



The Home Department

Conducted by Helen M. M. M.

Two and Two

Light the lamp and draw the curtain,
Boreas is growing bold;
Hear him raging round the casement—

Ah, the night is wild and cold!
All within is light and comfort—
All without is wintry storm;
And within the lamp light's circle,
All my household, sheltered warm.

And of all God's happy creatures,
I, tonight, should happiest be—
Peace and plenty all about me—
Blessings and prosperity.
Not a thought of the tomorrow
Vexes me with anxious pain,
And I care not if it bringeth
Storm of wind, or snow, or rain.

But the storm-king brings a message
To my soul—to others dumb;
And he beats upon the window,
Shouting hoarsely to me, "Come!"
Out, away, through storm-swept
pathways,
Flies my soul, in swift release,
To a city, white and silent,
Which is called "The Gates of
Peace."

For upon its close-shut portals,
Wild, wet winds and sobbing rain,
Wintry sleet or summer tempest,
Pour their mighty wrath in vain.
Not a quiver stirs an eyelid,
Not a sigh escapes the lips,
And a silence, strange, unbroken,
Broods o'er folded finger-tips.

Here I call—"Love, 'tis your mother!
Is your rest so deep and sweet
That you hear no sound of sobbing
In the cold rain's icy beat?
Are you so contented, darling,
In His bosom folded warm.
That no earth-thought stirs of others
Whom you left, still in the storm?"

Though with bated breath I listen,
Pleading, prayer alike are vain;
So, with grieving heart, I hasten,
Onward, with my guide again.
Fleeter than the fleetest flies he—
This wild king, in wintry wrath,
And my spirit rides the tempest,
Close upon the storm-king's path.

Pause we then, upon the mountain;
'Mid the pines our wild flights
cease,
And the tempest, white and breath-
less,

Falls on other "Gates of Peace."
O'er a little mound, my spirit
Kneels and sobs, in bitter pain;
"Darling, do you hear your mother
Crying to you, through the rain?"

"Does the tempest touch you, darling,
With its snow and ice and sleet,
Or do summer sun and blossom
Bless the pathways for your feet?
Darling—" Warm hands fold my
fingers—

"Mamma, can you hear the
storm?"
And my child's warm lips recall me
To the lamp-light, bright and
warm.

Two. Two children play about me,
Life and laughter in each breath.
Two. The Gates of Peace close
tightly,
And their warden grim is Death.
—H. W. M.

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children
teething should always be used for children while
teething. It softens the gums, allays the pain,
cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diar-
rhea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

"Making the Most of Things"

In these disagreeably hard times, when so many men and women are out of work, the enforced idlers will find their vacations not entirely lost time, if they will but look about them and see where they can do little odd jobs about the home. There are always pieces of furniture that need repairing, and one or two nails, or screws, or a dab of glue, a tack or two, and a bit of paint or varnish will renew the life of a crippled chair or table, making it last a much longer time, and give greater satisfaction. A caster may be wanting, and a joint loose, and these, in the case of tables, may cause a lot of broken dishes, some day. A lock on window or door may need a turn of the wrist with screw-driver, or a tightening up with a bit of "filling." A scrap of putty will sometimes do wonders, and a little plaster of paris will shut out many a tiny draft of air, and save the further loosening of wall plaster. A board in the walk may be loose, waiting unwary feet, and may do serious injury by tripping the passer up. There are thousands of little things one can find to do, and in doing, add comfort, convenience and health, to say nothing of the longer life of property. Many people refuse to put these little touches to property not their own; but they, not the landlord alone, suffer for the out-of-order condition of the premises, and the man who will not respect himself enough to keep his surroundings as neat and well-conditioned as possible, will do very little better when working for himself. Habit is a great factor in the life of every one, and it is a very slovenly, uncomfortable habit to fall into—simply because our surroundings happen to be the property of another, to neglect our own comfort. It is a little thing to nail on a loosened picket, or adjust the gate hinge, to nail down the loose plank in the board walk; but it counts in comfort and respectability. Besides, the man who makes these little repairs gets a bit of skill, and a feeling of self-respect that will not be lost when he "owns his own."

The Rose-Bed

Now is a good time to cover the rose-bed and tender perennials. If you saved the leaves and the trimmings of your shade trees, you should lay a few twigs over the beds and in the spaces fill the leaves. We have had so little rain, in many regions, that the leaves are as light as and fluffy as when they fell, and they are excellent protection against the snow and sleet and frosts which may be expected during the next few months. Very severe weather seldom comes until after the new year begins, and in many latitudes, February and March storms are the most disastrous. Be good to your plants, indoors and out.

It is a little too early, unless you have very unusual facilities, to start seeds and roots into growth; but one should have the order for garden and flower seeds well on the way to the seedsman. Many of the hardier kinds of either may be started in the house next month, and made stocky by frequent transplantings, ready for the garden when the time comes for putting them out. Lettuce plants, if not started in cold frames last fall, might be pushed forward, for they stand lots of cold in the spring

days. A very great enemy to the successful cultivation of early lettuce is the English sparrow, which strips the bed of its tender leaves in a few minutes. A bed of lettuce plants may be preserved by enclosing it with old screen wire taken from the whole portions of the screens and used on doors and windows last year.

