

With the issuance by General Blanco of a decree announcing the lines upon which it is established, and the administration of the oath of office to the new officials on the first instant, the new Cuban home rule government may be said to be fairly launched. While it will have only the best wishes for its success in the hope that it may give the full amount of local control of local affairs claimed for it, it must be confessed that the hope is borne out by the full Spanish text of the new home rule constitution. For although it marks a considerable advance upon any system of local government yet granted by Spain to a colony, it differs in essential features from the telegraphed summary, and falls very short of the measure of autonomy granted by Great Britain to Canada. The most serious objection to it is the absolute sovereignty retained by Spain in the right of the Cortes to repeal or amend the Cuban constitution at any time, and the enormous powers reserved to the governor-general appointed by the crown. To him is given absolute control of the army and navy and the police, the right to summon, adjourn or dissolve the Insular Parliament with a suspensory veto over its legislation, the power to appoint seventeen of the thirty-five members of the Senate and to propose laws, and, in certain emergencies, to suspend the constitution and govern the island himself. The five ministers, though nominally responsible to the legislature, are in reality to be appointed or removed by him without consultation with that body, and to him is also committed the whole body of patronage of the public service.

Clearly, Premier Sagasta was right in declaring that the new constitution in nowise lessened or weakened the central authority, and to further strengthen it, care is taken to place the colonial Parliament absolutely under Spanish control. For as the Senate is given concurrent powers with the popular Chamber, and seventeen of its members are appointed for life by the governor-general, the election of one other member favorable to him—which can always be secured—will give him control of all legislation. Further to fortify the Spanish sovereignty, the appointment of all the judges is wholly reserved to the Madrid government, and as to these Spanish judges are to be referred all questions of interpretation of the constitution and the laws, the effect is to deprive the Cubans of any recourse against Spanish absolutism. Other features of the scheme certain to prove objectionable to the Cubans are those providing that Spain shall fix the amount of the public debt to be paid by Cuba, and also that of the annual tribute to be paid by the Spanish treasury. Indeed, the measure of real autonomy offered must seem to them so inadequate even if operated in good faith as to be scarcely worth serious discussion.

VAN AND VON.

What They Mean as Prefixes to German Names.

It is a common mistake of those who speak only English to suppose that the prefix "van" before a Dutch name signifies nobility. In the "low countries"—that is, in the kingdoms of the Netherlands and of Belgium—"van" has no particular meaning. Names with "van" are to be read on shops, as well as on the doors of the most aristocratic mansions. The humblest persons have them, as well as the most exalted, and a great number of the very oldest families are without it.

But in Germany "von" implies nobility and all persons who belong to the nobility prefix "von" to their family names without any exception. Persons who do not belong to the nobility cannot have the right to put "von" before their names. A man who is knighted for some reason, however, has the same right to put "von" before his family name as a person of ancient nobility. For instance, when Alexander Humboldt was knighted he became Alexander von Humboldt. All his descendants, male and female, take the prefix.

IN DOUBT.

Bobbie—There was a new boy at school to-day.

Bingo—Why should that make you so late coming home?

Bobbie—I didn't know at one time but I would have to be carried home.

A BRAVE HORSE.

Sho—John, are you perfectly sure that this horse is not afraid of trains?

John—I should say he wasn't!

On the contrary, he runs right into them.

A DISTINCTION AND A DIFFERENCE.

But you said she sang beautifully.

No, I didn't.

What did you say?

I said she was a beautiful singer.

ABOUT THE HOUSE.

THE USE OF FLANNELS.

A flannel garment is more comfortable than a stiff one, and the garments that come in contact with the skin should be pliant and most soft. For example, birds and animals are immediately covered with softest down, or hair, easily and gradually ventilated, cleansed, and dried.

To make flannels soft they must first be clean, and to cleanse them water should be soft and warm enough to loosen the dirt or oil, or perspiration, or all three.

The fibres of cotton and linen and wool differ greatly. It is interesting to note the difference under a microscope, but as every laundress is not expected to be a microscopist, a few practical points may be made clear by a little common sense and observation. Pass a hot iron over the dry surface of cotton and linen and wool, and note the different results. Silk and wool may be similarly treated with similar results. These are animal products and are closely akin.

