The Hopetown Woman.

Writing from the Bahamas, a correspondent of the New York Tribune says: "Hopetown women are peculiar. They are beautiful, and yet they are not beautiful. Climate conditions tend to the production of a rare quality of female beauty. But female beauty is a complete affair In the higher mental activities—those which illuminate the face and give it vivacity and piquancy—the Hopetown girl is wanting. The same lack of cultivation is marked in her face which is observed in Oriental beauties. Her eyes can set the heart of a healthy man to working like a respiration pump. But their liquid depths are lighted by no spiritual fire. Theirs is a physcal loviness; and the same is true of her large, tremulous mouh, and her ripe, carnation lips. The Hopetown woman up to the age of eleven or twelve is a little girl, and ether plays with her numerous in Parliament Lane, the one street of the village, or wades among the natural oyster beds in the harbor in search of pearls. A s'ort twelvemonths of the tropic sunshine then does wonders, and the little maid is changed into a maturing woman. The fashionable age for marriage of Hopetown, is thirteen or fourteen for the woman and seventeen or eighteen for the man. though it is not in the least uncommon for woman to marry a year or so earlier than the age mentioned. From fourteen to eighteen her beauty is an inspiration. At twenty she is becoming passee. At twenty-five she is middle aged, and at thirty an old woman At thirty-five she is a hatchet-faced, toothless hag, smoking a villainous clay pipe and indulging in surreptions nips of a fiery liquor distilled in Cuba from sugar cane and sold at low rates in the Bahamas, known to the Spanish as 'aguadiente' and to the Bahamas as 'hoggodent.'"

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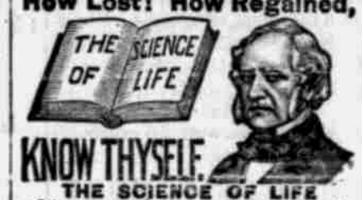

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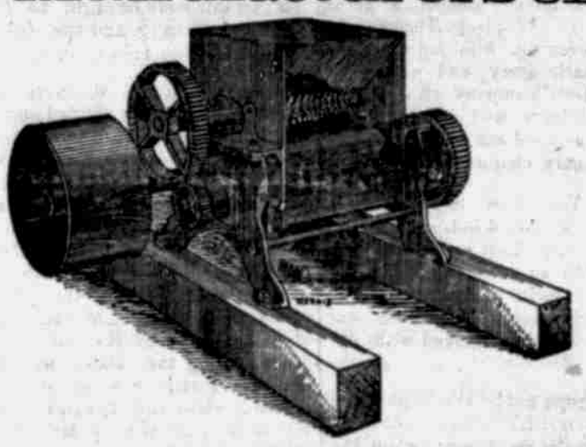

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