

## HOUSEHOLD.

### A Simple Baby-Basket.

Among the mysteries of preparation for a little new-comer, nothing is daintier than the baby-basket, with its contents, ready for the first toilette. Very little expense will serve to dress a common willow, reed or shaker basket, so that it will be as beautiful as need be. The material of the basket is of very little, indeed, no importance, as it is entirely covered by a cambric of pale pink or blue, over which a sheer white muslin, dotted or plain, is drawn in folds or puffs on the inside, and let fall in a full ruffle on the outside, the upper edge of the basket being finished by a quilling of ribbon in color, "blue for a girl" and "pink for a boy," and carry it into all this preparatory wardrobe. A basket lined with blue would have a small blue cushion, a blue and white powder box, though a pretty white one is *babyish*. The basket being covered and furnished with two inside pockets should then be filled with all the articles necessary for the first dressing. A piece of narrow bobbin, a small bottle or box of vaseline, a number of small squares of soft linen, or the mouth cleansing, a piece of very soft sponge, square of pure castile s. a. These articles will all be required before the clothes, and should have a prominent place in the basket, for the dressing on top is found a strip of soft flannel, torn from a piece, and turned over only on the edges for the band; the little shirt of hand-knit wool, two diapers of old soft linen, the pining blanket, flannel petticoat and the slip, and a square of flannel or a knit blanket to wrap around the little one when it is carried about.

The baby-basket will be found every morning with baby's toilette articles all ready, and there will not arise confusion in the search for baby's *own* soap, sponge, etc. For a baby powder, the scented rice powder is not as good as cornstarch, to which a small quantity of pulverized orris root is added; this is the purest and best. In addition, we should also suggest that a cotton flannel apron, furry side out, is a valuable possession for nurse and mother, as the little one can be taken from the bath to the lap and rolled up in the apron, which answers at the same time the purpose of a soft towel. For wiping of head and face, an old white silk handkerchief is a good thing to use at the bath. A dainty wrapper, which is very inexpensive, can be made princess in shape, of cheese cloth and cotton wadding. A layer of wadding should be tacked between two of cheese cloth, and fastened at intervals of a few inches by knots of worsted, as in a comfortable, the worsted pale blue or pink. The princess pattern is then laid on and the wrapper cut out, the seams felled on the inside and the edges finished by a buttonhole stitch of blue or pink worsted. These little wrappers can be worn after the bath during the morning, and add warmth as well as save the freshness of the slip for afternoon.

### Helpful Hints.

Remove flower-pot stains from windowsills by rubbing with fine wood ashes and rinse with clean water.

Grained woods should be washed with cold tea, and then, after being wiped dry, rubbed with linseed oil.

Let all girls have a share in housekeeping at home before they marry; let each superintend some department by turns.

Avoid a rich mixed diet for children, it taxes their delicate digestive organs, and causes inflammatory conditions to ensue.

If the wall about the stove has been smoked by the stove, cover the black patches with gum-shellac and they will not strike through either paint or calcimine.

Lamp wicks should be changed often enough to insure having a good light. If they seem clogged they may be washed in strong suds and put into the lamps again.

A young babe should not be fed more frequently than once in two hours, and by the time it is three months old, once in three hours is preferable. A child is not hungry every time it nestles and frets.

Cold biscuits left over from tea may be made better than when first baked by dipping them in hot water and placing them singly on the hot grate in the oven long enough to let them get well warmed through.

A butter stamp should always be washed in cold salt water before it is used. If soaked in hot water the butter will stick to it, but never if soaked in coldbrine. The salt absorbed by the wood keeps it moist while in use.

To save stair carpets nail several thick nesses of old carpet or canvas over the edge of each stair. It is a good plan to buy more carpeting than is needed to cover the stairs and move it each season so that the whole will wear evenly. If stair carpets cannot be changed in this way they will not wear nearly so long.

Meat fed children are cross, and irritable, and quarrelsome. Meat once a day is sufficient; the other meals should consist of milk toast, cracked wheat, graham gems, oatmeal, gluten, fruit, puddings, milk and such food. Eggs, fish and fish balls are better even than meat, and should be eaten at breakfast; the other meals being farinaconna.