Under a warm iron, skill and experience must ascertain the degree of heat, wool and silk will soften and yet may stretch it. Herein lies the secret of success. Wool and silk should be pressed and stretched and turned and pressed again until it is perfectly dry and pliant and every fibre has felt the gentle handling. At length the garment may be ironed in shape, and then if the process has been skillfully managed, the garment will look almost like new and it may be worn for years and become threadbare without thickening or shrinking.

Being of different nature—different fibre—cotton and wool are not so easily cleaned. Their absorbing qualities are dissimilar. Moisture does not pass through them equally and they dry unequally, so that the skin is in danger from draughts under cotton clothing where it would weather a storm under woollen stuff. Sometimes after perspiring you may observe that the side of the garment next the skin is warm and dry where the moisture has passed through, and the outside of the garment is damp. Witness this in a horse blanket, and see that the blankets for valuable horses are of pure wool.

Flannels should never be sprinkled. In this climate they seldom are too dry to press, but sometimes when the air is singularly dry and hot, it may be found necessary to moisten them before pressing, and this can be done by ringing heavy towels out of the hottest water possible to bear the hands in and wrapping the flannels in the hot cloths, then rolling them smooth and close and lying in a warm place ready for pressing. If the garment should become too damp, the process of pressing and stretching and turning should be equally prolonged.

FOR PLANT LOVERS.

Instead of putting a stand, with the family Bible or photograph album, or a fifty-cent imitation cloisonne vase on it, in the bay window, why don't you make it beautiful with vines and plants? Seems like letting a golden opportunity go to waste not to do so.

Have a box made a foot wide, six or eight inches deep, and as long as the central window if your bay is wide. Line the inside with tea lead, and cover the outside with birch bark or lichens, or paint it a dark wood brown. The lichens or the bark give the prettiest effect. To lift this box from the floor to the level of the glass have two supports made, a la saw-horse, with the bark on.

You can fill this box with earth and grow your plants in it, or you can run a board lengthwise through it, partitioning off a space for vines to grow and droop over the edge of the box on the room side, and set the pots in the remaining space. Tradescantia, othonna, and oxalis do well as trailers, especially the first, which will thrive without much light.

Brackets on the sides of the window may be made to accommodate other plants, especially an ivy or some vine to grow up the side of the casing. These brackets are also an excellent place for coleus, the light shining through their parti-colored foliage and making it doubly brilliant and gay. Do not make the mistake of fastening the brackets too high; they should be but a few inches above the tops of the pots on the table, and by putting two, one slightly above the other, on each side of the window, it is easy to obtain a graceful effect of a verdure-framed window.

Such boxes and brackets do not obstruct the light and air, or the view; they make the window a bit of conservatory that is as attractive without as within. Remember, however, to allow liberal quantities of charcoal and broken pots for drainage while filling in the soil.

A plant table made by sawing off the legs of an old stand or table, boxing in the top, and then filling it with soil in which plants grow, or which holds the pot in which they grow, enables one to mass her house plants ornamentally and to care for them without much trouble. The table may be quickly wheeled away from the window on a cold night, or to the kitchen for a bath.

If you are going to raise house plants try to do a good job at it. Don't have a row of unsightly clay pots each with a little green twig peering out of it in a discouraged sort of way, ranged in a row in your windows. That's the

style of house plant culture that gives the beholder "that fatigued feeling." If your provision for winter plants means a lot of newly-set cuttings at this season of the year, it might save time and trouble to toss them all out of doors, wait till next summer, and start afresh, then, with the intention of having large, thrifty, well shaped and abundantly foliaged plants for next autumn. It depends a good deal on the management whether house plants are a pleasure or a nuisance.

HOW TO MAKE OLD GARMENTS LOOK NEW.

