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**TOO LATE.**

BY MRS. EMMA C. HEWITT.

Theo didn't want to hear all this, that is, she wasn't anxious that any one should express such opinions of her within her hearing, at the same time as she had already been there some time when the others came, she did not at all consider it incumbent upon her to notify them of her presence. Her look was one of intense amusement as she took in the situation. There sat John Gordon, fanning Millie, and paying her all sorts of little attentions in a sort of taking-care-a-tive manner, a sort of brotherly oversight, as it were, that threw little Dolly Perkins in the shade, and annoyed Millie extremely, for she had been conscious for some time that she was the observed of all observers, who knew that John "looked upon young girls as a pest to society," and wondered what he was "up to" now.

For once, he was "up to" nothing. He simply acted as he felt. He knew that he loved Theo beyond anything else in the world, to-night, and that fact caused a tenderness new to himself for all that belonged to her. He was at his best to-night. Never had he been so natural, never had he so little studied effect; and yet to-night of all nights, when all his best feelings were about him, and all his actions spontaneous, to-night, did everybody misjudge him—Theo most of all. He thought the mood had set in him to get up and say something to talk about, and as his favorite amusement of hers, now she was perfectly willing to fall in with his mood. So, and as he said, "John, she's the loveliest girl in the conservatory. Do take Millie in there to see it, but don't stay long—our wait comes next, you know," and then seated herself on the sofa to entertain Dolly Perkins, who by the way had a secret fear of her, and was not entertained at all.

"Miss Theo," said John, when they found themselves in the night air again, "do you know I've been away from Stillingford for three weeks?"

"Have you, John? Was it really so long?" asked Theo coolly, scenting "sentimental nonsense" in the air, and determined to "nip it in the bud." John bit his lip, vexed, and replied rather impatiently, "I believe Miss Theo, if I was not to put in an appearance at your house for a year, you'd never ask me where I'd been nor what had kept me away. I doubt you're even wondering what had become of me."

"I might wonder what had become of you, my woman's curiosity would lead me to that, but ask you—never! I accord to everyone else the privilege I take to myself—to visit where I please. If people come to see me, I am glad to see them. If they take it for granted they come because they want to. If they don't come, I equally take it for granted that it is because they don't want to. And would I ask them why they had not been and force them to lie, or myself to receive the humiliating confession that they did not care to come? I get awfully tired of people, sometimes, and I dare say they do of me—why shouldn't they? So, my dear child, you need never expect me to ask you where you have been. Just fancy how I should feel upon such an occasion to hear you say (for you know you have agreed to be very candid), 'Well, Miss Theo, I got kind of tired of your society. You may rest assured that had I wanted to come I should have come.' Why, John, I should never have survived the mortification! Sometimes," she concluded, looking up into his face with a provoking smile, "I have fancied I knew why you didn't come. When we didn't exactly agree, for instance. So you've been away from Stillingford, for three weeks, have you?" A pause for a moment.

"Yes, I have, and as long as you won't ask me where, I shall tell you."

"That's right. Now you are a man after my own heart. If there's anything I do enjoy it is having confidence reposed in me."

"Is that intended for sarcasm?" demanded John, stiffly, drawing slightly away from the young girl. "If you really don't wish to hear, I certainly shall not force my confidence upon you."

"Nonsense, John! If I hadn't wanted to hear couldn't I have said so? When did you ever find me backward about telling you the most unvarnished (though at times unflattering) truth. You know that wasn't intended for sarcasm. See here!" stopping short in the street and looking at him most threateningly, "are you going to be disagreeable? Come now, don't," she threatened, changing to pleading as they walked on slowly again, "because I'm in a lovely mood to-night. I don't want to quarrel one bit. I haven't got strength of mind for a tussle."

"I sure I don't wish to quarrel," replied John, softening, "only you answer me so strangely sometimes that I never know how to take you. And yet you can be very charming, Miss Theo."

"Can't I. I just know I can," replied Theo, slowly, (for she was in her most selfish mood to-night) as if she were wrapped up in the contemplation of her own charms, "I wonder why I am not always so."

John bit his lip with vexation, but declined to

form a theory, feeling that he could do nothing in her present mood. So on they walked in silence for a few moments.

"John Gordon," she demanded, finally, "are you going to be sulky? Oh, fie!" and she looked so altogether bewitching in the moonlight that the temptation to kiss the saucy mouth was almost irresistible.

Gordon laughed, and promised to be just as nice as he knew how to be.

"Ah! that is so good of you, how you shall be rewarded for virtue," cried she. "Where have you been, and what did you go for?—not that I can't help feeling its none of my business, all the time."

"I went on business, replied John, slowly and seriously. I went to see a firm in Boston who want me to come and settle there. Miss Theo," he continued

he did, and there is no earthly use in trying to deny it. And I fancy you will discover lots of your gentlemen friends who would not be nice in this respect if they found themselves in John Gordon's predicament.

"Theo closed the door with a sigh of relief. 'That's over! O dear! I just know he was going to be sentimental, ask me to write to him like as not. I'm so glad I didn't let him. I'm not a bit brave to-night. I'm afraid the sentimental towards him myself to-night,' and she laughed a little pathetic laugh to herself. 'O dear! I won't Stillingford be lonely without him. Oh, why isn't he good and true and

some ambiguous remarks about young ladies thinking they were very sly, etc. Of course I did not deign to ask her what she meant, and left her as soon as I could after having entirely ignored her remarks. And then—' But how queer you look Lix, what ails you?'

"Nothing, nonsense! I'm not very well to-day, that's all. Go on. And then—'

"Well then, I met Aunt Mary Vandusen. She simply shook her head at me in a melancholy way, way as she hurried by on her way to market. But she is such a lachrymose and melancholy female anyway that I don't know that that is any gauge—and so on and so on. I never met quite such a variety of expressions on the faces of my casual acquaintances as to-day. Some I ok triumphant (but these I secretly believe to be my enemies) some melancholy, some sympathetic, but all significant. Then to crown my mystification, just outside the door here I met old Miss Nipples and she looks more significant than all the rest, if that could be. I just detest that woman and I fancy she knows it too from the persistency with which she gushes over me. So she rushes at me with 'My dear Miss Theo. This news seems to be very startling to the general public, don't it? But I tell them they must have been blind. Peoples' opinions are very much divided though. Not worth while to question you about it though, I suppose.' 'Not the slightest,' replied I. 'Pray excuse me for declining to be pumped this morning, but I have not time, really, and I turned out my heel.' 'Now Lix, if you can explain this do, for goodness sake. I believe my heart Alicia Barton, you do know!'

"Yes I do."

"And you never told me?"

"I never told you—simply because I was sure I don't have got a right here at you had not told me."

"Are you as crazy as the rest? You can't be sane and accuse me of deliberately knowing anything that I did not tell you."

"This morning I received a letter from Minnie Branson in Boston, and she says that John Gordon is engaged," Lix replied, looking Theo in the face steadily.

"John Gordon engaged! I don't believe it." Lix looked odd but continued, "and not only that but that he himself told it."

"He told it? Never!"

"And still further that he told it when he first went to Boston."

"You can't make me believe that. That John Gordon, with his flirting propensities should deliberately go to a new place and give it out that he was engaged, is something that I'll never believe."

"Theo! Theo! Is it really so, all you are saying? You really are not engaged to him and keeping it from me?" cried Lix, imploringly.

"Engaged to him? Can you think such a thing Lix? Have you no more faith in me than to think that I would engage myself to any one and not tell you first of all?"

"Oh! Lix! Lix! and she turned her back on her friend and strode to the window to stare out in hurt and angry silence. Alicia knew better than to speak to her just then. Presently she ventured to lay her hand upon her, but she was angrily repulsed.

"Theo," she plead, "listen to me, won't you?"

"If you speak I can but hear, I presume," was the icy rejoinder.

"Indeed dear, I feel you are unjust. Telling of his engagement as John Gordon did, just at a time when he was most attentive to you, and when I believe you were yourself in one of your most amicable frames of mind," (to my certain knowledge you hadn't quarreled for three weeks) the parenthesized, with a sly twinkle in her eye, "how was I to know. I have always felt that John Gordon was more deeply interested in you than in any other girl he knows, and is inclined to be truer to you than to any one else to whom he has ever paid attention, or as true, we will say, as it is his power, mental or moral, to be to any woman. And I simply thought that, coming as it did from himself, that you must be the one. Can't you forgive me, Theo?"

"As to your theories of what John Gordon is or is not, you perceive that in this instance they are fallen rather flat," and she laughed a sarcastic laugh that showed Alicia she was far from forgiven. However, according to their custom of feuds she said nothing more, and she inclined to be slow to repeat her injustice if she let her would hastily repent her injustice if she let her utter silence. She swiftly recalled the evening of the party—the "sentimentality" to which she had nearly succumbed, all the attentions bestowed upon her until people smiled and signified, all the—oh well—everything. And now she had told he was engaged and most people thought it was her. And when they found out it wasn't they'd pity her. Bah! how she hated it all. Just as if she cared who he was engaged to. But oh how thankful she was that she hadn't to. But how thankful she was that she hadn't to be sentimental that night, and how still more thankful she was for her dramatic powers now. Nobody should not know that she did not know it all the time and who it was. Because everybody should think that he had told her himself (as he ought to have done when they were so intimate). All but Alicia—she wouldn't accept

earnestly, "if I were to get this position and be obliged to go away from Stillingford, could you—would you—"

"Certainly, John," interrupted she. "I'd like to ever so much. You know I told you long ago that you might count on me at any time. I'd be only too glad to have—"

"What," interrupted John, dumfounded at her ready acquiescence to an unspoken request.

"Why, don't you know?" innocently and blandly, "don't you remember last summer when you expected to go to Cincinnati you asked me if I would take care of Dandy for you. Of then if I would need not have hesitated a moment. You might have known I would. Thanks! you needn't ring. I have a latch key, but I must hurry in, for I'm dreadfully cold. Won't you come in?"

"Not to-night," replied he, shortly, with something like an oath way down in the bottom of his heart.

"I'm sorry. Well, depend on me for Dandy. But when do you go? Come round and tell us all about it."

"Next week I'm off. Tuesday morning. I'll come round Monday evening—and bring Dandy," he added, determined to die and give no sign. "It is ever so kind of you to care for him for me. Good-night!" and with a cordial handshake he went down the street, outwardly whistling, inwardly swearing. They were not such dreadful hypocrites either, good people, but while they show their hands to each other to a great extent of apparent candor, they were very careful to hold their cards so that neither could get a glimpse of the trump in the other hand.

"Well, I have made a damned fool of myself there in Boston. To think that I, John Gordon, should have been such a consummate ass. But there!" and alternately muttering and cursing his luck he turned the corner. It wasn't nice in him to swear so! No, I know it wasn't, but then

earnest. Why must I be on my guard against him all the time? Sometimes his unspoken tenderness is more than I can bear. Theo Campton, you are not in love with that flirt, I hope!" she suddenly demanded, looking at her image fiercely in the glass. "No, madam, I am not!" replied the image with slow intensity, "but oh how I wish I dared to be. If it had been most any other man I should have gone over to the enemy, or sent him off long ago, but I do not dare. I do not dare. His words, his looks, his tones mean nothing. He shall never have it to say he won me, and cast me off," and she drew herself up proudly.

"Upon my word, there's a tear. Well, you're a nice young person," looking at herself scornfully. "A full grown woman of twenty years of age crying, yes! actually weeping and wailing because the biggest flirt in Christendom is going to leave town. The biggest flirt in Christendom, you wretch!" and with this fierce apostrophe she undressed and went to bed to cry herself asleep.

"What for? Nay! that is what she asked Cry! What for? Nay! that is what she asked herself in utter contempt and received the reply that she had a headache and sore throat. If she was satisfied with the answer why should you not be?"

"Lix Barton," said she, about six weeks after, "Can you tell me what is the matter with the people to-day—are they crazy?" Alicia Barton was her "after ego," and she had rushed up to Miss Barton's bedroom with her head full of what she had seen.

"Why," asked Alicia, looking a little frightened, "Why, first I met Mrs. Chambers, and she came up very smiling, and looking very arch, made











[FOR THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.] SHALL MAMMA TROT, OR BABY?

"Mamma, me want more tea."  
A plump, healthy little girl of three years was playing with a doll's tea set at her mother's feet. It was old Santa's last gift to her, Clara Watson, and she was very proud and happy in its possession. Aunt Sophia sat in the window, sewing, and as her sister rose to refill the dainty pink urn, she snipped her thread with a savage clank of the shears, mentally exclaiming: "That's the thirteenth time that woman has dropped her work this afternoon, to wait on Clara. Why can't the little busybody be taught to wait on herself, occasionally?"

"Peeze, mamma, my sugar's gone. Me want more sugar."  
"Yes, dearie, mamma will get it for you."  
Mrs. Watson's work had hardly been settled in her hands since the last interruption, but without a trace of impatience, she again laid the sewing aside, and trotted into the pantry for a half teaspoonful of sugar, to refill the tiny, china bowl.

"Mamma, me want a knife to peel my apple," and a moment later, "me want a button hook to button dolly's boots."  
"Fourteen, fifteen, sixteen," aunt Sophia counted with a bit of snappishness in her voice. "Sixteen what?" Clara's mother asked, rummaging a bureau drawer for the hook.

"Sixteen times since you sat down to your sewing this afternoon, that you have been interrupted to wait on that child. My count is right, for here are the scratches, by which I marked them on the cover of my spool box."  
"Well, Sophia, what of that? Isn't my dear little girl worth waiting upon?"  
"Certainly, Matilda, when it is needful, but I do think a three years' old child, bright and healthy as is Clara, is old enough to wait upon themselves. You fill half your waking hours trotting for her. Why not teach her, Matilda, to trot for you and herself?"

"Why, Sophia, she is too little to work. What can a tiny child like Clara, do?"  
"Take steps for herself and save many for you. Instead of this she expects and demands more waiting on than when she was a baby. Possibly you are not conscious of annoyance, but this constant interruption which you allow little Clara to cause you, must have its wear on your nerves and strength as well as claiming your time, which is too precious to spend hopping from your work to meet the incessant demands of an impulsive, little busy body. You often say Clara has a restless, active nature, and cannot be happy unless occupied; then, why not occupy her uneasy hands and feet with these little errands and tasks which so break your time?"

"It would be a great help if Clara could wait on herself more. I never have an unbroken half hour when she is awake. My sewing hours are frittered away meeting her wants and hunting up misplaced articles of sewing," Mrs. Watson answered, settling herself for another stitch on the dainty apron she was ruffling. "However carefully I may drop my work, thimble and scissors, and spools and needles will disappear, and by the time all are hunted up, there comes another interruption. Sometimes, Sophia, I wonder what I did find to do before Clara came to claim my time."  
"She claims altogether too much of your time. You have fallen into the way of not expecting any help from her, and she bids fair to ripen into a helpless, dependent young lady who looks to 'mother' for her meals, and clean clothes, and mended stockings."  
"Where did that pocket ruffling disappear?" Clara's mother asked, searching her lap and work basket for a missing bit of the garment. "I am sure I had it a moment ago."  
"On the sink board, Matilda, exactly where you dropped it when Clara called for a drink of water," Sophia answered, her range of view from the sitting room's open door, revealing a corner of the kitchen. "Clara, please run and get mamma's work for her."  
"She cannot reach it, Sophia, the sink is too high. You expect too much of a little three years' old girl."  
"But she can reach the sink and water pail when she is bent on mischief—to dabble in them. Why not require Clara to wait on herself when thirsty? She can easily do so with the help of her old mischief partner—a chair—and it will occupy her time and teach her self-reliance."  
"She could, of course she could," Clara's mother answered thoughtfully. "I had never thought of it. I always have waited on her, and—"  
"And thought you always must. Just the mother to make of her girl babies, great, helpless dolls, in the home and society. Self-reliance has to be taught children, as much as their betters, and the younger they receive their first lessons, the easier they learn it. Little mites, like Clara, ought to be required to wash their hands, button their boots and bibs, pick up litter and playthings, keep their everyday wraps hung in place, and save their mother hundreds of steps by trotting for needed articles. There would not be so many dependent, doll women in society if self-reliance had been taught them from babyhood."  
HELEN AYRE.

Will some one please tell us ably how to wean bottle babies? And greatly oblige M. K. C.

[FOR THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.] WHAT SHALL MY CHILDREN PLAY?

"What shall my children play?"  
Well really, my dear madame, that is a question a little difficult of solution at this end of the line without being in any way cognizant of your personal means or your children's surroundings. But there are a few things they should not play, at least they should not if they were mine.

"What, for instance?"  
Well, first I would erase from their list anything and everything that had the slightest tendency towards vulgarity. It is far better that a mother should discover her child to be profane, than find that same child vulgar. Profanity may arise from two causes—temper and association. Association may be broken up, or the temper controlled, and the profanity done away with. But vulgarity is the direct outcropping of a diseased morality fed by a morbid imagination, and as such is very hard to be combated with; and every avenue leading in that direction should be closed at once on discovery.

Secondly, they should be cut off from anything bearing towards brutality; teasing animals or insects; fastening crickets or grasshoppers, or bumble bees or butterflies to little wagons made for the purpose; catching fire-flies and putting them under tumblers, etc. In the former case the insect nearly always loses a leg, (a thing which the child coolly grows to regard as an accident over which he has no control) and in the latter case, out of the hundreds caught by children yearly in their cruel sport, hardly one comes out unscathed—hardly one is able to fly as it was before it was crushed between careless, thoughtless, ruthless little fingers. The children do not mean to be cruel, they "are only playing," but the fact of the cruelty remains the same. Still, if parents will point out to the little ones the wrong of it all, their little hearts will be moved to pity and repentance, and the cruel sports discontinued. Not long ago a very tender hearted little fellow came to his mother and said, sobs in his voice and tears in his eyes: "O mamma, I saw some boys playing ball with a poor little bird. It was dead, but you don't know how perfect y nasty (great emphasis) it looked. It just made me feel awful."