A very excellent carminative powder for infants subject to colic, may be kept in the house and prepared by the nurse or mother; it consists of five grains of oil of aniseed and two of peppermint on half an ounce of lump sugar: rubbed in a mortar with a drachm of magnesia into a fine powder. A small quantity of this may be given in little water with good results.

"Infantile convulsions usually accompany teething, indigestion, whooping cough, fevers, worms, indeed, any disease that causes a reflex action upon the brain. When a child is seized with convulsions act promptly. Get the child into hot water as soon as possible; do not wait to remove its clothing, put it into a foot-tub or a child's tub nearly full of water, as hot as can be safely borne, supporting it on your two hands. Add from time to time as much hot water as the hands will bear. Keep the child in the water until relaxation of the muscles is produced, and have blankets heated meanwhile and ready to wrap the baby in."

### Choice Recipes.

**HAM CROQUETTES.**—One cupful of finely chopped cooked ham, one of bread-crumbs, two of hot mashed potatoes, one large tablespoonful of butter, three eggs, and a speck of cayenne. Beat the ham, cayenne, butter, and two of the eggs into the potato. Let the mixture cool slightly, and then

shape into croquettes. Roll in the bread-crumbs, dip in beaten egg, and again in crumbs; put in the frying basket and plunge into boiling fat. Cook two minutes, drain, and serve hot.

**GOOD BREAD.**—Pare and boil soft six potatoes in two quarts of water, strain, through a colander boiling hot on to one cup of flour; stir well, and when cool add one yeast cake soaked in warm water. Keep it warm until it is light, then stir it well and keep it in a cool place until morning. Then stir it into the middle of your tray of flour (adding warm water enough to make the desired quantity of bread), add a little salt and cover the top of this batter with flour, and keep it warm until it cracks the flour and foams up through. Then add flour and mix up stiff and let it rise again. Then knead up into loaves, put into pans, let it rise again, not too light, and bake one hour very carefully.

**CORN STARCH, BLANC-MANGE, AND CHOCOLATE SAUCE.**—Take two tablespoonfuls of corn starch and mix with cold milk very smooth; warm to boiling point two pints of milk, in which some lemon rind, sugar, and a few drops of essence had been put, and pour into the corn starch without the lemon peel, while stirring all the time. Let simmer a few minutes while stirring, and pour into a shape. Melt a little fresh butter in saucepan, stir in half a spoon of corn flour and some chocolate finely scraped, with sugar to taste; pour in warm milk, stirring all the time, and beat up with the yolk of an egg. Having turned out the blanc-mange at serving, pour the chocolate sauce over it.

### Needle Notes.

Plait stitches are herringbone stitches done so fine and close together as to touch each other.

Chain stitch is very useful for tacking down the edges of applique work on any article, but it makes rather a coarse line for outlining.

A lovely effect can be produced by following the outlines of a brocaded figure on silk or wool with couching in gold thread on a contrasting color.

Darning stitches are very useful for filling in outlines or for making backgrounds. By darned work a beautiful play of color may be obtained on a plain neutral fabric.

Tracing stitch is very useful in applique embroidery, and is worked by laying down a line of filoselle or embroidery silk. Secure it with a thread of another color by bringing it up from the back of the material on one side of the embroidery silk and carrying it back on the other. The stitches which secure the silk should be exactly equal in distance from each other.

### VARIETIES.

The Japanese of the upper classes are now very generally adopting European clothing. All the cloth comes from abroad.

A statute of 1750 required that master-bookbinders should sew all their books with thread and real bands, and that in case of infringement the books be done again, and a fine of thirty pounds per volume be imposed.

Scotland, with a coast line only five hundred miles longer than that of Ireland, but with fewer harbours and with less fruitful and more tempestuous seas, supports by her fisheries one-seventh of her population. Ireland supports less than one two-hundred-and-fiftieth.

In Burmah, when severe illness of any kind had baffled the greatest skill, it is customary to abandon all further medical treatment, the patient's complaint being supposed to be caused by an evil spirit which must be driven away before any hope of recovery can be expected. This is accomplished by means of music and dancing, accompanied by many mystic rites.

The *mappa* was a table-napkin in use in ancient Rome for wiping the hands and mouth at meals. Vulgar persons fastened it under their chins to prevent their clothes from stains, as some do now. In ordinary cases the host did not furnish his guests with napkins, but each person brought his own *mappa* with him, and occasionally carried away in it some of the delicacies which he could not consume at table.

