

## THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

### A Bit of Cheer.

Perchance you feel like sighing, dear,  
Just check the sigh and smile;  
And cheer some wayworn wanderer  
O'er many a weary mile.  
A kindly word, a loving smile,  
Great blessing doth bestow;  
The power have they to charm away,  
A heavy load of woe.

Alas! the many aching hearts,  
Along the circling years,  
Tho' there be dearth of all things else  
Is never dearth of tears.  
Then put aside thy griefs, dear heart,  
Nor grudge a smile to dole;  
'Twill cheer thine own sad lot, and  
bless  
As well thy neighbor's soul.

For there was One whose spirit oft  
Was wrapped, methinks, in gloom.  
Before Him rose dark Calvary's cross,  
The agony, the tomb—  
And still He ever strove to cheer  
The wayworn pilgrim lone;  
Jesus! Imperial Prince of Peace,  
From heaven's eternal throne!

'Tis not the costly gift bestowed  
That cheers the aching heart,  
It is the kindly sympathy,  
It is love's magic art.  
And blessed shall thy memory be,  
Tho' naught thou hast to give  
But kindly words and loving smiles;  
And lo! thy soul shall live.  
—Housekeeper.

### Hurtful Gossip

One of the greatest evils of our day, getting the unconscious support of many of our best-intentioned people, is the sin of gossiping about persons. Indulgence in gossip is like indulgence in drink—there is no happy medium which it is safe to adopt. The line never can be drawn where drinking or gossiping can be safely done.

Good women, everywhere, should frown down all beginnings of personal discussion of a harmful nature. If one must criticize persons, or discuss them in any way except in kindness, let it be done in their presence, where they may have an opportunity for defense, or at least of explanation.

We have no right to suppose, or supply motives; we are forbidden to judge.

Gossip has made wounds for which there seemed no balm; it has injured reputations, with an entirely unmerited stain. Many a life has gone scarred to the grave by the breath of thoughtless meddlers and tattlers.

A true woman is not given to wounding another. Womanhood should seek to shield, not strike, even the fallen. With life so full of stirring events, what time have you to listen to a set of idle talkers, actuated more often than not by a spirit of malice and envy? It is not always the blameless who is most eager to condemn. The sinless hand rarely, if ever, casts the first stone. If one-half the industry we were used to cultivate a kindly habit of speech, to unveil the better side of humanity, that is devoted to the collection and dissemination of hurtful and evil rumors, there would be less of the "leaven of unrighteousness" scattered through the world's three measures of meal. It is well to avoid a person who comes to you habitually full of confidences and communications which would not bear telling in the presence of the person under discussion. It is a homely old saying,

and a true one, that "the dog that will fetch a bone will carry one away."

### Jupiter's Moons.

Another source of deep interest seen through the optical instrument—and the better the lens, the better the view—is the planet Jupiter, now very near our earth, as earth passed between the planet and the sun on August 5; through a good glass you will see the great, glowing orb, spherical in shape, and on either side of it tiny points of light, four of them, visible, usually, which will readily be recognized as Jupiter's moons. You will not always find them in the same position, either as regards each other, or their places about the planet; but you will always find them, close attendants upon the glorious orb, the largest of our planets visible to the naked eye.

A good glass will show you Saturn's rings, but a glass of low power is not so satisfactory as with Jupiter. Another beautiful object, seen through a good glass, is our charming planet, Venus.

### Herbert Spencer.

For his first book, "Social Statics," in 1850, Herbert Spencer tells us he could not find a publisher willing to take any risk; so he was obliged to print it at his own cost and sell it on commission. The edition consisted of only 750 copies, but took fourteen years to sell them. Five years later he published, under like difficulties, an edition of 750 copies of his "Principles of Psychology." "I gave away a considerable number," he says pathetically, "and the remainder sold in twelve and one-half years." In spite of great losses and continued hardships, Mr. Spencer went courageously on in publishing, and twenty-four years after he published his first volume he had retrieved his losses and was again even—twenty-four years of hard mental labor for no pay. Since that time his work has, by degrees, brought him in satisfactory results.

### Glorifying One's Work.

"A few days ago," said my friend, the young matron, "I decided that I could not keep the girl any longer, as her work was so unsatisfactory; so I discharged her, and undertook the work myself. I never did like housework, and especially dish-washing and cleaning up after meals, and had often said I would endure anything that could carry a bucket of coal or peel a potato, rather than attempt the dirty part of the work myself.

"But when I went down into the kitchen I found everything out of place and there was a smell of old grease and stale victuals exhaling from every cupboard and closet; the pots and pans were slippery with grease and soap-suds; the dish rags—literally, rags!—were unbearable; the dish towels looked as though they had been used to wipe up the floor, or wash off the stove, only the appearance of neither floor nor stove would allow of such an idea for a moment.

