

AMERICANS IN ROME.

THEY USE THE LEGATION AS AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICE.

How They Foster Minister Porter with Ridiculous Questions and Impossible Demands—Uncle Sam Has Fine Quarters in the Eternal City.

(Special Correspondence.)

ROME, Aug. 10.—The commercial relations between this country and the United States are greater than with any of the powers save England, France and Germany, and while Uncle Sam's trade



A. G. PORTER.

with these last countries is gradually decreasing, that with Italy is as regularly increasing. This makes the United States legation here one of the busiest on this side.

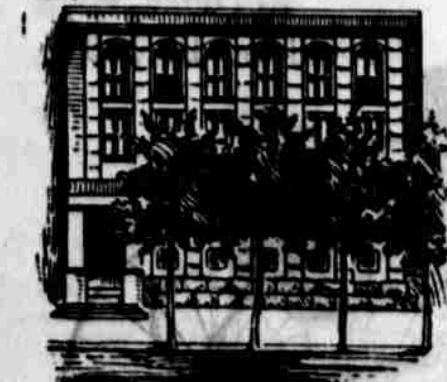
Besides the regular work to be handled, 30,000 Americans visit Rome each year and bring with them an average of 100 questions each, which they suppose it is the minister's business to answer. They run to him for apartments, physicians, and every last one of the 30,000 begs to be put into line to see the pope. They suggest all possible and ridiculous reasons why the closed section of the Vatican should be opened to them, and many of them urge the necessity of diplomatic intervention to get them presented to Queen Margherita or her estimable husband; in fact, Rome is the best exhibition ground on earth of American curiosity.

The Italians know well how serious a transatlantic war would have been. They know Americans bring here annually a quarter of the \$20,000,000 spent by tourists, and that these same folks buy one-third of all their silks and sulphur and all of their exported fruits, save a fraction too small to be considered. The people of Sicily would starve on their little island but for Uncle Sam's business with them. Everywhere throughout the kingdom, in all branches of trade, there is an increase in American business which amounts to millions each year.

Minister Porter has been living in one of Rome's ancient palaces—Palazzo Mattei. His pretensions abode—pretensions in that it was once a noble pile and held a branch of the royalty—was originally a collection of buildings occupying an entire block on Via S. Caterina de Funari. It was erected in 1616 by Carlo Maderna, and is one of the best of this great sculptor's buildings, who shares the reputation of being the author of the degenerated Renaissance in architecture.

The passages of the entrance and the sides of the court contain a vast number of old statues, including Mars, Apollo with the Muse, the Caledonian hunt, the Rape of Proserpine and many others, some of considerable worth and many of no especial value. The interior is decorated with costly tapestries and large paintings. Here it is that Minister Porter and his daughter, comprising all the family, give the legation receptions, informal and diplomatic. But the minister does not like to have his home spoken of as a palace, as he fears his former friends in Indiana might be inclined to use this fact as a political club at some future time.

Mr. Porter, who is a very approachable and every-day man, was born at Lawrenceburg, Ind., sixty eight years ago, and is consequently the senior member of the European ministerial force. He graduated from Asbury university when but nineteen years old, studied law and was admitted to the bar the same year he became old enough to vote. At Indianapolis he served as city attorney and once held a partnership with President Harrison. He was in congress in 1858, a member of the judiciary committee, was re-elected and afterward accepted an appointment as comptroller of the currency. The nomination for governor was offered him in 1880, and after a memorable contest with Governor Gray he was elected. This ended his active political life. His term expired, he devoted his whole time to literary matters.



UNITED STATES LEGATION AT ROME.

When Mr. Harrison was nominated it was Mr. Porter's speech that did the business. He was urged to accept the gubernatorial nomination by the Indiana Republicans in the following campaign, but he absolutely refused. Minister Porter has twice been married, but is now a widower. He wanted the Italian mission because of the great advantages it offers for historical and literary research. While his receptions and social events have not been as brilliant as those of his predecessors, yet none of them ever administered the

no duties better than Mr. Porter. He was largely responsible for the amicable settlement of the New Orleans matter.

The right hand men—the men in the legation who work—are Charles M. Wood, the vice consul, who knows the foreign diplomats and members of the royal family so well that he calls them by their first names, and ex-Governor Augustus O. Bourn, consul general. Mr. Wood left Vermont in 1873, and is one of the twelve secretaries of legation appointed by the government practically for life. He has lived here so long he is as thoroughly an Italian as the most pronounced American peanut man, but is thoroughly American in tastes and all that pertains to business.

Mr. Bourn has had a career similar to that of Mr. Porter's. He was born in Providence fifty-eight years ago and graduated from Brown university in 1855. Rev. Dr. Plim, of Boston, and ex-Chief Justice Turner, of Alabama, were two of his classmates. He served in the state senate eight years and was governor of Rhode Island in 1884 and 1886. He has been in Rome during the present administration. His family consists of Mrs. Bourn, two daughters and one son. Mrs. Bourn holds weekly receptions to visiting Americans, and her entertainments are a feature in the quiet life of the American colony.

