

WOMAN and HER WORK.

I think I mentioned some time ago my dear girls, that we were contemplating a change in this column, in fact there were serious thoughts of doing away with it altogether. Since then, the matter has been held in abeyance, but with the new year came the usual changes, and amongst others a partial reconstruction of my column, the rules of which in future will be thus and so: Any sensible, reasonable and important questions upon subjects relating to social customs, etiquette, quotations, in fact, any subject of general interest and real importance, will be answered promptly and cheerfully, but the letters beginning, "What do you think of a young man who tries to kiss a girl good-night, when he sees her home?" "What do you think of a young lady who chews gum?" etc., of which, I regret to say, I receive a great many, will in future be consigned to a peaceful grave in the waste basket. These are the words of the editor spoken from the editorial chair, and to hear is to obey!

Amongst other changes the regular cooking column will be discontinued, and short talks on cookery substituted. The receipts will be such as are suited for the family table and combine economy with, I trust, tastefulness, and it anyone knows of a better way of cooking than the one I suggest, I shall be grateful for any information on the subject, as well as for any tried and reliable recipe.

I have made this change because I have been giving a great deal of thought to my large family of girls, and their future prospects, I feel confident that most of them look forward to being married some day, as all girls should, and I fully believe that no girl is eligible for matrimony, or fit to take charge of any man's house, until she has earned the right to place after her name, at least in her own conscience, the mystic letters F. F. W., which, being translated, mean Fit For Wives. And no woman can possibly be fit to be any man's wife unless she possesses at least a sufficient knowledge of cooking to direct her servants, if she is fortunate enough to have them, or to cook a wholesome meal for her husband in case she is obliged to do without domestic help. Few of us in these days are so fortunate as to possess trained servants, and thorny will be the path of the mistress who cannot teach her servant to do the things she would like to, for the simple reason that she knows nothing of them herself, or else so little that she is nervous about trying to impart uncertain information. Therefore I intend to do my little best to impart to my girls that glorious sense of independence which comes of knowing that if Mary, or Jane, either gives notice or takes French leave, she can don her apron and cook the dinner herself, because, dear girls, I know I am of the noble creature man, I know him well enough to be able to say with confidence, if you want to keep him good-natured and happy—feed him! If you want him to love you as he used to—feed him, and if you want him to think he has the best and sweetest and prettiest wife in the whole world, once more—Feed him!

We all love to make candy, and most of us like to make cake, while a few, but very many are adepts at pastry, yet it is not to pies, cake or candy, that the hungry man looks for consolation and comfort, when he gets up sleepy and cross, on a bitter winter's morning, nor yet when he comes home tired and cold to tea, either in a rain or snowstorm; he wants something more savory and substantial. So, if you would give him an appetizing breakfast that is very easy to prepare why not have—?

Scalloped Turkey.

Take the fragments of cold turkey which have been left over from yesterday's dinner, chop them fine, and mix through them any dressing which may be left, and add plenty of pepper and salt. Then take a deep baking dish, and put a good layer of bread crumbs in the bottom, then a layer of the turkey, and continue with alternate layers until the dish is full; then add some hot water to the gravy left over, pour it as evenly as possible over the contents of the dish, add little lumps of butter, dotted minutely about, and bake in a moderate oven for half to three quarters of an hour. The advantage of this dish is, that it can be prepared at night, then put in the oven in the morning almost as soon as the fire is made, and by the time breakfast is ready it will be done to a turn, crisp, brown, and inviting. Another simple breakfast dish is—

Grated Kidney on Toast.

Take a beef kidney, which will cost you five cents, soak it for half an hour in salt and water, to cleanse it, then boil in fresh salt water until quite tender, and when cold, remove all the skin and fat, grate the kidneys carefully, add pepper and salt, and put them away till the morning; then put a good lump of butter in the frying-pan, and when it melts put in the grated kidney, stir until thoroughly hot, and then remove to a cooler part of the stove, until you toast and butter two slices of bread, dip them in hot milk or water, to soften them, place on a hot dish, and turn the kidney out on them, and you will have a breakfast fit for a king, always supposing the king liked kidneys. Another nice breakfast dish which is a little more troublesome is—

Ham Omelette.

Mince fine, enough ham to fill a pint measure, using fat and lean; in the morn-

ing beat up six eggs, with salt and a pinch of cayenne pepper; stir in the ham, and pour into a frying-pan, in which a good-sized lump of butter has been melted, place over a good fire until "set," then roll carefully and turn out. For tea on a winter's evening an excellent dish is—

Scalloped Cheese.

