pins. Another stocking novelty is the black one trimmed with a very large ribbon bow, which is fastened upon the in-

step. A low-cut slipper, absolutely plain, is worn with this stocking. The foot looks extremely dainty dressed in this small black slipper and the ribbon bow upon the instep makes the latter appear high.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

**Faith and Works.**  
Two colored brethren were walking along the road discussing faith and works. Mr. Johnson was strong on faith and Mr. Thomson planned his faith to work. "I jes' believe," says Johnson, "on lyin' down on the promises and jes' trusting in de Lord, until He done bring it to pass." "I believe in de promises, just same as you do, but laws, I additionally believe dat a man should jes' do all he can ter bring dem promises around hisself. Suppose my boy Jim says, 'I want a drink.' I say, 'What for you botherin' me about it? Go to de spring and get'—'Say, what's dat dust in the road? Dat am Mistah Carter's bull!' Mr. Johnson went over one fence and Mr. Thomson over the other fence, leaving the animal a clear road. After walking some distance in the fields they came together, and Mr. Thomson cried out in derision: "Eh, oh my! Did I see Brother Johnson lyin' down on dem promises?—a restin' on dem promises, when de bull came down de road? Eh, eh, oh no!" "Hol' on dar, hol' on dar, doan you go circumventin' me and a-jeerin' me. I jes want to tell you mighty plain dat when de Lord made dem promises, dar wasn't no sich animals aroun'. No, sah! Dat animal was a contingency, sah."

**Used and Unused Rails.**  
The elevated structure of the Manhattan road has long been sustaining a weight of four tons to every sixty feet of track more than is necessary. The laying of new rails has begun many months ago, but most of the laying has never advanced further than a mere stringing out. The new rails weigh 100 pounds to the yard and each is 20 yards in length. What puzzles the observant passenger from day to day is the corrosion of the unused rails with scaly rust, whereas the old rails on which trains are constantly traveling remain bright. This brightness is not confined to the head of the rail alone, which friction might be expected to keep polished, but extends over web, base and fish-plate. The philosophy of the thing is simple, but passengers have not looked it up.—New York Press.

**No "Rocky Fords" in Rocky Fords.**  
A Kansas man who attended the watermelon festival at Rocky Ford recently says he never saw anything like it before in his life. There were more than 10,000 people on the grounds. Between 25,000 and 30,000 watermelons were stacked in great heaps along some rude tables. A hundred men with long knives slashed the melons open and every one ate his fill. But what struck the Kansas man as curious was the absence of the cantaloupe, for which the place is so justly famed.—Kansas City Journal.

## THE VALUE OF PAIN.

Calls Attention to the Fact That Disease Exists.

Pain is not disease; it is a symptom calling attention to the fact that disease exists. We do not remove the disease by stopping the pain. Headaches usually arise from disturbances in digestion, due to overeating, eating freely of soft foods, making bad combinations of foods, too much of a variety at meals, etc. Fermentation and decay of the foods with the formation of poisons and irritants result. The danger is reported at headquarters. The thing to do is to heed the voice of the faithful sentinel, assist nature to get rid of the impurities generated, either by washing out the stomach, drinking freely of water, fasting for a day, by vigorous exercise or eliminative baths. Recognize in the pain the voice of a friend calling attention to the fact that we have done wrong, and resolve never to violate the laws of health on this point again. In a day or two the transgressor would feel well and would be able to keep from getting into the same or a worse condition by avoiding the causes. This is not the way these symptoms are usually treated. Pain is looked upon as an enemy, not as the voice of a friend. The sick one goes to a physician and demands something that will stupefy or paralyze the nerves—the pain must stop at once. He is given an opiate, the pain stops; the food still keeps on decaying in the stomach; he imagines he is well. The disease still exists; the symptom alone has been removed. The faithful sentinel has been knocked down. The means of telegraphic communications to headquarters has been severed. The enemy has his own way and is able to go ahead undisturbed in his destructive work. The watchers are asleep under an anaesthetic or opiate. The enemy enters the camp. Poisons that are generated in the stomach through errors in diet, overwork and irritate liver, the lungs and kidneys, through which they are eliminated, and finally result in Bright's disease; or the lungs being weakened, are not able to resist the germs of the disease that are inhaled. He falls a victim to tuberculosis and is now in a serious if not an incurable condition. The only safe way is to study the human body and become familiar with the laws upon which health, happiness and life depend. Prevent pains, woe and sickness by avoiding their causes.—Life and Health.