The legation headquarters in Rome, unlike those in many of the other European capitals, are in as good a building as there is in the city, and are on one of the best streets—Via Nazionale, the grand old thoroughfare which traverses the ridge of the Quirinal hill—one of Rome's ancient seven. Uncle Sam's offices are only a block from the piles of buildings where labor the minister of war and his associates in their dreadful task of endeavoring to keep the army and the triple alliance from throwing the country into immediate insolvency.

Near by are the American church, where congregate American painters and sculptors and the members of the student colony; the Palazzo Barberini and other historic palaces, making the quarter the most aristocratic in the city. The offices are on the second floor, a spacious suite, with Mr. Bourn's on one side of the entrance and Mr. Porter's on the other. Busts of Washington, Lincoln and other heroes, portraits of statesmen, the country's flag and a few other ornaments complete the decorations of the rooms. All in all the United States has reason to be proud of its quarters in Rome. H. R. LOWRIZ.

USE AND ABUSE OF ICE.

A Physician Furnishes Some Timely Hints on the Subject. (Special Correspondence.)

NEWARK, N. J., Aug. 18.—It is reasonable to suppose that if the people knew more about the why and wherefore of the use of ice to reduce the bodily temperature its abuse would then cease and with it the hundreds of fatalities that follow every year carelessness in this regard.

We must understand, first, that the normal temperature of the body is the resultant between the amount of heat produced in the organism and the amount dissipated. This is governed by the great heat regulating nerve centers in the brain, whose duty it is to control the circulation that by a proper mingling of the blood of different temperatures from various parts of the body an average of the whole at about 98½ degs. is maintained.

Now, there are two principal ways of abstracting heat from a body—in other words, of cooling it. One is by evaporation, which is the means used in the manufacture of artificial ice, where rapidly evaporating fluids are placed around the water to be frozen. The other is by bringing a cold substance in contact with a warmer one. The colder body abstracts the heat from the warmer.

The first of these is nature's principal method of cooling the body. But if, on account of the moisture in the air, evaporation of the perspiration does not go on rapidly, the amount of heat taken from the body does not keep pace with the amount produced. We therefore instinctively make use of the second method mentioned and pour large quantities of ice cold water into our stomachs. Nature then makes a desperate attempt to equalize the heat of these parts by its withdrawal from others by means of the blood, and here is where the trouble lies. The great heat regulating nerve center, thus called upon suddenly to equalize this violent abstraction of heat at a moment when it is under a great strain trying to restore the loss of balance caused by the stoppage of evaporation at the surface, has the strain increased when it is least able to bear it. The result is a breakdown almost the same as in sunstroke.

This is the abuse of ice, and its proper use is at once suggested. Have your drinking water as cold as you wish, but take it in small mouthfuls, and so gradually as not to put any possible strain upon the heat regulating centers. In this way, instead of being demoralized they will be relieved in great measure of the strain put upon them by the failure of the perspiration to evaporate, and good rather than harm will result. It is because the eating of ice cream is such a gradual introduction of cold into the stomach that it does no harm. It rather stimulates digestion by bringing more blood to the parts.

Another point suggested here is the fact that thirst is not a demand of the system for cold water, but merely for water, to take the place of what has been lost.

The knowledge that a large amount of blood is exposed to the air in the lungs, and that about half as much water escapes there and is evaporated as by the perspiration, also suggests the very rational method of keeping ice in the mouth and so cooling the blood by reducing the temperature of the air which enters the lungs.

These points make plain where the abuse lies, and point to the right and reasonable use of ice to reduce the temperature during the heated term. The wise man needs no further word of warning. The man who reads but heed not should expect the reward of his indifference. JOSEPH M. WOODRUFF, M. D.

SOME WORTHY WIVES

WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN OF HELP TO THEIR HUSBANDS.

Marriage Sometimes Pays as an Investment—The Requirements of Wifehood. Woman as an Adviser and Counselor as Well as a Companion.

There has been hysterical and protracted discussion of marriage as a failure, pessimistic agitation of marriage as a luxury and poetic description of marriage as an ideal state of esoteric blessedness; but has any one considered marriage in the light of an investment to the young man ambitious for place in the literary, social or political world?

Under the old regime the perfect helpmate was the careful housewife—she who "looked well to the ways of her household" and was wise in the science of clear starching linen, in compounding pastry and seasoning soups. Under the new dispensation the literary man whose companion cannot enter intelligently into the deeper interests of his life, the politician whose consort is not diplomatic in the treatment of his political allies and enemies, the financier whose wife cannot dispense with elegant grace his bounty, are handicapped in the race and rarely win the prize from the men whose choice of wives has been wiser.

