

FAILURE and ITS CURE

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TEXT.—As ye therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.—Col. 2: 6, 7.



Nothing mocks us so much as the sense of our own failure. We begin the day with great hopes, high ideal and lofty purposes, but when the day dies out of the sky we confess to ourselves how great has been our failure. This is especially true of Christians who begin the day with a sincere purpose to

live as Christ would have them live, but who come to the close of the day confessing how far short they have come of being what Christ wanted them to be.

And the criticism of the world, and the curse of the church is, that in those of us who have named the name of Christ practice comes so far short of confession, and that many of us who make pious professions by the very negligence of our living crucify the Son of God afresh and put him to an open shame. Mr. Drummond spoke truthfully when he said that what the church needs is not more of us, but a better brand of us.

There is a better way to live. There is a Christian life possible to each one of us which is higher and holier and more victorious than any experience we have had hitherto. The perfection of Christian character is the perfection of faith in Jesus Christ—the faith that takes him to be all and in all. Just as by a simple act of faith we received the gift of salvation from the crucified Christ we are to receive from the risen Christ the grace which we need to live a consistent Christian life.

May we not explain our failure to become what we hoped to be, and what Christ wants us to be, because we do not understand the difference between the appreciation of Christ and the appropriation of Christ? The Christian church does not lack in appreciation sermons, prayers, hymns and testimonies swelling the praise of Jesus; but lack of appropriation is shown in indifference to the claims of Christ and the demands of a holy life. In spiritual unrest when Christ has said, "Peace I leave with you," and in frequent failure at the same point in my life. These are evidences of our neglect to take Christ as the complement of our daily need, of our neglect to clothe ourselves with Christ, of our lack of appropriation.

As one reads the New Testament three things are made clear:

I. God's purpose, which is to make us like Jesus Christ, although he uses various methods by which this end is attained. Sometimes the means used do not seem pleasant to us, but when we realize his high purpose, we shall be satisfied.

II. Christ's promise. As we begin to understand God's purpose we ask who is sufficient for these things; but in the presence of every high call of God, of every holy purpose, of every unattained ideal, Christ stands and says, "My grace is sufficient for you." And we may count him faithful who promised.

III. An adequate power. When we accept Christ by faith the holy spirit comes into us to perfect the purpose of God and to make the promise of Christ actual in our Christian experience. It is the realization of the purpose, the faith in Christ's promise, and surrender to the spirit that constitute the elements of that faith which is the perfection of Christian character. So our lack of deeper Christian experience, of power in prayer, and of usefulness in service, does not consist in the smallness of God's purpose nor the weakness of Christ's promise, nor the lack of an adequate power—our failure is because we do not appropriate all of God there is for us in Christ Jesus.

We are reminded of Martin Luther, who said that the entire secret of the Christian life lies in the use of the possessive pronouns; that it is a great thing to know that Jesus is a Savior, but a far greater thing to know that he is my Savior. In fact, the entire philosophy of the New Testament with relation to the Christian is that he shall put off the old man and shall put on the new.

Therefore, just as by faith I ask Christ to be my savior let me now take him for my need of humility, purity, strength, wisdom, sanctification, righteousness, redemption—"All I need in thee to find."

"Grace there is, my every debt to pay; Blood to wash my every sin away; Power to keep me day by day; For me, for me."

Take Christ, appropriate him, and upon the full possession and appropriation of your great inheritance in Christ Jesus. It is the name of the happy, victorious, Christ—

ART OF MAKING GOOD TEA

American Hostess Has Much to Learn From Her Little Japanese Sister.

The American hostess might learn from her Japanese sister the most important secret of good tea making, which is none other than good tea. Enormous prices are paid for tea by the well-to-do women of the Flowery Kingdom. Too often the American woman selects this afternoon delicacy haphazard, of a quality and brand she scarcely knows.

Cheap tea is colored, because people will not buy the pale, rough leaves that repel by reason of their unhealthful appearance. What adds to the looks, and hence the market value of the tea detracts from its taste, though a small amount of coloring is not considered harmful.

The reason tea is so often designated as a menace to health is because so few women understand how to draw it properly. Tea, rightly drawn, is a benefit, not a barrier, to health.

Select your favorite brand of tea, having made certain that it is of good quality. Allow a teaspoonful to a cup, place all the leaves in an earthen or china bowl and pour over it freshly boiled water. Cover it and allow it to steep from five to eight minutes, according to its strength—never longer.

Straining is the important point. If allowed to stand on the grounds the poisonous tannin collects, and this is where the harm in the beverage rests. Strain the tea from the bowls into the teapot or cups and it will be delicate of flavor and deliciously fragrant.