A new and practically sure way of renovating and restoring to their former appearance, spotted, soiled or faded cloth or serge gowns has lately been discovered. Pick about twenty ivy leaves, young and green, wash them carefully and place them in a jug or basin. Add about one pint of boiling water, cover up the jug or basin and leave them to soak for two or three hours, when it will be ready for use. The garment to be cleaned must be thoroughly brushed, inside and out and all untidy braid or lining removed from the bottom. When ready spread it on the table and carefully sponge with the ivy water. It must then be hung up to dry when it will be found to have recovered its former color and look quite like new. Black silk may be cleaned in the same manner, but it requires more care. If the silk is in breadths it must be slightly sponged and then tightly rolled over a cloth wound around a roller and left to dry. Sponge black satin on the wrong side with a mixture of alcohol and cold water, laying the satin on a smooth linen towel or sheet to absorb the dirt and dust. Do not wet the satin much, just enough to remove the dust, changing the cloth as it becomes soiled. Black lace may also be renovated when soiled or brown with age, by sponging with ivy water and rolling over a cloth wound around a roller. It should not be ironed.

CHEERFULNESS.

Every sunshiny morning ought to teach us something about cheerfulness—its value and its influence. It is so much easier for us all to begin our daily labors, when, as we have drawn our shades for our first look on the world, the sun has made us a cheerful salutation.

It is so much easier for all to meet our daily perplexities when the faces about the breakfast table are unclouded, and the friend who passes us in the street does so with a cheerful nod and a smile. Indeed, so potent are the influences of others upon us at this time that one is sometimes inclined to believe that one of the unpardonable sins in life is being cross in the morning!

We sometimes imagine that virtues, even those which win our respect, do not require cheerfulness, that they are too big for such little considerations. But are they, in reality, of much value without it? To resign a pleasure for the sake of another is a commendable act; but when we make it with a sigh, even a child unconsciously resents the act. A crying baby can never be stillled by an irritable nurse, or a mother who is in a hurry to go. Cheerfulness is a power in itself, and does the work of a hundred virtues, since it includes them all. Cheerfulness is not noisy, nor obtrusive, nor ever-smiling. Nor yet is it an attribute of the careless and the unintelligent. It is a quality of character, born of serenity, and of faith in some, of temperament in others, of unselfishness in all. Excellence never wins a following without it, and courage becomes only a brutal attribute. Even heroism robbed of it loses the force of its own example. Cheerfulness is an attitude of the soul, consciously taken but unconsciously held.

TO SUGAR-CURE PORK.

For 80 lbs of ham or shoulders, use 8 oz. of saltpeter, 7 oz. of brown sugar and one pint of salt. Mix well and rub on cut side of meat same day of butchering. Lay the meat on an inclined surface, where it cannot freeze, and drain for 24 hours. The cellar is perhaps the best place. Then rub the 80 lbs. of meat with 2 qts. salt. Let it lie where it cannot freeze for 14 days, on an inclined surface, so the brine can run off. Then hang it to dry, or smoke it if preferred. When thoroughly dry, put each piece in a flour sack and stuff hay all around it, so the sack cannot touch the meat, else some troublesome fly will spoil it all. Or if preferred, the meat may be packed in a barrel in oats or hay; anything to keep it dry and secure from flies.

Side meat may also be cured in the same way, and is then equal to the sugar-cured meat we buy and far superior to ordinary salt or smoked meat.

PRETTY MENDING BAGS.

Pretty mending bags for silk stockings are made in the half-moon shape familiar in cretonne as the general darning bag. A soft-silk of an all-over pattern is selected, and the usual needle-case added in the center of the semicircle; the whole bag is made up a slightly reduced plan from that generally used.

ENOUGH FOR ONE.

Rapturous Youth—Darling, my salary is \$20 a week. Do you think you could live on that?

His Affianced—Why, yes, George, I can get along on that. But what'll you live on?

HEALTH.

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE WINDPIPE.

A most alarming accident, and one which is often as serious as it looks, is the sucking into the windpipe of a morsel of food or some other substance. This is not a very rare accident, especially with children, whose hold-all, after the pockets are crammed, is usually the mouth.

