

MICHIGAN FARMER AND STATE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

DETROIT, FEB. 8, 1890.

THE HOUSEHOLD---Supplement.

LIFE'S BETTER INFLUENCES.

Better the song and the smile, my dear,
Better the song and the smile;
Brief is the time we may linger here,
Little avails either sigh or tear;
Better the song and the smile, my dear,
Better the song and the smile.

Better the laugh and the jest, my dear,
Better the laugh and the jest,
Sunshine of heart and of merry cheer,
Chasing the shadows that oft appear;
Better the laugh and the jest, my dear,
Better the laugh and the jest.

Better the word that is kind, my dear,
Better the word that is kind.
Speech that is cold and perchance severe
Well may be spared as we journey here;
Better the word that is kind, my dear,
Better the word that is kind.

Life's but a day at the best, my dear,
Life's but a day at the best,
Be your endeavor to brighten each year,
Making less frequent the sigh and the tear;
Life's but a day at the best, my dear,
Life's but a day at the best.

CHEAPNESS VS. QUALITY AND USEFULNESS.

I could not help thinking the other day as I strolled down the aisles of one of our big bazars, between counters covered with all sorts of fanciful, useless articles, how much money is spent annually for just such nonsensical trifles, good for nothing (to speak of) in the first instance, and soon spoiled, soiled, broken, and thrown away. I wonder how people come to give house-room to such trash, and patiently pick it up and dust it and take care of it even for a time. Mats and match-safes, easels that are weak in the legs, fancy candlesticks and candles that will not burn, hairpin baskets, little trays for pins, for jewelry, boxes for thimbles, and an array of vases of every material, size, style, shape and price, varying only in the promptness with which they will tip over—what a quantity of trifles that have no earthly excuse for their existence, yet which people will buy, it seems to me sometimes in utter wantonness. "Isn't it sweet! and only a quarter!" and the quarter changes owners, and the buyer, when she unwraps her package at home, I hope has the grace to ask herself "Why did I spend my money so foolishly?" Yet the same woman will go down town next day and do the same thing over again.

How much money is spent for cheap jewelry, worn a little time, thrown aside and replaced by new, only the proprietors of these bazars could tell, "Oh, it don't cost much; when I get tired of it it won't be much to lose," say the girls as they load

themselves with bangles and rings and gold beads and bracelets; and perhaps they enjoy their finery as much as if it were genuine. But all the same the habit of foolish spending of money is fostered and encouraged, and the woman will do what the girl did. There are a great many temptations to spend money in town which never entice the farmer's wife, partly because she has not much money to spend in the first instance, and proposes to make a good use of that little; partly because the allurements are not spread before her. When she spends money she spends it for value received. Townswomen might profit by her prudent example, for it is a great mistake to believe the only people who see hard times are the farmers.

It is astonishing to observe how cheapness is the one quality considered by the majority of buyers. The announcement of a "Take-off Sale" or a "Terrible Tumble in Prices" will draw an eager, jostling crowd, to pull things over on the counters, try on, and buy if they have the money, simply because they think they are getting bargains. The assurance of the salesmen that they will never be able to buy so reasonably again, and the cupidity inherent in human nature which leads us to strive to get more than we pay for—or think we pay for—makes many transfers possible in which generally the seller comes out fairly ahead.

If a really good article cannot be sold at a low price, we are offered an imitation which we are assured "looks just as well at half the money." Let a thing become popular and it is at once imitated, and thousands buy the sham because they think it "looks nicer than it is." Hence we have gold and silver jewelry which has not an atom of the precious metals in its composition, jet and amber and garnet that are only colored glass, Royal Worcester shapes and colorings in common pottery, cut glass that is pressed, celluloid that imitates ivory and something else that imitates the celluloid, and so it goes. The woman who cannot afford a seal coat buys a plush one, which the merchant assures her can't be told from real fur; and the woman who wears seal rips a little place somewhere on it, so the skin will show and convince people that she wears genuine seal and not seal plush. Persian lamb is imitated in Astrachan, and the old cat's skin is known to the trade as "black hare" when made up in muffs. Surah silk was once a substantial good weight and good quality article; now, except in black, the market is stocked with thin, narrow, sleazy goods, worth 69 to 75 cents a yard, with the surah

twill but resembling it in no other particular. As soon as the cheaper grades could be obtained people bought them, and there was no call for the finer quality.

