

BETZVILLE TALES

Miss Petunia Scraggins and the Clothespins

By Ellis Parker Butler
Author of "Pigs is Pigs" Etc.
ILLUSTRATED BY PETER NEWELL

For a great many years Miss Petunia Scraggins of Betzville sent her washing away from home to be done, but it was not in order to appear stylish, as some of our invidious citizens have believed. It was because she was modest that she couldn't bear to look upon a naked clothespin. The mere sight of six dozen pale, nude clothespins in a basket always overcame Petunia so that she became weak and trembled and had to go and lie down on the red-plush sofa and sniff at the uncorked camphor bottle.

But when adversity overtook her and she couldn't afford to have her washing sent out, she saw there was nothing to do about it, and that she must do her own washing. For three weeks she hunted high and low for some kind of lady-like clothespins that she could put skirts on and that would ride side-saddle on the clothes line, but she could not find any of that sort, and she didn't know what in the world to do. Then she tried putting skirts on the two-legged clothespins any way, but although they looked all right in the basket, the way they behaved on the clothesline was perfectly scandalous. Skirts were never in the world meant to ride a straddle. And a



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clothespin was never intended to do anything else. Miss Petunia couldn't so much as hang out a handkerchief on the line without being shocked and blushing like a mile a minute.

It didn't make the least difference that Miss Petunia was not sparing of clothes. A well-informed stranger who visited our town stated in the hearing of some of our best citizens that he had never seen, anywhere in the world, as well-groomed and so well-fitted clothespins as Miss Petunia's. They were fully robed in skirts and undershirts and general trousseau stuff, including stockings, and yet when they were stuck on the clothesline they looked like reckless creatures whose acquaintance one would not care to make.

The thing that worried Miss Petunia most was that Slim Wiggins, who owns the lot next to her humble home, built a grandstand on it, facing Miss Petunia's yard, and sold seats every wash day at ten cents a seat. The grandstand was always crowded on wash days by spectators come to see Miss Petunia's clothespin ballet, and it was not at all a nice crowd. The best society all stayed away after they heard what kind of a show it was.

It irked Miss Petunia almost to death to go out and hang up a towel and hear the loud cheers as she stuck the clothespins on the line. The audience got so it knew each individual clothespin, and when their favorites appeared and began to dance in the breeze they just went wild. And Slim Wiggins used to sell peanuts and lemonade, and parade up and down before the grandstand as proud as if he had thought of the show himself. It riled Miss Petunia dreadfully.

At last the crowd got to be so noisy that the city council met and considered the bad effect the clothespin ballet was having on the public. They appointed a committee of censors, and the next Monday the committee went around and censored Miss Petunia's week's wash and cleared it injurious to the morals of the community and ordered her to discontinue it. They said she still had the right to use nude, unadorned clothespins if she wished, but she couldn't bring herself to do that, and it looked for awhile as if she would have to discontinue wash-

ing the honor were under discussion.

"Well," said Mr. Rogers, "if I had been as long around Yale college as Prof. So and So I'd be president."

"No, Henry," retorted Mr. Whitney, "you would probably own the ground and the buildings, but you would not be president."

Mr. Rogers always told that story with a chuckle.

"You can print that, some time," he said to a reporter to whom he told it some months before his death.

Up to the Minute.

Mrs. Goslip—They do say that her husband has acquired locomotor ataxia.

Mrs. Charvace—I don't think much of those cheap cars; my husband has an imported one.

Matching His Feelings.

"Ragsby is very chummy since he started to buy a new house."

"Yes, so much so that he insisted on getting one with a swell front."—Yonkers Statesman.

day, and so she would if she hadn't happened to hear that the best society elsewhere was wearing divided skirts for horseback riding.

For awhile Miss Petunia was doubtful about divided skirts. She was a little old-fashioned and she feared they might not be modest, but when she spoke to the city censoring committee they said the divided skirts were perfectly proper and suitable for the most well-bred clothespins to wear. So she set to work and made a complete outfit of divided skirts for her clothespins. Slim Wiggins sold a few reserved seats for the first appearance of the divided-skirts, there being some curiosity about them among those who had never seen them, but the next Monday the grandstand was as empty as a church on Fourth of July.

It is wonderful how a little thing like clothes changes things. Formerly Miss Petunia was afraid to look a clothespin in the face, and now she is as fond of them as can be. She says that putting clothes on them makes them really clothespins, and that that is all some people are. She says that for upwards of 40 years she was lonely and sad and always working her fingers to the bone to get a husband, but now she has learned how much human companionship there is in a well-dressed clothespin, and she has given up all intention of getting married. In the long winter evenings she just goes out to the clothespin basket and gets a clothespin and sets it astraddle on the edge of her workbasket, and the evening passes as quickly as could be desired. And she says she has raised such an affection for the dear good things that she can't abide thinking of them all alone in the cold cellarway in a draughty willow basket, and every night she puts them all snugly to bed in the spare bed in the east bedroom. Miss Petunia says that they look so sweet and innocent, lying there 72 in a row, with just their little wooden heads sticking out beyond the covers, that every night she gives each one of them a kiss and a little pat on the cheek before she turns out the light. Bless their little hearts!

