

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,
Hat-splitting, flaw-hunting, ready for strife,
All the best pleasure is missed in the traveling
Onward through life.

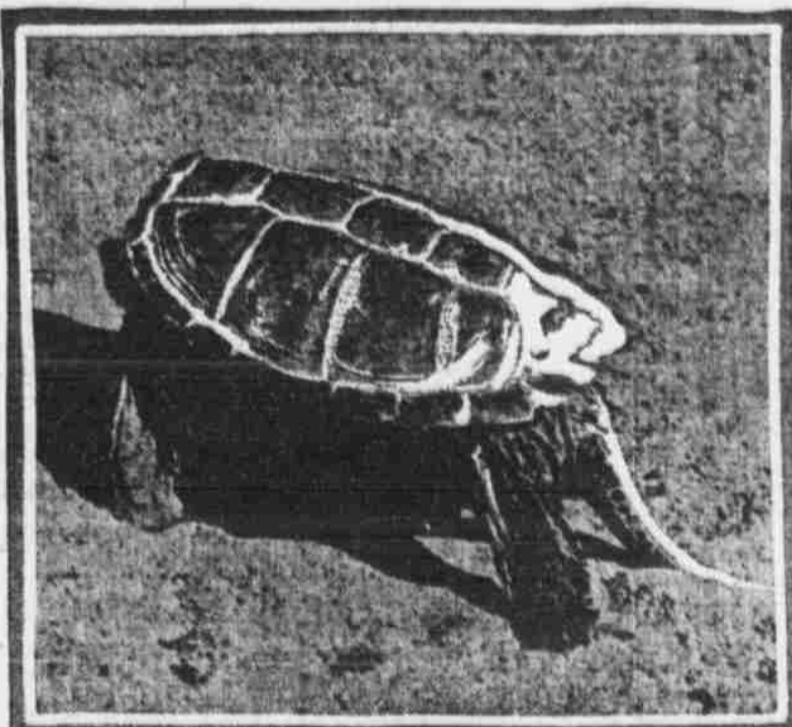
Just for today we will put away sorrowing,
Just for today not a tear shall be shed;
Nor will we fear anything or go borrowing
Pain from the future by profitless dread,
Thought shall go frolicking,
Pleasuring, treasuring everything bright,
Tasting the joy that is found just in rollicking
On through the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

