

# THE HOME.

## DAN'S WIFE.

Up in early morning light,  
Sweeping, dusting, "setting right,"  
Oiling up the household springs,  
Sewing buttons, tying strings,  
Telling Bridget what to do,  
Mending rips in Johnny's shoe,  
Running up and down the stair,  
Tying baby in his chair,  
Cutting meat and spreading bread,  
Dishing out so much per head,  
Eating as she can, by chance,  
Giving husband kindly glance,  
Toiling, working, busy life,  
"Smart woman,  
Dan's wife."

Dan comes home at fall of night,  
Home so cheerful, neat, and bright,  
Children meet him at the door,  
Pull him in and look him o'er,  
Wife asks "how the work has gone?"  
"Busy times with us at home!"  
Supper done—Dan reads at ease,  
Nothing must the husband tease,  
Children must be put to bed—  
All the little prayers are said;  
Little shoes are placed in rows,  
Bed clothes tucked o'er little toes,  
Busy noisy, wearing life,  
Tired woman,  
Dan's wife.

Dan reads on and falls asleep,  
See the woman softly creep;  
Baby rests at last, poor dear;  
Not a word her heart to cheer;  
Mending basket full to top—  
Stockings, shirts and little frock—  
Tired eyes and weary brain,  
Side with darting, ugly pain—  
"Never mind, 'twill pass away;"  
She must work, but never play:  
Closed piano, unused books,  
Done, she walks to cosy nooks,  
Brightness faded out of life,  
Saddened woman,  
Dan's wife.

Upstairs, tossing to and fro,  
Fever holds the woman low;  
Children wander, free to play  
When and where they will to-day;  
Bridget loiters—dinner's cold,  
Dan looks anxious, cross, and old;  
Household screws are out of place,  
Lacking one dear, patient face;  
Steady hands—so weak, but true—  
Hands that knew just what to do,  
Never knowing rest or play,  
Folded now—and laid away;  
Work of six in one short life,  
Shattered woman,  
Dan's wife.

## HINTS FOR HOME WORK IN DRESS.

It is indubitably decided that this will certainly be another shirt, or separate, waist season, so, my readers, young or advanced in years, go to work and make as many as you wish, says a correspondent. You will find good opportunity for wearing all kinds, from the plain linen, lawn, percale, muslin and flannel to the handsomest silk or satin one you can afford and have use for. You will be "in the swim" of fashion, at least, if you do. But what is of more value than being in fashion, you will, with only two or three skirts at most, find yourself supplied with sufficient gowns for all your needs through the summer, unless I except a couple of all white gowns for very warm weather. I would like to emphasize the fact that the new belts are now wide. For ordinary everyday wear they should be of leather, the buckle small and that also of leather. The fancy silver and gold wire belts, and others that are very showy, should be worn only on dressy costumes. It is decided bad taste to wear such things in broad daylight on the street.

As I have hinted, white collars and cuffs will be worn a great deal with colored shirt waists. One waist will outwear (without laundrying, I mean) two or three collars and cuffs, so this fashion will be found convenient and economical as regards washing.

The materials used for waists this season are much more brilliant than they were. Red seems to be the foundation of many of them, and plaids, stripes and mixtures are seen largely in two or three colors. However, the wearing of black, dark blue or dark green skirts tone them down and keeps them from looking too garling and flashy. In making a shirt waist of striped goods it is well to make the stripes meet in points down the seams (especially in the back) if you can. It gives the figure a slender appearance.

A stiff cap of chamois fibre should be put in at the top of the sleeves to hold them out in place after they have become limp from the loss of starch. White cuffs and collars are even seen on silk and satin waists. In that case they, too, are of silk or suitable material to go with silk. Large sleeves are not disappearing in spite of all that has been said. The sleeves to this season's shirt waist, whether made at home or imported, are little if any smaller than they have been.