Grate some good cheese, the quantity will depend upon the size of your family, put a layer of biscuit crumbs well rolled, in the bottom of a deep dish, and a layer of the grated cheese, and continue in that order till the dish is full, finishing up with the biscuit crumbs, then add lumps of butter with a lavish hand; pour over the entire mixture a cup of milk, and bake in a quick oven for half an hour. This dish can be prepared after breakfast and put in the oven half an hour before tea.

The scalloped turkey will be found equally good for a tea, or a breakfast dish.

That will do for this week, I think girls, as I have no intention of frightening you with too large doses at first. What said the little verse we used to learn in our Royal Reader days?

"One thing at a time, and that done well, Is a very good rule, as many can tell."

Perhaps I will give you some good receipts for candy next week as a reward if you learn these like good little girls.

The girls who often ask me how to tell fortunes by cards, will be interested in the following description of the cards and their meanings. The ace of diamonds represents a ring; the ace of hearts, your house; the ace of clubs, a letter; the ace of spades, death, spite, or quarrelling.

Of diamonds—The deuce is money; trey, speaking with a friend; four, friends; five, a settlement; six, pleasure; seven, money—business; eight, new clothes; nine, business; ten, a journey—money; Of hearts—The deuce is a visitor; trey, a kiss; four, a marriage bed; five, a present; six, courtship; seven, friends; eight, new clothes; nine, fear and courtship; ten, a place of amusement or courtship. Of clubs—The deuce is vexation; trey, quarrel; four, a strange bed; five, a bundle or parcel; six, trouble; seven, a prison; eight, confusion; nine, a drinking party; ten, going by water. Of spades—The deuce, is a false friend; trey, tears; four, a sick-bed; five, a surprise; six, a child; seven, a removal; eight, a roadway; nine, a disappointment; ten, sickness.

Of the court cards—The Kings represent males according to complexion, the Queens represent females in like manner, the Knaves the thoughts of the respective parties.

The subject of cards recalls to my mind the old story that gave to the nine of diamonds its name of "The Curse of Scotland" and as it is not universally known, the old tale may interest some of my readers. After the battle of Culloden had been fought, with such disastrous results for the cause of Prince Charles, the victorious Duke of Cumberland issued an order that all the Jacobite refugees who had escaped after the battle should be slaughtered as soon as captured, and he sent his soldiers out to scour the country, with instructions to kill all the refugees, men, women and children, without reserve. Feeling that such wholesale murder would be likely to get him into trouble with the king unless he could show good authority for committing it, the officer to whom the duke gave the order hesitated, and at last requested that the commander-in-chief would furnish him with some written instructions to that effect, so he could show them in case he got into any trouble at court. The duke irritated at the delay began a hasty search of his apartment for some paper on which to write the fatal order, but failed to find any. Now it so happened that he and his staff were occupying the very suite of apartments in which Charles Edward and his cavaliers had been quartered the night before, and in playing a game of cards, one of the young officers had dropped a card, and after a hurried search, decided to leave the game unfinished and retire for the night. In looking for a piece of paper the Duke of Cumberland espied one end of the missing card beneath a fold in the carpet, picked it up and remarking that it would do to write the death warrant of a few miserable shepherds upon, wrote the order which was to be rigidly carried out, and which has consigned his name to obloquy, ever since. Ever after, the card was known amongst the Scotch, as "The Curse of Scotland."

Lord Byron, who was a great authority upon female beauty, and what is quite as important, female attractiveness, once said, only he made the remark in choicest verse, that if girls would only know the charm which had most effect upon the hearts of men, it was animation. Byron naturally spoke from the man's point of view, but looking at it from the woman's, animation however attractive it may be, is rather dangerous to those very charms which he extols. The girl who has a constant play of expression, whose features show every emotion, is the one who first grows old, the merry laugh which comes so readily, and is so cheery, that it is better than music to those who love her, is sure to plow deep wrinkles beneath her eyes, and print crow's feet at their corners, while it forms a channel imperceptible at first, but as sure as it is slow in formation, at each side of the mouth, extending from the nostrils down, and giving a peculiar, and undesired look of hardness to the face. The intelligent girl who follows the story you are telling, with such breathless interest that it is a pleasure to look at her sparkling face will soon have three horizontal wrinkles carved deeply across her white forehead, and before she realizes it, before she even notices the disfigurement it will have become permanent; and all caused by the habit of continually lifting the brows in assent, in interrogation, in surprise, or in perplexity. Some girls seem almost to speak with their eyebrows, and charming as the habit is its effects are fatal to beauty. I do not say the remedy lies in our own hands, neither do I advise the girls to cultivate a wax-doll serenity of countenance; but I do suggest that they keep these words in mind and try if possible to avoid lifting their brows more than is absolutely necessary, or laughing just for the sake of laughter, or of showing their pretty teeth. I speak as one having authority because my own forehead is crossed by two wrinkles so deep that nothing will ever eradicate them now until the angel of death touches them with that mysterious finger of his and smooths them out. I know they were caused by a senseless habit of lifting my eye-

brows, and so I warn the girls against a similar mistake.

