

# MICHIGAN FARMER AND STATE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

DETROIT, NOVEMBER 25, 1884.

## THE HOUSEHOLD---Supplement.

### A MISTAKEN GIRL.

I thought she was a lovely sight,  
As daintily arrayed in white,  
With rosy cheeks and glances bright,  
That summer day  
She played croquet;

Until beneath a shady tree  
I stopped to rest, which chanced to be  
Where in the kitchen I could see,  
That summer day  
She played croquet;

And there alone in that hot place  
Her mother stood with care-worn face,  
And ironed a gown all frills and lace,  
That summer day  
She played croquet;

A gown, the very counterpart  
Of that she wore with witching art;  
And so she did *not* win my heart  
That summer day  
She played croquet.

—Harper's Bazar.

### AN ESTIMATE OF WEALTH.

We are quite apt to measure a man by the clothes he wears, the turnout he drives, and the amount of money he carries around in his pocketbook. If a stranger comes to town, we are impressed immediately by his appearance. If he is affable in his conversation, attends church on a Sunday, contributes something for the foreign mission cause, why he is all right of course. We seek his society, invite him to our homes, and quite vie with each other in showing him these little attentions which shall seem cordial. I think that the American people are the most foolish in this one respect, they stand ready and waiting to adopt everything new that comes along, no matter in what form it may be presented. Because we have not a fabulous fortune is no sign that we need lack in common sense. Wealth is not the key to perfect happiness. A man is never free from care who has to look to a great fortune.

I think that a comfortable income brings more comfort and happiness, than if the principal amounts to millions. Money is a very good thing to have; it keeps want from the door; it surrounds us with comforts and luxuries, but there comes a very fine point here. A man is apt to forget uprightness of character, while amassing a fortune. There are times when he can ask and get more interest than is really right, and a nice little bonus besides; he never stops to ask, "Is it right." Oh no! he embraces the opportunity that presents itself, and

benefits himself accordingly. There are instances where widows and orphans have been turned from their homes when interest was due and they could not pay it. There is something very alluring about accumulating money, it draws a man on and on like a maelstrom. That silent monitor called conscience is hushed at first, and after a few faint struggles ceases to notify the owner when he is wrong.

There is a very unequal distribution of wealth in this world; we read and talk a great deal about monopolies, of one man owning and managing whole railroad lines, immense tracts of land, cattle ranches and the like. That is all right. From time immemorial it has been so, the rich landlord and the poor laborer. It is true that often a man's wits will turn him more gain than his hands. "Get all you can," is a common rule and often used. Often if a man is successful in his financial affairs, he is accounted "very lucky." I do not think that there is a single particle of luck about it; it is downright good management or financiering. It only fools who are lucky; no one can drive a good bargain, unless he is keen and shrewd.

And now arises the question, are women as good financiers as men? In my opinion they are not, take them as a class. Women are quick to jump at a conclusion, more so than men. They never look at the ifs and ands, or weighs the pros or cons, but say yes or no as occasion demands. I was reading an article in a New York paper the other day, in which it appears that gambling, dealing in options and dabbling in stocks in Wall Street, is getting to be a common affair among women, so it may be that in time, with an equal experience, they may stand side by side, if not a little ahead of their husbands or brothers. I know of several cases where women are managing affairs, wearing the pantaloons, the husband sitting meekly by, and it seems to me that I should blush with shame to let the world at large know that I married an apology of a man, who did not know enough to run business out of doors. I interest myself in the farm enough to know what is going on. I think it pleases a man to have his wife admire the stock and praise his management. When my husband goes to salt the sheep and cattle, I go along too. I admire their thick coats and big wrinkles, secretly saying to myself, "What horrible things they must be to shear." I pat the Shorthorn cow and say the calves are

splendid, that the colts grow uncommonly fast, and discuss the probability of a good crop of wheat, corn and potatoes, we have a lovely walk up the lane; and I feel just delighted that I am not in his boots running affairs. I prefer the pleasant kitchen and shady sitting room.

EVANGELINE.

BATTLE CREEK.

### A CONTRITE MEMBER COMES ONCE MORE.

I have long been promising myself the pleasure of a chat with the Household members, but to-night when I sat down to enjoy the new paper, and met the Editor's appeal for contributions, my conscience smote me a terrible smite. My imagination instantly conjured up the picture of an overworked editor, bending beneath the burden of our delinquencies; for though I thoroughly enjoy reading all that our editor writes, and should never guess from reading them that the articles from her pen cost her any effort at all, still I have a fancy that to be head manager of our little paper is to occupy no sinecure. There must be times when to supply the place of letters with new and interesting matter becomes a task. So I have made a good resolution, and whatever may have become of its predecessors I am determined that this one at least shall not be used for a paving stone.

