

**VERY LIKE MOST MOTHERS**

**Mrs. Ripple at First Could See Very Little in Girl Her Son Had Chosen for Wife.**

Years ago, when the Billows were trying to keep Dora from marrying Nathaniel Ripple, Mrs. Ripple was trying to keep Nathaniel from marrying Dora. The Billows didn't think much of the Ripple family, Claude Callan writes in Kansas City Star. In fact, they told Dora that if she took Nathaniel she would be marrying beneath herself.

Mrs. Ripple didn't know that the Billows considered themselves better than the Ripples, so she was not angry at the family. And she liked Dora.

"I think Dora is a good, sweet girl," she said to her son, "but anybody can look at her and tell she isn't able to do a day's work."

"You can do as you please, but if I were you I never would marry a delicate girl like Dora. I know how much work a woman has to do in a home and I know that Dora Billow can't do it. If you were able to hire help it would be all right. Your poor old mother never has had any help, but I would be glad for my sons' wives to keep help if my sons could afford it."

"Now, as I said, I haven't a word to say against Dora, but if I were you and wanted to marry I would find a girl strong enough to make a good wife. It is nice to be pretty. Your papa will tell you that I was pretty when I married him, but beauty counts for very little if a woman is too weak to do her work."

"Just look at your Cousin Henry's wife. She is sick half the time, and that poor boy has to spend every dollar he makes. If Nora had been a big, strong woman, who could have helped him, he would be well fixed today."

After listening to this talk Nathaniel married Dora and in about a month his mother visited them. When she returned home she said to Mr. Ripple: "I think Nathaniel married mighty well. That little girl had all the clothes on the line when I got there, and they were as pretty and white as you ever saw. I said from the very beginning that Dora would make Nathaniel a good wife."

**The German Way.**

I remember one day having passed through a small farming village very badly burned and shattered, not by shells, but by explosions from inside the houses. I was just about to ask my officer why this village had been so punished, when, as we came outside, my attention was attracted to a conspicuous little flat-topped hill, with its level summit quite clear of the low woods that covered the hill's sides. The top had been cleared and smoothed so that it could be planted in grain, and it stood out a vivid and beautiful green, in contrast with the dark tree-covered slopes. I spoke of the hill and its conspicuous top to my officer.

"Yes," he replied angrily, "the last French spy to be landed from an airplane was put down right here on that flat top. We could not catch him. We think he hid in this village."

My unuttered question about the village was already answered.—Vernon Kellogg in Atlantic.

What has become of the old fashioned kids and their May baskets? They forgot us this year.

In one of the department stores they are mighty proud of one of their boys who is just back from "over there." "You are rated as one of the best fighters in your regiment," one of the bunch remarked, and asked, "How did you do it?" "Well," said the returned hero, "every time I went after the Germans I imagined that they were some of the insolent customers I had to wait on here and yet couldn't answer back. The rest was easy."

The home was on fire, and as the staircase was in flames before the blaze was discovered the occupants had to seek other means of escape. Next day the companion to an elderly lady was reading to her the newspaper report of the fire, which stated that one servant escaped down the water-pipe at the back of the house. Whereupon, the old lady, astonished at this statement exclaimed: "But how thin the poor man must have been."

In 1858 some person deposited \$100 in a bank in Lowell, Mass., and about a year later another \$100. No other deposits were ever made. In 1898 the account had increased through interest to \$1,400!

Sylvester Roby and Glen Porter each paid \$10 and costs in police court this morning on a charge of being intoxicated.

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**REMEMBER**



**THE SIGN**

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