

HOUSEHOLD.

House-Cleaning.

The March winds have shaken the clinging dead leaves from the trees, and blown the light, loose rubbish into heaps in the hollows and valleys; and now the April showers have softened and washed away what the winds could not remove, while the warm and purifying sunshine will help to carry forward the thorough renovating process which at this season is going on throughout the entire domain of nature.

Indoors, the entire household feels an impulse to follow nature's example, and cleanse her house of the dust and dirt, which, in spite of the weekly cleaning, has accumulated during the long winter season.

To bring about this necessary and an undue taxation of physical strength, should be the first thought in connection with this annual business of house cleaning.

Do not undertake to accomplish more in one day than can be done with ease and pleasure. It is far better to attempt only as much work as can be finished in the first half of the day, giving the remainder of the day to other, less onerous duties, thus reserving a fund of strength, which must be added to by adequate rest, for the work of the coming day.

Do not make the mistake of upsetting many or all the rooms of a house at once; take only one room at a time, and arrange so that there shall be throughout the entire house cleaning season, some cosy place where the family may live and rest in comfort.

Get plenty of help for the heavy work. The fashion many women have of themselves attempting to do all the extra work of house cleaning in addition to the ordinary cares of the family, which are quite enough for them, is the poorest kind of economy; and overwork at this season of the year, when the system is naturally relaxed, is especially hazardous.

Make thorough work of the cleaning process. Remember the closets, cupboards, attic, and cellar. These are just the places where dirt and germs are most apt to accumulate. Purify, and disinfect if necessary, every nook and corner of the house.

Do not rest satisfied until the entire house and all that pertains to it, has been thoroughly renovated; but do not hurry through the work at the expense of health and strength; and, as a recent writer upon the subject aptly remarks: "No woman should indulge in the thought that what she is doing is drudgery, but that, like her great exemplar, nature, she is performing a refining and elevating process."

Practical Recipes.

NIAGARA CAKE.—Take one cupful of sugar, three cupfuls of flour, one and a half cupfuls of milk, half a cupful of butter, and two eggs; mix thoroughly, adding two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Bake in a hot oven. This is a really excellent cake.

TO PRESERVE ORANGES.—Boil the oranges in clear water until you can pass a straw through their skins; then clarify three-quarters of a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit, and pour over the oranges while hot. Let them stand one night, then boil them in the syrup until they are clear and the syrup thick. Take them from the syrup, and strain it clear over them.

JAMME MANGE.—Break up and boil an ounce of isinglass of gelatine in rather more than a half pint of water, till it is melted; strain it, then add the juice of two large oranges, a gill of white wine, and the yolks of four eggs beaten and strained; sweeten to taste, and stir it over a gentle fire till it just boils up. Dip a mold in cold water, and fill with the preparation. Do not allow any sediment to go in it.

CHICKEN SALAD.—Mince the white meat of a chicken fine, then chop the white parts of celery, and prepare a dressing as follows: Rub the yolks of hard-boiled eggs smooth with a spoon; put to each yolk one teaspoonful of made mustard, half as much salt, a wineglassful of strong vinegar, and a tablespoonful of the best olive oil. Put the celery into a salad-bowl, lay the chicken on that, then pour over it the dressing. Lettuce cut small may be used in the place of celery, but the latter is much more delicious. Cut the whites of the eggs in rings to garnish the salad.

LEMON PIE.—A delicious lemon pie can be made by following the receipt here given, namely: Take one cupful of bread crumbs, one of sugar, one of water, three well-beaten eggs, the juice of three juicy lemons, the rind of two lemons grated fine, and mix together thoroughly. Make paste, and a puff-paste crust to cover the pie, as follows: Rub half a pound of sweet butter into a pound of flour, and add half a teaspoonful of baking powder; use just enough water to bind it, then roll it out, away from you, rather thin, and use for top and bottom crusts. If you like a puff-paste top, after you roll out this crust as advised, spread butter all over the surface, fold the crust together, and roll it out again, always away from you. Flour the pie-board well, also the rolling pin; spread on more butter, fold, and roll as before. Do this three times in all, and you will have a fine puff-paste crust. Or to make a less expensive and plainer, but very nice crust, mix with milk instead of water, and use one-half fresh sweet lard and one-half butter, instead of butter and water.

