

About the House.

SWEETHEART AND WIFE.

If sweethearts were sweethearts always,
Whether as maid or wife,
No drop would be half so pleasant
In the mingled draft of life.

But the sweetheart has smiles and
blushes.
When the wife has frowns and sighs,
And the wife's have a wrathful glit-
ter
For the glow of the sweetheart's eyes.

If lovers were lovers always,
The same to sweetheart and wife,
Who would change for a future of
Eden
The joys of this checkered life?

But husbands grow grave and silent,
And care on the anxious brow,
Of replace the sunshine that perished
With the words of the marriage
vow.

Happy is he whose sweetheart
Is wife and sweetheart still;
Whose voice, as of old, can charm him;
Whose kiss, as of old, can thrill.

Who has plucked the rose to find ever
Its beauty and fragrance increase,
As the flush of passion is mellowed
In love's unmeasured peace?

Who sees in the step a lightness;
Who finds in the form a grace;
Who reads an unaltered brightness
In the witchery of the face

Undimmed and unchanged. Ah, happy
Is he crowned with such a life;
Who drinks the wife pledging the
sweetheart,
And toasts in the sweetheart the
wife.

THE POTATO.

We do become so tired of seeing the
same dish before us every day. Now
a plain boiled potato is a good old stand-
by, but variety, it is said, is the spice
of life, so here is a little of the "spice."

Scalloped Potatoes.—Cut cold boiled
potatoes very thin and small, and place
a quart of them in layers in a baking
dish, season each layer with salt, pep-
per, and little bits of butter. Cover
with a gill of cream or very rich milk,
grate bread crumbs over the potatoes,
season again with salt and pepper, and
small bits of butter, and bake until
thoroughly heated and brown.

Saratoga potatoes.—Pare two large po-
tatoes, and cut in very thin slices into
a pan of cold water; let them stand ten
minutes; take out a few pieces at a
time, dry them on a soft cloth, and
throw them into boiling lard; when a
light brown, take up with a skimmer,
and lay on brown paper to drain; dredge
with salt, and serve hot.

Potatoes and Cheese.—Cut five or six
boiled potatoes into thin slices and put
them in a baking dish. Take two table-
spoonfuls of butter and melt in a gran-
ite saucepan; add to it one tablespoonful
of flour, and stir until thoroughly blend-
ed. Then add one-half pint of soup
stock and the same amount of milk.
Stir until well mixed then remove from
the fire, and add two-thirds of a cup-
ful of grated cheese, three eggs, well
beaten, salt and a speck of cayenne pep-
per. Pour the whole over the sliced po-
tatoes; sprinkle bread crumbs over the
top, and put in the oven to brown.
Serve in the dish in which they were
baked.

Potatoes Viennoise.—Boil eight peeled
potatoes with one tablespoon of salt,
in one quart of water; when done drain
and press through a potato press; mix
with one even teaspoonful of salt, one
half even teaspoonful of pepper, two
ounces of butter, the yolks of three eggs,
one-half gill of cream, and four ounces
of grated Parmesan cheese. Mix well,
and form the mixture into round balls
the size of an egg. Sprinkle some flour
on a pastryboard, roll the potato into
long shapes, thick in the centre and
pointed at the ends; brush them over
with beaten egg; make two slanting in-
cisions on top of each, lay them in a
buttered pan, brush over again with
egg, and bake to a fine golden color in
a hot oven.

SOME GOOD DESSERTS.

An entire dinner may be spoiled by
the dessert. For the benefit of the cook
who has to cater to a family of epicures
the receipts for the following desserts
are given.

To serve a melon of ice-cream first
line a melon mold with pistachio ice-
cream. Then fill the centre with pink
ice-cream mixed with a few small choco-
lates to represent seeds, or the mold
may be filled with French ice-cream,
which is yellow and mixed with blanch-
ed almonds. When the melon is unmold-
ed sprinkle with chopped brown almonds.
This will have somewhat the effect of a
rind.

