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THE HOUSEHOLD---Supplement.

LILLY DALE.

'Twas a calm, still night, and the moon's pale light
Shone soft o'er hill and vale,
When friends mute with grief stood around the
death-bed
Of my poor, lost Lilly Dale.

CHORUS.

O Lilly, sweet Lilly, dear Lilly Dale,
Now the wild rose blossoms o'er her little green
grave
'Neath the trees in the flowery vale.

Her cheeks, that once glow'd with the rose tint
of health,
By the hand of disease had turn'd pale,
And the death-damp was on the pure white brow
Of my poor, lost Lilly Dale.

CHORUS.—O Lilly, &c.

"I go," she said, "to the land of rest,
And ere my strength shall fail,
I must tell you where, near my own loved home,
You must lay poor Lilly Dale.

CHORUS.—O Lilly, &c.

"'Neath the chestnut-tree, where the wild flow-
ers grow,
And the stream ripples forth through the vale,
Where the birds shall warble their songs in
spring,
There lay poor Lilly Dale."

CHORUS.—O Lilly, &c.

EARLY SPRING FASHIONS.

The woodchuck made no calls on Candle-
mas Day, hence the weather prophets fore-
tell an early spring. How the ground-hog
gets so much the start of the weather bureau
in the prediction business none of us can
tell; we only know he comes considerably
cheaper. And already satteens and gingham
and diaphanous tissues impart a spring-like
appearance to the merchant's windows,
quite out of harmony with the temperature
outside, dressmakers are being engaged
weeks ahead, and every fashion plate is
being eagerly studied by those who take
great thought of "wherewithal they shall be
clothed." Strange, how absorbing this
passion for dress becomes to the feminine
soul! I know a lady here, whose toilette
seems a matter as sacred as religion. She
enters her room to array herself for a din-
ner party or reception with a subdued
manner, as if she were full of the awful
dignity of the ceremony; as if it were some
sacramental duty to be performed in a
gravely serious mood. Every detail has
been studied beforehand; handkerchief and
fan, jewels and lace, must correspond with
the fitness of art, to a perfection of ensemble
which makes her a marvelously well-dressed
woman; but justifies the query of the charity
school pupil who was being taught the

alphabet, whether it was worth going
through so much to get so little.

The early importations of goods are prin-
cipally cotton; these ladies make up for
house dresses, early in the season, that they
may have the benefit of later styles and
more leisure for the elaborate costumes of
silk and wool which will demand attention
later. Satteens, gingham, percales and
seersucker cloth are already piled in pro-
fusion upon the counters. Primrose yellow
is one of the most fashionable colors; "it is
English, you know," being a great favorite
with the English Primrose League. It is
combined with other colors, generally in
stripes, with brown, blue, pink and helio-
tropic. Blue seems to rank next, the dark
shades being preferred, probably for their
fast color. Gingham are striped with white,
and plaids and plain goods will be used in
combination, the plaid for the skirts; and
the trimming will be embroidery, or collar
and cuffs of velvet; the plaids are not as
large and "pronounced" as formerly, and
are all the prettier for it. Satteens are
shown in two qualities, the French at 35
cents, the American at fifteen cents. Of
the two, the French goods is greatly to be
preferred, as it is much finer, softer, and
of better wearing quality. The black is
especially desirable for those in mourning,
who find it so difficult to get a cotton weave
that will hold its color. These satteens
make very desirable dresses, and there is
hardly a shade of any color which cannot
be secured. The ground work is speckled
with minute dots of color, or in irregular
splashes and dashes of color on a neutral
ground; others have small geometrical fig-
ures on white or dark surfaces.

The new styles of making such dresses
are charmingly simple in their straight lines
and full, flowing draperies. There is a gored
foundation skirt, which may be of silesia or
cheaper goods than the dress material; this
skirt is 2½ or 2¾ yards wide, according to
the height of the person, is faced a quarter of
a yard deep with the goods, and finished
with a dress braid, or bias binding of the
material. On this skirt is hung a straight
founce, with a wide hem, which is deep
enough to cover two-thirds of the length of
the skirt; this founce is very slightly gather-
ed in front and on the sides, and quite full
behind. The drapery is long and full,
caught up on both hips, or one, as preferred,
and made bouffant in the back by tapes
that tie or buttons and loops. The belted
waist, and the unlined basque, with revers,
will be the corsages used; and young ladies
will wear velvet bretelles with straps across
the front, over gathered vests of white mull.