Was the child hypersensitive? Not at all. The child who can be liberally kick a cat, dead though it be, out of his way, with a laugh, has in his make-up, an element dangerous to the comfort of those around him; an element of brutality that will make his companionship a doubtful boon. Don't misunderstand! I do not say that such a boy is bound for the gallows, but such little acts as these show a want of finer feeling, to say the least; well, to come back to first principles, a certain amount of brutality.

Thirdly, I would expunge from the category anything that tended in any way towards irreverence or making light of sacred things. Now you hold up your hands in holy horror. "Who would let their children do such things?" Now wait a moment. A good many people do. Children play go to church, have pretended prayers, sing pretended hymns, and in one instance, (the case is no fiction) the children were absolutely allowed (it was not done surreptitiously) to play communion with gingerbread and water.

Then in some houses there is a grand time with doll's weddings—the doll has a new outfit, a groom is provided, etc., etc. Now, apart from the irreverence to which the actual ceremony may give scope, by such play, the children are led to believe that the grand thing in marrying is the wedding, the fuss and feathers, the supper, the bride's veil, and the number of new clothes purchased for the occasion.

Now is it in accordance with propriety that a funeral should succeed the demolition of a doll, with all the children pretending to cry, and all the rest of the dolls in mourning, with a mock ceremony at the grave. All these things make impressions that years of training sometimes fail to eradicate.

"Dear me, your certainly too particular. What is there left?"  
Perhaps so, madame, perhaps so. Remember, I said in the beginning these were what they should not play if they were mine.

Is there no innocent play you can think of for a strong, healthy boy? No play but to torture animals! Can he not run, jump, leap, climb? If you are at a loss what to do with your children, provide them with some amusement that shall tend towards the use. Give them carpenter's tools, or a hammer, some nails, and some wood, and tell them you want a boy. See if they don't take great interest and pleasure in making it. Give your girls dolls and plenty of toys; let them play "auntie come to see," or anything else that is innocent. Give your boys toys, but always with a view to something good. A child's tastes are much earlier of development than most people believe, and a microscope is often as much a source of amusement to a boy as a toy engine; will cost no more, and be an everlasting good.  
MRS. EMMA C. HEWITT.

[FOR THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.] TEACHING CHILDREN TO DOUBT MOTHER'S WORD.

You may deceive the little one, once; possibly twice, with the bitter, nauseating dose that you poison for him to swallow, assuring him that it is "good," "sweet," "sugary," but the third trial will convince you that that expedient is played out. The child has learned to doubt your word. He will be suspicious of cheats even when you are sincere; and a long time it will be before you can restore yourself in his confidence.

It is a temptation, when a little one is very ill, and delay with a trying parley or struggle in giving medicine, dangerous, to resort to any expedient to persuade the little patient to quietly and promptly take medicines offered him; but, anxious mother, don't be tempted to resort to an untruth to gain your ends. Its the poorest of policies. When your little patient's confidence in you is shaken, as it will be if you attempt cheating him, you lessen his chance for recovery, for these wearing, prolonged haggles over doses and poultices, tell for the worse on a little child's vitality, perhaps, already fearfully lowered.

"Because mamma says so." Have you not heard children silence their little playmates' arguments and disputes with this convulsing, challenge-proof logic? rung out with such confidence and perfect faith in mamma's word, you wish your children had a like confidence in you.

It is so natural for these little people to trust us, that if they do doubt and question our word, our own teachings must have brought about such a pitiable state of affairs.

"Don't do that again. If you do I shall whip you!" The little fellow glanced up inquiringly into his mother's face. Only three years old, but he had already learned to read his mother's

moods; when she "really meant it," and when her face and words lacked sincerity.

"All right! Go ahead!" his bad angel whispered, and with a glee-lull laugh and comic leer, repeated the forbidden caper.

"Oh! you rogue, you! If you do that again, I shall slap you!" But she didn't, and the child knew she wouldn't, and thus this little fellow was taught to have little faith in, or respect and love for his mother.

We must watch ourselves even closer that these babies watch us, that we do not heedlessly and unintentionally tell them untruths, for their sharp little eyes and ears you cannot long deceive, and we would rather the whole world would lose faith in us than these innocent, trusting little ones.

"Burn! Burn!" was the warning note we sounded to turn our baby's little, toddling feet from the open fire, and she quickly learned to steer her stubbing steps in another direction, or to stay them the instant she heard the note of warning.

It was so very convenient having her obey the word without question or hesitation, we thoughtlessly, without the intent of practicing deceit, used the same term to warn her from outer, open doors from which there was danger of her falling.

Her loving, trustful, little nature, but observant eyes, kept faith in us just as long as she could; then, one day, steered straight for the open door, shook her bright little head at us wisely, as she heard the old, warning cry, answering with laughing confidence: "Burn, burnie, no! no!" and stepped fearlessly over the sill, and a sorry tumble and a blue-black forehead was the result.

"To think my darling baby believed I told her lies!" her mamma exclaimed, caressing her sobbing little girl.

"Well, we did tell her lies," was pater-familias comforting rejoinder. "We told her the open doors would burn and she believed the cheat as long as she could, but seeing us touch them unharmed, she tried the sill for herself."

But baby's lesson we heeded, and after that, used right words for every ill that threatened the little one, and "burn," "fall," "cut," "bite," etc., warned her from different sources of danger.

One other hurt my baby received because of an unintentional untruth I told her. She had climbed into a chair by the sink, where I was washing lamps. Leaving my work for an instant, I noticed she had reached the basin of suds and was about to plunge her little hands into it.

"Burn! Burn!" I sharply called the old warning words from across the kitchen, believing the water was sufficiently hot to burn baby, and instantly she caught her hands away from the dish. But the little thing must have noticed that on my return to the sink I put my hands into the water without harm, for a few moments later when the suds basin had been refilled with hot water, she laughingly poised her little palms over the dish as though to risk a bath of them. I was close beside her and said firmly as before, "Burn baby! water burn!" expecting prompt obedience; but this time, she believed I was cheating her, and with her little laughing, upturned face, and trill of "burn baby! no, no," she plunged her tiny hands into the water, and then there were screams of pain, and sobs and tears, and all because a dear little baby had lost confidence in her mamma's word.  
JOHN'S WIFE.

ECONOMY.

In these days of "hard times" anything that will serve to "lighten and brighten the road" seems almost a godsend. The problem of household economy is a great one, and one that many fail to solve; and it must be solved in a great degree by the women, not ladies, but the common sense women, the working men's wives that struggle from day to day, from week to week, and looking forward into the dreary future see nothing but the same hopeless struggle. To you my sisters, I would speak a few words of cheer. You remember in an old song this refrain:—"There is never more night than day." Let us have an experience meeting and I will relate my own experience. In my early married days, the doctor's carriage was oftenest at our gate, and the bills grew and grew as Jack's bean stalk. We were poor and discouraged, and that, with poor health, kept the black cloud hovering over us much larger than a man's hand. Then our baby boy came, a weak, puny, and consequently a very fretful baby. The doctor was a daily visitor, we lived beyond our income, and could not help it. I then thought, But after many days the cloud lifted, not all at once, but it began to show a silver lining. I learned that when tired and nervous if I took a sitz or (sitting) bath, warm enough to be pleasant, that I was rested and my nerves soothed. When baby was cross and feverish a warm bath was much better than powders and pills. I learned that eating graham bread, oatmeal porridge, vegetables and fruits well cooked, kept that sociable, affable, but seldom welcome visitor away. The baby began to increase in stature and weight, and to look as a baby should, when one cold night never to be forgotten, he awakened us with that dreadful bark. Not a moment to spare, two miles to a physician, fires out, and our baby gasping for breath! What did we do? Pater-familias rushed to the kitchen, got some lard and held it in a spoon over the lamp to melt; while he was doing that, I was wringing, not my hands, but a towel out of cold water and laying it on his throat and lungs. When the lard was melted we gave it to him. While we were working I sent up a silent prayer to our Father for our little one's life, and in fifteen minutes I was the happiest mother on God's earth. Our boy said "Oh, mamma!" We could talk and breathe. Soon Mr. J. bought a goose, and now I have plenty of oil for my neighbors and myself. I don't wait until I hear the croup bark, but hard breathing and hoarseness always causes the "goose grease" bottle to come forth, and then the soles of the feet, nose, chest and back are oiled, and now I am not afraid of croup. When our boy was three years old, a darling girl baby came to bless us with her presence. I had been preparing for her by dieting, bathing, and morning naps. Was careful not to overwork, tried to keep good natured, cast my corsets aside, forever, and when she came, a good natured, healthy baby I felt fully repaid. I never rocked her to sleep, just laid her on her bed and she went to sleep without any trouble. Of course I had to let her "cry it out" a few times, but that did not hurt her, and as I did all my work I could not spare the time to rock her to sleep. I often played with her and never neglected her, but did not spoil her. She cut her teeth easily, has never been sick, never taken a drop of medicine, and is over three years old. She is the light of the home. By studying, but mostly by experience, we have learned to use the water cure for simple disorders. Have cured

theague and bilious fever with it, and we feel very independent of the doctor. Of course there are times when he is needed, but not often, and when that no small item of expense is shut off, you may feel sure that better days are dawning. There are other ways of lessening household expenses, viz.: dress plainer, furnish home as you need not as you want, food that is plain, wholesome and well cooked, but will not touch upon them in this article. If I can help you in any way by advice or suggestion, write me enclosing stamp for reply, and I will gladly aid you if in my power.  
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[FOR THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.]  
BRUSH STUDIES.

NEW SERIES—NO. III.

BY LIDA AND M. J. CLARKSON.

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Many of our readers ask for instruction in landscape painting, while others as earnestly urge the continuance of flower studies. We trust that the course we intend to pursue the coming year will please and instruct both classes. We propose to take up, in this and subsequent papers, some simple studies of still life, one illustration of which is given in this number.

This will be found very helpful to those desirous of working from solid objects, while at the same time it will serve as a flat copy to the less venturesome. There are amongst our readers two distinct classes. One, only wishing to copy for recreation, or the adornment of home; the other, anxious to improve, and ambitious to excel in the art. When we began the first series of Brush Studies, it was more intended for the former class, but as a plea comes for more liberal instruction, we shall hereafter seek to gratify all our readers, while we beg of them to patiently await their turn, as sometimes studies will be more suited to the wants of one class, sometimes the other, without partiality.

There is no better practice for the pupil, than sketching in black and white, teaching as it does so clearly, the rules of light and shade. For, although copying in color from a flat model will assist you much in acquiring a certain amount of knowledge, and the principles involved in all good work; what is gained in this way is apt to be superficial, and the learner cannot give any reason for the methods he adopts. It is well to understand as far as possible, the why, and the wherefore of what we do, even though our object be mere pastime; for when we work understandingly, it is always to better advantage. Now if you will take the pains to arrange a simple study of solid objects, or in the phraseology of the studio, a study of still life, a very little practice will convince you of the advantages to be derived from it. We give in our illustration a mere suggestion. First efforts in this direction should be very simple, perhaps but one object at a time.

If you understand color well you have already a knowledge of drawing, perspective, etc. In fact, to those who are really in earnest as to this work, the knowledge of drawing and of form should be a first consideration. While we do not urge this branch of study, to the exclusion of color, as do many teachers, we would insist that you do not neglect it in your haste to make fine pictures. Indeed your pictures can never be more than mere copies, until you acquire a certain freedom in sketching as well as in coloring. The practice in charcoal drawing is excellent, but doubtless many of you will enjoy better the use of the brush. Painting simply in black and white, is a good way to train the eye to the true value of color.

Arranging a simple study suggested by our illustration, sketch your outlines correctly. Correct drawing is so essential to the success of a picture that we cannot urge its importance too

other, but these contrasts of light and dark would be too intense, and violent, were it not for the intervention of the middle accents which blend them together, making the harmony of your sketch. It is this study of light and shade which we give you for careful analysis and consideration, and painting some such simple objects, in black and white alone, will give you an understanding of shadow, half, or middle tones, and high lights; terms which occur so frequently in our lessons, and give rise to so many queries on the part of puzzled correspondents. It is our intention in next study to give explicit directions for painting study of hollyhocks for long panel, briefly mentioned in No. 15 of Brush Studies. This, at the request of many readers. As a rule it is best to paint flowers in their season, when we may have them to look at, yet we trust that having carefully observed the natural flower, with a good copy at hand, we shall be able to give all the needed information.

There is at present much comment as to the different methods of painting, and much diversity of opinion as to which is most desirable, or what is, or is not, the correct thing. Is it final, or is it broad? By which it is intended, is it precise and minute as to detail, form and finish, or is it bold, coarse, indistinct as to form, showing well only at a distance, which lends an enchantment, that nearer view dispels. The two styles in the extreme, and extremes are always to be avoided, are so widely apart, that some have very naturally jumped to the conclusion that one, or the other must be correct, or vice versa; whereas each has its excellencies, and its peculiar adaptation to certain subjects. For instance, if Nature presents us with a flower with exquisitely colored petals, and a delicacy of texture rivaling the finest satin, does not good judgment show us, that in order to represent Nature's inimitable productions upon our canvas, we need skillful touch and delicate coloring. In order to gain this effect, some artists give a roughness and coarseness to their backgrounds, which by comparison, aids in imitating that fineness of texture seen in the natural flower. We hear much of "ideality" as being "the soul of art," but an ideal painting need not necessarily be an exaggerated one. Breadth is good, and a bold subject requires bold handling, but daubing and muddy colors are bad, and to label such subjects as "broad" does not redeem them.

Very few artists go to work in the same manner, or use identical methods, just as no two individuals ever report a conversation, or an occurrence in the same mode of expression, and yet many arrive at exactly similar conclusions. It is therefore quite impossible to lay down inflexible rules for guidance. It were well for us to make up our minds, at the very threshold of this delightful occupation, ere we step into the charmed precinct of the studio, or the class room, or in the seclusion of our homes, cultivate a taste for art, that we will not be opinionated, or narrow in our views of it, jealous of our own conceptions, or methods, or even of what we receive from some one else we deem an authority in the matter. An opinionated person never learns as much as one ready to get all the good he can whenever, and wherever he has opportunity. So, dear readers, whether your work be of one method, or another, matters not so much as whether it is really good, and possesses real merit. We should never have the ill nature to condemn what our neighbors may prefer, or what we may be unable to appreciate or understand. As the ear becomes educated to sweet sounds and harmonies, by practice and culture, so the eye is trained to artistic appreciation of beauty in art. The broad style has its advocates, and its good points, and just so work of the opposite class commands its admiration and extravagant prices. It is always our aim to give our readers the advantage of the best methods in use, as approved by good artists and teachers, not confining ourselves to any special theories of our own, or of any one individual. We shall ever strive to help those especially whose limited means debar them from an expensive course of study. The two styles of painting

slack-finished daubs, needing a placard attached to tell us what they represent. There is really but one thing to recommend them, they can be hung either way up, without materially injuring the effect.

Let our aim be to learn what is really good, from the most reliable sources, and so make use of what we learn, as shall give us the best results. The subject chosen for our next lesson,—hollyhocks, is a flower rather coarse in texture, bold in effect, and almost always viewed at a distance. We do not pluck it for corsage bouquets, or to grace our tables. It would follow, therefore, that a very bold handling is necessary if we would obtain the best effects.

If you will give the subject presented in this paper your careful study, it will serve as an index to the next lesson, and will the better enable you to understand it. Practice sketching with your brush, or pencil prominent outlines, then putting in the light and shade broadly. Afterward you may proceed, if you like, with smaller details of form. In studying from solid objects, this plan of using black and white only, is a most excellent one, as it saves the time lost in obtaining requisite tints, as well as the expense of paints, and yet gives powerful effects as to light and shade. One of our art journals gives a formula for preparing color which is perhaps preferable to the ordinary tube paints. "Grind up zinc white with



DECORATED STRIPE.—CALLAS AND GRASSES.

a muller and slab, mixing with gum arabic and glycerine the latter in just sufficient quantity to keep it from cracking, as it would with the gum arabic alone. A very little is necessary, as it would prevent the color from drying. Test it on a piece of paper before using. With this color it is possible to obtain a brilliancy, and crispness of touch, not to be had with the oil paints, and without the shiny appearance so apt to characterize a painting in black and white."

In a late number of Harper's Weekly, appears a sketch in browns instead of black and white, with charming lights, half tones, and shadows. Burnt umber, yellow ochre, and white, will give this combination, and some artists seem to prefer it to the other. Whatever color you may use, study your subject carefully, and do not consider time lost, which is devoted to this pursuit. Some teachers advise the partial closing of the eyes when analyzing a subject, squinting at it, you might say, in order to get the effect of color in masses. A north light upon the easel is always conceded the best, at all events let the light fall over the left shoulder, and from above. It is a good plan to darken the lower window sash, if you do not work in a regular studio, with some dark material. Never try to paint in a poor light, if you do not wish to get thoroughly discouraged, and to blame yourself for what may be in no wise your fault. Remember, too, your eyes are worth every consideration and care, and that nothing is more important in this work than good sight, which may be lost by imprudence.