Hints For House-Cleaning.

To clean steel, apply with a flannel cloth a paste of emery powder and sweet-oil.

Mirrors may be cleaned with cold water and a sponge, or rubbed with a damp cloth dipped into powdered bluing, and then polished.

For the destruction of moths, pursue the following plan: Take the tacks from the carpet, fold it back, and wash the floor underneath in strong suds in which a tablespoonful of borax has been dissolved. When dry, sprinkle the carpet and floor with insect powder, and re-tack.

Persian insect powder, if carefully and persistently used, will generally be found efficacious for the extermination of roaches. An exchange says that if powdered borax is plentifully sprinkled around their haunts and occasionally renewed, it will prove an effectual exterminator.

A mother, vexed at something one of her sons (about seven) had done, told him no one would give her two cents for him. "Well, mother," replied, "no one would have you if you were to be given away with a pound of tea."

THE LIME-KILN CLUB.

For some weeks past Shimbone Smallman and Hardluck Johnson have engaged in an enmity which bade fair to end in bloodshed. It came about through a dispute on a Biblical question: Shimbone said that he didn't believe any bears came out and ate up the children who abuted after Elisha. Hardluck replied that any man who disputed the statement was either a fool or an atheist, and thus the gulf opened. Several mutual friends have sought to arbitrate, but Shimbone was firm and Hardluck was determined. They ignored each other's existence, and their wives and children made faces at each other over the fence. It had been whispered around all the week that Brother Gardner would bring about a reconciliation at the Saturday night session, and every face in the hall was turned towards him as he arose and said:

"How much we know dat we doan' know 'tall an' kin nebber find out! De aivrage man will bet me money on his ignorance dan on his true knowledge, an' he will fight for a lie as soon as de troof. I see Brudders Smallman an' Johnson back dar by de fluted column. Boaf of 'em will please retrograde to de front."

The two gentlemen named indulged in two magnificent starts of surprise, gritted their teeth at each other and advanced to the President's desk in single file.

"Shimbone," said Brother Gardner, when they stood before him, "do you believe de b'ars ate up de chill'en dat followed 'Lisha'?"

"No, sah."

"Why doan' you?"

"Kase I doan'."

"Hardluck, do you believe de b'ars ate de chill'en up?"

"Yes, sah."

"Why do believe it?"

"Kase I do."

"I expected dis was de case. Fools an' bigots believe bekase dey believe. It hain't bekase dey have sense an' reason on deir side, but simply bekase dey have made up deir minds to a sartin thing. One of you believes de b'ars ate up de chill'en bekase you've heard so. De odder one won't believe it bekase he didn't see it done. Now dis 'ere foolishness has got to stop! It has got to stop right yere an' now! Hold out yer paws to each odder. Now shake. Now go an' sot down, an' when you go home arter de meetin' tell yer wives dat de match has bin declared off an' de country am safe. By-law 6491 forbids any disputes on religious subjeks. You have laid yerselves liable to a fine of \$13,000 cash, an' if you don't walk powerful straight fur de nex six months sunthim will happen to upset yer piece of mind."

HE MEANT IT.

The two members returned to their seats and began to smile and whisper to each other and inside of three minutes had traded jack-knives and exchanged gum.

"I should like to ask de Char," said the Rev. Penstock, as he arose, "if he meant to use de exphreshun he did of: 'Please retrograde to de front?'"

"De Char did, sah!"

"Yes—um—yes! Retrograde to de front!"

"Dat's what I said, sah, an' de Char meant it! If de Char had meant for 'em to disrupt to de rear he would have said so. What am de pint you wish to raise?"

"Dat de exphreshun was not classically nor grammatically correct."

"Brudder Penstock, you sot down, an' doan' you be ober fo' minits sittin' dar! Dis club doan' do business on de classically nor grammatically basis. We seek to speak so plainly dat eberybody kin understand. 'Bout de time we orter hev bin in college, bittin' off hull hunks of wisdom from de branches of de tree of eddecashun, we was handlin' de cotton hoe an' workin' in de sugar-cane, an' we isn't to blame for it. Yes, sah, sot right down, an' stay sot, an' de Secretary will enter a fine of \$7,000 agin you for disturbin' de harmony of de front."

HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT.

A communication from Toronto stated that the writer had seen the statement in print that the colored people of the North were leaving the Methodist Church in great numbers and becoming Presbyterians, and he would like to inquire of the Lime-Kiln Club the occasion for such a move.

Sir Isaac Walpole said he was totally ignorant of any such movement. The only person who had left the Methodist pastorate to which he belonged was a colored man with a wooden leg and one eye out, and he had been churched for having too intimate an acquaintance with his neighbors' wood piles.

Waydown Bebee, who passes the collection box in a Methodist congregation, had not heard of any stampede. His church was constantly gaining in membership, and the only lost lambs consisted of two members who tried to steal the stove out of the basement.

Whalebone Howker, who is a janitor in a Methodist church edifice, pronounced the statement "uneventually false" in every particular. There was no hegrira from the Methodist church, and there was nothing wrong with the Methodist religion.

"I guess de hull bizness ar' what de white folks call a kenard," observed the President as he rose up to cut off further debate, "De cull'd man who can't git 'long with de Methodist or Baptist religun am a pesson who orter be watched wid boaf eyes. De Secretary will brand de statement as a kenard, but thank de gem'an for his interes' in our race."

Frontier Marks.

The frontier between Germany and France is more distinctly marked than that of any other two countries. The frontier line is so arranged that it crosses every road at right angles.

On the German side is a large post, twelve feet high, painted like a barber's pole—red, black and white, with a cross-piece at the top, with the word, in black letters on a white ground, grenze (boundary), with an exclamation mark.

Diagonally opposite is a cast-iron post, twelve feet high, whereon is painted in gray, on an iron cross-piece, the word frontier.

Such posts are only placed on roads and railways. The line is indicated "across country" by some stone blocks projecting about a foot above the ground at intervals of fifty yards. On the French side of the block is cut with a chisel the letter "F"; on the German side is the letter "D"—for "Deutschland."

It is no great matter to live lovingly with good-natured, humble, and meek persons; but he who can do so with the forward, will-be, ignorant, peevish, and perverse has true charity.

FARM.

Women and the Farm.

In her interesting essay on "Farming from a woman's point of view," Miss Emily A. Brownell says: "It goes without saying that there is no class of women so helpful and so necessary in their homes as the wives and daughters of farmers. Herbert Spencer says that Americans overwork; and he would reverse the common belief that life is for work, and substitute 'Work is for life.' The revised ideal that he suggests seems almost impossible for the farmer to follow, and quite impossible in the farmhouse. The old-fashioned farmer—it is possible he may have a few successors—seemed to economize everything but the labor and strength of his wife. The woman's work on a farm is highly important, though all men are not willing to concede this until some time sickness stops the wife's busy hands and feet and active brain; and hired help, expensive and often inefficient, is found to be a poor substitute. Then the farmer realizes the worth of his wife's work and care. There dawns upon him a sense of her value when he has to pay a stranger good wages for what the wife did so much better and for so little, and that often given grudgingly. Among all the burdens woman is called upon to bear, there is not one so galling as the burden of dependence in money matters. Many truly kind and affectionate husbands are thoughtless on this point. Whatever money a woman wants—to a reasonable extent—should be given into her hands in such a way that she can enjoy it and preserve her self respect. It should be given voluntarily, in generous proportion to her husband's income, and her use of it should be unquestioned.

It is evident that farmers' wives are becoming more interested and more intelligent in regard to farming. If they will, they can do much toward elevating farm life and making it attractive. We are indebted largely to their taste and efforts for the success of our annual agricultural exhibitions. By their presence and sympathy they have given an impetus and a new interest to the pleasant field meetings and winter gatherings.

Novelties.

The advice of many rural papers to "leave novelties alone" is retrogressive. There are two great classes of cultivators; those who can afford to buy and to try new seeds and plants, and who delight in it, and, second, those who care for them as a means of support or profit. The first class stand in little need of caution or advice. But it should be the study of every farm journal to assist the latter class, not by advising them to "shun novelties" but through investigation, inquiry and experiment, to aid them in a judicious selection.