### To Keep Beauty.

American women, who are famous for their cooking, eat too much, declares a foreign critic. They prepare dishes so tempting that they are their own victims. In youth women care more for impalpable things, for the ambitions and the aspirations that lead them on to all sorts of endeavor, but when they cease to have the spur that impels toward daily striving for the fulfillment of some dream they find solace in eating. This fact was emphasized the other day when a woman who twenty years ago was a famous belle, was telling one of her friends of the sorrows and disappointments that had embittered her life. The friend glanced at the woman, who weighed at least 200, and said she appeared to be very well. "Yes," was the answer, "I have fallen into the habit of eating to distract my attention from my troubles." Eating as a pastime is always a dangerous experiment. The woman who would be always beautiful must be abstemious. She must be able to leave the table feeling just a little hungry. She must adhere to a sensible diet, and she must observe the most severe rules about regular meals. It is as important that she should be temperate in candy and ice cream sodas as it is that she should cultivate a youthful spirit.

### Marriage at Thirty.

The celibacy question is a delicate one to discuss, but it seems to me that if by giving young workingmen a chance of lodging themselves comfortably and respectably when they first become self-supporting you prevent them from getting married to girls as young as themselves and acquiring a quiverful of babies before they are well out of their teens, for more good than harm is likely to result in the long run from this operation. Young men of the middle class at the present day rarely marry under thirty, many of them not until they are well past that age. So far as I can see, neither they nor society are the worse for deferring their nuptials. The lower you go in the social scale, the stronger are the reasons against a man marrying young.—Henry Labouchere in London Truth.

### Roman Antiquity Restored.

Any one who has visited Rome can not fail to remember the mysterious covered passage—about which so many possible and impossible stories are told—which connects the Apostolic palace and the castle of St. Angelo. For some time it has been entirely neglected, and after the taking of Rome it was cut through to destroy the connection between the vatican, which remained in the hands of the church, and the castle, which was used as a fortress by United Italy. Now, at last, restorations are about to be commenced, and it will then be one of the most interesting sights in Rome. Most of the work of this passage, which is roofed over and has small loop holes to give light, was done by the orders of Alexander VI., that he might have a safe means of escape in case of need to the castle.

Occasionally a man is so great that he is missed for nearly a week after his death.

## USING POOR FOOD

Will Lead to the Eater's Degradation.

Probably the statement that persons of today do not live as well, in the matter of eating, as their ancestors, will be met with a vigorous denial; yet there is no doubt of its truth. The same cleverness which supplies us with so many comforts unknown to a previous generation has provided also food adulterations which, in many cases, are positively harmful. The London Lancet says: "There can be no doubt that during the past decade food has undergone a steady degradation, and this cannot be without a demoralizing influence upon the human race. It will be noticed that by far the majority of cases of tampering with food relate to the substitution of a cheaper article rather than to the addition of an injurious substance. The common defense is that modern conditions of life make substitution a necessity. It is difficult to see the logic of such a defense—at least in a number of instances. It is urged, for instance, that jam or marmalade cannot be made without the addition of glucose, which prevents the preserve from crystallizing. Now, long before glucose was a household word jams and marmalade were made—and very good they were, too—consisting entirely of sugar and fruit. In the same way we are told that beer must be brewed from sugar, and that brewing exclusively from malt presents untold difficulties. Again, golden syrup, which used formerly to be the refined syrup of molasses, now consists largely of artificial sugar, which is doubtless a more marketable product, but it is not the same thing as cane sugar. Even in the country good old-fashioned wheaten bread, with the fascinating brown color of rich wheaten flour, containing the entire nutritious portions of the berry and possessing that

delightful wheaten flavor, now seldom, if ever, characteristic of bread, is difficult to obtain. The baker's loaf is, as a rule, a tasteless, insipid article, which requires a considerable appetite before the idea of eating it can be entertained. No wonder that the taste for bread is rapidly diminishing, and undoubtedly less bread is consumed than used to be the case. As is well known, bread contains almost every element of food necessary for existence, but we should be sorry for the person who tried to subsist entirely upon the modern uninteresting loaf made from bleached roller mill flour. It has recently been stated that the degradation of the teeth so noticeable among us now is due to roller milling having largely supplanted stone milling. We should not be surprised. The degradation of food is a very serious matter and is bound to lead sooner or later to the degradation of the eater. No movement could confer greater blessing upon the people than that which aimed at bringing about a return to the older and more rational methods of preparing food. Let us see more of the home made article than we now see; let us return to more palatable food that will do more good than the machine made stuffs and the endless series of substitutes. In all the schools throughout the land we would have the children taught the advantages of home made food, and how the bread, fruit, jam, or even beer and cider can be made at home. It would encourage a spirit of industry, it would give us palatable and nourishing articles to eat or drink and might have a very wholesome effect upon those who seem deliberately to attenuate food as much as possible or who pay no regard to its natural endowed palatability."

## RELICS IN PORTO RICO

Queer Finds in the Island That Are Puzzling Archaeological Experts.