Real tea drinkers do not modify the aroma of their cups with cream, though they may indulge in a lump of sugar. A slice of lemon in the bottom of the cup, or a clove, leaves a faint trace of its pungency agreeable to many.



An egg beater should never be left to soak in water, as the oil will be washed out of the gears, making it hard to turn.

In baking bread and rolls put a saucerpan of boiling water into the oven. The steam will keep the crust smooth and tender.

To keep milk toast from becoming soggy serve the boiling buttered milk in a covered pitcher, so that each one may pour it himself over his toast.

If the collar bands of the shirtwaists are left unstarred by the laundress the necks of the waists will not break so early as they ordinarily do.

By adding the left-overs of kidney beans, peas or cold potatoes to flaked salmon and mixing all with a good dressing, an excellent salad may be made.

Most housewives use the broom dishcloth, made of cord attached to a handle, which is vastly more convenient than the old method of immersing the arms to the elbows.

To clarify sugar put sugar and water on to boil. Mix the white of an egg with a little cold water, add to the boiling syrup, bring to the boiling point, skim, strain and let cool.

A soufflé should never be put into a very hot oven. It crusts over on top before it has time to bake properly inside, and is likely to fall as soon as it comes from the oven. Bake in a moderate temperature and not too fast.

To make jelly bag, take a yard of all wool fannel, heavy weight, fold together two opposite sides, stitch the edges together, bind the top with tape and fasten on the upper side strong loops by which it may be swung.

Tongue Toast.

Tongue toast makes an excellent meat dish for breakfast and utilizes the root and ragged pieces that cannot be served cold. Mince boiled, smoked tongue very fine, heat cream to the boiling point and make thick with the tongue. Season to taste with pepper, nutmeg, parsley or chopped green peppers, and when hot stir in a beaten egg and remove from the fire at once. Have ready as many slices of buttered toast as are required, spread with the creamed tongue and serve at once. If you have no cream, make a cream sauce, using a tablespoonful each of butter and flour and a cup of milk.

Plum Compote.

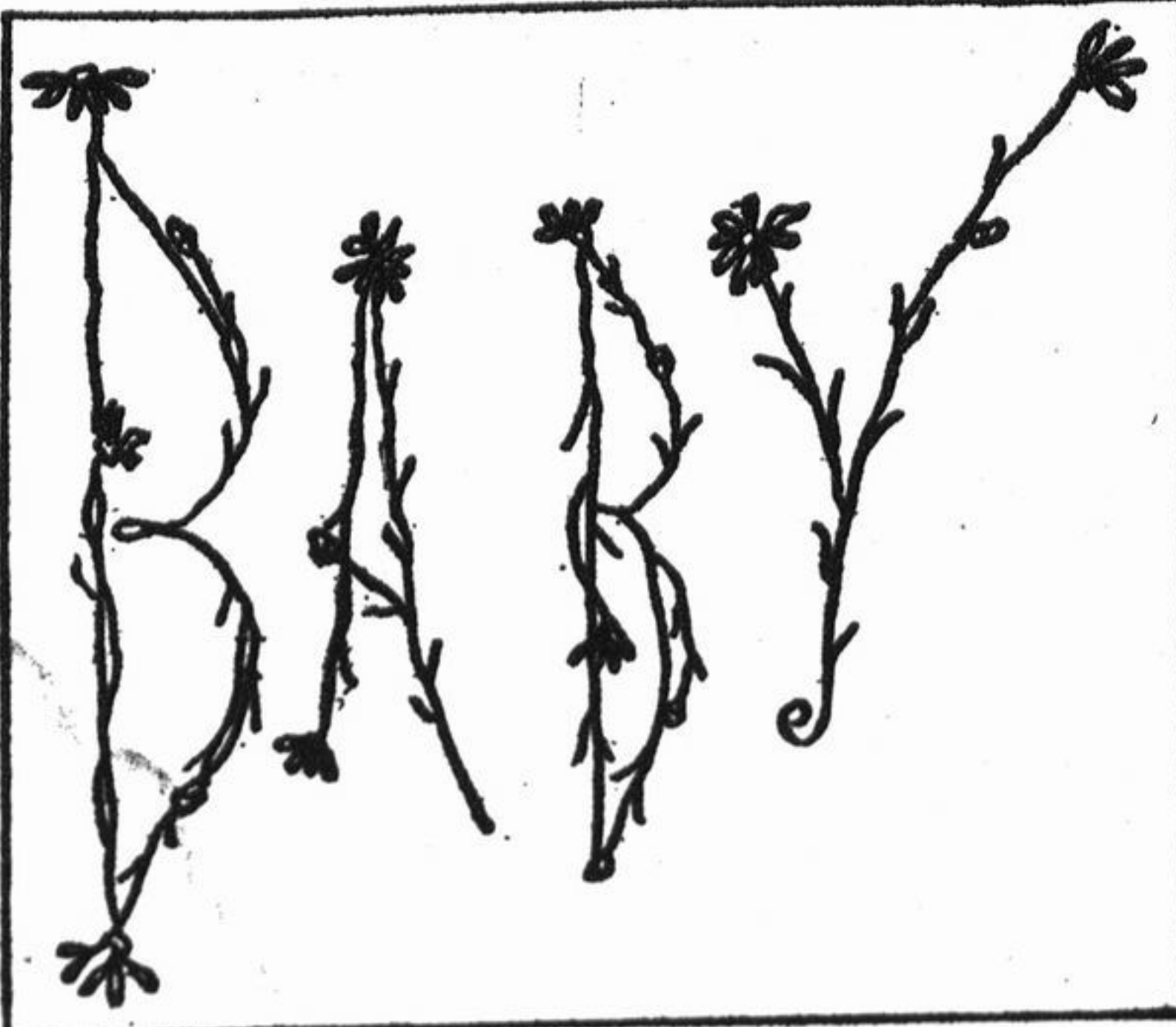
Compote of plums (served with nut-ton cutlets, venison or roasts). Take half a pound of plums, put them in a sauce pan with one and a quarter cups of cooking claret, the thinly cut rind of one lemon, and one inch of cinnamon stick; sweeten with three ounces of lump sugar, and add a few drops of red coloring. Simmer gently till the liquor is reduced to a creamy thickness, remove the lemon rind and cinnamon. Serve in a glass dish.