A prettier waist, however, has a square
yoke and pointed girdle of velvet, with the
satteen laid on side pleats between. Satteen
and batiste dresses are most serviceably
trimmed with embroidery; the cheap laces
have apparently had their day. The em-
broidery is white or colored, to suit the color
it is to be used upon; delicate shades are
trimmed with white. On more elaborate
dresses, the embroidery is used as ruffles to
form the front of the skirt, and the back
drapery is bordered by an embroidered edge
stitched in and turned back upon the goods
[this is a new idea]. Embroidery is used
for a panel on the side; sometimes each side
has a panel, with a deep apron drapery be-
tween them. Those who can afford to have
cotton dresses cost from ten to fifteen dol-
lars can have entire fronts of the wide all
over embroidery, which comes expressly
for the purpose, but we question the economy
of putting so much money into a cotton
dress, and greatly prefer the plain fashions
of making up, which dispense with all trim-
ming but the velvet accessories, which are
made removable so the dress can be washed.
But a French satteen dress, with care, ought
to last a season as an afternoon "fix-up,"
without steaming soap and water.

I would say to the girls, do not buy crude
white dresses for summer wear. You don't
know how much more becoming and har-
monious the ecru and creamy shades are
to even a "rose-leaf" complexion. They
soften the tints of cheek and throat, and
even brunettes, who look "horrid" in dead
white, can wear these soft yellowish shades
with advantage. If you do not believe I
am right, just try it.

I nearly forgot to say that a very pretty
satteen, just made up, has for a collar a
side pleating of the goods, doubled, two
inches deep, stiffened with an interlining
of thin canvas, sewed on the dress in place
of a collar, and the joining concealed by a
jet necklace with a pendant in front.
Some cream-white lace was pleated with it,
and from this dainty garniture, the round,
slender throat of the wearer rose like a
flower bud from its calyx.

Some of our large dry-goods houses com-
plain their early orders from the east have
been delayed in transit by the strike of
freight handlers. Be that as it may, at
least we have not very many new spring
wool goods as yet. Some novelties in
suitings are shown, having stripes of
knotted threads on a smooth surface, and
others having zigzag grounds strewn with
balls of color. But I never feel like recom-
mending "novelties" to those to whom
economy is needful, for after one season.

they generally go "out," and then look so antiquated. If you are so overcome by the charm as to choose one for a suit, put it on and get all the wear you can out of it while it is in fashion, because next year you will probably "hate the old thing."

The new models for wool goods, like those in cheaper materials, are very simple, apparently, though, like piano-playing, "it ain't so easy as it looks" to get them to hang just right, not too much fullness in the drapery, and every loop in exactly the right place. The placing of the steels in the back of the skirt is in itself a *chef d'œuvre*, to get them in exactly the proper place, and not too large. Some, managed by unskillful dressmakers, look perfectly ridiculous, especially if the back drapery chances to be too scant. Pleating and ruffles seem entirely banished; the most stylish dresses are very plain, and depend upon the fit, the material, and quality of the trimming for their style.

A pretty striped wool suit, designed for spring wear, has a foundation skirt made exactly as described for satteen dresses, with the flounce simply hemmed. Over this is a long full front drapery, arranged high and full on the right hip, and caught up less full, but not less high, on the left, so the drapery is uneven, being drawn away to disclose the lower skirt at the right side; this drapery is long enough to come nearly to the bottom of the skirt. [All front draperies are drawn far back, so as to make the back of the skirt narrow, and give a narrow, slender effect.] The waist is a jacket basque, such as were worn last summer, with a waistcoat of plain silk which is set in at the under arm seams, and closes with tiny buttons. On each side of the waistcoat are narrow velvet revers, which narrow from the shoulder to the waist line, where two very large buttons are set, one at the waist line, the other nearer the bottom of the basque. The sleeves are tight, finished by a narrow velvet cuff. Collars are still "chokers;" some woman with a phenomenally long neck evidently inaugurated this whim, to the despair of the short-necked sisterhood.