Diamond-cutting is a work which requires great skill and indomitable patience on the part of the workman, and his training is long and severe, for, despite the machinery which is used, much depends upon the deftness of the workman. He must be able to tell from an examination of the rough stone what is the proper treatment with regard to its shape and the number of its facets. An inferior workman can spoil twenty or thirty pounds' worth of property in as many seconds.

As a rule, classes in Persia do not mingle in marriage. The sons of merchants wed merchant's daughters, the young tradesman mates with his like, and so with the members of the servant and soldier classes. But in Persia, as everywhere else, extraordinary personal attractions soon become known and have their advantage. The beauty of the lower or middle classes need not aspire in vain. The mother of the king's eldest and favourite son, the most powerful man in Persia, was the daughter of a miller, who caught the Shah's eye while washing clothes at the brookside. Many a poor handsome girl is wedded without portion for her beauty.

The success of British Post-Office saving-banks has resulted in the establishment of similar banks in every part of the world. They are now to be found in Canada, the West Indies, the Cape, Australia, New Zealand, and in other colonies, as well as in France (where they are said to have surpassed all expectations), in Austria, Belgium, Finland, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, and Sweden. In all these instances the British system has been followed more or less closely, and in many of these countries other savings-banks exist concurrently with the post-office banks. Although it is not possible to state the precise amount held by savings-banks of all lands throughout the world, there is good reason to believe that it exceeds six hundred millions of pounds.

### A Short Call.

"Is your first name George, Mr. Featherly?" inquired Bobby, as the young man seated himself in the parlor and began to draw off his gloves.

"No, Bobby," replied Featherly, with an amused smile. "Why?"

"Oh, nothing," only I heard Clara tell me she expected George to-night, and that she hoped to goodness there wouldn't be any other callers."

## FARM.

### SETTING HENS.

Nests for setting hens are best on the ground, but where this is not feasible put some clean, moist soil in the bottom of the nests. A good plan is to cut a sod of suitable size, turn it over in your box and pack so as to be of a concave shape in the centre; then cover the earth with straw broken short. In very cold weather mix a good proportion of feathers in the nest-lining—chicken feathers may be saved for this purpose—and put a spoonful of sulphur in when the hen is set. The heat of the fowls causes the fumes to penetrate every part of their bodies, thereby killing all vermin and leaving the brood clean and healthy. Never set eggs laid near the close of the season when the hens have been very prolific, as they will produce weakly chicks liable to disease and early death. In arranging nests remember that the nature of fowls is to hide their nests under a brush heap or some out of the way place, and humor this habit by providing nests so sheltered or hidden that they seem to offer seclusion and quiet.

Set fresh, fertile eggs, and you will have fine, vigorous chicks if the hen does her duty. Sprinkle the eggs with tepid water every few days when the hen leaves for food and rest; this is the secret of stolen nests turning out almost every egg. The hen leaves the nest early in the morning, wets herself with dew or water and at her return shakes her wet feathers over her eggs. Many young chicks are lost at hatching time because the little things expend all their strength in trying to get out of the tough lining of the shell, and die of exhaustion. So don't neglect to give a thorough wetting the last day before hatching and do not apply any sulphur the last week of incubation. In summer provide for ample ventilation and also for coolness around the nesting places.

### HOW TO KEEP THE WEEVIL OUT OF PEAS.

The weevil never enters these seeds after they are ripe and harvested. Whatever insects will attack them are already inside of the seeds when they are harvested. Take the pea-weevil, for example; soon after the blossom withers and the little pod is forming, the parent weevil lays her egg or eggs on the outside of this young and tender pod. The eggs soon hatch, and the little grubs eat their way through the shell and into the forming seed. In the case of the pea there is usually but one grub in each; while in the bean there are often as many as a dozen. The grub of the pea-weevil grows with the pea, and by the time the seed is mature the grub will be full grown, and has formed a pupa, in which it will remain dormant until Spring approaches. The pea seeds when harvested may each contain a weevil, which the careless observer may not notice. By planting time these will have awakened from their sleep and the seeds will be full of weevils. All devices to keep the weevils out of peas are of no use, as they are already in them when harvested. But we can and should kill the weevils before they escape from the peas, to prevent their increase. Placing the seed peas in a tight jar or box with a little spirits of turpentine is one of the most effective methods. While we cannot keep the weevils out of peas we can kill them while they are in them. Buggy peas will usually grow, as the grub does not injure the embryo plant. But the food provided for the young pea plant has been eaten, and the plants from such seeds will be weaker and continue to be less vigorous and productive. It will be far better to burn the buggy peas and buy a fresh lot.

