

Editors' Table.

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHT.

A HAPPY New Year to all our friends!

As we thus welcome the day with cheer and hope for the future, it naturally occurs to compare these expectations with what we have done during the last thirty-five years.

The purpose of GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK has been to help womankind, and to carry the sunshine of peace, intelligence, and happiness into the homes of the people. The tendencies of thought and the conditions of life in our Republic, as we gladly acknowledge, have been propitious to our work. Still, the good results of the plans suggested and advocated by us are important, and we think it will be interesting to our readers to know the LADY'S BOOK has had its share in bringing them to pass.

Woman as the Teacher.—This privilege or duty we have claimed for the sex, and steadily advocated a higher culture for girls, showing that mothers in their homes and young women in the school-room were, if properly fitted, the best teachers for the children of the Republic. When we began this plea the profession was almost monopolized by men; only in summer, when the scholars were small children, was the school-mistress abroad. Now mark the change. According to the report of the Census Bureau there are in the United States 115,224 public schools, colleges, and academies; these are taught by 150,241 persons, the number of women employed being over one hundred thousand. Thus we see that two thirds of the educational duties and influences in our public seminaries are now committed to the young single women of the United States.

Fashions of Dress and their Influence.—This subject of good clothing, in its effect on character and civilization, is one which we have studied and kept constantly before our readers. By the illustrations and patterns, their taste and skill have been awakened, household industry has been developed, and this important art of economy, that of fitting and making the family clothing at home, has become fashionable. We consider this one of the great movements of American ingenuity, that will add much to the comfort and refinement of society.

Medical Education for Women.—As we believe that woman is the conservator of health and morals, it seems but justice to society that she should be fitted for her duties. They have now opportunities. In our country three medical colleges are incorporated for them; and more than two hundred women have graduated with the full diploma. We have encouraged this progress, and are happy to say that the experiment has been successful.

The Bible Name of Woman for feminine humanity had been for many years degraded in our language by using the animal term of sex, *female*, as the synonym for *woman*, and the feminine terminations had been allowed to fall into disuse. These errors we have been endeavoring to rectify, with what we consider great success. The reform, in speaking or writing of woman, is observable in every book we read, in every speech or sermon we hear; and in the terminations there is a return to that early English text which always had the appropriate feminine endings.

The American National Thanksgiving Day may now be regarded as an institution. We congratulate our readers that in future they will celebrate a united festival.

Thus our plans set forth in the Editors' Table have prospered, while the general interest of the work has been increasing—as the present enlarged volume proves. Mr. Godey deserves the patronage of American ladies, for he encourages and liberally rewards their genius.

The LADY'S BOOK has never advocated the education of woman for man's work. Her own duties are large enough to satisfy the widest claims. The hard work and the government of the world belong alike to men; and we have no desire to trench upon either. But education for her own work of household economy she requires, and should have. We say these few words by way of introduction to a plea on the next page—the last we expect to urge on our readers. The daughters of the Republic need one boon from their country; we ask it in their name.

The PRESENTATION PLATE is a good representation of winter pastimes in the open air.

AMERICAN GIRLS.

(Extract from a letter to the Edithess.)

"MY DEAR MRS. HALE: One point in American social science, you have already treated from time to time, giving it the importance it deserves. Perhaps I might call it Domestic Science. As you possess, what we do not, an organ for such thoughts and plans as specially promote the happiness and progress of women, I beg to suggest to you the consideration and support in your magazine of such as will tend to a healthy appreciation, and hearty liking for this science.

"When our last war was beginning to be talked of, I said to a wise man: 'Oh, dear! I hope there won't be a war! Our people won't fight on either side. They have been, this generation, always in trade and peaceful occupations—and the young men—pshaw! they are all dandies and idlers!'"

"There isn't so warlike a nation on the face of the earth!" replied the wise man.

"Now, if I were to say what *seems*, it would be there isn't so idle and silly a set on the face of the earth, as our girls. But so we thought of them before the war; and see what they did and suffered, and how they upheld, and comforted, and encouraged the boys. So we must look beneath the seeming, and address the true hearts, and the active minds, and the religious tendencies of our girls. For one, I would not so educate girls that they should be independent of home, or be hasty in seeking a career, but rather to fill worthily and gracefully the position in which that Providence has placed them, which 'sets men in families.'"

"They should, indeed, dabble in sciences, particularly if they had a taste that way—any amount of ologies that the hungry intellect craves. All art should be open to them, and every grace wait on them. But as reading and writing lie at the foundation of good learning, so does domestic science underlie all other sciences and culinary art transcend all other art. A well-ordered household presupposes a well-balanced mind, and a tasteful boudoir and an attractive toilet ought to suggest, also, an ample table and domestic wheels that move without a creak. Who will say, that to attain such accomplishments is not as difficult as, and infinitely more satisfactory than, the music and languages for which they are sacrificed?"

"These accomplishments should be made, I think, a part of a girl's regular education, either at home or at school. If at school, of course some regular provision should be assigned for such a branch as Domestic Science; and a girl should not graduate at an institute, who cannot make tempting broths for the sick, and tempting puddings for the well, as easily and gracefully as she sings a German song, or embroiders a pair of slippers.