Pineapple mousse make a dainty des-
sert. To prepare it the following in-
gredients are required: One pineapple,
powdered sugar enough to make it very
sweet, three level teaspoonfuls of van-
illa, three tablespoonfuls of Jamaica
rum and three times the bulk of the
fruit in whipped cream. Peel the pine-
apple and cut a few slices of it into a
bowl. Sprinkle with powdered sugar
and a very little rum. Cover and set
away until wanted. Grate the rest of
the pineapple into an earthenware bowl.
Add to it the vanilla, rum, and sugar.
Set the bowl over ice and stir until very
cold. Meanwhile have ready beaten
over a pan of ice cream, which
should then equal three times the bulk
of the fruit. Fill an ice-cream mould
with the mixture. Fit the cover on
closely, cover the joint with a strip of
muslin dipped in melted butter to keep
out the salt. Pack in salt and ice, the
layers of ice being three inches and salt
one inch deep. Cover with a carpet and
set away in a cold place for three hours
at least. When ready to serve turn out
the cream, place around it the slices of
pineapple and its syrup and serve.

Plum pudding glaze is not very good
for epicures troubled with indigestion,
but it makes an exceptionally good des-
sert. First make a chocolate ice-cream
using the French ice-cream mixture.
Have a scant three-quarters of a pound
of mixed fruit, composed of seeded rais-
ins and currants boiled until plump,
thin slices of citron and a few candied
cherries. Pour over them a little sherry

and let them stand long enough to be
a little softened. When the cream is
frozen drain the fruit and mix it with
the cream, turning the dasher for a
few minutes to get it well mixed, and
again hardened. Place it in a melon
mould and pack in ice and salt. Serve
with sauce placed around it on the
same dish. Make the sauce of whipped
cream, flavored with a little kirsch or
brandy.

FASHION FANCIES.

Some of the new bicycle costumes
show white cloth facings.
Graduated rows of braid look extreme-
ly well on the skirt of a street gown.
The very latest designs in new um-
brella handles are of mother-of-pearl.
A combination of black velvet rib-
bon and white lace promises to be the
rage.
Lace and chiffon are used together
on stylish waists, the chiffon being put
under the lace in most cases.
Extremely small waists are no longer
the fashion, as the average corset
now measures from twenty to twenty-one
inches.
Spring capes bid fair to be gorgeous
affairs, as lace, embroidery, jet, spang-
les, and elaborate neck ruchings all
enter into their make-up.
Two skirts for one bodice is an inno-
vation, but one likely to gain ground,
and the additional cost entailed can be
trusted to keep them from being as uni-
versally popular as the extra waist.
Parasols of embroidered grass linen
promise to be popular in conjunction
with waists and costumes of this ma-
terial.
China silks, with all-over Persian pat-
terns, are not very expensive, yet they
make very useful and dainty gowns
when lined with nuns' veiling.
The latest skirts are flat in front
and over the hips, full in the back and
the gores slanted on one side only.
Blouse bodices are made with apron
bib fronts, and are especially effective
in waists of Persian velvet, the bib
being of satin embroidered with jet
and spangles.
For a fashionable coat the skirts,
sleeves, and coat itself should all cor-
respond as to material, while the vest
may be wide or narrow, and of a sec-
ond material.
Fichus are in every shape and size
possible, and are made of white silk
muslin with plain ruffles of the same
with selvedge edge, or of cream-white
Brussels net with insertions and edg-
ing of Valenciennes lace.
Lace jackets are made to wear over
silk foundations, and some of the big
stores in New York are importing jack-
ets of lace woven by hand in three or
four pieces, to be set together.
A simple coat has the godet basque
and belt, and is especially becoming to
slight figures. The wide collar is cape
shape in the back, and the soft full vest
is of fine tuck lawn trimmed with
rows of narrow Valenciennes edging.

THE WEDDING RING.

Where did the custom of wearing a
wedding ring originate? According to
the Latin writer, Aulus Gellius, it came
from Egypt, and was subsequently ad-
opted by the Greeks and Romans. In
choosing the fourth finger of the left
hand the ancient Egyptians were in-
fluenced by a belief to the effect that
a very acute nerve put this finger in
direct communication with the heart.
It is also very probable, says a histor-
ian, that the old Egyptians attributed
the fourth finger to Apollo—the sun-
to whom gold was consecrated, hence
the ring or symbol to the deity. Some
people have wondered why the index
has not been chosen. The Hebrews had
done so, and the custom has been hand-
ed down to us in the persons of the
Roman Catholic Bishops, who wear a
ring on the index of the right hand.
In Germany the ring is worn on the
fourth finger of the left hand during
the engagement, but is placed on the
right hand after marriage. In the
Greek Church the priest slips the wed-
ding ring on the fourth finger of the
bride's right hand. In Spain, instead
of being a simple band of gold, the
wedding ring is inlaid with precious
stones, and resembles any ordinary ring.
It is worn with less regularity than
in other countries, and always on the
fourth finger of the right hand.

