

## ...The Home Department...

October

A crimson splendor,  
Instead of the tender  
Green of the dewy morn,  
And, oh, the sweetness—  
The full completeness!  
That under his rule is born.

Russet and yellow,  
In apples mellow,  
And wheat and millet and corn,  
His frost so hoary,  
Has touched with glory  
Maple and oak and thorn.

No thrifty sower  
But only a mower,  
That comes when the day is done,  
With warmth abeam,  
And gold a gleaming,  
Like sunset after the sun.

—Alice Cary.

The summer is ended; its storms and its strife, its torrid heat and tempests of rain, its long, long days of toil for man and beast, its anxious planning and wearisome doing—all are with the past. The crimson and yellow blazonry of field and forest bring with them a sense of peace—a feeling of rest, as over a finished work. There are golden days—tranquil days, when the noise of busy silence is hushed, and the skies are so cleanly, clearly blue; no dull, sluggish haze—only a tint of color throughout space; no more dry, piercing, glittering sunshine that strikes, like needles; the light is soft and cool, and fills the atmosphere in an abandonment of joy. The winds are asleep; the world has ceased to strive; the grass and leaflet are ripened.

This is the Sabbath of the year "in which thou shalt do no work," and nature is hushing her children to sleep. Distance draws softly near, and watches and waits; even the winds are hushed; everything is still.

The prizes have been given out, the recompense gathered, the rewards assured, the first fires lighted upon the home hearths, the family gatherings begun. The year is dying; its conflicts ended, its victories won. Its opaline mornings, its softened mid-days, its golden evenings are but touches of tender hands preparing it for burial. The late lingerers of the flower world—the sturdy autumn flowers that laugh at the frost touch, are part of the pageantry, and only when November strips the world of its magnificence will they bow their heads and fade into the whitish-brown rags that strew the beds where nature's children have sunken to sleep.

### Woman's Awakening.

The woman who is always young, always ready for the work before her, is the one who keeps in touch with the times; who studies the topics of the hour and interests herself in the affairs of the day. To her, life is something more than an existence. She believes in the balancing of the mental with the physical; the exercise of the spiritual, as well as the fleshly functions. In the rush and hurry of life in the city, we find mothers of grown children, and often grandmothers, still young in looks, and, save in actual years, the contemporaries of country women not yet out of their twenties.

While few things age a woman faster than hard, physical labor, and the worry consequent thereto, yet the mental inactivity of the average woman contributes very largely to the same results. It is in the country villages and, especially in farming communities, where the one weekly gathering—and not always even that—at

the school or "meeting" house is the only relaxation from work and its worry, that we find the sunken cheek, the leaden eye, the wrinkled brow, and generally hopeless, discouraged appearance which ages one faster than the fullest years should do.

Monotony of scenery, the awful sameness of duties, the clock-like recurrence of the merely physical tasks, unrelieved by even that detestation of the city woman—the continuous calls of various "agents," all tend to hasten decay, and thus women grow old, not only in face and form, but in fact. When the country woman's surroundings or domestic duties are uncongenial, or where she has "missed the beautiful and lost the true" by contracting an undesirable marriage, she has nothing to turn to, in order to satisfy her starving spirit, so she must needs feed upon her own heart, and thus, literally die, long before the fleshly end comes. There are breaks from bad usage, and the rust of despair enters into the very heart of her being.

On the other hand, her city sister, in like circumstances, finds many outside interests—not always of the most desirable; but she finds them, and feeds upon them, and sometimes she contracts a moral dyspepsia thereby, ending in spiritual ruin. But, even though she sin, she does not grow hopelessly old, for "the wages of sin is death"—not old age or imbecility.

One of the greatest works the new order of intelligence is bringing about is that women are now supplied with a literature of their own, in their own interests, and written by the broad-minded, deeply sympathetic and earnest workers of their own sex. They may read now, or gather themselves together for mutual improvement; and it is no longer a cause for social ostracism for a woman to lay down the dish cloth or needle, to take up more congenial weapons with which to fight in the battle for bread. And the woman who has learned to think for herself, when she comes to understand the laws of being and her amenability thereto, will rear better sons and daughters; will recognize the fact that man is her mate—not master and owner—and she will grow to understand the beauty of the arrangement which God himself instituted when "in the beginning" male and female created he them—companions and co-workers in the wonderful world in which his love had placed them.

### School Handkerchiefs

Among the very necessary school furnishings for the child, at this season of the year, should be a goodly supply of handkerchiefs. As the little folks are very liable to drop, mislay or lose this article, the material should be considered from the point of quantity rather than that of quality, except that they should be soft, and comfortable to use. A dozen can be had at the department stores for a few cents, or they can be made at home from any scraps of bleached cheese-cloth, soft lawns, or even old muslins and worn white goods.

A good material for this use is the cheap, wide lawns and bleached cheese-cloths, which may be had at from 5c to 10c per yard, and one yard of either will make eight handkerchiefs. The cheap figured lawns, "sure to fade," and sold at two to four cents per yard, may be used, as one or two washings or boilings leave the material soft and white. Hem these neatly, and mark each child's set with his or her own "mark," and hold each one responsible for their own belong-

ings. As a reward for care-taking promise them articles of a better grade, and be sure to keep your promise. Children, like grown-up folks, like to work for a reward, and developing the care-taking habit in any one line, will develop it in others. Make them understand that saving means more than dollars and cents, for comfort and cleanliness is also to be considered, as well as possession of a plentiful supply. Once a child is accustomed to the constant use of the handkerchief, and the consequent comfort of cleanliness, it will not like to dispense with it.

