

## TIMELY TOPICS FOR WOMEN . . .

By **Barbara Baines**

### HANDS OFF YOUR CHILDREN'S MAIL

Mothers worry about their daughters, and their sons too. They are curious about the friendships they make, and if Tom or Mary is at the susceptible age, about how serious those friendships have become. But no matter what the motive or the excuse, no mother has any right to read her children's mail without their permission.

Privacy is something young people value very highly. Even little children, too young to read themselves, look on a letter addressed to them as their own personal possession, and get a kick out of opening it and looking it all over carefully before asking Mummy or Sis to read it for them.

Older boys and girls with any spirit actively resent having any one tamper with their mail. They feel it is an injustice and an infringement on their liberty to have their parents, or any member of the family for that matter, read their letters uninvited. And the older they get the more it rankles.

Actually I believe mothers are worse offenders in this respect than are fathers. But parents must expect their children to grow up. In fact they would be terribly disappointed if, when the right time comes, they did not show a normal development and discard their childish ways.

Just the same it is a bit of a shock to find young Joan's return from a vacation at the lake followed by an avalanche of letters all in the same handwriting. But surely if there is mutual trust and confidence Joan will tell you all you need to know about the affair. If not there are less dishonourable ways of finding out than snooping through her letters.

Then there is another side to consider. Most young people in their first approach to liking for the opposite sex are very sensitive. Critical comment or teasing remarks about a letter meant for their eyes alone can quite easily spoil a budding friendship, or cause a bad case of self-consciousness. So, if Joan does show you her letters, be sure you use a little tact in commenting on them.

Telephone privacy is another home right which should be granted to children as well as older members of the family. Haven't you ever noticed how unnatural and evasive a youngster becomes the moment he thinks a grown up is listening in on his conversation? Similarly every young person should be able to rely on having a desk or dresser drawer that is their own private possession, a spot in which they can hide away the birthday present that is to be a surprise for Dad, their diary, the poem they are working on, and all their little souvenirs and keepsakes, without being afraid that someone will start poking through them.

### UNTIL NEXT SUMMER

Each season brings its own particular chores. When fall comes there is pickling and preserving and house-cleaning of course, but there is usually a score or more of other odd jobs that need looking after as well. Closing the cottage for the winter (if you are lucky enough to own one) is one job that requires a lot more effort than just turning the key in the lock.

If it is equipped with modern conveniences it is important to see that the main water valve is closed and all pipes are drained, and that the main electric switch or gas supply is turned off. If you use a cook-stove the pipes should be cleaned, and both pipes and stove oiled to prevent rust. All papers, oily clothes and rubbish should be burnt, and matches put in a metal container as a protection against fire.

Blankets and summer bedding should be washed with luke warm water and mild soap, thoroughly rinsed, and quickly dried on a sunny, breezy day, then stored in a metal lined chest or cupboard as a protection against moths and mice. One resourceful family I know use a large metal ash-can with good results. Rugs should be thoroughly cleaned, and clothing to be left behind packed in moth balls.

Special precautions must be taken to prevent squirrels, birds and especially field mice from making themselves at home in your absence. They can be very destructive. All foods, and even soap and candles, should be kept in tins or glass jars. All knot holes and cracks should be closed up and the chimney covered with a stout wire netting. Mattresses should be covered only with washable slips. Couch covers, small rugs, cushions, pillows, raincoats, etc. should be hung over a wire and kept more than a foot from walls and ceiling. Mice apparently will not walk a tight rope.

Storing garden and porch furniture is a problem at home as well as at the cottage. Canvas deck chairs respond beautifully to a scrubbing with soap and water, and a garden hose is grand for rinsing. Wicker furniture and metal furniture can be wiped with a damp cloth, and other sturdy types scrubbed with soap and water and then rubbed with linseed oil. All should be thoroughly dried, and if wrapped with brown paper or a newspaper before storing will be fresh to bring out in the spring.

Awnings, too, should be cleaned, and window screens brushed, or if greasy, wiped with benzine before being put away for the winter. A light coat of oil will help to preserve veranda and porch floors from weathering. Tightly fastened shutters and doors will discourage the curious or pilferers.