When we come to articles of food the demand for cheapness has led to such copious adulterations that nobody knows whether he is eating pepper or brick dust, vinegar or dilute sulphuric acid, or drinking tea or extract of willow leaves. Candy is principally glucose and terra alba, and half our salted almonds are only burnt peanuts. Salt is about the only thing that is too cheap to be worth adulterating; and sometimes I think even that has lost some of its saline properties.

What am I going to do about it? I am going to eat my modicum of brickdust, terra alba, chicory, and all the rest of it, and be glad we can "buy things so cheap," and that "the poor man has a show."

BEATRIX.

POSSIBILITIES OF MOTHERHOOD.

Probably comparatively few mothers stop to think of the awful—I use the word in its fullest sense, awe-ful—responsibility which rests upon them, when a human soul and the temple which it inhabits, is given into their care.

As clay in the hands of the potter, or marble under the sculptor's chisel, so is a child in the hands of its mother. The clay may become an ugly, ill-looking piece of pottery, or it may be formed by skillful fingers into a thing of rare beauty. The block of marble may become either a hideous, distorted image or it may be molded into a form of grace and loveliness.

So the child, with wise and loving treatment, that combination which is, alas! too rare, with its plastic mind and unformed character is capable of being shaped into a being which the Creator has expressed as but little "lower than the angels."

Take a little child when it first begins to take notice of surrounding objects. All seems new and strange to its unaccustomed eyes; even its own pink fingers and toes are a mystery which it is never weary of trying to fathom. Only virgin soil there; no deep prejudices to be eradicated ere the seed can be sown. The seed can be sown—ah! there's the trouble! What seed shall be sown? For as the seed, so shall the harvest be. But stop a moment! Has not the seed been sown hundreds of years before the child was born? Some one has wisely said that in order to produce a perfect man we must begin a thousand years before he is born. Heredity!

HEALTHFUL CLOTHING.

I wish to express through the HOUSEHOLD a few thoughts which came to my mind while reading Mrs. Wm. Hutchins' paper on farmers' wives and fashions. I think her paper as a whole is very good. I also think she has made some mistakes the same as we are all liable to do, and I hope if I am wrong some kind sister will correct me and thus perhaps all can be benefited.

Mrs. Hutchins says nothing is gained by not dressing in the style of the day. I think something is to be gained by letting style go and dressing in a way to promote good health. I quote from Dr. Foote: "There are three rules to be observed to secure a costume which is healthful, viz.: First, cover no more of the body than the dictates of common modesty require, and let the covering be equally distributed. Second, let the clothes be made of entirely new material, and of such as will allow the uninterrupted egress of the bodily impurities, and the ingress of the vitalizing properties of the air. Third, mantua-makers and tailors must make clothing to hang loosely about the body, and shoemakers must be instructed to make the outer dressings of the feet with thick soles and easy uppers." Now if we dress as he tells us, how many of us would look stylish?

There may be some women and girls who need to be urged to pay more attention to their personal appearance, but if they are neat and clean and their faces show intelligence and goodness, I think they will be respected and kindly received in any society, even if they wear a dress made with a plain skirt sewed on to a plain waist; but if I am mistaken and there is a fashionable society that will reject or slight them, it is not worthy of their presence, and they can do more good and therefore be happier somewhere else.

Dress goods that are out of date, although just as good as the now more stylish pieces, can be bought for less money; the same is true in regard to cloaks and nearly everything that a lady wears.

The part of her paper referring to manners I think very good, and I wish we all would remember always this sentence: "We have no right to use impolite language or actions to each other."

MELORA.
MAPLE RAPIDS.

THE recipes given in this issue were furnished by a correspondent whose name has unfortunately been lost, hence we are unable to give proper credit. We think the writing that of Josephine, of Atlas; if she will write more frequently we will soon learn "for sure."

A. C., of Hopkins, asks who first proposed placing the Stars and Stripes on public school buildings. Mrs. A. N. Mofatt, of Port Huron, and the *Detroit Tribune* both claim the credit of the suggestion, but the *Tribune* carried the idea into practical execution, contributed liberally toward obtaining flags for the Detroit schools, and made arrangements by which schools throughout the State were able to procure them of the manufacturers at a discount.

DOMESTIC HELPS.

Here are some new uses for old things, learned from experimenting and other sources:

Coal ashes (such as collect in the upper part of a stove and lodge next the mica will be fine enough, all other must be sifted), can be used for scouring steel knives; the next best thing to use for that purpose is water lime. Use a cork for applying any scouring material.

