For the Woman Reader

by Florence Riddick Boys

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The Ideal Hostess

The hostess, who would give joy to her guests, must have the appearance of being happy at the task. The hostess who fusses unduly, undertaking too elaborate a menu, and then is all worn out and nervous when her guests arrive, is sure to reflect her spirit and her guests will not have a good time, but feel anxious.

It is better to put on a simple party and be full of pep and gladness in the affair. One way to do this is to plan a simple menu; another scheme is to get the house ready the day before and to prepare in advance as many dishes as you can. Do not economize on help at this time, but have someone in the kitchen who will keep track of the doings out there, while you are playing with your guests.

They want you for a playmate, a hostess; not a servant, fretted by much care of them. The danger is that we eat too much in our company meals. The old-fashioned gluttonous feast is out of style. Better is the delicious but simple repast with plenty of fruit ,a cool or hot drink, dainty sandwiches, wee cakes—and a lot of jollity.

The Childs' Clothing

A young child should wear nothing —except his shoes—which cannot be washed. For this reason cotton is especially appropriate for a young child's garments. Wool and silk or wool and cotton are appropriate for hot weather, but garments of all wool harden and shrink in laundering. If the child wears cotton undergarments he may be kept warm by wearing a sweater over his cotton dress or waist.

White clothing for children has the advantage that it may be boiled. But it soils easily, or rather it shows the soil readily. In buying materials for children's clothing, test the blues, pinks, and lavenders to make sure they will not fade too quickly. Gingham should be shrunk before it is made up. It is a wise precaution to make children's clothing with tucks or devices for making them larger the next season. The kimono sleeve and wide hem serve this purpose.

Seersucker and crinkled crepes need not be ironed. Rough materials are hot and should be made with loose necks and no sleeves, to avoid chafing. Loosely woven materials are more easily washed than tight, firmly woven materials.

Even in cold weather do not dress a child too warmly. He is more active than an adult and warmer blooded and suffers more from being dressed too warmly than too coolly If he is dressed so warm that he perspires, he is more likely to take cold when exposed to draughts.

Every part of the body, from the neck down, should be covered in cold weather. Half socks with bare knees are not the proper clothing when the winds get chilly—the Scotch to the contrary notwithstanding.

The child's clothing, as the adults, should be loose enough that it will not interfere with circulation. In the summer, the nearer the child can go bare the better. The sun on his body is health-giving, and the ventilating breezes encourage a healthy skin and sturdy vital organs.

Modern Buying

Looking back over the expense account of a typical family a century ago, we are amazed to see how many things we buy to-day which were unknown then, or so expensive as to be prohibitive. We live in better houses, have better food, and wear better clothing. We spend taxes for community paving, lighting, sewage, and schooling such as would appear miracles to our great-grandfathers.

Besides this, we buy canned goods, prepared breakfast foods, oranges and gas or electricity for fuel. We have better medical and dental care. We light our houses with electricity instead of candles. We spend money for golf, country clubs, automobiles, radios and talkies. It costs about twice as much to live now as then, but the average income is twice as large. The important question is: Are we happier?

Scout Rice

This is the way the Girl Guides prepare rice for their outdoor meals. Try it on your family for a picnic meal. Wash a cupful of rice in cold water and cook it in a double boiler with three tablespoons of bacon fat. When the water has all been absorbed add two cupfuls of boiling hot canned tomatoes and a quarter pound of diced cheese. Continue cooking in the double boiler until the cheese is melted.

The Cooling Drink

For variety, beat jelly until it is syrupy and add it to iced tea or lemonade. The mixture will make a rare, elusive flavor. If the jelly has a color it will tint the drink and make it more inviting to the eye as well as to the palate. Try adding mint jelly to lemonade. Mint is a revived flavor just now coming again into favor. Our grandmothers appreciated it but we had forgotten its deliciousness for years. Lime is another revival of a pleasing flavor, too much neglected heretofore.

Watermelons

Food experts have discovered that watermelons, besides being juicy and delicious, are a valuable source of vitamins and thus a particularly valuable food.

The Garbage Can

Hide the garbage can from sight by encircling it with wire fencing and train vines over this. Make the circle large enough that you may handle the can with convenience.

Cooling Fish

If you wrap fish in oiled paper and put it in a covered dish in the refrigerator, the odor will not reach other foods.

