### FISHERMEN OF ST. IVES.

THEIR WIVES ATTEND PRAYER MEETINGS BUT LIKE FUN.

How They Receive a Stranger Who Does Not Conform With Their Customs-Catching Fish by the Thousands-Where Candles Serve as Currency.

Before leaving the ancient Cornish seaport of St. Ives my friendship with the fishertolk of the town led to the gaining of much interesting information regarding the famous pilcher fishery of the bay.

Brief reference was made in my preceding article to the coming of the shoals, the character of the fish, which is very similar to the diminutive Eastport, Me., herrings packed as sardines and given French labels in that enterprising Yankee port, and the genuine sardine of Biscayan waters, while mention was made of the curious operations of the "huers" or watchers and the universal excitement in St. Ives when a shoal is

Seines from 1,000 to 2,000 feet long are used for impounding the shoals. They are | Cornwall from Plymouth, I wished to reach carried in a large boat called the seine- Penzance the same way, and not by rail boat, worked by from eight to ten men with oars. No sails are used. The seineboat is attended by two smaller boats call- in his honest face. ed "towboats," which carry smaller nets called thwart or stop nets, while these towboats are followed by still another tender, day." He bellowed to me instantly: rowed by strong lads, and used for carrying men between the larger boats or to and from the shore, as circumstances may

When the watchers upon the heights signal the order to shoot, both the seineboat and the thwartboat start from the same point. From the former the seine is cast around the fish on the outside, forming a large segment of a circle. From the thwartboat this stop net is thrown, forming a sort of continuation of the circle, but the follower remains at the point of departure to prevent the fish from passing through the opening between the ends of the two nets.

As soon as the seine is shot the work of the "blowsers" begins. Twenty to forty of these take the warp or line at its shore end, attach it to a huge capstan and begin drawing it inshore. At the same time another line called the towrope is carried from the opposite extremity, and with this the men in the seineboat warp the net in-ward. The nets, with the fish inclosed or penned in are now brought near enough to land to be out of tide's way and are safely

Gathering in or taking up the fish is called "tucking." When the tide is low the seineboat is utilized within the moored seine, and has on board what is called a "'tucknet." With this the fish are scooped from the wriggling shoal and brought so near the surface that they may be dipped out of the sea in a basket. Boatload after boatload is thus taken, until enough are secured to be handled in the curing process between low tide and another, and when the shoals are large a week of night and day work is often required.

"Tucking" at night is always an interesting and often a brilliant scene in St. Ives' bay; the boats hastening to and fro, the oars sparkling with phosphorescence at every sturdy stroke; the subdued yet eager activity of the fishermen as they plunge their baskets into the water to raise at each dip a stream of quivering silver; the bustle and excitement along the pier and the busy streets where the labor never ceases so long as the shoal holds out: and then old St. Ives hanging like ragged mistletoe from the heights above, with the terrace lights like a flashing tiara, are all worth storing away among the pleasant pictures of the memory.

From the boats the pilchards are taken to the cellars and storehouse in "gurries." These are square vessels like open boxes, with handles at each end. The fish are salted in bulk, that is, they are built into huge piles, in alternate layers of fish and salt All this work is done by women and girls who are quite as powerful in all necessary handling and carrying as the men, and far more dexterous.

The fish are allowed to remain in bulk for thirty or forty days. During this time a vast amount of "pickle" and oil drains away, finding its way into receptacles from which the oil is skimmed. Then the fish are washed perfectly clean in huge troughs, when they are put with great nicety and in regular layers into casks, locally called "hogheads," of fifty-two gallons each. They are then subjected to strong pressure for a week, causing another large flow of oil, after which they are headed up and to prevail not only among English-speaking are ready for exportation to Mediterranean

