



The Home Department

Conducted by
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Woman

A type of the wondrous victor,
She stands on the ramparts today,
To herald the dawn, and the cere-
ments
Of her past are folded away.
She stands with the prophets and
sages;
She speaks, and her tongue is a
flame,
Leaping forth from the fires which
for ages
Have smouldered in silence and
shame.

Her feet have come up from the
valleys,
They are climbing the mountains
of light;
At her call the world rouses and
rallies,
Bearing arms in the battle for
right.
She treads on the serpent that
struggles
And grinds out its life 'neath her
heel;
She grapples with wrongs that have
crushed her,
Now turning her woes into weal.

Made strong through her slaughtered
affections,
She comes, with her sons by her
side,
An angel of power and protection,
Their beacon-light, leader and
guide.
No longer a timorous being,
To cringe and to cry 'neath the
rod,
But quick to divine, and far-seeing,
She hastens the purpose of God.
—Rose Hartwick Thorpe.

For the Spring Work

Yes, it is time to begin prepara-
tions for the spring planting, if in
no other way than to garden on
paper. One of the best things to
have in a corner is a bed of mint.
The roots are easily obtained, and
will grow readily and spread rapidly.
It should be weeded, just as any
other crop, and if cultivated, the
growth will be much more satisfac-
tory. About the middle of August
the first crop is in full bloom and
ready for cutting and drying, and a
month later a second cutting may
be made. If only for family con-
sumption, or for a limited local
trade, the work will not require
expense for implements; but if
raised as a large field crop it should
have the same care that other field
crops must have as to preparing the
soil, planting and cultivating and
harvesting. To make one pound of
the extracted oil will require three
hundred and seventy-five pounds of
the herbage, or hay. Mint has many
medicinal virtues for family use.

Every family with a garden of
family size should have one corner
devoted to kitchen herbs. Many of
these will readily germinate from
seeds, while others must be bought
by the roots or plants. To get the
best results, the plants should be of
good kinds, and given good cultiva-
tion and care in harvesting. Home
grown sage is not to be compared
with that bought dried in the stores.
Dill, so liked for making pickles, is
readily grown from seeds, and a few
stalks will be all that one needs. It
would be well to send for the
florists and nurserymen's catalogues
and study these matters before time
for starting the garden.

On a small place, it is not always
advisable to plant many fruit trees,
but a fruit garden will take up but

little space, and care should be
taken to have enough for family use
without too great a surplus, unless
you wish some to sell to your neigh-
bors. It hardly pays to try to find
a market unless you are sure you can
supply it. But it always pays to
have plenty for home use.

Water-Stained Furniture

To remove water-stains from
varnished furniture, pour olive oil
into a dish and scrape a little white
wax into it; this mixture should be
heated until the wax melts, then
rubbed sparingly on the stains.
Finally rub the surface with a soft
linen rag until it is restored to bril-
liancy. A simple way to clean
painted walls is to put a little aqua
ammonia in moderately hot water,
dampen a flannel cloth with it, and
gently wipe over the painted sur-
face. No scrubbing is necessary.

Home Remedies

An excellent remedy for sprains is
to boil a handful of wormwood
leaves in vinegar enough to just
cover the fresh leaves, and apply the
decoction as hot as possible to the
injured member, wrapping it well in
cloths to retain the moisture of the
leaves, renewing as it cools until the
pain is eased, then less frequently
until the sprain is well.

One of the best remedies for rheu-
matism is to wear soft woolen under-
wear next the skin, and guard wet
feet or damp clothes. Milk and soda
are good drinks in rheumatism. No
spirits should be used. At night,
and in the morning if possible, rub
the whole body well with a turkish
towel wrung out of warm salty
water, until the skin is aglow, and
the blood started at the surface.

For a mashed or pinched finger
or hand, or for a bruise of any
description, put the member in water
as hot as can be borne and leave
until the water cools a little, then re-
new the hot water, and keep the
bruise in the hot water for at least
fifteen minutes. The water must be
kept hot by renewing frequently.
The foot or hand may be kept in the
hot water for a half hour, then
rubbed well with witch hazel. A
bruise on the body which can not be
treated in this wise, may be greatly
benefited by hot water fomentations,
as hot as can be borne for a half
hour or more at a time, always
finishing the treatment with a rub-
bing with witch hazel.

What I am Asked

I am frequently tempted to write
a few words of advice to those who
are anxious to take up the work of
journalism, and whose special attrac-
tion to this profession is that it is
"easy work and such good pay,"
and they are told by the schools for
teaching how to do such work, that
there is a great demand for women
who can act as associate editors,
editors of departments, household
writers, etc. But I am afraid it
would be a waste of words and good
space, for I could not convince them
that journalism is just like law,
theology, medicine, or any other pro-
fession. In the first place, there
must be an aptitude for the work;
there must be such a love for the
work that the one entering the field
would rather work for nothing than
not write at all. Then, there is a
long, hard siege of preparation, and
in order to succeed, one must give
herself up wholly to the business.

