



The Home Department

Conducted by
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What to Forget

Let us forget the things that vexed and tried us,
The worrying things that caused our souls to fret;
The hopes that, cherished long, were still denied us,
Let us forget.

Let us forget the little slights that pained us,
The greater wrongs that rankle sometimes yet;
The pride with which some lofty one disdained us,
Let us forget.

Let us forget our brother's fault and falling,
The yielding of temptation that beset,
That he, perchance, though grief be unavailing,
Cannot forget.

But blessings manifold, past all deserving,
Kind words and helpful deeds, a countless throng,
The fault o'ercome, the recitude unswerving,
Let us remember long.

The sacrifice of love, the generous giving,
When friends were few, the hand-clasp warm and strong,
The fragrance in each life of holy living,
Let us remember long.

Whatever things were good and true and gracious,
Whate'er of right has triumphed over wrong,
What love of God or man rendered precious,
Let us remember long.

—Selected.

Who Is to Blame?

I have just been hearing of a daughter who has shocked her acquaintances because she "acts as though she were ashamed of her hard-working old mother." Her critics seem to hold to the opinion that the daughter is the only one to blame in the matter, contending that, as her mother drudges "from morning until night," and often spends hours through which she should be sleeping, in plying the needle doing fine work on the dainty clothes her daughter wears so thanklessly, that she is "at least entitled to respect from her daughter." Now, I am not so sure of that. It is a question in my mind whether a woman who allows her daughter to grow up to useless womanhood in these busy times is really deserving of respect. As to her being a servant to her child, that surely is her own fault; nobody forced the situation upon her. It certainly is of her own choosing, for she must have had the "upper hand" while the child was too young to dominate her. A woman who is looked upon by her family as a servant has surely given them cause to so regard her, and the cure of the complaint lies largely in her own hands. Many a mother has allowed herself to be so completely absorbed in the family treadmill that she has entirely lost sight of her higher mission of being a companion and guide to her husband and children. Mother-love is not always as unselfish as we would have the world suppose. The kind of mother in question denies herself all the

comfort and beauty of life that she may lay herself down as a living sacrifice at the feet of her children. She really enjoys this self-effacement until some day she wakes up to the fact that her children take her at her own valuation, and accept as their right, her drudgery. Instead of affection and respect, they give her scarcely the tolerance they would accord to a paid servant, and in the condition to which her servitude has reduced her, their love must be strong indeed to prevent their showing that they are ashamed to be seen with her. The blame rests with the mother.

The Daughter's Part

There are many good, loving daughters who would fain carry their old, faded, bent and toil-worn mother into the world with them, but "she will not." They would gladly share her toil and see her well-dressed, even to denying themselves; but such mothers cling to the shabby old garments and refuse the offices of their daughters. No matter how humiliated the daughters may feel that the mothers persist in sitting in the kitchen despite their pleadings with her to help them entertain their young company, such mothers utterly refuse to change their ways, and the girls, knowing what will probably be said of them, feel aggrieved, then indignant, and wind up by growing indifferent, where, with the least encouragement, they would have loved and comforted the woman who bears the relation of mother to them, yet clings to the habits and ways of a drudge and servant. We are taught that in order to win the respect of others, we must respect ourselves, and if mothers wish to hold their proper place in regard to their young sons and daughters, they must treat themselves with the respect that begets honorable preferment in the family. The foolish affection that would bear all the burdens of life lest the young shoulders droop, is most hurtful to all. To grow, all young must endure some hard knocks while they are soft enough to stand them without being broken. The girls are not always to blame—or often. Frown upon the mother who robs her children of the joy of waiting on themselves and each other, but most of all, the happiness of serving with loving hands the mother who should be the dearest there is. Give the children the joy of responsibility, and share with them not only the sweets, but the wholesome sour. Let them learn the happiness of self-sacrifice; of self-denial; of self-restraint; of doing for one another. The mother, to "come into her own," should walk beside her children—not crawl behind them, nor even make a carpet of herself to keep their young feet from the lessons to be learned from the "stones in the roadway of life."

Some "Don't's" for the Thin Woman

The thin woman is "all the fashion," just now, and there are some things she must not do, if she wishes to make a good appearance. Don't wear striped goods, if you happen to be very tall as well as very thin, for there are limits to even the desired thinness. One should not look too much like a match. Long lines make one look taller and thinner. Clothes should not be worn too loose; it is better to suggest an

outline than to appear perfectly shapeless. Don't dress the hair in a high knot on top of the head, but low in the neck, and full at the sides of the face. Some faces, however, demand a square appearance on top of the head, rather than puffiness at the sides, but few long, thin faces are improved by a dressing that carries the hair to a sharp peak. Don't wear the gown cut half low if the neck is very long; neither should the stock be four inches high and very tight; but a comfortably high stock will give a pleasanter appearance and hide many lines about the throat. Soft, wide ribbons and laces are very becoming to such a neck. The tall, thin woman should never dress décolleté; the display of bare, or angular bones is in a sense appalling, and there is absolutely no excuse for such exposure. Only plump, full, short necks will bear the undressing, unless the neck is very beautiful. Don't wear long, trailing skirts, clinging closely to the form; the demi-train is much more becoming. Do not wear a gown that exposes too much of the feet or ankles; two inches from the floor is a very good length for the skirt of the tall, thin woman. To be beautiful, every woman should teach herself something of hygiene; of the effects of various foods and drinks; of the air she breathes, and of the colors best suited to her complexion and individual style.