Fruit Relish

To serve with cold meat, the following fruit relish is acceptable: Cut in small pieces a cup of cooked prunes, or raisins may be substituted. Add three tablespoons of sugar, a half teaspoon of cinamon, juice of a half lemon and a half orange.

The Drains

A long-handled button hook is a convenient utensil to clean out a drain choked by lint. Do this frequently and prevent a bad case of pipe trouble and the necessity of calling the plumber.

Shrimp Cocktail

Mix one can of shrimps, two cups diced celery, a fourth cup of chopped sweet pickles, a fourth teaspoon each of salt and paprika, three tablespoons lemon juice. Set this on ice until very cold. Serve in sherbet glasses lined with finely shredded lettuce and topped with stiff mayonnaise and sliced pimento-stuffed olives.

Hints

A rusty screw is hard to remove. To turn the trick—and also the screw —put a little oil on it, or try holding a hot iron against it until the screw is hot.

A button hook is a convenient utensil for the kitchen. Use it to draw out the hairs and threads from the brush of the carpet sweeper.

A whiskbroom in the kitchen is useful to sweep up many small bits when it does not pay to get out the big broom and dustpan.

If your toaster will make only two pieces of toast at a time, slip the extra pieces, to keep hot, underneath the gas flame over which the rest of your breakfast is being prepared.

Real Estate Now And In the Past

Fathers and mothers of today remember when the home buyer, desiring to locate in the suburbs of a large city, took the train to the city, got in touch with a real estate salesman, entrained for the surburbs, hired a horse and buggy, drove to and from the house and lot, and whew! when it was all over, had put in a hard day's journey.

But what does one do now? He takes an automobile, drives all over the suburban districts, inspects the town as well as the house, visits ten or more places in a day, and takes his time about buying because in the course of his constant traveling over the road he may see a place he likes almost anywhere.

These are truly the days of dynamic, rapid-fire salesmanship in the suburban real estate business. Years ago it was no great task to sell a house if the roof didn't leak, for the task of finding one, visiting it and getting home in time to go to work the next day presented its own difficulties to the customer. But now the buyer wants to live on the state road, he wants a tile bath, latticed windows in the bedroom, an oil heater, a garage, electric refrigeration, and good radio location. He wants to live near the railroad and the trolley line in case his car fails to function. No wonder the suburban real estate business competition is undergoing a mild revolution!

Real estate dealers do not complain because the automobile is causing all this agitation in their business, for it is producing a heavy turnover. Every automobile driver is a prospective customer. Where a salesman of fifteen years ago could handle only one or two prospects a day, the modern one can meet eight or ten. And while the old-time salesman might sell 100 per cent. of his prospects, his actual sale did not even approach those of his successor.

The real suburban brokers have found that they can no longer bring the customer to the city; hence they are playing their part in the general "decentralization" of business by moving their offices into the suburbs. The race may not always be to the swift, but, in the modern real estate game, there is little room for the tortoise.

London policemen to the number of 114 were bitten by dogs last year.

Sunday School Lesson

August 31. Lesson IX—Amos (A Herdsman Called of God to Be a Prophet)—Amos 1: 1; 7: 10-15; 2: 11, 12; 7, 8. Golden Text—I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.—Isaiah 6: 8.

ANALYSIS

I. AMOS THE MAN, 1:1; 3:1-8; 7:10-15.

II. HIS MESSAGE TO THE NATIONS, 1:2 to 2:16.

III. HIS PLEADING WITH ISRAEL, 4:4-13; 5:1-27.

INTRODUCTION—The home of Amos was south of Jerusalem in the kingdom of Judah, in the wild moorlands bordering closely upon that rugged Judean wilderness which drops steeply down to the western shore of the Dead Sea. There in the eighth century before Christ, in the reign of Jeroboam II. of Israel, and Uzziah of Judah (2 Kings 14: 23; 15: 7), he spent the early years of his life. Whatever wealth he had came from his flocks of fine-wooled sheep and from the coarse fruit of his sycamore orchards (1: 1; 7: 14). His education he must have received from the visits of itinerant prophets who taught the people on new moon days and sabbaths (compare 2 Kings 4: 22-23). In one famous passage of his book he speaks of the prophets as raised up by God (2:11), and in another he compares the taking away of their teaching with a famine, 8: 11-13. But much of the preparation of mind and heart by which he was equipped and fitted for his task came, no doubt, from the free, healthful, open air life of his calling. His book abounds in references to that life, and in figures drawn from the surroundings of his country home in Tekoa—the lion's roar, the bear, the serpent, the invading bands of robbers from the neighboring wilderness, the warning trumpet blast from the walls of the town summoning the people in the fields to their safe shelter, the shepherd's care for his flock, the fowler, the fisherman, the occasional draught and consequent famine, the locust swarm, and the river in flood in the rainy season.