"We cannot paint!" say many of our correspondents, "what shall we do in lieu of this fascinating art? Embroidery is so expensive." Why not try applique work, which may be made both artistic and rich in execution, and like either of the above mentioned arts, applied to the decoration of screens, lambrequins, table scarfs, and various articles for home decoration. In our next paper we will give some hints as to this branch of work, which will prove of interest to many unskilled with the brush, or whose means are too limited to admit of the purchase of expensive material for embroidery. It is also a pleasure to be able to present our readers with hints from time to time as to the use of the lustra colors, brocades, and iridescent flitters, a work that has delighted many of our "shut ins" and invalids, who find it easy and fascinating employment. The work, when nicely done, meets with a ready sale in the cities, and any one with eyes, and the ability to hold a brush, can easily learn with no other help than the directions already given in these papers. It is capable of such endless variety, and combinations, as make it particularly interesting, and where good taste is shown in color and design, very beautiful decoration may be given to numberless articles at a small cost. At first we only thought it suitable for birds, butterflies, and bright insects, but experiment has shown that it may be used with very rich effects for certain flower designs. A very handsome decoration for scarfs, lambrequins, or hangings, is the calla lily, done in iridescent and brocade colors upon a band of plush, or velvet. If plush is used the paint is laid on very heavily, or the nap will take the flitter only upon the surface, and good effects cannot thus be had in shading, or in obtaining the brilliant lights so necessary in white flowers. For this reason it is perhaps best to lay a heavy coat of white paint over the entire design, letting it dry before proceeding to use the iridescent colors. We have just completed this design upon wine plush, and gives an illustration of it for the benefit of our readers. This, however, fails to convey any adequate idea of its richness. It

must be seen upon the fabric in the lustrous colors to be appreciated. To do this work we proceed as follows: The centre of the flower must be shaded to give it depth. Paint the cup-shaped hollow of the calla with dark gray made by mixing black and white paint. Then while still wet, dust over it either the steel Lustra color, or brocades which come in that shade. This gives the deepest shading. Next, the point of flower with the shading underneath the calyx, which defines it clearly, is painted a lighter tone of gray, and covered with silver lustra, or brocade. Then the stem is painted a dull green, and covered with bronze green brocades. The high lights are now put in with pure white covered with silver iridescent, or sparkling silver in lustra. Either lustra, or iridescent colors may be used, or the two combined, with good effect. The stamen in centre is put in last with chrome yellow, shaded with orange, and covered with gold and orange iridescent. Grasses may now be interspersed here and there, to relieve the stiffness of the design, which is however intended to be conventional. These grasses are in bronze, grass green, terra cotta, and a few tiny spires of pale violet iridescent.

A specimen of the work will be given this month for one full subscription, or a club of six.

ANSWERS TO INQUIRERS.

"Mrs. C. L."—Your query is already answered in this paper. Apple blossoms are very pretty in iridescent carmine and silver, with green centres, for the leaves and stems using chrome green brocades.

"Sue M. N."—We should advise a simple palette for the beginner. Silver white, ivory black, burnt sienna, raw umber, vermilion, madder lake, chrome yellow and orange, Antwerp blue, permanent blue, madder brown, terra vert, and yellow ochre, ought to suffice for practice.

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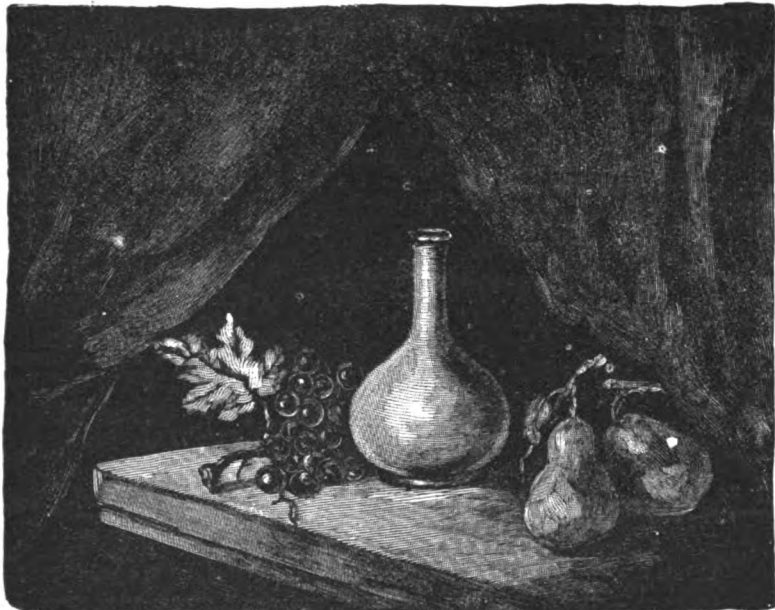
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SIMPLE STUDY OF STILL LIFE.

forcibly; especially to those who would paint directly from natural objects. For here you will be unable to resort to the means used in working from flat copies. Transparent, or tracing paper is unavailable, for the sketching must be done at sight, and to be able to do this with either pencil, or brush, is a great step gained, and introduces the amateur into a new field of ever increasing delights. We have often spoken of the high lights, in our studies, that is to say, the spot, or plane in our picture where the light strikes most directly. You will see this clearly illustrated in our sketch. The light is supposed to fall from the left, upon the vase, or jar, the table and fruit in the foreground, as also across the curtain. It strikes these objects at the same angle with equal intensity, because it is a rule, "that planes at equal angles to the light take the same amount of light," and in this simple study we have strong contrasts of light and shadow; and contrast it is that renders a painting effective. In the dark, heavy curtains back of these objects with the middle, or half tints, as contrasted with the strong light of the foreground.

All these things must be carefully noted, and faithfully portrayed with the brush. Every tint you make in coloring should contrast with an-

to which we have alluded, are undoubtedly the outcome of the Dutch, and the French schools. The Dutch with their passionate fondness for flowers seemed to think they could not portray them upon their canvas too faithfully. No wonder they painted each leaf and petal with such painstaking care, when whole fortunes were at one time sacrificed in flower speculation, which ran as high as ever did stocks in Wall street. So while the Dutchmen of the seventeenth century painted with such minuteness of detail, the French of to-day aim rather at general effect, believing that details mar the beauty and spirit of a picture, and that the main object is to get delicate color and form in masses of light and shade. A skillful French artist will so blend his color, and handle his brush, as to obtain most charming effects in this way. There is exquisite bloom on his flowers, and poetic refinement in the misty indistinctness with which they seem to melt away into the background. There is sentiment and subtle feeling expressed in this rare charm of tone and color. But alas! for monseurs artistic fancies as interpreted by the average Yankee amateur. Instead of the living beauty of nature, with the softness and harmony of delicate tones and suggestive form, we have coarse, muddy,



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AND

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Philadelphia, March, 1886.

CURRENT NOTES.

When a woman is too busy to laugh, she needs a vacation.

Friendship and criticism are like oil and water—they will not mix.

Trust that man in nothing who has not a conscience in everything.

To find every one acceptable to you is to make yourself acceptable to every one.

Nature will lie buried a long time, but will revive on the occasion of temptation.

Harriet Prescott Spofford is engaged on a new story for the LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.

How can we expect another to keep our secret when it is more than we can do ourselves.

"How Could He?" a splendid domestic story by Rose Terry Cooke, will occupy our first page, with illustration, in the May number.

"Every one of those spots," frankly said a distinguished oculist, pointing to a dotted lace veil, "every one of those spots is worth \$5 to me."

Christine Terhune Harrick has promised us an article on "The Tea Table and How to Make it Attractive," to appear in the May number. Next month she contributes another article on the servant question.

We intended presenting to our readers this month, three or four pages of Premium Offers, but our advertisers have crowded us so that we must defer it to another month. Our December number contains nearly four pages descriptive of premiums. Send for it if you get up a club.

One of the meanest occupations in which a reputable druggist can engage is to stand behind his counter on Sunday and receive the pennies of little children for candy. In the aggregate, a very large sum is received in our large cities in this way on Sundays, and in many cases it is money given by parents to their children for Sunday school contributions. Many of our drug stores are, on Sunday, little more than confectionaries and cigar stores. There is not the slightest apology for such sales on the Sabbath, and they should be suppressed.

Subscribers who fail to read advertisements make a great mistake. The amount of curious and interesting information to be found in the columns of this issue, is astonishing. If you want to keep posted on what is going on in the world, the new things constantly brought to public notice, do not neglect the advertisements. Look this paper over and see if you do not learn of something of peculiar interest to yourself. Advertisements in this paper have our endorsement, and are known to us as first class, reliable houses. None others are admitted. If you send to any of them, be sure you mention the JOURNAL. This is of more importance than you may think.

POSTAGE TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

A discrimination in the rates of postage to city subscribers is made between weekly and monthly periodicals, to the great disadvantage of the latter; for, while the weeklies can be mailed to city subscribers for one cent per pound, monthlies can not be mailed to city subscribers for less than one cent each, except where the subscribers go to the post office for their mail. We are, therefore, obliged to ask Philadelphia subscribers twelve cents extra for postage, unless the paper is addressed at the post office to be called for, or to any P. O. box.

A WORD TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers will please understand that it is useless to write us for lower than our regular published rates. We have never inserted a single line of advertising for one penny less than our established rate, and never will. Our space is always in demand at full price, and always occupied by the best class of advertisers, a fact proof in itself that it is worth all we ask for it. We have no space to give away, or let at half price, therefore do not send us any offers under our regular rate, as they will have no consideration. Not one line goes into the JOURNAL for one cent less than the regular rate. There is positively no deviation in price under any consideration whatever, to anyone, or for any amount of advertising, or any length of time. Any correspondence looking to a reduction will prove futile.

200,000!

Of this number of the JOURNAL, we print not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) copies.

As we send this number to press—January 28th—we have over one hundred and fifty thousand paid subscribers on our books, and are receiving over 1200 new yearly subscribers daily, or 35,000 per month. By the time the March number is printed and ready for mailing, we shall need not less than 200,000 copies to supply subscribers.

Advertisers will find on file at all advertising agencies, an original affidavit, of the business manager of the JOURNAL, the Scott Paper Co., who supply us with paper, Ferguson Bros. & Co., who do our press work, and John F. Busch & Son who do our folding and binding, all of Philadelphia, said affidavits verifying our claims to circulation. We tell the exact truth concerning our circulation, and offer advertisers every opportunity to satisfy themselves thoroughly that they get all we claim, and all they pay for, when they use our columns. Our post office receipts, bills for paper, press work, and all subscription books are open to the inspection of any interested person who will take the trouble to call upon us.

But two other publications in this country—the Youth's Companion and the Century—are believed to have a larger circulation than the LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, and we think we can surpass them both inside of a year.

Our advertising rates will be advanced April 1st to 75 cents per square line each insertion.

TIME FOR BEAUX TO GO HOME.

Many a young man wants to know when to end his evening visit to a lady. That, of course, depends on circumstances. If, while standing on the porch, he should hear, through the window, a gentle exclamation of: "Oh, what a shame!—there's somebody else!" and on being ushered in, finds the object of his call bolt upright on a chair in the corner of the room, while a young man, with a stern frown on his noble brow, sits at the centre table, earnestly contemplating the family photograph album, perhaps he might as well take his leave in less than ten minutes. He is not very likely to enjoy himself much. If, on the contrary, he waits alone awhile, and hears a rattling of drawers overhead, and the young lady shortly afterwards with a smile on her lip, a blue ribbon at her neck, and a rose in her belt, wearing, besides, her best earrings, and her sister's bracelets, he can stay quite a while. She would like to have him stay, and if he says something about "calling again," why, she will probably say: "I hope you will, Mr. Smith."

In fact many a man has lost his lady-love by staying too late. The girl is laughed at, perhaps scolded, and finds herself sleepy besides. It takes a very intense love affair to keep a girl who arose at seven o'clock awake until midnight. Yes, and it takes a very entertaining young man, too. Another thing to be considered, especially if Aunt Amelia or Uncle Samuel happens to be visiting in the family, is the size of the house. "A queer thing to think of!" do you say? Oh, no! People do transform their parlors into spare bedrooms at times, and it is enough to make a hasty-tempered old gentleman disinherit his niece to see the young man who is "her steady company" sitting by the hour on the sofa-bedstead, which he is longing to turn down and turn into.

A sleepy visitor, sitting with half-shut owl's eyes in the next room, and members of the family occasionally peeping in at the door, ought to warn any moderately intelligent young fellow to say, "Good-night," even on Sunday evening, the privileged time for lovers in America.

If "she" yawns, I should say it was time to go—and one would fancy that the dining-room clock, striking twelve with a creak between each stroke, would be an awful warning to depart at once to any man; but we know it is not always so. Some men are so stupid and selfish that they stay on, and on, until their bored entertainers begin to think it is time for the milkman to rattle his his cans before the door and whoop in the area.

Come girls. We believe if you will interest yourself in us—we're very handsome—you can give us more subscribers in one week than half-a-dozen men. Try it. How would you like a half-dozen Roger Bros. best silver plated fruit knives? We give them for a club of only 20 subscribers.

"The very women who want their skirts trimmed most heavily," said a fashionable dressmaker, "are the ones whose backs ache so that they cannot stand long enough for me to try on their dresses."

SCRIBBLER'S LETTERS TO GUSTAVUS.

NO. VIII.

Now Gustavus, there are one or two things that I must talk about, because they weigh upon my mind, and I never could bear an unnecessary weight upon my mind. Thursday night you had the sulks; and for what? Because Julia didn't feel as if she could drop everything just where it was, and go off on a trip for a week, on Friday morning. Now, my dear, when you got a nurse for Bessie and the baby boy, you thought your whole duty was done, didn't you, and that you could sit back with a menuisier's rect feeling, and feel good. Now, far be it from me to depreciate any good move on any one's part, but hiring a nurse wasn't any special cause for self-glorification on your part. You wouldn't feel especially set up; would you, if you had hired another clerk to fulfill duties that there wasn't another soul in your place of business could undertake for want of time.

Julia was always wanting a nurse, and you did think perhaps, she'd be satisfied for once. But, Gustavus, you certainly have not reflected—it was a question of ability, not of satisfaction. "She was crazy to go somewhere last year when you couldn't go." Ah! indeed—you couldn't go? Why? Was it a question of expense with you? "No—but you couldn't leave at that rate. There were some things you had to attend to yourself that no other mortal could attend to, and Julia ought to realize that, but wouldn't never do have any head for business." Now, stop just there, my dear, for there you have the whole thing in a nutshell.

A house is a woman's "place of business," and a man ought to realize that. A woman can no more start off unexpectedly Monday morning to be gone a week, simply because her liege lord announces on Saturday night that he is ready, than she can fly. That is, most women can't. You would be the first to complain at want of

system in your household, and how is system to be maintained without system. A man wants his wife to drop everything and go off for some days, and "can't see why packing a few winter things should interfere." Well, perhaps you can't, but if, when winter came, your elegant new overcoat was resurrected, devoured by moths, would you think of blaming yourself for the calamity? No, not by any means. "Julia ought to have done it before!" would be your opinion.

Now, Gustavus, there are certain seasons for everything in housekeeping as well as in stock broking or storekeeping, and the sooner men realize this as a fixed fact, the sooner harmonious daily life will be restored. There are certain duties that every mother and head of a house must herself perform to be true to her position, and until she has these done, or has put them into such a shape that they can conveniently hold over till her return, she is not only right to remain at home, but she would be wrong to desert her post. I am willing to admit that Julia is foolish about children in many respects, (though I notice she isn't quite as foolish about George as an infant as she was about Bessie) but there are some points on which I am glad to see her firm. You think it is dreadful because she will put the children to bed herself, and will never go out anywhere till she has done so. You think her a dunce because she is not willing to trust them to any one else. You know that isn't so, for when I was at your house, she was perfectly willing to trust them with me.

Why? Because she considered me a responsible person.

"You are sure the nurse is well recommended." By whom? I can tell you if you can't tell me. By a woman who never attended to the niceties of her children's bringing up at all. Do you know the manner of the recommendation? "You will find her invaluable. In all the two years she was with me I hardly saw the children. She kept them so nice and clean, and I never bothered my head about them. I was sorry to part with her."

Now, that sounds well, don't it, for the girl; but how does it sound for the mother? I think it looks especially ugly on paper. A woman who "never bothered" herself about her children for two years, in all probability did not trouble herself much about the nurse either, providing she kept the children clean and out of the mother's way. I happen to know that that same woman used to send the younger ones away with that same nurse, for three weeks at a stretch, to the seashore.

Do you consider such irresponsible mothers' recommendations worth much? I don't. I'm not saying anything against the girl, but I do say Julia is right to have an eye to all that goes on. The best nurse in the world never took the place of a good, honest, conscientious mother, and never will. We have been enabled to do everything almost by patented machinery, but there is no patent extant, as yet, that can take the place of mother love and mother supervision. And let me tell you one thing that I have learned, that a nurse can do more harm by injudicious talking, by telling a child frightful or improper stories, can inculcate more slackness of principle in the hour or so she has the children to herself, while putting them to bed, than a mother can undo all the next day. Think of this, Gustavus, and give Julia credit for her sacrifice, (for sacrifice it must be these hot nights) instead of blame for her foolishness. She is saving both you and herself a great deal of future trouble.

SCRIBBLER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mrs. Wm. H. W. would like to know what to put in the diamond dyes to keep the color from rubbing off.

"Inquisitive."—A really good article always finds a ready market with us as other publishers.

S. M. J. LEXINGTON, KY.—Send to Partridge & Richardson, Philadelphia, Pa., for the pansy pattern.

MRS. C. K. MARSHALL will find either of the rug machines very reliable, and both give perfect satisfaction.

INTERESTED MOTHER can obtain good safe reading for her children from the circulating library connected with the American Kindergarten, 70, Bible House, N. Y. Address Mrs. E. Coe for particulars.

CAN any one send me a sample of what is called "crackle work" or stitch? It is irregular stitches to imitate the crackle glass. Will pay postage. G. B. P.

Box 1200, New Brunswick, N. J.

CAN you tell us through the JOURNAL where one of those little hand looms for making rugs, etc., can be obtained?

Respectfully, MRS. M. E. COLLINS, CALDWELL, KAN.

JENNIE will find the Pearl Rug Maker very reliable. They can be obtained at LADIES' HOME JOURNAL office, for one dollar.

JACK.—Consult a competent physician for the erysipelas, and do not trifle with the disease by using remedies different people might suggest to you.