SUPERSTITION.

In a beautiful trousseau recently made
for a bride by a noted Paris dressmaker
a queer discovery was made by chance.
It was necessary to make a slight al-
teration in one of the "lovely creations,"
when the sewing woman discovered a
long silken hair carefully stitched in-
to the gown. There could be no mis-
take; the single hair had been purpose-
ly sewed in the garment. The sewing
woman smiled and clapped her hands
—she had been employed in a Parisian
dressmaking establishment—and then
she explained the riddle.
"It is a superstition," she said. "When
the sewing girls in the different apart-
ments and the girls behind the coun-
ters learn that the house has received
an order for a big trousseau, they be-
siege the head dressmakers and ask
them to stitch into the wedding gown
especially a single hair from their
heads. This hair is so fine that it is
easily concealed and cannot in any way
mar the beautiful wedding gown. The
head dressmakers very often humor
the girls.
"The girls when they go home at
night tell their girl friends that a
hair from their heads had been stitched
into the wedding gown of Miss So-and-
So, and the lucky one is immediately en-
vied. She will be married very soon,
her associates say.

TOWELS FROM BLOTTING PAPER.

The most curious use to which paper
is to be put is that suggested by the
recent patenting of a blotting paper
towel. It is a new style of bath towel,
consisting of a full suit of heavy blot-
ting paper. A person, upon stepping
out of his morning tub, has only to ar-
ray himself in one of these suits, and in
a second he will be as dry as a bone.

THE RICH NITRATE KING.

HIS EARLY LIFE AND HOW HE MADE HIS MANY MILLIONS.

English Monte Cristo—How the Dead Man
Created a Unique Position for Him-
self by the Magic Use of His Millions—
His Wonderful Palace.

Colonel John Thomas North divided
the honours with Gladstone, Wales,
Cardinal Vaughan, Salisbury, and
Rothschild of being one of the fore-
most men in England, says the New
York World. The fiction of the Count
of Monte Cristo reads as much like
fact as the life story of this wonder-
ful production of modern money-mak-
ing possibilities. Colonel North was
born in a village of Yorkshire, near
Leeds, January 30, 1842. His father
was a Church warden, but for his
limited income he depended on the
sale of coal. There was nothing espe-
cially remarkable about the boyhood
of North. He was a healthy, rather
stolid Yorkshire lad, and at the age
of 15 he had a meagre Common school
education. At that age he was ap-
prenticed to the firm of Shaw, North
and Watson, of Leeds, the North of
the firm being a cousin of his father.
He remained with this firm for eight
years, and then obtained a responsible
position with the big Fowler Locomo-
tive and Steam Plough Works, of
Leeds. He was then earning an in-
come sufficient to support a wife com-
fortably, and he married Miss Jane
Woodhead, daughter of the town coun-
cillor and Conservative chairman of
Leeds.

A few months after his marriage his
father died. Young North refused to
take his share of his father's estate,
leaving it all to his widowed mother.
Soon afterwards he sailed with his
young wife for the west coast of
South America. He first found work
as an engineer in Carrizal, Chili, for
a railway company. During eighteen
months he devoted himself with un-
flinching industry to his profession.

THE VAST NITRE BEDS

of Peru were now beginning to be talk-
ed about as a good field for speculation.
They attracted the attention of the
young engineer, and he left the employ
of the railroad and hurried to Peru.
He acquired a practical knowledge of
the art of producing the nitrate from
the raw material. Lying imbedded in
the sand of the coast of Peru was a
coarse material called caliche, which
was much used by the natives for fer-
tilizing. From this material, by boil-
ing and evaporation, the nitrate of soda
of commerce is produced. For such
worn-out soils as those of England and
other old European countries the ef-
fect of this comparatively new fer-
tilizer was marvellous. So he began
in a small way to purchase nitrate,
and continued it for twenty years.
Finally, he was able to erect factories
of his own, and built lines of railway
to each. Then he connected them all
with one marvellous railroad across
the slopes of the Andes, from Pisagua
to Iquique, two ports from which the
wonderful nitrate is shipped to the
fields of agriculture in Europe. Then
he needed ships, and he built them.
Long before he came into any promi-
nence in England he was known in
all South America as the "Nitrate
King."

