MODERN CANDLES.

THEY ARE GREAT IMPROVEMENTS OVER THOSE OF FORTY YEARS AGO.

The Cult of Light Has Been of Incalculable Service to Mankind—It Is a Mistake to Think That Gas and Electricity Have Entirely Snuffed Out the Candle.

Now that candles have again subsided into use as a means for lighting reception rooms where gas is considered too hot and electric lights too glaring, comparisons are being made with the candles of today and those of the long ago. He is not a very old man who will remember the candlemaker "before the—ahem—the panic," that is he who in the grocery or perhaps may have helped to make in a domestic way on Saturdays when at home from school.

It is but a few years since candle molds were a very important and necessary part of every household, and yet so completely are they now banished to the limbo of forgotten and useless things that there must be thousands of young people to whom a pair of snuffers and a snuff pan would be as much a puzzled curiosity. They were not very pleasant to the nostrils, those old fashioned tallow candles, their illuminating power was not good, and their cost of existence rooting was disappointing, and things were thus handicapped, and things were thus handicapped by snuffers, one was very apt to get badly snuffed in the course of an evening.

Yet the world travelled along with a vague light that was far in advance of anything that had gone before, and things in the way. Great scholars were made by novel up candle ends, great volumes written and the world enlightened, even if the writers and readers groped a good deal.

The great performances of Garrick and Siddons were given behind footlights of tallow candles, and the candle snuffer was one of the most important of ushers in the theatre of the olden time. "Without a candle snuffer," says Goldsmith of a play he had seen, "the piece would lose half its intellectual merit."

In those days "early to bed and early to rise" was a maxim that had much more significance for it was necessary to get most of daylight work in vogue of gas and electricity. Candles have always occupied an important place in public worship. In the old times Christmas was called the Feast of Lights, because every candle was set on a festival, while the custom of setting a candle at the head of a dead person after being "laid out" is still a practice.

But if people think that candles are not much used nowadays they are mistaken. There are still several candle manufactories in New York. A very large export business is done here, chiefly to the West Indies and Central America. In the United States sales are principally in the western states. The rolling region takes large quantities, for in light but candles is used in gold and silver mining.

Candles are also used for church purposes, at country hotels, and in some cities in the South. Many of the people in the east side, newly come to the country, use candles in preference to oil, being accustomed to candles and afraid of the oil. Although it is not a great while before they are worn out to the use of oil, there are always thousands of others who, for the first few months of their being here, shun oil as they would a deadly poison.

No branch of industry has undergone the change that candle making has in the last 50 years. Formerly it was merely a mechanical operation. Anybody could make candles and almost everybody did.

Now it is a scientific industry, bringing to its aid the resources of chemistry. Formerly a candle was a crude, coarse thing that one would handle with disgust; now it is artistic and refined and can be handled without the least offense. The work is so perfect that it requires a lens to complete, and candles have long been banished. An annual candle maker could only work with materials already provided by nature, so that he had to be free with all their imperfections.

The modern candle maker by chemical process removes impurities, which leaves him nothing but the hard and white fat for his candles. Fat changed by this process is as much different from the material he made in the old candle days. There are certainly hard and are sometimes called anomalies, for they grease the hands and grease a soft and pleasing light. Optimists and wax candles are such anomalies.

The candle has ever retained the idea of light, it matters not its power of a light, say gas, being of its candle power. The standard is a spermaceti candle burning at the rate of 120 grains of spermaceti an hour. There are candles, too, which are made of paraffin, but no candles are used as extensively as the one in question.

The great improvement in the manufacture of candles dates from the researches of the French chemist, M. Chevreul. He discovered that the fat of tallow was separable from the oil, and the result of the process was two valuable products—stearine and glycerine. These also have found the course of the past one quarter entirely, but they are now to be adapted to work of more. In Europe there is a process which is said to have brought a supply of candles or candlelight to Europe as a result of tallow candles. They would have all another date as improvements have been going within the past 50 years. The new candles or so, that some one be used in the Salvation Army in the world.

Candles, however, are not a cheap light. A lot of them will cost as much as a barrel of oil, and, for the light of a barrel of oil, and, for the light of oil as compared to a candle for illuminating power, if the use of candles. The only great advantage of the candle is its safety.

Oil and gas are much cheaper. These candles are most dangerous fire to be dreaded to the lowest.—New York World.

OBITUARY.

JEFFERSON WEBSTER.

VERNAL CITY, Utah, March 21, 1896.—Jefferson Webster was born July 23, 1831, in the town of Cooks, Worcester county, Massachusetts, was baptized into the church, December 25, 1846, joined the church in Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1846, and received his endowments in Nauvoo, and was ordained a seventy in Nauvoo, Illinois, by Joseph Young, January 5, 1847, and was ordained a high priest by Orson Hyde, in the Salt Lake Valley, November 21, 1868, at the age of 37 years, 4 months and 29 days.

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