Another recent model has a plain front of plaid goods, cut bias. Over this is arranged a front drapery which is long on the left and caught up on the right, showing the plaid to the waist, making a long, one-sided point; the back is laid in straight full pleats. The basque has a wide vest and cuffs of the bias plaid. A variation on these styles has the straight back width described above, and a square apron which seems to form the front; this drapery is of figured goods, and is drawn in folds high across the front. Jacket basque, differing from that already described by having the fronts meet at the collar and slope away over the waistcoat. Pieces of the stripe are set on to come straight down the basque from the shoulder seam to the bottom, and are cut off with the slope of the fronts, traversing the stripes in a long diagonal. I hope I am understood, as this is a very pretty fashion, as applicable to plaid goods as to stripes; quite new, and one which could be used on cotton goods as well as woolen. There are narrow cuffs of the stripe or plaid, and a high collar BEATRIX.

FARMERS' CLUBS AS EDUCATORS.

[Read at the Farmers' Institute at Tecumseh, Feb. 11th, by Mrs. F. C. Rector.]

We live in an age of progress. Not a slow, sleepy age, but one wide awake, full of steam and electricity, and if we keep pace, we cannot slumber or sit in idleness, but must be awake, with eyes, ears, hands and intellect on the alert. Every class of workmen in the world's great workshop has its organizations for protection or advancement in knowledge in their respective departments. There are trades unions, alliances, conclaves, encampments, conventions and meetings without number, including in their membership citizens of every class. The president of this proud republic, with his cabinet or ambassadors, from every enlightened nation on, the globe, have their meetings; Congress and the State legislatures have long sessions for the benefit of the people at large; lawyers, doctors, ministers, photographers and dairymen have their meetings; the undertakers have their conventions to devise new methods of preserving and burying the dead; and so on down to the newsboys and bootblacks, and if I mistake not I read of a ragpickers' convention; there are also the anarchists' and socialists' open and secret meetings. These are all instructors for either good or evil. If all these different professions or trades have their respective organizations, why not the farmers? Farmers may belong to some of these organizations, but as a rule they do not. The great need of some organization to protect and advance farmers in a corresponding ratio to the other professions, led to the organization of the grange. The grange has grown until it is an acknowledged power. The meetings are often held at a place where it is not convenient for many farmers to attend, and, still feeling the comparative isolation of their lives and the need of more sociability and stimulus to intellectual exertion, they began to organize farmers' clubs; which are proving to be good educators, as they educate socially, morally and intellectually.

A few years ago the farmers were contented to sit down evenings with their papers, and read until they were sleepy, then go to bed; perhaps the monotony might be relieved by a visit to a neighbor's, or occasionally an evening down town at an entertainment, lecture or political meeting, but there was nothing special to call for a trial of their intellectual powers.

A farmers' club is started in a neighborhood; perhaps with few members at first; a programme is arranged, and every one is expected to do his or her part faithfully and to the best of their ability. The first efforts may not be very praiseworthy, but once aroused the progress is steadily forward, and the club proves like a good teacher in our schools. A good teacher will not perform the pupils' work, but point forward and only give hints, which stimulate to farther and higher research, until they are eager to unlock with their own energies the mysteries lying beyond.

Many of our farmers thought they had completed their education, but when asked to give their ideas, experiments, or conclu-

sions in regard to farming or other subjects brought to their notice, they were astonished to find they could not. They understood them themselves and supposed that was all that was necessary, but when asked to give them to others, "when a meeting was in order," they were confused and embarrassed; but this as well as other things assigned them they are expected to do, and they soon find the science of any thing is knowledge of the same reduced to order. The clubs are educators, as they teach the members to reduce their knowledge to order and present their ideas in a plain, practical manner. In so doing they find they are only half way up the ladder, and must still climb if they wish to reach the top; but once started they do not purpose to descend, but to keep advancing.