Black and white, that is, black on white or white on black, in the matter of dress trimming, is much worn. For instance, black and white striped moiré might form the skirt untrimmed. The waist is a tight-fitting back (plain black) with open front, showing a hanging over white vest. There is a full basque-skirt (plain black) which is finished with white moiré (to match front) collar and cuffs.

Though capes will be worn largely, there is a semi-loose sack-coat, pretty well fitting in the back, that will be much worn as it pulls on over big sleeves without much trouble. These are shown in black, chocolate and very dark blue. They fasten in front with one large button.

Easter millinery gives the idea that there will be much exaggeration both in height, color and size. The large hats are made to look high by the use of tall bows and clusters of plumes. Crimped silk, tulle, lace, etc., are much used in trimming, and the "latest" in veils is that of tulle (of more expensive lace or net, if desired) put on thus: It must be two yards long and wide enough to cover face, chin, and hat brim well. It is placed over the face and hat brim as any other veil would be, and carried up to the back of brim and there crossed and secured. Then each end is brought down loosely under the chin and tied in a big fluffy, short-end bow, to the left of chin.

The coat basques referred to are mostly made of covert cloth or tweed. Everything in size short of a cart wheel is

seen in hats, but the tiny little clumps of lace, tulle, flowers and aigrettes called "bonnets" and "toques," are very chic and pretty and a great relief to the eyes that have been looking at the big hats.

## RECIPES.

**Tea Biscuits.**—One quart of flour, two heaping tablespoonfuls lard, two cupfuls milk (new is best), one teaspoonful soda, two of cream of tartar and one saltspoonful of salt. Sift the cream of tartar into the flour, add the salt; the lard, rubbing it lightly through the flour with the hands; the soda, dissolved in a little of the milk, and then as quickly as possible the rest of the milk. Knead all together as rapidly as you can; roll out lightly and make into cakes. Bake in a quick oven.

**Genuine Boston Brown Bread.**—Four large cupfuls of sifted Indian meal, two cupfuls of coarse flour, either wheat or rye, one tablespoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of molasses and enough boiling water to make as thick as griddle cake batter. Add half a teaspoonful of yeast when nearly cool and put in an iron baking dish, covering tightly. Set in a warm place until it cracks over the top, which should be wetted before it is set to rise. Bake five or six hours in moderate oven which will not burn the crust to a cinder.

**Flannel Rolls.**—One cupful of sweet milk, whites of two eggs, two-thirds of a cupful of butter, flour to make a thick batter, one-half cupful of yeast, two tablespoonfuls of sugar. Rise overnight, add the butter and eggs, etc., in the morning, and enough flour to make a limber dough. Form into rolls and after the second rising bake.

## UNSAFE PETROLEUM LAMPS.

The Kind of Lamp Which Should Be Used in Every Home.

Starting out with the impression that something should be done to put a stop to the loss of life and the fires caused by "lamp accidents," the London Lancet has been experimenting with a number of lamps—almost all of the cheap sorts—purchased at shops in the poorer districts of London. Even the cheap oils were found to be reasonably safe and were found to pass the flashing test of 73 degrees. Out of the whole number of twenty-two lamps which were tried, two only were probably safe, and of the rest six were "very dangerous," nine "dangerous" and five "uncertain." It was found very difficult—almost impossible, indeed—to cause even the cheapest of these lamps to explode, although efforts were made to bring about the result. Even when the temperature of the oil and reservoir was 100 degrees, blowing down the chimney simply extinguished the flame. Generally speaking, the conclusion is that a great majority of accidents arise from the faulty construction of the lamps.

The reservoir should be of metal or non-fragile material. It should be fixed firmly in the base and not rest loosely, as in the case with many beautiful and artistic lamps, in a cup-shaped stand.

