

EDITOR'S TABLE.

EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

AS TO "GOING TO EUROPE."—This is the season of the year when rich Americans swarm to Europe, some merely for a month or two, others to begin a round of travel to last very much longer. With many young girls a visit abroad is the dream of their life. "Oh! I'll never marry anybody," we once heard a pretty creature say, "unless he can take me to Europe."

In one sense this desire is not only unobjectionable, but really praiseworthy. When the wish to go to Europe is to study, or even see, the historical localities, the great cathedrals, the picture-galleries, and all the other things about which one has read, it is a wish to be respected. Travel, carried on with such a purpose, is itself a "liberal education." Nothing, as the Indians say, "opens the eyes" so much. Nothing enlarges the intelligence more, or banishes narrow, illiberal views. An impartial traveler soon finds that, after all, a Frenchman is more like a man than he is like a Frenchman; and that the same is true, as well, of other nationalities: German, Italian, Danish, even Russian; that we are, literally, all "brothers of one blood." "Going abroad," to such persons, is really a benefit, therefore.

But to those who go to Europe, as so many thousands do, in hopes "to touch elbows" with the nobility, it is a different affair altogether. The Old World is full of rich Americans, whose only aim in life—and a miserable one it is—seems to be to make the acquaintance of titled families. There are hundreds of American girls, now abroad, whose dearest ambition is to marry "a lord." All this is disgraceful. It is "snobbishness" of the worst kind. A true American, man or woman, is proud of his or her country, not ashamed of it. A true American thinks "a man's a man for a' that," and that rank, after all, is "but the guinea-stamp." At best, a title is only the reward given to some ancestor, generations ago, for some service done to the State; it is not the reward won by the personal merits of the present earl, count, baron, etc.; and therefore he ought not to be worshipped for it. Generally, however, the title has been bought by borough-mongering, either in the past or present age, or has been conferred on the base-born descendant of some worthless monarch, like Charles the Second. Four-fifths, even of the English nobility, represent, in no respect, honor or nobleness, even in the past.

No! To be a citizen of this great and growing country—this land, where, above all others, men are freest, and have the best chance of development—is really a higher distinction than to be the descendant of some robber-knight of the Middle Ages, some Norman "filibuster" of the days of the Conqueror. American girls who go to Europe, and there practically deny their country, by their worship of rank, are no true daughters of America. Perhaps the best thing for America, after all, is that such girls should marry abroad: at least that they should never return; for this land, where all are "free and equal," is not the place for them.

THIS IS THE ONLY MAGAZINE that gives the real Paris fashions, engraved on steel, printed from the plate, and colored by hand. The others give, at best, but cheap lithographs: and the styles are those of second-rate dress-makers.

WASTE IN LITTLE THINGS is what makes income fall short. And we Americans are the most wasteful of people.

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CHARCOAL: ITS INFLUENCE ON PLANTS.—Pure charcoal acts in an extraordinary manner on unhealthy plants. An orange-tree which had the disease of its leaves turning yellow, acquired within a month a perfectly healthy green color when the upper surface of the earth was removed from the part in which the tree grew, and a ring of fine charcoal, an inch in thickness, was put in place of the earth. The same plan succeeded with a gardenia. A cactus was planted in a mixture of charcoal and earth, and it attained to double its size in a few weeks. It has been found that when charcoal was used instead of sand, the vegetation was always stronger and more vigorous. When the experiments were made with charcoal only, without a mixture of soil, the best results were obtained. The experiments were tried upon more than forty species, including hollies. Leaves and pieces of leaves took root, and in fact budded, in pure charcoal; so also did leaves of the Begonia, the Euphorbia, the Oxalis, Indian-rubber (Ficus), Cyclamens, Polyanthus, Mesembryanthemums, and others; also pieces of the American aloe, and the tufts or crowns of pine-apples. The charcoal employed in these experiments is the dust-like powder of charcoal; or it can be pounded into small dust very readily. The plants treated with it require water, or the roots would dry. The explanation given of this marvel is that the charcoal undergoes decomposition after four or five years, and thus carbonic acid is produced, the principal substance necessary for plants.

WHAT ARE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES?—A fair subscriber asks us if there are any wedding anniversaries to be observed except the silver and golden ones. We reply that we believe there are the following:

- First, Paper Wedding.
- Second, Straw Wedding.
- Third, Candy Wedding.
- Fourth, Leather Wedding.
- Fifth, Wooden Wedding.
- Tenth, Tin Wedding.
- Twelfth, Linen Wedding.
- Fifteenth, Crystal Wedding.
- Twentieth, Floral Wedding.
- Twenty-fifth, Silver Wedding.
- Thirtieth, Pearl Wedding.
- Thirty-fifth, China Wedding.
- Fortieth, Coral Wedding.
- Fiftieth, Gold Wedding.
- Seventy-fifth, Diamond Wedding.

Of course the celebration of none of these is obligatory; it is altogether a matter of taste. Most persons, we fancy, will be content with observing their silver and golden weddings.

IRON-RUST MAY BE REMOVED from delicate garments, upon which you dare not try oxalic acid, by mixing the juice of a lemon with some salt; put this over the rusted spots, and then hold over the spout of a steaming tea-kettle. This is almost always effectual.

WHEN GETTING UP CLUBS, do not be deceived by big-sounding promises. Every year, trashy magazines come out with grand promises, but after a few months die, cheating their subscribers, or else fizzle on, third-rate in every respect, and so deceiving in another way.