The sewing-machine, unthreaded, makes a good tracer. Put your pattern on your cloth, and without thread in your needle stitch all lines you would use your tracer for.

Buy a five cent tooth brush and use it to apply blacking to those parts of the stove you can not reach in any other way.

Wrapping twine, such as comes around dry goods and grocery packages, makes a splendid mop.

It has been claimed that snow can be made to take the place of eggs in cake by putting in the last thing and beating briskly, but I never had enough confidence in it to try.

Use a whisk broom for the stairs; you can get at the corners so much better. I wonder if it would not be possible to make all corners round instead of sharp right angles. How much easier to sweep and keep clean the corners of rooms, of stairs and window frames!

I do not think of any new use for soap, but here is an easy way to make soft soap. Buy a pound of sal-soda (cost five cents) and four pounds of bar soap; cut fine, dissolve all by heating in four gallons soft water. Make thick or thin by using more or less water.

JANNETTE.

COUNTRY BOYS IN TOWN.

In the HOUSEHOLD of the 18th ult. Dafodilly gave us a gloomy picture of the prospects of country boys in the city. It seems to us that she has given too dark a side to city life. If not, what is the use of boys reared in the country—no matter what their abilities—seeking positions in the cities? They certainly can not fit themselves for business lives while at work at home. That is, they can not have the practice; they may have the theory to a certain extent. We always supposed that in the city the young man of worth who was willing to work had a chance there as well as elsewhere. If this is not so we should think all agricultural papers and the press everywhere would say to the intelligent young men of the country, "Do not come to the cities, we have no use for you. You can do nothing here."

We need such young men on the farms; there is a scarcity of farm help, and the man who works for pay in the country as a rule gets better wages than his employer. His social position in most neighborhoods equals that of the son of his employer, and there is work for all at fair wages. The wage earner is more independent than his employer, works shorter hours, and as a rule is the most privileged person about the farm.

FARMER.

OKENOS.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

KNIT goods, by which we suppose is meant the knitted underwear, a Down East woman says make the nicest and smoothest rag carpet. These goods also take a good color.

THE *Home-Maker* says the only really ripe banana is the one whose yellow coat is spotted with black. The black spots are not indicative of decay or rottenness but of ripeness. Decay is indicated by softness of the spot. These spotted bananas are always sold at a lower price than the fair-skinned ones; these, if bought, should be kept a few days to ripen before they are ready for use.

Mrs. KEDZIE, professor of domestic economy at the Kansas Agricultural College, says much of the "good luck" of many cooks comes of the ability to judge temperatures, and hence advocates the use of thermometers in the oven to ensure accurate results. Bread, she says, should be put into the oven at a temperature of 400 degrees, and the heat lowered within ten minutes to 325 degrees, then kept between that point and 300 degrees until the baking is finished.

THE following is recommended as an excellent remedy for coughs, colds, sore throats and hoarseness. Get two ounces of flax seed, boil this in a quart of water. Strain this, and add to it one half pint of honey, two ounces of rock candy, or lump sugar, the juice of two or three lemons. Boil all this well together and bottle or can. The dose is one little teacupful, hot, before going to bed, and a wine glassful before meals. Drink it as hot as you can.

TRY putting up a few cans of meat at the annual "killing time," for use when unexpected company arrives. Slice and cook the meat, seasoning with salt. Pack in glass fruit cans, the process being identical with that of fruit canning. Fill up the cans with the gravy, seal tight, and set in a cool place. Be sure the meat is well cooked. Chicken can be cooked and canned in the same way. Those who have tried this plan pronounce it practicable.

Contributed Recipes.

FRUIT PUDDING.—One cup molasses; one cup sweet milk; half cup melted butter; one cup raisins; half cup currants; two and a half cups flour; half teaspoonful soda; small nutmeg grated, or any other spice. Bake in the oven like cake. Some day when you want it for dinner, cut off a piece and put in the steamer over the pot to kettle; in fifteen minutes it will be hot through and ready to eat. I make a sauce for it in this way: One cup sugar; small lemon, juice and grated rind; piece of butter; tablespoonful cornstarch dissolved in half cup cold water. Mix all together, and pour on a pint of boiling water; let it boil up once and it is done. The pudding will keep a month or more, if you do not eat it. I always make it when we have company to stay a week or so, as it is so convenient to keep on hand.

CREAM COOKIES.—One cup sour cream; one cup sugar; teaspoonful soda; flavoring. Mix soft and roll quite thick; bake at once. There are good when made right.