The farm journal that advises its readers to "beware of novelties," shrinks its duty. If such journals have no reason for existence which is stronger than another, it is that they are to find out what new plants or seeds or methods or implements are worthy of commendation or trial; what are not. All improvements of every kind come through novelties, and the progressive agricultural journal must be prepared to give the earliest trustworthy information respecting them.

Notes and Comments.

Regularity as to time of milking should be observed, and the milk drawn quickly. Irregularity and slowness dry up a cow.

Merino sheep do best when kept in small flocks, and it is profitable also to grade the different lots, so that the weaklings are together.

An eastern farmer says that he does not know of anything finer than a good ox team, and that wherever you see one you see good crops.

It is a good plan to give a cow immediately after dropping a calf a tablespoonful of saltpetre dissolved in water, and worked into a bran mess.

Don't keep a calf tied or shut up in some damp, dark corner, with hardly room enough to lie down. He needs the sunshine as much as hens or the plants in the garden.

As a grain feed for fattening steers, the following is given by a stock raiser: Corn meal, eight pounds; linseed meal, three pounds; wheat bran, six pounds, with hay.

It is claimed that a fat sheep will produce coarser wool than if only in moderate flesh. Excessive feeding will increase the weight of the carcass, but not the fineness of the wool.

Do not make horses reach up for their feed. Dust gets into their nostrils; besides, it is an unnatural thing for them to do.

One egg a day is a prescribed remedy for scours in calves. We would suggest a change of feed—no meal, if that has been given—and a little basswood charcoal in the feed daily.

South American Gold Mining.

The necessity for a prompt settlement of the boundary dispute with the republic of Venezuela is strikingly illustrated by a few items of intelligence we take almost at random from British Guiana newspapers just to hand. One item tells of about 230 laborers and others—the laborers would be chiefly negroes—leaving Georgetown in one day for the gold mining districts in the tributaries of the Massaruni River. Another tells of a digger selling his placer claim to a private company in Georgetown for \$30,000—no less than 45 pounds of gold having been taken by him from this claim in one month. The district of the Puruni seems to be passing rich in mineral wealth. According to an expert examined by a commission appointed by the local Government to frame mining regulations, quartz abounds in "thousands of tons" in the Puruni creeks. In 1885 but 903 ounces of bullion were exported from the colony, whereas in 1886 the total export was over 6,500 ounces. The total for 1887 promises to surpass that of 1886 as the total for that year exceeds that for 1882. That is, of course, if the home Government guarantee security to the enterprise now being shown by keeping Venezuela to her own domain.

"James," said a grocer to a new boy, "what have you been doing in the back room so long?" "I was 'a-pickin' the dead flies out of the dried currants, sir," replied James. "You were!" replied the grocer, with much disgust; "an' your father told me that he thought you were born for the grocery business. You had better study for the ministry, James."

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS.

The first vessel to leave Port Colborne this season sailed for Cleveland.

The German Government ask for an extra military credit of 134,000,000 marks. A society for the prevention of cruelty to animals has been organized in Kingston.

Successful experiments have been made in Metz with a navigable balloon propelled by an electric motor.

The Prince of Wales has consented to act as honorary president of the Melbourne International Exhibition.

Sheriff Jarvis, of the County of York, died suddenly on Saturday night of last week. He was in his sixty-ninth year.

Since May 1 of last year 37 convictions for violation of the Scott act have been obtained in the County of Oxford.

It is stated Tichoneff, the man who fired recently at the Czar, was hanged the day on which he committed the crime.

The Vanslooten iron monopoly bill has been defeated in the Nova Scotia Legislature by an almost unanimous vote.

The proposal for affiliation with Trinity Medical School, Toronto, has been approved by the medical faculty of Queen's University.

Rev. Dr. McCaul, late President of the Toronto University, died at his residence, in Toronto, the other morning, in his 81st year.

The Imperial Government, fearing the importation of dynamite from America, has instructed Customs officials to keep a sharp lookout.

Sir Adolphe Caron says that the Government will provide a sufficient sum to put up a spacious drillshed in Toronto as soon as the people of Toronto provide a site.

Mr. James Dakers, for nearly forty years secretary and manager of the Montreal Telegraph Company, died in Montreal recently, aged 75 years.

Rev. Dr. Parker, of the Temple church, London, will deliver the eulogy on the late Rev. Henry Ward Beecher in Brooklyn on June 24, and it is believed that he will accept an invitation to fill the vacant pulpit.

