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About the House.

THERE'S A BOY IN THE HOME.

A racket, a rattle, a rollicking shout Above and below and round and about; A whistling, a pounding, a hammering of nails, The building of houses, the shaping of saills; Entreaties for paper, for scissors, for string, For every unfindable, bothersome thing; A bang of the door, and a dash up the stairs, In the interest of burdensome business affairs, And an elephant hunt for a bit of a mouse Made it easy to hear there's a boy in the house.

But oh! if the tops were not scattered about And the house never echoed to racket and rout; If forever the rooms were all tidy and neat, And one need not brush after wee, muddy feet; If no one laughed out when the morning with was red, And with kisses went tumbling all tired to bed; What a wearisome, work-a-day world, don't you see, For all who loved wild little laddies 'twould be; And I'm happy to think, tho' I shrink like a mouse From disorder and din—there's a boy in the house!

HOMELIKE HOUSES.

"A home is the gateway to heaven." The talented clergyman did not say a house, but a home. Let us make ours, then, a broad, cheery, peaceful, gateway, not a cold, formal entrance way, miles from our destination. Put yourself into your house, and then it will be a home.

It need not be an expensive house, only a quiet, harmonizing of effect and color. Have sunshiny, restful rooms, using the best of the house for the home people—giving the wayside guest a cheery welcome, a seat at the board, and a neat, tasteful room, though it be, at the back of the house, or even in the attic. Build first for the family, beginning at the living room, then the kitchen and bedroom.

Cleanliness before beauty. Aim to bring out the best features of the house and to soften the dull, harsh ones in the different rooms. Refined, tasty, perseverance and skill are more necessary than money, for the latter alone would be useless. Be superior to fashions, not submitting blindly to her dictates. Be original, avoiding recklessness or timidity, but work and study effect and cause.

Flood your rooms with fresh air and sunshine. In winter have sufficient heat, and plenty of light all the year. The effect of a room as a whole is what we desire. An up-to-date writer says "period rooms are not homelike." Our rooms are usually too cluttered. White walls are never artistic and polished floors are cold looking. One of the first principles of success in house furnishing is to have a color scheme and to work towards it.

It shows a better judgment to buy the highest grade of a more inexpensive than the cheapest grade of the better furnishings. Choose rather a meagre allowance of substantial, well made furniture than an abundance of cheap and ordinary. Many articles of furnishing which may be perfect in themselves will not combine effectively, this fact must be carefully considered or harmony will not be the result. Also "buy furniture for the place it is going to fill."

Remember that with the most of us furnishings whether of our wardrobe or our houses must be used for several years. Neither mix styles nor different woods. Avoid large pieces of furniture in cramped rooms, also novelties anywhere. Do not have elaborate drawing-rooms and scantily furnished bedrooms. Shun "trying colors," or combinations. Side-lights of brass or wrought iron with either silk or glass shade in a cheerful tint form an additional bit of beauty to the furnishings. On snowy days a few flowers tell of the summer's cheer. If books and magazines can abound in your home, fortunate are its inmates.

When you cannot buy new furnishings, make the very most of the old ones, do not stop to lament, but get the best possible results from these, and thus learning, grow towards higher, better effects. Turn, gild, paint and recover, with a happy face, a willing heart and a determination to know and to do what is best. The woman who is not domestic by nature, is not excused, by that fact, but rather she has the more to learn. By perseverance and determination, she may to her joy become home loving and some day reach the height she is striving after, a neat and charming housewife. Be content only with your best.

A long, broad hall gives an imposing hospitable air to a house, but a small, narrow hall, if rightly treated, may be made very bright and cheery, thus showing to the guest at thy threshold, that your hearts are larger than your home nest.

A reception room should be dainty and elaborate and the drawing room luxurious and dignified. When a library is properly furnished, the room is rich, quiet, substantial and inviting; a reading, studying and writing apartment, complete with everything a student may need. Never, never sew in a library, for then it loses its character. When you have your bookcases in the general sitting room, it becomes a very refined "living room," but never a library. Aim to make this living room cordial, homelike, and above all, useable. In arranging your home, plan a cheerful dining room by all means. Bring in all the sunshine possible, and add to it by the decorations. Whatever its de-

fects, this room must have an air of hospitality, welcome and cheer. In the kitchen, let comfort, convenience and peace reign at any reasonable price. Bedrooms and nursery should be light, airy and sunshiny and restful, a room that is indicative of the owner's character. A man's room requires severity in style.