### PROTECTING ORCHARDS AND VINEYARDS.

Our advice, then, is, if a severe Winter is feared, to take advantage of the snow as a protective covering of the roots of our orchard trees and vineyards. This can be done by tramping down the first snow that comes, or, what would be more efficient, by means of a horse dragging a light roller over the snow in orchard and vineyard and repeating it with every new snowfall, in order to compact it and keep it from blowing off. Such protection would not always be available, but often it might be made so and serious loss averted.

It cannot be supposed that a snow covering would, in an extreme case, be efficient against harm to the smaller branches or the fruit buds, but it might save the root, and thus, through them, sustain the whole cellular system of the stem or trunk and the main limbs. Such treatment might not insure a crop of peaches, but it might save the peach orchard from destruction. If the roots can be protected from injury the vitality of all parts of the tree is sustained to some extent; and this thought leads us back to earlier protective treatment—to the general cultivation. Well cultivated trees and vines, those that have been supplied with manure sufficient for their wants, that have had the soil above their roots stirred during the growing season, that have not been enfeebled by crops too heavy to be borne and matured; in a word, that have had their vigor highly maintained—such trees will be far better able to resist the rigors of an unusually severe Winter, in connection with the adverse conditions of a drought, than those that have been enfeebled by poor cultivation and neglect.

### Glaciers in Alaska.

There are six hundred glaciers in Alaska in nearly every instance having greater dimensions than those of Switzerland. Those glaciers extending down from the Fair-weather group, and from the lesser heights guarding the bay are six in number. They are a little more than fifty miles in length, and at a point of contract with the bay are three miles wide, and have a solid face above the water of two hundred feet with pinnacles of spire-like design rising from fifty to one hundred feet above the more solid mass.

Underneath these great cakes of ice and snow the materials constituting the glacier and which are piled together in the wildest of disorder, runs a living stream of water, coursing through this darkened passage with the rumble of a thousand carts. Escaping from the ice at last, it boils upward from beneath the glacier front, then mingles with the waters of the bay and flows off to the sea. The constant wear of the sunless river acting with all other causes, forces large masses of ice to break away from the main body, and as they fall a roar as though a hundred cannon were discharged wakes the waves, and great columns of water leap upward against the frozen cliffs, and add thereby to their bulk.

## GREAT GUNS OF ENGLAND.

### A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING THEM.

England's big guns are made of bars such as that just described, coiled spirally, and welded into a solid mass by the hammer. These red hot furnaces contain a straight bar; at a word the door is slightly raised, and with high nippers its head is seized by loops made for the purpose. A steam winch draws on the glowing mass, and brings it to a horizontal capstan fixed before the door. A water hose is turned upon the loop, and while it blackens under the chill a stalwart fellow, wielding a heavy sledge, fixes the loop on a nut projecting from the capstan wheel. Then the machine revolves with resistless force, curling the hot metal round and round on its drum neatly and smoothly, and as easily as one of Jordan-Marsh's girls would wind ribbon. So the coil is formed, whether for the breech piece or the body of the gun, or for its jacket. This again is cooled, and after a while is

### REFINED FOR WELDING

under the hammer. You ought to see this Woolwich hammer. It weighs forty tons sheer weight, and when it drops it falls forty feet on to a block that rests on piles, massive masonry and enormous quantities of iron. Between two great shafts this hammer is suspended, a solid block, which, driven from above by steam, and gathering impetus as it falls strikes with a force of many hundred tons. A veteran workman has charge of this massive hammer. He starts and drops it by a touch of his thumb and finger. I saw an open face watch laid down on the block; then he dropped the hammer, and he stopped it just in time to break the crystal—and nothing more. They call this last operation of the furnace the "great heat," and about every monarch there is in Europe has seen it, just as I did yesterday. While I am wondering what they thought about it, the furnace to be emptied is flaring with impatience. Through the interstices of its great door blue, red and purple flames are leaping out.

