```
spe
                                                   ot muc
                                                  unt ar
                                                   not mei
                                          ucce
                           the pr esent m oment; to toe
                      t ance" on my
       ound, and t he tram p of the h
                                            orse, and eve n seen the dov e disappear beh
                                win ter,
                                                                 materiall y in his r ising, b ut, doubt not,
          oservator y o f s ome cl iff or tree, to tel egr aph a ny n e w arrival; or waiting at evening on the hill porter to a journ al, of no ver y wide circula tion , wh ose edito r h as never yet see n fit o print the bulk of my self- a ppointed in s pecto r of snow-stor ms a nd rain-stor ms , and did my d uty faithfully; surveyor, if
                                                                                     ms, and did my duty faithfully; surveyor, if not of highways, then of forest paths and all across-lot routes.
                                    hav e
                                            lo oked after the
                                                                         stock of
                                             basket of a delicate
  hile to b uv. I too had woven a kind of
                                             the necessity of sell
                                             i or living anywh er
                                              My purpose in goi
                                             ed not so sad as
                                              such articles as th
                                              buy and sell an
                                             on a Jersev sho re
                                              e markets, pros p
                                             hts and buoys
                                              th, studying t
                                              roblems of p
                                               it may not b
                                                                e good policy to divulge; it is a good port and a good foundation. No Neva marshes to be filled; though you must everywhere build on piles of your own driving. It is said that a flood -t
                                               ersburg fro
                                                            ce to the practical part of the question, perhaps we are led oftener by the love of novelty and a regard for the opinions of men, in procuring it, than by a true utility. Let him who ha
                                               ome at on
                                               o retain t
                                                           gh made by some tailor or dressmaker to their majesties, cannot know the comfort of wearing a suit that fits. They are no better than wooden horses to hang the clean clothes on
                                                ourselv
                                                         patch in his clothes; yet I am sure that there is greater anxiety, commonly, to have fashionable, or at least clean and unpatched clothes, than to have a sound conscience. But ev
                                                          be easier for them to hobble to town with a broken leg than with a broken pantaloon. Often if an accident happ
                                                        Passing a cornfield the other day, close by a hat and coat on a stake, I recognized the owner of the farm. He was only a little
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          t hat b
  n of wealth, and its manifestation in dress a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          f clothes. If there is not
                                                                                                                                                                                                         hing to be. Perhaps we
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       should never procure a ne
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        w suit, however ragged of
                                                     terprised or sailed in some way, that we feel like new men in the old, and that to retain it would be like keeping new wine in old bottles. Our moult ing season, like that of the fowls, must be a crisis in our liv
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        es. The loon retires to so
                                                                                                                    al industry and expansion; for clothes are out our outmost cuticle and mortal coil. Otherwise we shall be found sailing under false colors, an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        d be inevitably cashiered
                                                      mankind. We don garment after garmen t, as if we grew like exogenous plants by addition wit hout. Our outside and of ten thin and fanciful clothes are our epidermis, or false skin, which partakes not of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         our life, and may be stri
      st by our own opinion, as
pped off here and there without fa tal injury; ou
                                                     thicke r garments, constantly worn, are our cellular integument, or cortex; but our shirts are our liber, or true bark, which cannot be removed without girdling and so destroying the man. I believe that all ra
                                                     e that a man be clad so simply that he can lay his hands on himself in the dark, and that he live in all respects so compactly and preparedly that, if an enemy take the town, he can, like the old philosopher, w
 something equivalent to the shirt. It is desirabl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        alk out the gate empty-ha
nded without anxiety. While one thick garment is
                                                     , for most purposes, as good as three thin ones, and cheap clothing can be obtained at prices really to suit customers; while a thick coat can be bought for five dollars, which will last as many years, thick p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        antaloons for two dollars
 cowhide boots for a dollar and a half a pair, a s
                                                     ummer hat for a quarter of a dollar, and a winter cap for sixty-two and a half cents, or a better be made at home at a nominal cost, where is he so poor that, clad in such a suit, of his own earning, there will n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ot be found wise men to
                                                      of a part ic ular form, my tailoress tells me gravely, "They do not make them so now," not emphasizing the "They" at all, as if she quoted an authority as impersonal as the Fates, and I find
do him reverence? Whe n I ask for a garment
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         t difficult to get made w