The lamp should have a base heavy enough to minimize the risk of upsetting. The burner should be connected to the reservoir by a screw with well cut thread, requiring at least three entire turns before it becomes detached from the reservoir. It should be made tight to the reservoir by means of a washer, bayonet joints, or pin and slot joints, not to say the mere fitting on of the burner like a cap on the mouth of a reservoir, should be prohibited.

The wicks should be constructed of material of good quality, and should fill the space of the wick tube. The wick should be replaced by a new one as it gets worn and diminishes in size. Circular wick tubes should never be fed by a flat wick, the edges of which are not likely to close up in the wick tube. The wick in these cases should be a complete cylinder.

The wick tube should be made to descend in the reservoir within at least a quarter of an inch of the bottom. Assuming the screw of the burner to be free from defect, it would be impossible for oil then to escape—the source of most of the danger of lamps, nearly all of which have their wicks hanging unguarded in the reservoir. The arrangement would also render it impossible for flame to travel into the reservoir space.

## ELEPHANT RESCUES A CHILD.

Bessie Rooney, the ten-year-old sister of Michael Rooney, the bareback rider, was about to be hugged to death by a bear the other morning at Tattersall's Chicago, when Babylon, one of Ringling Brothers' big elephants, knocked the brute down and saved the child's life. The bear, known as "Growler," has a vicious temper. He was chained near the elephants. The little girl is a friend of the elephants, and was romping with some of them when Growler seized her and closed his paws around her slender form. Babylon, who had been an interested spectator, brought his trunk down with crushing force on Growler's head. The bear was stunned by the blow and released the child, who had fainted. The elephant then picked her up and placed her where the bear could not reach her. Attendants, who heard Bessie's screams, ran to her assistance, but arrived too late to rob Babylon of the honor of saving a human life.

## AN ACCOMPLISHED TRAMP.

First Tramp—Hello, pard, you look as if you'd been in clover.  
Second Tramp—I was—been six months in Chicago.  
I most starved there.  
I didn't. I can beg in ninety-three languages.

## DECEIVED BY APPEARANCE.

I believe you are the very same man I fed this morning, said a housewife as she gave a tramp a handout.  
No marm, he answered as he turned the four hard boiled eggs over, I warn't never on this lay before.

## AROUND THE WORLD IN 40 DAYS.

Effect of the Completion of the Russian Railroad Across Siberia.

Reports from the line of the Trans-Siberian railroad indicate that Central Asia is soon to feel some such impulse of growth with the development of Tcheliabinsk, Petropavlovsk, Omsk, Tomsk, and others along the line of the new railroad have already felt the impulse. Crowds began rushing into the country last summer and autumn, and although the line to Tomsk was opened only in December, the city now has electric lights in its streets, and there and at the other cities named new stone houses have been going up. Even the Siberian winter could not entirely cool the ardor of the Russians.

But aside from the spectacle of a sudden development of modern civilization in Asia, the Trans-Siberian railroad has an interest for mankind from the fact that this line is materially to shorten the journey round the world. It is only about twenty years since a journey round the world in eighty days seemed remarkable. It is now easily done in sixty-five days. A ship of the Peninsular and Oriental line sails from Brindisi, Italy, every Sunday evening for Bombay. On the Friday evening before the Peninsular and Oriental express, crossing the Continent by rail to Brindisi, leaves London with mails and passengers for the eastward bound steamer. That steamer reaches Aden in nine days and Bombay in fifteen days, so that on reaching the latter point her passengers are usually 16 1-2 days from London, as the vessel is due at 8 a.m. These ships, though not especially swift, are extremely regular in their time of arrival.

Going on eastward, the passenger reaches Hong Kong 31 1-2 to 32 1-2 days from London, and Yokohama on the average 43 days from London. The journey thence to London, across the Pacific, the continent of America, and the Atlantic, has been made in 21 days, so that if the traveller makes close connections at Yokohama he accomplishes his journey round the world in from 63 to 64 days.

