

EDITOR'S TABLE.

EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

COATS OF ARMS IN AMERICA.—The practice of painting coats of arms on carriages, and having them printed on newspaper, has increased greatly, especially in our Atlantic cities, within a few years. It seems to us that the practice is in the very worst taste. Coats of arms are a remnant of the feudal times, are essentially aristocratic, and are therefore wholly out of place in a republic. Nor are those who use them in the United States entitled, as a rule, to display them. In nine cases out of ten, it is a rich snob, wishing to be thought far-descended, who sports a coat of arms. His name is, let us say, Smith. He goes to a so-called Office of Heraldry, in New York, Boston, or elsewhere, and asks the engraver to furnish him a coat of arms. The engraver takes down Burke's Landed Gentry of Great Britain, shows him the various coats of arms that the Smiths are entitled to, and asks him to make a selection. Smith picks out the one that has the most red and gold in it, and forthwith has it blazoned on his carriage-panels. Or, perhaps, he writes to London, and gets a coat of arms in the same way, without, in either case being entitled to it.

For no person has a right to claim a coat of arms, unless he can prove that he is descended from the individual, to whom the coat of arms was originally granted. His having the same name is no proof of this. There are some families, in America, who are thus descended, and who have a right to coat-armor, but generally they have the good taste not to display their coats of arms. Very many, however, who have used coats of arms for three or four generations, have no right to them, the original assumption having been made by some snob of the last century in the same unauthorized way that Smith does now. Another absurdity, seen in our great cities, is a cockade on a coachman's hat. In England, where there is a rule for all things, nobody is considered entitled to put a cockade on his coachman's hat, unless he is a military or naval officer, a deputy lieutenant of a county, a member of the government, or a baronet. If the practice is to be imitated at all, it should be followed correctly, though we are of those who think it quite unsuited for a republic. It would be just as proper for the owner of a carriage to wear a crown, when he drove out, as for him to put a cockade in the hat of his coachman. If the snobs of our great cities will be silly, let them at least be silly according to rule.

GOOD MANNERS, as has been pithily said, are only the absence of selfishness. They are the doing to others as we would wish to be done unto. A thoughtfulness for the comfort of those about us, a pleasant smile, a kind word, these are the ingredients of which good manners are chiefly composed. When people at a railroad depot push and hustle each other in order to secure the best seats, they violate the first principles of good manners. We were present, in New York, the last night the Parepa-Rosa troupe sang. The crowd was so great that the passage-ways were blocked up long before the hour for beginning. Persons wishing to get to their seats, were kept back by a well-dressed mob, which laughed at its own rudeness as if it was a good joke. Those who composed this rabble called themselves gentlemen. But were they gentlemen? The poorest man, who gives up his seat, in a crowded steambot, to a woman with a child, is infinitely more of a gentleman. A husband, father, or brother, who is well-bred abroad, is often the very reverse at home. There he gives way to his selfishness, which he has to restrain in society, and the wife, or daughter, or sister suffers in consequence. You may make an awkward bow, or an un-

graceful curtsy, and stammer shyly in your address, but yet have the substance of good manners, for if you try to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself, you will be well-bred, and in the highest sense. Rich clothes are but an outside varnish. You may stain common pine, but you cannot make it real mahogany.

DINNERS AND DINNER-PARTIES.—If you give a dinner-party, do not have too much light. Nothing is so vulgar as a glare. Avoid too many dishes. Have flowers, in the center of the table, but arrange them in a large plate, or plateau, so that every guest can see across to his, or her, opposite. Many ladies, when they give a dinner-party, have the guest's name written on one side of a plain or embossed card, while on the other side of the card is the bill of fare of the dinner. Printed cards are very generally used for invitations; they should be about twice the size of a lady's ordinary visiting card. For a dinner-party the name of the host and hostess is given; for an evening-party, generally speaking, the name of the hostess only. But there are exceptions. Everything is printed on the dinner invitation-card except the names of the intended guests and the date for which they are invited.

A GERMAN CHRISTENING.—Many of the customs of Germany, especially those connected with betrothal, marriage and baptism, are exceedingly poetical. The country itself, at least a large portion of it, is exceptionally picturesque. From Bonn, all the way up the Rhine, hills and mountains rise on either side, the former clothed with vineyards, the latter grim with ruined castles. The valley of the Neckar, and more particularly that portion around Heidelberg, is one of the most beautiful in the world. Scenery, as Taine and other critics have pointed out, exercises great influence on national character, mind and customs, for customs grow out of character and mind. One of our engravings, this month, represents a German christening, or rather the procession which is so prominent a part of it. The picturesque dresses of the women add considerably to the effect of the processions.

THE DOLLY VARDENS.—It is not at all necessary to spend large sums of money to wear those graceful Louis XV. costumes, generally called Dolly Vardens, which are as convenient as elegant. Chalis, alpacas, mousseline de laine, give us good and cheap imitations of foulard, the expensive material of this summer's costumes. For very warm weather, we have muslins, cambric, organdi. Trimmings all over with lace, ruches, delicately-tinted ribbon bows, and chiefly with black velvet ribbon "*de Saint Etienne*," what delightful toilets have been produced, this season!

NEVER WAS FASHION SO FANCIFUL as it is now. Every lady can modify it, according to the exigencies of her purse and figure, without being obliged, for that, to renounce being fashionable. We are no longer, as we used to be once, subjected to *one* fashion for each season, and whether fat or thin, tall or short, obliged to wear dresses all of the same shape, without daring to alter it. In short, we are making great advances in the civilization of dress.

WHAT COMES OF COMPARING.—A lady, writing from Winthrop, Iowa, says:—"I was determined to have a magazine this year. Accordingly, I bought specimens of all the leading monthlies now extant, and of all I like yours the best."