



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Marks Mayhew

"According to My Strength"

I may not wholly lift the veil
Between me and the Great Un-
known;

I may not in the flesh prevail,
And see the glory of His throne;
But I can every moment prove
The power and goodness of His love.

I may not with these mortal eyes
The beauty of his face behold;
But toward His presence I can rise,
As soul's true selfhood does unfold.
For even now, 'mid gloom and doubt,
The heavenly splendor flashes out.

I may not raise the dead to life
Who three days sleepeth in the
grave,

But I can lessen human strife,
And from a thousand errors save
My brother, whom I daily meet,
And make his life more brave and
sweet.

I may not walk upon the wave,
Or still the raging wind and sea;
But I can know that God will save,
And that His truth will make me
free;

Free from the bonds of mortal mind—
The bane and scourge of human-
kind.

I may not win the hero's fight—
The hero's fame I do not ask;
But I can ever stand for right,
And nobly do my humble task.
I may not bless the whole, great land,
But I can help some one to stand.

I ne'er may be a perfect man,
But perfect manhood is the way
To heaven—through God's eternal
plan—

And more and more, each passing
day,
The truth of love and life I find
But merges into perfect Mind.
—A. S. J. Lehr, in St. Louis Republic.

Our Social Chat

There is so much to say to you about the care of the gardens. We have been compelled, while gathering in the perishable crops, to neglect these household dependences, and weeds seem never to stop growing until a hard freeze kills them. Indeed, they seem almost human in their haste to take advantage of the busy times, and put forth renewed efforts during the hot, hurried months of July, August and early September to perfect their seeds, scattering them on the wings of the wind, through the crops of birds and stomachs of animals, while those in the gardens stock the soil with seeds for the coming seasons. These weeds should be gathered and burned. Do not put them on the manure heap, but burn them, and thus save yourself work with the hoe and plow next spring. Nobody ever heard of a failure in the weed crop.

Do not neglect the road-sides and the fence-corners. These weeds are the thieves which break in and steal, and the earlier and more thoroughly these weeds are gathered and burned, the less trouble you will have with them. If everyone would clean up his own fence-corners and roadsides, the weeds might be more readily kept under, and the beauty of the country greatly enhanced, while far less work would be required inside the fences

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children
teething should always be used for children white
teething. It softens the gums, allays all pain, cures
wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.
Twenty-five cents a bottle.

with the plow and hoe. Now would be a good time to organize an "Improvement Club." Its meetings might be made far more interesting and instructive than the gatherings at the various lounging places on the village streets. It is lonely work, trying to do these things alone, but if a club were organized, and a certain district or territory be taken in hand on set days by the whole club membership, much good could be accomplished and the social life be fostered, at the same time. In the old days, such gatherings were made very valuable in a community, and they might be profitably made the custom of the country again.

What has this to do with gardening? More than you can realize until you think the matter over. Organize a club, no matter if but two or three of you are the charter members; make your meetings so interesting that others will wish to join you. It may require a little hustling and hard work on the part of the organizers, but it will be worth all it costs if the interest is made permanent and profitable—as it surely can be.

Next Saturday, when you make your accustomed visit to the village, make it a part of your business to start the ball rolling. Clubs are good things, and can be made a means of higher and better living. Don't forget to give the women and girls a membership, though they should not do the hard work. They will do their share. Many of them will be of great help in planning and suggesting, while others will gladly "lend a hand" in any good work. Your meetings and work days may wind up with a little feasting and sociability, either indoors or out, as the weather may decide. We are all growing too exclusive and selfish, and this is one of the greatest reasons why we all want to go to town to live. We are apt to forget that now, as it was "in the beginning," it is not good for man to be alone. We are starved, socially—literally dying of loneliness in our wretched lack of social gatherings. The spirit of sociability seems dying out.

I wish you would write to me, and tell me what you think of this suggestion; but I wish, more than all else, that you would think of the matter seriously enough to put it into practice.

If the baby screams and fights when he is taken out of his morning bath, do not attribute it to his love for the water, because more likely than not it is because the cold air strikes suddenly on his little wet body, chilling and giving him an unpleasant shock. He should be lifted sidewise, or head first and quickly rolled up in his warm bath blanket, and the air of the room, which is usually colder than that of the bath water, should be carefully kept from him until the little body is dry and warm from patting and gentle rubbing. If handled properly, in a room of the right temperature, the bath should be enjoyed as a frolic.