Most of this journey is made on the ordinary schedule time of railroads and steamboats, though the twenty-one days' journey from Yokohama to London was the result of a special effort. The ordinary schedule time for that part of the journey is, however, much faster than the schedule time of any equal distance on the journey from London to Yokohama, because the ships that cross the Pacific are swifter than those of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, while the train service across this continent is the swiftest in the world for such a distance, and, of course, there are no swifter merchant ships than the best of the Atlantic liners. There are no delays at ports in the voyage across the Pacific and the Atlantic, as in the tortuous voyages of the Peninsular and Oriental ships through the Red Sea and around the continent of Asia. There are about 140 degrees of east longitude between London and Yokohama, and it requires forty-three days to make the journey, while between Yokohama and London are 220 degrees of longitude, and these are covered in from 21 to 23 days.

Of course the distance actually traversed in the first part of the journey is nearly as great as that in the last part, and much less of it is by rail. It is the lack of rail communication across Asia that makes the journey round the world so long as it now is. Europe and Asia being traversed by rail the whole remaining water journey would be made by swift ships with few stops.

The journey by rail from London to Moscow is now made in from three and a half to four days. The journey from Moscow to Tomsk has already been made in eight days, with several uncompleted bridges between Omsk and Tomsk, and delays sometimes of many hours at intermediate stations. When all this is in proper running order the journey from Moscow to Tomsk will be made in

## FIVE OR SIX DAYS.

in spite of the very moderate rate of speed attempted on the Trans-Siberian line. Tomsk will then be about nine days from London, and when the Trans-Siberian line is completed the journey from London across Asia will be made in about nineteen or twenty days. The journey across the Sea of Japan from Vladivostok, the terminus of the Trans-Siberian road, will not occupy more than two days at the most, and with swift steamers such as those in service on the Pacific, could be shortened so as to bring the nearest seaport on the west coast of Japan within forty hours of Vladivostok, and Yokohama within twenty-two or twenty-three days of London.

Add to this twenty-one days for the journey eastward from Yokohama to London, and the trip around the world is made in forty-three or forty-four days, or in the time now occupied in the journey from London to Yokohama.

Almost the whole gain is made by reason of the Trans-Siberian railway, which makes the route vastly more direct than at present. In fact, the greater part of the journey will then be made within the belt lying between the fiftieth and sixtieth parallels of north latitude. This calculation is based upon the moderate speed of the Trans-Siberian railway. Could the speed of its express trains be made to approach that of our fastest trans-Continental trains, the journey might be shortened by at least two days, and might by special expedition at all points be brought down to half the time of Mr. Fogg's famous journey. There is a possibility of even further expedition of the journey by means of swift steamers directly from Vladivostok to some port on the western coast of this continent.

## DANGER IN WRAPPING PAPER.

The city of Montpellier, in France, is said to be the first to regulate the kind of wrapping paper that articles of food shall be delivered in. Colored paper is absolutely forbidden. Printed paper and old manuscripts may only be used for dry vegetables. For all other articles of food new paper, white or straw-colored, must be used.

## THE FRENCH ZOUAVES.

Composed of Young Foreign Adventurers From All Parts of the World.

Perhaps the most famous body of soldiers of modern times has been the French corps called the zouaves. This body of daring and picturesquely attired fighters reached the height of its reputation in the Crimean War, in 1855, which was fought between the Russians on one side and the Turks, French, English and Italians on the other. The zouave corps at that time was supposed to consist of Frenchmen, but was really quite international. Many daring young foreign adventurers had joined it, and it was known to include in its ranks graduates of Oxford, Paris, Göttingen and other universities. It is probable that a majority of its members were in it more for love of fighting than from love of country.

In France, however, the zouave name and uniform will survive. Only lately the French government has ordered home from Algeria a single company to be stationed in detached parts of France and used as the nuclei of new zouave corps in case of war with any foreign country.

The way in which the French military men induce emulation among the diverse corps of their army is illustrated by a story of the Second Zouaves, a corps serving in Africa, which was lately told in Paris.