The articles which have been drawn into the larynx through the sudden taking of a deep breath are of the most varied character, such as jackstones, nuts, pebbles, marbles, coins, buttons and pins, not to mention burs, corks, tin whistles, leeches, shawl-pins, hair-pins, false teeth, and even a real tooth which slipped from the forceps just as it had been extracted. Pieces of food are sometimes inhaled through hearty laughing or excited talking while eating.

The entrance of the foreign substance even if it is only water, causes violent coughing and a spasmodic closing of the larynx which almost amounts to suffocation. If the body has passed through the larynx into the windpipe, or has been thrown out, the suffocative attack passes off, and the sufferer may think his trouble is over.

Sometimes it is, if the coughing has expelled the intruder; but if this has fallen below the larynx the condition is very serious. The body may be expelled during another violent fit of coughing, but often it can be removed only by the operation of opening the windpipe, known as tracheotomy.

The danger of the accident depends much upon the size and nature of the substance inhaled; if it is a hard smooth and rounded body, such as a melon seed, a small marble or pebble, or the like, there is a very good chance that it may be expelled in the same way it entered.

To favor this expulsion the patient should lie down, with the head lower than the feet, or he may be held up for a minute or two by the heels, in order to get the assistance of the force of gravity. This, however, should only be done if the doctor is at hand to perform tracheotomy as a last resort, because the foreign body may become fixed in a narrow part of the larynx, and so cause suffocation.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

At this season of the year a few hints in regard to the care of the feet may not be amiss. Chillsblains are a slight frostbite and when the system is not in good condition and the circulation is poor they are liable to appear on the hands as well as the feet, after exposure to the cold. When they have once begun they are likely to return every winter. The remedy for their return is to keep the feet and hands warm protecting them with heavy, woollen stockings and mittens, and whenever the feet, or hands become chilled, to restore their circulation and warmth by rubbing them briskly before going near the fire. To relieve the burning and itching if the skin is not broken apply a lotion of equal parts of sweet oil and spirits of turpentine. The inflammation may be reduced by painting the chillsblains with iodine, which may be procured, for the purpose, of any druggist, this leaves a stain on the skin, however, and will spot the stockings or any article of clothing brought in contact with it while it is moist, but it is usually effectual. Do not use any of these applications if the chillsblains are ulcerated or the skin broken, it is best to consult a physician, who will give an ointment for local application and perhaps a tonic for the general health. A simple treatment for ingrowing toe nails and one that usually affords immediate and lasting relief is as follows: Cut a little V in the middle of the nail at the top, and let the nail severely alone at the sides. Then with a knife scrape the nail in the middle from the center to the V. The tendency will be for the nail to grow together, and in doing this and making good the thinned portion its growth into the sides is suspended. It is essential, of course, to wear a shoe that is wide enough to remove pressure from the toes. As the nail lengthens, trim at the end only and keep the V there, also continue to scrape the nail. This is a sure remedy if taken in time.

IF YOU BURN YOURSELF.

The pain from slight burns is very great. An excellent application is a thick paste of common baking soda moistened with water, spread on a piece of linen or cotton and bound on the part, writes Elizabeth Robinson Scovil in the Ladies' Home Journal. This can be kept wet by squeezing water on it from a sponge or cloth until the smarting is soothed. A thick coat of starch can be used instead of the soda or wheat flour if nothing better can be had, but neither should be applied if the skin is broken. In this case it is better to use vaseline, olive or linseed oil. The doctor will apply some preparation containing carbolic acid. If the air can be effectually excluded from a burn the pain is relieved. Blisters should be pricked and the fluid absorbed with a soft cloth before dressing. If the clothing adheres to the skin the loose part should be cut away and the patches of material soaked off with oil or warm water.

TO BE ENCOURAGED.

Mother—What does that young fidgety mean coming here every evening?

Daughter—I think he means business mamma.

TO PLEASE A MAN.

There is somewhere in existence, a remedy to the effect that a woman's first, best and greatest delight should be to please her husband. How far this is lived up to, let the condition of the homes you visit testify.

But in conversing with different men at different times, I have elicited some facts with regard to the masculine view of the matter which assure me that in order to please her husband a woman must be as near perfection as it is possible for any mortal to be in this lower world, and not stand in danger of having her wings sprout out and carry her away to "mansions in the skies."