Some Seasonable Items

In many homes, the old-fashioned, open grate or fire-place is used, and in many city homes, the open grate is a favorite heating means. But when house cleaning time comes, the "hole in the wall" does not look so well. The sooty chimneys must be closed to prevent the dropping of soot on the hearth. Stuffing the throat of the chimney with paper or old clothes is not to be recommended, as many times, bad fires start by sparks flying down the chimney and igniting the stuffing. Here is one way recommended: Make a starch of cold water and flour, paste white oil cloth over the fire front, and cover with a drop curtain during the summer. In the fall the cloth can be taken off, and the flour being dry, leaves no stain, as it would, if boiled paste were used. A frame may be fitted into the opening, and covered with some pretty paper, or a picture, or even some suitable design on cloth.

For the Canning Season

Here is a wax said to be the very best for sealing cans and jars: One ounce of gum shellac, one ounce of beeswax and eighteen ounces of resin. This cools instantly. You can dip pieces of strong domestic in the fluid and press them down over the tops of jars, by putting your hands in cold water and then handling the waxed cloth quickly before it cools. An old-time housekeeper says that for strawberries and blackberries (especially strawberries), common stone jars, carefully sealed, are much better than cans or glass, as they retain their color and flavor much better. She gives the following plan for putting up such fruits: Place the cans in hot water and keep them there until filled with fruit that has been allowed to merely come to a scald in syrup made to your taste, remove instantly and seal. If bubbles arise when pressing down the cover,

drop on a few more drops of wax and press down until there are none. In a very few minutes the wax will be perfectly hard, and you can set away your jars.

Many cooks object to putting any sugar in their canned fruits, but others claim that it improves the fruit, preventing the leathery look and feel that some fruits have when canned without. Bottles are perfectly sealed if, after being tightly corked, the necks are dipped in the hot sealing wax, as it cools and hardens instantly.

If sugar is used, the syrup must be boiling hot when the fruit is put in, and must be brought to a boil before canning. After putting into the can or jar all the fruit it will possibly hold, pour the syrup, boiling hot, into the jar, overflowing, so as to fill every air space between the fruit.

It pays to get new rubbers, and the metal tops must be perfect, and fit each particular jar, or the fruit will spoil.

"Husband's Rights"

Many an otherwise intelligent man fails to realize that "my wife," like "my country," "my friend," is a phrase implying not proprietorship, but privilege and obligation. The courts of the land are congested with divorce cases largely because we will not understand that the marriage contract is an agreement to give, not to exact. Few men claim the right to kill their wives, but some maintain the right to beat them, to dictate their conduct, to prescribe their goings and comings, and to curtail in a thousand ways their individual liberties. The ten commandments place in the same category "thy neighbor's wife" and his ox, and "anything which is thy neighbor's." A good many men accept this literally, and class the wife with the domestic animals in the respect that she, too, is personal property. Has not the title passed in the marriage contract? The unwritten law we hear about has its basis in this theory. The assumption by a man that his wife is not a proper or competent guardian of her own honor, or that he has a right, on suspicion, to slay her and somebody else, as he would an ailing sheep of his flock and sheep-killing dog, is founded on the word "my." The fact that she is not adjudged competent to own or handle property of her own earning, in many states, is also sprung from her supposed "chattel" condition.

Worth Knowing

If a coating of glue or size be rubbed over with a decoction of one part of powdered nutgalls in twelve parts of water, reduced by boiling to eight parts and strained, it becomes hard and solid. It makes a good coat for ceilings to whitewash on, and for lining walls for paper-hanging.

One of the most effective and inexpensive preparations for extracting grease from woolen cloth is made of one part of liquid ammonia and four parts of alcohol mixed with an equal amount of water. Put this in a glass-stoppered bottle. Apply to the soiled spot with a piece of sponge, soaking the cloth thoroughly if the grease has been in it for any considerable time. After cleaning, sponge well with clear water, and dry, or press.

It is claimed that bits of butcher's brown paper smeared with molasses and a little arsenic sprinkled over it, and these bits laid about in the closets, bin, or drawers, is a sure exterminator of ants, and other kitchen vermin. The arsenic is poison, and the bits of paper must not be where children can get to them.

Silks, velvets and other delicate fabrics which cannot be cleaned with