A short time ago, when the silver hairs began to be sprinkled upon the head of our worthy president, he thought he was growing old and better sit contented by his fire-side, as the weather was too cold or the roads too rough or too muddy to go out; but, like many others, he found the club meetings interesting and instructive as well as very social. Now, ask him if the night is too cold or the roads unfavorable, and he replies: "No; I want to go and hear that question discussed;" or, "I want to hear Mr. C.'s ideas as I am not fully satisfied with my own conclusions." Thus it is with many: give them questions to think about and expect them to give their thoughts to others, they give their attention to the matter and are not satisfied until they can express themselves understandingly, and they are anxious to hear and profit by the experience of others.

The State established and maintained institutions of learning for the general diffusion of knowledge, also the University for special instruction in the professions; then it felt the need of instruction in agriculture, and the result was the establishment of the Agricultural College and Experimental Farm. Farmers' sons can now be educated and combine theory with practice. In addition to the instruction given at the College, the Board of Agriculture inaugurates a series of institutes to be held each winter to disseminate experimental knowledge among the people. The State provides a sum of money (how much I do not know) to meet the expenses of the institutes, and much good is done and interest aroused. The State of Wisconsin provides \$5,000 and holds 52 institutes yearly. The board provides lecturers for the institutes, but for the greater part of the material to make them interesting they depend upon local talent. Where there are granges or farmers' clubs formed and in working order the institute is much easier sustained, as the members are educated to such work and are readier to respond.

Six years ago last November the Farmers' Social Club was formed, and it has steadily progressed. I say progressed, and I think the members will bear me out in my assertion, for I am sure they all know it has been a benefit. In one item it has been a great educator; it has led to habits of thought. Many men and women had never, or since their long ago school-days, written a paper or essay, and they looked aghast when ap-

pointed by the committee to do so: but we have no such words as "I can't" in our articles of organization, and they find they have intellects that only need arousing to that special work. The young people are taught to think of subjects that hitherto they had no interest in, and they are surprised to find the questions are interesting and they can express their ideas intelligently. As the outgrowth of this organization, other clubs have been formed, until there are now four clubs in the immediate vicinity of Tecumseh.

Let the good work go on, until every farmer is a member of a club; but I would caution against forming them too close together, as it will become like a small village with too many churches. One good, strong, flourishing church is better and will do more good than a number of weakly ones, where they can only pay their ministers starvation wages; and so it is with the clubs. A few, well organized, and strong in numbers, where there are enough so that it is not necessary to call upon any one to perform a part too often, will prove more efficient and exist longer than many small ones.

HOW MUCH SHALL WE GIVE?

Pearl Diamond's article on Uncongenial Pursuits in a late *HOUSEHOLD*, leads up to a question I have often pondered, viz., how much of their own ease and comfort, how much of toil and economy, should parents sacrifice for the sake of giving their children "a start in life?" The remark quoted, "I've given all my children an education, and not one of them knows enough to take care of himself," is repeated only too often within the knowledge of us all. We sometimes see children whose parents have strained every nerve to give them educational advantages, return from school and colleges plus a diploma but minus ambition, unless it be to avoid labor by feeding on the paternal bounty, sneering at the old-fashioned ways of the home they still cling to; and priding themselves on their superior culture and wisdom, with no disposition to test its qualities in any business. And, conversely, we find the sons and daughters of parents whose means did not permit them to give one-tenth the advantages these others have received, who make their way through the curriculum of our colleges only to step from their Alma Mater into positions of trust and responsibility and work their way to the top. Or, if circumstances are against them, they can turn their hands—and brains—to some work which is self-supporting, till opportunity permits them to enter the occupation for which they have fitted themselves. We naturally ask, "Why the difference?"