### FOR OUR SCRAP BOOK

Marriage: The happy estate which resembles a pair of shears, each part incomplete and useless without the other; so joined they cannot be separated; often moving in opposite directions, and yet always punishing anyone that comes between them. —G. A. Posner—

### BOOK REVIEW

"THE HARP AND THE BLADE" By John Myers (Smithers and Bonnelle, 345pp., \$3.00)

"The Harp and the Blade" is a rollicking, swashbuckling story that will hold your interest to the last exciting chapter. Its hero is a most captivating character, Finnian, a singing, fighting Irish minstrel with a lusty appetite for life. Tenth-century France is the scene of his adventures, but the story is told in the language of today.

During his travels Finnian met up with Conan, a young Breton who was trying to rid the land of the wicked Chibbert and his powerful band of pillaging Danes. They "swore blood-brotherhood" and together faced danger, suspense, treachery, capture and almost certain death. They were involved in some mighty fights and were able to outwit their foes by but a breathtaking margin.

It was while a captive that Finnian met the beautiful, blond Marie. He helped her to escape and together they found refuge with the friendly monks of the Abbey of St. Charles. And it is here that the last titanic battle is fought, Chibbert destroyed, and Conan at last becomes master of the land.

"The Harp and the Blade" is a fascinating story, one which transports the reader to a world of the imagination, a world of chivalry, and daring, of romance and adventure. . . a world far removed from the disturbing conflicts of the present.

### PEACH HUMPTY DUMPTY

Here is one of the most interesting recipes demonstrated by Mrs. H. M. Aitken at the Canadian National Exhibition Cooking School. It was supplied by Pierre LeBrun and his wife, Marie of the Golden Dog Inn on the Gaspe Coast, who say it is a great favourite with their guests.

3 tablespoons butter 1 pint jar peaches  
 1/2 cup brown sugar (or an 18 ounce can)  
 1/4 cup corn syrup 1/4 cup chopped walnuts  
 Melt butter in upside down cake pan 9 1/2" by 2" deep. Add brown sugar and corn syrup. Cook over low heat until blended. Drain peaches, reserving juice for sauce. Arrange peach halves in syrup and lightly dust nuts around the edge.

BATTER: 2 eggs, well beaten  
 1-3 cup shortening 1 1/2 cups pastry flour  
 1/2 cup white sugar 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
 1/4 cup corn syrup 1-3 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 teaspoon almond flavouring 1/2 cup milk  
 Cream shortening, add sugar and corn syrup gradually. Add flavouring and blend well. Add well-beaten eggs. Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with milk; beat till smooth. Pour over peaches. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees F.) for 45 minutes or until done. Invert on flat serving dish and serve hot with Peach Sauce.

SAUCE: 1 cup peach juice  
 1 tablespoon corn starch 1 tablespoon butter  
 1/4 cup white sugar 1 tablespoon lemon juice  
 Mix corn starch, sugar and salt with 1/2 cup cold peach juice. Heat remainder of juice to boiling; stir in the corn starch mixture. Cook and stir until smooth and slightly thick. Simmer over direct heat for 10 minutes. Remove from heat; add butter and lemon juice. Beat till smooth with Dover-beater.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Barbara Baines welcomes letters from readers. Have you a good recipe for an economical meat dish that you would like to pass along. Address all communications in care of this newspaper.

## INTERNATIONAL UNIFORM Sunday School LESSON

### THE FULFILLMENT OF HISTORY: THE NEW JERUSALEM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1941

GOLDEN TEXT: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Revelation 21: 7.

LESSON PASSAGE: Revelation 21: 1 - 7, 10 - 12, 22 - 24.

Fishers of joy and pain  
 Grey words are we,  
 Who sift  
 Man's dream and drift;  
 Whose net  
 Under the moon is set  
 To drag the tidal secret of the world  
 Up from the shadowy sea.  
 —Geoffrey Scott—

### From Garden to City, 1, 2

The Bible begins with a garden and ends with a city. Genesis tells of the fall and Revelation of the redemption of mankind. It is the story of progress from a simple to a complex life. A modern city is a triumph of organization and each new invention adds to the intricacies of human society. The Bible story also epitomizes the moral history of man. There are many dark passages in this narrative but they lead to light. The author of the Book of Revelation had abundant reason to be pessimistic. He was a quarry slave under the Roman military power and he was writing to persecuted Christians who defiantly refused to worship the Roman emperor. Yet John gives a vision of hope and eventual triumph. He could do this because of his faith in God. His book has lived because it is a sublime manifesto of belief. The keynote is that God is reigning and that his cause must finally triumph. John had reason to fear that all Christians were doomed to suffer martyrdom, yet he never doubted that the church would emerge victorious.

