

A UNIQUE BIT OF OLD FRANCE

Some Glimpses of Ancient Brittany, The Resort of Tourists.

CASTLES AND CHURCHES.

Was Once the Home of the Crusaders—Relics of the Prehistoric Druid Worshipers.

Special Correspondence.

St. Malo, Brittany, June 1.—This town becomes every year more popular among tourists from America. It is one of the chief ports of entry for travelers from the western part of the British Isles. There is also a regular steamer service between St. Malo and Jersey, one of the favorite resorts to which Parisian fashionables flee during the hot months and early autumn. A railway leads direct from here to Paris.

Yet that tourist, particularly that American tourist, would miss much who should confine his trip to Brittany or St. Malo and the fashionable near by spots. Seaside resorts are the same the world over, with their dressing, dancing, flirting, gambling, stuffing and snoozing.

But in the interior, away from the circle of the fashionable migrants, begins the genuine life of old Brittany—

Bretagne, as the French say. And the province really did get its name from Britain. As far back as the third century, certainly, probably much earlier than that, painted, half naked Britons came from their sunny isle and settled in sunny western France. They took with them their weird superstitions and awful religious rites. Here in Brittany to this day are the menhirs and dolmens of that prehistoric folk among whom savage Druid priests made human sacrifices. Here in Brittany are still the circles of upright rough stones enclosing the flat altars on which the victim's blood was spilled. The menhir, meaning in the Celtic tongue "long stone," is a great upright rough stone slab. These stones are found in Brittany sometimes solitary, again in groups. They are believed to be monuments.

Later than the time of the Druid people, so late as the fifth century, was another British migration to western France. The barbarian Saxons had invaded and overrun Britain, and the aristocratic old families of the island would not stand for the rule of Hengist and Horsa, so they fled hither and called the region Brittany, and thus it stands among English speaking peoples to this day.

There was yet another revolution for the land. It came with the Norman conquest of the British isles. Filled with pride, stuffed with the spoils of Saxon and Saxon, knights who had shared in the crusades tiled northern and western France with their castles and estates. The church gave them its blessing and shared their spoils, for does not these won from infidel Turky Norman knights erected strong and magnificent castles; churchmen erected cathedral seats and houses of worship the most splendid. Feudalism and ecclesiasticalism were alike in their glory. There remain in Brittany notable traces of this thriving union of church and state. There are old Norman feudal castles still in Brittany, one, the Chateau de la Hunaudaye, being one of the finest in Europe. As for the old churches of Brittany a recent English writer says truly: "Its ecclesiastical architecture, such as the cathedrals of Quimper, Guingamp and St. Pol de Leon, are all evidence of a past glory, wealth and artistic power which have

now with passing centuries degenerated."

Americans, however, do not share the British propensity for running all over creation after old churches. No doubt they are artists, but your live American in a foreign land cares 19 times more for the people of today than for the people of yesterday. That land which is most different from his own interests him most on a journey. For this reason a trip in the interior of Brittany would suit him to a T.

The climate at this season is delightful. Violent winds and storms at all times of the year mostly come from the west on the coast of western Europe, but the shores of Brittany are protected from these by the great cliffs high as hills. Here and there, embraced nearly all around by these great cliffs, lies a beautiful little bay or cove. In such a cove are kept the boats of the fishermen of Brittany. The sailors themselves occupy a large number of the men of the province. The bold and dangerous coast, the high winds and frequent storms exercise all the strength and skill of the Breton fishermen. Breton thus to contend with wind and wave on their own rock bound shores, Breton men take first rank as sailors when they ship to go away from home.

But on shore these Breton seamen are apt to leave most of the hard work to their women. Indeed the little isle of Batz, on the coast of Brittany, might be called the women's island. The men are mostly away at the sardine fisheries, so it happens that the women do all the agricultural work and even tend the lighthouse. But Brittany is not the only region where the men are lazy and the women industrious.

Looking at the inhabitants of Bretagne, one is convinced they at least are an exception to the charge that the French nation is degenerating physically. This may be true of the undersized men of Paris and of those parts of France usually represented among the common soldiers of the army. It is not true of Bretagne. Some of the ancient Celtic blood yet runs pure here. The men of the Breton race are tall, strong and healthy, the women equally tall and strong in their way, with hard, square faces and a free stepping, noble bearing that, peasants though they are, invests them with a queenly air.