T. R. J., WASHINGTON, TY.—Plenty of sleep, and exercise that is not too violent, in the open air, are the greatest helps for nervousness. The compound syrup of phosphates, prepared by most any druggist, will often give great relief also. I have known it to succeed when all else failed.

BLUE EYES.—I killed my corns by shaving off all the hard dry skin with a razor, and afterwards wearing shoes one size too large for my foot. M. J. V. C.

If "Blue Eyes" would wear a hand made shoe after shaving her corns, she would have no further trouble.—Ed.

THE best remedy for a burn is to mix cat-tails with fresh lard, and bind on the burn. It acts like a charm. M. J. V. C.

WILMINA REED, OHIO.—We admit no swindlers' advertisement to our columns. J. F. Ingalls is a reliable man. For Kensington paints we would recommend R. H. Bragdon, New York, N. Y.

BOSTON, JAN. 11th, 1886.

EDITRESS LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.—If "Hetty Marshall" will send her address to 6, Auburn Court, Boston, Mass., she will receive the directions she has asked for. S. H. S.

MRS. IDA M. FAY will find by using Utile Dulci with a soft brush, she can heal her tender gums. ONE WHO HAS TRIED IT.

[The address can be found on the third page of the February number.—Ed.]

A SEPTEMBER correspondent wants information upon bee culture, and I obtained the following from a gentleman who had been some years in the business. She asks if any hive will winter bees on the summer stands. My informant says that in the fall they congregate in the centre of the hive, to preserve life, for if they get to the outer apartments they get chilled, and die. And since they lie dormant in the winter, and eat little honey until spring, it would naturally be better to purchase at that season.

A NEW SUBSCRIBER wants information on the care of her hands and finger nails, being a person who has her own work to do. We leave it to our readers to suggest some hints to her, and will just mention here that many people find the addition of corn meal to the water used for bathing the hands has a softening effect on the skin. Who will tell her how to prevent her nails from splitting?

DEAR EDITOR:—Here is something to prevent mice, which are very troublesome in the best of peoples' houses. Take mint, either peppermint or spearmint—we used peppermint, and lay it around on shelves and cloths presses; in fact any place where mice frequent; renew it when it gets real dry, or once in two or three weeks. It is perfectly clean, and you can lay it in most any place you like, and it is a sure cure for mice. Camphor gum and sulphur, are also good to prevent the red or black ant. Lay it around wherever they bother. This little information I hope will be of good to the readers as it has been to me. Yours respectfully, BLACK EYES.

A NEW SUBSCRIBER will find it careful work to polish her piano properly. If the case is not a very old one, piano dealers tell us to ring out dry a soft sponge in clear cold water, and rub across the woodwork in one direction only, and only for one time. Then in the same way wipe off with a moist chamoliskin. No hard rubbing however, must be done, and the wiping must be most cautiously done. If your instrument is an old one, it can be polished correctly by sending off to the manufacturer or dealer in pianos.—Ed.

CLIFTON RANCH, SARATOGA, CAL., Oct. 21st., 1885.

EDITRESS LADIES' HOME JOURNAL:—I would like to make a few suggestions in answer to the parent who asked what books to give children to read. This is a question of much importance; children's brains crave nourishment as well as their bodies, and care must be taken to supply the want with wholesome brain food.

This is a good time, now that the long winter evenings have set in, to organize little home reading clubs. It is well to have method, and not read at haphazard. The best course, I think, is to begin with ancient history and follow it to our own times. In this way a more intelligent idea is formed of the gradual change and progression of the world, and the impressions are more easily retained when received in a continuous, instead of a disjointed manner.

Charlotte Yonge's "Histories for Young Folks" are excellent. Commence with her History of Greece, and after that of Rome. Do not fear that they will be dull. Children cannot fail of becoming interested in Greek and Roman history, for it is very fascinating. It is a good plan to stop at stated intervals in the reading (say every two or three chapters) and ask a few questions in review, to see how much has been remembered, and have a general conversation concerning the characters and customs just passed over. Many teachers prefer to teach history in this way, instead of having the pupils learn it by rote. They argue, that though at first, the pupils can answer but a few questions, after a month or so they will repeat almost all that is read to them; and that this method so accustoms them to remembering all they hear and read, that it becomes a habit of lasting benefit to them through life.

Then, as a dessert after the History of Rome, the "Zig Zag Journeys in Classic Lands," and Hawthorne's "Wonder Book," and "Tanglewood Tales," consisting of Classic Myths and Legends. Then the histories of Germany and France. After these, "Napoleon and his Marshals." If the children be twelve years, or over, old enough to understand Dickens and Scott, I would insert here after France, Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities," as it leaves such a vivid picture of the French Reformation.

Then, "A Family Flight Through France, Germany, Norway and Switzerland," by Rev. E. C. Hale and Miss Hale; and "Three Vassar Girls Abroad."

Then Dickens' "Child's History of England," Strickland's "Queens of England," the "Wars of the Roses," by J. G. Edgar; Scott's "Ivanhoe," and "Kenilworth," Scott's "Tales of a Grandfather," "Scottish Chiefs," "Our Young Folks Abroad," by J. D. McCabe; "Story of a Journey through Europe and Constantinople," "Zig Zag Journeys in Europe," and "Zig Zag Journeys in the Orient," "Young America in Japan," by Edward Grey; "Rosa's Tour Through Europe," by Abbott.

Then, to come to our own country, Higginson's "Young Folks History of the United States," "Washington and his Generals," Charles Coffin's histories, "Old Times in the Colonies," "The Boys of '76," "The Boys of '61," Hawthorne's "True Stories from History and Biography," and "Grandfather's Chair." These of Hawthorne's can be bought in the Riverside Literature Series (Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10,) for fifteen cents each. Miscellaneous; J. G. Edgar's "The Boyhood of Great Men," "The Footprints of Famous Men," "History for Boys," and "Sea King and Naval Heroes," "What Mr. Darwin Saw in his Voyage Round the World in the Ship Beagle," adapted for youthful readers. "A World of Wonders, or Marvels in Animate and Inanimate Life," Miss Buckley's "Fairyland of Science," and "Life and her Children," should be read by every child, and also Gray's "How Plants Grow." Of the Science Primers, Geology and Physiology are as interesting to young readers as they are to older ones. These primers are, I think, only forty-five cents a piece. For older people interested in music, the one on piano-forte playing is well worth possessing.

Those thinking of buying books should send for the catalogues of J. B. Alden, 393 Pearl St., New York, as his publications are wonderfully cheap.

The nicest present that can be given to a child is a year's subscription to the St. Nicholas, Harper's Young People, or the Youth's Companion. The first two are preferable to the last one, I think; but, be that as it may, the St. Nicholas stands at the head of all periodicals for children; it is unrivaled.

I hope this outline will be of use to some one; it can be enlarged and filled out as the wisdom and means of the parents suggest. I. B. DISSENS.



THE PRACTICAL HOUSEKEEPER



DOMESTIC JOURNALISMS.

HINTS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS, CONTRIBUTED BY JOURNAL SISTERS.

Mrs. C. C. York will find recipe for sweet tomato pickle in December number of LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.

If any of our readers have used the Arnold's Automatic Steam Cooker, will they please give a JOURNAL sister information concerning it, and oblige Mrs. T. S.

Can some one tell me how to make flour paste that will not spoli by keeping? TACY KELLOGG.

GENESEE, ILL.

A CURE FOR ASTHMA AND LOSS OF VOICE IN CANARY BIRDS:—Burn clam shells until you can pulverize, then grind together, equal parts of brown sugar, and soda crackers. Have tried this for many years.

Will some one of the JOURNAL sisters who has one, tell me where I can get a stove for heating irons, which burns charcoal, and which can be moved from place to place? I am anxious to buy one, but do not know where to send. Mrs. E. B. JONES.

POPLAR CREEK, MISS.

Do the JOURNAL sisters know that Glycerole, made by Restoff & Bettinan, New York, is almost without an objection as a shoe polish? This is not an advertisement, but never having found a preparation before that would not crack the leather, I desire the sisters to know of this one.

DEAR EDITRESS:—What do you get for dinner on wash-day,—you that do your own washing—that will not require much of your time and attention, and yet be palatable? I usually bake potatoes for one dish, so that I can have the top of my stove for the boiler, as I do not get my washing out until after dinner, having two little ones to look after. INQUIRER.

EDITRESS LADIES' HOME JOURNAL:—The best thing I know of for an evening's entertainment is bouillon (beef tea). It is strengthening, invigorating, and does not affect the nerves like coffee, or unsettle the stomach for next day. In summer it can be iced. The best way to make it is to cut up lean beef into dice, put in a big dish pan or large pall or soup kettle, cover with cold water and let stand one hour. Then put on stove and just at the first boil remove. Skim, strain, and salt to taste. Can be made any time in the day, and heated when wanted. Serve in large coffee cups or tea cups. At some of the most pleasant parties this winter, all we had was bouillon and sandwiches of some kind, and it was enough. I wish I could impress your readers with the value of bouillon for an evening beverage. SUBSCRIBER.

EDITRESS LADIES' HOME JOURNAL:—I want to tell the young housekeepers how I make jug yeast. I thought it was a great deal of trouble to make yeast when I first went to housekeeping. When I am ready to prepare a meal, I pare enough potatoes to allow a dozen more than I will want for the meal, boil and mash them fine, take out the extra dozen and put them in a jar. While the potatoes are cooking, I boil a handful of hops in a quart can filled with water, (I keep an old peach can on purpose, as the hops leave a taste in the vessel they are cooked in) strain the water (after it has cooled) in the jar of potatoes, add one teaspoonful of sugar, the same of salt, the same of jug yeast, or one cake of any kind of dry yeast that you know is good. Let it stand until it begins to work, and you will have good bread. Use one teaspoonful to set your sponge. I write this for the ones just beginning to do their own work. The ones that have been in the habit of asking mother how to do everything. COUSIN DON.

When your wood is damp do you fill your oven with it after a meal is over, so it will be dry for the next fire? If not, try it.

To blacken a stove easily shave a little soap into the polish, and moisten with boiling water. A little turpentine added is an improvement.

Have a row of hooks at the top of the inside of your closet door in the kitchen. You will find them handy.

Tack two chintz pockets to the lower part of the same door, to hold wrapping paper, strings, etc.

A Scotch housewife tells me that she has reared a family of twelve children, and that she never has a blanket or bit of flannel shrink. She does not leave the work to the servants, as it is hard to convince them that cold water does the work, so she sorts out all the flannels and blankets the night before, shakes well, and puts them into a good strong cold suds, next morning, they are washed through that, and another, rinsed in cold water, and hangs them out to dry, without wringing. If it rains, let them lie until fair weather.

WHAT SHALL WE HAVE FOR DESERT? is a question asked daily in thousands of homes. Messrs. Burnett & Co., 27 Central Street, Boston, Mass., will send you, on receipt of your address and five two-cent stamps, their book of "Household Receipts"—72 pages of choice receipts. It is a most satisfactory answer. Be sure you mention the LADIES' HOME JOURNAL. This is important.

(FOR THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.)

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR A TEA-PARTY.

By G. B. B.

First let me recommend small tables; you will find them less formal and much less trouble. For the kitchen you can use the large table as a butler's pantry, and on it place all the cups and saucers, plates, etc., you will need, besides tea, coffee, meats, salads. I should, in fact do, use the sitting room for my tables, and entertain my friends in the parlor till tea. By doing this I can use the dining table instead of the kitchen. Each small table should be covered with a pretty towel or napkin, and the knives, forks, spoons, napkin, and glass put at each plate, and on each napkin a card bearing the name of the person who is to occupy the seat. In the centre of each table put a vase with a few flowers. You can arrange your tables early in the day, and assist in serving in a manner impossible at a large table where you are obliged to sit and eat with your guests. Now for our tea.

To begin with—bouillon!

I think the best way, certainly the easiest, is to get a can of Liebig's extract of beef. Mix one can in about three quarts of boiling water, and salt to taste. Let it just come to a boil, pepper a little, and your soup is ready. However, if you cannot get this, put on to boil in the morning of the day before your tea party, four pounds of the lean, cheap parts of a leg of beef. Let it boil very slowly until well done, in fact in rags; skim out the meat and strain. Let it stand till next day, when remove all the grease; heat it to almost a boil, salt and pepper to taste. This should be served in cups with saucers and a teaspoon. Pass bread, but no butter with it. A Julienne soup is made like the above, except when the soup is first put on you add one large carrot, one-quarter of a cabbage, one-half an onion, and one turnip, all well chopped. This is either served in cups or small soup plates, and bread alone served with it. An oyster stew, and we are done with the first course, for these three are the soups for a tea, and whichever you choose will find favor.

Oyster Stew:—One quart oysters, three pints water, three pints hot milk. Drain the oysters, and put the liquor on with the water, and salt to taste. As soon as it boils hard add the oysters, and let them come to a good boil, then skim them out and place where they will keep hot but not cook. Now add the hot milk and salt to taste, when boiling; take back the oysters in the broth and take it out from the fire. Put in a good lump of butter, and four tablespoonfuls of cracker crumbs, and serve from soup plates at once. The next course of fish, I leave out as this tea is informal, though any fish that may be boiled, any preparation of clams or oysters will be suitable. If you use oyster stew don't let them come on again in this course; choose some other fish. But now I do not know where to begin or where to end my recipes. Scalloped and fried oysters I take for granted you have made, but one more preparation of oysters is very fine, and I must give it to you. It is fried oysters.

Two quarts oysters, one cup butter, one-half cup cream, whites of two eggs well beaten, two tablespoonfuls of chopped parsley, pepper and salt to taste. Let the butter come to a boil and in it put the oysters. Let them boil ten minutes and add the other ingredients. They very hot serve. Devilled salmon can be made with either canned or cold boiled fish. Pick up the fish in good flakes, not too large, and over it pour the following dressing: Yolks of three hard boiled eggs, one tablespoonful of salad oil or melted butter; rub with the eggs till a smooth paste, add two teaspoonfuls of sugar and mustard, cayenne and salt to taste, one teaspoonful of Worcestershire sauce and a little vinegar. Arrange celery tops or lettuce leaves on your plate, and over the salmon pour the dressing. Cut the white of the eggs in rings and garnish the dish with them. Broiled or fried chicken are both very nice. Another mode of preparing chicken is to cut the meat from a cold boiled chicken, chop it fine and add enough broth to moisten well. Heat and press in a mould, and when cold cut in slices. Turkey, chicken or veal scallops are very nice, and are easily made. Put in your dish a layer of bread crumbs, and season with a little salt, next a layer of the meat you are using, which must be cold roast or boiled and chopped fine; this layer should be quite thick, and seasoned with salt and a little cayenne. Proceed in this way until the dish is full, having the top layer crumbs, with butter cut over it. Moisten well with broth or milk, and bake one hour, half the time covered. Pates are always nice. Line patty pans with puff paste, and fill with bread crusts. When baked a rich brown remove the crusts, and fill with oysters prepared as follows: One quart oysters, place in a large baking dish with butter, pepper and salt, and bake until the oysters curl. In the meantime put in a saucepan one pint of milk, and as soon as it is scalded add one large teaspoonful of cornstarch wet in a little cold milk, when it boils season with salt and a large piece of butter. This gravy should be quite thick. Now to this add the oysters, but do not let them boil. Spread a napkin on a platter, a red napkin is pretty or a pretty doyle, fill the pate shells and serve at once. Chicken, veal or turkey can be chopped, enough broth or milk added to moisten well, seasoned and boiled up well to use in place of oysters.

But I have, as you see, found no end, and so I must leave with no hint of tea biscuit and rolls, of salads, jellies, custards, cake, coffee, and many other dainties for these teas. If you want more just tell me so, and my book is at your service.

COOKING AS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT.

A girl who deliberately marries without understanding the art of cooking as well as elocution, is a veritable nuisance. Especially is this true of those in modest circumstances, and who cannot afford to employ efficient cooks. Burnt fingers, sour bread, scorched roasts, leathery steaks, wishy-washy coffee, and disordered stomachs are not conducive to the happiness one imagines will fill to repletion the honeymoon. There are so many reasons, logical and philosophical, why cooking should be taught young girls, not only as an accomplishment, but as the means of happiness, health, and success in life, that it is useless to enumerate them. One may thoroughly understand art, music, architecture, science and philosophy; be familiar with astronomy, mythology, the mysteries of evolution, politics and literature, yet if the chemistry of a loaf of bread has been neglected, the education is sadly incomplete.

Have you read W. H. MAULE'S Seed Advertisement on 9th page? If not, why not read it!

HOME COOKING.

ORIGINAL RECIPES CONTRIBUTED BY THE JOURNAL SISTERS.

CHILDREN'S FRUIT CAKE:—(very nice). 1 cup butter, 4 cups flour, 1 lb. sugar, 1 cup milk, 3 eggs, 1/2 lb. currants, 1/2 lb. raisins, 1/2 lb. citron, 1/2 grated nutmeg, 1/2 teaspoonful baking powder; flavor with lemon.

NUT CAKE:—1 cup of sugar, 1/2 cup of butter, 1/2 cup of milk, 2 eggs, 1/2 teaspoonful of cream tartar, and 1/2 of soda, 2 1/2 cups of flour, and 1 cup of chopped walnuts or almonds. Beat well. The following will make a nice frosting for the same:

Icing:—Soak 2 teaspoonfuls of gelatine in 1 tablespoonful of cold water. Set on the stove for twenty minutes, and then add 2 tablespoonfuls of hot water, and 1 cup of sugar. Beat until it foams, and put on a ter the cake has cooled a little. Coconut or chocolate makes a nice variation for this frosting.

