

Editors' Table.

THE QUEEN OF INVENTIONS—THE SEWING MACHINE.

I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.—PROVERBS viii. 12.

It is the wise decree of God that men shall work, "subdue the world," restore it, so far as human strength and skill can, to its original beauty and fruitfulness. The physical strength and inventive faculties of man, preponderating, as they do, over those of woman,* mark him as the agent by whom the hard labor of the world is to be done, and the inventions that aid that labor discovered. Also, the lighter tasks of woman, so far as these can be aided by machinery, are under this department of man's inventive genius.

We do not here enter into any discussion on the comparative equality of the sexes; their capacities are not to be measured in this way. As well might we compare light and gravitation—the one power never seen, the other always obtruded, and both alike indispensable to life.

Let us say, then, that man is the agent to "find out knowledge of witty inventions," and no one he has ever found out seems likely to add more to human comfort than this apparently little device for lightening the tasks of woman.

The world has been moved, the hard-hearted world, by the laments over that portion of gentle womanhood whose sad destiny it was to earn a scanty livelihood by sewing. Every feeling of pity has responded to the appeals made and descriptions drawn of the "pale woman plying her sickly trade." Those noble spirits who do not content themselves with barren sympathy rose up, and sought, by energetic striving, to alleviate this condition of the sufferers, who starved or sinned if they did not resort to the needle, and died by inches if they did take it up. But Vanity Fair must have her furbelows. Fashion would not remit the tasks of the needle; avarice, the severe partner of vanity, urged the victims to the last moment of existence. In vain, Christian men and women of note and high place strove to remedy this state of martyrdom. Poets sang, novelists wrote, preachers exhorted, legislators framed laws to guard the needle-women; all that was effected was a feeble palliation of the evil. Now, however, it is gone from the face of the earth. What philanthropy failed to accomplish, what religion, poetry, eloquence, and reason had sought in vain, has been produced by—THE SEWING MACHINE.

By this invention the needlewoman is enabled to perform her labors in comfort; tasks that used to require the midnight watches by the pale light of a single lamp, and drag through, perhaps, twenty hours, she can now complete in two or three hours. She is thus able to rest at night, and have time through the day for family occupations and enjoyments. Is not this a great gain for the world?

This is not all. The *Sewing Machine* will, after a time, effectually banish ragged and unclad humanity from every class. The extreme facility with which garments are made by its help will enable thousands, ay, hun-

dreds of thousands, to have new clothes, who belong to those classes hitherto dressed in the worn-out, unfitting garments bestowed by charity. The very poor women among servants and workpeople seldom have any ingenuity with the needle; they can often buy cheap and strong new fabrics, but they cannot make them up, and, heretofore, the making of the garment often cost more than the cloth. Now, the Sewing Machine, at a very small cost, sews up the seams; or, a ready-made garment can be purchased nearly as cheap as the cloth of which it is made. In all Benevolent Institutions these Machines are now in operation, and do, or may do, a hundred times more towards clothing the indigent and feeble than the united fingers of all the charitable and willing ladies collected through the civilized world could possibly perform.

We have spoken first of the advantage of this invention to the poor as the most ostensible and just to be considered. It is useless in our country to allude to that old world fallacy, the long ago exploded notion that machines interfere with individual labor. When the Stocking Machines were first introduced in England, they met clamorous opposition from that class of political economists who contended it was right that nine-tenths of the whole population of the civilized world should go stockingless, so that a few thousands of old women and boys might earn a shilling a day by hand knitting! Now, who believes that theory? A similar class of exclusives were offended at Arkwright's wonderful invention, the Spinning Jenny. It was nothing to them that working men and women could go clean and comfortable, that health and neatness, and their concomitants, virtues and blessings, might enter the poor laboring man's house, with cotton goods at a price for everybody's wear. No! They thought the health, virtue, and comfort of the world at large should be sacrificed to the temporary inconvenience of change of employment for the few who earned a paltry stipend by the spinning wheel or the hand loom. This delusion has passed away. The poor working people can, if *temperate* and industrious, now clothe themselves and families neatly, even fashionably.