Breton women and girls sometimes go to Paris as serving maids, and the lady considering herself fortunate who can secure one of them, they are so faithful and industrious and not given to gab. At home in Brittany the women's dress is the same as it was centuries ago, with its snowy white cap and full, short skirt. The Breton maiden is characterized by one curious piece of extravagance which in the long run is after all not an extravagance, for Breton fashions do not change. A girl who skips and saves for years to buy a Sunday and holiday gown. It is richly embroidered and is so costly that even in America a working girl would not incur so much expense, \$30 to \$400, but it lasts the Breton girl perhaps the rest of her life. If she does not live too long. It is cut the same style for each generation, and the large, handsome Breton girl never has to crack her brain over whether she would have a three gored, five gored, seven gored, nine gored or eleven gored skirt. Happy Breton maid!

In Brittany it is as if an enchanter had put a spell upon the land 500 years ago and the mode of life, the manners and customs, the very thought of the race, had stood still ever since. The language itself of this fine people is not French. Many of the grown ups among them do not even understand French, though the children do, for now it is the language taught in the schools. But the native tongue of the Breton folk is a modification of the speech of the ancient Celts, from whom most of the people here are descended. Their language is very like Welsh and the tongue of old Cornwall, showing a common origin for them all.

A long time ago, heaven knows how long, the Breton people got a bad name in respect to cleanliness, and it stuck, as bad names do. Proverbs were built upon this alleged aversion to soap and water on the part of the inhabitants of Brittany, and they were of this sort: "Ninety-nine pigs and one Breton make a hundred Bretons." Again: "People of lower Brittany and pigs sleep together. I would not have believed pigs were so dirty." It is only fair to say that this charge of dirtiness so gross is a libel on Bretons. They are as clean as the average of people—just about. At any rate, the women's caps and cooking utensils are clean.

The high days of Breton people are church festivals and other occasions of religious observance. Bretons are a deeply religious folk, like all seafaring people who take their lives in their hands and venture forth upon the waters. One of the most impressive services of all the year is when the fishermen depart on their voyage to Iceland. To that far away spot they sail to fish, likewise to Newfoundland, where France still reserves piscatorial right. But the ceremonies attending the initiation of the Iceland voyage are most solemn and impressive of all, for scarce a fleet goes out of the Breton harbor that returns with all its ships and men. So when they leave there are great feasts on and around and prayer in the beautiful old churches and a gallant procession down to the fishing vessels. There the priest passes from ship to ship blessing each and invoking safety and success for the bold mariners. Bretons are both social and religious. On high fete days they dress in their best and go to church, afterward entertaining themselves socially. The women wear their snowy caps and embroidered gowns; the men are tricked out in velvet hats and black cloth suits, with colored waistcoats. One of the most beautiful cathedrals in Brittany is that of St. Pol de Leon. While ago the people conferred on the cathedral the honorary title of basilica, and the Bretons were so glad that they assembled to the number of 80,000 to celebrate alike religious services and a festival which lasted three days.

THIS YEAR'S NEW WAISTS.

Special Correspondence.

New York, June 8.—The woman who has one nice black skirt can appear well dressed all summer with the aid of new waists, and these may be expensive or simple, according to circumstances. White waists made prettily with plenty of tucks and with as much lace as circumstances will permit are always desired, and as they will come out of the laundry at such time like new they are good to have. Where the laundry must be sent out of the house the cost of the washable waists becomes considerable, and it is then true economy to have waists made of pongee or chin silk in some light but solid color. These and also the dainty liberty and Japanese wash silks are excellent, for they do not soil easily, and when they do there is no need of sending them out. A quart of gasoline will clean one perfectly with little trouble. Dip the whole waist into it and shake it around a little. All grease and other spots will fall out and leave the whole clean. No wringing is needed, and it is not necessary to take off the lace of ribbon or to iron. The only difficulty is that gasoline is so dangerous. When one begins to clean a garment in this stuff one is sure to get it on matches or fire or light is near. The waist should never be done at night if explosions are to be avoided. This cleaning is so easy to do and so quickly done that it is a blessing. The garment can be hung in the air a few minutes, and the remains of the gasoline will, in fact, even favor may thus be cleaned.

Many exceedingly tasteful and dressy blouse waists for light wear are made of this stuff over a lining. One is a black silk and white lace built over a satin lining. The model is laid flat outside, and the dainty liberty and Japanese wash silks are excellent, for they do not soil easily, and when they do there is no need of sending them out. A quart of gasoline will clean one perfectly with little trouble. Dip the whole waist into it and shake it around a little. All grease and other spots will fall out and leave the whole clean. No wringing is needed, and it is not necessary to take off the lace of ribbon or to iron. The only difficulty is that gasoline is so dangerous. When one begins to clean a garment in this stuff one is sure to get it on matches or fire or light is near. The waist should never be done at night if explosions are to be avoided. This cleaning is so easy to do and so quickly done that it is a blessing. The garment can be hung in the air a few minutes, and the remains of the gasoline will, in fact, even favor may thus be cleaned.

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NEWMAN'S

Oxford and Strap Sandal Sale. Monday and the Week.

Men's \$3.50 and \$4.00 Oxfords, Monday and the week . . .

\$2.85

Men's \$3.00 Oxfords, Monday and all the week . . .

\$2.65

Men's Best \$6 grade, Monday and all the week . . .

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Ladies' \$3.50 and \$4.00 Oxfords, Monday and the week . . .

\$2.85

Child's Sandals, value \$1.50, Monday and the week . . .

\$1.15

Broken lot of Oxfords, up to \$5.00 values, for . . .

\$2.15

Ladies' Strap Slippers, \$1.75 value, Monday and week . . .

\$1.35

Ladies' Fancy beaded Sandals up to \$5.00 values, now . . .

\$2.85

Misses' and Child's Sandals. Price Cut Almost in Two.

Child's 3 Strap Sandals in Patent Kid \$1.75 value, Monday and the week, . . .

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Misses' and Child's Sandals. Price Cut Almost in Two.

EVERYTHING in the OXFORD and SLIPPER LINE ON SALE for Monday and the week.

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Bona fide Values, far ahead of any similar offering ever made. Extreme price reductions on our entire stock of Boys' and Children's Suits.



Youth's and Boys Suits. that sold during the season at \$7.50, \$8.00, \$10.00, ages 14 to 20 years, made of all wool materials, neat mixtures and fancy Tricord-reliably tailored and trimmed. Greatest bargain ever offered.

"Samyack" \$5.50

Boys' Knee Pants Suits. 6 to 16 years, double-breasted and Norfolk styles, light and dark mixtures, also a nice assortment of blue serge—5 and 6—values, your choice—

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Little Fellows Suits. 2½ to 8 years—all the newest creations in sailors, Russians, sailor Norfolk and almost any other style desired—strictly high-class workmanship and materials, prices almost cut in half—

\$3.50 \$4.00 \$5.00



Men's Summer Furnishings.

MEN'S SWELL NEGLIGEE SHIRTS—the new grays (the swell shade of the season) in spots figures, stripes and plain shades, plain or pleated bosom, cuffs attached or detached, all sizes—

\$1.25

MEN'S FINE SUMMER UNDERWEAR, in fancy tints, Jersey rib, double striped, drawers—regular price \$1.50 suit, special—

\$1.15

MEN'S FINE MERCERIZED UNDERWEAR, in plain and fancy colors, pink, blue, orange and flesh—looks like silk and wears better—regular price \$2.50 suit special—

\$1.50

THE SIEGEL CLOTHING COMPANY, 61-63-65 Main Street.

lions of white lace, while the upper portion is arranged with the same to represent a yoke. The yoke itself is of all over lace, the lace being made of a fine material, the points being made of black silk frogs. The sleeves are made in the same general style, with the lower parts of the all over lace, and these are so arranged that they may be left off, making elbow sleeves of the mull, a very pretty thing when the arm is white and the lace is of a contrasting color. They are made in a variety of styles, and are very popular. A dainty and dressy waist for dinner and other semi-dress occasions is made of pale blue lousine, lace insertions and narrow black velvet ribbon. The blouse shape is marked and the point well defined by a black velvet belt. Tucks and layers of the lace are the principal things to note, that there is no collar, and the front is open in V shape, strapped by the ribbon and fastened by small silver buttons. The sleeves are made in the same way and in shape are a pronounced bishop with the cuff of the lace strapped with the ribbon and buttons. Waists intended for golfing and other hard and heavy wear are shown in some of the best stores, and they are indiscrim-

inately of madras, sateen, percale, chevrons in white and checks, plaid butchers' linen and crash of several varieties and shades of the natural flax. These are most appropriately made simply, with no trimming, depending upon the folds and tucks for ornament. There are some very neat and handsome mercerized damasks. And, whatever there are some of the outest of pajamas for girls, and their mothers, too, if they want them. They are of soft madras and fine outing flannel, and some are of Japanese silk. One lady said the only fault to be found with pajamas is that they cannot be trimmed with lace and ribbon, for if they were they would not be pajamas at all, but would have to be called something else. They appear to be gaining in popularity.

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Hard to struggle on with the never-ceasing backache. When the Kidneys go wrong and all pains and aches of the back make life miserable, it's enough to discourage any man. The tortures of a bad back, the annoyance, the danger of urinary disorders take the nerve out of one about as quickly as anything on earth.

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