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Men do not gather grapes of thorns nor figs of thistles.

But a judicious mother can do much to counteract even heredity. She knows in which direction the child's failings will probably lie, and is on the watch for them, and upon the first indication of their appearance she will be awake to her responsibility. "Line upon line, precept upon precept" is her motto. Great responsibilities are within her power. It means slow and tedious work, it cannot be accomplished in a hurry; but think of it, mothers! might it not be possible with the right kind of training, by influence and example, to rear up our children to a much higher standard of manhood and womanhood than that of the present day? Is the world growing better or worse is a question which learned men are fond of debating; but there would be no doubt of its growing better if every mother in the land understood perfectly how to rear her children, both physically and mentally, for their best good.

Here is another point to be looked at. Not one woman in a dozen, probably, is fitted to be a mother. Young girls marry and bear children without the slightest knowledge of their proper care and quite likely with very little idea as to the care of themselves.

Mothers should teach their daughters that which they ought to know, and not leave the knowledge of subjects of such vital importance to be learned at school or from older companions. Teach your young daughter how to take care of herself; give her your reasons for wishing her to allow no familiarities from young men. Forewarned is forearmed; and many a young girl has been ruined, who, had she been possessed of knowledge which it was her mother's duty to have imparted to her, might have been saved from the tempter's snare.

But to return to the subject proper: Many an overworked and tired mother is obliged to be content with attending to the more pressing personal needs of her children, and leave undone much that she would be glad to devote more attention to. Another class of mothers feel their ignorance of the best methods to be employed in order to obtain those results to which they aspire; they know what manner of man or woman they would like their child to be, but are not sure what course to pursue to accomplish their desire.

Children are great imitators, and as a general thing the parents' conduct and language at home may be judged by that of their children. Watch your child; notice carefully the effect of harsh or fretful words upon him. Nine times out of ten he will reflect your own mood. Is the child to blame who is brought up in a home where harsh, cutting words, frequent fits of anger, and stinging blows, are the daily example set before him, if he grows up with the same defects of character? Who that has taken the slightest notice of little children does not know how quickly they respond to kindness! Lead and not drive them; go, and they will follow you.

Oh mothers! I beseech you, give this sacred theme of motherhood more thought. With you lies the making in a great degree of the future of your child. Above all guard your own conduct. What you would

desire your child to become, that should be your daily life. Remember how easily your little one may be led to a noble life if mother sets the example. And do not forget to pray with and for your children; ask the great All-Father's help to lead them in the right path, that when the time shall come and you must give an account of the deeds done in the body, you may have the immeasurable happiness of saying: "Here am I, Lord, and also the children that thou didst give unto me."

ONE OF THE MOTHERS.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Dwells there within the borders of the HOUSEHOLD, a Don Quixote, or other spirit brave enough to attack the marital relation problem? If so, might not their efforts be as fruitless as the warfare of the "windmills" and "windbags?" Having been involved twenty-six years in this marital relation business, I can think of no stage of the game when the soundest philosophy would have availed me. All benefits received have been through dear bought experience. We see grave and grievous results from many of these relations, but the myriads of hidden causes are unknown to us, hence any panacea we might offer would be ineffectual. I have grown to look upon these difficulties as self-adjusting, and when I see a family seemingly upon the verge of dissolution, I wait patiently the outbreak, confident when that is over the unhappy participants will set to rights their disordered household, and move on, better for their dear bought wisdom.

Very different to me seems the topic, "What can farmers' wives do to better the district schools." This is an open question and can be met by a well defined line of action. I know a few women who are working zealously in this cause, and with good results. If it is safe to judge the many by the few, I should say our district schools might be revolutionized by the judicious, united action of the farmers' wives. In the first place, subscribe for an educational journal, find out the intent and purposes of our educators, and in so far as they comport with your judgment, aid them in their labors. It has come to be known as a stubborn fact, that the indifference of school patrons is the worst obstacle to be met by this class of workers. Then visit your school often, do not stay away because you are ignorant of the present methods of teaching, and unacquainted with all the new text books contain. I would as often pin my faith upon the keen intuitive perceptions of a mother to detect misrule in the schoolroom, as the highly educated secretary. How parents, especially mothers, can be so neglectful in this particular is, to me, the mystery of all mysteries. Again, few school houses have all the proper appliances to aid in the development of the child's mind. With all the schemes that women resort to, at the present day, to raise funds, why has this great need been neglected?

