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Let us never make the mistake of thinking that our influence counts for nothing, but from this hour determine that we will live our best every minute.

Good Night Stories
By Blanche Silver

A Sure Sign of Rain.
"Isn't it funny," mused Peggy, "how sometimes when the wind blows, the leaves turn almost over so you can see their backs."
"Nothing funny about that," laughed a squeaky voice, and a great, big, black ant crawled out on the log beside Peggy. "Haven't you ever seen them do that before?"
"Well, yes," replied Peggy, "but they don't always do it, Mr. Black Ant."

"Certainly not," he replied, smoothing out his black coat and dusting a speck of dust from his leggings. "You don't hear thunder when the sun's shining, and there are no clouds overhead, do you?"
Peggy laughed merrily at this, and Mr. Black Ant, always ready to enjoy a joke, laughed with her.
"Well, I'm glad you're glad that it's going to rain," he said kindly. "It has been a long time since we've had a shower, and the flower castles are getting pretty dusty, to say nothing about the fairies being thirsty. I'm certainly glad it's going to rain," and he began sawing on the log, making the tiny chips fly into the air. "I haven't finished my house, but I don't mind a setback, especially when we need rain so badly. Why, my cousins, the Farmer Ants, have been praying for rain this long time!"



"Nothing Funny About That!"

"Yes, everything does seem terribly dry," said Peggy, glancing at the clear sky above her. Not a sign of a cloud, marred its beauty. "But how clever you little insects are to be able to read the heavens like a book," she laughed. "Now, I can't see the least sign of a shower. I've often wished I could tell when it was going to rain. I suppose it's written for you across the smiling blue."

"Written nothing!" exclaimed Mr. Black Ant. "And if it were I probably couldn't read it, for my education was sadly neglected. But I do know this much, we're always given a warning of some kind, and I've learned to profit by them. Whenever the leaves turn bottom-side up like they're doing at this minute in the wind you can rest assured there is a shower on its way. That's only one way of telling, for there are a great many different signs."

Peggy looked at the leaves of the poplar tree above her, and they all seemed to be dancing merrily, showing their silvered backs to the wind lumps.
"They look as if they were holding up their wee skirts!" she laughed. "Like the fairies do when they dance."

"Never wore skirts, myself," laughed Mr. Black Ant. "But I've seen the ones the fairies wear, and the leaves do look like them. Well, it's a merry dance I can tell you, for the meadows certainly need rain."

"Guess I'd better hurry home or I'll get wet," Peggy said, jumping up.
Mr. Black Ant shook his head and threw out a shower of sawdust.
"No, it won't rain much before night," he replied. "But you can bank on it every time you see the leaves turning over that way," and away he ran over the edge of the log.

Peggy hunted and hunted for him, but she couldn't find him any place, and, giving up the search, she ran home.
My, how her mamma laughed when Peggy told her what Mr. Black Ant had said! But, you can believe it or not, before sundown the sky became clouded, and the rain elfins visited the meadows.

HOME-MAKING HELPS
"Everything About the House Helps to Make the Home."
By WANDA BARTON

Here are Some Pointers About Inexpensive "Silver."
Particular housewife, have you ever used ten-cent near-silver spoons? Probably you never have, and maybe you have never even heard of them, but they exist and are wonderfully good-looking. Some brands are made in the better silver-plate patterns, and they are being used by many summer cottages who prefer to leave their own silver behind in safe deposit vaults.
Think of the peace of mind not to be burdened with silver that is of value to count up and watch. The surprising part is that the ten-cent product wears well, if not abused.



THE WHITEST, LIGHTEST
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one whole season. Some housewives tell of having it in use for two seasons. All it needs to keep it bright is to be washed in hot water with silver soap.
Cottage china, oil cloth or straw sets and Japanese linen napkins get a cottage table with the silver inexpensively.
The summer vacation is an excellent time to have silver-plating done. Shabby silver pieces are inexcusable nowadays, and besides being black and unsightly, they spoil the look of anything that is put in, or on, the pieces. If the silver is being done over, it doesn't have to be packed away for the summer. The shop holds it, after it is returned from the factory, until you wish it delivered.

The solid silver flat ware, after it has been thoroughly cleaned and polished on the red chamois, and rouge stick, should be separately wrapped in tissue paper, then done up in chamois or cotton flannel bags. A list should be taken recording each piece. This is invaluable in case of fire or other loss. After proper cleaning, large silver pieces may be lightly rubbed over with lard, then wrapped carefully in soft paper and slipped into a flannel bag. When you return home all that will be needed is to put the silver into boiling water and to polish dry.

The artistic patterns used on the modern plateware has taken some of the joy out of owning solid silver, because it is looked upon with a

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grain of doubt by whoever owns it. For in many households plateware often is used to fill in when solid silver pieces are lost.

The long-handled silver spoons used for tea or other cold drinks, are preferred in plateware, for when tea is served out-of-doors the spoons are apt to be carelessly handled and often lost. It is foolish to have them in solid silver so long as they are good-looking and wear well in the plate. Ice cream spoons come under the same rule.

Nursery silver has long been in a vogue by itself. Its weight per article, size and shape, have been made a matter of careful study by some of the best silver-plating concerns and if any one wants anything better, they should have it made at a regular silversmith's.

The silver mug which was a mark of distinction for each child to own, has lapsed, with few exceptions into the land of forgotten things. Silver pap bowls and spoons seem to have taken their place as baptismal or birthday gifts.

Insurance companies have lifted the burden of the solid silver chest from the housewives' shoulders, and the undoubted popularity of the plateware lifts the burdens of false pride from their minds. So in time to come the solid silver owners may find themselves in as lonely a class as they who still boast a real camel-hair shawl made in the Vale of Cashmere.

TO-DAYS FASHION
By Vera Winston.



Lines of Blue Silk Add Distinction to This Dress of Henna Wool.
The knitted dress is an admirable addition to the summer wardrobe. This model is made on the simple chemise lines with fullness of the sides. The color chosen is henna, but this is enlivened with threads of blue silk which are disposed at regular intervals.
A navy blue ribbon faced with white is threaded through the collar and tied in a small bow at the front. The same kind of ribbon is favored for the belt.
The hat is of dark blue haircloth and is bound with black velvet ribbon. The latter is also used for the trimming, and where it is bowed its silver facing is revealed. Crystal pins add to the smartness of this unusual hat.

Tips To Housewives
Tomato juice will remove ink stains from fingers.
The water in which potatoes have been boiled will clean flat silver very well.
Airproof and moistureproof containers should be used to store coffee.
To remove iron rust from a delicate fabric, spread it with cream of tartar. Twist cloth to keep cream of tartar in place; put in a pan of cold water, and heat gradually to boiling point. It may be necessary to repeat treatment.
In using any canned meat or fish the flavor is much improved if the can is opened at least one hour before using, the contents quickly washed in cold water and the fish thoroughly drained. Then expose to the outside air for twenty minutes and chill in the ice box. If the brand of fish is a reliable one and it is treated in this way it can hardly be known from the fresh commodity. Mould left-over cereals in custard cups and serve with crushed berries and cream.
If you wish the real flavor, have your coffee ground like fine granulated sugar.
Dip slices of left-over fried meat in beaten egg, roll in crumbs and fry until brown.
Use engineers' waste on your mopstick, and you will always have a clean mop.
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