In the wealthier homes of our land, where we rise beyond the actual need of woman's work to support the family, the Sewing Machine is a treasure. Instead of busy fingers and vacant minds, young ladies throughout all the country can have the opportunity of improving their minds and gaining what are styled the "accomplishments" of education, while aiding their mothers in all the sewing for the family. How many an excellent mother, anxious to save everything for the education and advancement of a numerous family, has sat and stitched at the never-ending, ever-beginning sewing of her household, till life was nothing but a dull round of everlasting toil, and too often have eyesight and health, as well as hope and spirits, sunk under the burden! Now, a few dollars invested in a Sewing Machine—a club of ladies might join in a neighborhood—and the long seams, the never ending hems, the hard stitching are all done as by fairy fingers. No wasting application, stooping over the needle, without time for outdoor exercise, wearying for want of change, will be

* See "Woman's Biographical Dictionary," published by the Harpers, New York.

felt by those women who have in their possession a good Sewing Machine.* The *best* is, usually, in the long run, the *cheapest*. There is a great variety; all have their advantages and admirers. We can only speak safely of those we know best. That of Wheeler & Wilson combines more merits than any other, with excellent workmanship in its arrangement, a firm stitch that does not ravel, a hemmer that saves time and trouble; in short, it seems as nearly perfect as the human genius can make such an instrument, that must be somewhat complicated.

We shall have more to say on this matter, as we intend to make our readers thoroughly understand the merits and advantages of the SEWING MACHINE.

The following article is worthy a place in our Table: the writer has evidently *thought* over her subject.

PARENTAL DECISION.

TAKING up, not long since, in the house of a friend, a number of the *Mothers' Magazine*, our eye fell upon the following:—

"I know a little child who, when pleasant, is quite agreeable, but who has a naughty habit of screaming when anything is said or done not quite right. Its mother seems to try hard to check it, but does not succeed. If any one could tell some good method to pursue, we should be glad to hear it."

We were a little surprised at this statement and desire for information. That the case is not a rare one is true, as almost every one has witnessed instances of the kind; but the *reason* of this "screaming" we should think sufficiently obvious to any one desiring the knowledge. This bare statement shows both the disposition of the child and the parent. It shows in the latter a false affection for the child, and an inclination to yield to its wishes, even when her judgment points to denial, rather than withhold what would give it present pleasure; and an additional reason is often the trouble it will give her to make the denial.

The child may wish for a visit or a ride when it is inconvenient for it to pay the one or take the other; the mother will say: "No, my dear, not to-day;" here a strain of teasing begins, increasing in force as it sees its mother hesitate or show signs of yielding; or she may try to reason the matter with the child, and prolong a worse than useless controversy upon the subject, which scarcely ends with the next fifteen minutes or half hour, and then ends by the child gaining the desired point, because the mother is thoroughly wearied out; or, if the thing is positively impossible, a fit of ill-humor succeeds, perhaps for the rest of the day. The mother often, weary with the numerous cares of her household, or dispirited and unwell, finds it far easier to procure for the child the desired object, at almost any inconvenience—which at once restores good humor, because the child has had its own way—than to persevere in withholding it, and inflict a punishment for screaming, which would always be the only *right* course.

Your child is aware of your weakness, knows by what modes it best accomplishes its end. Had it never received a thing for crying, these fits of "screaming" would never have occurred; by systematic firmness and discipline passion and obstinacy may with equal certainty be subdued.

* Wheeler & Wilson, 505 Broadway, New York. Agent, Henry Coy, 628 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

The child shows a discernment, firmness, and perseverance worthy of a much nobler cause, and which, rightly directed, would prove rich blessings in after life, and which, exercised to the same extent by the parent, would insure an obedient, pleasant, and always lovable child; for it is not so much knowledge the parent needs as a steady firmness, keeping in subjection maternal feelings which interfere with the proper mode of proceeding.

