

tage over her wealthier sisters; and, again, companions in poverty are apt to make common cause. The poor man and his mate must work together. He cannot afford to shut her up or keep her apart from the world, needing her assistance as he does in his work. If he is a farmer the burden of all the household cares falls on her shoulders, and this takes her outside to fetch water, to wash the clothes or to make purchases at the store. She freely meets and gossips with the other women of the neighborhood and leads more of a social life than ladies of the highest station.

**Women of Higher Station.**

These ladies, on the other hand, though saved from manual labor and from the anxieties of poverty, and though richly clothed, housed and fed by the average wealthy husband, must submit to being practically immuned and are obliged to share the husband's affections with several others. In fact, the first wife is rarely loved by the husband. She holds the position of honor among the women of his household, it is true, but she is not the wife of his choice; she has been bargained for by his family and he probably never saw her till the marriage took place. The others, on the contrary, are of his own selection. It is not unheard of for one of the wives to have a large influence over the husband, for women are women the world over, and men are men. But, generally speaking, it is the women of the lower classes who, for the reasons just enumerated, play a heavier part in the every day life of the great Chinese empire.

The appearance of the Chinese women is in accordance with their characters—generally attractive. She dresses in more comfort than do women in other parts of the world. The Manchus wear long skirts, but their blouses are loose, while almost all other Chinese women wear the long, graceful blouse and a pair of trousers, which the most emancipated western woman might envy from the standpoint of comfort.

**An English Dinner Party.**

It is well nigh impossible to get well acquainted with the secluded women of the upper classes. The daughter of the British governor of Hongkong, Sir Henry Blake, has been more successful in this way than almost anybody else who has held a high social position in China. She studied Chinese first of all, and now has made real friends among the women of rank in Hongkong. A dinner party which she gave for them was a great innovation, and her friends predicted a failure. All the men were banished from the government house for the evening, and the foreign ladies who were invited were in full evening dress. The Chinese women not only attended, but they enjoyed it. Some of them had made a previous acquaintance

with knives and forks, but those who had not, learned in a few minutes and used them daintily. They wondered at many of the dishes, and also at the bare arms and throats of their hostesses, saying that it must be "very cold." They themselves were dressed in the most exquisite of Chinese clothes of rich silks, heavily embroidered, and in addition wore magnificent jewels and ornaments of gold. To the person anxious to learn something of that class of Chinese women the occasion was one of unusual interest.—Chicago Record.

**"NIOBRARA'S LOVE STORY."**

THE CONSERVATIVE has received from Mr. E. E. Blackman of Roca, Nebraska, a little volume entitled "Niobrara's Love Story," an Indian romance of prehistoric Nebraska, of the fabled ancient empire of Quivera.

"Niobrara's Love Story" is one of a series of Indian legends, collected and put into attractive poetical form by Mr. Blackman. Every work of this character adds a touch of grace and romance to the early history of our state and will be a welcome addition to its libraries.

Among the gems in the book is the following description:

"Once they camp beside a river  
 Strewn with verdant beauty, flowing  
 Swift and wide to meet the ocean,  
 There to mingle on forever,  
 Through the countless ages, numbered  
 Only by the sands that sprinkle  
 All its leagues of crooked border.  
 Grand and smooth its tranquil bosom  
 Glinting back the sunset's color,  
 Red and gold in autumn weather.  
 Beautiful in all its sittings,  
 Graceful in its even curvings  
 Through the verdant, fertile valley.  
 Long they gaze in admiration,  
 Niobrara and her father,  
 From their lodge as evening deepens.  
 Silently they view the landscape.  
 'Grand and calm this lovely river,  
 Beautiful, serene and charming,  
 Like my daughter, Niobrara.  
 I will name it and forever,  
 Men shall love its curves and shadows,  
 Men shall praise it for its beauty,  
 For its lovely life reflected  
 In the joy it gives to mortals.'  
 'Yes, my father, and its waters  
 Soon will find their home the ocean;  
 Soon will mingle with the current  
 That through countless ages wanders  
 In the universal ocean.  
 Coming back in gentle showers  
 Pure and grand, to deck the flowers.  
 Precious thought! 'Tis joy to see  
 How that heaven beckons me."

**THE SOUTH'S FINE GROWTH.**

The fine growth of the southern states during the last ten years is one of the things brought out by the census announcement. From the fact that so few large cities are in the south it was natural to suppose that the rate of increase there would not come up to that in the north. The cities above 25,000 inhabitants have advanced 32.5 per cent during the last decade, while the country, as a whole, has gained only 21 per cent. Only twenty-nine of the 159 cities with a population of more than 25,000 are lo-

cated in the southern states. The growth of these states must, accordingly, be largely rural or in the smaller towns.

For convenience of classification the census bureau divides the country into five groups of states. The North Atlantic division includes New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The South Atlantic extends from Delaware to Florida and includes the Virginias. The South Central embraces the rest of the Confederate states, with Kentucky, Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. The west, from Colorado to the coast, is classed by itself, and the remaining states, including Missouri and Kansas, are put in the North Central group.

In spite of the remarkable growth of Florida, the South Atlantic division as a whole has increased only half as fast as the rest of the country. The great development has been in the South Central states. They have advanced 28 per cent, as against 23 per cent in the previous decade. The North Central states have gained 18 per cent, 11 less than from 1880 to 1890; the North Atlantic 21, and the western 36, or about half as large a percentage as during the preceding ten years.

The great increase in Oklahoma and the Indian Territory, of course, influenced the figures in the South Central group, but even without these two territories the growth in the south has been substantial. Texas and Florida, with their gains of 36 and 35 per cent, respectively, are the leaders in their section.

For years the growth of the eleven states of the Confederacy was, to a marked degree, less than that of the rest of the Union. This is no longer true. From 1880 to 1890 it was 21 per cent, while that of the rest of the country was 27. For the last decade both sections have advanced at the rate of 21 per cent. As a result of its previous slower growth, however, the South of the Confederacy has gained only 108 per cent since 1860, while the other states have made a percentage of 155.

The expansion of the cotton raising industry has doubtless contributed to the advance of the south. In 1890 it produced something over 7¼ million bales. Last year's crop was 11¼ million. Florida has become a great resort for northern people and has developed its orange production. Texas has attracted inhabitants by its very size and by its diversity of opportunities. Throughout the south the decade has seen the establishment of many manufacturing, the building of new railroads and the development of mineral and agricultural resources. All of these factors have combined to attract settlers and thereby increase the population and wealth of that section.—Kansas City Star.