

THE HOME.

LIFE.

A little work, a little play,
To keep us going—and so, good-day!

A little warrath, a little light,
Of love bestowing—and so, good-night!

A little fun to match the sorrow
Of each day's growing—and so, good-morrow!

A little trust that when we die
We reap our sowing! And so, good-by.

—Du Maurier.

FLOWERS FOR THE WINDOW.

The room in which I am writing has a large bow window, facing south, in which are over 90 plants; it is the middle of February and I have nearly 30 buds and blossoms, writes Frances Harris. This does not include stonecrop, creeping Charley and a quantity of sweet alyssum and mignonette which has just come up. I give about 15 minutes a day to my plants, and an hour extra once or twice a week. Each year I learn how to care for them more easily, so that I spend no more time now than I did three years ago, with half the number of plants, and have far better success. Plants are like children, you must give them their fair share of your heart and your home. A mother does not only give the baby cradle room, or even a nursery; the baby has its rights and privileges in every room. In a way, though in a less degree, this must be true of your plants. It will not do to stick a pot here and there because they fit the surroundings, without regard to sun or water.

Begin with three or four plants, and do not take any printed words as gospel truth about your pets—try for yourself. For instance, I had a beautiful nasturtium, about eight feet high, one summer, in full bloom in September. The floral authorities said it was no use to take up such a plant; sow fresh seed. I thought I'd try an experiment, and lifted it very carefully and put it in my bow window. After the first week I picked from 20 to 30 blooms from that vine every week till the next May! Again, we are told it is no use wintering old geraniums, as they must rest. This year I was not able to raise slips, and in October I pulled up a couple of dozen large geraniums from a neighbor's border, cut them down almost to the roots, and I catch sight of a dozen buds by just glancing at the window! One writer says carnations need sun, another advises plenty of moisture, but not much sun; try both ways.

But to return to our first plants. Give a few moments every morning and evening to them. Never let a leaf or bloom die on the plant; if it begins to turn, cut it off and wash the rest of the leaves towards nightfall. No matter if some old lady who has wonderful success with flowers does say she has no holes in her boxes, nor any drainage, be sure you have an inch or so of broken crockery and charcoal in the pot or box, with holes to let the surplus water run off. You may take it as a rule that soft-stemmed plants need more water than woody stemmed ones, and almost all enjoy being set in a pan of water once in a while, to drink till the water has moistened the top earth.

If your plants are kept healthy, insects will not attack them in such numbers that you cannot pick them off. If a plant is infested with green aphides, isolate it, and shower the leaves frequently. If you possibly can, have oil-cloth under your boxes, so that you can use a watering can frequently. Dusty plants are like dirty children—attractive only to the owner. I have found I have the most blossoms by potting my plants and then sinking them in boxes. Not only do many refuse to bloom till root-bound, but I can change them as they seem to need it. A scarlet and pink geranium have blossomed side by side, fairly "swearing at" each other, as the French say, but as they are in pots, the pink one changes places while a white carnation, and harmony is restored.

Do not think it is too late to start a few plants. A Bermuda or Easter lily can be planted, set in the cellar for three weeks and then brought to the light; though it will not bloom in time for Easter, you will enjoy it in May. Nasturtiums will bloom in eight or ten weeks, and there is no prettier window vine than the tall variety. Sweet alyssum and mignonette will flower in six or eight weeks, while you can buy a Chinese primrose for a quarter, that will bloom till next summer and be a daily joy and interest.

If someone who is sad and lonely chances to read these lines, someone who feels as if life could never have any interest for her, let me beg you to try the care of a few plants; they remind us of Him who made them and us; we learn to trust Him by studying them. My roses would shed their leaves and look wretched; I put them down cellar for six weeks, then brought them up, cut them back, and they are now among my most promising plants. May not God have seen the need of the cellar treatment in our lives—of ruthless pruning? Yet be sure at just the right moment we shall be placed in the sunshine; if not here, then before his own face, and we shall blossom at last, all the better for the hard, dark days!

USES FOR ORANGES.

Syrup from Orange Peel.—Peel four sweet oranges, being careful not to get any of the white skin in, put the yellow peel in three pints of cold water, add half a pound of loaf sugar, and cook together into a syrup. This is nice for flavoring.

Orange Marmalade.—Take two dozen

Seville or bitter oranges and weigh them, cut the skin and take it off in quarters, put in a cheese cloth bag and cook in water nearly two hours, until you can pierce easily with a straw, then cut in thin pieces about an inch long, cut the oranges into halves and scrape out the pulp and the juice, throwing away the pith. Take as many pounds of sugar as you have oranges, put it into the water you cooked the rinds in, and boil ten minutes, skim and add the rinds and pulp, cook half an hour, then dip in tumblers and set away to cool before sealing.

