

The Home Department

Condensed by Helen Watts

Nathan Hale

To drum-beat and heart-beat
A soldier marches by;
There is color in his cheek,
There is courage in his eye.
Yet to drum-beat and to heart-beat
In a moment he must die.

By the starlight and moonlight,
He seeks the Briton's camp;
He hears the rustling flag
And the armed sentry's tramp;
And the starlight and the moonlight
His silent wanderings lamp.

With slow tread and still tread,
He scans the tented line;
And he counts the battery guns,
By the gaunt and shadowy pine;
And his slow tread and still tread
Gives no warning sign.

The dark wave, the plumed wave,
It meets his eager glance;
And it sparkles 'neath the stars,
Like the glimmer of a lance,—
A dark wave, a plumed wave,
On an emerald expanse.

A sharp clang, a still clang,
And terror in the sound!
For the sentry, falcon-eyed,
In the camp a spy hath found;
With a sharp clang, a steel clang,
The patriot is bound.

With a calm brow, and steady brow,
He listens to his doom;
In his look there is no fear,
Nor a shadow-trace of gloom;
But with calm brow, and steady brow
He robes him for the tomb.

In the long night, the still night,
He kneels upon the sod;
And the brutal guards withhold
E'en the solemn word of God!
In the long night, the still night,
He walks where Christ hath trod.

'Neath the blue morn, the sunny
morn,
He dies upon the tree;
And he mourns that he can lose
But one life for Liberty;
And in the blue morn, the sunny
morn,
His spent wings are free.

But his last words, his message-
words,
They burn, lest friendly eye
Should read how proud and calm
A patriot could die,
With his last words, his dying words,
A soldier's battle-cry.

From fame-leaf and angel-leaf,
From monument and urn,
The sad of earth, the glad of heaven,
His tragic fate shall learn;
And on fame-leaf and angel-leaf
The name of Hale shall burn.
—Francis Miles Finch.

Nathan Hale, great-uncle of Edward Everett Hale, the famous American author, editor and clergyman, now residing in Boston, Mass., was born at Coventry, Conn., June 6, 1755, and was executed as a spy by order of Sir William Howe, September 22, 1776, a few days after being sent by General Washington to procure intelligence concerning the movements of the British at New York. He was refused the

privilege of writing to his relatives and of sending a lock of his hair to his aged mother, was denied the use of a Bible, and his family letters burned. His last words, as he stood beneath the noose in the orchard on that fateful morning, were, "I regret that I have but one life to give to my country." A statue was erected to his memory in New York in 1893. His story has been told in prose and verse, and few theatre-goers have not wept over its dramatization.

The Lenten Days

After the blizzards and wild winds of the past six weeks, we are none of us sorry to know that the winter is ended, and to see the pale fingers of the crocus and hyacinth pushing up out of the brown earth. It is blessed to know that the beauty and fragrance of the early springtime will not now be long delayed. We long to throw up the windows, to open wide the doors, and let in the delicious air and sunshine; to put the coal bucket and the kindling basket in some out of the way corner and remember their existence no more; to cover up the coal range and turn on the gas, and forget that there was ever a dearth of spring foods in the pantry. But with the sunshine comes another discovery. Every scratch, or snag, or tear, or worn place on the house furnishings comes out in bold relief, and there is a sense of uncleanness clinging to everything in the rooms, from cellar to garret. *And About Means House-cleaning!* Are you ready for it, sisters? Among the things you set down in the "must-have" memoranda, just put down paints, varnishes, polishes, paint brushes, wall paper, or wall tintings, and do not spend all your money on scourines, scrub brushes, and such instruments of torture. There is nothing gives to the wood-work such a look of spick-and-span newness as a good coating of fresh paint, and the varnish brush is one of the best beautifiers that ever touched a rusty, faded piece of bed furniture. The polish and the polishing cloths will brighten up whatever they touch, if intelligently applied, and a woman who can do a respectable piece of scrubbing can use the paint and varnish brushes with an equal degree of efficiency, with a far more satisfactory result. Every blessed minute you can get, contrive to set John to work repairing furniture and getting it ready for the brushes. There are a thousand little odds and ends that a man can do to help make the home attractive, and it is as well for him to begin looking about and locating them. The hammer, saw, screw-driver, glue pot, and some like tools should be put into commission before the brushes are brought out.