### Heaven Within, 3, 4

In his own way John teaches the truth of Jesus that "the kingdom of God is within you." The Book of Revelation teaches the divine immanence. "Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." With that faith and experience life is full of meaning and purpose. Instead of friction there is inner harmony and peace. Two women sat chatting on a summer beach. One had love in her heart, rejoicing in the beauty of nature, the friendship of her neighbours and the forgiving mercy of God. The other raked up scandals twenty years old, particularized every person's fault, implanted suspicions and sowed the seeds of community discord. Looking out on the same world one saw mud and the other saw stars. The sharp contrast between the two expressions on their two countenances showed plainly that they were living in different worlds, thought worlds as different as heaven and hell.

### The Ideal Order, 5 - 7

The Book of Revelation is based on a philosophical belief. Simply stated it is that there is a blue print of a building before there is a building and the first reality is the building in the architect's mind and will. The thought is akin to Plato's teaching that the ideal is the real. The lower world not only depends on the higher but exists for the sake of it. Man's life is bound up with an invisible world. "John is seeking to express the truth which lies at the heart of all religion. Over against this visible order there is a higher one for which as spiritual beings we are meant to live. For John it is the kingdom of God, the state of being in which we shall have direct fellowship with God. John was made conscious in a moment of ecstasy, that there is a higher spiritual world separate from this one and yet related to it. It was impressed on him that everything in man's life must be related to this higher order of things, which is the real one."

### The Heavenly Home, 10 - 12

Whatever may have been the thought of John in describing the Heavenly City in both music and art it has inspired faith in immortality and a future life. The details about golden streets and jewels and measurements need not mislead us. They are attempts to describe the unseen. It is far more important to see that the twenty-first and twenty-second chapters of the Book of Revelation hold the faith taught by Christ himself in the fourteenth chapter of John's Gospel. Life does not end with a heart-beat. The body may die and be buried but the soul goes marching on. This hope of eternal reward was held out to cheer persecuted Christians in the first century and this faith can be as wonderful-working in the twentieth century. We live so differently when we dare to hope that we are going to live forever. "Man is not merely a creature of this earth, but has part in a higher order, in the service of which he will find his true life."

### Heaven on Earth, 22 - 24

We may begin this heavenly life here and now, in our own attitudes and by creating a new world order. With good will and right purposes the heavenly city could be built on earth. John believed that imperial Rome would yield place to another city which will have Christ as its King. This is more than dramatic justice. "Christian men have felt in all ages that the hope of redress in a heavenly world is not sufficient. Ought it not to be possible to secure, even in this world, some fruition for the labour and suffering of Christ's people? May we not look forward to a city of God on earth, in which the will of God will be done? This is the hope

which Christian men have kept always before their eyes. There is a kingdom of God in heaven, but at least something of it may be realised on earth. 'I will build Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land.' That is how the poet interprets the closing vision of Revelation."

### Questions for Discussion

1. Do I really believe that God is leading mankind?
2. In my mental attitudes and personal relationships am I experiencing heaven?
3. Do you think concretely or abstractly?
4. How far does the future life influence your present life?
5. "The heavenly city." "Satanic mills." Why the contradiction?

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## SIR CEDRIC AND LADY HARDWICKE



Pictured at the CBC microphone are Britain's famous actor knight and his delightful and gifted wife, professionally known as Helena Pickard. The study was made last winter when Sir Cedric and Lady Hardwicke came to take part in CBC's Theatre of Freedom.

Lady Hardwicke will return to Canada soon again to render yet another service to the Empire at war. She will enact the role of the courageous mother in a new British war drama, "Mrs. Brown Had Five Sons," and she is making this trip to Canada at her own suggestion. The CBC will present Lady Hardwicke and the play over the National Network on Friday, September 26, at 10:00 to 11:00 p.m. EDT.

## The World's News Seen Through THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

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