

MICHIGAN FARMER

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THE HOUSEHOLD---Supplement.

HER WISH.

"I wish my fairy would come to-day,
And brush the dust from these rooms away;

The cobwebs, too, on the ceiling high,
Empty traps with never a fly—

How horrid they look! upon my life,
The torment of every tidy wife!

I wish my fairy my place would take
In the kitchen and let me see her bake,

For I'm so weary, I really dread
The thought of kneading a batch of bread."

Her husband heard her wish that day,
But scarcely heeding it, hurried away.

At night he locked his office door,
And gladly entered his home once more.

As round the cozy room he glanced,
His eyes with pleasure fairly danced.

The fire-dogs of polished brass
For burnished gold almost would pass.

His easy chair was in its place—
Beside it, beamed a smiling face.

No wonder that he turned to her,
Half husband and half worshiper,

And said, "Some fairy has had full sway,
In every nook of our house to-day."

Forgotten were dust and cobwebs high,
And there was a light in somebody's eye;

For the heaviest tasks that burden a wife
Grow light when they brighten another's life.

—*Woman's Magazine.*

CARPETS AND CURTAINS.

The spring sunshine hath a trick of searching out and bringing to light all the havoc of a winter's wear and tear on the wardrobe and the house furnishings. Never does a carpet or a curtain look so dingy and dilapidated as when Dame Nature is laying her own emerald floor, and hanging fresh garlands on naked branches; and so, as the subtle alchemy which renews life in dormant root and branch thrills the earth, the housekeeper begins to look about to see what she must buy new to brighten up her house into harmony with outdoor beauty. To aid our readers in this choice, I paid a visit the other day to the extensive carpet house of J. H. Black & Co., 154 and 156 Woodward Avenue, to see the new styles in carpets and draperies and gather such information about them as might be valuable. On making known my errand to Mr. Black, I was introduced to Mr. Baker, who has charge of the draperies department, who showed me the new and elegant line of curtains just received for the spring trade. A beautiful Brussels curtain at \$75 per pair, exquisite in design, reminded me of the poet's "fine, floating, filmy mist between me and the sun;" next was a Swiss tam-

bour at \$25, a heavy pattern in tambour work on a ground of Brussels net; then the Swiss at \$20. One of the novelties for the season was a curtain in two tones, white and ecru, at \$18; an Irish point, linen, was very desirable indeed, and could be had in all grades of fineness and beauty, from \$15 to \$125, while French guipure at \$12 would suit more moderate desires. Nottingham laces hold their own, and are this season in very pretty designs, imitating finer goods, and ranging from \$12 per pair down to \$1.50.

With these beautiful laces are often hung fine soft silk draperies; a sample showed us was in pale blue and a very soft shade of gold, brocaded in a scroll pattern, the gold being used as a dado; these, in all shades, were \$20 per pair. In colored draperies, a fine canvas or etamine ground in a soft ecru, was sprinkled with small rosette figures in maroon, with a deep border of stripes in shades of the dominant hues; this is a charming novelty and quite an improvement on the Madras curtains as usually seen. These latter, however, have by no means lost their popularity. One of the prettiest novelties shown this season is the "lattice curtain," in chenille, woven in an open lattice pattern with gilt threads. For portieres all the leading lines are held in stock, the silk Turcoman being as beautiful as any. Something new was the chenille draperies, in the ever popular colors of old gold and maroon, and pale blue and ecru; these have a very rich and elegant appearance and are but \$15 per pair. In the scarfs and drapes now so lavishly used on pictures, easels, chairs, everywhere they can possibly be placed, and sometimes where you would never think possible, a large line is carried, from 75 cents upward, in silk and Madras, and more colors than Jacob's famous coat dare boast. Lambrequins are no longer used on windows, but instead, a long scarf of silk or plush is hung, with one long end at the side, and the remainder gracefully festooned over the pole. A very beautiful table-cover consisted of a square of wine colored plush bordered with guipure lace of a deep ecru hue; it was marked \$5.50.