New York possesses the only complete collection in existence of archaeological treasures from Porto Rico. This is now in the American Museum of Natural History. It was largely made since the Spanish-American war, and an explorer who reached New York recently from the island says there are further archaeological remains left there.

The native American people of Porto Rico are extinct. They could not endure Spanish oppression and become submissive slaves, as might an African native. But at one time they were an interesting people, well advanced in certain arts, as New York's new collection testifies. Some years ago the museum had a collection of ancient stone implements, but the treasures secured since the island came into our possession complete and round out that collection.

The stone objects were probably made by the ancestors of the Caribs. They differ greatly in fineness of finish, polish and artistic form from stone objects found in other places. The use of many of these objects is unknown. There was no written language on the island before its discovery, and the millions of Caribs and Arawaks who lived in the West Indies have since vanished. There has not been a single full-blood descendant of these people living in the region during the last half century. The names of places preserve a few of their words. But there is no tradition about the stone objects.

**Strange Relics of Stone Age.**  
Among these specimens of the stone age are many peculiar rings or ovals of stone resembling horse collars in size and shape. Some weigh twenty pounds, others seventy, and they are found as deep in the ground as nine feet. Many are strangely and beautifully carved. Some of these resemble a coil or loop, with one end projecting beyond the coil where it seems to be tied.

Such fine stone carvings must have been intended for serious and important use, possibly religious, as religion above all other powers has led man to execute difficult and permanent work. They could not be collars to be worn for punishment, as too much art is lavished upon them, but they may have served in religious sacrifices.

**Mystery of the Rings Unsolved.**  
The mystery which surrounds these curious stones is not yet solved, although over forty years ago the savants of Copenhagen, London and Paris were struggling with the problem, having but a few specimens. In 1873 Ortey y Tapia of Porto Rico brought some to New York. We now have many of them in the Museum of Natural History. The mystery of their use remains unsolved.

But there are other interesting forms. One resembles the lower half of such a collar as above described, but the carving seems to occupy a different position.

There is a little four-legged metate, or food-grinding stone, and pebbles, which could have been used upon it. There is also one with four legs and the head and tail of an animal, while the back is flat or even dish-shaped and useful for grinding.

**Beautifully Carved Images.**  
But these objects, the use of which may be surmised, are not so interesting as certain peculiarly carved and polished stones, reminding one of

great snails with high backs and their heads on the ground. Some of these are really beautifully symmetrical, well polished and even made of beautiful and variegated stone. What they could have been used for is unknown. Were they household gods, fetiches, objects worshipped by men or by women? It is possible that carvings may yet be found representing one of them in use, for the prehistoric people of Porto Rico were able to draw realistically, as is proved by the carved faces, some of which are fairly well executed, although some are crude.

**Were Skilled Potters.**  
These people were also skillful as potters, and many little pottery heads are interesting as they differ from anything we have in the United States.

The early explorers did not observe the Mexican paper codices, says the New York Herald, but destroyed them in their zeal to obliterate all of the old religion, in order to make way for Christianity. Had we these books in even a small proportion of their abundance before the conquest we might find reference in them to the inhabitants of the islands to the east of Mexico, and so possibly solve these Porto Rican mysteries.

### Women as Commercial Travelers.

The head of a St. Louis wholesale house was at Chicago on his way home from Buffalo recently. In the course of a chat with some business acquaintances he expressed the decided opinion that women make better drummers than men in some lines. "The fact is," said he, "that in some departments women seem to be able to do better than men. Not long ago it was generally believed that a woman could not sell anything on the road except books and certain articles of wearing apparel peculiar to her sex. The operations of the female drummer were for a long time confined to a very limited field. But in recent years she has branched out somewhat, and I simply state an open fact when I say that she may be regarded as a success on the road. In some instances she has proven herself a more valuable member than the men. Take certain lines, like tea, coffee, spices and things of that sort, and in a majority of instances she will place more goods than a man will in the same length of time. This is probably true of these articles because she can talk more intelligently about them. They are used in every home, and the average business woman finds out in the world manages to keep up with the things needed by the housewife, and hence the woman drummer can make a fairly good talk about things of this kind. The woman drummer has come to stay."—Chicago Chronicle.

### Lincoln from the South.

The statement has been made that in Roosevelt the south has a representative in the White House more closely allied to it by birth than any president since John Tyler. What of Lincoln? Col. Roosevelt is, indeed, half Georgian, but Lincoln was either a North Carolinian or a Kentuckian, and full-blooded at that, as both his father and mother were southern. Mary Todd, Lincoln's wife, was born in Kentucky, and she and all her brothers were intensely southern. Mr. Lincoln, therefore, was more closely allied to the south by birth and marriage than any other president since Tyler.—New York Press.