

Woman and Her Work

Just about the oddest, and most original suggestion for a jubilee memorial that I have encountered yet, comes from a Mr. Richard H. McDonald of London England and it is, to drop into the forcible language of the day "a corker." This loyal gentleman's suggestion involves nothing less stupendous than an entire change of the calendar, and the manner in which this change is worked out is to say the least, ingenious. Mr. McDonald bases his calculations upon the belief that the month, as a division of time has originally a period determined by the motions of the moon which varied from twenty seven to twenty-nine days. And he proposes to divide the year into thirteen lunar months twelve of which shall bear their present names, while the thirteenth will contain twenty-nine days and be called Victoria, as a perpetual memorial of the Queen. February would contain twenty nine days in leap year. An idea of the way the new calendar would work out may be gathered from the following comparison:

New Calendar, days.	No. of days.	Commencing, ending	Present Calendar.
Jan.	28	1st Jan., ending 28th Jan.	28th Jan.
Feb.	28	29th Jan., " 28th Feb.	28th Feb.
March	28	1st Feb., " 28th Mar.	28th Mar.
April	28	29th Mar., " 28th Apr.	28th Apr.
May	28	1st Apr., " 28th May	28th May
June	28	29th May, " 28th June	28th June
Victoria	29	1st June, " 29th July	1st July
July	28	30th June, " 28th Aug.	28th Aug.
August	28	29th July, " 28th Sept.	28th Sept.
Sept.	28	30th Aug., " 28th Oct.	28th Oct.
October	28	29th Sept., " 28th Nov.	28th Nov.
Nov.	28	30th Oct., " 28th Dec.	28th Dec.
Dec.	28	29th Nov., " 28th Jan.	28th Jan.

The calculation fits in the days with wonderful accuracy winding up the year just as at present and giving each month an even number of days except the middle one. From January first to Victoria first each month would begin on the same day of the week, and each day of the month would recur regularly on the same day.

The new month "Victoria" would begin on the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, June 18th, the second Victoria would be the anniversary of the signing of Magna Charter, the third that of the Queen's accession to the throne, the fourth of her proclamation as Queen, and also of her jubilee in 1887, the fifth of her diamond jubilee, the sixth of the birth of the Duke of York's eldest son our future king, the seventh would be midsummer Day, the eighth the anniversary of the repeal of the corn laws and the eleventh that of the Queen's coronation.

I cannot possibly go through all the long list of important anniversaries that one month would contain, but it is really a curious fact that there would scarcely be one day which would not commemorate some great event in the history of our country. The battle of the Boyne, the Declaration of American Independence, our own Dominion Day, for short eighteen out of the twenty-nine days allotted to this month are historical anniversaries, and in addition to that the new month would embrace all the days which have become historical from their connection with her Majesty's accession, proclamation, coronation, and two jubilees.

Mr. McDonald's idea certainly has much to recommend it and as one of the papers remarks "Among the multitudinous suggestions for the celebration of the diamond jubilee one that has something beside novelty to recommend it, is treasure trove indeed." The originator seems quite sanguine about the adoption of his remarkable idea, and says that quarter days and bank holidays could easily be altered to suit the new calendar, a short act of parliament is all that would be required, and if other countries did not feel disposed to honor the queen by following our example and adopting the new calendar the English speaking race is so wide spread that it would not matter much, and a lasting memorial to our queen would be worth some little inconvenience. Verily Mr. McDonald should receive a baronetcy at least, as some slight reward not only for his loyalty, but also for his most original and ingenious method of giving expression to it.

It is rather surprising to learn, on the authority of a dentist of many years' standing, that the wisdom-tooth is rapidly dying out, and will soon be as rare an organ as the human tail.

Already, in fact, it has become a mark of backwardness, and its absence is, on the contrary, a sign of a high state of civilization. At present, only six out of every ten full-grown Englishmen have wisdom-teeth. Among savages, eight out of ten possess them. And while the teeth are large in the savages, they are usually small in more highly developed people. This is one more fallacy knocked on the head for it is the general belief that where the

wisdom-teeth are absent one must not be surprised to find a fool.

At the same time, the canine or eye-teeth are growing gradually smaller, as they are no longer wanted for tearing meat. In fact, all the front teeth are becoming smaller, and in time may become altogether extinct except in regular monstrosities.

I wonder what we shall do without next, and whether the time will ever come we shall be born without tongues; savants assure us that the human race is rapidly becoming hairless, we have long known that we should soon be toothless, and I suppose our fingers and toes will be the next superfluities to disappear, what lovely creatures we shall be in time; and now I hope I shall die while I still possess some remnant of hair, a few teeth and above all my tongue!