Upstairs, by courtesy of Mr. Kerch, we were shown the finest line of carpets ever exhibited in this city. The newest patterns in body Brussels, imported goods, are principally in geometric figures, which seem to have superseded the floral designs once so fashionable. The figures are small, and the colors so blend and merge into one another that a harmonious effect is produced, much more grateful to the eye than the hugh figures and distinct colors once popular. In-

dia red, old court blue, soft golden hues shading into browns, tints of grey and ecru, are introduced into these new styles. Taking a carpet having a groundwork of India red—a rich dark dull color, almost indescribable—which has scattered on it small irregular figures in old gold, wood-brown and blue, the furnisher builds upon some one of these shades in the pattern, say old gold, as from a central idea in color, making portieres, curtains, drapes, wall-paper, blend by correspondence or contrast of hue into one perfect whole, "a symphony in colors" as the English artist Whistler would name it. "The man who has studied this business knows in a moment what materials will harmonize, what tints set off each other, and can furnish a house in perfect accord," says Mr. Kerch. And indeed, modern house-furnishing is an art in itself; it is painting with draperies and carpets and curtains, to produce as a picture an exquisite interior.

These imported carpets are higher priced than our domestic manufactures, which are hardly so beautiful in designs, though following closely after foreign models. All grades and makes of carpets are carried in stock here, from the finest Gobelin to ingrain and hemp. The Gobelin carpets are "perfectly lovely." They have a deep, elastic pile, so that to tread upon them is like walking upon thick moss, and literally "upon flowers," for the patterns are principally leaves and blossoms, which are as beautifully shaded as if hand-painted; they cost from \$2.50 to \$3. Next are the Moquettes, then the Wiltons, the most desirable next to body Brussels; these are in all the new makes and patterns, and sell at from \$2 to \$2.50. Velvet tapestry bears the same relation to Wilton that tapestry bears to body Brussels; in the Wiltons, each color is woven in and appears on the back of the fabric, while in the velvet tapestry there is the same deep pile, upon which the pattern is printed, instead of being woven. These make a rich looking floor-covering at a less expense than Wilton, as they range in value from \$1.25 to \$1.65 and above, and except in wearing qualities and perfection of detail in the design, are about equal to Wilton.

All carpets are now made up with borders, which are woven to match the design in color, or in what are called contrasts, as a dark border for a lighter tone in carpets. The most artistic, however, seem to be those woven to match, in which the groundwork is blended with the darker shades of the extreme edge of the border, by a gradual deepening of color. Hall carpets have their appropriate borders, and also stair carpets. All carpets are now made to completely

cover the floor; the fashion of leaving a margin of floor uncovered around the sides of the room, is "out."

The patterns of carpets and their general tones are now so reproduced through all the grades of quality, that it is possible to furnish a house so that the parlors may be laid with a very expensive goods, and other rooms be graded down in cost and quality, yet with perfect correspondence in general design, so that there will be no glaring incongruities, no abrupt transitions to vex the sense of harmony. The designs of the higher priced carpets are too costly to be speedily discarded, but are used in a descending scale, reaching finally the commoner grades, if the pattern meets with popular approval. The designs are patented, generally for three years, then the patent is allowed to expire, unless the pattern "takes."

I was surprised to find what pretty patterns and good quality can be obtained in cheap carpets. Mr. Black has tapestry Brussels as low as fifty cents per yard, and that for sixty-five cents was much better than it would seem possible to expect for the money. These are bought in large quantities by people of small means who must have Brussels carpets, but think they cannot afford the difference between this and the body Brussels. On a room which receives little use, the low-priced goods can be used with fair satisfaction, but most people who know the difference would prefer to pay a little more for the body Brussels. In ingrains the styles of more expensive carpets are modified into small patterns and soft tones. The Criterion ingrains at \$1 per yard, are reversible, the pattern on one side being different, but quite as pretty and desirable as on what was designed on the right side; and though this has been done before to a certain extent, more colors are now introduced than ever before, and the more colors, the more difficult it is to manage not to "throw" them into a homely stripe on the wrong side. As many as nine colors can now be managed in two-ply ingrain, by modern machinery. Ingrains range in value from twenty-five cents up; "You pays your money and takes your choice."

