

RECEPTION DAYS.

RECEPTION days are a part of the economy of familiar intercourse—a means by which a community effects the division of its social labor. The newness of our conditions has not prevented the society of San Francisco from becoming in some respects more formal than that of any other American city. Ladies of fashion elsewhere who have their stated days for receiving visitors are glad to see their friends at any time. Here ladies, as a rule, are invisible to their most intimate associates except on the one day of the week set apart for calling. This is neither essential, nor is it in good form. Exception may be made in favor of those mothers of families whose domestic duties demand a division of time with society; but the ladies of aristocratic localities who reckon the value of their diamonds by the hundred thousand, and their wealth by the million, whose constant attire is purple and fine linen, have no reasons for such seclusion. There is no good cause why they should not be always “at home” to a select circle. There is a needless precision about our local reception days in other respects than this. Eating and drinking have from the earliest times and in all civilized communities been closely allied to social observance. By this is not, of course, meant simple feeding, or gross conviviality. No one desires to have the scenes in the drawing-room of an old English squire reproduced in a modern parlor. But some simple refreshment, even if it is nothing more than a glass of wine or a cup of coffee, with a biscuit or a piece of cake, helps to ease of manner and comfortable feeling. If our ladies, on their days of reception, had as auxiliaries