daughters and sweethearts of the St. Ives the material from which the horseshoe is fishermen, brawny of arm, stout of frame, made or with its shape. The ancients beamong the cleanest of women at home, not lieved that iron, as a metal, had great given to the unrepeatable billingsgate of secret powers, and they drove nails into the Thames-side fishwives; and they get their walls as a protection against pestimore pleasure out of their neighborly "teas" lence. The Arabs, when overtaken by and their Wesleyan prayer meetings than severe storms in the desert, cry out, "Iron! is secured out of any manner of diversion | iron!" which they think will propitiate the by any other lowly women I know. But evil spirits who have raised the storm. The despite the prayer meetings they enjoy their | Scandinavian races think that spirits can rough larks and play, which are usually of be driven away and witches kept at bay by the source of discomfiture to some man of a knife stuck in the house, or nails driven their own kind who has been caught at some | up. These races have held from time imunforgivable pecadillo, or some "oopstart" memorial the idea that it was luck to find a stranger whom they dearly love to "hustle" piece of iron. As horseshoes are the form tor a while and then treat to a bath in the in which iron is most frequently found, it harbor or within some convenient vat of is naturally the form to which the super-"pickle" and oil. Indeed, throughout all stition has longest clung. Cornwall all women who work at man's labor in gangs together, like these St. Ives | there is no doubt that among the ancients fisherwives and the "bal girls," or mining the crescent form was much favored as pit brow lasses, seem to have a penchant having lucky or preservative powers. Orfor treating any man who has secured their dislike in so rough a way that it often away evil spirits. The Chinese have their

merges upon brutality. is more rigidly adhered to or more likely form in their architecture. It may be reto make trouble to a supercilious stranger than the one among the St. Ives fishwives of "wiping the shoe." If you by chance and superstition once supposed that a step into one of these huge fish curing cel- horse's hoof placed under the bed would lars, where from 50 to 100 St. Ives fish- cure certain complaints. women are at work, their shrill clack and The horseshoe, therefore, may be said to clatter of voices are instantly hushed. unite within itself three lucky elements: It Some subtaintially built middle aged is in the shape of a cresent, it is made of woman advances to you and without a iron, and it has been taken from a horse. word gives the toe of one of your shoes a Some writers on this subject have surmised quick wipe with a bit of old rag filled with that the lucky quality of the horseshoe was oil. That is all there is to "wiping the derived from its resemblance in form to the shoe," it you immediately respond with halo pictured above the heads of saints, a crown, or even a shilling. This is but this connection is improbable, since counted as "paying your reckoning" for the superstition certainly antedates chrissatisfying your curiosity, and the proceeds | tianity.

go into a common fund. If you fail to at once furnish the gratuity, you are suddenly surrounded and roughly "hustled," in the meantime coming in contact with rough knuckles and hard elbows, which these fishwives know how to savagely handle, and you are certain to at last land in the bay or the more disagreeable "pickle" and

It is not more than eight miles across from St. Ives' bay on the north to Mount's bay on the south of the Cornish peninsula. On the latter stands Penzance, and setting forth in that direction I found that just beyond St. Earth the highways diverged. Being in doubt as to the right one, I approached a group of miner's cottages for inquiry and secured another illustration, among hundreds that have come to my notice in Cornwall, of the ineradicable suspicion which possesses the Cornish intellect regarding all things which seem to savor of inconsistency, as well as unhesitating hospitality and generosity, even when the object of the same seems to the Cornishman to be wholly an unworthy one.

I spoke to a brawny miner just as he was leaving his cottage to take up his work in the mine with the "afternoon corps," which goes "below grass" at two o'clock, telling him that as I had walked the length of from St. Ives.

"Awd rat tha! Tha cussn't (cannot) stuff me!" he replied, with genuine scorn I saw he had mistaken me for a tramp,

and I turned away with a cheery "Good "If tha'll wait a bit, my son, aw'll see it Ginny (his wife) can spare tha a mossel."