Just before the war broke out be-
tween Chili, Bolivia, and Peru, Col.
North, having made a vast fortune,
returned to England. He had, how-
ever, set on foot immense commercial
enterprises in Pisagua, Iquique, Tara-
paca, and other points on the west
coast. While he was in England the
railways in the nitrate fields, which
the Montero Brothers had financed,
became involved, and an effort was
made by their agents to raise in Lon-
don £70,000 to pay off a mortgage.
Col. North waited until the agent
came to him, and then said in his quick
way:—

"I will make you an offer, but it
to be accepted or rejected before you
leave this room. I will give you £95,-
000 for your interest in the road."

The agent asked for time to consider.
Colonel North turned the key in the
door.

"Yes, or no," he said, "before you
leave the room."

"Yes," said the agent.
The solicitor was sent for, the deed
was drawn, and Colonel North became
the controller of the railway system.
Everything he touched

TURNED TO GOLD.

He made money for himself and for
all who were associated with him. By
a daring purchase of guano in Chili he
made \$500,000. As a result of the way
Tarapaca became Chilean territory, Col-
onel North went out again, remained
there five years, and then returned
to England with an interest in nineteen
different companies, which he had form-
ed. Gradually he got more and more
control of them, until at the time of
his death his only partner was Mr.
Jewell, the English Consul at Iquique.
During the last Chilean revolution Col-
onel North's vast interests were put
in great jeopardy, for he openly espous-
ed the cause of the insurgents, and
spent millions in their cause. When
Balmaceda was overthrown Colonel
North got more concessions from the
Government he helped to establish, and
he made millions upon millions. His
wealth at the time of his death has
been variously estimated at between
\$100,000,000 and \$150,000,000. When Col-
onel North had become one of the
richest men in England he set about
making for himself a social position.
He went down into Kent, and with a
few millions acquired the magnificent
estate of Eltham. He bought with it
all the historical associations neces-
sary. Here John of France wooed the
daughter of his captor; here Richard
II welcomed Leo of Armenia; and
here Henry IV, married Joan of Na-
varre. The greatest landscape artists
of Europe laid out his grounds, the

gardens of the tropical lands were
ransacked to enrich his conservatories,
and the ancient galleries of all Europe
contributed to his art collection. The
bluest blood of the most famous studs
of England was bought for his stables,
and his hounds were picked from the
nobles kennels of Great Britain.
Then Colonel North gave a ball. He
had already secured the friendship of
the Prince of Wales, and he gave the
nobility of England such a ball as they
had

NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

So many of his millions he chose to
spend for social recognition of the sort
that the Prince's patronage could give
were laid out with the same wisdom
and discretion with which they had been
acquired. Colonel North became a promi-
nent figure on the turf, and he had
one of the best strings in England.
Many of the most aristocratic trophies
were won by the rich Commoner. In
1893 Colonel North sent over a stable
of race horses to this country in charge
of Colonel Thomas P. Ochiltree. The
horses were poorly managed, and were
not of the first-class. They won a few
races, but the success of the stable was
not what it would have been had the
horses been properly placed. Nine thor-
oughbreds were sent all together, in-
cluding Eltham Queen, High Commis-
sioner, Idlesleigh, Rough and Ready,
Arturo, and Sir Frederick Roberts.
A jockey named Swash came with the
stable, and introduced to America the
celebrated "English roll" to the pro-
found amazement of the "talent." Swash
was a monumental failure. Col-
onel North afterwards promised to
send another string of horses, but for
some reason failed to do so. In cours-
ing Colonel North achieved distinction
by the ownership of Fullerton, the
champion greyhound of Great Britain.
He went in for hunting, too, and be-
came master of the Mid-Kent hounds,
one of the finest packs in England.
He went in for military glory, and was
made colonel of Tower-Hamlets Royal
Engineers, a crack regiment. At the
last general election Col. North stood
for Parliament in West Leeds against
Herbert J. Gladstone, son of the great
statesman. He was beaten by 96 votes.
Several years ago his only daughter,
whose \$5,500,000 dowry had attracted
offers from many of the noblest houses
in England, created a sensation by
marrying George Lockett, a young
business man, of Liverpool. Colonel
North's son, Harry, was graduated from
Cambridge, and holds a commission in
the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Mrs.
North is a matronly woman of plain
taste, unspiced by riches.