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Turkish Kindness to Animals.

In the matter of kindness to animals it is said that the Turk cannot be surpassed. Thus at Stamboul the wandering dogs are treated with great gentleness and when puppies come into the world they are lodged with their mother at the side of the street in improvised kennels made out of old boxes lined with straw and bits of carpet.

And frequently when a young Turk happens to be flush of money he goes to the nearest baker's shop and buys a quantity of bread, which he distributes among the dogs of the quarter, who testify their gratitude by jumping up at him with muddy paws and sniffing muzzles.

The Walrus' Defense.

A full-grown walrus will weigh as much as 2,000 pounds—a mountainous mass of muscle and blubber. He is armed with tusks of ivory, sometimes two feet in length, and when from his upreared bulk these formidable weapons are plunged downward upon an enemy, they are as irresistible as the drop of a gullitine.

Such a thick layer of blubber lies under the skin that he is practically clad in armor impervious to teeth and claws alike. So, unless the enemy is greatly favored by luck, he has little chance to overthrow his antagonist.—St. Nicholas.

Office Repartee.

"The blonde typewriter over there carries her own headlight," remarked the humorous bookkeeper.

"Yes," rejoined the bill clerk, "and you have your own private entry-way."

And the office boy stared at them in astonishment, for he had his own stare-way.

Too Trusting.

The early robin freely acknowledged that as a harbinger of spring it had been a failure this time.

"I was fooled by the boys playing marbles in the streets," pleaded the bird, in extenuation.

For there are times, as Solomon or some other wise man has remarked, when all signs fail.

Insurance.

Alice—Ethel tells me she is engaged to Jack. Do you think she really means to marry him?

Kate—Not if she can get anybody else.

H. H. Rogers' Humor.

One of the characteristics of H. H. Rogers was his love of a joke, even at his own expense. This was one of his favorite stories:

He, William C. Whitney, and several other friends were discussing the succession of the presidency of Yale, then vacant before the election of Prof. Hadley, who then held the chair of economics. Another professor longer at the university than Dr. Hadley was a candidate, and his chances of

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt

Cover the bread in a stone crock to keep it moist.

Sow a cover crop in the orchard after the last cultivation.

Dry and clean stalls should be provided for the calves.

The good idea is worth sticking to, but be sure it is a good one before risking too much upon it.

The crop of flies on the farm can be reduced considerably if the manure is kept cleaned up.

Manure put on the soil in big chunks is not readily incorporated with the soil and may do more harm than good.

A mixture of salt, coppers, lime and ashes is good for the hogs and should be placed where they can have access to it at all times.

With other food stuffs increasing in price why should not milk go up? There is not enough margin of profit for the farmer under the present scale of prices.

If there is no pasture for the ram provide a paddock in which he can exercise. It is a shortsighted policy which would keep him shut in the barn these days.

Look at the nuts on the buggy occasionally, and the other vehicles, too. Easy to tighten them, but mighty hard to repair the damage sometimes when a wheel comes rolling off.

Does every cow in your herd return you a profit? you cannot know unless you have tested the milk and keep a record of the yield. Use the scales and the Babcock tester. It is the only way.

If by careless handling a piece of farm machinery lasts you only five years when it might have been made to do good service for eight years or perhaps ten years, see what a loss your carelessness has cost you.

In discussing the feeding of cows, Ex-Gov. Hoard of Wisconsin declares that when the American farmer's wife, a few years hence, hands her husband the shopping list there will appear the following: "Chocolates for daughter Susan, taffy for little Bill, and a gallon of molasses for the cow! Cows like sweets," he said. "I feed my herd a regular ration of molasses every day, and I find that they thrive on it. It makes their flesh fat and their skins glossy. It gives zest to their appetites and helps their digestion. It increases the quality and improves the quantity of their milk, for it puts the cow in a good humor, and a good-humored cow is the best milker."

Wheat and oat straw have a value of about six dollars per ton for feed and four dollars a ton for bedding if handled right. Much straw is wasted from careless rickling. If possible put all the straw in one large rick close to the barn. The straw should be thoroughly tramped down, keeping the middle full. When the grain is threshed by a large steamroller there should be three men at least on the rick to properly place the straw as it comes from the carrier. A large, high rick, well put up, and after it settles nicely topped off and wired down will shed rain perfectly.

Paralysis in swine most often follows over-feeding of rich nitrogenous foods to animals that are closely confined. Pigs do best when allowed a considerable range and not fed too highly. As this affection involves the spinal cord, it is not only liable to prove fatal, but is not, as a rule, satisfactorily treated. First, remove the cause. Cut down feed and allow plenty of range, and if not fed too liberally they will forage about and get exercise. Young pigs only partially paralyzed will often come right treated as above advised. Old animals will not often respond to any form of treatment.

Farmyard manure is weak in both phosphoric acid and potash, and these elements are supplied in fertilizers. While they may be used alone, it is customary to use them in connection with farm manure, which will practically mean crop insurance, and will actually prove so with sufficient moisture. Crops can be grown continuously on fertilizers containing all the elements of plant food. This was demonstrated at the experiment station at Rothamstead, England, where for 42 years wheat was grown on chemical fertilizer without manure and yielded a larger average crop per year than a similar section on which farmyard manure was used.

Sore shoulders can be avoided on the horses with proper care. No sensible driver and owner of a horse will allow his horse's shoulders to gall and become sore, because this is a danger that can be wholly avoided. The principal causes of shoulder trouble in horses are ill-fitting collars, the pernicious sweat pad and too low a draft on the harness. It is the urgent duty of every one owning a working horse to see that the collar is fitted exactly to the shoulders of the animal, and if this is done no evil-smelling and skin burning sweat pad will be necessary for the comfort of Dobbie. Many of the working harness outfits, nowa days, are not made with the comfort of the horse in mind. This is seen particularly in the placing of the draft in the majority of cases the point of application of the pulling force is fixed entirely too low down on this important part of the harness. When the animal is at work, the pull thus comes on the "point" of the shoulder where it is not evenly distributed over the surface as it is when it comes up a bit higher on the shoulder where the draft should naturally be applied. There is more muscular action near and around the "point" or lower part of the horse's shoulder than is noticed on the flat surface of the muscles that cover the shoulder blades, hence there is less chafing and rubbing against the face of the collar there. It is to the best interest of the horse as well as to his master that the draft be properly and comfortably placed.

Bags of Patent Leather and Others

Proper Service at Dinner Table

There has been a new favor accorded to patent leather and many of the smartest new bags for practical use are in this leather. It does not wear so well as many other black leathers, but it has a brightness foreign to any of the other leathers, save morocco, a youthful air, and made up in attractive shape with lining of some gay color, it certainly deserves popularity, even if it does show wear rather quickly.

The patent-leather bags are in almost every case more effective than any of the other leathers. The details of the bags give them individuality even when shapes vary little and the last word seems to have been said in the matter of fittings.

For luncheon downtown there is a smaller bag (also used for matinee purposes), containing the indispensable vanity equipment, mirror, powder puff or cloth and possibly other items. It may have the little opera glasses and fan, too.

For visits a flat envelope bag or small handsome bag with handle is the thing if one carries anything in leather. A purse or bag of netted gold, silver or gunmetal is often preferred, but it should be large enough to hold cards as well as handkerchief, and if one is traveling by car a small change purse.

Lizard skin is considered a good skin for dressy occasions, but the leather workers are so clever in their use of dyes now that one may have a bag to match almost any costume. The very pale biscuit and gray tones and white are used for beautiful purses and small bags, often gold mounted and having precious stones set in their clasps. A new shape as shown by one well-known leather goods firm shows a succession of overlapping flaps inclosing separate pockets. This model has taken extremely well. Another well-liked model has its original note in the smooth, plain mounting of metal curving downward slightly in the middle, and in the plain metal handle, which seems a continuation of the mounting. From this same shop comes a bag with right angle double handle of leather, beneath which the bag is cut down a little, the sides being left higher. The flap of a small change compartment buttons down on the outside of the bag.

The young housekeeper, setting up her own establishment, sometimes finds it difficult to instruct the maid who serves the family meals to do the work noiselessly and properly. Perhaps the first principle to learn is that everything should be handed to the left side of the person who is sitting, which enables them to serve themselves easily with the right hand.

In laying the table one must have an eye to preserving balance with everything that is put on. That is, if a salt cellar is placed at one side there must be another in the corresponding place on the other. A fern or a dish of fruit or even an empty dish, if it is a pretty one, must always be placed in the very center. Around that are the extra forks and spoons, as attractive as you can arrange them.

In front of the places of persons who are to be seated there must be a plate. The knife is put at the right side and the forks at the left, the tines pointing up. If there is a soup spoon it goes beside the knife. The oyster fork also is next to the spoon and knife, but that for oysters is the only fork that is placed at the right. All the others go to the left. If more than one is required, as for salad after the meal, the larger fork goes next to the plate. Spoons for dessert, whether they are large or small, are over the plate; that is, are across the top. The napkin should be folded with two points under and laid in the plate, a square of bread being tucked away in it if the meal is dinner.

Few housekeepers have more than the roast on the table these days, vegetables being at the side table from which they are handed by the maid, who returns them there after each person has been served.

If they are to be kept on the table one would be at one side, another at the other side of the meat, or two dishes might be put at the foot of the table. That is a matter of individual preference which each housekeeper decides.

The maid serving should wear a small white cap and a big apron with bib and straps over the shoulders and crossing at the back.

Quiet in the dining room is a thing that must be striven for by the maid. A noisy person is an abomination and the rattle of dishes and clash of silver should not be permitted.

Among Women.

"Why worry about the children?" "I can't help it."

"But, my dear, you are hurting your game of bridge."

Sure throat is no trifling ailment. It will sometimes carry infection to the entire system through the food that is eaten. Haines Wizard Oil is a sure, quick cure.

Faith.

Faith makes us, and not we; it and faith makes its own forms.—Emerson.

Lewis' Single Binder made of extra quality. Tobacco, more than ordinary. 25 cigars. Tell the dealer you want them.

Too often when the heart is willing the power is weak.

Neat Candle Shade

Design for Candle Shade, with One-Fourth Pattern.

The first step is to trace the pattern on the heavy water color paper by means of carbon paper, then paint it black and cut it out. The frame will then look like the small diagram in the upper right-hand corner of the sketch.

Next the panels may be traced and painted in water color, using these colors: Clouds, white; sky, light cobalt blue; water, darker blue; trees green; land in foreground, a shade darker green; hills in middle distance yellow green; hills in distance, violet; castle, medium gray, with roofs in soft old terra cotta; windows, purple; bridge, darker gray than castle, underneath part of bridge purple; reflection of bridge in water, purple; reflection of clouds in water, white. When the paint is perfectly dry go over all the lines with India ink and a coarse pen. The panels are now ready to glue into the frame.

The tiny thumb sketch in the upper left-hand corner of the cut shows the completed shade.

The Evening Hood.

In spite of the warm weather there is no abatement of the popularity of the evening hood, which is an ideal head covering for girls flying about in motor cars to parties. To be both utilitarian and picturesque is recommendation enough for any article of apparel, and the hoods have this merit, for they admirably keep the hair from blowing, while affording a most charming frame for the youthful face. Made of dainty mull and delicate lace, the summer ones will be particularly fetching.

Gloves Lore.

Most gloves absolutely refuse to be presentable after having been wet with rain. For some reason it is almost impossible to efface the wrinkling and shrinking and hardening effect of the water. The best plan is to place the gloves in a cool, dry room—never near a fire—and, when dry, massage little olive oil into their skin before putting them on again. This will return the soft texture if anything will, but the gloves will never really be the same.

New silk parasols have handles to match, made of enameled or lacquered wood.

Shirtings are on their way back. The separate coat is more fashionable than ever before.

Gray, tan, khaki and even darker shades are more worn than the white linens.

Belt buckles, necklaces, hatpins, and stickpins are ablaze with amethysts.

The one-piece princess dress is supplanting the separate waist and skirt. White buckskin shoes with wide buckles of burnished gold are smart. Stockings match every variety of shoes and the more fashionable dress shades.

Soft, cool blouses of China or Japanese silk are popular for summer wear.

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THE LAW'S DELAY.



Hix—What's the best way to never settle a question?

Hix—Go to law about it.

CHILD HAD SIXTY BOILS.

And Suffered Annually with a Red Scald-Like Humor on Her Head.

Troubles Cured by Cuticura.

"When my little Vivian was about six months old her head broke out in boils. She had about sixty in all and I used Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment which cured her entirely. Some time later a humor broke out behind her ears and spread up to her head until it was nearly half covered. The humor looked like a scald, very red with a sticky, clear fluid coming from it. This occurred every spring. I always used Cuticura Soap and Ointment which never failed to heal it up. The last time it broke out it became so bad that I was discouraged. But I continued the use of Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Resolvent until she was well and has never been troubled in the last two years. Mrs. M. A. Schwerin, 674 Spring Wells Ave., Detroit, Mich., Feb. 24, 1908." Patten Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

Praises American Woman.

Alfred East says that American women, like American machines, need but little man power. The American woman, he says, is the most chaste woman in the world, therefore she is the most charming. Our excellent educational system, he thinks, is responsible for the fact that American women are such "good fellows."

With a smooth iron and Defiance Starch, you can launder your shirtwaist just as well at home as the steam laundry can; it will have the proper stiffness and finish, there will be less wear and tear of the goods, and it will be a positive pleasure to use a Starch that does not stick to the iron.

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