Wild Duck.

Carefully pick, singe and wipe the outside, draw and wipe the inside. Put into a neat shape, sprinkle the inside with salt and pepper, and, if desired, put in one teaspoonful of curried jelly. If the duck is to be roasted wrap the breast in salt pork or bacon and bake frequently. Roast about 24 minutes if wanted rare. If desired well done, about 46 minutes. Serve

Some Useful Hints for the Girl Who Sews

For Baby's Pillow



This pretty word embroidered on a sheer linen cover will make a dainty pillow for the baby. The flowers should be worked solid and the stems in the over and over stitch, very closely and evenly done. Mercerized cotton No. 30 will be suitable.

Girls who have been taking domestic science courses at fashionable boarding schools declare that to get along without a variety of dainty aprons is an impossibility, especially if the embryo housekeeper wishes to preserve the fronts of her frocks from spots.

One girl who sews almost as well as she cooks is making several aprons of plain lawn cut into half ovals, scalloped all round, with a color and embroidered with washable dyes in outline or shadow stitch. By this means she expects to have luncheon pinafores to accord with every house frock—white embroidered with pale blue; pink, mauve or yellow and dark blue; green and brown relieved with white.

Charming little aprons of half oval, half round, diamond or oblong shape are to be made of finest nainsook, scalloped all round and hand embroidered with white in imitation of the work done in the Madeira Islands.

All of the ruffle bordered aprons are fascinating, particularly the round ones which have bowknot and leaf designs embroidered on the lower curve and girdele belts which fit firmly, have embroidered fronts and tie in a little bowknot at the back. The same model is pretty when the hand embroidery and ruffle are omitted and the hem-stitched edge is finished with an inch wide frill of Valenciennes or Cluny lace.

Bretelle aprons are always coquettish and nearly always become a slender, girlish figure, but they are more difficult to make than pinafores, because the center panel with its square little bib should be carefully curved to fit into the figure at the waist line and on to it should be attached the narrower side panels, which are shaped above the waist into straps crossing the shoulders and then across the top of the back, where they are joined, so that the apron may be adjusted by drawing the bretelle portion over the head and then securing it about the waist with pink, blue or white satin ribbon sashes.

Nearly all of the bretelle aprons have cunning little hip pockets headed with fine muslin embroidery or lace edging to match the bordering of the pinafore, bib and shoulders, and if a girl wishes to make this sort of luncheon apron exceptionally elaborate she may have the bretelles entirely of all over lace and let them run into narrow panels from the waist to the lower edge.

Practical aprons, meaning the sort which are to be put on over the frock when preparing salad dressing and really messy concoctions, are made of striped galatea, percale, gingham or madras, and are put on as easily as is an ulster, for they fasten with flat buttons down the left front from shoulder to hem, have big sewed in sleeves with hand cuffs and a deep patch pocket on each hip. To make one take as a model any narrow skirted, one piece house frock which closes in front, allowing, however, for slightly wider seams and wider shoulders, so that the garment will go over even a velvet frock if desired.