Orange Filling for Cake.—Put half a pint of milk in a double boiler, moisten two tablespoons of cornstarch with a little cold milk, add it to the scalded milk, stir constantly until smooth and thick, beat the yolks of two eggs with four tablespoons of sugar, until light, add it to the cornstarch, take from the fire, and when cool add the grated yellow rind of one orange and two tablespoons of orange juice, flavor with vanilla if you choose.

Orange Icing.—For the top of one good-sized cake use half a pound of confectioner's XXX sugar and one spoonful boiling water, grated rind of one orange, put sugar in (about a bowl), add the orange peel, and stir until the sugar is yellow; add the spoon of boiling water, and slowly add enough orange juice to moisten the sugar so it will spread easily.

FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

The city of London puts upon the market in one year over \$10,000,000 worth of umbrellas alone.

Edison prophesies that in ten years horseless carriages, will be the rule, and horse-propelled vehicles the exception.

One of the large paper-box factories in New Haven, Conn., recently received an order for 85,000,000 cigarette boxes.

Two young women have been appointed gardeners at Kew Gardens, London, on the condition that they wear trousers when at work.

Johanna, the chimpanzee in Central Park, New York, is very fond of liquors of any kind. Port wine or whisky are, however, said to be her favorite.

There is a shellfish in the Mediterranean which produces a good quality of silk. Fabrics have been manufactured from it, but only as curiosities.

In Norway and Sweden, before any couple can be legally married, certificates must be produced showing that both bride and bridegroom have been vaccinated.

A flock of 2,300 sheep at Churchill, Nev., were stampeded one day recently, and in some way two columns of the frightened animals came together and 360 sheep were smothered, their bodies being piled up to a height of six feet.

Columbia, Ky., has a practically uneducated Baptist preacher who can recite every chapter in the Bible. It is said that one can call for any chapter, and this preacher will recite it in its entirety with the greatest ease.

The importation into the United States of plants from China and Japan is forbidden on account of the prevalence of cholera in the Asiatic countries. Nothing holds the germs of disease so well as the soil in which the plants are shipped.

Maine's labor commissioner has been gathering statistics on the cost of living in that state. He figures that the average daily cost of living is 21 cents a day for each individual in the average family. The cost of living to single men, boarding, is 46 cents. These figures cover rent, food, fuel and light.

Some idea of the immense number of rabbits in Australia may be gathered from the fact that a man in the northern territory recently came across a "mob" of them about four miles wide, and as close as they could run together. Some parts of the country are so honey-combed with burrows that it is hardly safe to ride or drive.

By a vote of 31 to 11 the Iowa senate passed a bill making it a crime to manufacture or keep for sale cigarettes in the State of Iowa. It is known as the Phelps bill, and will pass the house by a big majority. It makes it unlawful to handle cigarettes in any manner. They cannot be given away. The penalty is a fine or imprisonment, or both.

By chance it has been discovered that even the most delicate tracery of petals of flowers can be reproduced in metal. During the trial of a new fuse, the other day, a small leaf fell between a dynamite cartridge and an iron block on which the cartridge was fired. As a result a perfect imprint of the leaf was left on the iron.

A watchdog and a big red fox played tag in a barnyard at Whiting's Hill, Me., on a recent Sunday for over an hour, and apparently in the friendliest spirit. The owner of the dog and his family watched the strange frolic from a window of the house, and forebore to interfere from curiosity to see the incident through. After playing with the dog for more than an hour the fox trotted back into the nearby woods from whence it came.

QUININE IN WAR.

An invention, that of medical tabloids, introduced in African work by H. M. Stanley, enabled the British expedition to Ashantee to accomplish its work with slight loss of life, thereby affording a striking contrast to the French expedition to Madagascar. The French officers resisted the efforts of the medical staff to provide proper accommodation for the sick, and they lost nearly 5,000 men from disease. At last account the English had not lost fifty men. A London correspondent says it was known from the first that the Ashantee expedition was a doctor's war, and far more care was bestowed on the medicine chest than on the ammunition wagon. Events proved that quinine tabloids were far more useful than ball cartridges.

A CORDIAL INVITATION.

How are you keeping Lent this year, Miss Caustique?

By staying at home and entertaining disagreeable people. Come often.

IT NEVER FAILS.

What is a good way to attract attention?