Speaking of one of these advertising
companies, the editor of a widely-
read monthly says, "The fact is,
there is but a poor opening for farm
journalism, and the work is not very
well paid for, at best. The idea of
teaching one through correspondence
how to write practical, helpful
articles when one knows absolutely
nothing of the work written about,
is absurd. There is no great de-
mand for either writers or editors,
and for any one desirable position
there are dozens of applicants ready
to take it at any cost. If a woman
really has a talent for writing, and
a message to deliver, she will find
her own public, and if she knows
herself capable of adding to the sub-
scription list of the paper, she may
get a 'job,' but it won't make a rich
woman of her through her wages." Among my own acquaintances are
dozens of women who write very
pleasantly, and they every one think
they could fill the editorial chair
perfectly; but the editors who are
seeking "the woman" simply "file"
their application and samples of writ-
ing, and, so far as they are con-
cerned, that is the end. If they get
a position, ten chances to one they
do not hold it. Journalism is a pro-
fession, and requires preparation as
well as a love for the work.

For Love of the Work

I copy this from a personal letter
written me by one of our girls: "I
am very ambitious. I have mastered
one trade, and my work is known
throughout this region, and the pho-
tographers are all anxious to secure
my services. My work finds its way
into many homes, and I love to think
I have made the pictures of dear ones
now passed on, more precious to
those who are left, because of my
re-touching. It is very interesting
to watch the negatives as they pass
through a re-toucher's hands. I
pick up a negative of an old lady;
there are lines in the face; the hair
has turned white, she has lost the
bloom and smoothness of youth, and
as I look at it, I think, "This is some
dear mother, some one loves her,
and this picture will be dear to some
one's heart." So I retouch it care-
fully, bringing out all the beauty I
can. Then comes, perhaps, a bright-
faced little one. I think, "Here is a
little ray of sunshine in some one's
home—curly-hair, dimpled mouth. I
smile back at the face—it seems so
real. Another is taken up—some
lovely young girl, just at the age
of which Longfellow says,
"Standing with reluctant feet,
Where the brook and river meet."
Thus it goes on, and all styles of
features, beauty, and degrees of
beauty, and down through unto the
entire lack of it. But the photo-
grapher says,
"Where there's beauty, we take it;
Where there is none, we make it."
So, this young girl works, and
makes a good living, doing her work
well, because she loves the work.
At this business, as in everything
else, "Love makes the wheels go
'round.'" Because she loves the
work, she does it well, and it brings
her a good living.

"Parting Alike"

Work is work, the world over,
and the worker earns his or her
wage, be it much or little, and is
entitled to it to use, or to abuse,
as seemeth good to the earner,
whether the work be done in the
home or out of it. It is still work,

though done by the wife in the home,
and has a money value, whether the
value is asked or ignored. The
human nature of the worker is
pretty much the same, the world
over. But the laws of the land do
not so recognize it; the worker in
the domestic realm is accounted of
no account; she is "unemployed," in
the eyes of the census-taker, and is
so regarded by most of husbands.
That the laws are unjust to women,
all really good lawyers admit, but
the laws stand, and women suffer
from their rulings. The men go
down to battle, to be sure; but the
women "stay by the stuff," and the
words of David were that "As his
part is that goeth down to battle, so
shall his part be that tarrieth by the
stuff; they shall part alike." Women
very frequently lose what is their
own, and what the law would secure
to them, through their ignorance of
their legal claims. Ignorance in some
matters costs them dear. To esti-
mate the worth of the work done in
the home by the wife, just sum up
the cost of replacing her services by
that of paid labor, and the amount
will, in most cases seem incredible.
The husband may "give" her all, and
even more than she has earned, but
the fact that she has earned any part
of that which she receives does not
at all determine how much, or how
little she is really entitled to have.
Why should not the clubs take up
this subject of ignorance and teach
its members what her property and
physical rights are, and how she may
make such rights of benefit to her-
self, if the husband should—as some
husbands do—show a disposition to
be dishonest in his dealings with her.

Gleanings

One of the subjects in which the
housewife is just as much interested
—or should be—as the men of the
family, is the workings of the parcel
post, and as the services will be in
operation on and after January 1st,
all the family should "learn wisdom"
as to its advantages. If the family
are much of distributors, it would
be well to send 75 cents to the Chief
Clerk, Post-Office Department, Wash-
ington, D. C., for a map and guide
which will tell you how to figure up
the amount of postage necessary to
carry your parcel to any part of the
country. Of one thing you may be
sure: You must use the special
parcels post stamps sold at your post
office; the regular mailing postage
stamp can not be used. The parcels-
post stamps are a bright red. Many
things, such as seeds, cuttings, roots,
bulbs, scions and plants still call for
the old flat rate of one cent for each
two ounces, but the amount that may
be sent is raised to 11 pounds. In
addition to the necessary directions
as to destination, your own name
and address must be on the parcel.
The post office department has
printed the rules which must govern
the packing and mailing of various
articles. Every one interested should
apply to the chief clerk of the post
office department for the prescribed
rules and instructions.

Odds and Ends

Hundreds of women try to get
good work out of the household ma-
chinery without ever using the oil
can. The sewing machine should be
cleaned and oiled every time it is
to be used for a few hours. It is
rust and dirt that causes the ma-
chine to creak and run heavy. A
little gasoline, or coal oil will bring
out the dirt and gumminess, and this
should be cleaned off the working
parts, then follow it up with the ap-
plication of a few drops of good ma-
chine oil. You will find it vastly
improved.

The washing machine and wringer
must also be oiled when about to be
used. Nothing eases up the washing
like having the machinery clean and
well oiled, and this should be at-