### A HUGE CRANE SWINGS.

round a pair of pincers, at the end of which a dozen Britons cluster. The door rises a little, the white light blinds us, and although I am at least twenty yards away, the heat burns my face uncomfortably. Water is thrown into the awful gap, and then the men perceive their prey. The huge arms part and firmly close, the door rises to its fullest extent, a clash of the crane gear, a shout from the men and out it comes, easily and softly, a monstrous coil. The crane swings about and places it on end upon the anvil. Then the hammer falls, shaking the solid floor beneath us, crushing the red-hot mass inches down at a blow, welding its coils together so that they can never part. But the inside hollow has been knocked out of shape by this process, so, when the tube has been reduced to its proper length, a solid mandril is deftly slipped betwixt the hammer and the iron. For two or three blows the contracted coil attempts resistance, but it gives way, and the mandril slips to its base, as into butter. Then the great pincers are used again, and it drops the mass on its side, where again it is battered and struck all round. The irregularities caused by all this hammering are afterward removed by the plane, as I have already mentioned, and then the gun is made by other machinery.

### Johnny was Jealous.

"Mr. Lighthouse," said Johnny, my sister treats you better'n she does me."

"Does she, Johnny?" asked Lighthouse, with a laugh. "Why do you think so?"

"Well, I heard her tell ma she gave you lots of taffy, but she never gives me any."

### Nothing to Say.

"Clara was telling ma about your singing at Mrs. Hobson's party, Mr. Featherly," remarked Bobby.

"Yes?" said Featherly complacently; "and what did she say?"

"Oh, she didn't say anything. She just laughed."

### The Sermon Told.

Dr. Douglas was once astounded at the sudden and somewhat remarkable effect a sermon of his on economy had on an old woman who was a member of his congregation. A few days afterward the old woman stopped the doctor on the street and said:

Doctor, that sermon of yours on the subject of economy was the best I ever heard. I never was so impressed by the duty of being economical, and I concluded to practice as well as believe your advice."

"I am glad to hear that you are pleased. What have you done, if I may inquire?"

"I have reduced my contribution to the church from \$12.50 to \$10."

The best part of the story is that the old woman was really in earnest and thought she was simply doing her duty.

### Indisputable Spiritualistic Evidence.

Winks—"Do you believe the spirits of the departed can communicate with the living?"

Jinks—"Yes, I have had absolute proof of it."

"You don't say so?"

"I suppose you know when I married the present Mrs. Jinks she was a widow?"

"Yes."

"Well, some time afterwards I went with a friend to see a medium, just for the fun of the thing, you know, and as sure as I'm alive she gave me a message from my wife's first husband."

"In his writing?"

"Oh, no!"

"Did you see him or hear him talk?"

"No, the medium just told me what he said."

"Nonsense; then what proof have you that the communication was genuine?"

"He said he was sorry for me."

### A Frank Confession.

Merchant (to applicant for a job)—Do you know anything about figures, Uncle Rastus?

Uncle Rastus—Yes, sah.

Merchant—Well, if I were to lend you \$5 and you promised to pay me \$1 each month, how much would you owe me at the expiration of three months?

Uncle Rastus—F' dollars, sah.

Merchant—I'm afraid you don't know much about figures.

Uncle Rastus—No, sah, but I spec I knows all 'bout Uncle Rastus.

## YOUNG FOLKS.

### RAILROAD BUILDING.

"Come, boys," said Will to the other boys, "I'm tired of this humdrum play. Let's get up something new and big."

"Agreed," came from the others; "what shall it be, Will?"

"A railroad," was the prompt reply. "And they all abouted, 'A railroad! I'll rah, boys! that's just grand. We'll do it. But who knows how?'"

"I do," came from Will. "Father's engineer, and you see I hear him talk mother about it every day."

"Your father an engineer?" exclaimed several. "Don't Mike Riley and Tim Seelivan run all the engines?"

And Will answered with a loud "Ha, ha, ha!" Run engines! ha, ha, ha!" and he sides shook with laughter. "Compare father to Mike and Tim! My father built railroads."