I think Evangeline's ideas are splendid, and for the sake of the children I wish more mothers thought as she does. Surely we who are wives and mothers have found our mission, and our duty is to fill it to the best of our ability. The letters written in the Household are a great help to me. I think as Evangeline does, that even were it possible to do so, it is better not to remove all temptation from a child, but teach him the way to overcome, thus strengthening his moral character. What do the other members think about it? I can fancy the look of astonishment and dismay that would greet us if, instead of the usual pleasant salutations, we should proceed to vent our ill temper upon the first casual acquaintance who chanced in our way, but by all means don't let it fall on the children, nor their father. Better go out and scold the pump or some other inanimate object, then return to the house, leaving the "crossness" out in the fresh air where it will do no harm. There is a propensity in human nature which I think was



pretty well illustrated by our little four-year-old, who in coming through the door hit her head against the side and in the midst of angry sobs exclaimed, "What made you make the door so small?" And the children are by no means the only ones who find relief in blaming some one else. If I tip over the ink bottle I had much rather blame the one who left the cork out, than myself for my carelessness, but if I take time to think, I conclude not to, and there is one little unpleasantness done away with. I find it an excellent rule to put myself in the other fellow's place, and then I don't feel half so much like saying hateful things, because you see then I can feel the hurt. I wonder sometimes how parents can treat other people's children so much better than they do their own. Should a little visitor chance to break or destroy any article, it is smoothed over as a matter of little consequence, while for the same deed one of their own children would meet with slaps and angry words. Just keep back the cross words that sometimes will clamor for utterance, and when you hear a sweet little voice saying, "Mamma I'm so sorry," you will feel amply repaid for the effort you made. Meet the children with a smile when they come in from school or play. Mother's smiles are like sunshine to them, and indeed I think smiles are a good tonic for any one.

ARMADA.

L. B. P.

[In respect to the demands made upon her resources in the way of "copy," when contributions are few, the Household Editor can only quote a sentence from an unusually bright story in Harper's Magazine for December: "Any man that contracts to deliver so many bushels of apples per day all the year round, has got either to break his contract or deliver some of his fruit green."]

#### LOVE LIGHTENS LABOR.

[The following essay was read by Mrs. F. C. Rector, of Tecumseh, at a recent meeting of the Tecumseh Farmers' Club, and was requested for publication by the Household Editor. Mrs. Rector prefaced her essay by reading four stanzas from the poem "Why Girls Will Wed," published in the Household of September 9th, which will explain the allusion in the opening sentence.]

These are two pictures seen in many women's lives. There are days when the wife and mother rises unrefreshed and with throbbing head and unstrung nerves in the morning, when the very effort of rising causes momentary faintness, and as she casts over in her mind the duties to be performed during the day, they seem almost like mountains of impossibilities, and she feels as though she could never undertake them. But she remembers the men are already at the chores, and the milk must be skimmed; ready for the calves by the time her husband or hired man comes for it, and breakfast must be in time, for it would never do to have the men wait, even if it is with throbbing head she has to prepare it. Then as memories of girlhood days flit through

her mind, and she remembers when she used to feel ill in the morning, and did not rise quickly at the morning call, how dear, kind, loving mother would come to her chamber with anxious face to know if she were not well; how sweet were her words "Do not try to get up, my child; lie still and I will wet a towel in cold water and put it on your head, and perhaps you can go to sleep again." How grateful was the cooling application, how sweet mother's kiss as she left her to rest, while she went down to prepare the morning meal. As these memories pass quickly through her mind in contrast with present realities, she hurriedly dresses, while tears fill her eyes, and unkind feelings gain the ascendancy; and she murmurs: "Why is it that girls will wed?"

Happy the woman who possesses a husband with observation enough, and kindness of heart, to realize the situation as he makes his toilet for breakfast; and thrice blessed is she if he ignores the frown upon her face and the short reply she gives if he asks if breakfast is ready, but kindly fills the pitcher with water, and as he passes her pauses to ask if she is sick, and tenderly suggests that she need not try to get much dinner, but give them what is already prepared, and try to get an hour or two of sleep and rest, "for I know you are about tired out." Perhaps the tears will start; never mind; tears of pleasure and love never injured any one, but they are an excellent panacea for heartaches, headaches and tired nerves.