It is a matter of common comment that the sons of rich men seldom distinguish themselves, unless by the prodigality with which they disburse the wealth their fathers amassed. Not that they are by nature less gifted, but simply because life has been so full of pleasure, of luxury, of possession without exertion, that there has been nothing to develop latent possibilities, nothing to make them even attempt to lift themselves above mediocrity; they simply expect money to do everything for them. How

many among the great men who have made our country's history, have been literally "self-made men," who struggled with adversity till they conquered? Their early lives are the records of privation, poverty, and persistent purpose working out ultimate success. And the discipline and self-reliance, the power of concentration, the determination to win, above all their sturdy integrity and purity of life, enabled them to overcome all obstacles. They had no money to waste in dissipation, no time to spend in frivolity; they were spared the many temptations which center about the young men who have wealth and leisure. How many of Michigan's millionaires rose from poverty, not comparative, but absolute, with few educational advantages and no business training, except what they won by actual experience? And how many have sons who, in event of their death, are competent to manage the vast property interests which would be left?

I believe there is quite as much danger, so far as want of appreciation of privileges is concerned, in making the way too easy, as in making it too hard. That which comes to us too easily we prize but slightly, what we work for we value because we won it by personal exertion; we know what it cost us. Bogatsky hath a proverb: "Young trees root the faster for shaking." It is adversity, necessity, not luxury, that develop character and incite endeavor. For example, contrast the early life of the great Hungarian artist, Munkacsy, with his later career. He was apprenticed to a joiner, and made the deal boxes he painted vehicles to express his thought in colors. "Trunks became pictorial, and door panels were illustrated." But the artist's soul was above its environments, and though he made himself ill and blind by overwork, he, if ever man did, realized what it was to "wake and find himself famous." His painting of the "Convict's Last Day" was the picture of the year at the Paris Salon, and brought him fame and fortune in one splendid moment. He married a rich and beautiful woman, and the easy, pleasure-seeking, luxurious life ensuing, seems in a measure to have deadened the artistic imagination within him.

It is easy enough, midway a life, to look back and see where we might have done better, what hardships we have endured which we might have been spared had we been more favored of fate, how much easier the way to our present standpoint had other hands removed obstacles, how much more we might have gained under other conditions. But we never know whether we would have gained that position had it not been for those very difficulties, which developed and strengthened us, and brought out our capabilities as fire refines silver. We can, none of us, say with surety what we would have done, had our opportunities been greater; we only know what, in the light of later events, we think we would have done. Carlyle, misanthropic, dyspeptic, without enough generosity in his crabbed soul to praise the good work of another, or appreciate the nobility of the wife who devoted her life to making his as care-free as she could, might have been merely the misanthropic man, not the great writer,

but for those very things he believed checks on his career.

Had I a child who showed particular genius in any line, I would not make his path too easy, believing as I do that every good thing in life must come by effort of our own, if it is truly blessed to us; and believing too, that what if anything was lost by slow, self-helpful development of that genius, would be more than gained by the discipline of earnest endeavor. Luxury and ease stifle as surely as do poverty and hard work. The bird mother pushes her nestlings from the safe confines of the home nest, when they are large enough to fly. She knows untried wings will never bear them to the freedom of the groves and fields, and the callow fledglings flutter, and fear, and utter plaintive cries. But they find their wings.

BEATRIX.

READING HISTORY.

A great many, especially young people and children, consider history extremely dull and uninteresting; and as it is ordinarily taught in our common schools it is not very fascinating; the pupils frequently have but vague and one-sided impressions of the subject. But if one or two evenings a week at home are spent in the pursuit of this study, I think the result will be not only profitable, but very pleasant.

The co-operation of the parents with the children is very desirable in these evening studies. It adds much to a child's interest in a lesson if it knows that father and mother are interested too. Let the children be provided with several histories by different authors, and also with maps suitable to the period of history which they are to study. Then have them read aloud and compare a few paragraphs from each author, relating to the same subject. It will be found that some pass over lightly, or entirely ignore events on which others dwell to a considerable extent. The whole family will be interested in the use of the maps, hunting up the places mentioned, and tracing the routes of armies. Anecdotes and points bearing on the subject under discussion may be read or repeated.

Supposing Rome to be the topic, there are several well known poems relating to different periods in the history of that country; and every child will be delighted to hear

"How well Horatius kept the bridge
In the brave days of old,"

or Marc Antony's address on the death of Cæsar. Then perhaps some one could give a description of a Roman dwelling house, and of the costumes of the time.

