



SERVANT GIRL PROBLEM.

It is a Subject in Which the Housewives of Every Civilized Country Are Deeply Interested.

The servant girl question, while "settled" time and time again upon paper, is still a very live issue among those who are most vitally interested—the housewives of the country. In America it is said that the lack of good help at reasonable wages is the cause for so many people living in flats and hotels, and there is no immediate prospect of a change in this direction, as good domestic servants are becoming more and more difficult to obtain. In view of this fact, it is interesting to look at the question as it is handled in other lands. Great Britain claims to be the best country in the world for good servants, from both points of view. A leading English journal states that "England's greatest industry is domestic service."

The statement sounds untrue, and yet the returns of the board of trade vouch for 1,700,000 female domestic servants in England and Wales, as against 1,400,000 men engaged in mining, while farming lags far behind and the rest of the trades are nowhere.

And there is no fuss. All the scrubbing of floors, cooking of meals and making of beds are done without any of the banners, processions, oratory, strikes or lockouts of other employments.

The "servant problem" vexes the soul of many an English housewife, but to learn the value of the British domestic one must go abroad. In the households of the czarina of Russia, the German empress, the queen of Sweden and Norway and the young Queen Helena of Italy, the English nursery governess is a power behind the throne, and pretty nearly every reigning sovereign of Europe seems to have been nursed and taught by an English maid before he passed on to the throne.

But with all the foreign demand for English maids, there are conditions in many countries from which the most daring would shrink.

Even a downtrodden "stop-gap" would not go to France at the French wages of £5 a year for the good domestic or the furlough an hour of the visiting maid, who corresponds in Paris with our Saturday charwoman.

The French maid is very clever, and if she can get permission to pay the weekly bills, collects five per cent. commission from all the tradesmen. But English wages would seem to her a fortune. Only in wealthy households has she a chance to get plump.

Rural England scarcely knows such tragic poverty as that which drives



RUSSIAN MAIDS ARE HUMBLE.

women from many parts of Europe to abandon their own children and seek employment as nursemaids in the cities.

The mountain women of the Pyrenees have a monopoly of nursing the children of the rich in Madrid, the girls from the valley of the Spree supply the like want in Berlin, and Breton or Norman women are the nurses of Paris, while Montenegrin peasants swarm to Rome. In Paris one may know the nursemaid's prosperity by the length and splendor of her cap ribbons, trailing to the heels, and in the other capitals they wear beautiful peasant costumes. These "costume nurses," however they may have suffered by the wrench which tore them from their native districts, have a very good time in service. By doctor's orders the "nurse" must not be crossed or contradicted, so rules both her mistress and the household with iron rigor, making herself as disagreeable as she pleases. She adopts the children, who are barred by etiquette from knowing their own mother except as a visiting stranger.

The quaintest of all domestic service is in Russia, where the peasants have only lately been released from slavery, and for fear of starvation in winter flock to the houses of the nobles, where they smash the crockery in grateful return for mere board and lodging.

The Russian lady, always merciful to the poor, finds her house overrun by useless but humble retainers with swarms of children, and when she hopes to rest there is sure to be a forlorn maid scratching the door like a little rat because she dare not knock.

To stop the scratching she is admitted, then, falling on her knees, kisses the foot of the mistress, pleading with tears that she did not know it was wrong to boil potatoes in a silver dish.

As to the upper servants, they march into the most private rooms, disdainingly to knock at the door, and, if a guest is dressing, the maid thinks nothing of taking a short cut through the room rather than go 'round by the passage. If the guest is displeased they will abjectly kiss his hands, wondering what on earth has put him out of his temper.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

OLD MEXICAN VASE.

The Most Magnificent Specimen of Ancient American Ceramics So Far Discovered.

Among the strange and valuable objects which have been recently installed in the Mexican hall of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, of which Mr. Marshall H. Saville is curator, is a wonderful terra cotta jar, designed and decorated in imitation of a turkey. This is considered the most magnificent specimen of ancient American ceramics so far discovered.

