

The Free Press Short Story

The Forehandedness of Margaret Reeder

MAY STANLEY

By HILDA RICHMOND.

WHAT are you going to give everybody this Christmas, Margaret?" asked Mrs. Gregory, panting slightly from her brisk walk.

"No, I can't think of sitting down. Mother is keeping the children for me this afternoon, and I must hurry. I'm going down to Smith's to look at the bargains in handkerchiefs if there is any hope of getting near the counters."

"Well, if you aren't forehanded, as my grandmother used to say!" Mrs. Gregory surveyed in admiration the array spread out on the bed, dressing table and wash-stand.

"Indeed I don't! What in the world do I want to drag myself through the mobs that rush here and there, and everywhere, for? You spend your money for things you don't want, and lose all the Christmas spirit in your anxiety for fear you'll forget something. It doesn't pay, and I'll never do it again."

"An hour ago the dinner Gregory had torn himself from the fascinating display of silk pillows, embroidered jewel-cases, knitted and crocheted things that adorned her friend's spare chamber, and was down-town vainly struggling for a place at the handkerchief counter, the telephone bell rang, and Mrs. Reeder heard something like this:

"Is this you, Mrs. Reeder? Mrs. Gregory was just telling me you have all your Christmas things ready, and I thought instantly you would have time to manage the dinner Gregory had torn himself from the fascinating display of silk pillows, embroidered jewel-cases, knitted and crocheted things that adorned her friend's spare chamber, and was down-town vainly struggling for a place at the handkerchief counter, the telephone bell rang, and Mrs. Reeder heard something like this:

Auntie will find another pretty for baby. Where was it? Oh, yes, turkey and cranberry sauce. I'll check off these two things, right away. Did the baby bump his head? Come to Auntie! I might as well wait till Bess comes back, for I'll get nothing done with this rascal to bother me."

"Margaret, didn't I hear you tell some about that you have your Christmas gifts all ready?" inquired Mr. Reeder that night. "If you have, I'd like to entertain Joe Forester about the twenty-third. He's to be in town for three or four days, and I'd like to get the old crowd together in his honor. I never would dream of asking him in the usual rumpus and clutter, though."

"I can easily manage the dinner, for I have really nothing on my hands but the dinner at the church and decorating the house. I don't see how I lived other years. Bess left the baby with me to-day while she did a little shopping, and when she came back she looked ready to drop. I'm going to see this year that the Aid Society dinner is a success, and that is all I shall undertake."

"I'm glad to hear you say that, dear. If you think the dinner for Joe will be too much, we won't undertake it."

"No, I positively will not help trim the tree," said Mrs. Reeder, when a busy-church-worker implored her aid. "I have hired a professional decorator to trim my own house, so that for once I shall not be fagged out on Christmas. We intend to keep the day this year with the true Christmas spirit."

"I wish you would," remarked Mr. Reeder. "Last year we had to have our dinner quite late, so that you would help down there. I remember, and then you were too tired to enjoy anything."

"I was more worried than tired because we ran out of food. This year I have ordered enough of everything, and I'll telephone Mrs. Pinckney early in the morning."

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DAIRY RATIONS

Under present day conditions many farmers must formulate rations for their dairy cows from the feeds available on the farm and limit the purchase of mill feeds to bare necessities. In order to balance the ration as closely as possible and supply the necessary food nutrients, plans must be made to grow the right crops in sufficient quantity. The farmers in Eastern Canada can produce a large part of the necessary nutrients for dairy rations if they make an honest effort to plan their crop rotations and acreages.

Protein is the expensive part of the ration and it is the protein rich feeds that are necessary to balance the home-grown rations. The feeds of this nature that can be produced here are clover hay, alfalfa in some districts, pea and oat hay and grain mixtures containing peas.

A ration for a cow in milk that supplies about fifteen pounds of pea and oat hay per day and crushed oats and barley one pound to each three pounds of milk, is about a balanced ration. If roots are fed in addition, if no roots are available, one pound to three of the mixed grain. If the available hay supply is limited to mixed hay or timothy, it would be necessary to add a protein supplement to meal, cottonseed meal, gluten feed or the grain ration. This may be oil-cake fish meal, 5 to 100 pounds for each 300 pounds of crushed grain, depending upon the protein analyses of the supplement available.

In formulating any ration, several points should be kept in mind. The ration should supply bulk, variety and succulence and should be palatable, as well as supplying 18 to 24 per cent. of crude protein. It is also often necessary to supply more minerals containing calcium and phosphorus, in particular. Ground limestone and edible bone meal particularly the latter, are excellent for this purpose and may be fed in the meal mixture at the rate of one to two per cent.

At the Experimental Farm, Nappan, it has been found that the succulent part of the ration may be provided in the form of mangels, corn swedes, O. P. V. or sunflower silage. Feeding tests here have shown swedes, or corn silage, to be somewhat superior to sunflowers in palatability, although the latter is a dependable crop and is readily eaten after the animals become accustomed to it. O. P. V. silage is an excellent feed, but the yield per acre is low and this brings the cost per pound of dry matter considerably higher than with the other crops.

The plan should be, therefore, to supply as much of the ration as possible from home-grown feeds and produce those feeds that are the highest in feeding value, consistent with certainty of crop and high yielding ability.