During a long and terrible march in Algeria, under a blistering sun this corps had been following all day a battalion of famous marchers, the Eighth Chasseurs, a pied, or long-legged "foot cavalry." Both corps were tired, hungry, faint and inclined to complain. The zouaves averaged much shorter and squatter men than the foot chasseurs. Towards evening the expedition arrived near a town. The commandant of the chasseurs halted them, and made a speech, couched in slangy terms such as would please the men, asking them if they wished to make an entry into this town worthy of the best marchers in the army.

"Yes!" the chasseurs answered. So he reformed them in parade order, and with bugles blowing, they marched into the town, though every man was half-dead, at a springing quickstep.

The zouaves, who were close behind, saw this with indignation. Their colonel halted them, too, and made them a speech in French which would translate into English about as follows: "Look at that, you rascals! Are you going to take the bluff of a set of gawks like those?"

"Never!" the zouaves screamed. So their colonel had the roll sounded. These zouaves, like all others, have a sort of "gymnastic drill," in which they do a great deal of running and some very active manipulation of their muskets. The order for this drill was given.

So the zouaves, who but a few moments before had been ready to sink, entered the town at a prancing run, swinging their guns about fantastically, and the chasseurs were duly humiliated.

## THE MAKING OF PENS.

More Steel Used for Them Than for Guns.

"Do you know anything about pens?" asked a stationer of a reporter the other day. "I thought you didn't. Now let me tell you something about the metallic pen that you never dreamed of. It requires the finest kind of steel to make a really first-class pen. I have been overhauling records and find that a greater quantity of steel is used annually in the pen-making business than in all the gun, sword and needle factories in the world. The recent popularity of the typewriter has, of course, diminished the use of pens, but the output is enormous, nevertheless.

"In Birmingham, England, there are a number of pen manufacturing plants that turn out a total of 150,000,000 pens every working week. The majority of the workers are women, and the wages, while low, help to make Birmingham a notable seat of industry. To make a million pens a full ton of steel is required. There is really so much work about the manufacture of a pen that it is surprising that they'll sell as cheap as they do; but, as I have said, the production is so great that it is a profitable business. Pens have been in use a whole century now, but forty years ago, when they took the place of quills as the popular ink-spreader, it was one of the secrets of the age how the slit was made in the pen. Those employed in that particular branch of the work were obliged to record an oath that they would not reveal the secret of that slit-cutting process.

"The secret became an open one, though, in the natural course of events, and soon almost every interested person knew that the slit was made with a pair of scissors fixed in a press. Men perform the initial work. That is to say, they roll out the steel to a proper thickness. The women then take hold, cutting the steel into strips as wide as two pens are long. Presses do the cutting for the women. The steel when it leaves the presses is shaped like a pen, but is flat. The forms made by presses are then put into a red-hot furnace, and when thoroughly heated are taken out and permitted to cool slowly. This process makes them soft. Then the women use fast presses, that hammer the points as well as stamp the name of the manufacturer.

"This done, the pens are heated again and while still hot are cast into oil. They are much harder, but dirty and greasy when taken out. To clean and whiten them they are boiled in water to which soda has been added. The next step is to place them in a cylinder which revolves over gas jets. This turns them blue. A number of other minor details and the pen is packed and ready for the market. Whether it be the rich or the poor man's pen, the mode of manufacture is alike."

A custom of Puritan times has been received in Machias, Me., in the opening of the town meeting with prayer.

## SOMETHING ORIGINAL.

Queer Dancers Who in Growsome Guise Sought for Pleasure.

Although at the present day the majority of balls and dances are conducted upon general lines, and show but little that is novel, there have been at all times a few enterprising hostesses who have broken through the thick hide of convention, and given their guests something original in this line.