Kisses:—Whites of 2 eggs, 2 cups sugar, 1 teaspoonful vanilla. Put the sugar in a basin on the stove, with about three tablespoonfuls of cold water. Cook until it hairs. Have the eggs well beaten, and turn the sugar little by little into the beaten whites. Let the sugar boil until all used. Keep stirring until stiff. Have a very hot oven, and on a piece of hard wood, lay a greased paper, and drop by spoonfuls the mixture on salt paper. Bake until a light brown. They may be filled with jelly, whipped cream, or otherwise.

NUT MACAROONS:—1/2 lb. powdered sugar, whites of 3 eggs, well beaten, 1 tablespoonful of flour, 1/2 teaspoonful of nut meats (hickory). Mix together, and set in a cool place for half an hour. Grease your pan, put in one-half spoonful, and bake in a slow oven.

CHARLOTTE RUSSÉ:—1 pint of rich cream, 1 tumbler of currant jelly, 1 cup of white sugar, 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Line a quart mould with sponge cake or lady fingers. Whip cream, sugar, and flavoring until very stiff, then fill the mould first with a layer of cream, then a layer of jelly, cream last. Cover and set away to harden.

CHOCOLATE BLANC MANGE:—1/2 box gelatine, 1 pint cream or rich milk, 1 cup grated chocolate, 12 tablespoonfuls of sugar. Boil milk and stir in chocolate. Let come to a boil again, and add gelatine previously dissolved, sugar and vanilla to taste. Mould and put in cool place. V. L. W.

PRESERVED GINGER PUDDING:—Take 3 eggs, 3 ozs. of sugar, 3 ozs. of butter, 3 ozs. of flour, 1/2 pint of cream, 4 ozs. preserved ginger, a small pinch of salt. Put butter, cream and sugar into a stew pan, and the moment it begins to simmer take off fire, and add flour, stirring well; put back on fire and stir a few moments, then add eggs, and mix well; then put in ginger, cut in small pieces. Pour in buttered mold and steam for an hour. Serve hot with sauce made from syrup of ginger, a little cream, and a few blanched and pounded almonds, with sugar, if needed. V. L. W.

HARD SAUCE:—1/2 cup butter, 1 cup powdered sugar. Work the butter till like cream, and then stir in the sugar. Stir till white and creamy, then flavor as you choose. A cup of washed strawberries is a delicious addition to this sauce.

VANILLA SAUCE:—1/2 cup butter, 2 cups sugar, whites of 2 eggs, 1 cup boiling water. Cream the butter and sugar as for hard sauce, and the whites of the eggs, one at a time, stirring them in well. Put this in a bowl, and just as it is to be served, place the bowl in boiling water. Now add the cup of boiling water, and stir till the sauce is dissolved, but not a moment longer. Flavor highly with vanilla, and if you have beaten the sugar, butter, and eggs to a white cream, the sauce will be white and foamy, a delight both to eye and palette.

SANDWICHES:—Chop ham very fine, season well, and place between two slices of nicely buttered bread. Then with a sharp knife cut off the crusts, and cut diagonally across the rest, making two little three-cornered sandwiches. These are very dainty looking.

SCALLOPED TOMATOES:—Strain the liquor from a can of tomatoes and set aside to add to soup. Butter a pie or pudding dish; sprinkle the bottom with fine crumbs; pour in the tomatoes, pepper, salt and sugar to taste; stick bits of butter among them, cover thickly with crumbs, and bake quickly to a light brown.

PRESSED CHICKEN:—The chicken should be nicely jointed, and put into a kettle with just enough water to cover. Cook until the meat will slip from the bone. When done, take out all the bones. Spread a napkin over a cake tin, and lay in the pieces of meat, alternating the dark and white meat. Fold the cloth over the top, and place over it another pan which will fit in to press upon the chicken. Place a heavy weight on the pan, and let it stand until cold.

ORANGE SHELLS:—Take a half dozen oranges, cut them with a sharp knife through the middle to form a cup-like shell, take a silver spoon and extract all the juice and pulp from each shell into a bowl or dish, then remove all the cells and stringy part, and throw it away; have dissolved in water one-third of a box of gelatine, stir sugar enough in orange juice to make it palatable, then add dissolved gelatine and set on back part of stove until melted, don't allow to get too hot, have the shells arranged on ice, level, then fill each shell with the mixture, and allow to congeal, serve each one with a shell with geranium leaf on top.

A good way to serve cold meat is to chop it fine, and add to it a bunch of finely chopped celery, and one tablespoonful of home-made mustard, one tablespoonful of melted butter, one teaspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of pepper, two hard boiled eggs, rubbed fine with a spoon, and lastly add half a cup of good vinegar.

HOW TO PREPARE SAUSAGE FOR SUMMER:—Grind and season as for present use; have a jar ready by the stove, then make into cakes and fry until the water is thoroughly out, then turn all into the jar, carefully adjusting the cakes, and so continue until done; then let it stand until cold; then melt fresh lard and pour over until it stands two inches above the cakes; now cover and put away as you do your lard. When using from the crock the grease that you take out with the cakes must be heated and returned to the jar, always keeping a smooth surface to prevent penetration of air, which will cause the fat to mold and thus become strong. This is not only a rare dish, but one that is always handy. It will keep a long time. I had some this morning as sweet and fresh as when prepared last January. When I get a surplus of grease in the jar I use it to fry chicken, potatoes, mush, etc. I like it better for these purposes than clear lard. Try it and I am sure you will not regret it. LIB M.



The contrast between a healthy, laughing, romping child and one that has all the movements of a grown person are painful to the student of nature. Your child is sick in these elements of perfect health, try Ridge's Food. It is perfectly safe. More children have been successfully reared upon Ridge's Food than upon all the other foods combined. Send to WOOL-RICH & CO., Palmer, Mass., for pamphlet for rearing children. Sent free to any address. Its perusal will save much anxiety.



We have made a Specialty since 1877 of giving as Premiums to those who get up Clubs or purchase Tea and Coffee in large quantities, Dinner and Tea Sets, Gold Band sets, Silverware, &c. &c. Teas of all kinds from 30 to 75 cents per pound. We do a very large Tea and Coffee business, besides sending out from 100 to 200 CLUB ORDERS each day. SILVER-PLATED CHINA and Premiums with \$1, \$2 and \$3 orders. WHITE TEA SETS with \$10 orders. DECORATED TEA SETS with \$13. GOLD-BAND or Moss-Rose SETS of 44 pieces, or DINNER SETS of 112 pieces with \$20 orders, and a HOST of other premiums. Send us postal and mention this publication, and we will send you 1. Illustrated PRICE and PREMIUM LIST. Freight charges average 75 cents per 100 lbs. G. E. L. LONDON TEA CO., 801 Was'ington St., Boston, Mass.

GRANULA

An Incomparable Food. Ready for IMMEDIATE USE. Unequalled for CHILDREN and INVALIDS. A delicate diet. Unsurpassed for constipation and dyspepsia. Sold by Grocers. Box by mail \$2. Our Home Granula Co., DANVILLE, N. Y., SOLE Manufacturers.



Give away as premiums to those forming clubs for the sale of their TEAS and COFFEES, Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets, Silverware, Watches, etc. WHITE TEA SETS of 46 and 68 pieces with \$10 and \$13 orders. Decorated TEA SETS of 44 & 66 pieces with \$12 and \$15 orders. STEM-WINDING SWISS WATCHES with \$15 orders. GOLD-BAND or Moss-Rose Tea Sets of 44 pieces, or White Dinner Sets of 112 pieces, with \$20 orders. Send us your address and mention this paper we will mail you our Club Book containing a complete Premium & Price List. THE GREAT CHINA TEA CO., 210 STATE ST., BOSTON, MASS.

For Bakings of All Kinds

—USE—

FLEISCHMANN & Co.'s UNRIVALED

Compressed Yeast.

SUPPLIED FRESH DAILY TO GROCERS' EVERYWHERE.

Special attention is invited to our YELLOW LABEL, which is affixed to every cake of our Yeast and serves to distinguish our goods from worthless imitations.

Fleischmann & Co.'s

Compressed Yeast

Is really the only leaven that will enable a cook to make first-class

BUCKWHEAT CAKES.

But be sure that you get OUR Yeast and not a spurious article.

FACTORY-DEPOT:—

1221 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

DOTY'S NEW WASHERS \$6

The original inventor of the famous "Doty Washing Machine" has just brought out a washer on an entirely new adaptation of the suction principle that quickly and easily takes out any "streak" in any garment without injuring a thread or button. It is called "DOTY'S YANKEE CLOTHES CLEANER," and it introduces the first order from any town will be filled for only \$6. We also have the sole manufacturer of the great improvement on the original principle, called "DOTY'S LIGHTNING WASHER." LABOR SAVERS, CLOTHES SAVERS! WOMEN SAVERS!! Great inducements to Agents. Get our circulars. DOTY WASHER CO., LA CROSSE, WIS.



NEW FASHIONS.

A WORD TO MOTHERS ABOUT BABIES.

Facts of Household Interest—The Best Wearing Shoes for Romps—Novel Lace Braid Trimming—Some new Materials and Styles for Making them Up.

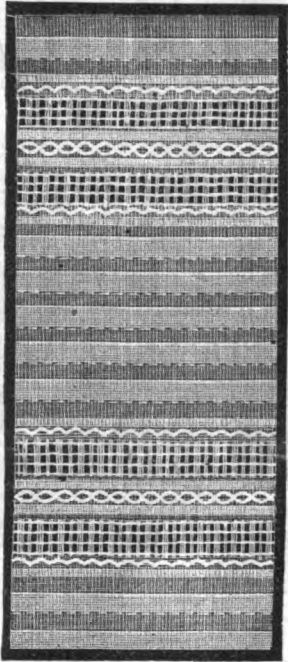
BY MRS. JAS. H. LAMBERT.

In the past it has given great pleasure to the editors of this journal to comply as far as possible with the requests of all correspondents, and now we venture to ask a favor of our readers, in whom we take a special interest.

We want a grand family picture gallery, and would so much like to receive photographs of the children of our subscribers; so please send pictures of all babies, say those of a month old, if they have been taken, up to boys and girls of five years of age.

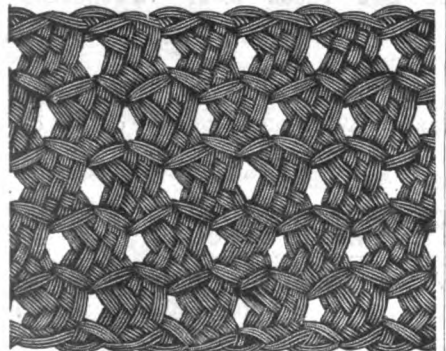
The chief attraction in some of our first-class dry goods, stores just now, consists of complete lines and full assortments of novelties in cotton goods; and never were satens, cambries, percales and foulards, more beautiful than they are this season.

In white goods the all-over lace and tuckings are particularly adapted to the family necessities, as these Kursheedt novelties have the lace figures and tucks woven in or on the same grade material which is to form the other parts of the garment.



These goods are labor-saving as they are self-decorative and not only form entire garments, but are much used for such portions as we once formed of inserting and tucks, such as yokes, panels, cuffs, and babies dresses.

A very convenient fashion is going to be exceedingly popular this season; it is that of having the costume made entirely of one material, the suit to include skirt with over drapery, basque, and jacket for outside garment, or wrap.



The basque is entirely without trimming save on sleeves, but the edges of the loose front jacket are all bordered with the attractive novelty.

If a lady desires to make her costume up without trimming, she can attain most satisfactory results by using the new boucle suitings from the G. H. Gilbert mills, which have the cloth body and a surface dotted with curls, so that being self decorative no trimming is needed.

In our article for next month we may venture to promise some decided novelties in dress fabrics, but they will not be any more serviceable, nor half so reasonable in price as those we note to-day.

Black goods are always handsome, and many ladies who are not in mourning, wear black in preference to colors. In silk and wool, and all wool dress fabrics, no goods have attained such

popularity as Priestley's, and this manufacturer has just introduced eight lighter weight fabrics than the celebrated Henriettas, the material scarcely warmer than silk muslin, being intended for mid-summer wear, as are some of the other veilings.

In order that our friends may know what to ask or write for, we give some of the names of Priestley's black goods. Clairette is a firm handsome goods with a deep mourning effect, and can be used as a substitute for the crape veil, without fear of injury, as dust brushes off from it, and dampness will not affect it.

A constant complaint of mothers is about the wearing out of shoes. Have they ever tried John Mundell's Solar Tip shoes, which are said to be so long wearing that mothers are always requested by dealers to get a size too large for the child, so it will not outgrow the shoe.

The inquiries lately received concerning the various styles of Ball's corsets are certainly indicative of the great interest taken in any article of apparel which combines the meritorious qualification of adding to the grace of its wearer, by allowing ease of motion, with attributes which tend to promote good health.

Another labor-saving novelty has just been introduced by Strawbridge & Clothier, Market and Eighth streets, Philadelphia, Pa. It is an odd looking miniature sewing machine, to be worked by hand, with a compressive motion, similar to that used in cutting out garments with large shears.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Mrs. P."—Your letter came after article for last month had gone to press, so sent your information by mail.

"Mrs. J. P., Ohio."—Either Demorest or Butterick will furnish patterns for complete outfits. It is Demorest who has the sewing machine for \$19.50.

"Constant Reader."—Khayyam suitings or serges come in a number of rich colors, such as garnet, blue, green, maroon, wine, ceru and drab, price \$1.25 a yard. You can get samples by writing to James McCreery & Co., corner 11th street and Broadway, New York.

"Country Millinery."—Write direct to the Kursheedt Manufacturing Co., 194 South Fifth Ave., New York, according to directions in their advertisement in this issue of L. H. J., and you will receive prompt attention to your request.

"Mrs. Lester."—We much prefer that you write direct to such stores as Sharpless Brothers, Le Boutilliers, and others advertised; however, we will give you any desired information, if stamps are enclosed in letter of advice.

"Mother."—Write to mail order department, Sharpless Brothers, for misses corsets. Send 90 cents, which is 10 cents cheaper than you can get them, even through us.

Have you read W. H. MAULE'S Seed Advertisement on 9th page? If not, why not read it!

SHARPLESS BROTHERS HAVE OPENED COMPLETE LINES OF COTTON DRESS GOODS

FOR SPRING AND SUMMER. Satens, Foular's, Cambries and Percalés; In New Ground Colors and Choice Effects.

SPECIAL BARGAINS FOR THE MONTH.

For Stylish and complete Costumes, ALL-WOOL BOUCLE SUITINGS, 42 inches wide, in navy blue, green, and four shades of brown; 75 cents a yard, worth \$1.25.

FOR HANDSOME DRESSES. Guinet and High Life Back Silks, \$1.00, and \$1.25 a yard. All-Silk Lyons Ottomans, various colors, 95 cents a yard.

ALL GOODS SENT FREE OF COST FOR TRANSPORTATION.

For Information, Estimates, and Samples, write to Mail Order Department, SHARPLESS BROTHERS, CHESTNUT AND EIGHTH STREETS, Philadelphia, Pa.

Read Fashion Article in this number of the LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, and please mention paper in letter of advice to Sharpless Bros.

TURKISH RUG Patterns. Catalogue Free. E. S. FROST & CO., 22 Tremont Row, Boston, Mass.

Le Boutillier Bros., Broadway & 14th St. New York. ESTABLISHED 1840.

DRY GOODS.

We employ a large force of experienced clerks, whose sole duty is to attend with care and promptness to

Mail Orders.

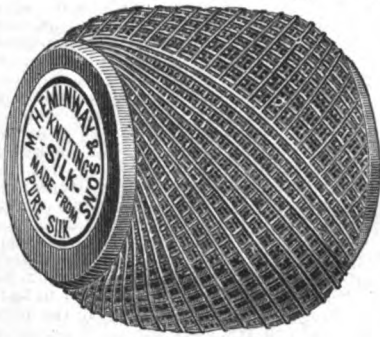
It pays to buy Dry Goods in New York. You get the lowest prices, the latest styles and largest stock to select from.

Write to us for samples, catalogue or information. Your letter will be answered; not thrown into the waste paper basket.

Complete Stocks of Silks, Velvets, Dress Goods, Cloakings, Hosiery, Underwear, Table Linens, Blankets, Laces, Embroideries, Passementaries, Ladies' Shoes, Upholstery, Suits, Wraps, Gloves, etc., etc.

Cut this out and put it in your scrap book. To avoid delay, address all Mail matter to Broadway and 14th St., New York.

M. HEMINWAY & SONS, Pure Dye Knitting Silk.



Manufacturers of JAPAN WASH SILK, JAPAN FILO FLOSS, And PURE DYE CROCHET SILK.

To introduce our specialties in silk, we will, for the next 60 days, mail our book on Art Embroidery, for 4 cents in stamps. Address:

M. HEMINWAY & SONS, 78 Reade St., New York.

INFANT'S OUTFITS.

A bonnet, yoke dress, borrow coat, or skirt, etc., 10 patterns in all, 50c. First short clothes, Hubbard dress, bonnet, stockings, etc., 10 patterns in all, 50c. For 20c., patterns coat and kilt skirt, age 4 yrs. Full directions for each. LILLA DROWN, box 780, Brattleboro, Vt.

WARREN'S

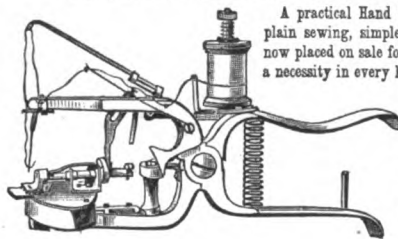


(Made from Quills).

The best Elastic Bone in the world for dresses and waists. Will not break, warp, or split. Perspiration or laundrying does not injure it.

WARREN FEATHERBONE COMPANY, Three Oaks, Mich.

A SEWING MACHINE FOR FIVE DOLLARS.



A practical Hand Sewing Machine (lock stitch) adapted to all kinds of plain sewing, simple in construction and not liable to get out of order, is now placed on sale for the first time; and it is believed will speedily become a necessity in every household.