But whatever else you may neglect, do not fail to be at the annual school meeting. Know just what rights you are entitled to, and see to it they are respected. You may not be very well received at first, for I have seen a great many Dr. Jekylls in this world,

who were simply Mr. Hydes at the school meeting. Let not this discourage you; we passed through that in our district, and now we are expected and respected. I did not think to hold your attention so long; I wished to show my approbation of the discussion, and then leave the matter in better hands. The arousing of public sentiment in this direction can only result in good, and I hail it with joy.

Last summer I was asked to write a paper for a farmers' picnic, and no topic being assigned, I wrote upon the condition of our rural schools. Our county paper admitted it to be rather good, but said "it was not befitting the occasion," and in wrath I cried out "Is there a place between the pulpit and the gallows, where our country schools can fittingly be discussed?" And last week a voice came to me saying "Yes! In the HOUSEHOLD of the MICHIGAN FARMER."

FLINT.

MRS. WM. SWIFT.

A WELCOME NEW COMER.

Our Beatrix requests the ladies to write and help sustain the little paper that makes its welcome visits to so many of our homes; and although the past numbers present an array of talent creditable to the authors, and no doubt satisfactory to the Editor, there is often an "ebb" after a "flow." Should this happen to be the case, a few words from me might be acceptable, though far less graced with new ideas or beauties of diction. Ever since reading about the "Editor Woman" in the HOUSEHOLD of December 7th, I have longed to meet her "face to face," and think I would not fear to enter her presence even as a morning caller; but would find her having like experiences to many of us whose lives are more humble and secluded. How often we form our opinions too hastily and thoughtlessly! For this the woman that lives in an elegant home, is faultlessly attired or well educated, is criticized by those not thus highly favored. In this way many are losing the companionship of some whose inner lives are more beautiful than any outward adorning they may possess. I think every aspiration that tends to the improvement of our homes, our personal appearance or the cultivation of our minds, is worthy of our attention.

Polly's Second Cousin advances some very good thoughts, eloquently expressed, yet I cannot coincide with all her views. As she advances in life she will learn "it takes all sort of people to make a world."

It is often the case that one whose heart is in the work, who is impartial in every act, with plenty of that almost indispensable quality called tact, can lead those of superior ability. But, Cousin, if your associations tend in the least to demoralize, there are plenty of avenues open for one of your seeming ability; do not fear to launch out. Follow the advice of one who says, "Choose the company of your superiors whenever you can have it; that is the right and true pride," and do not get discouraged in your warfare against evil. There is no reason for it. As the world advances society should be on the up grade. Those who seek after a better standard for right and wrong, truth, purity and justice than they find in the world around them, who long to be better themselves and to make others better also, will triumph at last.

STONY RIDGE.

FLORENCE.

TAKING OFFENSE.

"Time, to me, this truth has taught;
'Tis a truth that's worth revealing,
More offend from want of thought
Than from any want of feeling."

How prone humanity is to "take offense," and yet how outraged the individual atom feels when her well intentioned words or acts are misconstrued and offense taken where none was intended!

It seems one of the proofs of a well-balanced mind to be very slow to take offense, and certainly never to betray the feeling until assured beyond mistake that such injury was intended. Better by far let a slight or affront pass unnoticed, with a quiet dignity that compels respect, than to wound the feelings of a friend by imputing to her an offense of which she is innocent.

These well-meaning but erratic souls who are ever on the alert to discover errors of personal treatment, can always have a full store of affliction. Slight, affronts and neglects, if not more aggressive features of mal-treatment, can be gathered by a sensitive, suspicious nature, when the innocent victims of these imputed misdemeanors walk on with clear consciences, wondering what causes the averted face, the injured tone, and cold welcome of the accusing friend. Very likely they charitably set it down to fault of the liver or spleen of the sufferer—sometimes rightly—or pass it off with the thought or remark: "It's just like one of —'s turns; she is making herself miserable over some fancied affront conjured up against some person. Oh! if she only knew how disagreeable she makes herself, and how hard it is for her friends to put up with such unjust imputations." Such persons are their own worst enemies, but they need very sterling qualities in other directions to find true friends. To be perpetually fearing wrong construction of one's acts and words must alienate trust and affection, and then the wretched suspect will whimper, "I told you so, she only pretended to care for me." There are degrees in every state, and many who ordinarily practice the largest charity find some pet project ignored or defeated by a trusted friend; just what, does not so much matter as the degree of importance attached to the object and the security felt in the aid and comfort expected or sought from the friend. From some cause the help or sympathy is not forthcoming; instead the reverse of what was expected is experienced, and the highly wrought feelings being suddenly chilled, acute suffering results, an irrational and intemperate revulsion of feeling follows; all former excellencies of the friend disappear; all the confidence, the sympathetic help, and loving, kindly acts are forgotten, and only an implacable enemy, a scheming plotter remains. In that supreme moment, jaundiced eyes may see that all the former favor was only a long effort to win confidence, the more effectually to complete their overthrow, and exult in the downfall of their hopes and happiness.