BEATRIX.

KEROSENE vs. GASOLINE.

In answer to E. M. P.'s question, as to which is the better, a kerosene or gasoline stove, I have seen nothing in favor of kerosene. Now, my stove has given me too much satisfaction not to have a word said in its favor. I used gasoline two years and oil two years, so I know whereof I speak. I have also used soft coal and know what that is; have not much to say in its favor, except the pretty fire it makes in a grate.

First, I should want to be sure and have a good stove. I have two, one large, one small, both from Adams & Westlake, of Chicago, and never find more trouble in using them than in burning a kerosene lamp; if the wicks are turned up too high it will smoke like a lamp; but I have never found that a housekeeper can set any stove going, then go into the parlor and leave it to care for itself.

I have often asked my friends on coming in if they perceived any odor from the oil

stove, and have invariably received a negative answer. I always follow directions, and leave the door in front of the wicks open after putting out the flame; it makes a great difference.

As to care, I had rather take care of two kerosene stoves than one gasoline, and I have never been troubled with that greasy smoke M. J. H. speaks of. There have been only two in our family this winter, and as I did not wish to heat my kitchen or have it to care for, I took my little stove in our dining room. It set back of the heating stove, so was nearly out of sight. I have done all my work there, even to baking pancakes for breakfast. When I was through I opened opposite windows, where a draft in a few minutes removed all odors. Our dining room is finished in light graining, papered with pale blue and gilt, a bright, pretty room: yet I do not feel that it is any the worse for the work my oil stove has done there this winter.

As to cost of fuel, I do not think there is much difference; either has the advantage of wood or coal in two things: the fire need not be started till ready to be used, and can be extinguished as soon as through with.

My large stove is made with small stoves of two burners each; these can be removed at will, carried to any part of the house; when we have a complete stove; put in a chair by the ironing table, I can have hot irons without moving a step, and in case of sickness is one of those handy things that seem indispensable.

The odor of gasoline is offensive to me, and as yet I have never been into a house where it is used without detecting it. M. JACKSON.

A CHANGE OF BASE.

Being well settled in the city of Chicago, one might suppose it a light task to write scores of letters, but I have had in mind the wise method of a certain ancient teacher, who enjoined silence for a length of time on his disciples when they were admitted to his school. They were neither permitted to ask questions nor make remarks. After acquiring the art of holding their tongues they were gradually permitted to make inquiries, and finally to communicate their own opinions.

There is nothing more truly impressive than to silently contemplate the activity of a great city. Every individual seems to think the affairs of the metropolis are dependent upon his personal efforts. Such hurrying along the streets, such galloping over crossings, such a clamor of tongues, everybody in commotion, everybody jogging his neighbor who is industriously tearing along, frequently with nothing special in view unless it be to "get there" first. The cable cars clanging their bells, look like snorting giants threatening to run down everything in their swift approach, but they are a blessed relief to the poor brutes for whom my sympathies have been poured out in vain these many years.

Here are extensive establishments where under one roof one may buy all that is needed in furnishing a house from cellar to garret, not omitting the staple groceries for the pantry shelves, and ready-made clothing for the entire family, from the

one born yesterday to grandpa in his arm chair, even down to the appointments of a well ordered stable. Is it surprising that I should keep silence until the equilibrium of mind were restored, for this is in strong contrast to the slow-going, ease-loving southern community among whom the last year was passed. Oh, I like the northern hurry. I like the western energy, and like Chicago best of all. The wind comes up sometimes in a way that threatens to loosen our moorings, but nobody minds it much, as it is in keeping with the general tendency to sweep things, so we just take a good hold and sail around the corners as gracefully as we are able. It seems to me though, I had never so little of that precious, intangible, uncontrollable something we call time. Those who get a living by brawn or brain must be out early and get home late. I have been thinking brawn is the best favored, for many mechanics in this city work only eight hours per day, while we who pour over our books and letters in furnace-heated offices are out from home twelve hours, counting the time consumed in going and coming on the cars, as it is hardly practicable to live near one's business. But then, we have so many advantages and opportunities for pleasure and profit. One may attend the nearest revival meeting or visit the distant theater, sit under the holy exhortations of Mr. Moody and Francis Murphy, or pay \$10 for a seat at a Patti concert. We can live plainly or luxuriously with equal independence, in a four room flat at \$20 per month or in an imposing private residence at ten times that sum, and your neighbor is too much engrossed in his own hurry to ask a question or bestow a glance unless a rare chance has made your acquaintances. Yes, Chicago is a wonderful place, free and independent of the rest of the world, divorce "without publicity" and marriage by proxy being only a hint of the spirit of freedom granted her citizens.