                                                      ve that I mean what I say, that I am so rash. When I hear this oracular sentence, I am
                                                                                                                                                   for a moment absorbed in thought, emphasizing to myself each word separately that I may come at the meaning
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          of it, that I may find ou
hat I want, simply because she cannot b
                                                      ted to me, and what authority they may have in an affair which affects me so nearly; and, finally, I am inclined to answer her with equal mystery, and without any more emphasis of the "they"--"It is true, the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ey did not make them s
t by what degree of consanguinity They are rela
                                                      easuring of me if she does not measure my character, but only the breadth of my shoulders, as it were a peg to bang the coat on? We worship not the Graces, nor the Parcae, but Fashion. She spins and we
o recently, but they do now." Of what use this m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         aves and cuts with full
                                                      veller's cap, and all the monkeys in America do the same. I sometimes despair of getting anything quite simple and honest done in this world by the help of men. They would have to be passed through a po
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        werful press first, to sque
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ings, and you would have
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        e shift to wear what they
             VIII. or Queen Elizabeth, as much as
                                                     if it was that of the King and Queen of the Cannibal Islands. All costume off a man is pitiful or grotesque. It is only the serious eye peering from and the sincere life passed within it which restrain laughter a
                                                     it of the colic and his trappings will have to serve that mood too. When the soldier is hit by a cannonball, rags are as becoming as purple. The childish and savage taste of men and women for new patterns
me of any people. Let Harlequin be taken with a f
and squinting through kaleidoscopes that they m
                                                    ay discover the particular figure which this generation requires today. The manufacturers have learned that this taste is merely whimsical. Of two patterns which differ only by a few threads more or less o f
e will be sold readily, the other lie on the shelf, th
                                                    ough it frequently happens that after the lapse of a season the latter becomes the most fashionable. Comparatively, tattooing is not the hideous custom which it is called. It is not barbarous merely because
and unalterable. I cannot believe that our factory
                                                     system is the best mode by which men may get clothing. The condition of the operatives is becoming every day more like that of the English; and it cannot be wondered at, since, as far as I have heard or
                                                     nestly clad, but, unquestionably, that corporations may be enriched. In the long run men hit only what they aim at. Therefore, though they should fail immediately, they had better aim at someth i
al object is, not that mankind may be well and ho
                                                     of life, though there are instances of men having done without it for long periods in colder countries than this. Samuel Laing says that "the Laplander in his skin dress, and in a skin bag which he pu
elter, I will not deny that this is now a necessary
houlders, will sleep night after night on the sno
                                                     w in a degree of cold which would extinguish the life of one exposed to it in any woollen clothing." He had seen them asleep thus. Yet he adds, "They are not hardier than other people." But, proba
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    did not live
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          man
                                                      nience which there is in a house, the domestic comforts, which phrase may have originally signified the satisfactions of the house more than of the family; though these must be extrem
ong on the earth without discovering the conve
                                                      ssociated in our thoughts with winter or the rainy season chiefly, and two thirds of the year, except for a parasol, is unnecessary. In our climate, in the summer, it was formerly alm
asional in those climates where the house is a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            cove
                                                        symbol of a day's march, and a row of them cut or painted on the bark of a tree signified that so many times they had camped. Man was not made so large limbed and robust b u t that he
night. In the Indian gazettes a wigwam was the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 mus
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          narrov
 s world and wall in a space such as fitted hi
                                                       He was at first bare and out of doors; but though this was pleasant enough in serene and warm weather, by daylight, the rainy season and the winter, to say nothing of the torrid sun, wou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 d p erh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ps have n i pped
                                                       othe himself with the shelter of a house. Adam and Eve, according to the fable, wore the bower before other clothes. Man wanted a home, a place of warmth, or comfort, first of warmt
his race in the bud if he had not made haste t
                                                        n the infancy of the human race, some enterprising mortal crept into a hollow in a rock for shelter. Every child begins the world again, to some extent, and loves to stay outdoors, e
 of the affections. We may imagine a time wh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           wet an
                                                        nstinct for it. Who does not remember the interest with which, when young, he looked at shelving rocks, or any approach to a cave? It was the natural yearning of that portion, a ny por
d cold. It plays house, as well as horse, havin
                                                g an i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         n of ou
                                                          From the cave we have advanced to roofs of palm leaves, of bark and boughs, of linen woven and stretched, of grass and straw, of boards and shingles, of stones and tiles. At 📘 ast,
most primitive ancestor which still survived
                                                in us.