I have had experience myself with some of these human "pepper pods," and though a little of the condiment in life as in food may be invigorating and healthful, too hot a dose makes one have the impulse to pitch the "whole mess to the dogs." Such people are sweetly uncomfortable intimates—that

is, if endowed with lovable qualities as they usually are—the most affectionate are often the most exacting.

To become personal, I wonder whether our Queen B. does not sometimes get cruel stings. She is placed in a chair of great responsibility, and yet held to a rigid accountability. She is one under authority, to whom is said "Do this or do that, and between these lines use care and discretion. We as editors and publishers, have to cater to thousands of critical readers; and to our successful catering to their tastes, and keeping our paper to a high level, must its success or failure be due. To you is given the responsibility of making the HOUSEHOLD department a success. In the editing of its pages you must bear in mind that its columns must be filled with what is suited to the character of the paper; to its limited space, to its independent secular profession, and to the taste of its readers." The articles must be brief, there is small space; they must be pure, practical, chatty, spicy, giving or seeking information, brightly and earnestly discussing all topics pertaining to woman and home. Our Queen B. must take the matter kindly offered by her interested contributors, and, while thankfully receiving, must bring these inexorable rules to bear, and without showing fear or favor, accept or reject such offerings, in whole or in part, as seems most conducive to the interest of the FARMER and its limited HOUSEHOLD. Remember, it is no reflection on the merit of an article (as such) that it is respectfully declined. It may be too long for the space allotted; it may be out of season, or incompatible with the objects and aims of the publishers; it may jar on others plans or purposes; it might provoke too heated discussion; it might be irrelevant to present topics; in short, it might be out of joint with the HOUSEHOLD arrangements, and to the housekeeper, ye!pt the editor woman, must be conceded the right, as she alone must bear the responsibility, of arranging our offerings as to her seems right and proper. It has been my fortune to "get a peep behind the scenes" in several editorial sanctums, in a way to know something of an editor's woes, and the more I know the more I realize the tact and care absolutely necessary to avoid frictions, to keep out personalities, to decline extraneous matter without giving offense, to adhere steadfastly to the sphere and scope of the paper—in short it seems to me the editor, most of all, has to perform that extremely difficult duty—pleasing everybody.

Let us all remember how we would resent being compelled to use any kitchen utensil a well-meaning friend might present us, but which we found unsuited to our needs. Let us be loyal to ourselves, and our much-buzzed Queen B.

A. L. L.

INGLESIDE.

THE *Scientific American* gives the following recipe for making a glue which will remain liquid: Dilute two or two and one half parts of nitric acid with 40 or 50 parts of water. In this soak 25 parts of glue for 24 hours, and then heat until it is of one consistency. The quantity of acid necessary depends on the quality of the glue.

THE WOMAN IN WOMEN'S SOCIETIES.

Yes, certainly, dear Second Cousin, scold to your heart's content and relieve your troubled mind; for scolding is woman's prerogative and an excellent escape valve, as more than one son of Adam has found to his sorrow.

In these enlightened days and with the advantages which every woman may possess, let her life be ever so retired, we can scarcely imagine one laying down the law vehemently or struggling for the mastery over the domain she calls home, or that when she emerges from this seclusion to become a member of any society she should at once become possessed with the belief that her knowledge on all subjects, be they great or small, is essential for the good of the society, or that the institution without her to dictate and pilot over the rough places must ultimately come to grief. When we look through smoked glass everything upon which we gaze is tinged that same color. Rushing to the front with offers of assistance and advice seldom comes from those who lead a secluded life; the modest and retiring demeanor so admired by some is more in their line. Keenly conscious of any little mistake or awkwardness on their part, they usually escape the door through which "fools rush in."