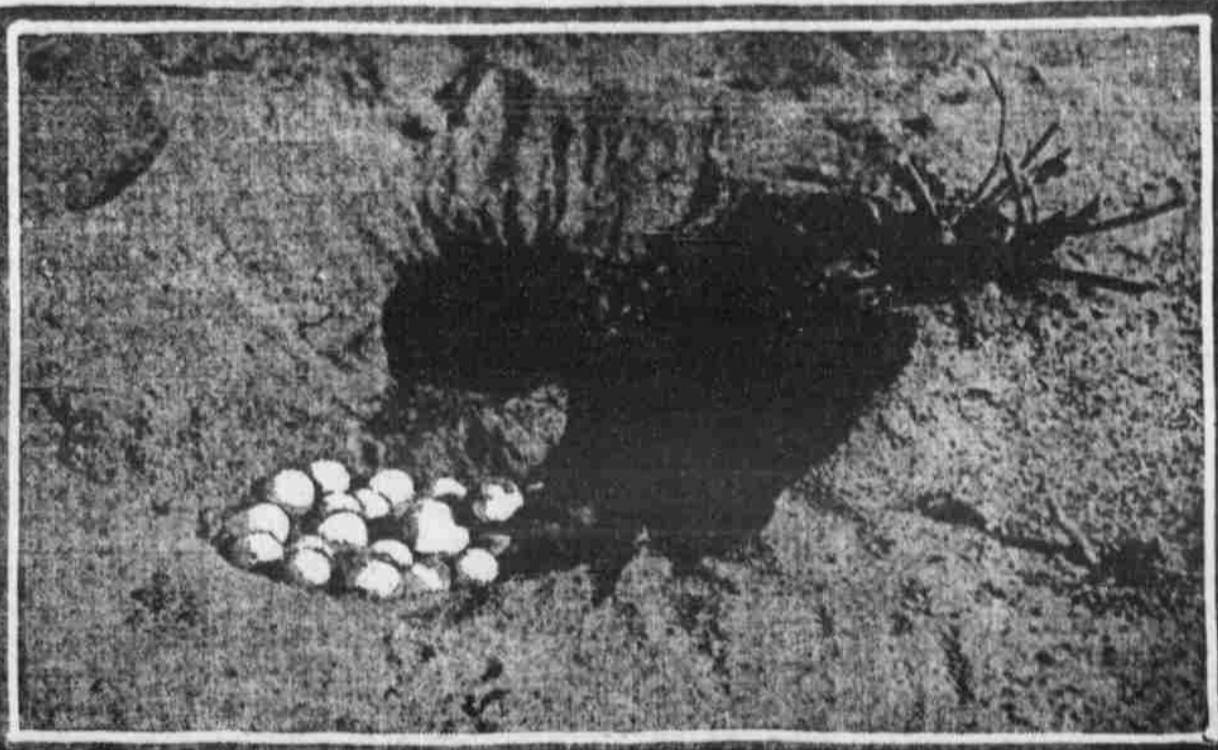
An Animal with a Snap

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.



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



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 that 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 whitely puts it 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 these 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."

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.

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

The great green turtle, who has given his name to green turtle soup, mightiest representative of the family 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 moonlight 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 thus they are easily made prisoners.

The hawkbill turtle, another species, furnishes "tortoise shell," which consists of horny plates, constituting the outer part of the shell and these plates, for some reason, are particularly beautiful in this species, both from their delicate mottled colors and the translucency of the material.

Turtles are famous for longevity. It is said that individuals have been known to live a century or more.

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.

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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?



This question has just been answered in Paris by one of the most tragic romances of all history. Captain Herial of the French army was married to a woman whose devotion was so great that she would scarcely let him out of her sight. In times of peace she insisted in going with him everywhere he went, even to army manoeuvres, and although this inconvenienced him and hampered him in his profession, it would still be managed. When war was declared, however, the situation was different.

General Joffre gave orders that no woman must enter the army zone. Mme. Herial disregarded this order and joined her husband. He implored her to return to their home and their children. She refused to go. His superior officers ordered Captain Herial to send his wife away. By every means in his power he attempted to induce her to leave. She still refused.

The husband was placed under arrest, deprived of his promotion as an officer of the Legion of Honor, and menaced with dismissal in disgrace from the army on account of his apparent disobedience to General Joffre's order, and still the wife reiterated her determination not to leave his side, and, goaded into madness by her attitude, Captain Herial drew his pistol and shot the woman he loved dead.

Madame Herial is an example of a not uncommon type of wife—the woman who becomes obsessed by a selfish passion for a man that makes her want to monopolize him utterly. She resents every thought and interest that he has apart from her. She has no regard for his honor, or his ambition, but is perfectly willing to sacrifice him and ruin his every prospect in life to gratify her selfish affection for him.

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 only one.

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 or not, so that I have you," she wails. "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

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

And there is the wife of the professional man, whose devotion puts the extensibility 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 vitally 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 defy 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 pinhead 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 who a woman loves selfishly. He had better have her hate. It would be less disastrous to him.

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.

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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 "rithmetic") 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 department. 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 tooth pick 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 melting 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 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 an 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.

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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.

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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 pig tobacco.

When a man looks woo-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 job.

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

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) without the previous engagement being broken or giving any explanation whatever. The first girl, feeling that she has been treated very unkindly and desiring to do something to punish the man for his detestable action, is contemplating a suit for breach of promise. Would such an action on her part in any way reflect on her character? G. O.

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.

Ask Him into Accompany You.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I received an invitation to attend the party of a friend. It was addressed to myself and escort. I would very much like to go, but have no escort.

There is a young man that I would like to ask to accompany me, but do not think it proper as I have always spoken to him on business terms only. He is a nice young man and respectful as far as that goes, and my folks know him well. Do you think it right for me to ask him to accompany me and do you think he might consider me running after him?

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.

Gifts of Jewelry.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a young man, 21, and am in love with a girl three years my junior. Although she never told me that she loves me or hinted anything to me, I think that in time I can win her love.

At her eighteenth birthday I gave her a ring as a birthday gift, which she accepted, although she hesitated at first. Also a few months ago I gave her a watch as a token of friendship, which she also accepted, but at first hesitated. As I am well able to make these gifts it is not proper for the young lady in question to accept these small tokens of my affections. I am not engaged to the young lady, but am merely a friend.

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 a right to keep steady company 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 in better circumstances? The fellow loves the girl dearly, and the girl likes him better than any fellow she knows. Should they become publicly engaged or not?

I do not believe in engagements lasting over a long period. But if a man feels sure of his love and of his ability to make good more quickly for the incentive of a woman's plighted troth, an engagement extending over a year would be unwise.

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