



# The Home Department

## SERMONS IN SONG

### The Candle

"Nor do men light a candle and put it under a bushel."—Matt. v. 15.  
Your candle is so small, so small,  
It makes scarce any light;  
The feeble word you may let fall  
Has neither strength nor might?  
And there be many greater ones  
Who outshine you by far,  
As do the sky-illuminating suns  
Outgrow the farthest star?

But of all good sounds ever heard  
There is none half so fair  
As one uncalculated word  
That soothes some dim despair,  
And what a dull sky it would be  
If all the points of light  
Were gone, and we might only see  
The suns of wondrous might

He who holds up his little flame  
Knows not what straining eyes  
May find it guiding them from shame  
Into a paradise;  
All may not climb the lofty steep,  
All may not lead the throng  
But each may shelter and may keep  
Aglow some word or song.

We know not, how our candle gleams,  
It may be sconced in gold,  
Or it may send its cheering gleams  
From some cup worn and old,  
And that which fate has held apart  
From pathways wide and grand,  
May glow with light which finds a heart  
Attuned to understand.

The little word, the little smile,  
The little song you know—  
These make the candle all the while  
That we must keep aglow,  
And we may think its trembling light  
Unnoticed by all eyes—  
But there is greater dark of night  
When that lone candle dies.  
—W. D. Nesbitt, in St. Louis Republic.

### Women Seeking Work

Since telling you of the two women who wanted "easy places," I have had many letters from overworked or lonely housewives, offering homes. But I must tell you, these women did not want homes—they wanted less work and larger pay. The letters were placed in the hands of a benevolent society, and good situations were freely offered them, in homes where "assistance" was greatly needed, and where the salary was reasonable. But in every case, the work was considered too hard, or not congenial, and those offered from the suburbs were not even considered. As to such women going to the country—they would treat such an offer with contempt. There is absolutely no reason why a girl or woman should remain idle, in any city, if she would do housework. But they crowd to the shops, factories, offices, and public places, willing to work for merely nominal wages, rather than go into the homes where every comfort and convenience for lightening labor is to be found, unless, indeed, there are many employes, and their duties clearly defined. Of course, in such families, they cannot hope to be treated "as one of the family," and even among the employes there are grades of "social standing."

Every employment is crowded but housework. Reliable, trustworthy help

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

is almost impossible to secure, and the demand is never half met. A girl or woman who understands her business, and will attend to it as a business proposition, can set her own price as to salary, and will never have to hunt work. As to treatment—the lady who "employs" will hardly dare utter the word "servant" in the hearing of the housework girl. If the mistress of a home should treat her help as the employer in other business treats his, she would almost be "lynched" by her indignant servitors; she would certainly be left, and that without ceremony. Why women will accept work oftentimes only on condition of its being within the city limits, is in no way explained by any balance in favor of the city service. The basement kitchen, the attic sleeping room, the bad air, the many stairs to climb, makes in favor of the country home; and if it were only the young and company-loving who choose the city surroundings, it would not appear so strange. But sedate, middle-aged help present the same objections to the country service, and simply shake their heads when it is proposed. They do not like the country. They do not want the work.

Meantime, the world is seeking for methods by which the home can be run without individual housekeeping. Many plans are being suggested; many methods are being tried. Inventors and architects are turning their attention to "ways and means" and much is being done. It is wonderful, when one reads of broomless and dustless house cleaning, fireless cookery, and the services and conveniences to be had by those who have the means to pay for them, without a care or a worry on their part. The new ideas, like the new garment, bind and pinch in some places, and do not "set snugly" in others; but little by little, the "easy places" are coming to the front, even in housewifery, and while trying to get used to "doing their own things," they must cut out the unnecessary, and get all the conveniences in the way of machinery, which they can reach, and then make use of it. The useless and unnecessary must go.

### The "Lost Art"

If our girls, whether contemplating marriage or not, who have homes and mothers, would study the "lost art of housekeeping," and seek to render themselves efficient and proficient in the business (for it really is a business) and profession of housekeeping and home making, there would be fewer sorrowful sittings and unhappy, broken-down lives because of trying to "make a living" in the mad scramble for situations which are already overcrowded, and at best poorly paid. The young wife who has found that life is something of a failure when soggy bread and muddy coffee is the rule, or when "store-cooked" foods are all that her table can "set before its king," should learn to eliminate the merely ornate, and do first the everyday-essentials, perfecting herself in the few substantial, and keeping within the limits of her untrained strength. Simplify and systematize should be her watchwords.