KURSHEEDT'S STANDARD FASHIONABLE SPECIALTIES.

METROPOLITAN FASHIONS.

EVERY LADY who regards FASHION and ECONOMY, should send three cents in postage stamps for specimen number of DESCRIPTIVE ILLUSTRATIONS, which are issued quarterly, or twelve cents yearly subscription.

"Embroideries," "Laces," "Tuckings," "Braids," "Ruchings," "Appliques," Etc., Etc.

IMPORTANT !!

Ladies who desire to procure our Illustrated Fashion Sheets and Supplements, have only to cut out the following, and enclose stamps, (3 cents if for one issue, or 12 cents for a year's subscription) and send to the KURSHEEDT MANUFACTURING CO., NEW YORK CITY.

THE KURSHEEDT MANUFACTURING CO., NEW YORK CITY.

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me your Descriptive Publications containing the Illustrations of your Specialties and Novelties, for which, find enclosed, cents in postage stamps.

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ADDRESS.....





(FOR THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.) TALKS ABOUT FLOWERS.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

Plants for Baskets.

A fine plant, if suitable in style of growth, can be very effectively displayed on a bracket. I prefer to grow most drooping plants in ordinary pots which stand on brackets, rather than to use the



MESEMBRYANTHEMUM.

baskets or hanging vases sold for plants of this class, because it is so much easier to take them down when it is necessary to do so. Hang up a plant, and, because of the trouble it is to climb up after it, it will very often suffer neglect. Have it where you can get at it readily, and you will generally give it the attention it needs. Most hanging plants suffer from drouth. A little water soon evaporates, and if you apply much it is likely to run over the basket or vase, and the ground does not soak up enough to do much good. If pots are used, they need not be filled with earth to the top, as the shallow baskets must, if you would furnish the roots enough soil to grow in, and in potting "low" as florists say—that is, not filling the pot with earth clear to the top, you can apply enough water to thoroughly wet the soil, without having it run off.

One of the prettiest variegated plants for growing in a pot for a bracket is Mesembryanthemum variegatum. This plant has thick, fleshy leaves, edged with white. The old Ice Plant is a member of this family. The branches extend over the pot, and droop gracefully.



IVY-LEAF GERANIUM.

Another fine plant for this purpose is the Ivy-leaf Geranium. This variety has foliage of a pea-green, edged with white. Some of the growth is often suffused with pink and pale rose. The leaves are closely set along the drooping stalks, and if you pinch off the top and force it to grow bushy, the pot will soon be completely covered with branches and leaves.



TRADESCANTIA MULTICOLOR.

and healthy as the unvariegated kinds, and cannot bear the stimulation a rich soil would give

them. Be sure to sprinkle,—or, better, syringe, the underside of the leaves to keep the red spider in check.

Another good plant is Tradescantia multicolor. Every one is familiar with the old green Tradescantia, and most have seen, or grown, the variety in which the leaves are marked with olive and brown. This variety has stripes of pink, white and red running through the green of each leaf, and the effect is very bright and pleasing. It is a rapid grower, and requires the most ordinary care only. Give it plenty of water and keep the dust off its leaves, and that is all you need to do. It roots readily from branches.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Mary W." asks what to do with her Coleuses. She has a window in which Geraniums and Carnations grow well, and bloom well, but her Coleuses "just manage to live, and that is all." My advice would be, to throw them out of doors. The Coleus must have a warm, moist atmosphere in winter, and the window in which a Geranium flourishes is too cold for them. Give them the right temperature to grow in, and they are splendid additions to a collection. Unless you can give them such a temperature, they are nuisances, and the room they occupy might better be given up to other plants which will grow under the conditions in which you have attempted to grow them. If you wanted to winter them as stock from which to grow plants for next summer's use, you will find that it costs more, counting time given, and "fussing with them," than it would to buy all the plants you want, in spring, from a florist.

"Mrs. John McH."—This correspondent says her Geraniums bud, but the buds turn yellow, when half grown, and drop off. What ails them? I can't say, as she does not tell me anything about the treatment she gives them. Sometimes she may neglect to give them the water they need. This would be likely to cause the buds to blast. Perhaps the soil has been exhausted. Perhaps she over-waters them. If she grows this plant in a good soil, gives water, regularly, only when the surface of the soil has a dry look, and then in a sufficient quantity to thoroughly saturate the earth in the pot all through. I see no reason why she should fail to have flowers. It may be that the air of the room is too hot and dry. If so, set a vessel among them containing water to evaporate slowly, sprinkle all over daily, and keep a dish of water on the stove.

"Clarissa Potter" asks how to rid a Calla of a slug which she says is something like a fish scale. I have never seen anything on these plants which could be called a slug, but they are sometimes infested with the scale bug, which is probably what she refers to. This pest must be removed forcibly. On hard-wooded, firm-leaved plants I use an old tooth brush. On her Calla she can use a sponge. Dip it in soapsuds, and rub the leaves with sufficient force to dislodge the scale. After having cleaned it thoroughly, leaf by leaf, shower or syringe with clean water. There is no need of cutting off the leaves, as she was advised to do. Keep watch of the plant, and as soon as you see a scale, remove it. If it is given an occasional washing with soapsuds, I think she will find it easy to keep the pest away. If the slug is anything like those on Roses, dry hellebore dusted on them and the leaves will soon rot them.

For a covering to her arbor playhouse I know of nothing that will answer her requirements better than some of the climbing Gourds. They are vigorous growers, have large leaves which will furnish sufficient shade, and will, I think, stand the sun better than her Morning Glories did, though I do not see why she failed with these flowers if the ground was not allowed to get very dry. I have never known them to wilt in the afternoon, as she says her did, except in cases of drouth.

"Lizzie."—Give your Calla warm water daily—as warm as you can comfortably bear on the hand—and I think you will coax it to bloom.

"E. S."—Thanks for the article entitled "Concerning Roots and Stems." You begin by saying that you "take it for granted that persons interested in the practical culture of plants would like to know something about them," which is as much as to say that you take it for granted that they really know nothing about them, and then go on to tell that "roots might be thought to be designed solely to hold up plants in the soil, but such is not the case." You presume too much on the ignorance of the readers of the LADIES' HOME JOURNAL. I hardly think any of them are ignorant enough to think that roots merely "hold up" a plant.

"A Lover of Flowers."—If you want the best plants, of all kinds, at very reasonable rates, you can get them of Peter Henderson & Co., New York. Their bulbs are quite equal to those furnished by the agents of the foreign firm of which you speak, and are cheaper.

I would like to have every correspondent who writes to know what to do with a plant which does not flourish as it ought to, tell what sort of treatment it has had. Generally the fault is to be found in this, and knowing what care it has had, a diagnosis of its case can be arrived at, in most instances, without being obliged to guess at it.

Wm. Henry Maule, the enterprising seedsman of this city whose advertisement occupies half of this page, has recently taken possession of his five story warehouse, which he has had especially erected the past summer to meet the requirements of his rapidly increasing business. It is said to be the handsomest, as well as the most complete warehouse for conducting the mail order seed business, in the country, the entire five floors, as well as the basement, being occupied in supplying Maule's Seeds direct to market and private gardeners. Some idea of the immense proportions of Mr. Maule's business may be inferred from the fact that in 1885 over 220,000 copies of his Seed Catalogue were mailed to gardeners in every section of the country. We can cordially recommend Maule's Seeds to all our friends desiring to purchase either vegetable or flower seeds of superior quality.

HOW TO KEEP FLOWERS FRESH.

The great secret of keeping flowers fresh is to keep them moist and cool. The heads of sweet-scented flowers should not be sprinkled, as that causes them to lose their perfume. Those who wish to carry flowers any distance should wrap them in wet paper and pack them in a box. The heads of carnation pinks and delicate white flowers should be covered with oiled paper. Florists send flowers hundreds of miles by taking these simple precautions, and those receiving the lovely blossoms are delighted to find them apparently as fresh as when taken from the plants.—The Household.

MAULE'S New Invincible Strain of Half Dozen SUPERB FLOWERS.



MAULE'S INVINCIBLE ASTERS.—Saved from a magnificent collection of the very best known varieties by one of the most careful growers in all Europe. Flowers of unusual size and most varied coloring. Price per packet of 100 seeds, 15 cents each.

MAULE'S INVINCIBLE DOUBLE CARNATIONS.—From prize flowers, and with such a remarkable range of colors as to surprise every lover of this beautiful flower. Pkt., 15 cts

MAULE'S INVINCIBLE SWEET WILLIAM.

MAULE'S INVINCIBLE SWEET WILLIAM.—Embraces a truly choice selection of brilliantly colored flowers of unusual size. Pkt., 15 cts. MAULE'S INVINCIBLE VERBENAS.—Remarkably select and saved from the best varieties in existence. Unsurpassed, if equalled. All the above 15 cts. per pkt. of 100 seeds, or 1 pkt. of each sent postpaid for 60 cts.

Address all Orders (Stamps Taken) FOR SEEDS OF THESE SIX SUPERB FLOWERS, to Wm. Henry Maule, 1711 Filbert Street, Philadelphia.

\$350 A DOZEN OF MAULE'S SPECIALTIES FOR '86 MAMMOTH IRON-CLAD WATERMELON

is in every way the most desirable of all Melons. LARGEST; MOST DELICIOUS; BEST SHIPPER; MOST PRODUCTIVE. In the last two years I have offered \$200 for largest grown from my seed. Last year E. S. Mercer, Lawrence, Kan., secured the prize (\$100), with a mammoth weighing 108 3/4 lbs. This year I will pay November 1, 1886, \$50 for largest grown from my seed. In addition to having as fine large melons as have ever been seen in your neighborhood, if you send me an order you will also have the chance of securing \$50 November 1st. Don't lay down this paper before making up your mind you will try this famous watermelon. Packet, 15 cts.; oz., 25 cts.; lb., \$2.00, postpaid. Among my other specialties for 1886, I would also mention MAULE'S EARLIEST OF ALL DWARF BEAN. I guarantee this bean to be earlier than any you have ever had. Matures a crop in 40 days from planting, and besides is wonderfully productive. I offer \$50 for the containing greatest number of pods raised in 1886. If you want beans long before your neighbors this is what you want. Pkt., 15 cts.; pint, 50 cts. MAULE'S PERFECTION MUSKMELON leads all in luscious flavor, while flesh is so thick that there is scarcely room for the seeds. I also offer \$50 for largest grown in 1886. No words of praise can be written that would recommend Perfection too highly. Pkt., 15 cts.; oz., 25 cts. POTIRON FUMKIN. The largest grown. If you want to secure the prize at your county fair next Fall, this is what you want to plant. J. H. Branson, Manilla, Ind., received \$100 from me in 1885 for raising one weighing 190 lbs. This year I offer \$50 for largest pumpkin from my seed. Pkt., 15 cts.

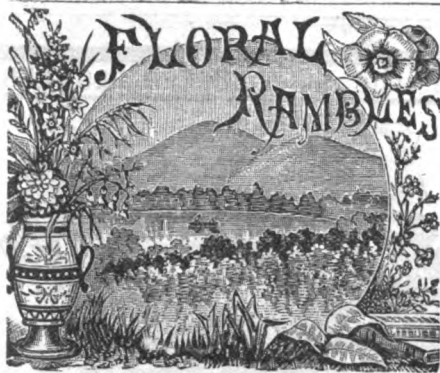
MAMMOTH SILVER KING ONION. Largest and finest, weighing 2 to 4 lbs. first year; from seed. Have supplied 25,000 gardeners with seed of this onion in the last two years. C. J. Ostranda, Salmon City, Idaho, secured \$50 for raising one last season, weighing 3 lbs. 10 ounces. I again offer \$50 for largest raised in 1886. Pkt., 15 cts.; oz., 40 cts. MAULE'S GENUINE SURE-HEAD CABBAGE. Absolutely the best. Always heads even when others fail. \$50 for largest grown in 1886. You neglect your own interest should you fail to sow it. Pkt., 10 cts.; oz., 40 cts.; lb., \$4.00. NEW CORY SWEET CORN. The earliest of all. 5 to 10 days ahead of Marblehead. Pkt., 15 cts.; pint, 40 cts., postpaid. GOLDEN POP CORN. Surpasses all others, especially in remarkable tenderness when popped. Pkt., 15 cts. GOLDEN SELF-BLANCHING CELERY. Needs no banking, and ahead of every other variety at present cultivated. Pkt., 15 cts. ETAMPES CABBAGE. 10 days earlier than any other; heads every time. Pkt., 10 cts.; oz., 30 cts. MAULE'S IMPROVED HANSON LETTUCE. Absolutely best of all. \$25 for heaviest head grown by one of my customers in 1886. Pkt., 15 cts. each. IMPROVED STUTTGART RADISH. Produces fine radishes 5 weeks from sowing. \$25 will be paid November 1, 1886, for largest sent me. Pkt., 10 cts.; oz., 15 cts.; lb., \$1.25.



One Packet of each of the above will be sent postpaid to any address on receipt of \$1.00, or one packet each of any 5 varieties sent postpaid for 50 cents. (Stamps Taken.)

My new Seed Catalogue, of which over 225,000 have been already mailed, will be sent with each order, whether ONE PACKET or A DOZEN are taken. Address All Orders to Wm. Henry Maule, 1711 Filbert Street, Philadelphia.





[FOR THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.] TALKS ABOUT FLOWERS.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

Mrs. H. has a small bay-window, she writes, in which she wants to grow some vines less rank than the Ivy. She wants to know what to get.



LYGODIUM SCANDENS.

One of the best slender growing vines is Lygodium Scandens, a sort of climbing Fern from Japan. It has very neat, pretty foliage, borne on small, wiry stems. It will run from fifteen to twenty feet, and is a most charming, delicate-leaved plant. It likes a rich, light soil, in which a good deal of sand is incorporated, so that plenty of water can be given without any danger of its retention, as would be the case in a heavy soil where much water is given,—the consequence of which would be "souring," which would result in diseased roots. This plant should be given good drainage; if this is done, and the soil is light and porous, water should be given every day,—enough to run out at the bottom of the pot. It is not a plant requiring direct sunshine. In fact, it will grow finely in complete shade. It should be given a wire, bent in irregular twists and shapes to cling to, and twine itself out and in among, in order to produce the best effect. The wire will hardly be detected among its branches, which, as I have said, are wiry in appearance, and the plant will seem to be self-supporting, and will have none of the stiff, firm look it would have, if trained on strings, or fastened up as vines usually are. When it reaches the top of the window, it can be allowed to droop, or be festooned across the ceiling. Sprinkle all over daily.

Another delicate-leaved vine is Campsidium Filicefolium. This is closely allied to the Fern family. The leaves are finely divided, and freely produced all along the branches. The treatment should be the same as that given the Lygodium. These two vines will, I think, answer all requirements. They are more airy and delicate in appearance than any other vines I can recommend, and they are easily grown.

T. H. G. writes: "I have a narrow window about which I have trained English Ivy. It has a northern exposure. I want some plant which will do well in shade, to grow in a vase, by itself. What shall I get?"

I would advise the Maranta. This plant does better out of the sun than when exposed to it. It has large, oblong leaves, produced from a fleshy root. These leaves are beautifully variegated. M. Zebrina is the most robust and healthy variety. This has dark, rich green markings, extending from the mid-rib to the edge of the leaf. These markings are velvety in appearance, and give the plant a charming effect. In a good specimen, there will be dozens of these leaves, standing up about a foot from the pot, with smaller leaves at the base. It pro-



MARANTA.

pagates itself by suckers or offshoots from the crown of roots, and if these are allowed to grow, there will soon be a large cluster of them. The

leaves spread out from the center, thus producing a very fine appearance when the plant grows by itself, and has a chance to develop without crowding. The leaves can be washed readily with a sponge or soft cloth. It likes a rich, loamy soil to grow in, and in order to grow it to perfection, the pot or vase should be large, as the roots are strong.

May 8.—You may succeed with the Neapolitan Violets, if your window for them is cool, but it must be very cool, indeed, to have them do well. They like a temperature not much above freezing, doing much better in it than in a warmer air. In this respect they are like the Pansy, which always gives its finest bloom in spring and late fall. In a dry air, the Violet will be almost sure to be troubled with the red spider, but you can keep this pest down by dipping the plant in water, daily. You might succeed with it if you kept the plants in some room opening off the sitting room, where the air could be kept moderately cool. If cold enough, at night, to freeze them, they could be placed somewhere over night where they would not be in danger of freezing, and replaced in the cool window in the morning. If you do coax them to bloom you will be amply repaid for all trouble, by the wonderful fragrance each flower gives out. I have tried them in the house, invariably without success, as the plants would make a rapid, weak growth, and the buds would blast. A pit, or cold frame, suits them exactly. In any of these they can be kept in bloom the greater share of winter, but it is too late to construct anything of that sort now. Another season you might try it, if your trial with them in the house proves a failure, as I fear it will.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Mrs. M. E. Simmons."—In answer to your inquiry about growing the Salvia, I would say that I am unable to make out, from your query, whether you refer to house or out-door culture. If the former, I reply: The Salvia is not a good house plant unless you keep the red spider down by frequent syringings with tepid water. The under side of the leaves must be wet. In living rooms the air is generally so dry that the spider will attack the plant before you are aware of its presence, and the first you know the leaves turn yellow and fall off. Give a light, rather sandy soil, with plenty of drainage. With these attentions it makes a good plant for the window. Out door it requires very ordinary treatment. I never try to grow it from seed, preferring to buy small plants. Let the soil be rich, mellow and warm, and the plants will make rapid growth and bloom well. I presume the difficulty you have had has been because you have tried to grow your plants from seed, and the season has not been long enough for them.

All letters of inquiry intended for Floral department should be addressed to Eben E. Rexford, Shiocton, Wis.

