

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

A TALK ON THRIFT, No. 2.

Thrift is good management, and nowhere is good management more manifest than in the home. You can soon tell what manner of housekeeper the wife is, for the impress of her ideals and ideas is on every hand. She can waste all the husband earns, or she can save the major part.

Housekeeping is the most complicated work in the world, and she who can keep a house well is a good business woman. She can make her work drudgery or she can make it a pleasure. Men fail in business and the world knows it, but how many home failures there are of which the world never hears!

It is easy to detect the woman who fails as a housekeeper. If you see the dishes unwashed, the children unkempt, clothes strung all over the house, the bath littered, the corners dirty and a general air of neglect, you may depend upon it she has failed as a business housekeeper. She does not know how.

Writing in the Ladies' Home Journal, one woman tells how she succeeds as a home-maker and as a business woman in the home. She aims at simplicity. She has simple furnishings, but good. She has no "parlor"—that abomination of olden time, but a living room, where they really live. Most parlors are merely to look at, not to use. She has simple meals—things "they are all stuck on," as her little boy puts it, but lots of them. Baked beans only, but lots of them and good. And who couldn't make a meal on the beans mother used to bake?

She has no curtains at the windows; her windows are for light and air, not to display curtains and catch the dust and keep out the sunlight. She wastes no food.

A fireless cooker saves gas and time and food. She keeps biscuit flour mixed with the proper proportion of salt and baking powder and biscuits for her oven in five minutes! She has all her kitchen utensils handy, cans and receptacles labeled, and thus she saves steps. Some women walk too much on their jobs. She always has change in the house, runs no accounts, pays cash on delivery, weighs her purchases and takes nothing for granted. She keeps account of all her expenditures and knows where her money goes and what it buys. She doesn't hire much help, because she doesn't need it. She studies her job and succeeds because she knows how.

OUT OF THE SILENCE.

And what can you say when the day is done

And you've gone to your bed to rest?

When the shadows come and the light has gone

O'er the rim of the golden west,
And a silvery beam of the moon creeps in

As if in an aimless quest?

What do you say

When a kindly voice that you seem to know,

Out of the shadows speaks soft and low,

"Well, what did you do today?"

Oh, what can you say when you're all alone

With the master of all the tasks?

How much of a sin do you have to town

When the voice of the master asks?
How many things that you left undone
Your studied answer makes?

What do you say

When out of the shades of the silent night

The master speaks with the master's right;

"Well, what did you do today?"

Thrice blest is he of the humble way

Who sinks to his bed of rest—

The rest he earned with a toiling day

With love of his labor blest—

Who hears the voice of the master ask

And can truthfully say, "My best!"

The man can say,

"I've trod the way of my best intend;
I've helped a friend and I've made a friend."

To "What did you do today?"

—John D. Wells in Buffalo News.

THE MOTHER AS A CHARACTER-MAKING FORCE.

When a man proves himself honest, courageous, true, and rises to success people say, "He is a self-made man." I am inclined to think that even in his case we may "look for the woman," with good assurance that we will find back of him some woman who has helped to form his character.

It may have been a sister who was his playmate in childhood, his companion in youth, and who encouraged his efforts to do right and frowned upon his desire to do wrong.

It may have been a teacher who, to her lessons of book-learning, added instruction in right living and gave him a start toward high ideals.

It may have been a young girl who was to him the ideal woman and whose life spoke to him more eloquently than any sermon.

But more than likely it was the mother who from his babyhood had been teaching him to do right; at first in all the little ways possible to a child, and then showing him how the truths she had taught could be applied to the harder problems of life. She had showed him that his ambition should not be satisfied with bodily growth. He should not desire merely to be a big man, but a good man; that he should be just as eager to grow in character as in size.—Purity Magazine.

A CORRECTION.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 24, 1916.

Rev. J. A. Williams,

Editor Monitor—I am writing this to correct a rumor prevalent among my friends in your city.

The Mrs. Hamler mentioned in the Grand Island paper is no relative of mine. I have been living in Cheyenne, Wyoming, at 2519 Reed St., for the past five years.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. M. H. Hamler.

EXPLICIT

"Are you of the opinion, James," asked a slim-looking man of his companion, "that Dr. Smith's medicine does any good?"

"Not unless you follow the directions."

"What are the directions?"

"Keep the bottle tightly corked."



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