



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Hunt Jackson

October's Bright Blue Weather

O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye can not rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather;

When loud the bumblebee makes
haste,
Belated, thriftless, vagrant,
And goldenrod is dying fast,
And lanes with grapes are fragrant;

When gentians roll their fringes
tight
To save them for the morning,
And chestnuts fall from satin burrs
Without a sound of warning;

When on the ground red apples lie
In piles like jewels shining,
And redder still on old stone walls
Are leaves of woodbine twining;

When all the lovely wayside things
Their white-winged seeds are
sowing,
And in the fields still green and fair,
Late aftermaths are growing;

When springs run low, and in the
brooks,
In idle golden freighting
Bright leaves sink noiseless in the
hush
Of woods, for winter waiting;

When comrades seek sweet country
haunts,
By twos and twos together,
And count like misers, hour by hour,
October's bright blue weather.

O sun and skies and flowers of June,
Count all your boasts together,
Love loveth best of all the year
October's bright blue weather.
—Helen Hunt Jackson.

Looking Forward

Do not these cool, gray mornings make you think of Christmas? It is none too early to begin your preparations for the white festival, even though you do not intend to give many gifts, or have those you do give very elaborate. You have now the choice of great variety, and there are many little odds and ends that can be picked up for a small expenditure. Many women took advantage of the mid-summer sales to get quite a few bargains, especially the handkerchief sales. If your preparations are begun now, the finished product of your leisure can be laid away in your "Christmas" box, and before you know it, you will have an abundance of pretty things without the struggle with clamorous crowds who put off their Christmas shopping until the last few days. Then, too, by beginning early, you may be better prepared to give intelligently, through knowing your friend's needs or tastes. In your giving, do not forget the old folks, and do not think that, because they are old, they do not care for the pretty things that please others. The "useful" present has no place in the Christmas giving, though the real gift—which may be but a pretty box of candy, or a potted plant, or bit of lace, may be supplemented by the necessity in the way of shoes, stockings, headwrap, or other piece of wearing apparel.

The Baby's Comfort

These chilly days must remind you that the little flannel garments, thick stockings and comfortable shoes must

be handy, if you would keep the baby from taking cold and feeling uncomfortable generally. It would not probably be necessary that these thicker garments should be constantly worn, but they should be slipped on when the morning or evening is chilly, even though they must be removed during the middle of the day. A little flannel jacket often saves the baby a spell of sickness.

For the Woman Who Works

It is just as creditable to sell your time and skill as it is to sell merchandise, and the selling should be conducted along business lines. When you buy a pound of anything, you expect to get sixteen ounces; when you buy a quart, the quantity expected is two pints. So, when selling your labor, you are expected to do so much, or so many hours' work for a certain amount of money, or other remuneration. If the grocer gives you short-weight or scant measure, you say he is dishonest; if you clip your day at either end, an hour here, or a few minutes there, or take your ease "tween whiles," are you not dishonest, too? The wage may be paid you without comment, but you do not always get employment again in the same place, if there is any one else to be had. A working woman, seamstress, housekeeper, laundress, clerk, or in other lines which are open to women, should adhere rigidly to her hours; she should do her best for the regular salary or wage, and should charge for every extra hour, filling to the fullest her every duty. Such a person is always in demand, and if there is any work to do, she will be sure of a favorable chance at it. It is such women who keep the work given them, even in slack times, and when others are being "laid off," she is not in constant fear of being "turned down."

Washing Corduroy

White corduroy is especially desirable for little children's coats, as it washes so beautifully and needs no ironing. The colored corduroys wash well, also, and are admirable for coats for older children and for suits and separate trousers for boys. It wears like iron, and the garments can be passed down quite a long line, so far as wear is concerned. Wash it with good, white soap and water, making a suds, and rinse in plenty of clear water, hanging it up to drip without squeezing or wringing, as wringing will ruin it. When it is dry, rub smooth with the fingers to restore the silky look. A thin wadded lining of sateen, or silk and lamb's wool, made by the same pattern as the coat, will make it quite warm enough for the cold days. The gray, or fawn, or brown are all good colors. The goods come in twenty-two inch width, and costs from one dollar a yard up, for a first-class article.

Drifted Out to Sea

Maud R. Isenberg, of East Newmarket, Dorchester county, Maryland, in sending the following poem, says: "I am a little girl of twelve years old; I was reading your paper, The Commoner, and saw a request for the poem called 'Drifted Out to Sea.' I happened to have it, as it is one of my elocution pieces. I will send it to you. (The poem asked for in your letter called 'Of What is the Old Man Thinking as He Leans

on His Old Oaken Staff," was printed in this department, issue of September 3.—Ed.)