And too, there are many beautiful poems founded on incidents in the history of our own country, such as "Paul Revere's Ride," and "The Liberty Bell," of revolutionary times; and "Sheridan's Ride," and "Barbara Fritchie" of later date. When a family once begins the study of history in this way, they never cease finding items of interest; and it is surprising, at the end of a month or two, to find how much history is really stored away in the mind of individual members.

MIGNON.

OSSO.

INFLUENCE OF ROUTINE.

E. L. Nye would like opinions on the question, Is routine work destructive of or detrimental to the proper development of genius? Genius, as I understand the term, is simply a natural talent or aptitude for a particular employment or study, as music, painting, literature, etc. Its possession implies the creative power which makes new combinations of those elements which are not new, yet have never been put together or treated in that manner before; it, therefore, includes also a certain amount of originality and imagination. Routine is a course of duties or tasks regularly recurring, or any habit, or practice, or work which is not accommodated to circumstances. Can genius be developed by or in spite of routine? Naturally the answer depends upon the bent of the genius and the nature of the routine. Prof. Olney, the lamented mathematician of the University, said: "The best genius God ever gave to man is worthy purpose and hard work." And work, generally speaking, comes under the head of "daily necessary tasks," or routine. But we think of Hawthorne, chained to the red tape of a custom house, and thank Heaven he was emancipated from it in time to give us "The Scarlet Letter;" yet we cannot know how much he owed even to the routine so irksome, but which at least forced habits of regular work and application. We hear much of the eccentricities of genius, and the opinion quite generally prevails that Pegasus must not be harnessed. But what is genius worth if it give us no fruits? and how can it bear fruit without those habits of persistent industry and application which are, if not routine, at least closely allied to it? I know it is a popular idea that a poet or great writer can throw off a sonnet or a story with no particular labor beyond the putting pen to paper, that great inventions are only happy inspirations of mechanical genius. But this is a great error. I believe it true that most "genius" is only another name for painstaking application joined with natural aptitude or inclination, and that the first, which often might be called routine, is only another name for the latter, which we call genius. All our great writers, artists, or others who have achieved renown, have their regular hours of labor, during which they apply themselves diligently to the work in hand. It is in this way they accomplish results; they do not wait for "Inspiration," but invite her, and make her come.

I should value routine as teaching the value of time, the necessity of contiguous application, and for the discipline it gives to the mental faculties. But it must be a routine adapted to the tastes of the genius; though Burns, turning the "wee, modest, crimson tip 'it flower" under his plowshare, found in the routine of an uncongenial employment material which has helped to immortalize him as a poet. Is it not one of the attributes of genius to make even routine subservient, and make available even the most untoward circumstances?

But I apprehend E. L. Nye, in her query, had more in mind the thousand instances in common life where the daily recurrence of uncongenial tasks which must be performed

—perhaps to secure the necessities of life—prevent those gifted with natural abilities in a special line, from developing those abilities. This is truly life's hardship. Routine we can bear, if it is in work not distasteful to us; and which if we tire of it, can be lightened by a break in the monotony. But if duties are hateful, and we feel within the call to other work, routine becomes the stone of Sisyphus, crushing us beneath its weight, and grinding into the dust our hopes and aspirations. Yet genius, true genius, generally overcomes by its own irresistible force, the obstacles in its way, and is then, I firmly believe, better for the discipline and training of the distasteful routine, which have inculcated those habits of application without which even genius is given us in vain. It is safest in this, as in most questions, to take middle ground. Routine, if not too oppressive, is Genius's servant; too much of it stifles; without any at all, genius is erratic and comparatively fruitless.

THE DISH WASHER AGAIN.

