



The Home Department

Conducted by
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Faded Hands.

Poor, tired hands, that toiled so hard for me!

At rest before me now I see them lying;

They toiled so hard; and yet we did not see

That she was dying.

Poor, rough, red hands! They drudged the live-long day—

Still busy, when the midnight oil was burning;

Of toiling on until she saw the gray Of day returning.

If I might sit and hold those tired hands,

And feel the warm life-blood within them beating,

And kiss the faded eyes and withered cheeks,

Some whispered words repeating,

I think tonight that I would love her so—

And I could tell to her my love so truly—

That, e'en though tired, she would not wish to go

And leave me thus unduly.

Poor, tired heart, that had so weary grown,

That death came all unheeded o'er it creeping;

How strange it seems, to sit here, all alone,

While she is sleeping!

Dear, patient heart! that deemed the heavy care

Of drudging household toil its only duty;

That laid aside all deep, heart-yearnings there

Along with beauty.

If I could look into those brave, sad eyes,

And kiss the pathos of her patient smile,

And tell her all her love has been to me,

Her hands in mine, the while—

Ah, learned too late! While yet 'twas mine, unheeded!

I kiss her hands, and moan, with bitter weeping;

Oh, sad, worn heart! Oh, sore-trying love! Tonight

How sweet she's sleeping!

Mother, if in some realm of brighter day,

Your spirit, purified by fires of pain,

Should linger, listening for some half-missed voice,

With thoughts of Earth, again,

And I could send one whispered word through space

One word of Earth, to reach your higher sphere,

I would—low-groveling in my grief—sob out,

"You were so dear!"

The "Pass-Book."

The "pass-book" system is one of the greatest evils that has ever befallen the laboring man, and should be discountenanced by every one having the good of the wage-earner at heart. The very first step toward a betterment of his condition is its banishment, and a strict dependence upon the money in hand. Pay cash for everything purchased. Instead of a pass-book, keep a daily expense-book, and in it set down every expenditure, however small, each day, and, at the end of each week or month post it up; you will then know just how much of your expenses are really necessary, and will be able to locate the leak that is keeping you poor.

Learn to keep a little within your

income. If you practice the cash system, you will find that you can (and will) do without many things which you thoughtlessly ordered charged to you, and your merchant will deal better by you in your purchases, as a cash customer is vastly more valuable to his business than a pass-book customer can possibly be. If, through some temporary adversity, you are compelled to ask the favor of a temporary credit, it will be much more readily granted you than if you were but asking an extension of an overdue "bill."

If possible, deal with a cash store, and the one having the largest assortment of goods; you can buy much more advantageously by having a large stock and different grades from which to select. It is an axiom that the best is the cheapest, but the careful buyer will often find intermediate grades in many articles that answer fully as well as—and in some cases better than, the high-priced articles. If possible, buy by the quantity; do not get sugar by the quarter's worth, or get a nickel's worth of butter; such dealing pays neither the buyer nor the seller. Do without a few days, until you can buy a supply worth carrying home and try to lay in your groceries, fuel, and other necessities at a time when you can save a few cents by so doing. It should be as easy to pay for the "live" horse as for the "dead" one; and it would be, if only you would pay as you go, and buy only what your cash would cover. However little it might get you, it would be yours, and you would keep your self-respect at the same time. A man who owes nobody and has a "job" at even small, steady wages, is richer than a king, and is beholden to nobody.

Oh, Girls!

"It is stated on the authority of the head of the Chicago board of charities that during the year 1902 four hundred deserted wives, who applied to the bureau of charities for assistance, and later obtained divorces, admitted that they could 'neither cook nor keep house,' and, of course, could not keep husbands. Bad cookery and slovenly housekeeping were the direct causes of these marriages being failures. For these unhappy marriages, the men were themselves, in great measure, to blame, and they need not pose as objects of popular pity. Why did they marry women ignorant of the first requisites of a happy domestic life?"—Housekeeper (Minneapolis).

While I do not feel disposed to waste sympathy on men who deliberately install in their homes as wives women with no practical knowledge of the "first requisites for a happy domestic life," I do not altogether lay the blame of the disastrous results of such ill-advised proceedings entirely upon the masculine shoulders. In the present condition of things, how is the average man to know the extent of the culinary education of the girl he "falls" in love with? His own lamentable ignorance along such lines disqualifies him from recognizing the "signs" of domestic culture, and it is usually the girl with the soft, white hands—the ones who "toil not"—that attract the impressionable and possible marrying man.

