



The Home Department

Conducted by
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The Chimes of Amsterdam

Far up above the noisy city, in the old, gray belfry tower, The chimes rang out their music each day at the twilight hour. Above the din and the tumult, and the rush of the busy street, You can hear their solemn voices in an anthem clear and sweet.

When the busy day is dying, and the sunset gates, flung wide, Mark a path of crimson glory upon the restless tide, As the white-winged ships drop anchor and furl their snowy sails, While the purple twilight gathers, and the glowing crimson pales.

Then, from the old gray belfry, the chimes peel out again, And a hush succeeds the tumult as they ring their sweet refrain; No sound of discordant clangor mars the perfect melody, But each, attuned by a master's hand, has a place in the harmony.

I climbed the winding stairway that led to the belfry tower, As the sinking sun in the westward heralded the twilight hour; For I thought that surely the music would be clearer, sweeter far, Than when, through the din of the city, it seemed to float from afar.

But, lo! as I neared the belfry, no sound of music was there— Only a brazen clangor disturbed the quiet air! The ringer stood at the key-board far down beneath the chimes, And patiently struck the noisy keys, as he had uncounted times.

He had never heard the music, though every day it swept Out over the sea and city, and in lingering echoes crept. He knew not how many sorrows were cheered by the evening strain And how men paused to listen as they heard the sweet refrain.

He only knew his duty, and did it with patient care; But he could not hear the music that flooded the quiet air. Only the jar and clamor fell harshly on his ear, And he lost the mellow chiming that every one else could hear.

So, we, from our quiet watch-towers, may be sending a sweet refrain And gladdening the lives about us, though we hear not a single strain, Our work may seem but discord, though we do the best we can; But others will hear the music, if we carry out God's plan.

Far above the world of sorrow and over the eternal sea, It will blend with angelic anthems, in sweetest harmony; It will ring in lingering echoes through the corridors of the sky, And the strains of earth's minor music will blend with the strains on high.

—Minnie E. Kenny, in Congregationalist.

(One of our readers has asked for the publication and authorship of the above poem. I give it as I find it in an old scrap-book. Also a similar poem, bearing the same title,

but with different wording. The other poem begins

"In a church in Amsterdam, within a steeple proud and tall, Are the silver-throated chiming bells beloved by one and all."

He would like to know the author's name. Another poem is called for, "House by the Side of the Road," by S. W. Foss. Will some one please send them?)

For the Home Life

Married people are constantly being advised to "Never do things that you know are against the wishes of the other one, much as you may desire to do so; above all things, have no secrets from each other." Would it not be a much better way, if both the husband and the wife could realize that, while they may be "one" in many directions, in many others, the oneness can never be maintained. "Jack" will always be a man (or should be), while "Jill" will always be a woman, and they see life from very different viewpoints, no matter how good and desirous of making the other happy each may be. Men, apparently, do not need to learn this lesson; and the finer the man, the more things there are in which to become interested. Women would have a much happier life, if they would but recognize this truth. For it is in the nature of things that all marriages can not be happy ones, and to every one must come some disappointments and disillusionments. Men and women should learn to compromise, and each make the most of what is most interesting to him or her, keeping in mind always the harmony of the home. Many things are hurtful which should, with a proper understanding, be harmless, and in many cases, giving up what is extremely desirable to the one because the other does not like it, no matter how innocent the character of the pleasure, has resulted in a matrimonial rupture which no indulgence could have brought about. The world is full of interesting things, and it is sheer selfishness for either the husband or the wife to make rules of life for each other simply because they have taken up life's duties together. Men can never understand why a woman cries, or why she frets, or why she "nags," but "there's a reason," and just the same, women can never understand why men like to smoke, or swear, or fight the political game. We must each of us try to make the most of every good thing, and see as little of the bad as possible, and remember that in marriage, as in other matters, "we experience only ourselves."

Giving the Young People a Chance

As the cool weather comes on, the question of home amusements and attractions rises before us. "Home's not merely four square walls," and a few pieces of furniture, and the boys and girls are not mere animals, content to eat and drink and sleep. Good foods, good beds and whole, clean, serviceable clothes are not all that is needed to make the home attractive to either the old or the young. Man, as well as his wife and children, is a social animal, and there is no punishment so terrible to the criminal as solitary confinement. Yet many homes are just that, so far as it is possible to make them so, and the children are rushing away to the social life, no matter over