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How To Grow STRAWBERRIES And Other Fruits. E. D. PUTNEY, Brentwood, N. Y. BEST OF PLANTS AT FAIR PRICES.

SEEDS, A Special Offer. Send 25 cents and five names of ladies interested in Flowers, and we will send you 7 packets of choice Flower Seeds, and 1 packet of our "Wild Garden" Seeds, for the names; also, our Book of Flowers to all. Send Postal note or stamps. Mention this paper. HARRY CHAAPEL, Williamsport, Pa.

A Package of Cotton Seed, with instructions how to cultivate in Northern gardens, or as a window plant. 10c. MISS NELLIE GREEN, Toccoa, Georgia. READER! If you love Rare Flowers, Choicest Onions, address: ELLIS BROTHERS, Keene, N. H. It will astonish and please you. FREE!

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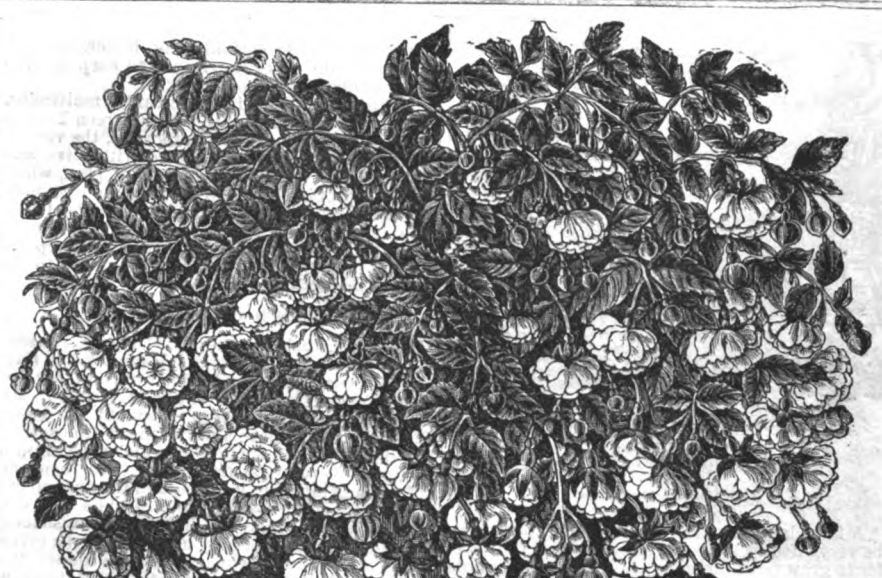
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of Chicago, has been purchased by GEN' C. H. HOWARD, late Editor and Publisher of The Advance, Chicago, and JAS. W. WILSON, late Business Manager of the Western Rural. It is now published Weekly, and is the most widely circulated Weekly Agricultural and Family Journal in America. It contains sixteen neatly printed four-column pages of reading matter, edited by experienced and practical writers, covering all the departments of Farm Life, The Household, Market Reports, the News, Choice Stories, etc.

PRICE \$1.50 A YEAR. In order to secure new subscribers, its new publishers have hit upon the happy expedient of giving 20 Packets of Seeds to every person who subscribes, all rare and choice varieties, gathered from the best special sources of this country and Europe, or grown for this purpose by Mr. Wilson of the firm, who is an experienced seedsman. Send for a free sample copy with particulars, and description of seeds. HOWARD & WILSON PUB. CO., Chicago, Ill.



NEW PERPETUAL FLOWERING FUCHSIA "STORM KING"

This new Double Perpetual-Flowering Weeping Fuchsia, "Storm King," is the grandest plant novelty in many years. It is always in bloom, often as many as 200 buds and blossoms on a plant at once. The branches droop most gracefully, and the blossoms are frequently as large as teacups. The buds for two weeks before they expand are balls of glowing scarlet crimson. When expanded, the enormous double flowers are almost pure white, capped by a calyx of glowing scarlet; and when a plant is loaded with buds and blossoms it presents a sight which for true grandeur and beauty no flower can surpass. They are of the easiest culture and will grow and bloom freely with ordinary care in any window or garden. Price of strong plants which will soon bloom, by mail, post-paid, 50 cts. each, 3 for \$1.00, 7 for \$2.00, 12 for \$3.00. We pack secure from frost and warrant them to arrive in good order. Form Clubs for this grand Fuchsia. See the low price at which they can be secured by the dozen.

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Our new Imperial German Pansies have created a sensation and are the floral wonder of the times. Flowers of enormous size, with colors and markings entirely new and of marvelous beauty (see catalogue). They bloom from May to December; always large and profuse through the dry, hot weather of Summer when other sorts fail. Mixed seed of over 50 distinct colors. 25 cts. per paper. We have 40 distinct colors separate, such as pure white, black, yellow, blue, spotted, &c., at 25 cts. per paper.

We also send 12 large flowering bulbs of Double Pearl Tuberoses for \$1.00; 5 fine hardy Lilies, including Auratum, 75 cts.; 12 choice mixed Gladioli, 50 cts.; 4 beautiful Ten Roses—white, red, yellow and pink, 30 cts.; 4 Chrysanthemums or 4 Carnations, 50 cts. See our large, beautiful catalogue, free to all, for other special offers. They are exactly as represented, and will more than please those guaranteed to arrive in good condition. They are exactly as represented, and will more than please those who plant them: Many years of liberal and honest dealings have secured to us our great business, extending to all parts of the world. Orders can be sent at once. The white Pansies are magnificent for cemeteries. SEEDS, BULBS and PLANTS.—Our large, beautifully illustrated catalogue sent free to all who Seeds, Gladioli, Lilies, Amaryllis, Roses, Carnations, Geraniums, Clematis, &c. Preserve this advertisement as it may not appear again, and remember that our goods have an established reputation and are warranted true. See catalogue which will be sent free to any who purchase or expect to. Address: JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Floral, Queens Co., N. Y.

N. B.—Remittance can be made in money orders, Postal Notes, Bills, Drafts, or Stamps. To those who order, or expect to, we will send free, with our elegant catalogue, beautiful colored chromos of Storm King Fuchsia, Swanley White Violet, and German Pansies. Also, for every dollar's worth ordered from this establishment, the buyer can have free a paper of PURE WHITE or PURE BLACK German Pansy Seed.

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**(FOR THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.)  
HOW SOME LITTLE PEOPLE MADE  
THEMSELVES USEFUL.**

**PART I.**

Rob Livingston had just returned from a visit to his Aunt and Uncle Beverly's, and had had a happy time with his cousins, Johnnie and May. When Rob's sister Mabel coaxed him to tell her of his visit, as they sat a few minutes together soon after his arrival, he declared that he couldn't tell her anything about it until his papa came home.

"For I've a plan, Mabel, and papa must hear it, too. I will tell you altogether, after supper. It's something cousin Johnnie has been doing, and he earned enough money to buy all of his school books for this year. That's what I'm going to try to do; but papa must hear, for I shall need his help."

Mabel was very enthusiastic over what Rob had to tell, for, she said, "What cousin John can do brother Rob can do, and it will help papa so much. School books for both of us costs a great deal." The children had, from their earliest childhood been taught to help their parents in every way they could, and many, many steps they saved their mother by running errands willingly and promptly whenever asked; and although their parents were in very comfortable circumstances, and could provide their children with everything they needed, they had taught them the truth of the old saying "What is worth having is worth working for."

Mabel, so full of Rob's plan that was to be unfolded to them all that evening, ran down to the gate as her father came home, saying:

"Oh Papa! Rob's come home; he is going to entertain us this evening by telling us of some work cousin John has been doing, by which he made money enough to buy all his school books. Rob wants to try it. Wouldn't it be nice if he could do as well?"

"It would, indeed," answered papa. "But what did Johnnie do?"

"Rob wouldn't tell me, but made me wait until after supper, when he could tell us altogether; for, he said, he needed your help," said Mabel.

"Well, wait and see, little daughter," said papa, as they were joined by Rob himself, who was very glad to get back home again, and glad to see his father.

After the supper had been cleared away, and the family had sat down for a quiet evening together, Mr. Livingstone said:

"Well, my son, Mabel tells me that you have something to say to us about some work cousin (CONTINUED ON PAGE 13.)"

A treasure of interesting matter—the new LADIES' BOOK. Beautifully printed with illustrations on cream super-calendared paper, all sent postpaid, with pretty picture card and other interesting enclosures, for only four cents in stamps, by addressing the old reliable house of R. H. McDONALD & Co., N. Y. City.

**ETCHERS AND ETCHING.**

It is not unusual among the uninitiated to hear the term etching applied to pretty little vignettes drawn with the pencil or pen. This is incorrect; etching is not an effect, but a process. To produce an etching the artist takes a plate, usually of copper, and coats it with a preparation of wax and other ingredients. Upon this ground he draws his subject with a sharp-pointed instrument in such a manner that each scratch will expose the copper, and in exactly the same manner as if he were making a pen-drawing. He then immerses the plate in dilute nitric acid, to the end that the uncovered portion or scratched lines may be bitten or eaten into by the acid. This is a rude description of the process, but there are many modifications and peculiar methods used by individual artists. The most important of these is what is known as Dry Point, the effect of which is to give a velvety richness, when printed, to certain portions of the work.

The printing of an etching is an operation requiring much artistic skill, as the plates depend largely for their effect upon the manner in which they are inked. It is for this reason that many etchers print their own plates.

The prints are made on drawing paper and vellum paper, but proofs are usually drawn on paper imported from Japan, made principally from the cocoons of the silk-worm.

Etchings, unlike steel engravings, can not be printed in very great numbers, and have a commercial value of from ten to one hundred dollars, and even more.

While we must admit that we have no names to put into competition with the two or three great reproductive etchers of Europe (that is, those who reproduce well known paintings by means of etching), perhaps in no country in the world has more original, free, creative etching been produced than in the United States. Among the number of men who have done good work in this direction is J. A. S. Monks, the etcher of several well-known plates, such as "In an Old Pasture," "The Hillside," "The Mountain-Top," etc.; the premium plate for the Magazine of Art, and plates in the published collections named respectively "American Etchers" and "Recent American Etchings."

Mr. Monks' last work is a plate, 11 x 8 1/2 inches, made for Messrs. Procter and Gamble, and printed on Japanese paper. The subject is a flock of sheep in an old pasture, with farm buildings in the distance; the time of day in the gloaming, just before nightfall. There is an air of expectancy about the sheep as though they awaited the coming of the shepherd, and felt some anxiety on account of their offspring.

Mr. Monks is well and favorably known for his excellent drawing of sheep. The plate is full of poetry, and the movement and grouping are both alike, excellent.

White's Self Adjusting Toaster and Broiler is a new and complete improvement over the old method. Placed over the fire in such a manner that it is constantly level with the coals, and yet all the smoke and fumes arising from the cooking are carried off in the draught, thus all unpleasant odors are kept from the kitchen. Constructed from the very best of material, with the bars fastened in such a way that it is impossible for them to slip or become loose, this toaster will prove one of the most durable, as well as useful utensils ever placed in a kitchen. It is self-adjusting, and so simple in operation that a child might use it, and yet the work be done as well as by experienced hands. These broilers can only be purchased of G. S. White, of Danbury, Conn., who is sole proprietor, but all communications sent to him will receive prompt and personal attention. Send for a descriptive circular. (See advertisement in another column.)

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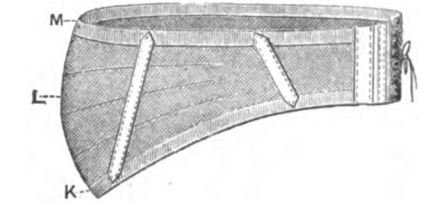
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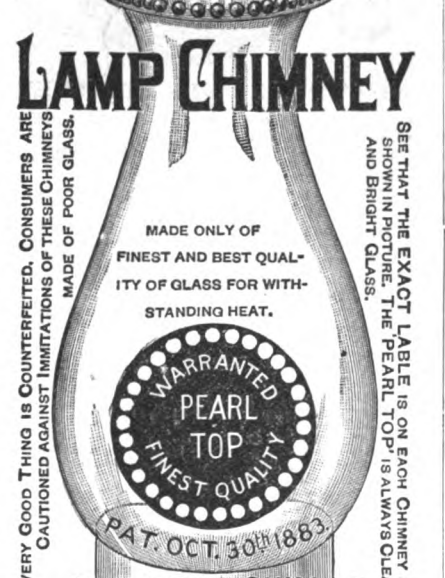
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By its aid the hair, beard or moustache can be curled any desired style in from one to two minutes. For ladies it produces the "Langtry Style," the "Patti Bang," the "Montague Curl," and any other form desired by ladies wearing their hair in the fashionable "loose and fluffy" mode. Gentlemen's moustaches and beards curled for the day in a few seconds. A beautiful article; handle of rosewood, other part nickel-plated.

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**The IVORY Soap**

· SOUVENIR FOR 1886 ·

**IS THE ETCHING** Referred to in another

column under the head of "Etchers and Etching." The only lettering on it is the impression of Mr. Monks' signature and the small fac-simile of a cake of Ivory Soap in faint outline as shown here.



We will send the etching by mail for fifty-four cents, to cover expense of packing and postage.

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Write your name and full address as plainly as possible.

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Combining a Parlor, Library, Smoking, Reclining or Invalid CHAIR, LOUNGE, BED, or COUCH.  
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Weight 4 3/4 lbs. No glass to break. Will boil a quart of water more quickly than kerosene can be found to generate a fire in a range. For dress-makers' use they are invaluable. Send to any address in the U. S., express prepaid, on receipt of \$2.00. Send for catalogue of larger "FLORENCE" OIL STOVES.  
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**100 SONGS** and the Best Story Paper in the world 3 months, Free to all who send 3 cent stamps for postage. Address Social Visitor, Boston, Mass.

Sent on Trial, Postpaid.



How Some Little People Made Themselves Useful.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12).

Johnnie has been doing. Tell us about it, Rob. What is it?"

"It's expressed in two words, Papa, and they are, 'Walnut Traffic.' That's what cousin John calls it. I'll tell you what he has done."

"Last fall, just as the first heavy frosts, when the nuts were falling right lively, he took a big farm wagon, and went out into the woods, prepared to stay the whole day and gather walnuts. These he hulled out in the woods. He took a hatchet along, to knock the hulls off easily. He told me that they were more easily hulled if you leave them a few days."

"After they were hulled he hauled them home and spread them out upon the ground, and left them until they had been thoroughly washed off by a good rain. After the rain the sun came out, and in a few hours the outside of the nuts were dry enough to handle without staining the hands."

"It wouldn't have made much difference if he had stained his hands a little more, for they must have been as black as night, anyway, after hulling a wagon load of walnuts," said Mabel, who was inclined to treat the affair as a joke.

"I forgot to say that the work of heavy gloves while he was hulling them, and his hands were as clean as mine are," answered Rob, showing his hands.

"Might have been that, and yet not been very clean," replied Mabel.

"Hush Mabel, and let Rob go on with his story," said mamma. "For one I am interested. But Robbie, walnuts are so plenty here, that the grocers seldom pay over fifty cents a bushel for them, and it is so much work for so little."

"But, Mamma, I'm just coming to the interesting part."

"It's time, surely," put in Mabel.

"When they were dry enough to handle, he gathered them up, and carried them to the barn. I can't tell how long he was gathering them, but he had two bushels when they were dry."

"He then cracked them; picked the kernels carefully to get out all bits of shell; boxed them up and sent them to a confectioner in Chicago. He had eighty pounds of kernels, and he got fourteen cents a pound for them, which made him about eleven dollars."

"Eleven dollars!" echoed Mabel. She was becoming interested.

"Eleven dollars!" said papa. "Why surely, my son, that is a bright idea. But would you find ready sale for them? What do the dealers use them for?"

"For the walnut candy we all like so well. It's quite fashionable in the city, Johnnie says."

"And Johnnie was right. In almost all cities and towns this candy is exposed for sale at a very high price, and the walnut kernels are always in demand."

Johnnie's walnuts yielded only a fair quantity of kernels, and sold for only an ordinary price. They will, sometimes, go as high as twenty cents a pound, and sometimes as low as ten cents.

Suppose some of my little readers try Johnnie's plan, too, and see what they can do towards buying their own school books, or a Christmas present for papa, mamma or sister.

PART II.

"Papa," said Mrs. Livingston to her husband, as they sat at dinner one day a few weeks before Christmas, "Suppose we get Mabel a pair of canaries for a Christmas present. Since Rob has done so well with his walnuts, Mabel seems quite impatient for some kind of employment. I have thought ever since my visit to cousin Anna, two years ago, when I saw how well she was getting old enough to attend to them she should have some too; and I believe she is old enough now. You know cousin Anna makes quite a little sum of money every year by raising birds. I know Mabel would like the work, and it would be so interesting to watch their development and growth; besides it would encourage self-dependence in the child, by placing money in her own hands."

The result of this conversation was that Mabel received on Christmas day a handsome bird, yellow male bird, and a little green female, who carried herself with a style which indicated that when the proper season came she would be ready and willing for business.

A letter written by Mrs. Livingston to cousin Anna a week before, asking her to give Mabel some instruction upon the care of canaries, brought the following answer:

DECEMBER 25, 18--

"MY DEAR LITTLE COUSIN:—Your mamma writes me that you are to receive a pair of canaries (CONTINUED ON PAGE 15.)"

THE CHRISTMAS ROSE.

This plant, though rare here, is commonly grown in England. The Christmas Rose consists of five large white sepals, which are delicately tinged with pink, and are very handsome. The flowers are like city garden in bloom in winter, about the holidays, as profusely as do the Potentilla in Summer, and all the care they get is a soap box with a pane of glass on top.

The frame is put over the plant about the first of December, and a little dirt thrown around it; besides, which is all the care required to produce flowers of the greatest beauty, at a season when they are, or should be, greatly appreciated. It will grow in any soil or situation; but it prefers a dry soil and a situation open to the sun.