Two little ones grown tired of play
Roamed by the sea one summer day,
Watching the great waves come and
go.

Prattling as children will, you know,
Of dolls and marbles, kites and
strings;
Sometimes hinting of graver things.

At last they spied within their reach
An old boat cast upon the beach—
Helter-skelter, with merry din,
Over its sides they clambered in—
Ben, with his tangled, nut-brown
hair,
Bess, with her sweet face flushed
and fair.

Rolling in from the briny deep,
Nearer, nearer, the great waves
creep;
Higher, higher, up the sands,
Reaching out with their giant hands,
Grasping the boat with boisterous
glee,
Tossing it up and out to sea.

The sun went down 'mid clouds of
gold;
Night came with footsteps damp and
cold;
Day dawned; the hours went slowly
by;
And now, across the sunny sky,
A black cloud stretches far away,
And shuts the golden gates of day.

A storm comes on with flash and
roar,
While all the skies are shrouded o'er;
The great waves, rolling from the
west,
Bring night and darkness on their
breast,
Still floats the boat through driving
storm,
Protected by God's powerful arm.

The home-bound vessel, Seabird, lies
In ready trim, 'twixt sea and skies;
Her captain paces restless now,
A troubled look upon his brow,
While all his nerves with terror thrill,
The shadow of some coming ill.

The mate comes up to where he
stands,
And grasps his arm with eager hands,
"A boat has just swept past," said
he,
"Bearing two children out to sea;
'Tis dangerous now to put about,
Yet they can not be saved without."

"Naught but their safety will suffice,
They must be saved!" the captain
cries;
"By every thought that's just and
right,
By lips I hope to kiss tonight,
I'll peril vessel, life and men
And God will not forsake me then."

With anxious faces, one and all,
Each man responded to the call;
And when at last through driving
storm,
They lifted up each little form,
The captain started, with a groan,
"My God!" he cried, "they are my
own."

Washing Blue Goods

"Beth" sends the following method of washing blue goods which are likely to fade through laundering: Dissolve in enough quite warm water to cover the goods one quart of coarse salt, or one five-cent bag of

table salt. Let the water cool, then put the blue garment, any kind of cotton or linen, into this brine and leave to soak overnight, or at least several hours. Then rinse the garment in clear warm water, using two or three waters so as to be sure that all brine is removed. Then wash in good soap suds, using white soap if possible. When clean, rinse well in soft water made quite blue with good bluing; hang to dry in a light wind, but not in strong sunshine, and when nearly dry, take in, fold down to dampen evenly, iron on the wrong side until nearly dry, then on the right side. This will prevent the glossy appearance so undesirable.

Mrs. J. K. B. says: "Soak the goods in a strong brine for several hours, then rinse out the salt through several rinse waters, and wash through a thin flour starch, using no soap, until clean. Rinse in soft water in which has been dissolved one tablespoonful of either sugar of lead or powdered alum, and hang to dry. No starching is necessary, and the goods will be 'like new.'"

For Baby's Bath

A most convenient apron to wear while giving the baby its bath is made of a square of heavy twilled flannel, which may be made ornamental enough for a pretty present by feather-stitching, with pink or blue wash silk, a broad hem all around. Open the hem at each end of one side and run a ribbon through for a belt. Baby may be lifted dripping from the bath tub, to this apron, thus doing away with the need of a blanket, and also protecting the nurse's dress.

The Bulb Planting

This is the month for putting the bulbs to bed, whether indoors or out, if you want the best results. For hyacinths, from the middle of September to the middle of October is the very best time, though they will do well if planted as late as December 1. If potted for indoor blooming, procure the best bulbs to be had—large and solid; the small bulbs will bloom, but will not give as large or as many blossoms. Use rather large pots, as this gives room for the fine roots. Fill in an inch of broken pot or gravel for drainage, and use good garden soil with a little sand, but no manure. After the bulb is growing nicely a little liquid manure may be given. Two bulbs, or even three, may be planted in a five inch pot.

Narcissus do well in pots, and half a dozen bulbs may be planted in a six-inch pot. Most of the hardy bulbs do better out in the border, and all bulbs like a cool, moist atmosphere. Crocuses do not bloom

A Fine Pair of Tension Shears

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