Must a person necessarily be ill bred who has confidence to express her opinion and not waver from it, simply because it is not agreeable to the feelings of another? All cannot think alike; and so by some they are considered aggressive thorn bushes, while the thorn bushes look upon the others in about the same light. If one is being improved and elevated by her children's contact with society and schools, is it anything to be ashamed of? So long as there is an incentive to a higher life, advancement is commendable. The moon shines by reflected light, but do we think any the less of it for that, or cease to admire its silvery radiance as it rests upon flower and shrub and waving grass?

The question what is the wisest course for the better bred and educated—to submit or withdraw from the society whose members consist of aggressive thorn bushes and dictatorial or bossy women, must be answered by the questioner, as she undoubtedly understands better than any other how much association and contact with them will make or mar her reputation and peace, believing as she does that no one can associate with another without being elevated or sunk to their level.

Take for instance a person of superior mind, like DeWitt Talmage. Would contact with a person of grosser mind have any influence upon him? Persons of innate nobleness and refinement seldom sink to very low depths, they are not plastic in the hands of their associates; their inherent qualities of mind and heart enable them to easily discriminate between right and wrong. Only those who are refined in outward appearance and endeavoring to impress others with a sense of their superiority find their level with their inferiors. By not struggling against temptation they are weakened.

Pure in heart and sweetly conscious of her own fair womanhood, there is no danger

from contaminating influence. Mrs. Cleveland can never be other than the gracious lady she is, kind and considerate and helpful to all, yet a depraved nature would repel rather than attract her.

A young girl once entered as teacher a district school and found to her astonishment and dismay that many of the larger scholars were as far advanced in certain branches as herself. What should she do? Failure meant more than loss of school; it would deprive herself and the loved ones dependent upon her of bread, it would ruin forever her reputation as teacher. It was a grave question which she faced bravely and alone, and decided that she must succeed. Night after night, often in a cold cheerless room, this brave girl studied until the lessons for the following day were perfect, and finished the term successfully, while none dreamed how hard it had been for her. If a young girl can accomplish so much why may not the leader of a literary or any other society improve and elevate herself, until she, too, is capable of leading her followers to intellectual heights rarely attained.

HOMER.

JERUSHA ANN.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Unlike Daffodilly, I am sorry that the columns of our progressive little paper are closed to the discussion of any public question, as Sabbath observance has now become. The petitions being circulated in favor of the Sunday rest bill and the action of some of the trunk lines of railroad in discontinuing a part of the Sunday trains, the omission of military drills and parades, are all indicative of a better public sentiment upon Sabbath desecration. While farmers are not as a class Sabbath breakers, the discussion of any subject outside of the routine of domestic life, and especially any moral question, broadens their outlook, and by calling attention to the needs of the larger home—the world—becomes a mental and moral tonic. Human nature is the same everywhere, the tendency is always downward, and if there is not spiritual as well as intellectual uplift supplied by home papers the moral plane of each generation will be lower than that of the preceding one.

A. H. J.'s article on "Making Sunday" is most suggestive and helpful. How many pleasant memories for future years can be supplied to the child by the freedom of the parlor, a bright ribbon or new tie used only on that day, accompanied always by some religious teaching which develops the spiritual nature of the child, or a story told by mamma—so much more interesting than any found in books! One of the most pleasing memories of my early childhood is that of the family grouped around the open fire on Sunday evening in the winter's twilight, reciting in concert the Lord's Prayer or the Commandments. Being the youngest it was my privilege to lay my head in mother's lap, a treat not to be forgotten. How little effort it requires to make the Sabbath a delight to a child not spoiled by over indulgence.

Used to an active life, there comes over me, especially on Sunday afternoons in summer, an almost uncontrollable desire to go out in the open air, so taking the *Sunday School Times* and *Union Signal*, I go across

fields to the woods where there is a side hill overlooking a winding pebbly creek, shaded by forest trees. The landscape beyond includes meadows, cultivated fields, hills and valleys, with groups of trees here and there, beautiful to look upon. The sounds are the chirping of the birds, the rustle of squirrels, the lowing of cattle in the distance, the tinkling of bells, and the rippling of water, and above, the whisper of winds in the tree tops. Could there be a temple more worship-inspiring than this? The church service, although enjoyable, does not so call out all that is reverent and devout in my nature as does this bit of woodland.

I believe the reverent observance of the Sabbath includes such things and such only as bring the soul into sweetest communion with its Creator, and reinforce it for the trials and temptations of the week to come, and it is the most helpful to others. "The Sabbath was made for man," for his spiritual and intellectual growth as well as physical rest, and anything subversive of this is a desecration of the day.

IONIA.

