

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

ECONOMY AND LOVE IN THE HOME.

The economic question of the household it is usually supposed, is in the hands of the woman. This is only partly true. It is to a greater extent in the hands of the man, the recognized provider.

Any man who by natural authority makes himself the king in his home, and who inspires and maintains the respect and love of the inmates, will never be made to suffer from their extravagance. The wife who loves her husband in the true sense can no more drag upon his purse strings than she can inflict upon him physical pain. The daughter who loves her father will be the first to check the mother who, through over interest and pride, may have momentarily forgotten the limitations that mark her husband's purse.

A man who has control of himself is pretty apt to control all the members of his household. It is when he is discovered throwing wood on other fires than his own that extravagance in the home is apt to begin. Most wives are jealous of the money their husbands spend that does not in some way include them.

"With all my worldly goods I thee endow" is the most important part of the marriage ceremony with many women, and the part few forget to dwell upon. Her husband's absence from home, which may involve expenditure of money, when the dinner has been prepared for him with pride for his own table, has caused many a woman to recklessly expend the next day whatever she could lay her hands upon in the way of cash. She refreshes herself by the thought of "getting even" and when she discovers she has only accomplished additional loss she bursts into tears.

Economy is not a pleasant word. Continuous discussion of deprivations shuts out the light in a home, and the little children suffer most from the darkness.

Painful and ostentatious economy is never practised in a household where there is love. Children who love their parents save instinctively. The little boy will save his pennies an entire year to buy his mother, on her birthday, the simple thing for which she has expressed a wish. The daughter will deny herself the particular costume or hat her youth causes her to inwardly enthuse about when she thinks of the worried expression she has sometimes seen settle in the eye of the father she worships.

All economy should be the outcome of love! Saving and scrimping out of any other motive warps character. "Lay not up for yourself treasures upon earth" should be the motto in every household. The present is more important than the future. And the present splendidly lived, in reason, never fails to protect the future.—G. Vere Tyler, in New York American.

AN UNPLEASANT PROCESS.

"What a horrible humiliation!" exclaimed the Shirt as it lay in the clothes basket. It belonged to the evening dress of a very fine gentleman, and as it was a new shirt it was passing through a novel experience.

"All these dirty clothes!" sniffed the Shirt. "And to be crowded in with common apparel in this way!"

The Shirt did not realize that it also was soiled, and so was on a level with the rest.

Then came a horrible plunge into hot water. Then came a cruel pounding and rubbing that almost took the life out of the Shirt. Then it was put through a fearful pair of rollers that nearly finished it. Then it hung out on a line, and the wind flapped it insultingly for several hours. Last of all it was laid on a board and pressed by an excruciatingly hot iron. This was the crowning agony. The Shirt swooned away!

When it recovered consciousness it was to find itself clothing its master, and shining in the very center of a brilliant company. Vastly pleased, it began to relate its experiences to its friends, the Pearl Studs; but they interrupted it with a hearty laugh.

"Why, you simpleton!" they exclaimed. "That was only the process of getting clean. Did you expect it to be as easy as getting dirty?"

AN ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY.

Blotting paper was discovered purely by accident. Some ordinary paper was being made one day at a mill in Berkshire, England, when a careless woman forgot to put in the sizing material. The whole of the paper made was regarded as useless. The proprietor of the mill desired to write a note shortly afterward, and he took a piece of this waste paper, thinking it was good enough for the purpose. To his intense annoyance the ink spread all over the paper. Suddenly there flashed over his mind the thought that this paper would do instead of sand for drying ink, and he at once advertised his waste paper as "blotting."

There was such a big demand that the mill ceased to make ordinary paper, and was soon occupied in making blotting paper only, the use of which soon spread to all countries.—Apples of Gold.

REST.

I am weary, weary weary, of the city dim and dreary—

Of its constant noise and shatter night and day;

And I long for marsh and meadow, stream and rapid river,

Where the timid woodland creatures romp and play.

There's a verdant hanging vine, where the tender tendrills twine,

Concealing in its shadow a wee nest;

And the modest mother there, with solicitude and care,

Keeps warm her future hopes beneath her breast.

I would watch the hustling bee, when she seeks her hollow tree,

And deposits there the labor of her hours!

What joy in dim retreats, to feast on stolen sweets,

And rob the robber of the flowers!

I am weary, weary weary, of the city dull and dreary;

Of its constant roar and rattle night and day;

And I long for field and forest, ghostly glades and grassy uplands,

Where the wild things in their freedom romp and play.

—H. C. January.

A HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO ABRAM W. PARKER

Omaha, Neb., March 20, 1916.

Editor Monitor:—In your last issue I read with deep regret of the death of Abram W. Parker, of Omaha. It was my pleasure to have known the deceased well and intimately for more than a third of a century. During all that time I never knew a man in whom I had a greater amount of confidence, as he was the soul of honor, possessed of all the noble traits that go to make a good, honored and useful citizen. You were correct in stating that he was the first colored man in Omaha to receive and enjoy a public office; I am proud to say that I was the man who secured for him this appointment, I then being a member of the Omaha City Council, made the request to Mayor Cushing for his appointment and voted for his confirmation by the Council. I never had occasion to regret my selection of him, as he made an excellent public official. I extend to his bereaved wife and family my heartfelt sympathy in the loss of such a good husband and father.

ED. F. MOREARTY.

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