CIGARETTE POISONING.

Dangers of the Excessive Use of Tobacco in Any Form.

George Burroughs, of Lambertville,
N. J., died a few days ago of nicotine
poisoning. A simple and matter-of-fact
announcement this. The average read-
er will hardly stop long enough to read
it, and yet to one who understands the
hidden meaning of the simple statement
"nicotine poisoning," it means a great
deal.

It means that through the careless-
ness of parents a child of tender years
was allowed to systematically poison
himself with one of the most deadly of
all poisons—a poison classed with prus-
sic acid because of the minute doses re-
quired to kill men and animals.

NICOTINE IN ALL TOBACCO.

This deadly poison is contained in all
kinds of tobacco. The poorer the grade
of tobacco the higher the percentage
of nicotine. The finer grades of Ha-
vana contain about 2 per cent. of the
poison, while the poor grades contain
about double that quantity.

There is little difference in the effect
of tobacco, whether it is smoked, chewed
or snuffed. As a matter of fact the
man who chews a cigar absorbs far
more nicotine than one who chews or-
dinary chewing tobacco. The latter is
said to be much less poisonous on ac-
count of the admixture of harmless vege-
table matter.

PARTICULARLY BAD FOR YOUTHS.

There is a case recorded where death
followed the chewing of half a cigar.
Adolescents are particularly susceptible
to nicotine, as is evidenced from the
frequent accounts of poisoning as a re-
sult of cigarette smoking. The cigar-
ette appears so mild and innocent that
children take to it kindly. The begin-
ner does not as a rule suffer the tor-
tures which usually follow a "first
cigar."

The danger of poisoning by cigarettes
is not so much from the smoke of the
burning paper and tobacco; it lies prin-
cipally in the moist and soggy end of
the cigarette which is held between the
lips.

DANGER OF CIGARETTES.

This end becomes saturated with sa-
liva, and the tobacco parts with its
poisonous element, which is promptly
absorbed by the tongue and the mem-
branes of the mouth and throat.

When a boy is allowed to smoke from
one to three or more packages of cigar-
ettes daily the injurious effect of the
poison soon become apparent. He ap-
pears depressed, complains of nausea
and loss of appetite, is nervous and ir-
ritable, and his heart acts in an irregular
manner. It may even be enlarged or
dilated as a result of the constant ir-
ritation produced by the poison in his
system.

In the typical cigarette fiend one may
find any one of the following conditions:
Catarrh of the throat, nose and larynx,
usually of a chronic nature; catarrh of
the stomach, palpitation of the heart,
and various disturbances of vision.

THE VISION DIMMED.

The latter are frequently of a very
serious character. It is said that ac-
uity of vision is sometimes reduced to
one-third of the normal.
Medical authorities are agreed that
children should not be allowed to use
tea, coffee, beer and wines.

Tobacco, and particularly cigarettes,
should be added to this list, not only
added to, but placed at the head, for the
weed is capable of inflicting more injury
of a serious character than all of the
other articles put together.

In France, bicycles are taxed at the
rate of about \$2.25 each per year; the
tax yields about \$400,000 per annum.

CHILD INVENTORS.

Instances Where Child Minds Have Con- ceived Valuable Ideas.

That many children have great in-
genuity of mind in fashioning toys of
various kinds is well known. That they
have very frequently turned this qual-
ity to good use in the invention and
construction of some of our most useful
mechanical appliances is attested by the
following instance:

The children of a Dutch spectacle
maker happened to be playing one day
with some of their father's glasses in
front of the shop door. Placing two
of the glasses together they peeped
through them, and were exceedingly
astonished to see the weather-cock of
the neighboring steeple brought with-
in a short distance of their eyes. They
were naturally puzzled, and called their
father to see the strange sight.