CHICAGO.

DAFFODILLY.

A MODEL TEACHER.

Although the success of the district school depends upon the care bestowed by farmers, many of our farmers fail to exercise proper care in the choice of a teacher. That some of them have thus failed, may be seen in the following true account of a teacher who is hired, year after year, in one of our counties. He asked the shape of the earth, and when the answer was correctly given, said, "Yes, your book says so, but it cannot be true, for if it were we could not always see the North Star." He told a class in history, "You must remember this book is sort of a novel, and you cannot believe it; but then, probably some such a man may have lived sometime."

He asked in what year America was discovered, and when the class answered, "In 1476," he said, "That is correct."

He says there are five bones in the arm above the elbow.

He thinks a young lady should never sign a pledge not to keep company with a man who uses tobacco, or drinks, as it may be the cause of her being an old maid.

He had never heard of Northern Lights, so during a brilliant display he roused his own

family, and without waiting to dress, ran to a neighbor's, and called the family up to get ready for the end of the world.

A FARMER.

A CHANCE FOR INVENTIVE GENIUS.

With regard to cupboards in the kitchen, I quite agree with M. E. H., of Albion. When I first got mine I expected to enjoy them so much, but alas for human hopes! I would now willingly go back to my old pantry provided it were rat proof. I could keep several pantries clean with less work, because the dust will find its way into cupboards, and the doors of mine being glass, they attract the flies in summer; so that no matter how careful I may be, if I invite company I must wash every unused dish the day before; or if they come uninvited, we must use our everyday service, because I won't spoil a visit by staying in the kitchen to wash dishes. Will some one give us their experience with a dish washer, also a mop wringer? They are not for sale here.

Wanted, a machine that will pick up Hezekiah, cause him to assume a semi-circular position face downward across the lap, neatly apply two patches to the seat of his pants, reverse him and apply two more on the knees; then seize Azariah and repeat the operation with variations; put new sleeves in Keziah's dress or mend the elbows of the old; darn the knees of Sophia's hose, and many other jobs of a like nature. Any one wishing to dispose of an invention of this kind may rely upon a customer at the home of the undersigned.

HOWELL.

MRS. W. J. G.

FANCY WORK.

I give a pretty crochet design for pin cushions, mats, etc. Take ecru linen thread No. 70, or white cotton thread No. 50, and fine steel crochet hook.

Make a chain of three stitches; join into a ring.

1st round—3 ch. to take the place of 1 treble, 2 trebles under the ring; * 3 ch. 3 trebles under the same ring; repeat from * twice. 3 ch.; join to top of 1st treble, this makes four groups of trebles under the ring.

2nd—3 ch. (for treble); 2 trebles on 2nd treble of the 1st group of trebles; 2 trebles on the next trebles of same group; * 7 ch. 2 trebles on 1st treble of 2nd. group; 1 treble on each of the next three trebles; 2 trebles on next treble. Repeat from * all around; join to 1st treble.

3rd—3 ch.; 2 trebles of 1st treble; 1 treble on each of next 4 trebles; 2 trebles on last treble; * 9 ch.; 2 trebles on 1st treble of 2nd group; 1 treble on each of 5 trebles; 2 trebles on last treble of same group. Repeat all around; join to 1st treble. Break off.

This forms one octagon; nine octagons form a cushion. Join octagons with needle and thread and fill in spaces with lace stitches. This will be very pretty if made up over pink or blue satin or satteen. Finish the cushion with any pretty edge. A netted fringe would be very pretty.