I suppose prevention is better than a cure, but there is an excellent system which combines both. The cause of wrinkles is said to be some defect in the elasticity of the skin, caused by a lack of good circulation, and the remedy, any treatment which will stimulate the skin and bring the blood to the surface; nothing will do this so well as rubbing, and the girl who bathes her face in hot water, using good soap such as Pear's, at the same time; and then rubs it well, first with a soft towel, until it glows, and afterwards with either glycerine and rose water, or vaseline cold cream, will be able to keep those "vindicative little demons" wrinkles, at bay longer than her more careless sister. Try it girls, and see.

CUPERTON, St. John—(1) I do not think it was a question of those who gave the dance being "out" but those who were invited, and having started out with that intention, it was impossible to break through their rule. (2) No, I do not, except when they meet at a friend's house, at some social entertainment, then, the hostess is supposed to be responsible for all her guests, and it is perfectly correct for them to engage in general conversation, but the acquaintance does not extend beyond that one evening unless followed by a regular introduction. (3) I prefer to see the hair tied back even when its owner is quite a small child, the hair brought over the ears looks so untidy.

INQUIRING ONE, St. John—I am sorry that I have no book at hand just now which gives the proper terms used in crochet; and I cannot remember them, but almost any ladies' magazine would give them. Look over the De-lin-eator for October, November, and December, and I am sure you will find them. Meanwhile I will hunt them up for you with pleasure.

BUD, St. John—I am not versed in the language of stamps. I have always thought it too silly to take any notice of.

MENCK, Carleton—Why not give her a pretty little gold or silver pin. I mean one of the variety called "stick pins." Either that or a little silver bangle would be very suitable, and she could wear it all the time. (1) Yes; trim them ever so slightly about once a month. Superstitious people say at the new moon. Then get your druggist to make you up an ointment of one grain of red oxide of mercury in one ounce of vaseline, and apply it very carefully each night to the roots of the eyelashes and eyebrows, using a camel's hair brush, and taking care not to let the mixture get into your eyes. (2) Soap and milk is said to be an excellent combination for cleaning gloves. Rub the soap on a clean piece of flannel, then dip it in the milk and rub off quickly, using a clean place in the flannel each time. It is better to put the gloves on first, as you cannot well get at all the creases otherwise.

KNIP, St. Stephen—You were quite right in coming back so soon, I am always glad to have my friends return to our corner as it shows they appreciate it. It was very kind of you to send me the directions for making the Aeolian harp, and I thank you very much. I am sure David will thank you too. (1) The celebration of Christ's birthday as a festival of the Christian church is attributed to Pope Telesphorus, who died A. D. 138, and through the subsequent history of the church, it has been one of the most noted of Christian solemnities. At first it was a movable feast, and was usually celebrated by the Eastern churches in the months of April and May. But in the 4th century St. Cyril of Jerusalem obtained an order from Pope Julius I, for an investigation concerning the day of Christ's nativity. The result of the inquiry by the theologians of the East and West, was agreed upon the 25th of December. The chief grounds for the decision were the tables of the fathers, there was not authentic proof of that being the day, the decision was uniformly accepted, and from that time the nativity has been celebrated throughout the church on the same day. (3) I do not know that its observance has ever been opposed, but I know that the society of friends, or Quakers do not believe in its celebration. (4) All Christian nations over the world observe Christmas Day. I think everyone who believes must both get and do a great deal of good on that day even if it is only in the blessed Christmas feeling which comes to us all. (6) I try to. I cannot tell you the author of the verses, but I will try to look them up. Write whenever you like. ASTRA.

An Old Love Letter.

This is called a practical age, but certainly the age that went before was just as practical if one can judge by the combination of sentiment and honest frankness in a love letter written seventy-five years ago Mrs. Caroline E. K. Davis of Chelsea has had printed in fancy style "An Old Love Letter," written in 1817 by her father, Mr. John Kelley, to the lady whom he married, and its quaint yet genuinely heartfelt union of affection and sensible advice illustrates that our elders, or at least some of them, were conscientious men. He would not have the lady except him unless absolutely sure she was devoted; he would have her consider carefully the future possible hardships and mishaps, and after mature deliberation decide not simply as the heart dictated, but also as the reason demanded. Boston Journal.