what stony paths the way may lead. The man sees more or less of other people, while the wife and mother is shut away from nearly all social life because of her loving care for her family. When the mountain did not come to Mohamet, Mohamet went to the mountain, and if the world, in its best guise, refuses to come to the young, they go to the world. As much of the social life as possible should be brought into the home; but the social life must be had, and is to be had by every member of the family and community, if only they will set about it right. Many informal gatherings at which both the young and the elderly may mingle, should be instituted throughout the neighborhood. The school houses should be utilized as meeting places, and so also should the little country church building. Youths should be taught that these public buildings are paid for out of the money they help to earn, and should be taken care of. They should be enlisted in the preservation and improvement of the school grounds, and thus develop a sense of ownership. For the coming cold months thought should be taken for the extra fuel for warming up the house of an evening, and for its lighting. "Let there be light," and let it be abundant at these gatherings. Teach the youths to love the light. Let the rooms be warm and comfortable, and it is a good plan to have some kind of refreshments, if only a big basket of apples, each family bringing a supply of "good things." Try it this winter.

Good Things to Know

When the man of the house goes to town, and replenishes his stock of tobacco, he should invest a like amount in hardy bulbs or some other home-beautifier for the "gude" wife. He should keep a strict account with himself in the matter of individual expenses, and "tote fair" with the rest of the family. No man has any right to claim that he "supports" his wife, when she does the work of the home and often a large share of the chores outside. No woman has any right to feel that she is being "supported." She should honestly try to earn every penny she gets, but be sure she gets in some form every penny she earns. A sense of unjust dependence is degrading.

A man should see that his wife is clothed comfortably for the cold season. Many men, as well as many economically inclined women, think the women's clothes problem should wait until the "bargain sales" when the winter is half over, before purchasing. If the woman and children have enough clothes to keep them comfortable until such sales occur, well and good, if they wish to do so; but don't force the wife and children to stand the chill of early winter, at the risk of contracting colds and cold weather ailments, in order to save a few pennies on each article. Besides, no sensitive woman or child likes to go out shabbily clad where others are comfortable in the new cut of garment. It would be to the social advantage of many men, if they were a little more thoughtful of their own apparel.

It is well to wear the old clothes, even to patches and made overs, if one has to, or if the alternative is going in debt for the new. But one should be very sure that the necessity for such heroism is there. A

ragged, or ill-clad child or woman is never happy, or socially-inclined one, and the old garment can not always be patched or made over economically. Time is worth something to the housewife. Many men take far better care of their stock than of their wife and dependent children. A man who neglects his stock, or his business is called by some unpleasant names; but the neglect of family is too often covered up by the extra exertions of the overworked mother, and "Nobody never says nothin'."

To Prevent Stooping

Many growing girls, especially those tall for their age, are inclined to stoop, and many well-meaning persons advocate the use of braces or shoulder-straps as a means of correcting the tendency. The brace may force an upright carriage, but they give the wearer no strength of muscle to maintain the position. A much better way is to teach the girls how to strengthen these muscles of the chest, back and shoulders which produce an erect figure. Old fashioned mothers had their daughters drill with a plate or book, or other article on the head, and this is a good practice. But a much better way is to expand the chest with a long, deep breath and try to maintain the position after the breath is expired. The lifting of the chest by the chest muscles every time the thought of the position occurs, will do a great deal of good, and, in time, correct the defect. High pillows, and a soft bed-spring is one cause of this stooping figure, but a child should not be allowed to sit incorrectly, or "lop" when at rest. A stooping figure makes one ungainly and awkward, and apart from the damage done to the health by a constantly contracted and sunken chest, the slouching figure is a very unsightly one. Mothers and teachers should insist on the lifted chest and the upright position, making the child go through the exercises as often as possible.

"Taking Cold in the Back"

One is very likely to take cold in the back, and this leads to serious results at times. As the chill of early fall is already in the air, it is well to take precautions. The back, especially between the shoulders, should always be well covered, and one should not lean back against anything that is cold. The back should not be in a direct draft, and when warming the back at the fire, it should not be kept exposed to the heat after it becomes comfortably warm.

For the Toilet

This is said to be one of the best toilet vinegars, helping to keep the skin firm. Only the best ingredients should be used: Four ounces of extract of cassia, one ounce extract of tuberose, three ounces tincture of orris root, three ounces triple extract of rose, all added to a pint of the best white wine vinegar, to be had only of reliable grocers. Shake well and let stand several days before using. Always apply with an atomizer.

An astringent that may be used after the bath has one ounce of elder-flower water, three ounces of rose-water, a quarter ounce tincture of benzoin and five grains of tannic acid. Apply with a soft sponge. If a dryness results, leave off.

A good soap jelly to use at night in place of soap, where the soap is too drying, is made as follows: Melt an ounce and a quarter of pure white castile soap, powdered or shaved quite thin, with an ounce and a half of strained honey, heating over hot water, and then add three quarters of an ounce of white wax, melted; then add a quarter of an ounce of