                                                         mestic in more senses than we think. From the hearth the field is a great distance. It would be well, perhaps, if we were to spend more of our days and nights without any obstruct io
what it is to live in the open air, and our lives
                                                are do
us and the celestial bodies, if the poet did no
                                                t speak
                                                           so much from under a roof, or the saint dwell there so long. Birds do not sing in caves, nor do doves cherish their innocence in dovecots. However, if one designs to construct a
                                                ankee s
                                                           hrewdness, lest after all he find himself in a workhouse, a labyrinth without a clue, a museum, an almshouse, a prison, or a splendid mausoleum instead. Consider first how sligh
g-house, it behooves him to exercise a little Y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          shelte
                                               cot India
                                                           ns, in this town, living in tents of thin cotton cloth, while the snow was nearly a foot deep around them, and I thought that they would be glad to have it deeper to keep out the win
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Former
s absolutely necessary. I have seen Penobs
 , when how to get my living honestly, with t
                                               reedom le
                                                            ft for my proper pursuits, was a question which vexed me even more than it does now, for unfortunately I am become somewhat callous, I used to see a large box by the railroad, s
                                                              t night; and it suggested to me that every man who was hard pushed might get such a one for a dollar, and, having bored a few auger holes in it, to admit the air at least, get into it
rree wide, in which the laborers locked up t
                                              heir tools a
night, and hook down the lid, and so have f
                                                               is love, and in his soul be free. This did not appear the worst, nor by any means a despicable alternative. You could sit up as late as you pleased, and, whenever you got up, go abroad w
                                              reedom in h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           anv landlord or hous
-lord dogging you for rent. Many a man is
                                             harassed to d
                                                                eath to pay the rent of a larger and more luxurious box who would not have frozen to death in such a box as this. I am far from jesting. Economy is a subject which admits of being treated with
                                             de and hardy
                                                                 ace, that lived mostly out of doors, was once made here almost entirely of such materials as Nature furnished ready to their hands. Gookin, who was superintendent of the Indians subject to the Massachusetts Colony, v
disposed of. A comfortable house for a ru
                                                                  ry neatly, tight and warm, with barks of trees, slipped from their bodies at those seasons when the sap is up, and made into great flakes, with pressure of weighty timber, when they are green The meaner sort are covered
ing in 1674, says, "The best of their house
                                             s are covered
with mats which they make of a kind of bu
                                             Irush, and are a Is
                                                                   o indifferently tight and warm, but not so good as the former Some I have seen, sixty or a hundred feet long and thirty feet broad I have often lodged in their wigwams, and found them as warm as the best English house
 He adds that they were commonly carpet
                                             ed and lined wit h
                                                                          in with well-wrought embroidered mats, and were furnished with various utensils. The Indians had advanced so far as to regulate the effect of the wind by a mat suspended over the hole in the roof and moved by
string. Such a lodge was in the first instan
                                             ce constructed in
                                                                                    y or two at most, and taken down and put up in a few hours; and every family owned one, or its apartment in one. In the savage state every family owns a shelter as good as the best, and sufficient for its
coarser and simpler wants; but I think that
                                              I speak within bou
                                                                                 en I say that, though the birds of the air have their nests, and the foxes their holes, and the savages their wigwams, in modern civilized society not more than one half the families own a shelter. In the large
towns and cities, where civilization espec
                                                                                t hose who own a shelter is a very small fraction of the whole. The rest pay an annual tax for this outside garment of all, become indispensable summer and winter, which would buy a village of Indian w
                                             ially prevails, the n
                                             as long as they li ve
                                                                            I do not mean to insist her e on the disadvantage of hiring compared with owning, but it is evident that the savage owns his shelter because it costs so little, while the civilized man hires his commonly because