She must be always cheerful. A man doesn't want to meet sour looks, and watery eyes, when he comes home from his arduous business of riding his wheel to beat the century record, and perhaps, in business hours dictating to his pretty typewriter; no, indeed! It is a woman's business to look sweet. What if her head does ache? Heads have ached ever since the flood, and nobody ever yet died of the headache. Women must expect to have headaches, and they ought to learn to bear them with calmness. No need of going to bed with every little headache. It is childish. And it is just the same with backache. The man will tell you that his mother, and his grandmother, and likely enough his great grandmother, all had headaches and backaches, most of the time, and lived to be ninety, or ninety-five, and brought up eight or ten children, and did all their housework.

What a woman ought to do when she doesn't feel up to the average is to fly around lively, and think of something, and somebody, beside herself, and ten to one she'll be all right in a little while.

Then it isn't necessary for a woman to be describing her aches and pains all the time. It is utter weariness to the soul of man to be eternally hearing about the awful darting pains of neuralgia, and the knobby, sore and distressing pangs of rheumatism. And unpleasant reminiscences—that is another subject that should be avoided by the woman who would please her husband. Heaven deliver the man whose wife is always recalling the unpleasant occurrences which have marred her past! What if poor Aunt Jennima did die a raving maniac? She is dead, and let us hope, at rest—and nobody wants her for breakfast, or for dinner either.

The woman who would please her husband must never act the part of a martyr. Oh, these domestic martyrs are terrible! They are worse than a northeast rainstorm with a house where the chimney smokes and the roof leaks. The domestic martyr generally has faded blue eyes, and a washedout and bedraggled appearance. She looks as if she had hung out on the clothes line through a rainy winter. You couldn't put stiffening enough in the skirt of a dress for her to make it stand out flaring, anyway. It would draw in toward her heels by the force of her woes, by the time she had worn it two days.

She is always comparing her lot with that of some other woman whom she knows.

"Yes, I am so confined," she says, when any one asks her if she has seen away during the summer. "Housework is very confining, anyway, but it does seem as if there never was a woman so tied up to it as I am. Somehow, my family never can seem to get along a minute without me. No, curious, isn't it? Why, James couldn't get into a clean shirt without my help, and as for the children—good land! they can't so much as wash their faces without me to find the soap for 'em! Yes, I s'pose the beach would do me good, but there's nothing of the kind for me! No, Well, I try to be resigned to the Lord's will, but sometimes it is hard. Yes, poor Mrs. Dingley died awful sudden; and they say that Dingley is about crazy. He always thought so much of her. Why, he used to go upstairs and bring down her gloves and bonnet when they were going to meeting, I've heard it said. Landsake! I wonder how long it would be before anybody went upstairs and brought down my bonnet for me? And I wonder who'd go crazy if I should die? Humph! almost any man would be looking out for a second wife—a younger one, too. Men are such forgetful creatures. Well, I s'pose I'd ought to try and be resigned," and she heaves a sigh like a locomotive blowing off steam, and subsides into silence.

To please her husband, a woman should be careful to cook the dishes he likes. It doesn't matter whether she likes them or not—a woman isn't supposed to have any special appetites. Those things are pre-eminently masculine. It is not quite genteel for a woman to give her mind much to such vulgar affairs as beefsteak and onions—only as she does it to please her husband.

If he likes codfish let him have codfish. If he wants liver, let him feast on liver. If he sighs for "mother's bread," get his mother to come and make his bread for a month, and very likely he'll be glad to go back to baker's bread by that time. The glamor of the past generally hangs about that bread that mother made.

The wife who would please her husband, must be able to sit quietly and calmly serene while he reads the evening paper, and keeps the whole to himself, though she is dying to get hold of it, and she must try to look intensely delighted when he reads to her the entertaining news of how wheat has advanced a point in the markets, and Consols have dropped seven-fiftieths of a cent.

Oh, there are oceans of things a woman can do to please her husband, and all young ladies who are contemplating marriage would do well to look them up, and file them for future reference.—Kate Thorne.