I. AMOS THE MAN, 1:1; 3:1-8; 7:10-15.

Very little is told us of the prophet's early life. The historical situation is that of the first half of the eighth century, about B.C. 760-750.

There had been a period of comparative peace after the long drawn out Syrian wars of the previous century, and the two little kingdoms of Israel and Judah were fairly prosperous. Israel had never before been as rich and powerful. But with growing wealth went pride and cruelty, drunkenness and crime, oppression and enslavement of the poor. All this Amos saw and hated. Though a man of Judah, he carried his stirring messages of warning and denunciation to the people of the northern kingdom, to the great sanctuaries of Bethel and Samaria with their throngs of holiday makers and worshipers. Very simply he makes it clear, in a number of challenging questions (3: 1-8), that his right to speak comes to him from the compelling voice of God. "The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?" Compare 7: 14-15.

II. HIS MESSAGE TO THE NATIONS, 1:2 to 2:16.

We may imagine this first speech of Amos to have been delivered at Bethol, and quite possibly all his speeches at the same sanctuary. Under the patronage of the king, the sanctuary at Bethel had become rich, and its priesthood powerful but corrupt. It was a dangerous place in which to speak boldly against the evils of the time. Amos began tactfully by denouncing the crimes of the nations round about —Damascus, the Syrian capital; Gaza, chief city of the Philistines; Tyre, mistress of the western sea; the slave trading Edomites, with their never-ceasing enmity against their kinsfolk of Judah and Israel; and Ammon and Moab, guilty of revolting and horrible barbarities in war. All these he accuses of crimes against the common laws of humanity, and warns that a terrible punishment is coming which the Lord will not turn away from them.

In particular and at greater length he dwells upon the sins of the people to whom he is speaking—their heartless enslaving of the poor, their crimes against justice as well as against common decency, their disregard of the ancient laws. For a paltry debt, a piece of silver or the price of a pair of sandals, a man is sold into slavery. The cloak taken in pledge is not returned at nightfall as the humane laws of Israel required. There was drunkenness and prostitution at the very altars of God. The prophet reminds the people of the great things which the Lord had done for them in the past, in giving them victory over their enemies and possession of the land, and in raising up prophets to teach by precept and Nazirites by clean living. But they had forbidden the prophets to teach and had tempted the Nazirites to break their vow. Israel, like every other nation, will surely pay the penalty of continued wrong-doing, 2: 6-16. For, Amos declared, Israel's peculiar privilege and honor as a chosen people involved a heavier obligation and a certain visitation of punishment, see 3: 1-2, and compare 9: 7.

III. HIS PLEADING WITH ISRAEL, 4:4-13; 5:1-27.

Amos has seen the elaborate ceremonial of worship at Bethel and how little it has to do with righteousness. Ironically he bids the people to "come to Bethel and transgress; to Gilgal and multiply transgression." He recalls tragic events of the recent past which should have led them to repentance, but by which they have not profited. A greater calamity is coming in which they will meet their offended God. But even yet destruction may be averted. He pleads with them to turn from iniquity and to seek the Lord, 5: 1-15. In one of the finest passages of prophecy he represents the Lord as rejecting the ritual of sacrifice, feast, and song, and as saying, "Let justice roll down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."

Clever Girls

Three charming fancy dress prize winners in costumes made-up entirely of cabin furnishings, at recent mid-Atlantic carnival of "Student class" passengers on liner Berengaria.

The Nun Who Smoked

The following is an exciting and romantic incident as related by a member of the British Secret Service, who are now engaged in frustrating the schemes of dangerous Continental crooks.

The most successful detectives are willing to record the debt they owe to "Inspector Luck" and "Sergeant Chance." This is the story of a piece of luck which enabled a young Secret Service man to run to earth one of the greatest of blackguards.