SPARE THE CHILDREN'S FEET.

While we all admit the beauty of a child's foot why do so many of us try to spoil its perfect symmetry and outline by squeezing it into a shoe too small for it? A boot or shoe in which every muscle can have full play is much prettier to look at than a small short shoe in which the child cannot bend the foot, and walks and runs as if it were on stumps. Not only that, but painful ugliness in the shape of corns and bunions soon disfigure the feet, and when these come they come to stay. It should be kept in mind, too, that the feet grow along with the child, so that shoes which fit now cannot be laid by to be worn later on.

THE BABY'S RIGHTS.

Baby has a few rights outside of the care and protection of its parents that are not always observed. Baby does not like a stranger to rush at and squeeze him or talk incomprehensible nonsense to him. If allowed to sit still on his mother's or nurse's lap, he will make up his small mind about the visitor. Babies must be wooed, not taken by storm, and it is one of their rights to be allowed to study those who approach them and give their confidence by degrees.

A SUNDAY PASTIME.

Occupation for the children on wet Sundays is often a difficulty, since it is not always advisable to have the same games and toys for week days. Letters will provide many suitable pastimes, and a good way of employing children on a Sunday afternoon when they cannot go out to church is to make a map of the Holy Land on the dining table or on a measured off part of the floor.

A small map, such as is often found at the end of children's Bibles, will do for the model and the names of the various towns and villages of interest are spelt out and put in their correct places with the letters from the box or bag.

A MAGAZINE ON FIRE.

Archibald Forbes' Narrow Escape in the Servian War.

There are some exploits of a man's life that become pleasanter when looked back at from a safe distance. Such an experience is one narrated by Archibald Forbes in an article on "Some Escapes of My Life." The occasion was the Servian war of 1876, and the scene the camp of the Servian army.

The huts and tents surrounded a large open space, in the centre of which, of all places in the world, was the magazine. And such a magazine! Its sides and flat roof were constructed of mere hurdles of wattle, fastened together after a fashion by willow withes. Late one afternoon, just as the sun was sinking, there was a panic-stricken shout that the magazine was on fire. Some one had recklessly thrown down a match into some loose powder about the wicker door-way. The magazine contained several barrels of gunpowder, quite an accumulation of cartridges, and an assortment of rockets. Instantly there was a stampede from the camp.

"My comrade, Frederic Villiers," says the writer, "was fortunately with me. While he ran for buckets of water which was not far off, I clambered up on the wicker hurdles that formed a sort of roof. From underneath me came spurts of gunpowder, and the angry spitting of loose packets of cartridges. The buckets, when they came, proved to be too small to be of any material service, but I did the best in my power with the scanty supply, wetting the wicker hurdles of the roof, and pouring part of the water down upon the dangerous combustible matter below.

"Presently the roof began to smoulder, and then I fell through, so far as my legs were concerned, but remained astride the only solid beam which the roofing presented. Water in small quantities was still being supplied to me by the indefatigable Villiers, and I kept up my efforts to douse the dangerous material below. The cartridges, however, kept catching fire in spite of the water, and the loose powder which had been neglected set the legs of my trousers smouldering, with the result that the legs themselves were getting burned.

"I finally contrived to drown the magazine, at the cost of my only pair of trousers and of considerable patches of scorched cuticle on my nether limbs. I was, in effect, in a species of Highland costume when I ultimately quitted the fragile roof of the dampened magazine, but General Dourou-off lent me a pair of trousers, and General Tcherniaeff decorated me with the Takova Cross, which Villiers certainly deserved quite as much as I did, if not more."

ANCIENT GOLD COUNTRY.

Ireland of prehistoric times was the gold country of Europe. In no other country, at any rate, has so much manufactured gold of early ages been found, not less than four hundred specimens of Irish gold antiquities being contained in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy alone, while the British Museum Gold Antiques, illustrative of British history, are entirely Irish. Trinity College, Dublin, has many fine examples, and there are large private collections. Native gold occurs in seven localities in Ireland, and the ancient miners may have had sources of supply that are now worked out or lost.

A BASHFUL LOVER'S PROPOSAL.