The Ameer of Afghanistan is concentrating troops round Herat to resist a dreaded Russian advance, and he is also sending a strong force against the Ghilzies and other rebel tribes who are resisting his authority.

In opening the Spring Assizes at Hamilton Sir M. C. Cameron remarked on the notable absence of crime on his present circuit, and spoke strongly in favour of maintaining the jury system.

A deputation from the Toronto Ministerial Association recently waited upon the Minister of Education and laid before him the resolutions passed by the association regarding the education laws.

While renewing public records partly burned in the great fire of 1871, an employe in the Chicago city clerk's office has discovered a deed conveying property covered with valuable business buildings to the city, enriching it by several million dollars.

The proposed Sunday law has been so amended by the Nova Scotia Legislative committee that its framers could not recognize it. The clause relating to barbers, ball-playing, racing, fishing, shooting, and running horse-cars were all struck out.

Prospects for the building trade in Montreal this season are of the most promising character. Public buildings, including two new railway stations, involving an expenditure of about two million dollars, will be erected, besides a large number of business premises and private residences.

An intense sensation has been created in London by the publication of the facsimile of a letter signed by Mr. Parnell, written to Mr. Egan, saying that while he regretted the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish in the Phoenix Park, he thought Burke got no more than his deserts. Mr. Parnell denies that he wrote the letter, and speaks about demanding that the editor of the Times be called to the bar of the House of Commons.

VARIETIES.

The name of the bat is never uttered at night by the common people in India, the belief being that the utterer would lose all his property.

When a Polish Jewess is married, it is usual for her own hair to be cut off and replaced by a wig, for the purpose, it is said, or lessening her attractions in the eyes of men other than her own husband.

A good mother of Toronto was horrified the other day when her little daughter informed her that she had her hair cut at the blacksmith's shop. When asked to explain she replied: "Mr. Smith cut my hair, and he is black, isn't he?"

A new industry has arisen in one of our southern seaports. It consists of packing sprats in tins a la sardine. These fish are caught in large numbers during the winter months, and hitherto there has been found some difficulty in disposing of them.

In the reign of King Charles II. the House of Commons met at ten in the morning and worked till four. It now meets at four, and has been known to sit till ten on the following morning. In the days of Elizabeth Parliament sometimes got to work at six in the morning, and went to dinner at eleven o'clock. The dinner-hour now is from seven to eight at night.

It seems curious at the present day that such a law as the following was in existence in the eighteenth century: "That anybody who should induce an English artificer engaged in any of the manufactures of Great Britain to go abroad and teach and practise the art must forfeit one hundred pounds and be liable to imprisonment." The artificer who did go abroad was "liable to be as an alien and have all his property forfeited to the king."

The Duke of Wellington was remarkable for the coolness with which he gave his directions. Even in the heat of an engagement he was known to give vent to a humorous observation, especially when it seemed to raise the spirits of his men. Thus, when the British were storming Badajos, his grace rode up whilst the balls were falling around, and, observing an artilleryman particularly active, inquired his name. He was answered, "Taylor." "A very good name, too," said Wellington. "Cheer up, my men; our Taylor will soon make a pair of breeches—in the walls!" At this rally the men forgot the danger of their situation, a burst of laughter broke from them, and the next charge carried the fortress.

PARADE OF TRUTH.

There is no man who is not 'better or worse to-day by means of what he thought, designed, or did yesterday.

Strive for that serenity of spirit that will enable you to make the best of things. That means contentment in its best sense.

Honor your engagement. If you promise to meet a man or do a certain thing at a certain moment, be ready at the appointed time.

If you are fortunate enough to possess a youth, be careful in the handling of wine. In its moderate use—as in that of many other blessings—lie health and cheer; at excess means misery and disease.

It is not isolated great deeds which do most to form a character, but small continuous acts touching and blending into one another. The greenness of a field comes not from trees, but from blades of grass.

No faculty is ever better for being dull. But when it is sharpened only by selfishness its mission remains unperformed. It is then only a means of personal gain, whereas its true purpose is a wide and general diffusion of happiness.

