

THE NIGGER AND THE HEN-
ROOST.

A friend who had accompanied me had heard of a bargain in real estate on the hill-top above Jackson City, and we went up to look at it. There were six acres of fine land, and a two-and-a-half story house, habitable but modest, for \$1,000 cash. For \$3,000 more an entire fort, well preserved, could be purchased, adjoining the property. Around the house some lusty silver poplars and maples grew. A good well, a garden, and an unparisched view of the Capital City were among the advantages. Part of the land freshly plowed, showed rich and black at the base of the fort. It certainly was a cheap property, on Arlington Heights, and only a mile from Washington.

We asked the tenant if the negroes of the neighboring village troubled him. "The sight of 'em troubles me," said this Last Family. "Dog 'em! I do hate a free nigger! As to stealing, if that's what you mean, they steal nothing much but the chickens."

"Then they do take poultry?"

"It's my belief," said the solitary tenant, "that there'll have to be chickens in a future state for the nigger. Heaven will be no heaven to him without han coops. Pears to me that the chickens know him. They never cackle where a nigger comes. They roost low on his night. It's a night to this p'int, gentlemen, that in the state of Virginia nobody but a nigger can afford to eat chickin' in five years. The animal will be his specialty and monopoly. Chickin' will be to a white family what pork is to a Jew."

But why do negroes confine their depredations to poultry?"

The nigger aint got enterprise to steal anything bigger," he said, he'd no more steal a cow than he'd steal the capitol yonder. He's fond of stews. The chickin' just fits into his gipsy pot. The grease of it lies his juntas. He loves because he stole it. He eats it out of pure affection. He cooks it at night time, and bites it with the feathers on. He hopes the feathers will evaporate with the biting; but if they don't, he goes the whole towl, quills and all. Gentlemen, if there's any sincere happiness in this world, it's a nigger eating a biled chickin' on the sky!"—Correspondence Cincinnati Commercial.

WHY AMERICAN WOMEN LIVE
ABROAD.

There is another and a better reason than the gratification of balled social vanity, that makes a sojourn in Europe delectable to American women: It is a lapse of care. The difficulties and deprivations attending the process of house-keeping in the United States are formidable even to those blessed with the gifts of fortune, whereby, in other lands, domestic duties are so modified and diminished. A conscientious and tasteful lady of wealth, with us, is often the victim of an "establishment." Her hospitalities, the claims of husband, children and kindred upon her hourly thoughts, the regulation of a band of half disciplined or wholly discontented servants—in a word, the oversight, direction, provision and care incident to her position from the preparation of a dinner party to the administration of a charity, from the reception of a valuable guest to the proper ordering of the nursery, from the heavy arrears of visits to be paid to the holding with even hand and vigilant eye the reins of domestic and dutiful supremacy—a faithful wife, mother and social queen in America, is overburdened, exhausted or irritated by a thousand petty cares and household claims, which the want of trained and true domestics, the difficulty of securing one's privacy, the incessant call upon time, thought, sympathy and even charity, to say nothing of fashion, render at once absorbing and irksome, to a degree and in a manner incomprehensible to those who have not experienced the difference between the household methods, means and machinery at home and abroad.—Putnam's Magazine.

EDUCATION IN JAPAN.—Schools are common, and everybody is expected to know what the schools teach. Besides reading and writing, there are taught—what are taught in—no other country—deference and a sense of honor. The first insures good manners; the last the kar-kari. Each class is taught only what pertains to the class, trade or profession. Bookstores abound, and picture-books for children are plentiful; so also are cheap prints. Regular newspapers do not exist. An occasional sheet is published, and sold to meet an occasional want. The better educated and leisurely classes are fond of books and of study, and both men and women read history, astronomy, poetry, novels and logic. At the religious capital of the empire, Kyoto, are schools attended by more than four thousand dollars—N. Y. Teacher.

THE STRUGGLE FOR HEALTH.—In our civilized, sedentary life, he who would have good health must fight for it. Many people have the insinuation to become parents who have no right to aspire to that dignity; children are born who have no right to exist; and skill preserves many whom nature is eager to destroy. Civilized man, too, has learned the trick of heading off some diseases that used to sweep over whole regions of the earth, and lay low the weakest tenth of the population. Consequently while the average duration of human life has been increased, the average tone of human health has been lowered. Fewer die, and fewer are quite well. Very many of us breathe vitiated air, and keep nine-tenths of the body quiescent for 22 or 23 hours of every 24. Immense numbers cherish gloomy, depressing opinions, and convert the day set apart for rest and recreation into one which aggravates some of the worst tendencies of this week, and countenances none of them. Half of the population of the United States violate the law of nature every time they take sustenance; and the children go untrained with indigestion, six months in hot, ill-ventilated or unventilated school-rooms. Except in a few large towns, the bread and meat are almost universally inferior or bad; and the only viands that are good are those which ought not to be eaten at all. At most family tables, after a course of meat which has the curious property of being both soft and tough, a wild profusion of ingenious puddings, pies, cakes, and other abominable trash, beguiles the young, disgusts the mature, and injures all. From bodies thus imperfectly nourished we demand excessive exertions of all kinds.

THE FIRST STEAMBOAT.—In October, 1811, the greatest event of the Western country took place. This was the commencement of steamboat navigation. Fulton's steamboat called the "New Orleans" left Pittsburgh at the above date, arriving at night on the twenty-first day after starting, she arrived at Louisville, having been but seventy hours in descending over seven hundred miles. The most remarkable of the vessel, and the rapidity with which it made its passage over the broad reaches of the river, excited a mixture of terror and surprise among many of the settlers, whom the rumor of such an invention had never reached; and it is related that on an unexpected arrival of the boat before Louisville, in the course of a fine moonlight night, the extraordinary sound which filled the air as the steam was suffered to escape from the valves on rounding to produce a general alarm, and multitudes in the town arose from their beds to ascertain the cause. I have heard it said that the general impression among the Kentuckians was, that a comet had fallen into the Ohio.

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