

THE COTTAGE BY THE SEA.

ALTHOUGH we are happily exempt from those days of scorching sun and nights of oppressive heat which are the heritage of dwellers in Eastern cities, when he who can afford it seeks refuge among the mountains, in some quiet country home, or where the cool sea breezes bring him delicious relief, while he who can not pass the day in sweltering toil and at night visits the housetop for a breath of pure air, the custom of "going out of town" for a brief season in summer is becoming yearly more general with our people. And this is a matter more of custom than necessity, for to spend a summer in Portland is by no means a hardship. With the days never so warm that one is uncomfortable in the shade, and with the nights so cool that bed clothing is not a burden, while a slight fire at times does not come amiss, no one can complain of the climate; with a splendid river on which may be seen a multitude of boats; with good streets and splendid roads leading back into the hills, upon which one may drive and enjoy the twilight, which in this latitude lingers until far into the night; with places of amusement open to the public and all the varied attractions of the city scarcely diminished, the stay-at-home need not feel discontented with his lot.

The Portlander does not leave home in summer to escape discomfort so much as for the reason that this is the only season when he can be comfortable in the places to which he desires to go to relieve the monotony of existence. The devotees of society find in a complete change of surroundings and method of life recuperation of their vitalities; the over-worked merchant, clerk or professional man finds in the mountain retreat or on the breezy beach rest from his toil and a healthful stimulant for both body and mind. He fills his lungs with the pure air of the mountains or the salt breath of the sea and feels himself endowed with the vigor of a new life. The matron, worn with family cares and bending beneath the burden of domestic drudgery, finds in these quiet retreats rest from her labors, and with the invigorating atmosphere draws in strength to again take up her load of care with a lighter heart and a renewed vitality. The student, also, the overtaxed scholar and the patient, but wearied, teacher find amid the mountain firs and on the sands of the seashore health and strength for another year of labor.

There are so many health and pleasure resorts within easy reach of Portland, that none of them seem in danger of becoming over-crowded. The mountains invite the hunter and fisherman, the snow-draped peaks enchant the inquisitive explorer, and the mineral springs hold out promises of health to the invalid, but the great mass of our summer exiles seek the ocean beach, because they find there such an absolute and complete change of surroundings and habits of life. Year by year the number of these temporary dwellers by the sea increases, while excursions down the noble Columbia to beaches near its mouth are more frequent and better patronized.

It is becoming "quite the thing" to have a "cottage" in one of the several seaside settlements, a term sufficiently flexible to apply to any kind of habitation from a two-roomed shanty, innocent of paint and plaster, to a domicile of proportions and finish that would entitle it to a place on any thoroughfare in the city. Numerous tents are pitched among the trees back from the beach, whose occupants enjoy all the freedom and discomforts of camp life or board at one of the several seaside hotels in the vicinity, whose rooms are filled with guests who prefer a less radical change from their usual mode of life.

Life at the beach, as revealed by the artist, on pages two hundred and two and two hundred and eleven, is one devoted entirely to pleasure and health-gaining, days of freedom from care and abandonment of mental and physical labor. Surf bathing is, of course, the prime and most beneficial amusement, but with this are linked numerous other pleasant diversions, such as driving and promenading on the beach, fishing and hunting in the mountains a few miles inland, boating on the streams entering the ocean near the settlement, and the social enjoyments customary where friends are collected together and have ample time to devote themselves to pleasure. Dame Fashion has, as yet, laid a light hand upon our summer resorts, but as time passes more attention will probably be paid to her whims, though it is to be hoped that such will not be the case.

The resorts most frequented are Yaquina bay, which may be reached in a day from this city, over the lines of the Oregon & California and Oregon Pacific railroads, and those at the mouth of the Columbia, which are reached by steamer. Besides the usual daily steamers to Astoria, the *Olympian* and *Telephone* make regular trips during the week, their time being especially arranged so that one may leave here Saturday, spend Sunday at the beach and return in time for business Monday morning. Frequent excursions take hundreds of pleasure seekers for a day's enjoyment in viewing the beautiful scenery at the mouth of the river, visiting the lighthouse at Cape Hancock, and sniffing the salt air from the ocean. South of the mouth of the river several miles is the famous Clatsop beach, the oldest of all the resorts, where two hotels, fine camping spots and a splendid beach for bathing and driving are the attractions. North of the river are Ilwaco and the adjacent North beach, and still further north is Long beach, the former being sometimes known as "Stout's," and the latter as "Tinkerville," in honor of the proprietors of their respective hotels. There is, also, Ocean Park, where the Methodists hold annual camp meetings. The cottages are to be found chiefly at Ilwaco, Stout's and Tinkerville, and are becoming so numerous that choice building lots which a few seasons ago brought little else than a smile when offered for sale, now command upwards of one hundred dollars each. A few years more will see a sojourn at the beach a regular summer custom of the majority of those who can afford it, and a cottage by the sea an almost universal adjunct of an establishment in town.