



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts McKee

Poem by Stonewall Jackson

The Richmond Times is authority for the statement that this poem was written by Stonewall Jackson while he was serving with the army in the Mexican war:

The tattoo beats—the lights are gone,
The camp around in slumber lies;
The night with solemn pace moves on,
The shadows thicken o'er the skies;
But sleep my weary eyes hath flown
And sad, uneasy thoughts arise.

I think of thee, oh dearest one,
Whose love my early life hath blest—

Of thee and him—our baby son—
Who slumbers on thy gentle breast.
God of the tender, frail, and lone,
Oh, guard the tender sleeper's rest,

And hover gently, hover near
To her, whose watchful eye is wet—
To mother, wife—the doubly dear,
In whose young heart have freshly met

Two streams of love so deep and clear,
And cheer her drooping spirits yet.

Whatever fate those forms may show,
Loved with a passion almost wild—
By day—by night—in joy or woe—
By fears oppressed, or hopes be-
gulled,

From every danger, every foe,
O God, protect my wife and child!

Now, while she kneels before thy
throne,

Oh, teach her, ruler of the skies,
That, while by thy behest alone,
Earth's mightiest powers fall or rise,
No tear is wept to thee unknown,
No hair is lost, no sparrow dies!

That thou can'st stay the ruthless
hands

Of dark disease, and soothe its pain;
That only by the stern commands
The battle's lost, the soldier's slain—
That from the distant sea or land
Thou bring'st the wanderer home
again.

And when upon her pillow lone
Her tear-wet cheek is sadly prest,

May happier visions beam upon
The brightening current of her
breast,

No frowning look nor angry tone
Disturbs the Sabbath of her rest.

Advice to Girls.

The following advice to girls, given by Dr. Kittridge of New York, is worthy of consideration:

"To the young girls of my audience and of Chicago I wish to make the following suggestions:

"First, you should be an all-around woman—well balanced physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Don't be sickly—take long walks, ride the bicycle, play golf, bowl, skate, row. Spend as much time as possible in the open air, drinking in the pure ozone of God's atmosphere and bathing in the sunshine. Goethe truly remarks that 'the highest grace is the outcome of consummate strength.' To be strong is to be beautiful. Men pity, but as a rule do not like sickly women. To be well is largely a matter of will and exercise.

"Don't be ignorant—study, think, investigate. Too many young girls are satisfied with a high school education, coupled with a few terms in music or art. But your ambition should reach higher, sister. If possible get a thorough collegiate training before you quit. But don't go too far and get too smart to marry.

"Second, if you want to be happy,

go to work. Do something—teach, sew, cook, paint—anything rather than remain idle.

"In the third place, young girls should keep good company. All well balanced girls expect to marry some time. The bachelor girl by choice is not well balanced. There is something wrong with the girl who doesn't want to marry and never expects to marry."

Memorial Roses

Having received several inquiries for plants suitable for village cemeteries, I have recommended the Wichuriana and its hybrids, and find it is not generally known. These hybrids are all from the parent Wichuriana, the well-known Memorial trailing rose, crossed with ever-blooming roses in most cases, but the Pink Roamer has for its other parent the Sweet Brier rose. They are a race of hardy running roses, and for covering mounds or stumps, they are invaluable, soon forming a solid green mat, and being beautiful, even when not in bloom. The foliage is almost evergreen in the north, and quite so in the south, and their bright red hips remain perfect on the plant a long time.

They are of various colors: soft blush, pure white, soft pink, bright pink, with silvery-white center, yellow and buff, and some of them are very fragrant. The Pink Roamer is especially beautiful, with large, single flowers of a bright, rich pink, shading into silvery white center, with deep orange stamens; the peculiar colored stamens are very prominent, and the flowers have the true Sweet Brier fragrance. With the exception of the latest growth in the fall—of course not ripened—these roses are perfectly hardy. The freezing and thawing of the early spring is the greatest hurt to them, and this can be avoided by throwing some light covering over them.

All of these roses can be trained to grow upright if desired, and, being of slender, wiry growth, form graceful bushes. Tie them firmly to some support for the first four or five feet of growth, then let them fall over naturally. When so trained, they form a floral fountain, covered in July with a wealth of beauty and fragrance. They can be trained over trellises, or against a wall, and, once established, they are rampant growers. They are easily propagated by layering, or by slips.

Nothing is more desirable for the cemetery, and they are not expensive. All florists keep them. A small green-house plant, several inches high, costs but little, and they are offered in sets of four to six at 25c to 50c per set. Dormant plants—large ones, one or two years old, will cost 25c to 35c, and for immediate effect, or where one cannot give a great deal of attention to the plant, it is better to buy the large plant. If one wishes, the small size may be purchased and cared for in the home grounds the first year, and then transferred to the cemetery in the fall or spring. Ask for the Memorial Roses; the true, or parent rose is the Wichuriana, single, white flowered. Some of the hybrids are double.

Another old, old favorite, dear to the heart of many who mourn, is the Myrtle—hardy, trailing, standing the drouth well, growing in sunshine and in shade, and blooming freely in the spring, and always green. The hardy

species of Sedum, known as Crow-foot, the hardy purple verbena, Arabis alpina, and, for an edging, Tunica saxifraga. The last three named can be raised from seed. Myrtle and Sedum plants are readily obtained from the florist.