It was a man of most astute intelligence, according to the woman's side, who said: "As a rule it is safe to say every public man of prominence owes his position largely, perhaps chiefly, to his wife. There are exceptions, of course, which will occur to every one, but nevertheless this is the rule. Bright, studious, well informed, they not only perform all their own duties, but they supervise correspondence, collect authorities and information, draft and revise speeches, and even when their ministry is of a purely domestic character its influence is simply incalculable." And this man, whom may the gods reward with a wife as faithful as Penelope, is generous enough to believe and gallant enough to say that Martha Washington is as worthy of a monument as the immortal George or his mother.

Woman is beginning to realize that there is no gift or grace of mind or manner, no logic in the realm of philosophy, no language dead or living, no data known to the savant, which may not be of service to her in the fulfillment of her simple wife's duty to the man of her choice. For what she may be called upon to stand and deliver it is difficult to determine when the wedding ring is fitted. Of Josephine, the obscure and unpolished soldier lover with neither rank nor title demanded as a wife the rare gracefulness to wear right royally an empress's crown. Of the talented Jane Welch, Carlyle, the great scholar, demanded devotion absolute to his nerves and to his dyspepsia, and how much of the brilliancy of his work is due to her vigilance in keeping at undisturbing distance the annoying small boy of the highway, or to preparing the food least irritating to his stomach, the world will never know.

To the influence, the wealth and the never failing interest of his wife the great premier who made the queen of England empress of India acknowledged that his political success was largely due, and an impatient questioner who asked him "what feeling could bind him to a wife older than himself" was answered by Mr. Disraeli with, "A feeling unknown to your nature—that of gratitude." Very easily disturbed was this great man by any diverting incident occurring before he delivered a speech in the house, and it is said that his wife, who always accompanied him when he spoke, once rode the entire distance from her home to the house of parliament with her fingers caught beneath the carriage window, rather than put to flight his carefully prepared periods by telling him of the crushed and aching members.

Very pleasant it is to read Gladstone's tribute to the wife who is the closest friend, the best adviser and the severest critic of the Grand Old Man, where he says: "No words that I could use would ever suffice to express the debt I owe her in relation to all the offices she has discharged on my behalf and on the behalf of those who are nearest and dearest to me; not only is she the dearest of companions, but the most devoted of helpmates, but for whose self consecration to the service of her husband and her children my own public work must have been seriously fettered and hindered."

Over all the domestic comfort of the household she exercises untiring watchfulness, feeling herself responsible to the nation, as well as to her own happiness, to preserve the health and prolong the life of the best of our statesmen. A bright, entertaining conversationalist, it is in her cheery companionship that he seeks rest and forgetfulness from the cares of state. When ever he makes a great speech she is present to share his triumph, and when the speech is over she it is who wraps him in warm garments and brings him hot tea, in loving, wisely ministrations, which has never failed since the then beautiful Catherine Glynn, more than fifty years ago, joined hands with him at the altar.

And Mme. Carnot, wife of the French president, who acts as secretary to her husband, has the care of his private correspondence, and during his absence takes his place and transacts all current affairs with a perfect knowledge of business routine. In addition to this she deputed to no one the care of overlooking the menus for her household, designating the apartments to be occupied by her guests and the general supervision of all domestic details. She frequently expresses her regret at not being able to explore the beautiful neighborhood of Fontainebleau because she has no time for walks and excursions.

And every good man who rejoices in the possession of a good wife and isn't too cooed to acknowledge the truth knows of a thousand ways in which his wife has been instrumental to his success and one of the best investments he ever made, even if she has little ways of her own; if she makes him wait half an hour after he is all ready while she pins her veil and puts the last little dab of powder on her nose; even if she does get her dear little feelings hurt over things he doesn't understand, and when she gets over it insists on forgiving him for something he knows he hasn't done, even if she does think that the Declaration of Independence and the book of discipline of the church to which she belongs put her in possession of all the top drawer and more than all the closet books, and give her the privilege of reading his old love letters and being jealous and unhappy for a week afterward, and the right to make him wheel the baby cart and carry knobby bundles that she has done up herself and fastened with a pin.—New York Sun.

Woman's Kindness. Kindness in women, not their beautiful looks, shall win my love.—Shakespeare.

Dirie Should Guard Against Two Faults.

If I were a girl again I should know there is no life better than that which includes the common lot of woman—the joys and sorrows of wifehood and motherhood. While lives may be noble without these, no life, however humble, can be ignoble if it worthily contains them.

There can be no success without conscious or unconscious preparations. The successful wife and mother will have both. Unconsciously to her, the discipline and innocence and justice and love of childhood's experiences will teach her, and consciously the discernments, activities and observations of a true maidenly heart. With the conscious preparation I would have to do if I were a girl again.