One of the most remarkable ways in which a bashful man proposed to a young lady occurred some little time ago at a dinner party. He could never summon up courage enough to tell his love to the lady of his choice, and whenever he was left alone with her by chance, or by the design of kindly relatives, he always spoiled his opportunity, and stuttering, talked about something else.

One night they were both invited to a dinner party. He was not, however, told off to take into dinner the woman he loved, but another lady, while his girl was given to a man who, he had reason to believe, aspired to fill the same place as he did.

The hated rival was by no means bashful, and endeavored to make his hay while the sun shone. He was most entertaining and delightful, and the bashful young man saw with despair the prize of his life slipping as it were from his grasp.

With a sudden inspiration, however, he rose to the occasion. Oblivious of etiquette, and of everything else, he took out a little pocket-book tore out a leaf, and wrote a few words upon it, folded it up, and calling one of the butlers, told him to take it over to Miss Jones. The girl got the missive. She read it. She blushed. He turned pale.

What would her answer be? Would it be yes—and happiness for him, or no—and happiness for her?

She read the words once more. His heart stood still. His fate was in the balance. Horrors! She had no pencil and no paper. The unusual circumstance of his note had not been sufficient to overcome the usual idea that every person is always provided with the means of writing a letter in answer to one which has been received.

The bashful lover scarcely breathed. Was his hated rival going to take advantage of the moment and speak aloud the words which he had never dared to utter?

The girl rose to the occasion with a brilliancy and a wit worthy of her sex.

"Tell Mr. De Witt 'yes,'" she told the butler.

Mr. De Witt heard the message, while every one wondered what the communication could have been that could have brought such a look of happiness into his face.

The communication on the paper was the question:

"Will you be my wife?" followed by his name.

MADE FROM WEBS.

Queen Victoria owns a dress manufactured entirely of spider's webs. It was a present from the late Empress of Brazil, who had it specially prepared in her palace by 20 native silk workers.

A FORTUNE IN IT.

Currie—Have you heard of Jackson's great invention?

Vokes—No; what is it?

Currie—He has invented a way of storing up the energy used in trying to lift car windows, and proposes to run the cars with it.

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING AT THE CHRONICLE PRINTING HOUSE, SARAFRAXA STREET DURHAM, ONT.

SUBSCRIPTION The Chronicle will be sent to any address, free of postage, for \$1.00 per year, payable in advance—\$1.50 may be charged if not so paid. The date to which every subscription is paid is denoted by the number on the address label. No paper discontinued until all arrears are paid, except at the option of the proprietor.

ADVERTISING For transient advertisements 8 cents per line for the first insertion; 3 cents per line each subsequent insertion—minimum measure. Professional cards, not exceeding one inch, \$4.00 per annum. Advertisements without specific directions will be published till forbid and charged accordingly. Transient notices—"Lost," "Found," "For Sale," etc.—50 cents for first insertion, 25 cents for each subsequent insertion. All advertisements ordered by strangers must be paid for in advance. Contract rates for yearly advertisements furnished on application to the office.

All advertisements, to ensure insertion in current week, should be brought in not later than Thursday morning.

THE JOB : : Is completely stocked with all NEW TYPE, thus affording facilities for turning out First-class work.

W. IRWIN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

The Chronicle Contains . .

Each week an epitome of the world's news, articles on the household and farm, and serials by the most popular authors. Its Local News is Complete and market reports accurate.

SIBERIA'S SNOW FLOWER.

Travelers in Siberia tell of the wonderful flower that grows there, and which blooms only in January, when the winter is at its height. The blossom has something of the characteristic of a "morning glory," lasting only a single day. The flower, when it opens, is star-shaped, its petals of the same length as the leaves, and about half an inch in width. On the third day the extremities of the anthers, which are five in number, show minute, glistening specks, veritable vegetable diamonds, about the size of a pin's head—these are the seed of the flower. A Russian nobleman named Antshokoff took a number of the seeds to St. Petersburg. They were placed in a pot of snow and frozen earth. On the coldest day of the following January the miraculous flower burst through its icy covering and displayed its beauties to the wondering scientists. The plant has been very appropriately named "the snow flower."

Cash System

Adopted by N., G. & J. McKechnie.

We beg to inform our customers and the public generally that we have adopted the Cash System, which means Cash or its Equivalent, and that our motto will be "Large Sales and Small Profits."

We take this opportunity of thanking our customers for past patronage, and we are convinced that the new system will merit a continuance of the same

N. G. & J. McKECHNIE