LILLA LEE.

USES FOR BIRCH BARK.

Will say to G. F. O. that a nice way to use her birch bark is to cut strips in the shape of a canoe, make holes through the pieces at one end, tie together with ribbon, paint a pretty design on the cover and use it for an autograph album; or write quotations from favorite authors on the leaves, or possibly paint a pretty little design on each leaf for a book of views. Any one of these makes a pretty ornament and keepsake. I should think it would be pretty cut palette shape, though the one I saw was in the form of a canoe. The number of leaves depends of course on the amount of bark she has. Her own ingenuity will help to vary these suggestions.

I have a quantity of birch bark gathered by myself in Grand Traverse County over five years ago, and have always meant to work it up in this way but never have. Having received this little poke about it, I guess I'll go to work.

Would like to wring Daffodilly's hand on the cat question. I once had fourteen, but upon being given so many days by the family in which to decrease the number under pain of extermination, thereupon proceeded to bestow them as gifts upon my friends. At present the range numbers but four. I think Daffodilly would make a splendid neighbor, just my kind.

Wouldn't it be nice if the members of the HOUSEHOLD could hold a convention and all go? There are some members of this family I very much desire to see and know.

Ah now! How quietly the holidays stole in upon us and away again. Baby has passed his first Christmas; nearly nine months old and not a tooth in his dear little golden head.

How a fresh call from Beatrix wakes up us sleepy ones for a while, then how easy to doze back again for the next roaster! I never miss a word of the HOUSEHOLD. As some one said a short time ago, I read every word—recipes and all. Was much wrought up on the gentleman question. The idea of any one's saying that if she sees a young man meet a lady without removing his hat,

she immediately sets him down in her mind as no gentleman! That as well as the Sabbath question was argued to death, so we will let the deceased "Rest in peace."

Thanks, Lilla Lee, for saying a few words to Outis in December. I always feel like sassing him a little whenever he comes. Guess he hasn't found that paragon of perfection he was hunting for two years ago. You see he expects too much; and it won't do him one mite of good to come to the HOUSEHOLD for sympathy.

ALBION.

EUPHEMIA.

MRS. C. A. RICE, of Flint, sends in a few quotations from "Josh Billings" in response to the request in a late HOUSEHOLD. It was our intention to forward those sent in by mail, but as these are few in number and wise in sentiment, we insert them: "The trouble with some people who brag of their ancestry is in their great descent." "I thank God for allowing fools to live, that wise men may get a living out of them." "If a fellow gets to going down hill, it seems as if every thing were greased for the occasion." "Wealth won't make a man virtuous, but there ain't anybody who wants to be poor just for the purpose of being good." "If you want to keep a mule in a pasture turn him into an adjacent meadow and he'll jump in." "I've known a mule to be good for six months just to get a chance to kick somebody." "Men should not boast so much; a little hornet if he feels well can break up a whole camp meeting."

"The man who has a thousand friends
Has not a friend to spare;
But he who has one enemy,
Will meet him everywhere."

In canning fruits, fermentation is the one thing to be avoided. This is induced in canned fruits by using poor sugar; by use of fruits which from being overripe or from any other cause has begun to ferment; by not driving air out of the fruit by sufficient heat, or by allowing air to enter the cans after supposed sealing. The first three causes are easily avoided, the last, also, if care is taken to fill the jars to overflowing, to rotate them until the air bubbles pass off, and to moisten the rubbers so the suction will be perfect. The most important point is to have good rubbers, closely fitting; they very soon become stretched.

Useful Recipes.

GENUINE BOSTON FISH BALLS.—Soak the fish in cold water ten or fifteen minutes, then pick it up fine; fill a cup solidly. Pare and cut potatoes into quarters. Put one pint of the potato into a stew-pan, place the fish on top, cover with boiling water and cook until the potato is soft. Drain, mash, and add an egg, well beaten, and a saltspoonful of pepper. Fish balls should not be made too soft as they will then soak fat. If the mixture seems too moist add a little pounded cracker, flour will make the balls pasty. Shape with a tablespoon and fry in a basket in hot lard. Lay on brown paper a minute to absorb the surplus fat. Some cooks roll fish balls in eggs and crumbs and then fry, but a plain fish ball is generally most acceptable and the extra work or crumbing is not appreciated. Warmd over fish will not make good fish balls. Cold fish and potatoes will not mix in that creamy mass that the ingredients make when mashed as soon as taken from the fire. The fish balls should be fried until brown.