Crochet lace is being revived in all its beauty, and is much used for trimming undergarments, etc. If any of our members

would like directions for crocheting pineapple lace and insertion, double-diamond lace, or fan-shell lace, I will be pleased to send. These are all wide laces and are pretty for trimming white skirts, pillow cases, etc. Have also directions for novelty braid and insertion.

MILL MIMIE.

FOREST LODGE.

CHAT.

For the past three years I have been a silent member of the HOUSEHOLD, but the woman will assert itself and I must speak.

I have profited by many suggestions in our paper, and tried successfully many of the recipes.

I have used a gasoline stove for three years, and it does not seem as though I could pass a summer without one; it is such a comfort.

I am about trying one of those combination steam cookers. If any of the ladies have used one, wish they would report.

But I can almost hear myself rattle as I go down into the depths of that awful basket.

CYRENE.

DENTON'S.

[If Cyrene gets the proposed steam cooker, will she not confer a favor upon us all by reporting how she likes it? We want to know about every possible way to lighten the heavy load of the housekeeper.—ED.]

THE BATTLE OF ATLANTA.

SPRINGFIELD, O., March 12, 1887.

To the Editor of the Michigan Farmer.

Your correspondent "Beatrix" is grossly in error in her description of the picture of "The Battle of Atlanta," now on exhibition in your city. The horses of the DeGres battery were not destroyed by the Union batteries, but by the rebel sharpshooters that were located in a large brick dwelling house, situated about 100 yards from our lines. Your humble servant, then only a boy, was on the spot at the time, on the skirmish line, and knows whereof he speaks. If General Clark, the lecturer on the picture, states differently, he is not well posted. Any of the boys of Capt. Ward's Co. H., Adrian, Mich., will bear me out in the above statement.

Yours very truly,

WM. BAKHAUS,

Co. C., 47th Ohio, Inf.
2d Brig., 2nd Div., 15th Corps.

Beatrix, armed with the above letter, called upon the manager of the great painting, with a view to ascertaining whether the point called in question by our correspondent was an error in reporting the statement of Gen. Clark, on her part, or one of those differences on questions of fact which are apt to occur in regard to the details of any great event. The following letter is explanatory:

OFFICE OF THE DETROIT
CYCLOGRAMA CO.,
DETROIT, March 17, 1887.

To the Editor of the Michigan Farmer.

"Beatrix" is right, and your correspondent wrong. The sharpshooters in the Hurt house picked off the gunners, and one of batteries along Hascall's (Union) line killed De Gres' horses in order to prevent the rebels from taking the guns away after they had captured them. Your correspondent states he was on a "skirmish line at the time, etc." The fact is that there was no skirmish line there at that time, and the Ohio regiment he speaks of was along the works to the left—near the

battery, and were the men who were driven out by the rebels, and the battery was captured when they were gone. They rallied however and were in at the close of the racket that resulted in the recapture of their line and the guns. This is history, and a glance at the situation shows it was sense, though I am of the opinion personally that the eagerness of the sharpshooters may have prevented them from staying their hands when they had finished De Gres' gunners.

GIL R. OSMUN, Manager.

FASHION.

[Paper read by Mrs. M. Van Valkenburg at the Farmers' Institute at Tecumseh, Feb. 11th.]

That which we call fashion in our country, is almost wholly an imported article, our own production being as yet a very slim and meagre affair. Still there are a great many to be found in all ranks of society who are affected with the mania to be fashionable, and who put forth every effort, however absurd, to appear so. Americans originate but few new fashions, and those are perhaps due to a false imitation of something already existing in the old world.