### Educating the Masses

A German scientist, traveling through the United States, speaks of the munificent gifts of the monied men to be applied to the advance of higher education, yet finds the provisions for the education of the masses to be very defective. Under the school

system of the country, each state is supposed to provide for its own, and it does so, in a measure. But in too many instances, children who should be in school have to work for a livelihood. In too many instances this deplorable condition cannot be avoided. It is impossible for the parents to clothe and feed and keep the children in school on the wages of one or both, while the mother has enough to do without trying to earn the support. The printed pages are full of scoldings for the mother who neglects her home in order to earn the pittance which is absolutely needed for the comfort of the little school children. No woman can be a perfect housekeeper and care properly for her children, and at the same time go into the labor market as a wage worker—even as a laundress or seamstress at her own fireside. If the children can not work, and the parents can not supply their needs, then the schools must be deserted. Many a poorly-clad and poorly fed child learns to hate the school because of being subjected to the ridicule of more fortunate companions. Compulsory education may be all right with the child who has "good clothes" and a love for study, but for the hungry, ill-fed and ill-clad little body, it seems a cruel hardship. If the state could feed and clothe those who can not supply themselves, or compensate the parents for the time of the child so he or she may be kept decently in school, it might lessen the burden; but this seems as yet to be impracticable, and as things now are, the education of the children seems a burden which the hardworking parents of large families find it hard to carry. Not every child wants, or will take an education. Many are kept in the school room, year in and year out, and what they do memorize is joyously forgotten when the "age of freedom" is attained, and the cramped little soul is let loose to enter into the labors of the world.

### Getting Ready for the Summer

While the season, in all parts of the country, is remarkably "unseasonable," and we are warned, from all quarters, that our fruit supply will be limited, it is as well to be getting ready to make the best of what we may have. Some fruits will undoubtedly be very scarce, but of many others we shall have enough, if not an abundance, and it is well to be prepared for what may be given us. The stock of jars, jugs, glasses and fruit receptacles of every kind, should be looked over, thoroughly cleansed, aired and fitted with new rubbers, tops, or other parts that may be found injured or lacking. Do not put this off until the fruit is ready for use, but see that everything you have is available. If you find that you will need more later on you can get them. But have what you now have in good order. See that your preserving kettles, spoons, and funnels, or other utensils are in good order, and that the spice box, and sugar can is refilled. Have the spices as fresh as possible, and do not try to make the old, tasteless things "do." Make your flannel jellybag, and your fruit-strainers, and have them where you can get them when wanted. Have your chopping bowls or machines in hand, and be prepared to make good the lack of fruit by a good supply of canned, dried, preserved or pickled vegetables. See that your supply of sealing wax is sufficient, or your soldering outfit in working order, and don't forget that you must have good, clean tin, if you want to keep your work from spoiling. Don't use any old, rusted tin that you

think, half-heartedly, "will do," for ten chances to one, it won't. Remember that paraffin wax, poured over your jelly will keep it from moulding, and have a supply of that on hand. If you have taken care of that you used last year, it is just as good for use this year, if kept clean. If you can have a pair of good household scales that will weigh true, it will be found a great help in your work, but you will want your graduated measuring cups, too. Remember, you will get out of your jars, etc., only what you put into them, be that good or poor, and a little of really good quality is better than a great deal of inferior grade.

### How Names and Addresses Are Obtained

Many families are literally "snowed under" with circulars, advertising sheets and pamphlets, for which they have no possible use, and they wonder how such people obtained their addresses. Some time ago, I ordered an article of household necessity, and in sending it out to me, a peculiar error was made in my name. As an error made no difference as to the delivery of what I had paid for, I paid no attention to it. But it was but a short time until the carrier began bringing me letters, pamphlets, cards and samples of many things—all directed to my address with that peculiar error in the arrangement of my name. I at once recalled the circumstance of the order. Later, I learned that this firm kept a list of their customers names and addresses, and sold the addresses to "Whomsoever will," or wanted to buy them. Because of their thriftiness I am supplied with an abundance of paper material for every use known to housekeepers, from starting the fire to polishing the windows, free of cost. The peculiarity in the name gave the firm away.

### Going in Debt

One of the very worst things one can do is to spend money before it is earned—go in debt—buy on credit. The system is one of the greatest causes of "hard luck," or financial straits. To buy things and settle for them with "promises to pay" will surely bring trouble, no matter how large a salary one has. By thus tying up our resources, we are never in a position to meet the future with anything like a comfortable condition of mind, and if for any reason our earning ability is cut off, it places us in a very disagreeable position. The only sane, sensible way to live is to set aside, every pay-day, some portion of our earnings, and force ourselves to live strictly within the limits of what is left. We may want more than this balance will buy, but it won't hurt us half as much to want, as to face a deficit with no prospect, or a distant one, of being able to meet our obligations. We all have too much, as it is. We could do with much less, and still be happy.

### Helps for the Home Seamstress

For holding your shirt-waist down to the skirt, get a piece of cotton (not silk) elastic, half to three-quarters of an inch wide, remove the gathers from the front of the shirtwaist, letting it hang loose, then draw the elastic tightly around your waist; cross it front, and pin through your shirtwaist and your corset.

Be sure to remember that in making a drop skirt for an organdie or lawn dress it is best to include it in the band with the skirt proper. If the outer skirt is gored, make the drop skirt from the same pattern, so the seams will match; turn up the drop-skirt around the bottom at the same time as the outer skirt, to make the length exactly the same.

The old-fashioned sewing bird of our grandmothers is again in use. It is made so that it will screw onto a table or the ledge of a desk, and while hem-