One of the best ways I know is to leave the front door of a street car open on a chilly day.

A BRITISH OFFICER'S STORY

SHIP'S CREW SLAUGHTERED AND EATEN BY CANNIBALS.

The Inhabitants of the New Hebrides Island Will Even Eat Members of Their Tribe—Frightful Experience of the Chief Officer of a Ship Whose Crew Was Devoured.

The most thorough cannibals, possibly of the whole world, are the inhabitants of the New Hebrides Islands, of the Pacific Ocean. When they are not engaged in feasting on missionaries and other white men who foolishly venture into their country they devour members of their own tribe. For ages the natives have lived on human flesh, and the present races which inhabit these beautiful islands of the Southern Pacific must be exterminated before cannibalism becomes a thing of the past in the Hebrides. But they are also peculiar in their cannibalism.

The islands are sectioned off by the tribes in very much the same manner as the counties of a state. Woe to the native who crosses over a boundary line. He is doomed for the cook pot then and there. Nothing will save him and this victim would do the same thing to his captors were they to cross over into his section. This has been the custom with them for ages, and is as much in vogue with them now as it was 200 years ago.

The natives, however, are very honest in trade. When a member of an interior tribe desires to send something to the coast for barter he approaches the boundary line that separates him from the adjoining tribe. He yells in a peculiar manner and members of the adjoining tribe, as the boundary lines are watched night and day, come forward. A conference is held and the foot of both touch the imaginary line, but even now, though it is business, none dare cross over this boundary. The goods are handed over by the trader, and in turn are handed to others, and perhaps may be passed from hand to hand for a distance of 50 miles until the coast is reached.

THEY ARE HONEST.

The articles procured in exchange are again passed from hand to hand until the original boundary line is reached. Each one takes his share of commission, and there is no intent to fraud. In this respect the natives of the New Hebrides are entirely honest. Another confab takes place at that boundary line, with toes to toes, the remainder of articles secured are handed over to the owner. In this manner the trade of the country is carried on. If the natives near the coast desire fruit and other goods from the interior the bartering is carried on in the same way.

An English ship during a severe storm put in to one of the New Hebrides Islands in 1893. Anchors were cast and everything made snug. Scores of canoes soon surrounded the vessel and the officers and crew not knowing the character of these cannibals, permitted them to come on board, believing that they were friendly natives, desiring to trade. What took place in that ship is best told in the words of the chief officer, who was the only survivor.

"I was sick in bed," he stated to the Captain of a ship which picked him up, "when we arrived at that island. The Captain had been unable to get the sun for several days on account of the bad weather, and we did not know until noon of that day where we were. I heard some commotion on the deck in the afternoon, but thought that it was the men at work. I had again dozed off for a while, but was awakened by a peculiar noise in the cabin. Looking out from my bunk, I saw a sight that froze me with horror. Several negroes were sitting at the table in the cabin. They were covered with blood. A number of them had human arms in their hands and were eating ravenously. I realized that cannibals had boarded the ship and I lay in bed as quietly as possible. The cannibals evidently believed that all on board had been killed and were now enjoying their diabolical feast. It was a sight I never want to witness again.

BRANDISHED HUMAN BONES.

"The natives, as the eating waned, began to brandish human bones and utter fiendish yells. For hours I was kept in agony, not daring to move for fear that I might fare as had my shipmates. It was toward 9 o'clock in the evening that quiet came over the ship, a stillness that was awful. Though I had been sick for two weeks, yet I somehow felt a supernatural strength come over me. I went up on deck. What a sight met my gaze! Blood everywhere! Human bones and skulls were scattered about the deck, telling a silent tale of horrible orgies. I was the only one, out of a crew of 45, left to witness the ghastly scene and tell the story. The tropical moon shone with brilliancy on that gruesome deck, and the shadows cast were human shadows. I let the anchor chain go, hoping that the ship would drift out of that lagoon. But not a move would she make. I finally lowered a boat and sailed out of the harbor."

This was the story told by the officer of that British ship which fell into the hands of the cannibal natives of the New Hebrides. The natives of these islands are of fine physical form, but entirely depraved in morals. Murder and war seem to be their general occupation. The native who possesses a half a dozen empty rifle cartridges is a wealthy man. He can with one empty cartridge buy a half dozen wives.

During the last year or two the natives of New Hebrides, residing near the coast, have gone to labor on contract to the Samoan Islands, which are about 600 miles from the Hebrides. During their stay at Samoa they are clothed and fed. When their time is up they are shipped back home and presented with an old rifle, a few cartridges and a suit of clothes. This makes each of them a nabob for the remainder of his life.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

What a Western Merchant Has to Say of Its Industries.