Besides the striking and artistic turkey head handle, the most extraor-



AN ANCIENT AMERICAN VASE.

inary feature of the jar is its ornamentation of solid gold leaf, with which it was profusely decorated in former times, many layers of which still remain on the jar. It is considered to be a priceless example, illustrating the culture and workmanship of that mysterious civilization which flourished a thousand years ago in Mexico.

The jar is thought to have been a funeral or votive offering, says the New York Herald, which was one of the essential mortuary rites of the people of that time. Its age cannot be accurately stated, but it probably reaches back for a thousand years or more. It was found by Carl Lumholtz during one of his exploring expeditions. It came to light while digging in a private garden in the City of Tepic, which had evidently been in remote times the site of some temple or wealthy burial place.

Two skeletons were unearthed. Around the neck of one were found 26 balls of solid gold, also a large breastplate ornament of gold.

IDLE RICH ARE SCORED.

Former Pastor of Rockefeller Says There is a Rapidly Growing Class Which Has No Right to Live.

Rev. Dr. W. H. P. Faunce, president of Brown university, the former pastor of the Fifth avenue Baptist church in New York city, which John D. Rockefeller and his son attend, delivered a scathing rebuke to the wealthy leisure class of this country in the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of Brown university at Providence, R. I. June 1.

Dr. Faunce said: "The man who has no wish to serve his fellows, but only to use them, has no moral right to be here. He may shelter himself behind legal documents, behind the pride of birth, or the insolence of office, but if he is not here as a willing, loyal servant, he is at odds with the universe, he is anti-social, anti-Christian, and has no moral right to live.

"We see a rapidly growing leisure class in America who are tempted to interpret life as a series of rights without duties and pleasures without responsibilities. They conceal mental vacuity behind the arts of the caterer and upholsterer and contribute to society nothing more novel than a simian banquet, and by lives of luxury and alimony sow seeds of social revolt whose harvest their unwelcome children must surely reap."

The Absent-Minded Man.

"A bright spring day," she said, "makes me like a girl again." "You don't look it," returned the absent-minded man, who wished to be complimentary.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Voter and the Caucus

By HON. ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE
Governor of Wisconsin



It is no longer open to dispute that the nomination of candidates for office has in a very large measure passed out of the hands of citizen. For many years it has been popular with certain theoretical writers upon the subject to place the responsibility for this entirely upon the citizen himself, and to charge him with dereliction of duty and want of interest in public affairs, absorption in business interests and pursuit of fortune being assigned as primary causes of neglect of these elementary duties of citizenship. But it is fair to say that the citizen always has manifested the same willingness to participate in the affairs of government, to perform his duties in the elections, to serve in the rank and file of his party in the campaigns, that he has to defend his country in the field when the sterner duties of war summoned him in its defense. A close study of the history of caucuses and conventions will convince any unbiased mind, in search for truth, that the voter has been gradually eliminated as a factor, after long, patient trial, because the delegate system has utterly failed to represent him or to reflect his opinion in its results.

No man enjoys being made a puppet of, and to rally to the caucus only to have his effort defeated by a well-organized and well-disciplined minority, or, if delegates are chosen who seem to reflect the will of the majority in the caucus, to discover later that through the complicated system of delegating and redelegating their authority, the nominations finally made are the result of the dickers and deals and combinations and commercial transactions which rule modern conventions. It would be strange, indeed, if the citizen should continue to be interested in the proceedings of a system productive of such results. Abolish the laws which now make elections an honest reflection of the will of the voter and introduce the same elements of uncertainty and fraud which are an inherent part of nominations through convention delegates, and the interest of the citizen in the general election would fail as certainly as it has failed in the preliminary.

It is not enough to say that the voter has his opportunity to attend upon the caucus and express his choice as to delegates. This is to offer the form of the thing for the substance. If the voter, time after time, casts his ballot and elects the delegates of his choice only to discover in the end that he has been in some way betrayed, and the decision of the majority in fact reversed, it is inevitable that he should as a serious-minded citizen refuse further to participate in the farcical proceedings. It is this that has driven the majority of the voters from the caucus until it is only in times of profound public concern and intense public feeling that even a respectable minority of the voters are represented in the caucus and convention system.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

The Rev. H. P. Perkins, of Pao-tung-fu, China, says there is a great demand for native schools and churches there.