It has been wisely said that whoever has once mastered the art of the simpler forms of Irish crochet work has at command an endless variety of ways in which to utilize the product of the tiny steel hook. Above all, the roses of fine imported Irish lace thread can be applied in so many dainty and original ways that the girl of wisdom finds them an invaluable resource when designing for herself those small necessities which give the keynote of a costume.

thread are, naturally, the sort to use. But on silk or cloth those crocheted from a twisted silk made charming and unique variants from passementerie. A girl who loves to experiment with such useful arts has just finished for herself a little girdele which is the admiration of all who see it. The foundation at the back is a shaped piece of crinoline or some such stiffened lining about eight inches wide. This is covered with the white crepe de chine of which the girdele is made and trimmed with "up and down" rows of white silk roses. To each end of the shaped back section the soft front pieces of the girdele are shirred, and these are long enough to join in a graceful knot in front and to fall sash-like almost to the edge of the dress skirt, where they are finished with a triplet of silken crocheted blossoms apiece, from the center of each of which hangs a tassel of the same white silk.

This same girl has crocheted more elaborate motifs of pale rose silk for her sister's pet dancing frock of the same shade and a set of handsome black silk—unlike anything to be found in the shops—for a well beloved aunt, whose dinner gown they will shortly adorn most attractively.

Gloves Are Larger.

Golf, tennis and other athletic exercises have caused the hands of girls and women to grow larger than formerly. Despite that fact they still wear the same size gloves. The reason was explained the other day by a dealer in women's gloves. He said that gloves were made to deceive not so much the wearer as the persons who looked at them. The gloves are made in so-called "full sizes," and when a woman asks for a 5½ glove, knowing that her hand is too large to get in it the saleswoman invariably hands her out a 5¼ glove, and it always fits. The extra sizes have been made to please the women and, perhaps, to get their trade. Though young girls who play golf, and who have rather large hands, gloat in the fact that they wear a No. 7 glove, they usually long for smaller sized gloves when they get older, and when they inquire for them in the glove shop they invariably get them.

IN VOGUE

Plain, flat revers will be a predominant feature in spring suits.

Taffetas will be used a great deal in millinery during the coming season.

Draped toques of satin and changeable taffetas are extremely fashionable.

The liking for glowing red tones evidenced in the newest gowns of Paris.

Pearl decorations have a waning popularity; they "belong" where.

First hats for spring are small and close or large and trimmed.

There is a new cutaway, inches long, single breasted, plain sleeves and very snug.

There is a new sleeveless, a cape back crossing in front.

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Cain

By W. Wilbur D. Nesbit

Out from the desert places wandered Cain,
Into a land whose people all were strange,
Whose people noted not the crimson stain
Upon his hands—the red that would not change;
And they saw not the mark that seared his brow,
The mark that held a lasting, livid glow,
Yet Cain said: "Surely one will smite me now,
For by these signs the watching world must know."

He fled again; he stumbled down the path
That led him through and to he knew not where;
Yet at his side still stalked the shade of wrath
That he had shaped and placed forever there.
He found a spot beside the sullen sea
Where man was not, and man had never been—
And thinking from that shadow to be free
He whispered it the story of his sin.

And then it seemed that earth and sea and air
Caught up his whispered word and gave them tongue,
And winds rushed on his grievous speech to bear
Until through all the world it had been flung.
Then back he sped in travail and in fear,
Led by his guilt and by his guilt pursued—
And though he thought all other men must hear,
He stood alone amidst the multitude.

We have our desert places where we hide
And whisper all the things that we have
claim—
The hope, the faith, the trust—then far and wide
We hear the echoed shout that we are Cain.
Aye, each of us oft-times in fear must bow
And marvel that none other understands
The guilty red that blazes on his brow,
The guilty red that clings upon his hands.



HOME-MADE GIFT BEST

MORE APPRECIATED THAN ONE BOUGHT AT STORE.

Some Suggestions That May Prove Helpful for Those Undecided What to Give for Birthday Remembrance—Simple and Easy.

Very often we are at a loss to know what to give as a birthday remembrance or to a friend who is leaving for an extended trip.

Some small trifle made by yourself is usually more appreciated than an elaborate gift purchased at the shop.

Here are given a few suggestions which may prove helpful.

They are extremely simple to make and the "hobby woman" will find once little difficulty in making them.

Personal taste and preference should be considered when selecting your own gifts.

The first suggestion is a small gift box.

They may be neatly lettered, "Old Bills," "Old Letters," "Unanswered Letters," or as your fancy desires.

A pair of pretty hangers for a blouse would be appreciated by any one.

When going away for the week-end the suitcase will not permit taking the large hanger.

These may be fastened to the freshly laundered blouse, which may be packed without requiring any additional space.

Two loops of narrow satin ribbon 2½ inches long are attached separately to safety pins.

The ribbon is decorated with smaller design done with water color. Any tint is lovely used for these.

A straw hat with a ribbon bow is a pretty made with finger.

It is a simple and easy to make.

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