 wams, but now helps to keep them poor
                                                                        ett er a ffor d to hire. But, answers one, by merely paying this tax, the poor civilized man secures an abode which is a palace compared with the savage's. An annual rent of from twenty-five to a hundred dollars
he cannot afford to own it; nor can he, in
                                             the long run, any b
these are the country rates) entitles him to
                                              the benefit of the im
                                                                      pro vem en ts of centuries, spaciou
                                                                                                               s apartments, clean paint and paper, Rumford fire-place, back plastering, Venetian blinds, copper pump, spring lock, a commodious cellar, and many other things. But how ha
                                                                                    oo r civilized man, whi le the savage, who has them not, is rich as a savage? If it is asserted that civilization is a real advance in the condition of man--and I think that it is, though only the wise impro
pens it that h e who is said to enjoy these
                                              things is so comm on
e their advant ages--it must be shown
                                                                                          dwellings without making them more costly; and the cost of a thing is the amount of what I will call life which is required to be exchanged for it, immediately or in the long run. An average house
                                              that it has produ
                                                                  s, a nd
                                              hundred dollar
                                                                                           p this sum will take from ten to fifteen years of the laborer's life, even if he is not encumbered with a family--estimating the pecuniary value of every man's labor at one dollar a day, for if some r
n this neighbor hood costs perhaps eig
                                                                                       th a n half his life commonly before his wigwam will be earned. If we suppose him to pay a rent instead, this is but a doubtful choice of evils. Would the savage have been wise to exchange his wig
ceive more, others recei ve less;--so tha
                                            th e must have so pe nt
                                                                       mor
wam for a palace on these terms? It ma
                                            y b e guessed tha t I red uce a Im os t the wh ole a dvan tage of holding this superfluous property as a fund in store against the future, so far as the individual is concerned, mainly to the defraying of funeral expenses. But perhaps a i
                                            the less this points
                                                                                                 is tinction between the civilized man and the savage; and, no doubt, they have designs on us for our benefit, in making the life of a civilized people an institution, in which the life of the ind
an is not required to bury himself. Ne ver
                                                                  to an im
vidual is to a great extent absorbed, in
                                              rder to pres erv
                                                                  e and perfec t th
                                                                                         at of the ra ce. But I wish to show at what a sacrifice this advantage is at present obtained, and to suggest that we may possibly so live as to secure all the advantage without suffering any of the
                                            th at the poor
                                                                        ve always wit h you, or that the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? "As I live, saith the Lord God, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. "Behol
sadvantage. What mean ye by sa yin
                                                                   the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." When I consider my neighbors, the farmers of Concord, who are at least as well off as the other classes, I find that for the most part they have been
d all souls are mine; as the so ul of
                                            the father, so also
oiling twenty, thirty, or fort y year s, tha
                                           t t hey may bec ome the r eal owners o f t heir farms, w hich commonly they have inherited with encumbrances, or else bought with hired money--and we may regard one third of that toil as the cost of their houses--but commonly they
ave not paid for them yet. It is true, the
                                                                                    s ou tweigh the value of the farm, so that the farm itself becomes one great encumbrance, and still a man is found to inherit it, being well acquainted with it, as he says. On applying to the assessor
                                           e encum branc es somet
 am surprised to learn that the
                                                                                    the to wn who own their farms free and clear. If you would know the history of these homesteads, inquire at the bank where they are mortgaged. The man who has actually paid for his farm with labor
                                  y cannot at on cename ad ozen in
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