

manly a thing as can be conceived. How much better than thieving it is, we leave those guilty of it to ascertain.

If we could reach the young men of the land just starting out in life, we would adjure them to assume from the first every public burden, and carry it manfully to the end. The dodging of public burdens cannot be indulged in without introducing dry-rot into character, or without damaging reputation. To fail in his social obligations injures a man's self-respect, and reduces fearfully the respect in which he is held by the community. Of course it injures his influence, and it ought to do so. A man who cannot be relied upon to do his part in a community, can have no voice in shaping the life of that community. He can only carry the force of a mean example, and be a drag and a disgrace instead of an uplifting influence. One of the first things a young man should do in entering actively upon life is to ascertain what he can do to make things better around him. It is not necessary for him to wait to be invited. If the people see that he is helpful and ready to work, room will quickly be made for him. At least, let him never consent to be a beneficiary, or take and use what others have given without adding anything to the common stock. Occupying a free pew in church and paying nothing for what costs somebody something, by those who are not helplessly and hopelessly poor, is disgraceful and demoralizing to the last degree.

Communication.

A WORD TO THE FRIENDS OF AMERICA ABROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CENTURY.

SIR: I should like to say a word, through your columns, to the friends of America abroad. Recent events have brought shame to our own citizens and discouragement to those in England and elsewhere

who watch with interest and sympathy the course of affairs in the United States. But, in point of fact, the Conkling scandal, with its ghastly companion—the assassination,—these events are not evidences of decadence, but rather the incidents of reform; just as, twenty years ago, our civil war and its companion tragedy of assassination were not, as some supposed, the evidences of retrogression and downfall, but rather the incidents of progress.

Within our first century we have established a free state, and, at enormous cost, have cured the community of its deadliest elements of disintegration—namely, slavery and the spirit of sectionalism. After this work was accomplished, the minds of all thinking men were fixed upon the necessity of purifying and in some ways remodeling the Government itself. If this new reform can be brought about at any time within our second century, the United States may then be said to have amply fulfilled the just expectations of those who are interested in the experiment of a free republican government in the New World.

Our first reform, when the evil itself was blacker and apparently more hopeless of cure, cost us a civil war and the life of a President. In our second and less difficult reform a President has been sacrificed, while the war has been one only of "politics," therefore more ignoble and narrow in its methods and its field.

Nearly a hundred years had to go by before slavery was abolished; but so rapid is now the march of events that the spoils-system gives promise of perishing within a few decades from the beginning of the agitation against it.

Even after this reform is accomplished, much will remain to be done to make our political and social life all that could be wished. Meanwhile, we can truly say to our "kin beyond sea" that this is not the time to despair of the Republic. Very truly yours,

G.

HOME AND SOCIETY.

Hints to Horseback Riders.

NOT a little of the comfort and safety of the rider depends on the excellence of the paraphernalia of his turn-out. To secure a good saddle, one should deal only with a first-class maker. The trees of saddles have to be thoroughly seasoned, as in riding a great strain is on the horn of the saddle. Twenty years is the usual length of time necessary for seasoning. London houses keep their stock labeled with the date of placing in store, so that the trees made in 1861 are now going into use. There is no saddle safer for horse and rider than a perfectly plain, well-built English hunting-saddle. When we say rider, we mean men and women, boys and girls. A saddle, to be safe, must fit horse and rider; a tall person should ride in a long, narrow saddle, to enable the grip of the knees to be firm; a short and stout person requires a rather square, short-seated saddle. Without a feeling of comfort there can

be no grace in the saddle, and an ungraceful rider had better walk. Every saddle should be fitted for three-buckled girths. Those known as the "Fitz William" girth are the proper sort. A pair consists of one wide girth furnished with two buckles on either end, and a second, narrower girth, provided with one buckle on either end. These three buckles take three stout straps firmly nailed to the tree of the saddle. A lady's saddle, to be safe, should be fitted with a hunting stirrup. This make of stirrup is unique; it is an ordinary burnished steel stirrup, in the eye of which is sewn the stirrup-leather; the leather passes over an iron runner on the near side of the saddle and is buckled into another leather strap about two inches wide, and long enough to pass under the horse, directly over the girths, and buckle on the off side to another short strap sewn on an iron runner. This adjustment enables a horsewoman to shorten or lengthen her own stirrup, even at a fair rate of speed.

The safest bridle that ever rested in a horse's mouth is a snaffle; for hunting and park-riding it ought to have a double rein, as no woman's hands are strong enough to steady a horse's head with a single rein, and few men care to take the trouble to do so. The horse that goes smoothly and kindly in a snaffle bridle is invaluable; still, many a good snaffle horse for park work and summer riding goes better in a Pelham. Many objects attract the attention of a roadster or park-hack which as a field horse in winter he would not look at, and the action of the hand on a Pelham is more quickly felt on the mouth of a horse than is that of a snaffle.