And they all said "Oh!" "But what the first thing, Will, to build a road? space and hoe, or what?"

"Money; ten hundred thousand dollars and just as much more as you can get. Father says you can do anything with money; but all the money in the world couldn't have saved little sister Rose from dying." At that a large tear came to Will's eye and the boys all looked at him in silence.

Then he wiped his eyes and went on. "Come, boys, say how much you'll give the new railroad."

Thereupon Will smoothed off a spot of the sand and wrote his name, and opposite he put, "The right of way and no charge for engineering."

"And what's 'the right of way'?" the asked.

"You can't build roads in the air. You must have ground, and when you get you've 'The right of way.' See? I'll get that from father, down in the orchard, along the trout brook."

"Good for you, Will," they all shouted. "Here, Rob, you sign for the ties; Al for the rails, and Jim for the rolling stock. Dan must build the depot. Come up, and sign like men of enterprise. Be liberal and prompt, and we'll have the cars running by the first of June, and declare a dividend—of fun at least—every day."

All this speech from Will, and each wrote his name under Will's, saying what he would give or do.

Then came the word of command from young engineer:

"Now to business. Each one to his home as fast as his legs will carry him, bringing an axe or spade or hoe or some tool. I'll run to father for the charter—what that? Then let's make the dirt fly."

When I went by a few days after, by the foot of the orchard, sure enough, there they were; coats off, each one as busy as a bee. Will acting as engineer.

The grading—what's that?—was nearly all done. Will said they would lay the ties—what are they?—and rails (?) the next Monday, and soon I should hear the whistle. True to his promise, on the appointed day came the "toot, toot, toot," louder and louder till the hills sent back the sound.

I looked, and there came the train, built of wood "from stem to stern," and drawn by two stout goats, instead of steam, while Jim sat on the engine with a tin horn to his mouth, his cheeks puffed out like two pumpkins.

That's years ago. Will is now Mr. Williams, a first class railroad man. So are some of the others.

But when I see them building those fine roads, I wonder if they will ever travel "The King's Highway of Holiness." Have you a ticket to go up in His chariot one of these days and enter the City of God?

### Boy Wanted.

No doubt, some of you boys will want place, by and by, and I think I can help you to get it, by giving you a few hints as to the necessary qualifications: (1) Be willing to work; to be perfectly sure of that, you must try it a little every day at home. (2) Learn to be polite; how would it do to drill up at that with your father and mother, or sister or school-teacher? (3) Look out sharp when you are in school for the "R's." If you can not write a plain hand, you never will be promoted to be a book-keeper, and if you are not quick in arithmetic, you will never make a good clerk—or proprietor. (4) Be sure you have the habit of attending church and Sabbath-school; that is the kind of boys merchants always want, even if they don't go themselves. (5) Do not get into the habit of smoking or swearing; that is the kind of boys merchants do not want. (6) Learn to do every thing you undertake just as well as you can possibly do it, whether it be splitting up kindlings, driving cows, or doing the barn chores. General Sheridan made a speech last summer, at a soldiers' reunion in which he said that when he was a second lieutenant he determined to be the best second lieutenant in the army, and so on with every position. That was what made "Pho Sheridan" win so many battles, and now put him at the head of the United States army.

One other thing you can do: "Labor is kept alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience." A boy who has a live conscience will always be on the right side, and do the right thing because it is right. Whether he sweeps the store, or trims the lamps, or sells goods, or keeps the books, he will do it thoroughly and well, not because his employer would notice it, or mention it, but because the "Master in heaven" would know it, and because his conscience would speak out! Was not that just Paul's advice to those who were working for others? "Whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; for ye serve the Lord Christ." Boys with a conscience (if they are good for anything in other respects) will be successful; for employers are always sure to keep the ones that can be trusted. They know that such clerks will not steal their time nor their money.

Stick to these rules, and, take my word for it, you will be the boys that will be wanted by and by; you will get a place and a good one!

### Not a Farmer.

"You are not a farmer, are you, Mr. Featherly?" Bobby inquired, as that young man settled himself on the sofa for a party call.

"Certainly not, Bobby," he replied, "I'm in the dry goods line. Why?"

"Because pa told ma that from the way you acted at the supper table last night you must 'love in makin' hay while the sun shines."