

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO THE LIONS—

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CT-23

Mrs. Pepys' Diary

(By Dorothy Little)

APRIL 15

Up betimes this wintry Monday morning, determined to ferret from my husband's friends, a means of putting to a stop this ceaseless grumbling over meals, which has become in my small family, more than one woman can well withstand.

A knowledge of other men's favourite foods might well be the means of contenting mine, and so to Robert's brother Lion, Lloyd A. Hill, found straightway in Dinty Moore's, and willing quite to give me a full two hours of time, being the sort of man who never finds his days long enough to leisure in. Followed an interview of little satisfaction, whose total worth amounted to "a steak of good proportions, and smothered well with onions", which advice mayhap would have served well except for the injunction, "and if perchance, you are ignorant of cooking steak, consult my Jean," albeit which insult caused me to leave him flat.

Betook me next to Dr. Wilson, as garrulous a man as ever I knew, and one from whom I could expect a reply in quantity.

"Having been reared by a wise mother, I eat what's placed before me, and ask no questions," which answer was to me so nearly perfect I did doubt its veracity, for being pressed, his loathing for spinach was admitted — in truth a shameful confession for a doctor whose prime advice to all and sundry is, "You need more iron."

Then slipped in to Dr. Jim's, a little fearful of his dissecting eye, albeit he has a charming wife, who said forsooth the Dr. develops strange symptoms on being placed before a salad, which symptoms disappear when the salad changes place with fritters — a weird example, thought I, of the doctrine of mind over matter, and one not calculated, if noised abroad, to swell the practice of a medico.

J. E. Smith in rear of home, digging diligently in a garden of fairish size, and looking methought, more wan than ever—resolved to warn his wife against his starch-free diet, which I do think, is the real reason

for his meagre appearance. From him cheese and more cheese, even Limburger, a suggestion to me of little use, never daring to put so plebeian a food on the family menu, albeit I cherish a secret craving for it myself, in spite of the stench thereof.

APRIL 16

Awake betimes to a beautiful morning—and an early call on Lion Ralph Paris who gave me in actual fact, a brand new receipt, and one which fits my purse, which calls to mind the bill I owe the haberdashers. Receipt duly recorded in my book—sausages wrapped in pastry, and tomato soup, and said by Ralph to be vastly improved with the addition of creamed onions. Communicate with Nellie W. regarding same.

Over to our local banker, one Fred Hoover, a gentle soul and chivalrous, from whom I gleaned news of as strange a combination of foods as ever I heard—cold sliced pork and sauerkraut, together with a goodly serving of hot porridge. In great content at having two new receipts to serve my family.

Forthwith to Lion Frank Hogg, an earthbound mortal, but a kindly one withal, to whom star-gazing has become as second nature, and from whom I obtained as helpful an answer as my inquiries ever brought, "It matters not, so long 'tis food."

APRIL 17

Off to a bad start this day with a conversation with one school inspector, whose untimely levity was such that in desperation I called his wife, a woman of sound judgment in very truth, and from whom I learned that tuna fish was especially dear to her husband's palate — must try again to overcome the aversion of my family.

In great glee, methought me next of Walter Mason whose better half, I felt assured would, being lately wed, give me helpful information. My faith unfounded. "Canned soup and crackers," answered Walter. And when I spoke in highest dudgeon "But doth she never bake withal in the kitchen oven?" "Of a surety," replied my friend, "she makes delicious scones with a concoction she calls tea-bisk!"

Of dauntless spirit still, I sped forthwith to Len Clement's, an acquaintance given not to hurry, and one who, on his time, places no value whatsoever. "Tell me, Len," I said, "With what do you break your fast at nine a.m.?" "Mrs. Pepys", saith he, "If I had need to live one hundred summers, my breakfast would consist always of grapefruit."

Then traced my steps to Allan Bales, a goodish walk, albeit a pleasant view, and hoping all the way his wife would serve me with a pot of tea. No tea, and little help along the quest I'd set myself. "Chicken is my favourite food, said J.A.B., and a goodly number of eggs, in especial when the price is high, being a sore reminder of my eggs in water glass, for which I paid said Bales a greater price than for fresh ones at the time of writing.

A truly spiritual uplift on the conclusion of my visit with Paul Angle. Verily, thought I, if the family saw more of nature in all her beauty, to wit—a bowl of roses kept renewed, mayhap their minds would soar above my culinary efforts on their behalf.

One more visit did I pay and that to Rev. Wrixon. A man of charm, the Reverend William, given somewhat to obesity, but a connoisseur withal of tasteful food. Taken aback to have him suggest a full course meal consisting therein, of roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, new potatoes, green peas, plum pudding, and a cup of tea; which menu causing my saliva to flow so freely that I hastened home forthwith and produced for dinner the self-same meal, leaving my family for once in great content.

Ruminating on my three days' work, I doubt my efforts have been worth the walking, albeit my bathroom scales showed tonight a slight decrease, and so to bed.

W.C.T.U. ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting and election of officers of the W.C.T.U. will be held in the United Church Sunday School Room on Tuesday, May 7th at 3 p.m. Reports of the last year's work will be given by officers and superintendents.

Prizes will be presented to the pupils in Richvale and Richmond Hill Public Schools in the Scientific Temperance Contest held recently. A special invitation is extended to parents of the Prize Winners to be present.

The honeymoon is over when she suggests that he needs a hair cut very badly.

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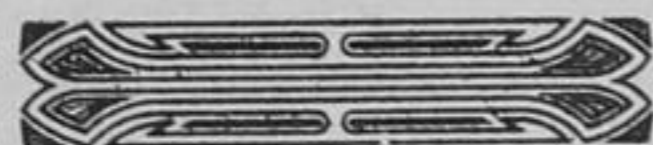
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