"The Man Who Was Nobody" had figured for a considerable time in the records of Scotland Yard, and the Secret Service and detective forces of several countries, before he became the object of the special attention of Mr. David Ross, agent of the British Secret Service. The strange thing was that though they called him by that mysterious non-de-plume they knew quite well who he was.

They knew that his name was Gaston Klein, that he lived in Paris as a rule, even that he had resided permanently until lately at a certain address. They knew, moreover, that a very large proportion of the supply of dangerous drugs which were finding their way acros the Channel into England were being carried by Gaston himself. They had Gaston's photograph and even his fingerprints. There was nothing that would lead to the identification of Gaston they did not know.

We Could Not Arrest Him

When it was observed that a new supply of the drug had reached London, the authorities invariably remarked to one another: "Ah, Gaston is here again."

Knowing these things, there were people who were beginning to ask: "Yes, but if you know so much about this Gaston, why don't you arrest him?"

An awkward question that, and the Secret Service was getting worried. But how could they arrest a man who was nobody?

For the reason of the epithet was this. Gaston had suddenly chosen not to exist. It was as though he had somehow developed a ghostly power of leaving his body behind him when he came to England and crossing the Channel as an invisible, disembodied spirit. Or so it seemed to the Secret Service. They could not think of any other way by which he could so frequently pass through the net they kept constantly spread for him.

Raiding a Dope Party

Now the Secret Service is not in the habit of requiring any better spur to its work than the call of duty. But the circumstances were exceptional, as the Chief reasoned when he detailed David Ross to the job of solving this mystery, and bethought himself of a girl whom Gaston Klein's mischievous work had brought to the verge of disaster, a girl now fighting a lonely struggle back to health and sanity, a girl whom David Ross had loved.

For more than a month David Ross had patrolled the busy highway between London and Paris. Every investigation he had made had confirmed the conviction that the mysterious drug-runner was still Gaston Klein. One day he would be visible in Paris, a very solid and life-like man-about-town. The next he would be in London, again a very solid and life-like man-about-town. But what he became in the interval, or how he passed the drugs, Ross was no nearer to discovering.

Once he had forsaken the familiar rail and sea route between Victoria and the Gare du Nord. He had decided to tackle Gaston in his visible presence in Paris. The coup was well planned All that was necessary was to get him with the drugs on him. It was not difficult to find out that on a certain night Gason was due at a party. Several known drug-takers were also to be there. A little conference with the officials of the Surete—the Paris Scotland Yard—and the thing was arranged.

For a moment Ross thought he had succeeded. The party was a regular "dope" orgy. All the familiar drugs were in evidence—cocaine, heroin, opium, morphine—and Klein! Then the search began—and Klein was the only person in the room who had no drugs on his person and who, plainly enough, was not a drug addict. He had to be released. So Ross went back to his monotonous Channel patrol again.

A Picture of Pious Calm

Morosely, for he was getting desperate, he paced up and down the deck of the Channel steamer. For the hundredth time he was putting every passenger through the keenest ocular examination. They were the usual crowd. A few French business men, a few English business men, some American tourists, some nondescript foreigners, and a nun. And it was miserably clear to him that each one of them was no more than he or she pretended to be.

A strong wind sprang up and everybody went below. Ross sat himself down at one of the long tables and conned his whole problem over again. A whiff of the vilest tobacco smoke he had ever encountered crossed him. The smoker was a German, puffing at a black cigar. Ross turned to see whether the passenger next him was also being troubled. It was the nun.

In an attitude of pious calm, she sat with her eyes downcast and her hands encased in her voluminous sleeves. The German drew in a deep puff and blew straight at her. Her eyes closed in pain, and spluttering and coughing she raised her hand to her face. Ross's eyes opened wide in astonishment. The nun's hands were yellow with the stain of nicotine.

The passengers of the cross-Channel steamer suddenly received the shock of their lives. With a yell the young man in the blue overcoat had leapt at the quiet nun and clutched her by the throat. But that was not all. The nun suddenly developed an agility and strength very far from being in keeping with her garb, and the two rolled over and over, striking out desperately in the gangway.

The fight was over before anyone could intervene. The young man was sitting on the nun's chest pointing a revolver. He bent forward and whispered, "Got you, Gaston Klein."