You cannot with impunity indulge the child of any disposition in every wish, much less one of the disposition under consideration. Unlimited indulgence will ever produce fits of ill humor and sullenness when things are not according to its mind, and an irritable, fretful, faultfinding, and selfish disposition will be the result—nothing will ever please, no matter how much time and pains be expended upon it.

These fits of screaming will be out-grown, but never the results of their having been allowed; this fretful, unsatisfied disposition will follow it to mature years, destroying or diminishing the happiness of the whole life; and not only does it involve the ruin of its own happiness, but that also of the parents, and of the friend with whom the spoiled child may sustain intimate relations. It is true that religious principle may interfere, and a work of reformation be commenced; a *work* it may well be called, for such it will indeed prove, of time and patience; for what has grown with the growth and strengthened with the strength at mature years may well compare with the refolding and twining together of the slender cord, at first so easily snapped with the fingers, until it shall have numbered the months and years which have strengthened this trait of character.

Self-denial must be practised; it is a law of our being, our very nature demands it; how desirable then that it be taught us in our earlier years, when the lesson will be comparatively easy! Not only by its absence is happiness destroyed, but usefulness is restricted. How slight must ever be the influence for good of an exacting, repining, and selfish person! Such manifest no desire to be useful only so far as it contributes to their own gratification, or, at least, does not interfere with their comfort, pleasure, or ease.

Self should never be first in our thoughts; we should give the preference to another, and the very act of self-denial will confer greater happiness than any selfish appropriation of pleasure or ease is ever capable of doing. The sweetest and purest joy is that of the unselfish heart.

JESSIE AHERTON.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"What's in a name?" Very much. There are associations connected with names that give pleasure or pain; ideas of the beautiful or ridiculous. It is pleasant to trace the signification of, and the associations connected with names, and the mind recurs to one and another author who have immortalized them in prose or verse.

Beatrice, which signifies *making happy*, has been the theme of one of the most gifted of the Italian poets (Dante) in lays of love; Shakspeare gives this name to the heroine of one of his finest comedies; Shelley has caused a Beatrice to figure in one of his tragedies as the high-souled but ill-fated daughter of the unnatural Cenci.

Clara means *clear*, and is the name of one of Sir Walter Scott's heroines.

Felicia, *happy*, a name not always properly applied. One of England's gifted ladies bore this name, but was

public office of religious instructress. We usually connect ideas of unlovely or elderly womanhood with this outward manifestation of zeal, or else some peculiarities of doctrine, like the Quakers, or political peculiarity, like that of "Woman's Rights," with such displays.

Miss Evans shows us the young Dinah Morris, as she looked when she stood up in a cart for a pulpit, and meekly and tranquilly turned her gray eyes, "that seemed to be shedding love, rather than making observations; they had the liquid look that tells the mind is full of what it has to give out, rather than impressed by external objects." Then, her face, in the sober light of the setting sun, seemed in its delicate coloring like flowers at evening. "It was a small, oval face, of a uniform, transparent whiteness, with an egglike line of cheek and chin, a full but firm mouth, a delicate nostril, and a low, perpendicular brow, surmounted by a rising arch of parting between smooth locks of pale reddish auburn hair; the eyebrows, of the same color as the hair, were perfectly horizontal and firmly pencilled; the eyelashes, though no darker, were long and abundant. It was one of those faces that make one think of white flowers with light touches of color on their petals." And that white, sweet face indicated a heart as pure and warm as the tears of angels. Yes, Dinah has made piety, if not public teaching, lovely in the young.

Miss Marsh, the lady who has for some years past taken a leading part in missionary teachings among the poorest of the laboring classes in and around London, is thus described by a gentleman of New York, who has lately visited England:—

"I had the great pleasure of attending one of Miss Marsh's meetings, and heard her address the working men. It was held in a large shop beneath the railway arch. The place was crowded, and had a sprinkling of those who were not working men and their wives. We were admitted by the favor of Rev. Mr. Fleming, at whose house she stopped. Miss Marsh is a noble, fine-looking woman. The first sentence she uttered, which was only thanking them for their attendance, was accompanied with such power that two men near us were completely overcome. She prayed the second time before speaking, also closed with prayer and the benediction.