"I looked at my hands, so white and

tender from the recent illness, and a feeling of discouragement took possession of me: I felt so utterly helpless in the face of such a task that I began looking about for my sun-hat in order to go out and hunt up a woman to help me out; when I thought of what you had said about "glorifying even the meanest tasks," and I said, "Well, I will see what I can do toward glorifying this kitchen."

I started the fire, using those dish-rags as part of the fuel, filled the teakettle and the reservoir, got some new dish cloths, soap, soda, coal oil and scrubbing brush, and went to work, beginning with the dish-pans and water pails themselves. I cannot tell you how long it took me. It was not done in one hour, nor two; and the teakettle and reservoir were several times replenished; but when at last it was all done, the corners and cupboards cleaned out and disinfected, the floors scrubbed, tables washed, pots scoured, pans and dishes polished, and every clean, sweet-smelling thing ranged about in its proper place, I sat down and admired the work of my hands—tired, but happy, for had I not conquered self and glorified my work? Why, I was proud of myself, sure enough!

When I served up the light luncheon I had prepared in place of the regular dinner, it did look so nice and appetizing that we almost overate ourselves, and I have often thought that my lack of appetite was more than half due to the disreputable condition that had so long prevailed in the cook's domain.

I am convinced that one can glorify even kitchen work, if she tries. Yes, indeed!"

### Celestial Sight Seeing.

Have you an opera glass, a field glass, or even a good spy-glass? If so, did you ever look at the moon through one of these instruments? If you have not, it will pay you to do so. The sight will be a revelation to you. You will find the apparently smooth surface of "pale Luna" pitted and scarred and wonderful lines of light are drawn from a point on the lower side of the moon, upward in all directions converging toward some point on the upper side. The face of the full moon resembles nothing so much as a freshly peeled orange. Begin your observations with the thin crescent showing above the sunset, and follow it nightly from new moon to full; then, from full, follow it waning until lost in the morning dawn. You will be well repaid.

### The "Good Old Days."

If enforced labor is slavery, so is enforced idleness. The imposition of either by any combination strong enough to enforce its decrees, turns to ashes upon the lips of labor the fruits of five centuries of struggle and progress toward freedom. In the reign of Richard II. of England, the rustic toller was imprisoned for refusing the wages fixed by employer-made statutes; for leaving his parish in search of better employment; for apprenticing his children to a trade in town, or for daring to educate them as "clerks."

In those days there were land monopolies, and trade monopolies, and enforced labor in the towns, where every sort of calling or skilled workmanship was the exclusive privilege of some one of an oligarchy of chartered trades, and craft guilds, membership in which could be acquired only by a long apprenticeship, large family influence and large cash payments. Such was the tyranny of property in exclusive possession of the law-making power, that it forced the poor man to accept such slavery, or become an outlaw, with a price set upon his head.

Statistics tell us that in the United States alone there are nearly 3,000,000 women and girls who are wage-earners away from their homes. Tens of thousands of these girls and women must leave their homes in the darkness of the early morning hours, to return to them after nightfall, exposed to all kinds of weather, liable to encounter a thousand dangers in the streets of the city and alleys, armed with no other protection save their own sense of virtue and their natural weapons of defense. They must work, and must brave these dangers or those dependent upon them must starve.

The habit of thought is the best—in fact, the only guarantee of unflagging good spirits. Intellectual diversions console the unfortunate as nothing else can, and often saves the victim of material disaster from a melancholy which, through repeated discouragements, becomes chronic and incurable. The right kind of education serves to lift one above the petty cares and trials which inevitably beset each and every pathway, and the struggle of life will lose much of its hardships if one can bring to bear upon its ever-present problems the strength and clearness of a well-trained mentality.

### Hot Weather Cookery.

Vegetables should be well cooked in boiling water until "just done;" very few of them are benefitted by being left in the water after they reach that point. Dainty serving gives to all foods a relish second only to that of a good, healthy appetite. None but very coarse natures like their food "tossed up" anyhow.

Fresh fruits are indispensable, such as acid berries, grapes, plums, peaches, apples, etc. These should be served uncooked, with, or without, cream and sugar. Do not make them into pies, or puddings—unless you like to work. For tea, serve creams, blanc mange, gelatine jellies, fruit sponges and floats. All these may be prepared in the cool of the day and set aside.

The juices of acid fruits, iced tea, lemonade, iced buttermilk, and sweet milk will all be found refreshing. A light, nourishing breakfast, a substantial dinner, followed by a cool or cold supper, consisting of cold meats, bread, butter, salad, eggs, fruits, cakes, iced teas or milk.

No matter if "they" do call you lazy; if you possibly can find the time and a cool place, indulge in a nap in the afternoon. By so doing, you are enabled to attend much more satis-