The term fashion carries a sense of paste and varnish with it on this side of the Atlantic, which is far less prominent on the other. In its higher and more sovereign manifestation, it is rooted in social caste. In those countries where caste is made a matter of religion, and cannot therefore be encroached upon, the modes of dress and ceremonies of social life undergo no change. But in the western countries of the old world, the only way to keep disagreeable people at a distance, is to lead off in a perpetual round of change in dress and social forms. Some new style is started in a quarter entitled to lead, this is soon copied in other circles, not merely from imitation alone, but rather from pride, thus the circle enlarges, until the style becomes a common one, and has been adopted by a second class, called by the nobility plebeian. There are people with us who watch the modes of noble dandyism and royalty across the ocean, hastening to transplant them on our soil as soon as possible. But if we ask further what it is that leads the originators of a fashion to adopt this rather than some other, no certain answer can be given; it may be a real effort of taste, or the mere caprice of tailors, dressmakers, milliners. Or perhaps they were bribed by some great manufacturer to start the style in question and give him a market for a particular kind of goods. Or the whole, we can do no better, as regards the origin of fashions, than to say that they are chosen with very little regard to the harmony of form and color, and they sacrifice, if need be, all ease and comfort.

But on the other hand we perceive that there are advantages to be derived from fashion. It sometimes cultivates good taste in those who without its teachings would always be absurdly dressed. If we should see a lady of dark complexion, having on a blue dress and yellow ribbons, or a gentleman with a green coat, red vest, and blue necktie, we would be apt to think they knew but little about taste or fashion either, yet how often would we see such absurdities of dress if there were no fashions to follow, and each were left to

his own peculiar taste. But while it is often advantageous in cultivating a good taste in some persons, it is as often at fault itself, it even seems sometimes to dispense with taste entirely. The originators seem to keep up a constant study to devise something new, however monstrous. It is scarcely possible to review the absurd fashions of the past without being reminded of the misshapen monsters that figure among the heathen.

Witness some of the fashions that have prevailed, and are still in vogue. A number of years ago a lady's headdress consisted of a cone or steeple, half a yard in height, from the top of which a long scarf fell quite to the ground behind, or streamed on the wind as on a flag staff. At another time the ladies turned their hair back over a cushion, so large that their faces were seen peeping out from under a huge, dropsical looking mass, still called however a "head."

At one time the gentlemen traveled through the winter snow clothed in knee pants and long stockings, similar to those worn by the small boy of the present day. Again they appear with tall hats that tower above their heads like sentinels on the lookout for danger. And not many years ago the ladies wore a bonnet that somewhat resembled a travelers' wagon, and completely hid the occupant from view, until you were exactly in front of her. But the leading fashion of the past year has been to comb a lock of hair down over the forehead and bang it off just above the eyes, or by the aid of crimping pin, a hot iron, or perhaps a few pieces of paper, it is formed into a mass of frizzes, while on the back of the head rests a dainty little bonnet about the size of a tea-saucer, which is of no particular use, except to proclaim the fact we are in fashion. But, of course, in its continual round of change fashion must adopt some things that are neither useful nor ornamental. Of what conceivable use were the long skirts worn by the ladies a few years ago unless it were to sweep the streets of their accumulated dust and dirt; they were certainly very inconvenient not only to the wearers themselves, but to surrounding friends. Or the large pants formerly worn by the gentlemen; they were certainly not very ornamental, but perhaps of great use to the merchant as the style enabled him to sell a greater amount of cloth than would be otherwise required. Such is fashion, and if we attempted to follow all its vagaries we should be

"Like the flags that show us the weather,
Scarcely the same two days together."

And not only our dress, but our work and recreations are governed by the same power; it may be embroidery, crochet work, rick-rack, or crazy patchwork, whatever it is every lady is expected to devote all her leisure time to its construction. It may be a croquet ground, a skating rink, a toboggan slide, or even a farmers' club; whichever it is, we are expected to devote our time, strength and talents to that particular object, until something new arises, when these will vanish like snow before the sunshine, and we recall them only as memories of the past.

But it is such apparent trifles as these,

which, followed through the lapse of time, tell the story of the progress of a nation, or the lack of it, in much plainer characters than the battles lost and won.

DRESSMAKING AT HOME.

