



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watkins Meloy

"Close at Hand"

The way is long, and the day is hard;
We are tired of the march, and of
keeping guard;
Tired of the sense of a fight to be won;
Of days to live through, and work to
be done;
Tired of ourselves, and of being alone.

And all the while, did we only see,
We walk in the Lord's own company;
We fight, but 'tis He who nerves our
arm;
He turns the arrow that else might
harm;
And out of the storm He brings a
calm.

The work which we count so hard
to do,
He makes so easy—for He works, too;
The days that are long to live are
His—

A bit of His bright eternities;
And close to our needs His helping is.

O, eyes that were veiled and blinded
quite,
That caught no glimpse of the guiding
light;

O, dull, deaf ears, that could never
hear

The heavenly garment trailing near!
O, faithless heart, which dared to fear!

—Susan Coolidge.

It is easy to sit in our carriage
And counsel the man on foot;
But get down and walk,
And you'll change your talk,
As you feel the peg in your boot.

It is easy to tell the toiler
How best he can carry his pack;
But no one can rate
A burden's full weight
Until it has lain on his back.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

"As a Warning"

One of our readers who signs her-
self "Discouraged," sends the follow-
ing picture, and asks that the young
people who are intending to marry
with no knowledge or preparation for
the step be asked to heed it as a warn-
ing.

Ten years ago, a young man, clerk,
on a salary of \$12 per week, living at
home with his parents and paying only
nominal board, was married to a
young lady, also a clerk, on a salary
of \$6 per week, living with parents
with no expense for board, laundry or
sewing. Both these young people were
high school graduates, with no trade
and no financial prospects. The girl
knew nothing of housewifery, cooking,
laundrying or sewing, or of the care
of even a healthy, adult family.

When first married, the young cou-
ple rented a nice room, furnished for
the lightest of housekeeping; the girl
wife kept the place in the store, and,
having a light breakfast in their room,
the couple lunched and dined down in
the city; hired their laundrying done,
and wore "store-made" clothing. But
after a time, the wife had to resign
her clerkship, and the reduction in
salary necessitated cheaper living; so,
"meals at home," consisting principally
of canned foods and cereals, became
the rule—not always a satisfactory
substitute for the well-cooked foods at
the respectable eating houses.

Then, the baby came, bringing with

it unheard-of expenses, new needs and
necessities, which, in the inexperienced
hands of the young couple, brought
debts, as well as a dearth of ready
money. They found the husband and
father's salary entirely too small for
their expenses. And they knew nothing
of economizing.

As the years went by, other child-
ren came; but the father's salary did
not increase compensatingly. The
"furnished room" was given up, a tiny
cottage was rented and scantily fur-
nished on the "installment" plan and
then began the struggle to meet debt,
interest, payments, and at the same
time clothe the bodies and fill the
mouths of the growing family, and to
meet constantly increasing demands
for the welfare of the little brood, un-
til the end of the ten years finds them,
the parents and five children, ill-fed,
poorly clothed, nobody well or strong,
and the adults utterly discouraged.
Having had no training in her girl-
hood, the young wife found it hard to
learn, while caring for her growing
family, what she should have been
taught in her young, free years, and
the father, having no trade, or prepara-
tion for the meeting of changing con-
ditions, cannot give up his poor little
salary in order to seek, or to prepare
himself for anything more lucrative.
Starting in life with nothing, with no
notion of saving, or appreciation of
the fact that expenses would inevit-
ably increase, these children now reap
the sure harvest of such ignorance and
lack of training. The mother's health
is broken, and the oldest girl, a child
of nine years, must assume cares and
burdens far too heavy for the young
shoulders in helping to care for her
brothers and sisters, while the two
children of school age cannot be kept
regularly in school for want of suitable
clothing and care of their health. "We
are pinched to death," the young
mother writes, "and it is impossible
for me even to make the best of what
we have because I never was taught
to do things, or to plan ahead, and I
can scarcely make a garment, but
must hire everything done that I can-
not get along without." She adds that
it was not her mother's fault, but her
own, as she did not have sense enough
to know how much she should need
the knowledge in years to come.
"But," she says, "I do blame the times,
for it has never been recognized that
we should have teaching of a differ-
ent nature than the schools give. I
was so awfully ignorant, and so was
my young husband; and our parents
did not know how to tell us what we
should have known."

Slowly, but surely, the world is
awakening to the fact that there must
be preparation, other than material,
for the step that makes or mars the
happiness of the human race as noth-
ing else can. The parents must be
made to realize this duty, and the pub-
lic must be forced to recognize its im-
portance.

A "Company Room"

Among a certain class of people,
there is a prejudice against a "com-
pany room," but in most families it is
a good thing to have. This room dedi-
cated to social pleasures may be fur-
nished as simply or as elaborately as
one can afford, but no one should "rob
the kitchen to robe the parlor." If one
entertains at all, this room is almost
a necessity, for no one likes to admit
even friends, not to mention acquaint-
ances and strangers, into the sanctu-
ary of the home life, such as the com-

mon living room must be. We do not
always have the time to shut the fam-
ily skeleton into its closet with our
visitors at the door, and it is a great
comfort to usher them into the room
that is always in readiness for the
amenities of the social side of life.