Cleaning Windows

It is claimed that the window panes may be cleaned in winter and the frost entirely removed by using a gill of alcohol with a pint of hot water; wash quickly and polish with chamois skin. Another way is to make a paste of spanish whiting and water, dab this paste thickly over the glass, let dry on, and polish with a soft cloth, or crumpled newspaper. If window panes are washed with soap they are apt to be streaky.

It is not the one who attends the church gatherings the most unflinchingly who is closest to God. Many of our noblest and best carry their hearts to the "secret chamber," and God listens and comforts. "To be alone with God"—is it not a beautiful thought? To carry thither all our heartaches, burdens and disappointments and discouragements, sure of a hearing and sympathy—that is blessedness.

"Gathering Up the Fragments"

The economical person will find no end of instances in which the principle of "gathering up the fragments" may be effectively applied, not only in the matter of foods, but of other materials, and a very great saving will be found to result. In the matter of half-worn or outgrown, or out-of-date clothing, wonderful reconstructions and new combinations may be made by the woman who knows how to use her scissors, needle and thimble, and has the "bump of constructiveness" well developed. Many pieces of underwear can be made "as good as new" in this way, and will be made to serve for several seasons, thereby saving for a better class of goods the next time. The fashions of the day admit of many combinations of materials, not only of dresses, but of outer garments, and dyeing has become such an easy matter that, if the colors do not suit, the inexperienced woman, by paying strict attention to directions to be found on the package of dyes, can achieve excellent results. Often, by the use of a bit of new goods, a worn garment may be "made over" without being ripped apart, and if a material is at all soiled, there are so many recipes for cleaning and removing spots and stains that, if care is exercised, there is often little need for extensive renovation. Housewives who have more time than money, should make a study of these subjects, as "money saved is money earned."

Becoming Embittered

It is written of the late Susan B. Anthony that she prayed that she might not become bitter and unjust toward men because of the abuses and injustices dealt out to women by some of them through the laws of the land. She did not wish to forget or undervalue the thousands of just and noble men who loved the right and sought to protect women from the workings of the unjust laws on the statute books. This was

the spirit in which she worked, which carried her to the sunset of her days with a heart touched with tenderness for all humanity. In writing of her, one of her biographers says: "It is among the hardest lessons—that of learning to be patient under harsh judgment, careless misconception, or intentional misrepresentation. To fight a wrong against which the whole nature revolts, is one thing; to keep self-poised, working against opposition without hatred or prejudice, with an eye intent only upon what is sought to be accomplished, is another, and one which only the grandest natures can accomplish." In the early days of the new year, it would be well to think of these things, setting our ideals higher, and determining to work harder than ever before to reach them. We all have battles to fight, and one of the hardest foes to conquer is—human nature—self.

Shaking Hands

In shaking hands, people who are full of life, spirits and good will never allow the hand to lie limp in that of the other party, but when they shake hands, they do it as though they meant the spirit as well as the letter of the custom. There should always be a difference, however, between the whole-souled "shake" and the deadly grip which occasions pain. A friendly pressure of the hand puts your visitor or chance acquaintance at his or her ease, leaving no doubt as to your disposition toward him. To most men and women, a firm, warm, friendly grasp of the hand is more expressive of character than the lowest bow, or most flattering words.

Query Box

A. R.—Your letter reached me too late for the information to benefit you.

"Puzzled."—A cotton material called taffeta, costing about twenty-five cents a yard, is much used for drapery for windows and doors.

L. L.—To give lace the "old" look, wash it carefully to free it from all dust and soil, and dip it in tea (such as is used for the table), or squeeze it out of saffron tea until of the desired shade.

Invalid.—To help the circulation, use a hair mitten, flesh brush, or even Turkish towelling, rubbing the body and limbs vigorously on arising in the morning, and, if convenient, before going to bed at night.

Ella S.—The word, Mizpah, means "The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

Though used between friends, in the case referred to between Laban and Jacob, it implied a want of faith in the good intentions of either in

Can't Do It

Heart affections will not get well of themselves; neither do they remain inactive. If the cause is not removed, they continue to grow in number and severity.

They are the outgrowth of exhausted nerve force, and the heart can not stop to rest, as do the other organs, and must continue to struggle until completely disabled, and—that's the end.

On the very first indications of heart trouble you can stop all progress and effect a cure by the use of

Dr. Miles' Heart Cure

the most effective heart remedy known. It builds up, feeds and strengthens the nerves and muscles of the heart, and restores it to perfect health.

"I had serious heart trouble, for two months my life seemed to hang by a thread, when my attention was called to Dr. Miles' Heart Cure. I commenced taking the Heart Cure and Nerve, and in two months they restored me to comparatively good health."

REV. W. A. ROBINS, Port Elgin, Ont.
The first bottle will benefit, if not, the druggist will return your money.