There was not a "mossel" to eat left in 'Cousin Jack's" house, as his "crib" or lunch bag held the last "faggan" or "pasty," but his generosity was not to be deteated. He soon reappeared and pressed upon me a miner's candle, putting it in my pocket with his own rough bands, and sending me along the right road to Penzance with many bellowed parting words of

This candle was a mystery to me at the time, but I soon discovered its significance and value. Through some ancient custom or mining regulation a "corps" of miners is compelled each month to buy a certain number of pounds of candles. These are the best quality of candles known in Cornwall, and all other lowly folk like to get them. So the overplus is carefully saved, divided among the mine "pairdners" and taken home to the miner's wives, who exchange them for trifling luxuries and necessities at the shops. Miner's candles are, therefore, currency of the realm, "a can'ls worth of tay," cheese, eggs, sugar, etc., having been from time immemorial equivalent to a "ha'penny'orth" of these or her articles in exchange

The traveller will learn that the pleasure in visiting Penzance is to be found in the extraordinary objects of interest and the glorious coast scenery accessible from the town, rather than in the place itself. It is barren of antiquities and historic charm. There were once some smugglers here. Sir Humphrey Davy was a native of the place. comic opera has been written about That is nearly all, beside numberless inns and lodging houses, which you can find to interest you here.

It is, however, the metropolis of the Land's End district of Cornwall, and is always running over with tourists for whom the famous logan or rocking stone, the sublime headlands, the hoary parish churches roundabout, the grand old ecclesiastic antique, St. Micheal's mount (which must not be confounded with Mont St. Michael on the coast of Normandy), and Land's End itself, the southwesternmost point in England, have an endless fascination. One feature of Penzance itself is indicative of the genuine enjoyment of English people in summer in their trips by coach or in humbler traps or vans. In the one long, narrow street of the city you can on any summer's day count from 100 to 200 of these vehicles, whose occupants, as there is no railway or town of any importance beyond Penzance, are tarrying here for refreshments and rest.

But Mount's bay itself, at the edge of which rests Penzance, on almost level ground behind her huge breakwater, and from which St. Michael's mount rises to a very great height with sheer escarpments granite on three sides, and the dim old crag, crowned by mass upon mass of medieval towers, is one of the most charming marine bits for observation and study in EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

#### Horseshoes and Luck.

The superstition that associates the horseshoe with good luck is very old. It is said people, but in all the races of Europe and in southern Asia. Antiquarians are un-These St. Ives curers are the wives, decided whether its origin has to do with

As regards the form of the horseshoe, tombs built in a semicircular form, like a Among their immemorial customs none horseshoe, and the Moors use the same

ELECTING A PRESIDENT.

How the Voting is Done in the United

States. The system which obtains in the United States of choosing a president is complicated and peculiar, inasmuch as the people, although devoting nearly a year to what they are pleased to call an election, really never vote directly for president. It is indeed quite possible, without a violation of written or unwritten law, for a man particularly unknown to the people, and one whose name has never been mentioned in connection with the office during the campaign, to be placed in the presidential

The first stage of the election is inaugurated by what are called the "Party Primaries." At each of these "Primaries," only the voters of one party meet at a time and cast a ballot. The democratic voters in each election district meet on a certain day and elect delegates to a state convention. The republicans do the same. About a month later, these two state conventions meet, and in turn elect a delegation to a national convention of all the states, each political party electing delegates to its own convention, the number of delegates being equal to twice the number of the State's representatives in congress. The territories which have no representation on that body are each allowed two delegates in the nominating convention; this makes each party convention number 900 delegates. Then these two national conventions, one republican, the other democratic, decide who shall be the candidates for president; in the republican convention a majority of votes decides; in the demo-cratic a two-thirds vote is required. When this point is decided, the convertions adjourn, and then two lists of electors, one representing each party (and supposed to be likely to vote in the electoral college for the man who carried the convention), are placed before the people of the country to be voted for. Each state electoral ticket, containing the names of electors equal in number to the number of senators and representatives in congress, ranges from three in the State of Oregon to thirty-six in New

During the summer the campaign is in full swing, and the respective merits of the rival candidates for the highest office in the country are put before the electorate. But, as a matter of fact, these candidates are not before the people and do not receive their votes, the actual votes of the people being given in favour of certain Republican or Democratic electors expected to vote (if elected) for the man chosen by the party convention at the opening of the campaign. Two months after the election the 444 electors who have received the highest vote in their respective state meet at Washington and elect a President, and, while morally they are bound to elect the choice of their party convention, legally they have a perfect right to choose any man they please, the nominating conventions being a latter-day innovation, and not recognized in or suggested by the constitution. As the first primaries" are often held in February, and the electoral college does not really choose a president till the following February, an entire year, or a fourth of the presendential period, is spent in choosing a chief executive. In the contest about to open the chances of the contending parties seem very equal. What are termed sure Republican States will cast 186 electoral otes, the sure Democratic States 173 votes, out of a total of 444. As the number required to elect a president will be 223 votes, the Republican party must secure 37 of

the doubtful ones, the Democrats 50. New York State, with its thirty-six electoral votes, it will thus be seen, holds a very important position, practically indeed the key of the situation. This State is a most uncertain quantity, for which the democratic party have generally carried it in the State or local elections, in presilential elections, when the farmer vote is always heavy, it has recorded its verdict in the great majority of instances in favor of the republicans.

#### The Incorrigible Parrot.

Many are the stories told of "pretty Polly's" bright sayings, and propensities to profanity. Here is one from the Feathered World that shows how ridiculous a perfectly serious remark may become if uttered at the wrong time.

An old maiden lady who strongly objected to "followers" had as a companion a gray parrot with a wonderful faculty for picking up sentences. One day the old lady had cause to severely reprimand one of her maids for a breach of the "follower" ordinance. This so irritated the girl that, as a wind-up to a recital of her wrongs in the hearing of her fellow-servants and Polly, who happened to be with them, she exclaimed passionately: "I wish the old lady was dead." The parrot lost no time in showing off its newly acquired knowledge when next taken into the drawingroom, to the alarm of its elderly mistress, who superstitiously thought it was a warning from another world. She at once consulted the vicar, who kindly volunteered to allow his own parrot, which could almost preach a short sermon, sing psalms, etc., to be kept for a short time with the impious

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one, in order to correct its language. To this end they were kept together in a small room for a few days, when the lady paid them a visit in company with her spiritual adviser. To their intense horror, immediately the door opened, the lady's parrot saluted them with the ominous phrase: "I wish the old lady was dead!" The vicar's bird responding with all the solemnity of an old parish clerk: "The Lord hear our prayer."

#### Marg'ry's Boy.

A settin' here all by my lone, A lis'nin' to the dreary moan 'At sings eround the ole house-eaves, My pipe a makin' rings 'at weaves Therselves in shape 'at kind o' takes A chap 'way back, an' sort o' shakes A score o' years f'rom off his head— Sumbow, I seem to see a gurl—
My Marg'ry—her thet's—well, not dead—
But's kind o' dropped f'om out my world!

She allus wus a wilful thing, 'Ith eyes 'at seemed to dance and sing An' sort o' hold a jubilee 'Ith the sweetest pair o' lips 'at the Almighty ever sent down here Anighty ever sent down here
To drive away the bitter drear
An' make a feller's heart rejoice,
An' raise afo:e his glis'nin' eyes
The hosts a-liftin' up their voice
An' singin' joy through Ppradise!

An' when one summer day she went Away 'ith thet strange chap, an' sent Her mother thare this crumpled note A-sayin' how in tears she wrote To bid us all a long farewell, A-hopin' God 'ud bless us—well, It kind o' froze this heart o' mine—
An' es I burned her fortygraft,
Her mother dropped the cotton blind In her ole room, an' cried-an' laffed

An' so we never spoke her name Fer months an' years, until there came, One winter night, a startlin' rap! An' nothin' there but a wee chal All bundled up an' starin' there, An' when we brought him to the glare Inside, I ketched the youngster's eyes! An' es I peered out in the sleet, God reached His arm f'om Paradise An' took him to His Jedgment Seat!

We found a little tear-stained note We found a little tear-stained note
Hid in his shabby velvet coat,
A-sayin' 'at her little chap's
Life wus ebbin', an' thet, p'raps,
We'd "give him food, an' sort o' try
To save his life, so, bye an' bye,
He'd grow up strong, an', mebbe, take
Our Marg'rv's place an' be our joy."
Two silvered heads bowed fer sake,
An' shed soft tears on Marg'ry's boy'

—Kimball Chase Tapley in Judge.



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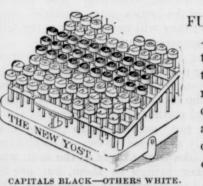
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