The gist of the matter lies in the fact that neither the young man nor young woman are taught anything about the duties and relationships appertaining to the marriage relation,

but are allowed to enter, wholly unprepared, into the "Holy of Holies," to waste or to win, as their native good sense, or the lack of it, may order. The fault lies far back of the wooing days. It should be accounted criminal, in this enlightened day, for a girl to be allowed to marry while unable to "read the riddle" of plain, nutritious cookery; and it should be considered an essential part of her education to have mastered at least the elements of domestic science. Girls should be taught that, to make a pan of light, nutritious biscuit, or a loaf of tender, appetizing bread is a much greater accomplishment than to know how to turn out the most delicious "Angel's Food" cake. Cake may be good, but bread is immeasurably better, and good bread, like charity, covers a multitude of sins and culinary short-comings.

Keeping Brick Walls Dry.

Many persons experience difficulty in keeping brick walls, especially in basement rooms, from becoming damp and ruining the plastering or paper, or warping the wainscoting. To remedy this is not always easy, but here is a recipe, given by an old builder, and it is worth trying. The remedy, according to this recipe, consists in using two washes or solutions for covering the walls, one composed of castile soap and one of alum water.

The proportions are three-fourths of a pound of soap to one gallon of water, and half a pound of alum to four gallons of water, both substances to be perfectly dissolved in the water before being used. The walls should be perfectly clean and dry, and the temperature of the air not above 50 degrees Fahrenheit when the compositions are applied. The first, or soap wash, should be applied when boiling hot, with a flat brush, taking care to form a froth on the brick work. The wash should remain twenty-four hours so as to become dry and hard before the second, or alum wash, is applied, which application should be done in the same manner as the first. The temperature of this wash, when applied, should be 60 degrees or 70 degrees Fahrenheit, and this also should remain twenty-four hours before a second coat of the soap wash is put on. These coats are to be applied alternately, until the walls are made impervious to water. The alum and soap combined thus form an insoluble compound, filling the pores of the masonry and entirely preventing the water from entering the walls. It may be used both inside and out.

Business Knowledge.

While a thorough knowledge of the "foundation facts" in regard to housekeeping and cookery cannot be too strongly insisted upon for our girls, she should also be taught something of the transaction of the everyday business of life, especially such as is in daily demand in the home life. No matter what her financial or social standing may be, or what her prospects are, there is always a possibility—in many cases, a probability—that she may, at some time, be dependent upon her own endeavors for support, or at least called upon to care for whatever property may accrue to her. Rightly regulated economy demands that a woman should be able to balance accounts, sign checks, write out receipts, make purchases and pass upon values. This demand confronts her in every department of her busi-

ness as housekeeper, in some form or other, and the only way to properly meet it is to have her understand business methods.

Restless Boys

Boys often go astray from the very energy and restlessness of their natures, without any vicious purpose. If, in such cases, they are treated with severity and coerced by stern authority, there is great peril that they may go from bad to worse, and end in shipwreck of character. But such boys have often developed into the highest type of manhood, when treated with genuine sympathy and kindness, and made to feel that life holds large possibilities for them. Such natures need a firm, loving guidance by a hand they feel they may trust, together with a fostering and developing of their own self-respect and sense of responsibility.

Marrying the Cook.

It is confidently asserted, and not without a show of reason, that the day is not far distant when, to have it said of a man that he has "married his cook," will occasion neither surprise nor consternation among his most fastidious friends. The cook of the future will be a scientifically educated, self-respecting and healthy woman, who will recognize the importance to the physical and moral well-being of her family of well and hygienically prepared foods. The reign of the "incompetent" is passing away, and the day is dawning in which the "housework girl" will have only herself to blame if she fails to receive the respectful consideration to which her importance in the home life of the family entitles her.

When that day arrives, we shall see happier, because healthier homes, and refined, educated girls will not be ashamed to have it known that they prefer the services of the home to that of the shops. When to acknowledge a preference for the safety and the healthfulness of the home life does not subject one to the imputation of low morals and degraded tastes, bright, intelligent girls will be ready enough to seek such positions.

But women, themselves, must bring it about. Women who employ must be ready to recognize and reward intelligence and ability, while girls seeking such places must make it their business to possess the ability and intelligence requisite to meet the demand. Along with her other learning, the housework girl must learn to

COOKING CONTEST

Right in the Family Kitchens

The ladies have a champion interested in the betterment of family cooks.

\$7,500.00 in cash has been donated by C. W. Post, Chairman of the Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., to be distributed between now and July next in 735 cash prizes to stimulate family cooks to better service.

Less burned and greasy meat, and potatoes; less soggy biscuits, cake, etc., and better coffee, Postum and tea is the motto.

The girls are to compete in the preparation of good, everyday dishes and in general cookery. Probably Grape-Nuts and Postum Coffee will come in for some attention incidentally, but the tests will be conducted under the daily direction of the housewife and 735 cooks will win varying cash prizes from \$200.00 down to \$5.00, no one is required to pay anything whatever to enter this contest and each winner will receive a large certificate or diploma with a big Postum seal in gilt, a badge of distinction much to be sought after. Particulars can be had by addressing Cookery, Dept. No. 448 of Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich.