

# The Bee's Home Magazine Page

## Praise Day

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

(Republished by Permission "Good Housekeeping.")  
Let us halt now for a space in our hurrying.  
Let us take time to look up and look out;  
Let us refuse for a spell to be worrying,  
Let us decline both to question or doubt,  
If one goes caviling.  
Hair-splitting, flaw-hunting, ready for strife,  
All the best pleasure is missed in the traveling  
Onward through life.

Just for today we will put away sorrowing.  
Just for today not a tear shall be shed;  
Nor will we fear anything or go borrowing  
Pain from the future by profitless dread.  
Thought shall go frolicking,  
Pleasuring, treasuring everything bright,  
Tasting the joy that is found just in rollicking  
On through the light.

Just for today all the ills that need bettering  
We will omit from our notebook of mind;  
All that is good we will mark by red-lettering;  
Those things alone we are seeking to find.  
Things to be sad over,  
Pine over, whine over, pass them, I say.—  
Nothing is noted save what we are glad over—  
This is Praise Day.

## Public Schools Should Teach Good Manners

Need of Instruction Which Will Make Refined, Courteous Men and Women of Omaha's Cosmopolitan Army of Children.

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

(Copyright, 1915, By Star Company.) Our school system needs revolutionizing. The community is taxed heavily to support school institutions. The introduction of the drawing master, the music master, the district nurse, the visiting dentist and doctor, all mean increased taxes for the people. Most of these innovations on the old school system (which consisted of teaching the "Three R's"—reading, writing, and "arithmeto") are of value to the children—the coming generation of men and women.

It is, however, the opinion of many thinking people that the time and money expended on the teaching of art in our public schools, might well be reduced to a minimum. Not one child in 100 possesses sufficient talent in this line to make it worth while to continue the study after school years. The child who does possess such talent would be discovered, were not a whole community taxed and the time of an entire school taken a portion of each day, which might well be devoted to something of more universal value.

One of the most important things in the education of any man or woman is good manners. Manners which do not offend in daily deportment. A man may know nothing of art and nothing of music and yet not offend his neighbors, though he live to be 100 years old. But the man who knows nothing of the niceties of good manners at the table, or deportment in public vehicles, or places of entertainment, is a continual annoyance and irritation, to his fellow beings.

To eat noisily, to display a toothpick in public, to use the knife where the fork is intended, to crowd in front of women and children, to talk loud in public, all these habits interfere with the general well-being. It is in the early childhood life that right habits should be taught.

It would be of great importance to the world at large were the public schools of America to institute a "good manners department" in the kindergarten, the primary and intermediate departments of all schools. Ten minutes each day given to instruction by short talks and demonstrations on these subjects would accomplish miracles of good. The right way of manipulation of the knife and fork at the table, the right attitudes, the proper use of the napkin are all matters of much greater importance in the education of the average child than instruction in drawing or in dissection of dead animals.

Our country is a smelting pot of every nationality on earth. Our schools are composed of children from all classes and all climes. Many people come to us whose lives in the old countries have been passed in remote places, far from centers of civilization, where no knowledge is obtainable of the niceties of life. The children thus reared by these parents in the same habits which characterized their early environments. A large majority of these children will grow up to be intellectually brilliant men and women, and many of them will occupy prominent places, industrially and politically. It is important that they should be trained in good manners in the small things of life as well as in intellectual development.

If your children are made to realize that good manners are regarded as a part of education they will use their influence upon their parents.

At any one of our seashore resorts in the summer, or our winter resort hotels, one may encounter men and women by the score who have been successful in the battle for worldly wealth, but whose early education lacked training in this special direction of refined manners.

Men who tuck their napkins under their chin, men and women who partake of their soup audibly, and who flourish toothpicks at the table, in the corridors and on the verandas, and even men and women who convey food to the mouth by means of the knife, forgetting that the knife is only appropriate for cutting and not for carrying food, are to be met with everywhere in our land.

Many of our early Puritan fathers were very indifferent to these matters as they were opposed to all things ornamental and beautiful in life. They taught only the stern virtues, and principles, and austere religion. The ornamental, the gracious, the courteous sides of life they considered of no value.

The New England world has changed many of its ideas in modern times, but it needs to change still more, and to carry its modern ideas still further, by introducing instruction in good manners into our school systems.

It is only the exceptionally well-bred little boy who does not rush ahead of older people, thrust women and children aside, and force himself into public conveyances in a hurry to obtain a seat. Not one small boy in 1,000 ever rises and offers an older person a seat; not more than one in 1,000 has been taught to rise when a woman enters a room. These small courtesies mark the well-bred man when he is grown and their absence marks the boor.

The world would be a more agreeable place, and men and women more agreeable companions were our public schools to introduce a department for teaching good manners.

## DARKEN GRAY HAIR. LOOK YOUNG

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## In-Shoots.

The book with a flashy cover is often dull. And it is that way with many persons you meet.

Much as we may admire these lady cigarette smokers, we cannot forget that it would be better for their teeth if they would chew plug tobacco.

When a man looks woe-begone enough to excite the sympathy of a professional charity distributor he might as well be turned over to the undertaker.

Look at the record of the mean boss and you will find that he was once the prince of fawning employees.

When the landlord and tenant can agree as to the quality of the wall paper needed for a room there is something millennial in the air.

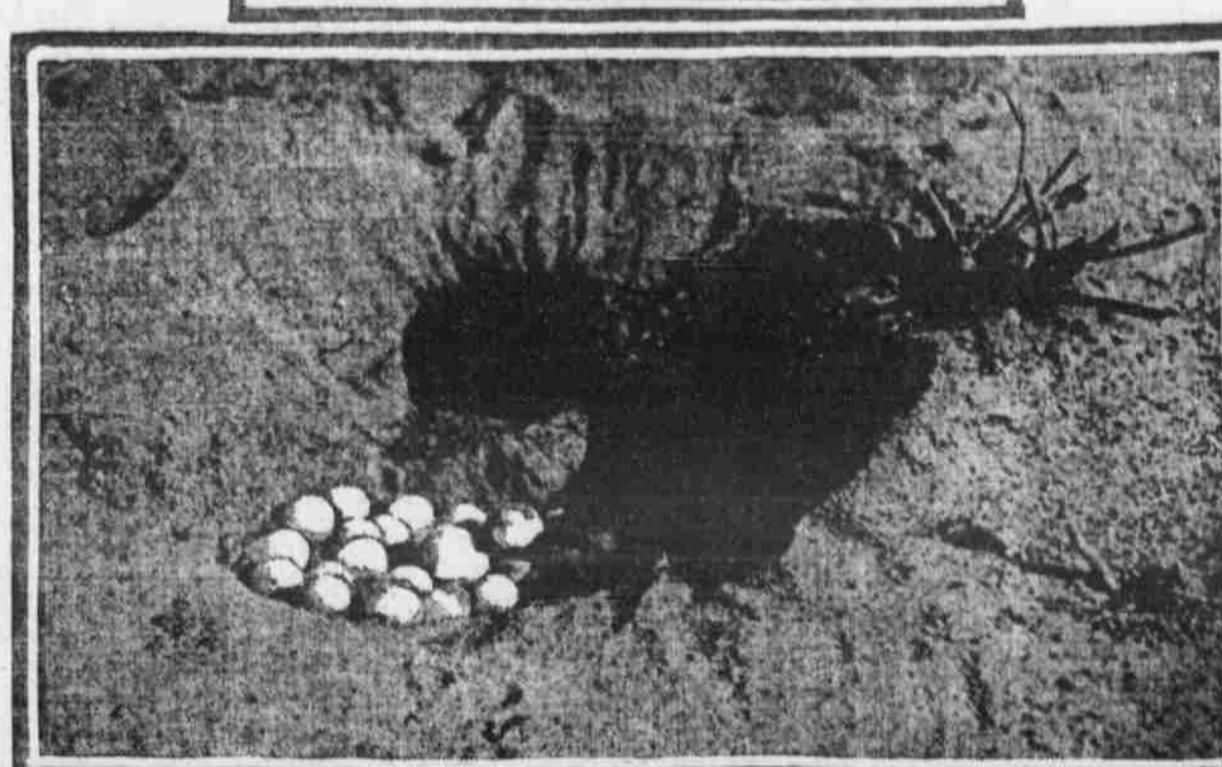
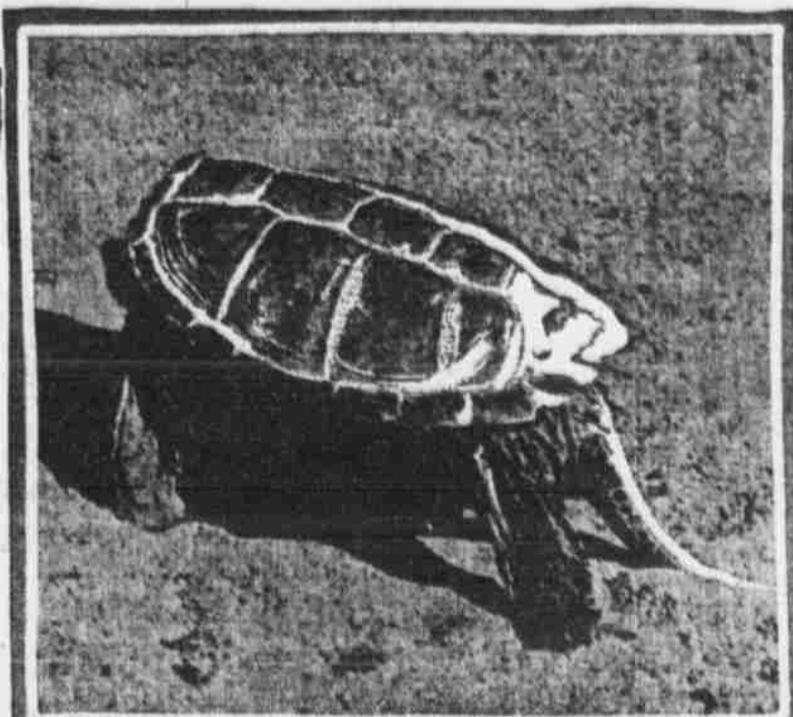
It is well to be suspicious of the man who offers the same volume of laugh for every joke.

Ability to escape from the fool killer has often put a man in the hero class.

## An Animal with a Snap

A Turtle, Self-Fortified, Who Prefers Fighting to Hiding

A full-sized turtle walking. Note the tail with which he makes tracks in the sand.



By GARRETT P. SERVISS.

A bright boy after hearing read the account of Genesis of how God made all the animal inhabitants of the earth, one after another, exclaimed: "What fun that was!" He was rebuked for irreverence, but he declared that he meant nothing wrong; he only thought what a delight it would be to actually make new animals—the first lion, the first tiger, the first elephant, the first alligator, and so on.

And the naturalist, studying the infinite variety of animal forms, often, no doubt, has a similar impression of the pleasure that must underlie the act of creating something that has never before existed. He meets many animals which seem to him to have been made of a kind of "rule of thumb," or as one writes out, a nondescript figure from a stick of wood, following the fancies of the moment, and changing the shape to suit the new ideas that are suggested by accidental strokes of the jackknife.

There is no apparent reason why the creatures living on this earth might not, just as well, have had forms entirely different from those which we see. If we could visit Venus, which is of about the same size as the earth, we might find it crowded with inhabitants, every one of which would be a complete novelty to our eyes, and what was there regarded as the acme of beauty might seem to us monstrously ugly. Yet, these diverse forms, existing in a world otherwise like ours, would merely represent different ways of meeting the conditions of life from those adopted on the earth, nature's jackknife on Venus having turned out different models from similar materials.

These thoughts are suggested by some pictures, which are herewith reproduced, of one of the strangest of our animal contemporaries on the earth—the snapping turtle, a "strictly American family."

The turtles, tortoises, and terrapins are all very curious creatures, such as nature only could invent, and, while they are found, in one species or another, all over

the world, they appear, as a whole, to have been dying out for many ages. They were once much more numerous, and a great number of their species have become extinct.

They are traveling fortifications, like Jules Verne's "steam house." Each carries his fort, or his blockhouse, on his back. If you meet a small land-turtle, or mud-turtle (and there are many about Omaha), you will see him draw his head and his tail into his hard, horny, queerly carved box, and there he is invisible and as safe from attack, from any of his ordinary enemies, as if he were inside a steel fort. Even a wagon wheel running over that stout domed back will not always crush or even check it.

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The great green turtle, who has given his name to green turtle—now living, as far as size goes. It runs in weight from 400 to 1,500 pounds and is sometimes over eight feet long. It lives in shallow waters along tropical coasts and may be seen feeding in herds like cattle, on the seaweeds. Often it floats on the surface, basking in the sunshine.

It lays its eggs on shore during moonlit nights, in soft sand, where they are hatched by the sunshine. When caught on shore and turned on its back, one of these turtles cannot right itself and that is for a man to climb who is carrying that weight on his back.

The snapping turtle, or alligator turtle, as it is also called, is not so perfectly protected by its box-like as are more of the species. This is because its neck and legs are too long to be completely withdrawn into the shell. But, on the other hand, the snapping turtle is very aggressive, a fact which perhaps partly makes up for the incompleteness of his defenses, and which has given him his popular name.

If approached he will attack fearlessly with his claws and jaws, the latter, however, being destitute of teeth, although very strong, so that a large snapping turtle, and the ordinary variety sometimes weighs fifteen or twenty pounds, can snap asunder a stick half an inch in thickness. This fierce animal also believes in noise as an aid in fighting, and makes a great hissing all the time the battle continues.

The name alligator turtle is applied only in the southern states, where the creature grows much larger than in the north, often attaining a weight of fifty pounds. In the lower Mississippi valley it is regarded as a delicious article of food, resembling terrapin. It has been remarked that the snapping turtle seems to partake of the nature of both the turtle and the lizard (or saurian) families,

and it is from the latter that he derives his fierce character.

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As we see this blighting form of love exhibited about us every day. It begins with the girl who is so in love with a young man that she hurries on the wedding day and forces him into marriage before he is ready for it. As a single man he could work longer hours, he had a hundred chances to get a foothold in the world to, where the poor young married man has none.

Nevertheless, because she loved him and is afraid in some way he might get away from her, she ties the millstone of a wife and family about his neck, although she knew how almost impossible it is for a man to climb who is carrying that weight on his back.

As we see the wife who blocks her husband's opportunity in life by standing in his way and holding on to his coat tails. Perhaps some good business opening is presented to the man, but to take it will require his being away from her part of the time. She will not hear of such a thing, and when he talks of leaving home for even a few weeks she has hysterics.

"I don't care whether we have anything on, so that I have you," she says. "I don't want riches or honors, I want your love," she moans, and she never stops to consider that she may be blasting her husband's ambition and keeping him from doing the thing that live a century or more.

would make him feel that he had just found himself in his fellow creature's eyes.

And there is the wife of the professional man, whose devotion puts the ex-tinderbox on his career. Sometimes the wife's selfish affection takes the form of jealousy. She sees in every woman who comes to her husband's office a rival, and her evil suspicions attribute to them disgusting intrigues. She drives away clients and patients, and badgers her unfortunate husband into an apathy that kills effort by her ceaseless nagging and conjecture and distrust.

Or her exacting affection requires her husband's constant attendance at her side. She won't go on a vacation without him. She won't go to the theater without him, or a party without him. Of an evening he must sit up and entertain her, because she never gets enough of his society, and the result is that he falls behind men of less ability because he has no time in which to study or read or think.

I have known more than one case where a wife induced her husband to give up a good place for a bad one because it would leave him "more time at home," where a wife has kept her husband from going on a virtually important business mission because she wasn't feeling well and wanted him with her, and where clerks have been dismissed because their overly devoted wives were always hanging around under foot in an office or store, or made themselves such nuisances calling their husbands up a dozen times a day over the telephone.

Such love is this—and it's a very common feminine brand—is more hurtful to a man than any hate could be, because you can fight hate and defend it, but you are helpless before mushy sentiment. You can hit back, blow for blow, but what man has the courage to tear from around his neck to clinging arms that are smothering him and dragging him down to defeat?

As long as a woman feels that she cannot exist without some man's presence, she feels justified in imposing on him, or tyrannizing over him, or handicapping him, because she thinks she loves him; but the feeling she entertains is no more real love than pincheek is pure gold. The very essence of real love is unselfishness, and until a woman is able to put her husband's interests and pleasures before her own and to efface herself if need be, for his advantage, she knows nothing of love.

Heaven help the man whom a woman loves selfishly. He had better have her hate. It would be less disastrous to him.

## TAKE THIS

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## Advice to Lovelorn : By Beatrice Fairfax

Breach of Promise Suits.

Dear Miss Fairfax: Kindly answer the following question: A couple have been engaged almost a year. After a slight disagreement the man immediately marries another girl (apparently for money). What is the best course? Is it to sue for breach or giving any explanation whatever. The first girl, feeling that she has been treated very unjustly and desirably, is contemplating a suit for breach of promise. Would such an action on her part in any way reflect on her character?

A breach of promise suit always reflects on the character of the girl who brings it. The world feels that a heart that can save its wounds with money is not a particularly fine organ.

R. G.

Don't set about winning a girl's love by gifts of jewelry—this is buying it—not winning it. It is not at all proper for a girl to receive such gifts from a man. Give her flowers, candy or books.

Waiting for a Man.

Dear Miss Fairfax: Has a fellow friend to me been steadily engaged with a girl, when he is not in a position at the present time financially to marry, providing the girl is willing to wait until he is better off financially? The girl loves the man and wants him to marry her.

Do you think right for me to ask him to accompany me and do you think he would be willing?

A READER.

Since your people know this young man, and since you have had numerous dealings with him, I see no reason why you should not ask him to go with you to the affair to which you were given permission to bring your escort.

## An Animal with a Snap

A Turtle, Self-Fortified, Who Prefers Fighting to Hiding

Below is an unusual photograph showing a nest of eggs of a snapping turtle.

## Selfish Women Often Make Love a Curse

By DOROTHY DIX.

Is love often a curse instead of a blessing?

Can a wife love a husband so well that her affection works him a greater harm than the malice of any enemy could invent?