

NESTS OF CONSUMPTION.

We know of two families in Massachusetts of whom the following story may be told. Two healthy brothers married two healthy sisters. Both had large families of children. One lived on the old homestead, on the southern slope of one of the numerous beautiful and well drained hills in that vicinity. The whole house was bathed all day in sunlight, and consumption did not touch any of the young lives under its roof.

The other brother placed his house at a very short distance off, but upon a grassy plain, covered all summer with verdure. In its front was a large open "common." In the center of this, water oozed up from beneath the split hoofs of the cows, as they came lowing homeward at evening, and the barefooted boy who was driving them used to shrink from the place, and preferred to make the circuit of its edge rather than to follow the lead of his more quiet comrades. Back of the house was a large level meadow, reaching to the very foundations of the building. Through this meadow sluggishly crept the mill-stream of the adjacent village. Still farther, all these surroundings were enclosed by lofty hills. The life-giving sun rose later and set earlier than upon the other fair homestead. Till late in the forenoon, and long before sunset, the hillside home, damp, and chilling emanations arose from the meadow, and day after day developed the fender forms of the children that were trying in vain to grow up healthily within them. But all effort was useless. Large families were born under both roofs.

Not one of the children born in the latter homestead escaped, whereas the other family remained healthy; and when, at the suggestion of a medical friend who knew all the facts we have told, we visited the place for the purpose of thoroughly investigating them, we thought that these two houses were a terribly significant illustration of the existence of this all-powerful law. Yet these two homes had nothing peculiarly noticeable by the passing stranger. They were situated in the same town and within a very short distance one from another, and scarcely any one in the village with whom we spoke on the subject agreed with us in our opinion that it was location alone, or chiefly that, which gave life or death to the inmates of the two.

We might speak of other homesteads which seem to us now to be the very nests of consumption in consequence of this law, and yet not one parent in a hundred acknowledges even theoretically his belief in the truth of our assertion. Parents alone during a long residence, may escape from the dire influences of location; and therefore they imagine, if their children are failing, that some other evil agency is at work, rather than this law.

Illustrative of this error on the part of parents, we cannot forbear relating the following fact: We know of a house situated about a foot above and just on the edge of a small lake. The cellar, if there be one, must be below the level of the water. The house, built with stone, and overhanging thickly leaved trees, through which the sun's rays can scarcely penetrate even at mid-day. The homestead is overrun with the springing woodbine, clematis, and honeysuckle. Coolness, dampness, and little sunlight are the characteristics of the spot. In the midst of summer it is the best ideal of a quiet, refined country house, which any one, even the most fastidious would desire to occupy. Yet as we have looked at it, and have remembered how one by one the children born in it have been cut off by consumption either at puberty, or at early manhood or womanhood, we have turned with loathing from all its external beauties, and have regarded them all as so many false and fatal allurements, bringing inevitable ruin to those who should fall within the sphere of their influence.

These tales are no creations of our imagination, but positive and undeniable facts. Dr. H. L. Dowditch, in Atlantic Monthly.

IT APPEARS from the examination of the old journals of Congress that it was proposed in cold blood by one or more members to divide the Northwestern Territory into ten States with names that would have filled any regulated mind with shame and confusion at the thought of having from a State with such a designation. Not one Ohio would have come off best of the whole half score, for its title was to have been "Washington," but fancy Columbus as the capital of "Polypotamia," and Cincinnati as the chief town of "Pepiashia." How the Polypotamians and Pepiashians would have envied the Washingtonians their more sensible, euphonious, and Americans-sounding! But even these would have been better off than the inhabitants of "Assenespia," or Southern Illinois, who would have assuredly been known everywhere, "for short," as "Asses."—*Cleveland Herald.*

A late judge, whose personal appearance was as unprepossessing as his legal knowledge was profound, and his intellect keen, interrupted a female witness—"Humbugged you my good woman what do you mean by that?" said he, sternly, "Well, yer honor," replied the woman, "I don't know how to explain exactly, but if a girl called you a handsome man, she would be humbugging you."

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