"She does not speak in churches, but in shops, barns, and such places. She presses upon the audience a present salvation. She sits while speaking. Her language is beautiful, but simple, and very persuasive. Oh, it was a great treat to be permitted to listen to her. Her principal field of usefulness is among the young men of the navy and the working men. The night before, she addressed seven hundred young men of the navy at Portsmouth. She is engaged for three weeks to come. Women are doing a great work in this day."

THE SEWING MACHINE.*

We promised, in our last editorial, to give further particulars concerning this truly philanthropical invention. We now propose to give "facts and figures" that will establish the excellence of the machine. The following summary may be relied upon:—

The Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company has prepared tables showing, by actual experiment of four different workers, the time required to stitch each part of a garment by hand and with their Sewing

* Wheeler & Wilson, 505 Broadway, New York. Agent, Henry Coy, 628 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Machines. The superiority of the work done by the Machine, and the healthfulness of the employment, are advantages quite as great as the saving of time. Subjoined is a summary of several of the tables:—

	BY MACHINE.		BY HAND.	
	Hours.	Min.	Hours.	Min.
Gentlemen's shirts	1	16	14	26
Frock coats	2	33	16	35
Satin vests	1	14	7	19
Linen vests	0	43	5	14
Cloth pants	0	51	5	10
Summer pants	0	33	2	50
Silk dress	1	13	10	22
Merino dress	1	4	8	27
Calico dress	0	57	6	37
Chemise	1	1	10	31
Moreen skirt	0	35	7	28
Muslin skirt	0	30	6	1
Drawers	0	28	4	1
Night-dress	1	7	10	2
Silk apron	0	15	4	16
Plain apron	0	9	1	26

Seams of considerable length are ordinarily sewed at the rate of a yard a minute.

The Lock-Stitch made by this Machine is the only stitch that cannot be unravelled, and that presents the same appearance upon each side of the seam. It is made with two threads, one upon each side of the fabric, and interlocked in the centre of it.

The Sewing Machines of Messrs. Wheeler & Wilson have been introduced into several female colleges and schools for young ladies. The method adopted for teaching its use has been as follows: "A few of the most apt and intelligent pupils have received particular attention, and they, in turn, have instructed others. This plan has operated with tolerable success. As to the ultimate success of the plan and the wisdom of its policy, I have not the slightest doubt." So says Prof. W. H. Wood, principal of one of the New York schools. We shall suggest a method of instituting "Sewing Machine" clubs of ladies in country villages, in our next number.

POISONOUS PAPER-HANGINGS.—Perhaps many of our readers are not aware that arsenical mixtures are used in the coloring matter of the paper of some kinds that are often used because beautiful in appearance. This paper is deleterious in sitting-rooms, but for chambers is dangerous to life. There is a kind of beautiful room-paper, of an *apple-green* color, which is often selected for its cool appearance; and some one, tempted by its look, had his library hung with it. Strange to say, a violent cold seemed to seize upon every one, even in the middle of summer, who stopped long in the room, especially if they came much in contact with the walls. The paperhanger was questioned, and he replied that "he never worked at hanging such paper without getting a *bad sore throat and a running of the eyes.*" Further inquiry resulted in discovering that this beautiful, cool, cheerful green color was composed of *arsenical preparation, an irritant poison of the worst class!* It has been proved by experiments that the air of rooms covered with this kind of green paper is surcharged with a poisonous dust, the inhalation of which will injure the system through the pulmonary membrane, or affect the throat, the eyes, or the nose by local action. So beware of *green* in the colors of your paper-hangings.

IRISH SERVANT GIRLS IN AMERICA.—The amount of money sent to their parents, brothers and sisters, and other relatives, by the Irish servant girls in this country, may well astonish the public. Rev. Dr. Cahill, who has been lecturing in this country with so much *clat* and