A good test of one's condition is ability to sleep well. Toil that does not interfere with sleep cannot be said to be excessive. Idleness that prevents sound and refreshing sleep, and takes away the keen appetite for it, robs a man of this among other blessings of life, and makes existence empty.

The quarrelsome man not only poisons the happiness of his own family and friends, but also his own. He generates antagonism, ill-feeling, and dislike wherever he vents his spleen, and these react on him to his misery. When to this is added the internal irritation of his own feelings, it is very certain that he is his self the greatest sufferer from his own pugnacity.

Of all educations that which has for its object the right fulfillment of parental duties would seem among the most important. Yet, as a general thing, that relation is entered upon with only crude and desultory ideas of the principles involved; and while intelligence and experience slowly bring a measure of wisdom, it often comes too late for the most pressing necessities.

A great portion of all the worst mischief, negative and positive, that ever afflicted the world is traceable to what people erroneously call conscience, but which is often only a hateful compound of ignorance, prejudice, and vindictiveness. The duty of a parent to improve those faculties which enable him to think and act correctly. He must make his conscience a good enlightened conscience; then, and then only, will he be entitled to honour and credit in acting upon it.

Benevolence has a farther-reaching service to render to mankind than is usually supposed. Not merely to listen to complaints, to relieve conscious suffering, and to supply recognized deficiencies is her appointed work, but also to detect the poverty that fancies itself rich, the ignorance that thinks itself wise, the grievances suffered unknowingly, the wrongs inflicted unthinkingly, the sins committed without remorse, the woes endured without effort to avert them.

Out of Gaol Again.

Herr John Most, the windy Anarchist who emerged to public view from under a bed about a year ago to disappear a little later in the penitentiary, reappeared the other day and was seen by many of his kind, until he again retired, this time into a beer-shop near Second avenue. A number of curious specimens of humanity greeted him on his arrival from Blackwell's Island, none of them having work that they could not just as well postpone. What Most expects to do beyond posing as a hero and martyr is not stated; but he will probably continue to be an agitator. Within bounds, of course. His term in the penitentiary will serve as a wholesome check on his loose tongue, we imagine, for it is a painful fact (painful to Most especially that for ten months he has been actually working. Doubtless he expects that to last him during his lifetime. Perhaps it will, if he obeys the laws and keep his mouth shut.—N. Y. Tribune.

Germany's White Elephant.

Reichsland, after sixteen years of possession, seems to be about as much of an elephant on Germany's hands as ever. The project of redividing it and assigning the northern part to Prussia and the southern to Baden for incorporation and government appears to have made little headway. Instead, Prince Hohenlohe is entrusted with a somewhat new system of administration, which nevertheless does not appear greatly to effect the desired Germanization of Alsace-Lorraine. Meanwhile the revelations of the late elections have caused more stringent measures to be taken in these disaffected provinces. Secret clubs are ferreted out, furtive tricolors are seized, expulsions have recommenced, and Strasburg sees its garrison largely reinforced. Such incidents are the natural sequences of the result of the late balloting, yet they furnish France with reasons for irritation and sympathy. It is clear enough that the problem of what to do with the conquered provinces has not yet been fully solved, and that they remain more or less a source of peril for the relations of the two countries.

The Queen Sleeps Between Irish Sheets.

A linen dealer in London has the royal order every year for ten new pairs of sheets at £25 a pair. The linen is of the most exquisitely fine cambric; in the centre is the royal coat-of-arms most beautifully embroidered, and the crown equally exquisitely done in the four corners. These sheets are for the state rooms, and are all manufactured near Belfast. Every day the Queen's bed is freshly furnished with linen, and six housemaids perform the task. There are twelve pillows, on which the linen cases are sewn, not buttoned or tied, and these also are changed every day.

Sunday School Teacher—"Now, can any little boy tell me what Easter is celebrated for? Good Little Boy (eagerly)—"Eggs."

In London's Arboretum it is stated that the fruit of the mountain ash is greedily devoured by birds; and in various parts of the north of Europe these berries are dried and ground into flour, and used in times of great scarcity as a substitute for the flour made of wheat. In Livonia, Sweden, and Kamchatka the berries are eaten as fruit, and a very good spirit is distilled from them. Evelyn says that "ale and beer brewed with these berries being ripe, is an incomparable drink, familiar in Wales.