Mr. Simon Leiser, of Victoria, B.C., and one of the best known merchants on the Pacific Coast, who is now in Montreal, was interviewed by a newspaper reporter. The British Columbia merchant is not one of those who believe Victoria to be a finished city and that all of the trade is to be done at Vancouver. "The capital of the Province," he began, "is not only holding its own, but is making substantial progress. Business, in fact, is improving considerably on the Coast. The coal trade is looking up, and there is a marked change for the better in the lumber business. Mills that have been idle for over a year are now running full time, and large quantities of lumber are being shipped to China, Japan, and South America from Vancouver, New Westminster and other points along the coast of British Columbia."

Mr. Leiser was asked if gold had been found in paying quantities on the Island of Vancouver, and he gave the reporter to understand that there was just now quite a boom at Albernia, located a little over one hundred miles from Victoria. Here splendid gold bearing quartz is found, and many claims are being taken up by leading men of the Provincial Capital. He also said that Victoria derived a great deal of business from the seal trade, the supplies for seventy or eighty vessels being purchased at that port. The sealers go to the Japan Coast, in December and January, after which they return to the Behring Sea. The weather was bad last year, and the catch was only fair, but they hope to have better luck this year.

The Western merchant also referred to the important fisheries of the Pacific Province, and to the great number of men employed. Besides the profitable salmon fisheries of the North, and the Fraser River, the halibut fisheries of the Province are increasing in importance from year to year. Steamers leave from both Victoria and Vancouver for the Banks on Queen Charlotte Sound, and frequently return with from 50,000 to 100,000 lbs. of halibut at a time, all of which is sent in cold storage cars to Chicago, New York and Boston by the Canadian and Northern Pacific Railways. With the extensive and ever increasing development of the mining, fishing and other industries of the Province, Mr. Leiser is confident that British Columbia will soon become the richest of the Canadian Provinces, and that its capital, Victoria, will fully share in that prosperity.

HERE AND THERE A GEM.

The moral law is written on the tablets of eternity. For every false word of unrighteous deed for cruelty and oppression, for lust or vanity, the price has to be paid at last.—Froude.

Sublime is the dominion of the mind over the body that for a time can make flesh and nerve impregnable, and string the sinews like steel, so that the weak become so mighty.—Mrs. Stowe.

Order is the sanity of the mind, the health of the body, the peace of the city, the security of the State. As the beams to a house, as the bones to the microcosm of man, so is order to all things.—Southey.

There is in souls a sympathy with sounds, and, as the mind is pitched, the ear is pleased with melting airs of martial, brisk and grave, some chord in unison with what we hear is touch'd within us, and the heart replies.—Cowper.

True modesty is a discerning grace, and only blushes in the proper place; but counterfeited is blind and sulks through fear, where 'tis a shame to be ashamed of 'appear; humility, the parent of the first, the last by vanity produced and nurs'd.—Cowper.

There is this difference between a wise man and a fool; the wise man expects future things, but does not depend upon them; and in the meantime enjoys the present, remembering the past with delight; but the life of the fool is wholly carried on to the future.—Epicurus.

A lofty mind always thinks nobly, it easily creates vivid, agreeable, and natural fancies, places them in their best light, clothes them with all appropriate adornments, studies others' tastes, and clears away from its own thoughts all that is useless and disagreeable.—Rochefoucauld.

What know we of the world immense beyond the narrow ring of sense? What should we know who lounge about the house we dwell in, nor find out, masked by a wall, the secret cell, where the soul's priests in hiding dwell? The winding stair that steals aloof to chapel mysteries 'neath the roof?—Lowell.

A FISH THAT SHOOTS.

The archer fish possesses the curious property of being able to shoot drops of water from its mouth with extraordinary accuracy for a considerable distance. This singular faculty is of use to the animal in securing food. A fly or small insect passing over the water has very little chance to escape from the deadly aim of the archer fish. This fish never gets out of ammunition, and is not one of those unfortunate creatures who sees his best game when he has no gun. The archer is keen of eye, an excellent marksman, and is always ready.

WISE PRECAUTION.

Maude—Isn't that new process of photographing through solid substances wonderful? How I do wish I could get a photograph of Algy's brain.

Belle—Why, do you think there is anything serious the matter with his brain?

Maude—No, but I want to be sure he has one, you know.

A BETTER TARGET.

Maud—I just hate to have Godfrey kiss me; it's such a hit or miss performance.