Two foxes destroy the vines that would otherwise produce the sweet and peaceable fruits of a glial existence. They are the foxes of vanity and selfishness. Because this is true the first duty of the young girl is to destroy these foxes.

Vanity is a subtle destroyer. That it is an imperfection peculiar to women I deny. That it is one of her conspicuous faults I admit. It mars her beauty, enfeebles her will, blunts her sensitiveness and undermines her modesty.

Selfishness is perhaps more cruel. It is greedy of personal ease and correspondingly indifferent to the ease of others; it is treacherous in methods and unscrupulous in execution. Given vanity and selfishness with intellect, and you will have the society woman prospering in her heartless, ambitious schemes, or the public woman, whether so called reformer or other worker, sacrificing her cause or her fellow worker to her own advancement, or the wife making wreck of her husband's love, means and happiness for her own gratification.—Mrs. George Archibald.

Danger in Milk Bottles.

"There was a time when the mere fact that milk was put up in bottles was a sure guarantee of its purity," said a dealer, "but of late many unprincipled men have taken advantage of the popularity it had gained, and now much milk that couldn't be sold by the measure at any price is disposed of in bottles. My experience has taught me that it is a safe plan never to deal with a man who sells both kinds. While some are no doubt honest enough, the temptation to get three cents a quart extra is unquestionably too strong for the others to resist. Then, again, there is a strong sanitary objection to bottled milk. The customer is supposed to wash the bottle before returning it, but this is practically a dead letter.

"When the residuum is allowed to remain in the bottle over night it is difficult to remove it, and the washers in the milk stores are apt to shirk their work, even under the most favorable circumstances. As a consequence, while milk cans are well scoured, the bottles are very often allowed to remain in an impure condition. A case in point, and one that came under my personal observation, happened to a customer who, returning a bottle, apologized for a stain on the inside, which, she said, she could not remove. 'Oh! never mind,' replied the dealer. 'It has probably been there a long time and will work off in time.'

"It is well to remember that there is one test which is as sure as it is simple. Take a clean glass and fill it with milk. Then pour it out. If the milk is pure, the whole inside of the glass will be white with milk."—New York Evening Sun.

The Best Method of Discipline.

If the child is unhappy who has none of his rights respected, equally wretched is the little despot who has more than his own rights, who has never been taught to respect the rights of others, and whose only conception of the universe is that it is an absolute monarchy, of which he is sole ruler. Children rarely love those who spoil them, and never trust them. Their keen young sense detects the false note in the character and draws its own conclusions, which are generally very just.

The very best theoretical statement of a wise disciplinary method that I know is Herbert Spencer's: "Let the history of your domestic rule typify in little the history of our political rule; at the outset autocratic control, where control is really needed; by and by an incipient constitutionalism, in which the liberty of the subject gains some express recognition; successive extensions of this liberty of the subject, gradually ending in parental abdication."

The mother who is most apt to infringe on the rights of her child (of course with the best intentions) is the firm person, afflicted with the "lust of dominion." There is no elasticity in her firmness to prevent it from degenerating into obstinacy. It is not the firmness of the tree, that bends without breaking, but the firmness of a certain long eared animal whose force of character has impressed itself on the common mind and become proverbial.—Kate Douglass Higgin in Scribner's.

The Ventilation of Schoolrooms.

In a recent book treating of physical development and exercise for women attention is called to the contrast between the way in which the most highly civilized states treat criminals and lunatics, and the way in which the children of wealthy parents are often treated in regard to pure air. Asylums and prisons are often provided with the best systems of ventilation known to science. In many nurseries and schoolrooms the bodies are poisoned and brains stupefied by breathing and re-breathing an insufficient quantity of air.

This evil, the writer points out, will only be remedied "by the firmness and intelligent co-operation of parents who will refuse to send their children where the requisite provisions for ventilation do not exist, and through the intervention of boards of health who will pass laws forbidding the use of rooms for school purposes which do not permit of proper ventilation or limit the number of pupils to be allowed in rooms of given dimensions."—New York Post.

Beware of the Spring Balance.

That there is a great deal of deception perpetrated on the unsuspecting public by certain street hawkers and produce vendors was illustrated at the meeting of the city and town sealers yesterday. Among other short measures shown by City Sealer Pettis was a spring balance which, from all appearances, was correct, but when the weights were put on it readily showed its deficiency. When a standard 1-pound weight was placed in the balance the hand indicated 1½ pounds; when a 2-pound weight was placed in the pan the dial said 2½ pounds, and so on, the hand showing a gain of over 3 pounds when the 10-pound test was tried.—Providence Telegram.

The Heavily Veiled Woman.

If a woman appears on the streets heavily veiled those who like the mysterious imagine she is some famous beauty. But she isn't. Good looking women do not cover their good looks with heavy veils.—Acheson Globe.

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