Some weeks ago one of the readers of the HOUSEHOLD spoke of seeing at the State Fair a dish washer. I saw the same machine, but saw so many other things to call my attention I thought little of it at the time, but when my girl left for the winter, and washing dishes came on me, I began to think of it more. I was in hopes there would be more said in our little paper about it, but perhaps others were, like me, afraid of having the finger of scorn pointed at them, at the idea of having a machine for so simple a work as washing dishes. It was but a few years ago that the engine for threshing was looked at as a thing that never would be used by farmers. Now where is it? The horse-power is a thing of the past, never to be revived. The fact is our husbands looked into the workings of the engine, examined it and tried it. Why should not we do the same? I am undecided about keeping a girl the coming season; I think if it were not for the everlasting dishes three times a day, I could get along nicely. Some say it won't wash the ironware, but what if it does not? Neither does the engine do all the threshing. If the washer will clean the table dishes, rinse them and dry them, that would be a great help. If any member of the HOUSEHOLD could inform me through its columns where the machine is made, I would be willing to give it a trial, and report back to the HOUSEHOLD my success.

MANCHESTER.

M.

MR. C. M. STARKS, of Webster, asks a correction of the statement that he is Secretary of the Webster Farmers' Club. At the annual election last December, Mr. E. S. Cushman, of Delhi Mills, was chosen Corresponding Secretary, and Miss Mollie Queal, of Dexter, Recording Secretary, who will reciprocate fraternal greetings from other organizations throughout the State, in behalf of the Webster Club.

"MORE COPY," ladies; just see what a dose of "Beatrix" you have this week to punish you for your shortcomings! And

picture to yourselves, if you can, the dismay which filled your Editor's soul when M.'s and Mignon's letters were the lone occupants of the HOUSEHOLD compartment of her desk, when the cry came, "Where's your HOUSEHOLD copy?" Owing to the change of day of publication from Tuesday to Monday, matter should reach us as early in the week as possible.

JULIET CORSON says, very truly, that the limit of the farmers' bill of fare is somewhat less marked by paucity of materials than by rigid adherence to a few methods of cookery. Farmers' wives are conservative, and not over-much given to trying experiments in anything except "a new kind of cake;" and farmers themselves are apt to frown down "messes," as they scornfully denominate all dishes except "plain boiled and fried." But "variety is the spice of life" in culinary matters as well as others, and we ought to be willing to test new recipes, and adopt them if they promise well.

WE GIVE this week the words of the old ballad, "Lilly Dale," from a printed copy furnished by Miss Addie Dewey, of Grand Blanc. Several ladies have sent the words, written from memory; and "Constant Reader" says "copied from memory of thirty-five years ago."

BEATRIX desires to return her thanks to Temperance, of Greenfield, for some delicious Tallman Sweets and Snow apples, and the bouncing big pear which kept them company. Will Temperance please send her correct address. A letter sent her has just been returned undelivered.

Contributed Recipes.

BROWN BREAD.—Two cups sour milk; half cup sugar; three cups Graham flour; one cup wheat flour; two teaspoonfuls soda; one teaspoonful salt. Bake slowly one hour.

CORN BREAD.—Two cups sour milk; two cups corn meal; one cup oat or wheat flour; half cup sugar; one large spoonful shortening; two teaspoonfuls soda; one teaspoonful salt. Bake half an hour.

GRAHAM CRACKERS.—Seven cups Graham flour; one cup thick sweet cream, or two-thirds cup butter; one pint sweet milk; two teaspoonfuls baking powder; a little salt. Roll thin; bake quick; then dry in a warm oven.

EGGLESS CAKE NO. 1.—One cup sugar; half cup butter; one cup sour milk; two cups flour; one teaspoonful soda; one teaspoonful cinnamon; half a nutmeg; one cup raisins.

EGGLESS CAKE NO. 2.—One cup sugar; half cup butter; one cup sweet milk; two cups flour; two teaspoonfuls baking powder; flavor with lemon extract.

SPINSTER HOMESTEADER.

CHEBOYGAN.

CRULLERS.—One pint of creamy sour milk; one and a half cups sugar; half teaspoonful salt, and another of cinnamon; one teaspoonful soda, and two of cream tartar; flour to make a soft dough; roll thin, cut in rings and fry in hot lard.

COOKIES.—One cup thick sour cream; one tablespoonful butter; one cup sugar (granulated is best); one teaspoonful of soda; flavor with lemon; flour just sufficient to mix; roll very thin, and bake quickly. The above being without eggs, will benefit those whose hens are "out on a strike," MIGNON. OSSEO.