Where the one room is used for ev-
erything and where the chance caller or
guest must meet us, whether prepared
or not for the advent of the foreign
element, one is often too much em-
barrassed by circumstances to make
the guest feel at all welcome. No
home can be at all times, in every
room, in "company dress." Then, too,
the guest may be the one to feel the
embarrassment, thinking his or her
visit inopportune, and, with the best
of intentions on either side, neither
gives to the other a desired impression
of "good manners." The "looks of
things" does not matter so much to
the men of the family as to the women,
and a man guest will not always
notice what to a woman will seem a glaring
untidiness. Few women who love
neatness, and try to keep down the dis-
order which others create, can "carry
off" such a situation with a careless
good natured indifference, unless the
caller be a most intimate friend, who
will give us the "benefit of the doubt"
and believe the best of us at all times.
By all means, let us have the "com-
pany room," if possible.

Give the rosebushes a heavy mulch
of decayed stable manure, and let it
stay on the roots so long as freezing
weather continues, then fork it well in
about the roots.

Work for the Season

In many homes, after the spring
house-cleaning is done, it will be found
necessary to renovate, or replace many
articles of house-furnishing, draperies,
or carpets. Something will be found
wanting in every department. Much
can be so repaired as to serve a little
longer, if the work be well done, while
many things can be made to look "like
new" if handled by a good workman.

In replacing, do not buy cheap
things; in renovating, do not trust to
a careless or unskilled hand. Better
to do your own repairing, or do with-
out, for poor work is the most expen-
sive thing in the world. This applies
to everything. After buying, in order
to get the best wear, and keep the
best appearance, good, careful hand-
ling is necessary. "No excellence with-
out labor" applies to the household as
well as to anything else. If you have
but one room for general use, a room
that must be living room, parlor, nur-
sery, sewing room, and very often
dining room as well, where men and
boys who wear heavy, hob-nailed
shoes and labor-stained clothing, and
where little, restless children must find
amusement of dark days, a carpet of
even the best weave will soon wear
out. Such a room floor would be bet-
ter stained or painted, with rugs that
have "back-bone" enough to make
them lie straight, scattered about, or
covered with a good, inlaid linoleum.
An oil-cloth, or a cheap grade of lin-
oleum will soon wear into holes or
bareness, and will give an untidy ap-
pearance to the cleanest of rooms,
while an inlaid linoleum of good qual-
ity will wear for years, looking well
to the last. It will not need scrub-
bing, but should be wiped up with
clean, frequently-changed, clear water
—no soap suds. A good quality can
be had in any desired width, several
yards, to fit the room, and is sold by
the square yard; will cost about \$1 to
\$1.50 per yard. Buy of a reputable

merchant, even though it costs you a
little more.

Some Lenten Dishes

(In choosing eggs, test them before
breaking. Put them into a bowl of
water, the fresh ones will sink; the
stale ones will rise to the top; those
which stand on end are spoiled, and
should be rejected.)

Poached Eggs.—Six eggs and one
pint of sweet milk. Break the eggs
in a dish; put the milk over the fire
by setting the pan of milk in a pan
of boiling water, and just as the milk
comes to a boil, slip the eggs in care-
fully so as not to break them; when
the yolks are set, add a lump of but-
ter the size of a walnut, minced fine.
Salt and pepper to season, and serve.

For Toast.—Grease the bottom of a
thick tin, or agate ware sauce pan
with plenty of butter; break as many
eggs as wanted, separately, into cups;
set the cups in a pan, and turn the
battered pan over the tops of the cups.
Then, quickly turn the pan over so as
to bring the cups inverted in the sauce-
pan, and set over the fire. As the but-
ter melts, pour in a very little water,
raising each cup a little to let in the
water, but do not let any of the egg
escape from the cup. In four minutes,
the eggs will be done, ready to serve
on toast. To do this nicely will re-
quire a little practice, but it is very
nice.

Potato Cups.—Boil and mash half a
dozen medium-sized potatoes, season-
ing with pepper, salt and butter and a
little cream. Take gem pans or muffin
rings, and fill each one full of the
smoothly beaten potatoes; then press
into the top of each the bottom of a
small teacup which is either well
greased, or freshly dipped in water in
order that the potatoes may not stick
to it. Set aside to cool. In the morn-
ing (they may be used for any meal),
take them out of the rings as neatly
as possible, and set, not touching each
other, on a well greased tin biscuit
pan; put into a hot oven and let them
get well heated, beginning to brown a
little; then take from the oven and
break into each one of the "cups" a
raw, fresh egg, season with salt and
pepper and a little shaving of butter,
and return the pan to the oven until
the egg is well set—soft or hard, as
may be liked. Lift carefully onto a
platter and serve.

Everblooming Roses

There are so many fine, everbloom-
ing tea roses, not a few of them quite
hardy with a little protection, that it
is hard to choose. Almost any of the
old, well tried varieties will prove sat-
isfactory, while some of the new kinds
are exquisite in both bloom and frag-
rance.

The old, "monthly" roses, which are
known as the China and Bourbon
kinds, will give bloom nearly contin-
uously, and are quite hardy, but every-
thing will do better for protection. All
these roses should be planted, if dor-
mant stock is ordered, quite as early
in the spring as the nurseryman will
send them out, but if from green house
stock, they should not be set out in
the open ground until the ground be-
comes quite warm, in May, or early
June.

The soil cannot be made too rich,
but the manure should be well rotted,
and it should be dug in plentifully. If
the ground is made very rich, it will
require plenty of water in order for
the plant to do its best. Of course, the
hardiness of any plant depends upon
where it is planted, or what care is
given it; but a great many of the teas,
Bourbons, Chinas and half-hardy rose
plants will live and survive ordinary

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