One of the hardiest plants we have, and one much used for cemetery purposes, is the Yucca (Adam's Needle). It only asks to be let alone. After it is established, it sends up, every year a tall flower-stalk hung with hundreds of creamy-white, bell-shaped flowers, which last a long time. Another, Achillea—the Pearl, is one of the loveliest of bloomers, completely covering itself, from July until frost, with pure white flowers. So popular are the Achillea and the old Myrtle for cemetery purposes that florists quote them by the hundred; by the dozen, 75c. A dozen will soon cover a grave.

Easter Eggs.

The egg has been connected with religious worship for many thousand years, and still clings to its place in the ceremonials of all faiths. Buddhist, Moslem, Christian—all connect the egg with Easter, with the resurrection, with the coming forth of life. The custom of coloring eggs is an old one; red is the commonest color, in imitation of the blood of pre-Christian mediators shed for sinful man. Both the idea and the color passed from the Pagan to the Christian custom; tracing it back, we find that in most Pagan lands it was a type of the resurrection of Nature from her winter of death, and the festival celebrating the season was held in the fourth month. The custom of presenting eggs to friends on Easter is Magian or Persian.

In the discussion of Plutarch and Macrobius, we find that the egg played an important part in the religions of the ancient world. It was used in auguries; was placed by the Romans upon the table at the beginning of the repasts, and in feasts in honor of the dead; was also prominent in other ceremonials.

The ancient Jews, at Pasque, after purifying and cleansing the house, placed hard eggs on the table as a symbol, also cakes of peculiar form, and figs and dates—three emblems of fecundity.

The Greeks and Romans used the eggs in expiation, and when they had blessed the house and temples, and sprinkled them with lustral (purified) water, they carried an egg with them.

In Germany, the children are taught that the hare brings the colored Easter eggs, and the hare is an Easter symbol which fills the shop windows at this season.

Easter is one of the most important festivals of the year in Russia. Many interesting customs are observed among its people. The Greek church enjoins a strict fast, because of the belief that its neglect will bring misfortune throughout the entire year.

In Austria, eggs are given as presents, and one of its Easter customs is the washing of the feet of the poor, in imitation of the act of Christ. Washing feet is also observed in Spain as a court ceremony, and is performed in great state. Eggs are given as a talisman against lightning and witchcraft.

In our own country, Easter Monday is one of the most joyfully anticipated days in the year, in the national capital, because on that day, children from all ranks of society gather in great

numbers on the grounds of the White house to spend the day in the time-honored custom of rolling eggs on the lawn. The origin of the custom is not clear, but for many years children of all classes, all colors, irrespective of social, race or color distinctions, have met on this common ground, jostling each other in truly democratic fashion.

Caring For Rugs and Carpets.

Ordinary rugs may be beaten, sunned, brushed, sprayed with strong black pepper tea and rolled up with a sprinkle of gum camphor between the folds. Cover the rolls with burlap or manilla paper. If there are indications of moth eggs, before rolling up cover the moth-eaten places with a wet towel and iron with a very hot iron; the steam will make an end of moths.

Carpets—even carpet lengths—should be thoroughly cleansed before being put away. Fold them smoothly and compactly, with a liberal allowance of camphor, and wrap in big muslin sheets. Keep them well toward the middle of the store-room, where light and air are unobstructed.

For valuable rugs, beat well, then spray them with strong black pepper tea, using a very fine atomizer; sun well after the spraying; beat again, using a strong rattan, brush hard on both sides, then spread smooth, and paste together a sheet of newspapers a little bigger than the rug; get a round wooden roller, two inches through, and as long as the rug is broad. Lay the paper on the right side of the rug, then put the roller at one end and roll up rug and paper, keeping the rolling true throughout. Next roll up spirally in a long strip of old cloth, wisp down the ends, tie fast and cover with tough manilla paper, paste down the straight edge of it, slip a stout bag of paper over each end of the roll, and paste bags firmly in place; as long as they are unbroken no moth can get in.—Good Housekeeping.

Winter Garments.

Pack away winter garments, silks, cloths and velvet, in roomy trunks, shallow rather than deep, or with shallow trays. Brush away all dust, untack folds and loopings; with a velvet skirt it pays to take out all the waist pleats. Fold as smooth as possible, but put a roll of cotton batting inside tissue paper at every fold, to prevent creases. Stuff sleeves likewise full of crumpled tissue paper; lay waist and coats shapely, with crumpled paper inside; cover the trunk or tray with a soft white cloth before laying in the garment. When the folding is over, draw the white sheet smoothly across every part, and tuck in the ends so as not to crush or crumple. On top of the white spread lay bags of gum camphor and wisps of cedar shavings. The trunk may have further the sandal sachets; but in moth fighting it cannot be too often repeated that prevention is the only way.—Good Housekeeping.

Cleaning Furniture.

Clean out tufting with a little swab of cotton wool tied onto the end of a stout skewer, and wet in alcohol. Change the cotton as often as it gets dirty, being careful not to have the swab wet enough to trickle under pressure. Clean the intricacies of carved wood with the same sort of swab, which must be only damp—not wet. With very delicate carving, one must sometimes have recourse to a sand-blast, using very fine tripoli, and small hand-bellows. Direct a quick stream of sand against the carving; in flying back from it, the sand brings away the dust.

Clean gilt furniture with sifted whiting made into a cream with alcohol; cover a small space at a time, and rub off before it hardens; if a