Chemistry students in the University of Heidelberg are compelled by the rules of the institution to insure their lives.

The largest electrotechnical institute in Vienna at a cost of \$600,000. Its roof is used as an experimental station for wireless telegraphy.

Rev. Morton C. Andrews, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church, of Oshkosh, wanted to run a restaurant in order that he might utilize the surplus of his chicken farm and grocery store to advantage. Bishop Grafton forbade the enterprise and now Mr. Andrews has withdrawn from the church. Mr. Andrews has been an extreme ritualist. He drew no salary from the church, insisting upon the right to support himself by his business undertakings.

In addition to the paid choir, the paid treasurer and the paid collector of church revenues, which have become such prominent features in many churches in this country, a prominent church in New York has a movement on foot to raise "an educational endowment fund of \$100,000, the interest of which is to be used: 1. To pay educational experts who shall teach the teachers. 2. To pay the heads of departments in the school. 3. To compensate as far as possible all teachers who will accept remuneration, provided they can demonstrate their fitness based upon preparation conforming to established standards of requirement."

Prof. Bryce, in his biographical study of Bishop Fraser, of Manchester, tells of a clergyman of Fraser's diocese who had knocked a man down who had insulted him. The bishop wrote him a letter of reproof, pointing out that exposed as the Church of England was to such criticism on all hands, her ministers ought to be very careful of their demeanor. The offender replied by saying: "I must regretfully admit that, being grossly insulted, and forgetting in the heat of the moment the critical position of the Church of England, I did knock the man down, etc." Fraser was delighted with the turning of the tables on himself, and afterward invited the clergyman to visit him.

His Expressions.

Piano Teacher—Don't you think, Mrs. Smith, that your daughter plays with a good deal of expression?

Mrs. Smith—I never noticed that she said anything when she was playing; but I am sorry to say that some of Mr. Smith's expressions at times are simply frightful.—Boston Transcript.

HUMOROUS.

"Papa, what is eccentricity?" "The foolishness of a rich man, my son."—Town Topics.

First Lawyer—"The judge seems quite sweet on the widow." Second Lawyer—"What you might call 'legal tender.'"—Princeton Tiger.

Matter of Taste.—She—"Are you fond of birds?" He—"Sure thing! I simply adore them." She—"Which is your favorite?" He—"Quail on toast."—Chicago Daily News.

Mistaken Identity.—"I think I have met you before. Aren't you timekeeper for the Bloss & Gloss company?" "No, sir. I am a singer of topical songs and know nothing at all about keeping time."—Kansas City Journal.

"You were very lenient with that conductor," said the first passenger. "Oh," replied the other, "we're all liable to make mistakes." "Perhaps you were a conductor yourself once." "No, sir; I'm a weather forecaster."—Philadelphia Press.

"So your sister is married?" "Yes, and she did very well—splendidly. You have heard of the duke of Westminster?" "Oh, yes. Did she marry into that family?" "Well, yes, so to speak. She married a nephew of one of the duke of Westminster's cooks. He is the driver of a 'bus'."—London Tit-Bits.

And They Did.—The prisoner told a remarkably straight story. All who heard him were impressed. Many were the comments made about the courtroom, such as: "Methinks there is something in that story." "He sounded very much as if he were telling the truth." All agreed that his words carried conviction with them. And so it proved. For the jury, without leaving the box, rendered a verdict of "Guilty."—Baltimore American.

How Could She?

She had been naughty, there was no doubt about that, and her mamma was administering corporal punishment. All morning she had been perverse, and now, as the maternal hand fell with depressing force upon her small person, she yelled lustily.

"Be still, I tell you!" said her mother, without interrupting the business in hand. "Stop crying! Stop this minute!"

The small person turned defiantly. "Well, how am I agoin' to stop cryin'?" she sobbed, "when you keep a-spankin' me all the time to make me cry?"—N. Y. Times.

Entirely Right.

Tess—O, yes, I feel pretty sure of him. I rejected him when he proposed first because I was positive he'd try again.