Most of the expensive toilet luxuries will be found to contain cucumber juice. These hold a very important and expensive place, and just now is the time for the wise house-keeper to preserve their cooling and healing qualities, not only for her own and children's use, but for the comfort of the pater also.

To make cucumber cream, which not only clears and cleanses the complexion, but is also very healing, proceed as follows: Remove the soft part from two or three cucumbers, warm sufficiently to make it squeeze through the colander, then squeeze through a hair sieve; to half a teaspoonful of this add a teaspoonful of glycerine and five drops of salicylic acid; both the latter are preservatives, and if glycerine does not agree with the skin the salicylate alone will be sufficient. Add a few drops of any perfume liked and the ointment is ready for use.

While cucumbers are plentiful it is well to have thick slices of the softest, with the soap on the washstand, and to use after the former, to rub face, hands and throat, rinsing afterward. The clean, soft feeling of the skin will answer for its future use. While tomatoes are ripe and plentiful they are excellent to remove freckles and muddiness from the skin. A woman with a peach-like bloom on her skin declares she has used nothing else besides soap from her girlhood. A thorough rubbing of the skin once or twice daily while the season lasts with a ripe tomato will work wonders, and if this is found to be the very thing for certain complexions the canned may be used occasionally through the winter; those canned nearly whole must be chosen, as they are the least cooked.

If you would be known as belonging to the unmistakably smart set, this season, look well to your veil, for if it is not exactly right it will give you away terribly. There are just five leading styles of veil. There is no lack variety to choose from, and the leading styles are the shadow, the floating veil, the shamrock, the batiste, and the ever popular fish-net, besides a dozen minor materials of the spotted net description. There a great deal of stress laid upon the appropriateness of a veil just now, and the one you wear must depend entirely on where you are going, and the hat you intend to wear with it. Suppose you are wearing your tiny bonnet or your flower toque. Then by all means put on a shadow veil, for that is the only proper "face protector" to select. The shadow veil is composed of the very finest black or white silk tulle, and it is cut on a pattern so skillfully arranged that when the veil is pinned in place not a single wrinkle crosses the face, the point striven after being to avoid the material wrinkling as a fold in the veil always seems to throw lines of age into the face of the wearer. The lower edge of a shadow veil has a narrow selvedge and above this parallel lines of very fine black thread run through the tulle an eighth of an inch apart. Six, eight or ten of these lines are the usual number, but some of them run high enough to throw a shadow over the mouth, while others mount to the level of the eyes. This may seem to be merely a foolish eccentricity, but there is more method in it than appears at first, since it is a curious fact that any skin looks almost perfect under a well lined shadow veil; whether it be white or black does not matter apparently the effect is the same, and all defects of the complexion are suc-



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cessfully hidden. Therefore it is little wonder that this veil is a favorite.

With the sailor hat two different kinds of veil are worn, the batiste, which is to keep off tan and freckles, and the fish net to show off a pretty skin. The beauty of the batiste veil is that it is not only a perfect shield from the sun, but it will wash and look as fresh as ever after its bath, so it is economical. It is pretty and becoming also, besides being very easy to arrange as it is cut square, with three little hemstitched tucks running around three sides of the square, while the fourth is gathered into a fine white cotton cord and is intended to tie around the crown of the hat. When laundried these squares which are never made of any but the thinnest batiste, are merely washed out and ironed without either starching or folding.

The only fashionable dotted veil this season is the fish net which is woven in a very wide mesh, and at every angle in the weaving a tiny chenille dot is placed. Black fish nets have gray dots, brown have blue dots. These veils are very strong and never wrinkle. Chiffon veils are not dotted but figured in pretty chenille, and lace designs. White chiffon sprinkled all over with tiny green velvet shamrocks, or gray chiffon embroidered along the edge with cornflowers is very stylish. These chiffons are the only veils bought by the yard, by fashionable women, all others being made up ready to put on.

But of all veils the most elaborate and ponderous is the one intended for the big rose smothered picture hat. It is from a yard and a quarter, to two yards long, edged with lace put on either plain, or in a frill, and it is first drawn over the hat, and face, and then tied in a knot behind, a little to the right. The ends are then drawn down and a bow-knot is formed and pinned to the hair just back of the right ear, the remaining length of net being left to flow down on the shoulders. Bright jewel headed pins are used in arranging these bows, and the effect is very striking, to say the least.

