



# The Home Department

## My Friends

Clasp hands across the years, my friends,  
The Time upon his way  
May touch our temples gray  
And take our hopes away  
We'll mingle smiles with tears, my friends.

Clasp hands across the years, my friends,  
The Time has come between,  
His touch is light I w'en,  
No change in you, I've seen  
Or mark of cares or fears, my friends.

Clasp hands again so true, my friends,  
Life gives and takes away  
October is not May  
And yet my heart can say  
"Life's good, while I have you," my friends.

—Ruth Bryan Leavitt.

## "The Reason Why"

There's many a man who works with a wrench,  
If he had but a spark of ambition,  
Would bid farewell to his tools and the bench  
And rise to a better position.  
And many there are who work night and day,  
And little they get for their labor,  
Whose talents, if used in a different way,  
Would make them the peer of their neighbor.

It's lack of ambition that keeps a man down,  
And makes him a servant forever,  
While others will smile he only can frown  
That some of his fellows are clever,  
While seldom success will come to the man  
Who is lacking in honest ambition,  
He who of his life has a definite plan,  
Is bound to improve his condition.

For plenty of push, with good common sense,  
Will crown with success an endeavor,  
But lack of ambition brings only expense  
To its victims, forever and ever.  
Then straighten your back that is bent to the toll,  
Take stock of the brains you are given,  
And stoutly resolve you will push to the front—  
'Tis better to drive than be driven.  
—Anonymous.

## The Need of an "Exchange Bureau"

The extremes of weather from which the whole country has been suffering, more or less, during the present year, has been most discouraging to many of us, and the outcome of such a capricious seed-time will surely be a restricted harvest in many things. From present indications there will not be much to do in the matter of putting up fruits for the winter's consumption, and the outlook is anything but favorable, just at this time, for early vegetables, or those requiring a long season for maturing. This will mean closer calculating and plainer living, with even the farm family, while with the dwellers in the large towns and cities it will mean extreme self-denial and the closest watch upon expenditure of the weekly earnings. No matter how large the wage, the price of the necessities looms up largely, too, and with a great many, it is just a case of "six of one and half dozen of

the other," no matter what the income.

What the farm housewife throws away the city woman would gladly pick up, but between the two stand the freight and express charges, which make the exchange out of question. On the other hand, the surplus of the city home that would help many a farm family over the hard places must go to waste. Reading matter, which the city woman has to consign to the flames or give to "whosoever will," would be a God-send to many farm families; slightly-worn clothing, which must give place to such as are "in style," and which can not be worn by the city school children any longer without exciting the ridicule of their better dressed companions, must also be disposed of as best it may, and usually without bringing anything to the seller, and hard to even give away. This would be a "windfall" to the average country child. Then, in the matter of furniture that is out-of-date, or in the way in the tiny box-like rooms of the city "flat"—it is hardly useful even for kindling wood, since so many use gas for cooking and heating. If there could be an "exchange bureau," through which the useless to one class could be exchanged for the useful to another, much good might result both without humiliation to either.

## "Keeping Accounts"

Are you keeping an account of your income and expenditures? If not, do not delay the matter longer. Paying cash for what we buy and keeping track of where the money goes is the only way to "get ahead" in these days of "everything while you wait." In order to do this, you do not need to go through a course of book-keeping. Get two blank books—to be had for ten cents each at the department stores. For the income account the smaller book will answer, but put down in each every transaction of the day. Do this every day, or some little things may slip your memory, and you can not then get your books to "balance." Don't think any sum—even the one cent paid for your daily paper—too small to enter in your book, for you will need just this small sum to keep your accounts "square." It is a good thing, if you are at all forgetful or careless, to carry a little book and pencil in your pocket, and set down the transaction at once, to be transferred later to your big books.

Every week, balance these books; see that they "come out right," and subtract the expense sum from that of the income—always keep the subtraction on the expense side; let the balance be in the income book. And this is easier to do than you might think, for if you begin it, the habit will grow on you, until you will plan for just this result. By this "book-keeping" you will know just what you are doing, and for just what the money goes. You will recognize at once any extravagance and waste, and knowing "where the shoe pinches," you will understand in what to retrench. By having ready money you can buy at the economical seasons, getting the best for much less money, and by buying in bulk where possible, you will save something on many articles. It is just as easy to pay ready money for things as to pay for them months after they are used up. Live within your income, be it ten or twenty-five dollars a week, and always work for the balance on the income sheet. We can do without a great many things, if we decide we can not have them, and the little economies will suggest themselves as we look over our books.

## Flowers for the Pulpit

There is nothing that so much lights up a church room and adds to the interest of the services as a well arranged bouquet of flowers on the stand beside the pulpit.

In choosing flowers for such a service, it must be kept in mind that the majority of the congregation will view the flowers from a distance, and from different points of view.

Rather large flowers, of decided colors, with plenty of feathery green foliage well distributed among them, should be chosen. The flowers and foliage should be massed loosely, with studied carelessness, not crowded, nor sprawling, but nodding, as in nature.