Such, for instance, must have been the host or hostess who, during the time of the great plague in London, first brought into fashion the Dance of Death. At these dances, which became very popular among a certain class during that terrible period, the dancers, both male and female, who were invited to these growsome evenings were disguised as skeletons, and so utterly reckless had the plague made people that in many cases they left the ballroom, and, in the dead of night, finished their dances in the open streets.

Somewhat curious, too, were the Victim Balls, which became the rage in France at the close of the Reign of Terror. The dancers, dressed in the costliest costumes, had one and all a band of crepe round the left arm, for no one could be invited to one of these balls unless he or she had lost, during the Reign of Terror, at least one relative by the guillotine.

Fancy dress balls, in which the guests are dressed in costumes representing the pieces in a set of chessmen, are by no means uncommon; but a short time ago a certain hostess went one better than this, and gave a card dance, at which the invited guests were requested to appear in the character of the particular playing card allotted to them.

The dresses of the majority of the guests were most elaborate, particularly those of the court cards, but the dress of a gentleman to whose lot had fallen the character of ace of diamonds was simplicity itself. He appeared in ordinary evening dress, but a magnificent diamond in the centre of his dress shirt front. This idea was likewise followed by the gentleman representing the five of the same suit, who, in addition to a diamond in his shirt front wore a pair of diamond links.

A dance which occurred after a banquet given to 21 armless persons at the Royal Free Inn, Dartmouth, must have been a curiosity in its way. Unfortunately we are not told how it was managed, but doubtless the dances were confined to jigs and hornpipes, as a waltz performed by a couple without arms would be a somewhat difficult feat to accomplish.

Blind people, as many of our readers are aware, provided they had been blind for a sufficiently long time, and the apartment in which they are is one well known to them, can move about as quickly as people with their eyesight. At a certain asylum for the blind dances often take place among the inmates, and it is not a little curious to see couples who are totally blind waltzing round the room, never colliding with other couples, and dancing as gracefully as their more fortunate brethren. In fact, unless one knew that the dancers were blind, he would never guess it from their manner of dancing.

## THE EARLY RISER.

She Is Often Neither Healthy, Wealthy Nor Wise.

The lazy young persons who enjoy the extra snooze in the morning hours that all too frequently they have great difficulty in securing will probably rise up and call us blessed when we announce that their preference shows a rare discretion backed up by some sound professional wisdom. Getting up early in the morning is to be commended as a necessity rather than a benefit. Physicians and scientists agree that sleep in the morning is healthful and restorative, and that children and nervous or delicate persons should never be wakened until sleep leaves them of its own accord. This is all right and as it should be; but the necessity exists for early rising, and therefore, must be met. Unpleasant as it is, there is no alternative for the great masses of the people. If one would prosper in business or any occupation whatever, it is necessary to be on hand betimes in the morning. Why not, then, simply treat it as an imperative duty and stop fussing over it as making people healthy, wealthy and wise? There are constitutions and temperaments that are never at their best when deprived of a morning sleep. Robust and energetic people are fond of stirring up whole families with early rising ideas. They experience no inconvenience, and take it as a matter of course that no one else should. Early rising is well enough, provided one can rest at some other portion of the day; but the hours of darkness were made for sleep, and as time for the most part is pretty evenly divided into day and night, it shows that nature knew quite well what she was about when she arranged things. People have lived, flourished and grown healthy, wealthy and wise who got up at noon and went to bed just before daylight; but this is by no means natural, nor is it approved by those who have made the subject of life and health a profound study.

## ELECTRIC LIGHT HEALTHY.

Electric lighting has made numerous contributions to sanitation. Dr. Saunders, medical officer of the London Board of Health, says that it has done much toward making the employees of commercial and manufacturing establishments healthier. "Faces that were pale and wan from work in gas-lighted basements, stores and shops are much improved since the introduction of electricity. The heat from the gas-jets and poor ventilation are responsible for much sickness. It is also shown that in the same city the electric light has lessened crime."