If you want to be very up to date, and in the van of the fashion, just wear the skirts of your blouse or shirt waist outside your skirt, instead of in, and call it a Russian blouse; it is about the newest thing in bodices, and then just think of the ease to one's mind in feeling positive that the band of her dress is not bagging down in a sort of crescent below her belt! I really believe that one reason of the premature greyness, so noticeable amongst the youngest women, is one result of the strain on our minds, the awful uncertainty about our belts causes us. What woman amongst us has not felt an impulse in church too strong for resistance to reach furtively back, during the sermon and make a hasty clutch at her belt, to ascertain if she is keeping together properly the band of her dress is in a proper state of effacement? Therefore the Russian blouse will come as a blessed relief, and be welcomed with open arms. It is said that nun's veiling will replace the alpacas of last year, and the crepons of the year before. The veiling certainly has the advantage over either of the other materials in draping qualities and softness, but it is not so durable as either of them, and is very prone to catch dust, but yet fashion authorities that it is "in" for an indefinite length of time. Gray, is a very popular color for the veiling gown, and white and gray makes a charming combination. These dresses are nearly always made with very full blouses and plaited skirts; the plaits are usually of the accordion variety which seem especially appropriate for veiling. The blouse in most favor at present is so full that it hangs straight down from the armpoles, and hangs a little over the belt as a bolero would do, and sometimes it has a short basque below the belt, not gathered, but set on without wrinkles round the hips, and then slashed. This is really the Russian blouse proper.

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PATHETIC INCIDENT.

All Hate was Forgotten and the Soldiers Clapped Hands in Love.

From the Lexington Leader comes a story of the Civil War of a sort to be always welcomed. The narrator is William Wilkerson, described by the Leader as "a man noted for his fidelity to truth." The scenes described were witnessed by him just after the battle of Richmond, Kentucky, in 1862.

A son of my friend, Cassius M. Clay, was killed in the fight, and it became my duty to visit the battle-field and identify the body, and take it to his father's home.

While riding slowly over the field I heard groans, which I was sure came from a corn-field near at hand, and looking down the corn-rows. I discovered two wounded soldiers lying about forty yards apart. One was a Federal, the other a Confederate. A cannon-ball had broken and terribly mangled both the Confederate's legs, while the Federal was shot through the body and thigh.

"I am dying for water," I heard the Federal say just as I discovered them. His words sounded as if they came from a parched mouth.

"I have some water in my canteen. You are welcome to drink if you'll come here," said the Confederate, who has feebly raised his head from the ground to look at his late enemy when he heard his pitiful cry for water.

"I couldn't move to save my life," groaned the Federal, as he dropped his head to the ground, while his whole body quivered with agony.

Then I beheld an act of heroic devotion which held me spellbound until it was too late for me to give the assistance I should have rendered. The Confederate lifted his head again and took another look at his wounded foe, and I saw an expression of tender pity come over his pain distorted face as he said:

"Hold out a little longer, Yank, and I'll try to come to you."

Then the brave fellow by digging his fingers into the ground and holding on to the corn-stalks, painfully dragged himself to the Federal's side, the blood from his mangled legs making a red trail the entire distance. The tears ran down my cheeks like rain, and out of sympathy for him I groaned every time he moved, but I was lost to everything except the fellow's heroism, and did not once think of helping him.

When the painful journey was finished, he offered his canteen to the Federal, who took it and drank eagerly. Then with a deep sigh of relief, he reached out to the Confederate, and it was plain to see, as they clasped hands and looked into each other's eyes, that whatever of hate might have rankled once in the hearts of these men had now given place to mutual sympathy and love.

Even while I watched them I saw the Confederate's body quiver as if in a spasm of pain, and when his head dropped to the ground I knew that one more hero had crossed the dark river. The Federal kissed the dead man's hand repeatedly, and cried like a child until I had him removed to the hospital, where he, too, died the next day.

Excused.

A pleasant story of her youth is told by an old lady whose early home was in Concord, Massachusetts. She was on her tardy way to school, crying in anticipation of disgrace and possible punishment, when a deep voice by her side said:

"What is troubling you, my child?"

Between her sobs Annie explained.

"I will write a note to your teacher, asking her to excuse you," said the stranger, kindly.

The little girl protested. He did not know her teacher. It would be of no use. But the big, black-haired man had written a few words on a page of his notebook, and tearing out the leaf, handed it to the child.

"If you give your teacher that, I think she will excuse you," he said, smilingly.

Still unbelieving, the little girl handed the scrap of paper to her teacher, who read its contents and promptly excused the delinquent. The note read:

"Will Miss—excuse Annie for being late, and oblige her most obedient servant, "DANIEL WEBSTER."

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