As a window plant it is very ornamental and should be in every collection. You can get one of Frank Finch, of Clyde, N. Y., for 50 cents, or three for \$1.25. When writing to Mr. Finch always mention LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.

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to the SKIN  
FLESH COLOR  
removes all pimples, freckles  
and discolorations,  
and makes  
the skin delicately soft.

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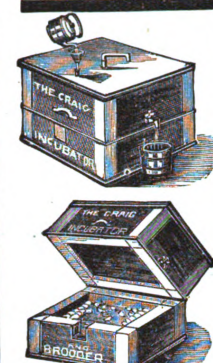
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See Dec. Number for list of Premiums!

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With the Most Perfect and Successful Imitation of the Hen. Simplicity itself. No lamps to explode. No batteries, clockwork, regulators, egg-drawers, or other contrivances to get out of order. No cost of fuel. Hatches all fertile eggs.



EARLY HATCHED CHICKS Sell at from 50c to \$1 per Pound.

It is also a Brooder and will care for the chicks as long as they need artificial heat, thus saving expense of special brooder. Both as an incubator and as a brooder it is unsurpassed by any machine, no matter what the cost, and is the safest, cheapest and most easily managed candidate for public favor. The Craig Incubator can be run with profit at any season. Any first-attempter at artificial hatching the first time. It hatches in from 18 to 24 days, and equals the best work of the hen.

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For years the Household Department has been enriched by articles from "Maida McL.", "Christie Irving," "Hope Holiday," "Helper," and other ladies familiar with every part of a well-kept house, from the kitchen to the parlor, and they will continue to give in their departments, attractive articles, illustrated by clear, easily-followed engravings. The December list issue had among other illustrations:

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These flower seeds are put up in well-filled packets, and wrapped in bundles, each containing several varieties; they are guaranteed to be first-class in every respect; the same that seedmen sell for more than \$1.00. On the whole the consist of a careful selection of the very best varieties for ordinary garden culture, and will make a superb and brilliant display from June until long after frost. With but little attention you can produce all the cut flowers and bouquets desired, during the Spring, Summer and Autumn months. They are what our conviction and experience tell us will result most acceptably to all. Last season we sent out thousands of premium flower seed packages, every one of which gave the greatest and most unqualified satisfaction, which we can prove by innumerable testimonials at present on file in our office. Remember, these seeds are sent only to those who send us four subscribers, at 25 cents each per year.

THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, Philadelphia, Pa.

### BEAUTIFUL ROSES FOR ALL!

By a special arrangement with one of the largest and best rose growers in the country, we are able to offer our readers some splendid Premiums in Roses, for subscribers to the JOURNAL; and as this is a plant that interests every lady in the land, we hope our friends will rally at once, and help us secure our desired quantity of 30,000. Let every one who now is a subscriber, endeavor to get at least a dozen new friends on our list, and we will guarantee you some of the finest and best of Flora's Queen—the Rose. These plants are all well grown, and are in the best of condition, and will be sent, postpaid, with directions for care, with every package. Those of our Roses have been used in this way, and we have reason to be very confident that the florist sends with each package, you may have beautiful rose buds cut from your own plants next summer without any cost to you, ever sent out for the money. Do not delay, but do your share to swell our list to 30,000. This number we want very early in the New Year. Christmas and New Year's are over, and everybody is ready to get down to active work again, and so the mail bags of Uncle Sam will be burdened with thousands of packages of lovely Roses destined to give light and cheer to many, many homes throughout our land. How many roses do you want? How many subscribers can you send us? Just see these splendid offers. Not one of our lady readers can afford to lose this opportunity to add to their stock of flowers.

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 For a club of 12 subscribers, at 25 cents a year, we will send 10 Roses.  
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 These are the best offers we have ever made, and we want every friend of the JOURNAL to do their best. Send in your lists now. Here is what the florist says of the roses he will send you: "We guarantee our plants to be the best you have ever had from any establishment in the country for the money. We guarantee safe arrival and satisfaction in each and every case. DIRECTIONS FOR CARE AND CULTURE sent with every order."  
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 Go to work now, and very soon we will be able to tell you that we have our Two Hundred Thousand Subscribers, and what a grand lot of roses are blooming all over our land in the homes of our readers. Show this offer to your friends.

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### 200 Illustrations.

The knitting stitches illustrated and described are: To Cast On with One and Two Needles—To Narrow—To Widen—To Cast Off—To Slip a Stitch—Round Knitting—To Join Together—Fage Stitch. PATTERNS.—Peacock's Tail—Vandyke—Looped Knitting—Cable Work—Leaf and Trellis—Triangular Kilted—Gothic—Coral—Knotted Stitch—Diamond—Wave—able Twist—8 files, etc.  
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With this outfit ladies can do their own sewing, and can do their own embroidery, Kensington, or Lustra painting, or they can do stamping for others at a profit. The patterns in the outfit are made of the best quality government parchment, and can be used a thousand times before they are worn out. We mean the parchment, not the felt. Velvet, Plush or any other material, so they cannot be rubbed off.

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Special offers in table covers, scarfs, and square covers made of felt and embroidered on each end or in each corner, to be thrown over tables, work-stands, &c.; are now among the most popular pieces of fancy work. They are very ornamental and easy to finish. These table covers are sold at the stores at from \$1 to \$2 each, but by a special arrangement we can make the following great offer: We will send a table scarf 18 inches wide and 50 inches long, made of any color felt, desired, with designs of your own choosing, either for Kensington embroidery, Ribbon work, Tinsel or Outline embroidery. Given for only 8 subscribers, or 80 cents. For 15 cents extra we will send 25 skeins of silk, assorted colors, with which to work the designs.

These elegant Tidy are 14 x 18 inches in size, are made of the very best quality of Felt, and the same as are sold in all the stores at from 40c to 50c each. You can select the color of felt you like, and have it stamped with any design you wish, either for Kensington or Outline or Ribbon Embroidery, all ready to be embroidered. With these Tidies we give a book which teaches the different stitches used in Art Embroidery, and also an explicit description as to be easy understood; and also a lesson in Kensington and Lustra painting. We will send one of these Tidies and the Book of Stitches, for a club of only 4 subscribers, or 35 cents.

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These Linen Tidies are a better quality than have ever offered before. They are made of fine linen Crepe or Momic cloth, 14x18 inches in size, fringed on all four sides with heavy fringe two inches deep, and stamped as desired. We bought several cases of these tidies direct from the importing house, and procured them at a wonderful bargain. They are sold at the stores at 50c to 75c each; we will give you one of them if you will procure only 6 subscribers.

TIDY NO. 10 is the same as No. 9, but has a row of drawn work on all sides. We will give you this tidy stamped, for only 8 subscribers.

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This is a very popular, useful and pretty piece of fancy work to throw over the side-board or a dressing case or bureau. It is made of the finest quality of crepe linen, 16 inches wide and 65 inches long, with fancy woven border all round, and fringed ends. We send this scarf stamped on each end similar to the illustration, for a club of only 20 subscribers.

## TIDIES STAMPED READY TO BE WORKED.

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These elegant Tidies are 14 x 18 inches in size, are made of the very best quality of Felt, and the same as are sold in all the stores at from 40c to 50c each. You can select the color of felt you like, and have it stamped with any design you wish, either for Kensington or Outline or Ribbon Embroidery, all ready to be embroidered. With these Tidies we give a book which teaches the different stitches used in Art Embroidery, and also an explicit description as to be easy understood; and also a lesson in Kensington and Lustra painting. We will send one of these Tidies and the Book of Stitches, for a club of only 4 subscribers, or 35 cents.

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**How Some Little People Made Themselves Useful.**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13.)

for your present-to-day. She asks me to give you some help in taking care of them, as she considers me an authority upon such points. You will agree that I ought to be, when I raised about two dozen little birdies during the past season, and received for them over seventy-five dollars.

"In the first place, Mabel, buy the best seed. It should consist of canary, rape, millet and maw seeds. The canary is a whitish, oblong seed; the millet and rape are much alike in size; the rape is a bright brown; the millet about the color of the canary; the maw seed is a very small bluish black seed. The mixture should be bright and glossy, indicating that it is fresh and healthy. Select a time in the morning when you can attend to them with the least trouble to yourself. Let it not be later than eight o'clock. First, give them a bath dish of water, (it should have the chill taken off at this time of year). After they have used this remove the damp paper on the bottom; replace by a clean one; wash the perch; put a teaspoonful of fresh seed in the seed cup; wash thoroughly the water vessel; fill it up again, and hang the cage in its accustomed place, which should be near the window. Keep a piece of cuttle-fish bone in the cage constantly, and a vessel of red gravel, which can be bought from your dealer in birds. Once a week give a piece of good juicy apple. Don't feed them with cake, sugar, or candy. If you treat your birdies as I directed you will keep them in perfect health, your male bird will sing sweetly all day long, and they will both be ready for the business of raising a family, by the middle of February. At that time I will write you further how to proceed.

"I do hope, Mabel, you will do well with them, for bird raising is my hobby, and I wish every woman and every little girl could know how much they could make at it if they would but try. Many a poor child could enjoy a pleasure that they are now deprived, and many a poor mother could provide for suffering children, if she knew of this light work to be done at home, which takes so little of time from other employment and makes such a liberal return. Wishing you success, I am your cousin, "ANNA."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

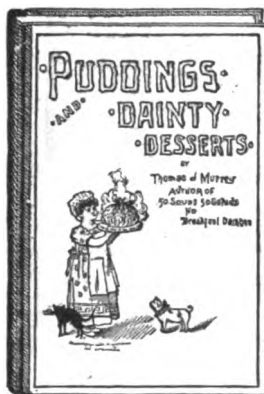
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[FOR THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.]  
MILDRED'S CONVERSATION CLASS.

NO. V.

BY MRS. EMMA C. HEWITT.

"Well, here we are again, ladies and gentlemen!" exclaimed the incorrigible Phillippa Roland, as the class met for "Conversation" at the appointed time. "Now, I'm not going to wait for any nonsense. I'm going to begin right at once," said Georgia Garrett, to whose turn the letter had fallen this week.

"I think you would better," spoke up Mildred, "and then if we want to do any talking we can do it afterwards."

"Miss Wilson advised us in the beginning to read some book," said Ida Gleason, "but for my part I don't just see when we would find time to put it in."

"We have about all we can do to get Miss Wilson's letters read and digested, as far as I can see," answered Mildred.

"I have a faint suspicion that I don't digest all mine. I'm afraid doses of English Grammar don't agree with me. I'm dreadfully afraid I shall suffer from a mental dyspepsia," said Phillippa, "too much good things you know, are bad."

"Oh, I guess you won't be hurt, Phillippa, but whether you are or not, I'm about to give you another dose," and Georgia Garrett proceeded to read.

"MY DEAR MISS GARRETT:—I feel as if I were growing very well acquainted with all of you. You cannot know what pleasure these weekly letters give me, and I am pleased and flattered to know that you feel yourselves instructed."

"Now then to business. Yes, I did mean just that kind of sentences when I spoke or wrote, rather, (it is hard for me to feel that I am not talking to you). It is incorrect to say, 'If one should fall over that stone, they would hurt themselves.' Say either 'If one should fall over that stone he would hurt himself,' or if you prefer the plural, say 'If people, etc., they would hurt themselves.' Are contractions admissible? Yes, to a certain extent, but there is a choice of contractions. You should never use 'ain't' under any circumstances—it is absolutely beyond the pale. There are many little words that are omitted or contracted, which a little practice will render easy of use. 'I am not going,' one can soon learn to say, but 'I'm not going' is quite legitimate, but never 'I ain't going.' 'Ain't' is no contraction or omission, it is merely a word substituted instead of the proper one. 'Aren't you' is legitimate for 'Are you not,' or 'Are not you,' but never use 'Ain't you.' 'Ain't' for 'Are not' is quite as vulgar as 'Hain't' for 'Has not,' but I believe it is used more freely. There is no contraction for 'Am I not,' or 'Am not I,' they must be used absolutely pure. Use contractions as little as you can. Puns! Well, do not fall into a habit of punning. Some good puns have been made, and often a bright quick pun has been the keenest form of wit. But the habit, as a habit, is pernicious. And among people who converse really well, a habitual punster is considered a bore, to say the least. Punning may, if used sparingly and with exceeding judgment, brighten a conversation, but if indulged in too freely may overreach itself, and brighten conversation to the point of dullness. There are few people who have humor sufficient to the making of a good pun, and as for the bad ones!

"Now for another thing. Little words—prepositions I mean. You use the expression 'A lady I read your letter to, etc.' In arranging a sentence avoid in all cases putting a small word, especially a preposition, at the end. The sentence which I have just written, for instance, (I see it now the moment it is on the paper, but prefer to let it stand, to illustrate a point) would be better arranged so. 'In all cases, in the arrangement of a sentence, avoid putting at the end a small word, especially a preposition.' 'This remark belongs more especially to the province of rhetoric. 'You say 'A lady I read your letter to.' It should be 'A lady to whom I read your letter.'" "That's funny," from Sara Tasker. "I wonder why?" "You should also say, not 'The house I was staying at,' but 'The house at which I was staying.' The sentence is rhetorically stronger so arranged. Avoid as much as possible using prepositions. One can very often so arrange a sentence as to make the use of prepositions needless. For instance, 'The house at which I was staying,' might under most circumstances be rendered 'The family (people, friends) whom I was visiting.' It seems a small thing, but the sentence is really more elegant with little expenditure of trouble, and no impression upon the hearer of affectation on the part of the speaker. When, however, the use of these particles is absolutely necessary, arrange and rearrange your sentences if writing, (and practice the same habit mentally as well) until you have your preposition anywhere but at the end. 'The boat in which I sailed,' 'The man to whom I wrote,' 'The child for whom I bought it,' etc., etc. The examples are unlimited in number.

"There is one more very much abused word of which you made use, in your letter to me—the word 'like.' 'Like' properly, never qualifies an active verb. One may be 'like' another but may not act like another. One must act 'as' another acts. 'I would like to sing as she does,' not 'like she does.' The rhetoric will tell you to never use 'like' unless you can follow it mentally with 'unto.' 'I would like to sing like unto the—' You might readily say, 'I wish my method was like (unto) hers.' The difference is obvious.

"One more. You tell me you attended a female academy for two years. Now, my dear, 'academy' has absolutely no sex in our language. This form of expression is growing to be considered one of the most vulgar of genteel errors. While the terms of sex apply to all manner of animal life, the word 'female' conveys no evidence as to the nature of the animal which attends the academy, even in that sense. But think of it! The idea of one brick building being of one sex while another building is of another sex. What shall you say? Use the simplest form, and say 'An academy for girls,' 'A school for boys,' or 'A girls' academy,' 'A boys' school.'

"One more little thing. You say 'Fourth of July is on Sunday this year.' Fourth of July is not on Sunday, because it is not at all as yet. It 'will be' on Sunday. Try to be a little more careful of your moods and tenses as used to express your exact meaning. You ask me about 'Any body else's' and 'Any body's' else. You will find it a mooted question, some grammarians contending for the former, on the hypothesis that the expression 'Anybody else' is taken as a compound word; others, equally good authority, contending that 'else' means 'other' and is a simple adjective. For myself, I am much inclined to the latter opinion, and decidedly prefer 'anybody's' else. As 'any other person' and 'any person else' are interchangeable terms, it seems to me reasonable that 'Any person's' else' is more sensible than 'Any person else's.'

"I thought I was done, but I must say one more little word. Avoid using the pronoun 'I' whenever you can. When one's individual opinion is desired and asked, the use of 'I' is quite proper. 'I think,' 'I know,' etc. But a conversation bristling with 'I's' becomes very tiresome. If the conversation be general, and the opinion you desire to give be that held by many others, instead of saying 'I doubt,' 'I think,' etc., say 'Such a thing is doubted by many,' 'Many think,' etc. You will express the same idea, convey the same amount of information, and avoid thrusting your individual opinion on people who do not care for it as such.

"But I will detain you no longer now, closing my long letter rather abruptly, I fear.

"Yours sincerely,

"AMANDA WILSON."

"I suppose, Mildred, you think everything is right because Miss Wilson says so," asked Phillippa meditatively.

"Yes I do," answered Mildred valiantly. "No, I don't mean that. Nothing is right just because one person says so, but I do believe that Miss Wilson has reason for all she says."

"Come girls, I am going home. (Strong emphasis on the I). There, Mildred, don't look so hurt. Way down in my heart I'm being real converted. May go out in time as a grammatical missionary."

"I don't believe that's right. You would be a grammatical missionary if you were a good grammarian, even if you said nothing about grammar, it seems to me," said Sara Tasker timidly.

"Well, what shall I say—ungrammatical missionary? Come, rearrange! rearrange! exclaimed Phillippa defiantly.

"I can't," confessed Sara frankly, "but I feel it is no more right than 'female academy,' but I can't fix—arrange it."

"I can," said Mildred, who had been thinking, "but it makes the sentence longer. 'A missionary in the cause of grammar.'"

"That will do. I'll give in." And off they went.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"C. B. T., Vallejo, Cal.:"—Your communication was duly handed to me. While I do not agree with you on many points, and, though your letter itself contained innumerable errors, I am willing to believe in your kindly intentions. Should you desire me to write you personally, and point out the errors which I claim to have discovered, I will cheerfully do it, if you will address a line to me in care of the L. H. J., to the effect that you desire me so to do. I am willing to discuss your whole letter with you personally, but such a communication as such a discussion would necessarily be, would occupy too much time and space for insertion in the columns of the L. H. J.

I am sorry that Amanda Wilson has inadvertently admitted that she uses "midnight oil." It is, unfortunately, a necessity with her. It grieves me that you should take exception to it. But do you think, candidly think, that it makes any difference to the general public whether she writes all day or all night? Are you not hypercritical?

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