A correspondent at New Haven asks: "Can you tell us through the HOUSEHOLD of any model or system of dress-cutting by which a woman of ordinary intelligence could learn to cut ladies' and children's garments by measure. Where could such a model be procured, and what would be the cost. I think such knowledge would prove very valuable to many who read the HOUSEHOLD." There are many systems of dress-cutting by measure, which are taught by those who have themselves been instructed, and directions are furnished which are said to do away with the necessity of a teacher. But a dressmaker of this city, who was interviewed on the subject, said that it was extremely difficult for the novice to master such a system unaided. We cannot recommend any particular system, because we know little or nothing of any; in price the models range from \$3 to \$5 and as high as \$20. Probably the best way for anyone to do who desired such instruction would be to order a model through a dressmaker and pay her for teaching its use, and if a woman has time to do her own sewing, such an expenditure would be repaid, many times over, by the saving effected. We believe it would be to the advantage of at least one member of every family in which there are daughters, to learn dressmaking with a view to doing the family sewing.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

In frying chickens use the oil that rises on top of the water in which it is boiled, instead of butter. It is quite an item in economy, as well as being very much nicer.

In baking cakes, instead of putting buttered paper on the bottom of the pan, first butter the pan, then dust in flour, rap the bottom so all loose flour will fall out, then put in the cake dough. It will turn out nicely.

In making doughnuts or cookies, when eggs are scarce, use one tablespoonful of cornstarch in place of an egg, or if this is not convenient use one tablespoonful sweet milk.

Iron rust spots can be taken out of garments by squeezing a few drops of lemon juice on them, and laying in the sun.

In starching collars or shirt bosoms, dissolve the starch in hot water—not boiling; squeeze dry and roll tightly, iron in fifteen or twenty minutes, it is a soft stiffness that is so desirable in the high linen collars.

When the ironing is done for the week, put the irons away where they belong, and not leave them on the back of the range or under the hearth to get greased or rusty.

Pick up the clothes-pins when taking down the clothes upon the line, and put in the bag or basket designed for them, instead of leaving them out in the rain or snow. It will keep them clean and dry.

In washing silk handkerchiefs use a little ammonia in the water, instead of soap. Ribbons can be washed in the same way and will be as nice as new.

BATTLE CREEK.

EVANGALINE.

An acquaintance answers an inquiry relative to the best manner of preventing the teakettle from becoming coated with lime, by advising keeping an oyster shell in it. She says she has done so for years, and is never troubled by deposits of this nature.

SEVERAL cases of ice-cream poisoning have been traced, it is alleged, to the vanilla used for flavoring. A chemical change caused by exposure to the air took place, through oxidation, producing a poisonous substance sufficiently virulent to affect the whole bulk of the ice-cream. Hence see that your bottle of vanilla extract is tightly corked.

MILL MIMIE wishes some one who knows all about fancy work, would give a description of "Bullion stitch" in embroidery. She also wants a recipe for Russian cake. In reference to the embroidery, bullion work—the style of decoration seen on military decorations, uniforms, railway conductors' caps, etc.—is a branch that pays experts good wages, and is taught as an art by itself. The bullion is cut in lengths, like beads, and worked on in somewhat the same fashion. Materials are expensive.

THOSE of our readers who intend to have the HOUSEHOLD bound, should see that their files are kept perfect from month to month, and if a number is missed or lost, write for it at once. At the close of the year it is often impossible for us to supply missing copies, especially of early dates. All who have paid \$1.50 for the FARMER are entitled to the HOUSEHOLD, and should notify us at once if it is not received, stating whether the subscription was sent direct or through an agent. Back numbers for the current year can still be supplied.

Contributed Recipes.

COTTAGE CAKE.—Three-quarters cup butter; one cup white sugar; one and a half cups of flour; four eggs, yolks and whites beaten separately; a tablespoonful sweet milk; one and a half teaspoonfuls baking powder; one teaspoonful extract lemon; a little salt; mix flour and baking powder together, and sift two or three times to get thoroughly mixed.

CLEANSING SOAP.—Two ounces of ammonia; two of white Castile soap; one of alcohol; one of ether, and one of glycerine. Cut soap fine, dissolve in one pint soft water over the fire, then add two quarts of water. Cork it up tightly. To wash a dress, put a teaspoonful to a pailful of lukewarm water; shake around well in this and then rinse in plenty of warm water. Iron on the wrong side. For coat collars, put some of the fluid in a cup, apply with a rag, wash off with another. One-half this quantity is enough to last a small family a long time.

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