Evelyn—I never noticed that he missed.

TWO QUEER LITTLE REPUBLICS.

San Marino and Andorra and Their Odd Forms of Government.

The queer little Italian republic of San Marino with its thirty-three square miles of territory and its population of 6,000 lies up in the eastern spurs of the Apennine Mountains. It is governed by a grand council of sixty, who are elected for life, and two presidents, one of whom is appointed by the council, the other elected by the people. The little republic has an army of 950 men, who are employed only as policemen. San Marino is the only country in the world that prohibits the introduction of the printing press. The City of San Marino with a population of 1,700 is one of the queerest old towns in the world. It has undergone no change in 500 years. This republic began in 1462.

A little but larger than San Marino in population, but six times as large in area, is the republic of Andorra. It lies in a valley of the eastern Pyrenees, between France and Spain. It became a free state in 819. It is governed by a sovereign council of twenty-four members, elected by the people, and a syndic or president chosen for life by the council. It has an army of 1,100 men, and one big gun planted in the centre of the republic. This gun carries a ball twenty miles, and Europe trembles at the thought of its being fired. In Andorra, the capital, is the palace—a stone building several hundred years old. Here the councilmen meet. The ground floor is the stable where their horses are kept and fed by their masters themselves.

POISONOUS VAPORS IN AFRICA.

Prince Henry of Battenberg's death now appears to have been brought about by an act of military disobedience, although an attempt has been made to hush the matter up. The English expedition to Coomasie, while crossing the eighty miles of pestilential swamp land lying between the coast and the tableland, was under the strictest orders not to leave the tents after sundown. The object of this was to preserve the Europeans as far as possible from the poisonous vapors that filled the air, the guardianship of the camp being confined to colored troops and to non-commissioned officers of the West India regiments and of the Houses. In spite of this rule, for infraction of which the severest penalties were promised, Prince Henry and Maj. Ferguson, of the Horse Guards, left their tents one night and went for a stroll. The consequence was that both absorbed the poison, and both lost their lives.

THE WORLD'S TELEGRAPH WIRES.

A German expert, after a careful estimate, has announced that the total length of telegraph lines in the world is 1,062,700 miles, of which America has 545,600 miles; Europe, 380,700; Asia, 67,400; Africa, 21,500, and Australia, 47,500 miles. The United States has a greater length than any other country, 403,990 miles, and Russia comes next although European Russia has only 81,000 miles. The other countries follow in this order: Germany, France, Austria-Hungary, British India, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, Turkey, the Argentine Republic, Spain and Chili. In point of proportion, however, Belgium leads with 409 miles of wire for every 1,000 square miles of territory; Germany comes next, with 350 miles; Holland is only slightly behind Germany, and the United Kingdom has 280 miles of telegraph for every 1,000 miles of country.

REMARKABLE FEAT.

Perhaps the most remarkable feat of building moving was that successfully accomplished in Chicago, recently, when a large stone church, with a massive square tower, was jacked up from its foundations and moved a distance of 50 feet to another lot. The church was moved in order to admit light into the rooms of a big hotel on Michigan avenue, at the corner of Twenty-third street. The hotel directly adjoining the Emmanuel Baptist Church, and the new owners of the hotel figured that the rooms next the church would be worth vastly more if they had more light. They paid for the entire cost of moving the church, bought new land for it to stand on, and also bought the lot from which it was moved. The moving was done with entire safety and success.

BAD LUCK FOLLOWS HER.

A Warsaw lady recently engaged a quiet, respectable-looking girl of 16 to look after her 18-month-old baby. As soon as he saw the nurse the child was frightened into convulsions; the girl was asked to go into another room, where the master of the house was entertaining half a dozen guests. On her entering the room a standard lamp on the table blazed up to the ceiling, three large oil paintings fell down from the wall and a large barometer flew across the room and was smashed. The girl was not alarmed and admitted that such accidents happened frequently when she was present. She is a pale, slight girl, who suffers from insomnia. Dr. Ochorowicz, the psychologist, is investigating the case.

PECULIAR MANIA.

A lawyer of Biddeford, Maine, is afflicted with a peculiar mania for collecting lamps of all sorts. His house is filled with every kind of lantern he has been able to buy, including a full line of bicycle lamps. He visits Boston frequently, and always brings back with him a good deal of money, and he declares that he is aware of the folly of it, but is entirely unable to resist it.

Portraits of the German Emperor were shown in London shops after he had sent his cable despatch to the Boers, marked "Reduced to 6d. from 5s."