When the spectacle maker looked
through the glasses he was no less sur-
prised than the children had been. He
went indoors and thought the matter
over, and then the idea occurred to him
that he might construct a curious
new toy which would give people a
good deal of amusement. He did so,
and Galileo, hearing of this instrument
that was said to make distant things ap-
pear close at hand, saw at once what
a valuable help it would be to the
study of the heavens. He set to work
himself on it, and soon produced the tel-
escope.

A poor Swiss, named Argand, invent-
ed a lamp with a wick fitted into a
hollow cylinder, up which a current
was allowed to pass, thus giving a
supply of oxygen to the interior as
well as to the exterior of the circular
flame. At first Argand used the lamp
without a glass chimney, the invention
of which important adjunct would
doubtless have been delayed for some
time had it not been for the thought-
less juvenile experiments of his little
brother.

One day when Argand was busy in
his workroom, and sitting before the
burning lamp, this boy was amusing
himself by playing a bottomless oil flask
over different articles. Suddenly he
placed it upon the flame of the lamp,
which instantly shot up the long, cir-
cular neck of the flask with increased
brilliance. Argand did not happen to
be the man to allow such a suggestive
occurrence to escape him. The idea of
the lamp chimney almost immediately
came into his head, and in a short
time his invention was perfected.

One of the early difficulties with the
steam engine was that of condensing
the steam in the cylinder. Savary
dashed cold water on the outside, but
Newcomen afterward invented a method
of directing a stream of cold water
into the inside of the cylinder at
every rise of the piston. This was
accomplished by two stop cocks, which
were turned by hand, and the whole
action of the machine depended on the
attention of the person who watched
these two cocks.

Humphrey Potter, a boy employed to
tend one of Newcomen's engines, be-
longed to Mr. Beighton, found the
constant watching so troublesome that
he set himself to contrive a way by
which the cocks might be turned at the
right time, and yet allow him an oppor-
tunity of playing with the boys in the
street. Observing that the particular
moment at which the valve required
to be opened for the admission of the
steam was that at which the pump-
rod end of the beam was raised to its
highest, and that the moment at which
the other cock required to be opened
was when the piston rod end was at its
highest, he saw that by attaching
strings to the stop-cocks, and connect-
ing them with various parts of the
beams, the rising and falling of the
two ends would turn the two cocks as
necessary. This rude gear of a skulking
boy was discovered and practically ad-
opted, rods being substituted for the
strings.

OIL ON THE WATER.

How the Angry Waves Are Calmed By This Simple Proceeding.

One of the most curious sights at
sea is that of an oil-bound ship.

Every up-to-date ship carries oil tanks,
the quantity varying with the size of
the vessel. For instance, a steamer of
150 tons burden carries on an average
60 gallons of oil. This oil is the refuse
discarded by the oil refining factories,
and often consists of a mixture of whale
oil, petroleum and vegetable oil. It
costs about two pence a gallon, and a
large-sized vessel can be well supplied
for 20 shillings.

The oil is stowed in spacious zinc
tanks, arranged in the hold of the ship
to act as ballast. Each tank contains
50 gallons of oil, and an ingenious me-
chanical tap arrangement connects the
with the outside of the vessel.

If a dangerous gale arises, and the
ship becomes unmanageable and likely
to founder, the sluices are opened and
20 gallons or more of the oil is allowed
to escape into the sea.

The effect is instantaneous. However
stormy the sea may be, the vessel lies
in a gentle heaving mill pond. There
is no further danger of foundering,
and the oil moves along with the vessel
for some time, often half an hour, after
which it breaks up and disperses. The
ship must slacken speed a little, and
more oil is let out from the tanks. Enor-
mous waves may bear down on the ship,
but on approaching the magic oil circle
they seem to melt away and pass harm-
lessly beneath the vessel.

Sailing vessels are not so often fur-
nished with oil tanks as steamers. It is
estimated, however, that over 200 vessels
have been saved from shipwreck by
means of the oil tanks since they were
introduced a few years ago. It is only
in cases of absolute peril that the tanks
are resorted to.

Why should we be care-stricken?
What business have we to be sad in
the sunshine? We have nothing to do
with the future, we have to do with
the present only, and that even in
the hour of trial we are by God's grace
strong enough to bear.—Canon Farrar.