The practiced rider, before mounting, takes a rapid survey of his horse, saddle, and bridle, to see that all is right. For a woman to mount with ease, she, and the man who aids her, must know exactly what to do. A woman, desiring to mount, places her right hand firmly on the center crutch of her saddle, then places her left foot on the joined hands of her escort or attendant, who affords her a steady support as she springs lightly to her seat; before placing her right knee across the crutch of the saddle, it is well to draw down the habit-skirt and place the left foot in the stirrup. The attendant should gather up the reins and the rider take them from him. An agile boy, after a lesson or two, will vault clean into the saddle. Later on, standing on the near side of his horse, he will take a lock of the mane in his left hand, wind it around his two middle fingers, then, holding the reins quite loosely in the same hand, place his right hand on the cantle of the saddle, his left foot in the stirrup, and rise easily and quickly to his seat. Want of practice in this mode of mounting cost the life of his Royal Highness, the late Prince Imperial. Although he had been taught to ride in England, he fumbled in the act of mounting, his charger became unmanageable, and the assegaïs of the Zulus had time to do their deadly work.

A lady's toilet on horseback, to be in good taste, must be severely plain. A close-fitting habit with a short skirt, and a bodice fitting to perfection, is all that should be seen, save a small linen collar closed at the throat with a dark neck-tie. For full dress, a tall hat is *de rigueur*, but for hunting or country-road riding, a low hat can be worn. A woman's inside riding-clothes should be few in number, yet of warm, light material. No jewelry is in place save the mounting of the cutting whip.

The selection of a horse for the saddle is a common source of trouble to those wishing to commence riding. In the United States, at the present time, there is no lack of horses that, with careful breaking, could be made first-class saddle-horses. The racing stables of America furnish every year a number of horses not good enough to keep on in training, yet excellent for park-hacks or for light-weight hunters. These animals can always be bought at low rates, and when properly broken are safer and far more lasting than common-bred horses. Central America possesses a breed of ponies of rare beauty and docility—charming household pets for children. These little animals are not always to be found in the United States, and when here they are costly. For larger boys and girls, the mustang of the plains ought to be a favorite mount. Their many good qualities are not as yet fully

recognized. The mustang is believed by many to be vicious, unruly, and, in consequence, unsafe for children; on the contrary, it is an intelligent, sturdy little creature, full of affection for a kind owner. Drovers of mustangs are from time to time brought to New York by the great cattle-shippers, and in their wild state they are snapped up by city dealers at prices ranging from eight to forty dollars per head.

Every horse should be taught to leap, and every boy and girl should know how to sit a jump. An easy, graceful seat is so admirable that we would recall to our fair riders the words of the great Irish novelist: "Ride, Miss Olivia, as though the whole world were looking at you."

MIDY MORGAN.

Five and Fourteen.

THERE are two periods in the moral and intellectual development of a girl which cause the profoundest anxiety to a mother. At five years old, or thereabouts, the period of babyhood is past, while the period of girlhood is not yet reached, and, between the two, comes a time of anarchy and chaos. The little soul is now bursting its shackles and trying to readjust itself to new conditions. The child is ceasing to be a mere pet and plaything, and is beginning to live an individual life. Nothing is more common than to see a docile, well-trained child suddenly develop, without any apparent reason, a willfulness and insubordination entirely at variance with its previous habits. The mother, who has been dreaming of a sweet daughter who is to walk beside her all her days, making life fragrant and beautiful to her by sharing with her all her youthful hopes, and joys, and trusts, turns heart-sick at the naughtiness of the half-fledged termagant. For it is the good, cherubic little girl who usually manifests the change; a spoiled child is so thoroughly disagreeable all the while that any accession of badness is not noticeable. A great deal of self-condemnation and unhappy foreboding would be spared the mother if she would only recognize that much of what is so very unlovely is not essentially wrong—that it is merely what is good in a state of unripeness. The fragrant blossom has withered and fallen away, leaving in its place the hard and acid embryo fruit. A wise mother will be very careful to distinguish between those qualities which promise evil in their developed form and those which are mere crudities, and her aim will be to foster all the unfolded possibilities in her child's nature, and help to bring them to a beautiful maturity.

Every one knows how tiresome and unattractive a little girl usually is when she has outgrown her infantile sweetness. The little impertinences, the saucy retorts and unflattering personalities which have won for her smiles and caresses, or, at worst, an admiring reproof, all at once become intolerable, and are rebuked with acerbity. The very ways which she has been taught to consider charming become subjects for displeasure when the baby roundness and dimples are gone. Her sense of justice is outraged, and the unwarped sense of justice in a child is often very strong. She becomes a little Ishmael, her hand against every man's, and every man's hand against her. In a certain sense this can scarcely be avoided, but, if the