

SHAVING AND SHORTENING.

BARBERS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECREASE IN STATURE OF AMERICANS.

It is undeniable that Americans are steadily decreasing in stature. There was a time when the Yankee was proverbially long and lank, but at the present day the long variety exists only in the backwoods of Maine and New Hampshire, while the Yankee of Boston, New Haven, Providence and other large towns is about the size of the average Frenchman.

If, now, we look at Europe, we find that in certain countries men are small and in others they are of respectable height. The Scotchmen are as long and lank as the men of Maine or Minnesota, and the Englishman is ordinarily fully five feet ten inches high, except in London, where a smaller variety of Englishman is occasionally met.

From these data, it is apparent that there exists some cause which is shortening the stature of certain races; that this cause is more active in cities than in the rural districts; and that it does not exist in wild regions remote from civilization—such as the Scotch Highlands and our Western frontier States.

The true scientific way of solving the problem is to find out some peculiarity, either of climate or circumstance, which exists where men are growing smaller and does not exist where a normal height is maintained. We do not need to look far to find this peculiarity. It is found in the barber's shop. Where men shave themselves, as in Scotland, in England outside of London, in Lombardy, in Germany, and in the rural districts of the United States, they are tall. Where it is the usual custom for men to be shaved by barbers, they are small.

Why barbers should have this curious and disastrous effect is certainly very strange. It may be said that their conversation, by its depressing influence, interferes with the physical growth of their victims, but this suggestion is readily refuted by the fact that Frenchmen are notoriously gay, while Englishmen, who shave themselves, are somber. Great depression of spirits is undoubtedly produced by the conversation of barbers; but this depression is temporary, and there is not a particle of evidence to show that depression of spirits, to whatever cause it may be due, ever affects the stature of the person afflicted.

Neither will it do to say that tonic interferes with the growth of anything—not even of hair. Tonic is physically harmless. It consists merely of water mixed with a little alcohol and some innocent coloring matter, and perfumed according to the barber's taste. How can such a mixture hinder the growth of a man's legs or prevent the due expansion of his chest? The evils of tonic are great, but they are confined to the pocket and the morals, and it is impossible to believe that any man has been made an inch shorter or taller by tonic.

But if we eliminate from the problem both the conversation and the tonic of barbers, what remains in connection with the act of being shaved by a barber to which we can attribute the progressive shortening of men? To this question no answer can as yet be returned. Perhaps years of careful investigation will be required before the desired answer is found. Of the shortening influence of barbers there is no room for doubt, and the remedy, to-wit, the extermination of barbers, is self-evident; but we must sadly confess that wherein the shortening influence of barbers consists we have not the slightest idea.

Edward Davies arrived destitute at Oshkosh, Wis., and said that he had come from Wales to seek his fortune in America. He protested that he did not mind privation for himself, but felt keenly for his wife and children, whom he had left behind. He had not been able to send them any money, and feared they would starve. The Welsh people of Oshkosh obtained employment for him, and he soon became popular among them, singing in their church choir, and taking an active part in religious affairs. His new friends raised \$200 by subscription to bring over his family, and kept the matter from him in order that he might be agreeably surprised. He was surprised, indeed, but not pleasantly, by the arrival of his wife, for he had deserted her to elope with another woman, and had made all the arrangements to introduce the latter at Oshkosh as his only consort.

J. B. Garrison & Co., of the "Ladies' Emporium and Lace House," 187 Third street, near Yamhill, have received a fine assortment of real and cheap laces and embroideries for the holidays, which they will sell at the lowest possible prices.

Bronze Clocks and Statues, at the Dollar Store.

ATTEND Mellie Bros. & Co's CHRISTMAS NOVELTY SALE.

FOR YOUNG MEN.

It is a great mistake in a young man to think that he can wait as long as he will before he begins to gather these things about him that I have tried to describe—a true wife, a good home, and such a family as he can find in his heart; and then, when he has made his fortune, and can keep a wife and family in a certain social station with all the luxuries of life, he has done his whole duty.

If you ask him why he does this, he will tell you he can not do any better—that he cannot ask a woman to marry him out of a mansion, and go to live in a cabin. Such a woman is not fit for a poor man's wife. But in time a man finds out ever so many secrets on this question. First, he finds out that she who is not fit to be a poor man's wife, as a rule, is not fit to be any man's wife, especially in a land like ours, where no man knows how soon he may be poor.

But suppose he waits until she is thirty and he is thirty-five, and then marries the woman of his choice? One of the first things she tells him is that she would have jumped at him ten years ago if he had said the word; she wanted him to say so dreadfully, and was almost heart-broken because he didn't.

I think the wisest thing I ever did was to marry on seventy-five cents a day, and find myself, before I was twenty-four. Very sad is the fate of a man who hears the voice say in his Eden, at twenty-two, "Here is a woman I have made for thee," and replies, "I cannot take her yet for ten or twelve years to come."

When a man is saving money he is wasting life. Dr. Stark, the Register General of Scotland, has shown from statistics that from the ages of twenty to twenty-five twice as many bachelors die as married men. I was appalled, when I read this, at the risk I had run in staying single until I was twenty-four. The average for single women is little better; but it ought to be, because they are not the greatest sinners, for they can not always do as they would like.

So, young man, if you have been waiting, show your grit, and go right away and pop the question, and this lecture will prove the best sermon you ever heard in your life.—Robert Collyer.

From the Oregonian: "There is no end to the nonsense talked and written about the extravagance of women in dress. Women dress to please. They know what will do it, and never make any mistakes in this matter. They will wear simple material and styles when others admire these things. Almost every preacher of plainness and simplicity of dress for women will turn around to look at, if he does not turn and follow, a stylishly dressed woman, especially if her dress is a little 'stunning' and loud, while women with prettier faces and purer hearts pass entirely unnoticed. We may safely blame our own depravity rather than woman's extravagance for the fashions of the day, and women are quick to see it through all pretense."

Miss Campbell, an English lady, called "the Queen of Corsica," has built a church at Ajaccio, and rules her chapel with almost feudal tyranny. If the sermon is too long, a large watch is drawn out of her pocket and held over her head until a conclusion is put to the irksome discourse, to the amusement of the congregation and the discomfort of the divine.

To the Public. Having transferred my agency of the New Home and Crown Sewing Machines to Mr. John B. Garrison, 187 Third street, Portland, Oregon, I take this method to inform my patrons and the general public where these excellent machines may be found hereafter. H. T. HUDSON.

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