Entertaining the Children

In the country, a great many schools open in August and close at or near the holidays. After that, for many months, during the stormy weather, the children, large and small, are at home, and, for the most part, indoors. It is sometimes very hard to entertain them and keep them in good temper. You know who fills the idle hands, and even with the older ones finding

employment doing the necessary work, mother has a hard time trying to keep her little ones happy and peaceful. For the small children, a blackboard, home-made, if necessary, and a box of crayons—all the better if some of them are colored—will afford much pleasure, and can be made very instructive to the older ones, as well. Slates and pencils are cheap, and the children should be taught to handle them with care remembering that use, not abuse, is what they are for. Making picture-scrap-books will amuse them, while the older ones may be allowed, and encouraged, to make their books of clippings. There are many ways in which children may be made to peaceably amuse themselves and each other, and books devoted to children's games and interests are to be had very cheaply from many of the mail order stores. A children's library might be started, each child donating one or more books, and appointing a "librarian" to care for them. But the children must be taught to care for the books, handling them as they would any other perishable thing. Sometimes this teaching may with profit be extended to the elders—especially the men of the family, who are not always as careful to have clean hands as they should be, when using such things. Don't reprimand the children for being noisy, and for engaging in "harum-scarum" games; but teach them that the living room is hardly the place for such sports. It will not hurt them to shout and halloo, or engage in rough-and-tumble games outside the house, if only they keep their temper and regard the rights of others.

For the Long Evenings

How about the provisions for reading matter? Look over the combinations—the bargain lists, and find what you want. If you know nothing of the papers listed, send for sample copies; most papers and periodicals will send a sample copy, if asked for it. There are publications devoted to specialties, and others filled with miscellaneous matter, and you can be suited with some of them.

Many papers and periodicals can be gotten free by the getter-up of a club of no very great size, and others, devoted to various lines, will be glad to exchange a subscription for one or more articles written on popular questions of the day, or dealing with matters of general interest. If you have good ideas, or know something that will help some other person, you might get quite a few of such papers for a little work, a little stationery and a few stamps. Write your ideas out just as you would tell them to your neighbor, and if the editor can use them, he will make any necessary corrections. The girls and boys might try this, too. The transcribing of your thoughts will be good exercise for your thinking powers. Many excellent popular writers began their literary work in this way. Don't get discouraged if your contribution is returned, but study the contents of the paper you want, and try to write something on the lines of its specialties. The Agricultural Department at Washington, D. C., sends out valuable printed matter free, as does your State Board of Agriculture, the horticultural societies, the labor commissioner, and many other public departments, with the work of which it will stand you in hand to acquaint yourself. Begin now to get your reading matter on hand,

and get something that will make life better and brighter to you and yours.

Accustom the very small children to the handling of books and papers without injuring them. Impress upon their minds the fact that books and papers are to keep and use, not destroy. Teach them to take a pride in keeping their own books clean and whole—not torn, dog-eared, or pencil-marked. The money value of books should be taught them, by comparing the cost of the book with the cost of something they value. The right handling, and the appreciation of money values mean much to them in their future, and its teaching should be begun early.

Floral Notes

For Crocuses, place a single bulb in a small tin can, not over two or three inches across (a condensed-milk can will do), in rich soil, keep the soil moist and set away to make roots; do not keep in a warm room for crocuses bloom before the snow goes, out of doors. When the bulb blooms, cover the can with pretty tissue paper held in place by a bit of narrow ribbon, and you have something pretty. Five or six bulbs, mixed colors, may be grown in a four-inch pot, and make a lovely show.

The Pompon variety of hyacinths may be planted in tin cans, and treated the same way, and are beautiful. The little Oxalis bulbs give good measure of bloom for the care they require, and the foliage is fine. There is a yellow-flowered oxalis especially for winter blooming which is lovely. The flowers are large and fragrant, and stay in bloom a long time.

Oxalis bulbs multiply rapidly, cost but little, give abundance of foliage and blossom, are fragrant, and do not need to be set away to make roots, but they go right to work as soon as planted in soil, and they like the sunshine. They are fine for hanging baskets. The variety called Grand Duchess, pink-flowered, and free-blooming, is very highly recommended. There are several other colors, I believe, of this variety. These bulbs will cost you about 35c per dozen. Oxalis bulbs may be grown in rich soil, for indoor blooming, and many sorts will do finely out in the border during the summer.

Two of the most satisfactory bulbs for blooming in the house are the Paper White grandiflora and Double Roman narcissus. They may be grown either in soil or in sand and water, and a blooming plant will fill the room with beauty and fragrance. Extra large bulbs of these may be had for ten cents each, or two for fifteen cents. Smaller bulbs, but good blooming size, may be had for five cents each.

For the border, do not fail to get a mixed variety of the old German Iris; there are so many beautiful colors, and the plants take care of themselves, and should be set out in the fall.

For the Windows

There is nothing that gives a more cheerful aspect to a room in winter than a bit of "greenery." Your plants may not bloom; but green leaves are lovely, and look "alive," and these can be easily had. There are few plants more satisfactory to the busy housewife than the good old geranium. It will bear almost any treatment and live, but it will well repay care. The plants should be taken up on the first rainy or wet, cloudy day, at your convenience, now, and given good, rich soil, good drainage, and good light. When you take up the plant, if it is a large one, clip off most of the leaves, and set it in the cellar or other cool dark place until it revives. It may not

BETTER THAN SPANKING

Spanking does not cure children of bed wetting. If it did there would be few children that would do it. There is a constitutional cause for this. Mrs. M. Summers, Box 118, Notre Dame, Ind., will send her home treatment to any mother. She asks no money. Write her today if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child. The chances are it can't help it.