The Man With the Handcuffs

A few hours later David Ross and his prisoner, still in nun's dress but now considerably dishevelled, were on their way back to France, to be met at port by two grim-faced men armed with handcuffs. In a little room they began their search. They found what they were looking for concealed in the nun's rosary, and Gaston Klein was formally arrested. It pays better to have a drug-runner arrested on French soil. They give them longer sentences there. In this case it happened to be ten years—in a penal settlement. "The Man Who Was nobody" became a man with a number.

Of course, it does sound altogether too much like the way they do it in the story books, but there was a wedding at which the girl, now completely restored to health and determined never again to seek the doubtful solace offered by the drug-runner, and David Ross both attended, and the Secret Service Chief was there also.

Life

This is the state of Man; to-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of Hope, to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing Honors thick upon him;
The third day, comes a Frost, a killing Frost;
And,—when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatnes is a ripening,—nips his Fruit,
And then he falls.

—Shakespeare.

It isnt' what a man stands for, as much as what he falls for.

Additional Historic Sites to be Marked

Department of the Interior Continues Work of Preserving Our National Historic Ruins

Since the year 1919, when the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada was instituted, the Department of the Interior through its National Parks Service has marked, by the erection of suitable memorials, 150 sites appertaining to the history of the Dominion. From time to time, among the various sites acquired are those of Fort Wellington at Prescott, Ontario; Fort Chambly at Chambly, P.Q.; and Fort Lernox, near St. Johns, P.Q., on which are situated interesting structures erected by the French and the English for defensive purposes along the Richelieu and St. Lawrence rivers. Considerable restoration and improvement work has been carried out at these sites and today they are visited by streams of tourists. It is the intention of the Department of the Interior ultimately to mark throughout Canada all those sites that have a distinct bearing on the history of the Dominion.

During last year, among the number of monuments unveiled was one erected on the site of Fort Fork, near Peace River, Alberta, from which Sir Alexander Mackenzie set out on May 9, 1793, on his quest for the western sea, which resulted in the first crossing of the continent of North America.

At the annual meeting of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada the following were chosen as the most outstanding sites or events for preservation and commemoration:

St. Peters Canal, N.S.—This canal connects St. Peter's bay with Bras d'Or lake, thereby shortening the distance to the eastern coast of Cape Breton. It was first surveyed in 1825, and completed in 1869.

At Bridgetown, N.S.—Site of the engagement at Bloody creek in 1757, during the Seven Years' War.

Temiscouata Portage, at Cabano, P. Q.—Here is one terminal of the longest and most difficult portage in the overland route between Acadia and Quebec. Over it the New Brunswick Regiment made its famous march in the winter of 1813, to aid in the defence of the Canadas.

Southwold Earthworks, near St. Thomas, Ont.—This is a unique example of a double-walled aboriginal fort. Its antiquity and origin remain unknown.

Near Brantford, Ont.—A tablet to commemorate the loyal services of the Six Nations Indians to the British Empire in the Seven Years' War, the War of the American Revolution, and in the defence of Upper Canada in 1812-14.

Fort Mississauga, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.—A tablet will be placed on this fort which was built by military labor in 1814 for the defence of the Niagara frontier. It was used as a military post until 1845.

Starting Point of the First Dominion Lands Survey, near Winnipeg.—To mark the site of the first survey monument erected in 1871 in connection with the establishment of the survey of Dominion lands.

Churchill, Man.—To mark the site of the fort built in 1689, then the most northerly post of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the starting point of numerous Arctic explorations organized by the company.

Fort Chipewyan, Alta.—To commemorate the voyage of Sir Alexander Mackenzie in 1789, from Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabasca northward to the Arctic Ocean, and the discovery of the Mackenzie river.

Fukon Gold Discovery, Dawson Ciey. —To perpetuate the memory of the indomitable prospectors who paved the way for the discovery in 1896 of the rich gold fields of the Yukon.

"To the seaman with a sweetheat in every port it's Helen Maria."

Mrs. Solomon Says:

To harbor bitterness only embitters your own soul and doesn't help matters.

Magistrate to witness in assault case)—"You were present when the witness struck his wife?" "Yes, sir." "And what is your opinion of the case?" "Well, it was a good fight sir with pretty footwork on both sides. But I'd say the lady was entitled to the decision on points."