### Beautiful Homes.

There is no way in which the external attractiveness of the home may be so perfectly and permanently enhanced, at so little expense of money and labor, as by the planting of hardy ornamental shrubs, herbaceous perennials and bulbs. It requires good soil, planting in the first place, and training in the most effective shape of such as do not by natural growth develop into beautiful forms. Once established, these generally take care of themselves, though, like everything else, reasonable care-taking pays. October and November is a good time to set out most of them, that the roots may be "setting their house in order" for top growth when spring comes.

After planting, the grounds should be kept in neat condition. A certain amount of protection should be given them the first winter, and grass and weeds should not be allowed to choke them down the first summer. Hardy shrubs may be so chosen that one may have blossoms from frost to frost, while the perennials herbaceous plants and bulbs send up bloom stalks from the latest snows of spring, even down to the earliest snows of winter.

Nothing will give a beauty lover so much uninterrupted satisfaction as the care of these beautiful accessories to the home grounds.

### Holland Bulbs.

The Dutch growers are particular not to allow any manure to touch their bulbs; they rest in clear, sharp sand, with which they are also covered. Underneath the sand is put a foot of the richest material. The sand serves to protect the bulb from the attack of worms and insects; its sharpness hinders their approach. It may be wise for us to remember this in planting other bulbs beside hyacinths and tulips. Do not neglect to put out your bulbs soon, for the best results.

### Ornamental Climbers.

The Virginia creeper—ampelopsis quinquefolia—is just now, October 1st, arrayed in all its beauty. No tree or shrub will give for a brief season such a display of color, from bronze green to blood red, bright scarlet, orange and yellow. It is perfectly hardy, can be propagated from layers, or slips, as it roots readily. It climbs by tendrils, or by twining, in the domesticated vine, while the wild "five-leaved ivy" clings by rootlets. It must not be confounded, in the wild state, with the three-leaved poison oak vine. The ivy is as harmless as it is beautiful.

Bignonia Radicans, the Trumpet flower, is another old favorite, with bright, orange scarlet, trumpet-shaped flowers, perfectly hardy, will grow anywhere, easily propagated from slips, layers, or pieces of root. Its foliage is fine, summer and autumn, and its bunch of unopened buds are as lovely as its expanded flowers.

The old "matrimony vine," of our grandmother's garden, still holds its own; will grow and flourish anywhere; small purple flowers followed by brilliant scarlet fruit, nearly an inch long on well nourished vines, and crowding the long, tetril-like limb, are very attractive. This does

not "climb," but must be fastened up as it grows. It makes a remarkably attractive growth when trained on walls or fences.

There is nothing that can take the place of the hardy climatics and wonderful rose climbers, after they are established.

### For the Lunch Basket.

Powder and rub to a paste the hard-boiled yolks of eight eggs; add two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, a salt-spoonful of salt, and a dash of cayenne, if liked. Mix, and spread on slices of buttered bread.

Boil fresh eggs for twenty minutes, drop them in cold water, remove the shells and lay the eggs in a stone jar. Fill a bag with a few cloves, mace and nutmeg, and put into a porcelain kettle with sufficient vinegar to cover the eggs, bring to a boil, skim, and pour over the eggs. Ready for use in three days.

For chicken sandwiches, take cold boiled or roasted chicken, chop fine. To every cupful of chopped meat add two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, a salt-spoonful of salt, and a dash of white pepper; mix until smooth. Spread on thin slices of buttered bread and put two slices together.

Slice into very thin pieces, about a quarter of a pound of good, fresh cheese, let stand on the stove for a very few minutes, after adding butter about the size of half an egg, with a little salt and pepper. Sprinkle cracker dust, stirring until the desired consistency is reached. Cut in squares for biscuit.

Remove seeds from dates and replace with freshly roasted peanuts, shelled and skinned, dust with pulverized sugar, and roll in tissue paper.

For nice crullers, take nine tablespoonfuls of granulated sugar, and four tablespoonfuls of melted butter; beat well together, then add three well-beaten eggs, two heaping teaspoonful of baking powder, one teacupful of sweet milk, one level teaspoonful of salt, half a small grated nutmeg. Mix with flour, just stiff enough to roll nicely on board; cut as cookies, with hole in center, fry in hot, sweet lard. When slightly cool, roll in powdered sugar.

### A Nutritious Breakfast Dish.

Take one pint of cleaned, sound wheat; wash the wheat through several waters and pick out all cockle and other foreign seed; cover to the depth of an inch with slightly salted water and put to cook in a double boiler. If you have not a double boiler, put the wheat in a tin pail large enough to allow for swelling, cover tightly and set pail in a vessel of boiling water; as the wheat grains swell, add water to it as needed. Keep boiling until thoroughly done. When done, the grains will be round instead of oblong, and most of them will have burst open.

Serve cold, with cream and sugar, or butter and sugar, as one may prefer. It is a specific for indigestion, constipation and dyspepsia. It is much more nutritious than oats in any form, as wheat contains all the elements necessary to a perfect food.

When thoroughly done, the wheat should be nearly dry.

### Washing Flannels.

Flannels must always be washed separately from the other clothing, as, otherwise, they do not receive the care and attention necessary to make them perfect. When the other washing is out of the way, cut into shreds a pound of good soap. Put it into a clean saucepan with two quarts of water, and set it on the fire until the soap is dissolved. Let stand until the following day, when it should be a jelly. Two tubs, or pails, must be filled with water as hot as the hands can bear. Into