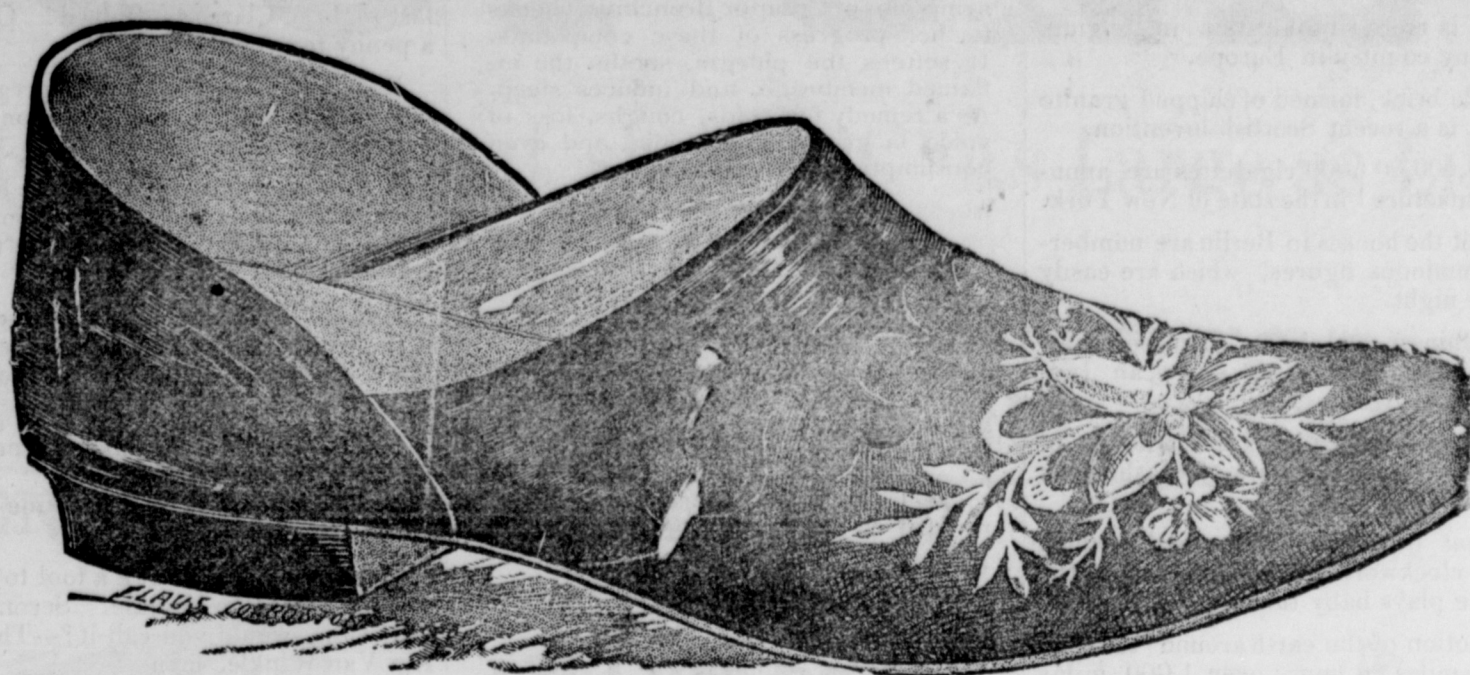
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Refining a Parrot.

A Pittsburguer who spent a part of last summer in England tells an incident which sadly disturbed the religious peace of a parish in Penzance.

A maiden lady of that town owned a parrot, which somehow acquired the disagreeable habit of observing, at frequent intervals:

"I wish the old lady would die."

This annoyed the bird's owner, who spoke to her curate about it.

"I think we can rectify the matter," replied the good man. "I also have a parrot, and he is a righteous bird, having been brought up in the way he should go. I will lend you my parrot, and I trust his influence will reform that depraved bird of yours."

The curate's parrot was placed in the same room with the wicked one, and as soon as the two had become accustomed to each other, the bad bird remarked:

"I wish the old lady would die."

Whereupon the clergyman's bird rolled up his eyes and in solemn accents added:

"We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord!"

The story got out in the parish, and for several Sundays it was necessary to omit the litany at the church services.—Pittsburg Chronicle.



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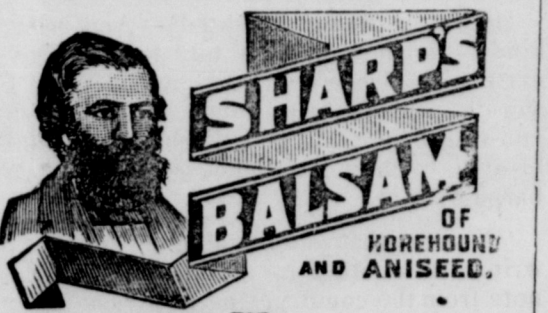
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