SOME CHRISTMAS JOYTINGS

Don't do your Christmas shopping early.

Only a few more hinting days before Christmas.

It is now too late to do your Christmas shopping early.

DO YOUR HENS PAY?

A pretty reliable old formula for finding out whether or not a flock of hens is paying for the feed they eat is supplied by P. C. Elford, Dominion Poultry Husbandman. It is as simple as it is practical: Take the cost of feed per hundred weight; divide it by the cost of eggs per dozen and multiply this quotient by three. This gives you the number of eggs per day which a flock of 100 hens must lay to pay for the cost of their feed.

For example: Feed is costing \$1.20 per cwt., and eggs selling at 30 cents per dozen. Applying the formula the quotient is 4; this multiplied by 3 gives the result 12--the number of eggs which a flock of 100 hens will have to average day to day for feed at that cost ratio.

HEE FIRST ATTEMPT

Alma made an angel cake, for her darling Harry's sake. "Harry, you a piece must take!" This she meant.

A BORROWER BETRAYED

"Bilson's grown a mustache and beard. I met him yesterday."

DOMINION BONDS SELLING OVER ISSUE PRICE

The forthcoming offering of bonds in connection with the new Dominion issues and prices prevailing to-day. It will be seen that current levels are well above the issue price on all previous Dominion loans. For instance, the 5-year issue of the National Service Loan (offered in November last) was purchased by the public at 99%. To-day that bond is quoted around 102-102 1/2, practically 3 points. The 10-year issue of the National Service Loan, due in 1941, was offered one year ago at 99 and is to-day quoted at 102 1/2-103, up some 3 1/2 points or more.

Douglas' Egyptian Liniment is especially recommended for spider, or infection of cow's teat. Invaluable also in cases of spavins, curbs and splints.

THE EASIER WAY

She--"Why don't you learn to dance?" He--"What's the use? I can get tired without going to all that trouble."

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

Could we select a gift this Christmas We would all choose "Happiness," Yet 'tis within the reach of all men, 'Though sought, without success.

Let us take a far journey eastward With the Wise Men of long ago, Who left friends, and fortune, Their gifts of honor to bestow.

And kneeling there in adoration, All but their own Christ forgot, Found utter contentment and gladness The goal by every man sought.

Now we in this glad Christmas season, May with them their wondrous joy share, Though travelling to no distant manger To offer Him rich gifts and rare.

Our journey is to the downhearted, The tired or soul-weary throng, With gifts which will lighten their burden And create in their bosom a song.

It may be but a kind word or action, Some food to a hungry man; Yet 'twill be a gift at the Manger If each person gives what he can.

'Tis true when we really cease striving For elusive Dame Happiness gay And try hard to send her to others, Lo! we find she is with us away.

—Lillian A. Holland.

Only Half a Newspaper...

No matter how well edited or how many columns of real, interesting news appears in a local paper, that newspaper is only fulfilling half of its purpose if it fails to carry plenty of store news. Half the news of a town concerns the goods in its stores--the price changes, the new styles, the new materials, the new methods of production and the varying qualities.

The newspaper is a co-operative enterprise. It is fashioned to carry all the local news, the news of the store as well as accounts of other happenings.

A Town Without A Newspaper

Opinion is almost unanimous that a town without a paper is a dead town. Reams could be written to prove conclusively that this must be true and very little could be said to offset these arguments. Who would care to defend an opinion in opposition to this statement?

A Store Which Does Not Advertise

Place yourself in the position of the reader of a town paper and endeavor to analyze the impression created by the omission of news from any particular store. How can it fail to be anything but unfavorable?

To the readers of any newspaper, store news is considered most important --- to some the most important part of the paper. Its omission cannot fail but have a harmful effect.

The Acton Free Press

WILFRED COULDN'T WIRE

Wilfred was a boxer, and his father was very anxious to learn the result of his first big fight. He made the boy promise that a wire should be sent to him as soon as the contest was over.

TIME FOR THRIFT

Young Angus had been out for the evening with his best girl. When he arrived home he found his father waiting. The old man looked up and shook his head.

FREEDOM FROM ASTHMA

Freedom from Asthma. Asthma is one of the most distressing troubles, sudden in its attacks and prolonged in its agonies. Frequently many things are tried, but nothing seems to give hope of relief. Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy is the one help which can be depended upon. If you have tried other remedies without success, do not fail to get at once a package of this uniformly successful preparation.

PERFECT BALM PROMOTES DAINTESS, CHARM AND BEAUTY

Perfect Balm promotes daintiness, charm and beauty. Magical in its effect on the skin. There is nothing like it for creating and preserving a lovely complexion. Cooling, caressing, it soothes and relieves all roughness caused by weather conditions. Delicately fragrant, it enhances the most finished appearance. Makes the skin rose-leaf in texture. Truly a peerless toilet requisite for every discerning woman.

HONEY PRODUCTION INCREASES

Farmers of the Canadian Prairies are engaging in honey production on an even greater scale than in former years. Custom reports at the city of Winnipeg show that millions of bees have been shipped into the Prairie Provinces this past summer and that during the past six months over 10,000 packages of bees destined to Prairie farmers have been cleared. The largest shipment numbered four and a half million bees packed in special containers, which came from the Southern United States.