Notes from Fashion Magazines

The very newest fashion is the Directoire princess gown worn with a little bolero. The coat and skirt suit will still hold its place, the coat being usually a long, loose-fitting tailored jacket, just escaping the knees. The coat does not shape in at the waist.

The cut-in-one gowns are the fashion leaders, and next in line is the straight, scanty skirt with the extended waist-line, worn with a

short-waisted guimpe. The high waist line does its share in producing the slender, hipless effect. Sleeves are long and tight-fitting.

A compromise between the one-piece gown and the separate skirt is in the form of the skirt with the extended waist-line; the upper part of the skirt does not fit into the waist as the old-time skirts did, but hangs so that it merely suggests the outline of the figure and gives the Directoire lines.

There are two types of walking skirts. One belongs to the more

elaborate street costume, and just touches the ground all around, and the other is the trotteur skirt which escapes the ground fully two inches. Both of these skirts are extremely close fitting. Some of the skirts are perfectly plain and others are trimmed with bands and buttons.

Very few of the new skirts are hemmed at the bottom. They are faced with the material; the facing, if there is plenty of the goods, should be bias, but if the pattern is scant, it may be straight or a trifle circular. On the long skirt, the top of the facing is stitched invisibly. A soft braid should finish the bottom of the long skirt for protection.

The facing on the short skirt is finally stitched to place on the lower edge, and the upper edge is firmly stitched with the machine. The facing should be four inches deep.

Braiding leads as trimming; sometimes it is soutache braid alone,

Latest Fashions for Readers of The Commoner



2790

2790—Ladies' Tucked Shirt-Waist, Closing at Back and Having Long or Seven-Eighths Sleeves. This is an excellent model for voile, taffetas, messaline, or heavy linen. Six sizes—32 to 42.



2774

2774—Boys' Russian Suit, Consisting of a Blouse Closing at Right Side of Front and Having Sleeves Plaited at Bottom or Finished with Wristbands; and Knickerbockers. For every-day wear this is an excellent model for serge, flannel or for the coming season linen, or duck would make up charmingly in this style. Five sizes—2 to 6 years.



2787

2787—Girls' and Child's One-Piece Dress, Closing at Center-Back. The model here illustrated was developed in heavy white linen and trimmed with motifs of hand embroidery, although it is an excellent little model for almost any material. Six sizes—2 to 12 years.



2769

2769—Ladies' Five-Gored Petticoat Skirt, Lengthened by a Dust-Ruffle and with Gathered or Circular Flounce Buttoned on or Sewed to Skirt. The model here illustrated is adaptable to nainsook, jaconet, Persianian or Victoria lawn with a flounce of fine embroidery or insertions and edging of fine lace, as desired. Eight sizes—22 to 36.



2772

2772—Misses' Tucked Shirt-Waist, Heavy linen, madras, lawn, Indian-head cotton, rajah or China silk all make up well in this neat model. Three sizes—13 to 17 years.



2781

2781—Ladies' Seven-Gored Plaited Skirt, Closing with Buttons at Each Side. Specially designed for laundering. This is an excellent model for any of the season's materials. Six sizes—22 to 32.



2767

2767—Ladies' Work Apron. Any of the plain, checked or striped ginghams, plain or figured percale, or linen are adaptable to this serviceable house garment. Four sizes—32, 36, 40 and 44.

THE COMMONER will supply its readers with perfect fitting, seam allowing patterns from the latest Paris and New York styles. The designs are practical and adapted to the home dressmaker. Full directions how to cut and how to make the garments with each pattern. The price of these patterns 10 cents each, postage prepaid. Our large catalogue containing the illustrations and descriptions of 1,000 seasonable styles for ladies, misses and children, as well as lessons in home dress-making, full of helpful and practical suggestions in the making of your wardrobe mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents.

In ordering patterns give us your name, address, pattern number and size desired.

Address THE COMMONER, Pattern Dept., Lincoln, Neb.

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