Do not try to have everything in the front; just bunch them; but arrange them so their lines will be graceful and the colors harmonious. Have the larger flowers at the foot of the bouquet, for you know, in nature, the largest blossoms are always toward the base of the stalk.

If a few show their backs, it is well, for every part of a flower is beautiful, and there should be nothing cramped, and no show of striving after effect. A good arrangement is to build first a background of fine sprays of green, with a few of the tallest growing flowers peeping out, and then arrange downward, gracefully and as naturally as possible until, about the base of the bouquet are placed the large, heavy, short-stemmed ones, with a few touches of leaves drooping down over the stems, or sides of the vase.

If the church has a dark, dingy interior, as many churches have, try the effect of yellow flowers, and especially on a dark day. Coarse flowers, such as small sunflowers, dahlias, marigolds, nasturtiums, hemerocallis, tall lilies, zinnias, sprays of golden seal, golden rod, and many flowers which may not be used in small bouquets, make up beautifully in these pulpit bouquets.

If the walls are glaring, or light, decorate with greens, bright scarlets, banks of ferns, and the softer, more delicate colors, with swaying, vining, tendril effect, will be lovely. But small, delicate flowers, unless tastefully mixed with the larger, coarse ones for a lace-like effect, are out of place in the large space and high walls of the pulpit room.

## Lack of Care the Cause

"It is not to be wondered at that consumption 'runs in families,' when seen how little care is taken in the average home where a case of tuberculosis occurs, to make use of disinfectants, or to observe even the simplest of hygienic rules. Whole families have been known to perish, one after another, when a proper fumigation and cleansing of the premises, whitewashing, the application of fresh paint and new wall paper, disinfecting drains and burning of the sputum of the afflicted, would have gone far toward overcoming the inherited tendency to the dreadful disease. Such care and precautions would have been cheaper than doctor's bills, and more effective than any drugs. More people die from lack of the proper observation of the rules of hygiene and sanitation than from any other cause."—Farm Journal.

## Distinctions in Dresses

A fashion magazine tells us that a "frock" is a garment made by the home seamstress, of simple, inexpensive materials—cottons, gingham, percales, prints, sateens, etc.; is only for morning wear, and is valuable for its neatness, comfort and washable qual-

ities. A "dress" is more elaborate than a frock; is made by a good dressmaker, and is worn when paying visits of an informal character, attending church societies, charity meetings, etc., and marks the difference between duty and pleasure. The "gown" is a blending of the frivolous and the dignified, and is "built" by a real modiste; it breathes of afternoon teas, luncheons at small restaurants, formal occasions; has a box to itself, and is kept in shape by fillings of tissue paper. A "creation" is something that comes to most of women but once in life, if so often, and marks the great occasions of a life. It is "imported," can only be evolved by an artist, and that artist must be born to his art. In the "creation" we may see the sartorial entity, the aristocrat, the confection, the grande toilette, which even the plebeian frock must recognize and bow down to in abject worship.

## Sending Coin by Mail

Many times one wishes to send a small coin, rather than stamps, by mail. In order to do this safely, it is well to get one of the little paper coin holders to be had at most postoffices; but if this can not be done, draw the shape of the coin to be sent on a piece of cardboard, cut the inside out of the ring, and over one side of the board paste a bit of paper; wrap the coin in tissue paper to prevent its slipping, lay it in the hole in the board and paste another scrap of paper over it. Five-cent pieces, a dime, or a quarter, can be sent safely if done in this manner, under a two-cent stamp. A fifty-cent piece will go under a two-cent stamp, also, if the wrapping is light, but two "quarter" pieces are best.

Children should be taught to tie their shoestrings in this manner: Tie the shoestrings in the customary bow-knot; then take the two loop ends (or bows) and tie them once. This will keep the strings from coming untied. Teach them to always keep the shoe laced up, in order to keep it from "running over."

## Chaperonage

"There is one convention that is unpopular among young folks, and is protested against more or less vigorously according to circumstances. This is the exaction made by society that where young persons of both sexes are together they shall be chaperoned. At first sight, it looks like espionage, and girls and men, conscious of rectitude and of the best intentions, demand fiercely why they may not be trusted, and not insulted by suspicions of their good faith and proper behavior. But that is not the question. From experience, it has come to be the mark of proper care over a young girl, that she should not drive alone with a young man, enter a restaurant, or attend a theatre unaccompanied by some married woman whose standing and character is above suspicion. The sister of one of them, though unmarried, or a younger brother of either may do as well (since it is universally acknowledged that little escapes the notice of a boy where the young man's relations with his sisters are concerned), and this insures exemplary behavior. This protective policy in regard to young girls may not please the man who wants to make her the sole confidant of his emotions, but it is at the same time an assurance that other men also have been hedged off, and that none has had the opportunity of offering any but the most respectful homage. It is noticeable that the manners of young people are better where the system of chaperonage obtains. With such guarded young people, even in the occasional absence of the chaperone, the habit of well-bred

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