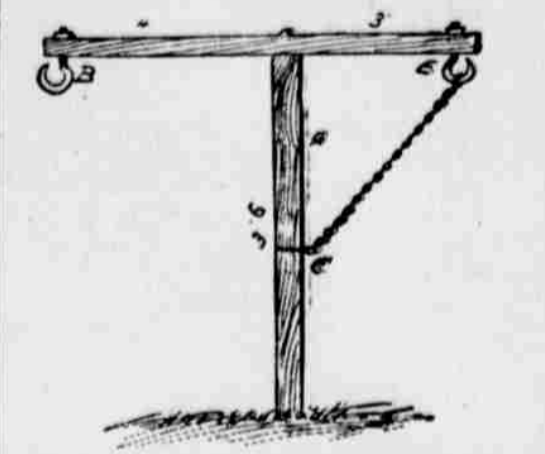
Jess—And you were right. He did try again, and I accepted him.—Stray Stories.



HANGER FOR A KETTLE.

Should Be Made of Strong Material and Put Up Firmly and with Considerable Care.

An exceedingly simple yet convenient hanger for a kettle is shown. Let a represent a post 4x36 inches; b a piece 3x4 edgewise, with three-quarter-inch bolt through it and the post, so b can turn easily; c is a small iron loop-like rod on wagon end gate, so



SWING FOR HANDLING KETTLE.

chain can turn easily; d is a chain running from c to e, which is a one-half-inch hook for hanging chain. On the other hook, e, at other end of rod, b, hang the kettle. This arrangement allows the kettle to be swung off the fire easily at any moment, and without legs or anything under the kettle to interfere with building a fire. Such a hanger is easy to make, but should be made of only good, strong material and put up substantial and firm.—E. C. Beergisser, in Farm and Home.

SMALL GERMAN FARMS.

Owner of a Quarter Section Is Considered a Wealthy Person in the Old Country.

G. W. Grimmer, a farmer and feeder at Greeley, Kan., who is a native of Germany, in commenting on the visit of the German student of agriculture to this country at this time said to a Drovers' Telegram representative:

"If a German farmer; that is, the average countryman, has a ten or 15 acre tract of land, he is considered somebody. Many farmers own only five acres, but they plant so many different kinds of grains, vegetables and the like and till and fertilize the ground so well that the five acres is ample to support a generous-sized family throughout the year. A quarter section of land is a moderate-sized farm in America, but in Germany the owner of such a tract of land would be considered a very wealthy person. Another thing in which American and German farm life is different is that the German's farm is rarely in one body. The land there is so valuable and it is divided into such small tracts that a farmer often finds himself owning a couple of acres in a body, an acre or two half a mile away and four or five acres in another direction. The farms are thus nothing more than good-sized gardens. Many a western Kansas farm has a larger garden and family orchard than the average German farm. A farm in the old country costs from \$200 an acre up."

THE AGE OF A HORSE.

An Old New York Horseman's Advice as How Not to Make a Mistake About It.

"The groom that came to Chester with Old Abdallah, the sire of Hambletonian, 55 years ago," said a veteran Orange county horseman to a New York Sun reporter, "told me how to tell the age of a horse, and it has run in my head ever since. This is the way it ran," and he repeated the following rhyme:

To tell the age of any horse, Inspect the lower jaw, of course. The six front teeth the tale will tell, And every doubt and fear dispel.

The middle "nippers" you behold Before the colt is two weeks old; Before eight weeks two more will come; Eight months, the "corners" cut the gum.

The outside grooves will disappear From middle two in just one year; In two years from the second pair; In three the "corners," too, are bare.

At two, the middle "nippers" drop; At three, the second pair can't stop; When four years old, the third pair goes; At five, a full new set he shows.

The deep black spots will pass from view. At six years from the middle two; The second pair at seven years; At eight, the spot each "corner" clears.

From middle "nippers" upper jaw. At nine the black spots will withdraw. The second pair at ten are white; Eleven finds the corners light.

As time goes on the horsemen know The oval teeth three-sided grow; They longer get, project before Till twenty, when we know no more.

Many a little chick dies from what is supposed to be some mysterious ailment, when the trouble is simply lice.—Commercial Poultry.