Breakfast over, how happily husband and wife start to perform the duties of the day! The mountains of almost unbearable burdens disappear, as the work goes easily and swiftly on. The wife sings at her work and smiles pleasantly to herself as she thinks of the days when "John came wooing." The lover was dear to her heart, but what was the lover compared to her husband? For him and her children she plans, toils, economizes, and makes home a haven of rest; not a stopping place to eat and sleep, but a place dearer than all others, where the purest and holiest affections cluster, and where they are ever welcome, loved and cherished as nowhere else in the wide world. What has wrought the change? Love. Love lightens labor.

To women, necessarily isolated in their homes more than men, love is necessary to happiness; and unhappy indeed is the woman who bears her burdens for duty's sake only. Many find life's burdens too heavy to be borne without love to lighten them, and either reason is dethroned, or the burdens and life are laid down together.

How light labor becomes when we toil for loved ones, knowing they will be benefited by the labor of our hands and minds, and feeling that they will appreciate our efforts and give us kind and loving words of encouragement!

Husbands, do not hesitate to give the words of praise and love women so much need and crave. You in your greater strength and more active life, where you mingle more with the outside world, can

hardly conceive how your kind words brighten the daily life of your wife and "lighten her labor."

If "kind words never die," what shall we say of the unkind ones? I tell you they pierce the heart like a two-edged sword; they rankle deep and cause great pain; but the best balm for the wound is love and kind words. This life is too short to be sparing of kind words. Speak them as often as possible, for into every home death will come and take its members one after another, and how the kind words of the departed are treasured by us, and how our own unkind ones are regretted.

My ideal home is one where love rules supreme; where the burdens and sorrows are mutually borne by its members, where the fullest confidence exists between husband and wife, where the severest labor is lightened by love. There, the wife will smilingly say, "No wonder girls will wed!"

#### HINTS FOR CHRISTMAS.

Times, we are told, are hard, business is dull, and farm products slow of sale at low prices. Therefore it is safe to infer that Christmas expenditures will be lessened as much as possible by the work of the hands. There are so many little remembrances we can make for our friends, that one need hardly regret the want of money, if they have but enough to purchase the materials and time to convert them into dainty trifles. We give a few items our readers may find useful: Bangle boards are convenient little articles, and are made by covering blocks of wood seven inches long, four inches wide and one-half inch thick with plush or velvet (decorated or plain), and screwing into them four or five brass hooks to hang button hooks, scissors, keys, etc., upon. Suspend with ribbon. These are very convenient in the sitting or sewing room, and keep such small articles out of the reach of childish fingers.

A new style of pincushion is thus described: "The cushion is simply a bag of white flannel a third longer than wide, stuffed and sewed up at both ends. Make the cover a third longer than the cushion, of blue silk sewed like a bolster case. Face the ends on the inside with scarlet silk and trim with white lace. After the cushion is in, tie the cover at both ends close up to the cushion with scarlet ribbon.

A lady tells how she knits wristlets: "Take Saxony yarn, any color you wish (mine is black), and about three bunches of black bugle beads; thread them on the yarn, leaving them a short distance apart; cast on forty-seven stitches, knit once across plain; second row, throw a bead up through every other stitch, and so on; leave a loop at one end each time of about eighteen beads. Continue in this way until you have about forty loops bind off and join, and I think you will have a pair of wristlets that will please any one."

A very convenient knitting bag is made by taking a strip of cretonne a yard long



and two-thirds of a yard wide, sewing the edges together leaving about a third of the length open in the middle; fold so that the seam will come in the center of one side. Sew one end together straight, which will make a square to hold the knitting, and gather the other and draw in to form a round bag. Ornament the ends with tassels or balls of bright worsted.

A handsome holder for a brush broom is in the form of a palette. The foundation is of stiff cardboard, cut in the shape mentioned and of dimensions to correspond to the size of the brush. This foundation is smoothly covered on the front with plush or velvet and on the back with muslin to match. Any rich, warm color may be used. Garnet is very handsome for the purpose. A bow of wide satin ribbon of the same color is fastened near to the top of the palette. A wide strip of velvet, lined with any stiff material, is put across the front of the palette and each end sewed into the edge of the palette. The lower edge of this strip or band is also fastened for a short distance from each end to the main portion of the holder to prevent the brush from slipping through too easily. The wide band is embroidered in arrasene. This holder is easy to make and a very nice gift for either a lady or gentleman.

#### A KNITTED COUNTERPANE.

In reply to Stranger's request, I send a knitted bedspread pattern, consisting of a wide and narrow stripe, the wide stripe—honeycomb—as follows:

Cast on eighty stitches; 1st row, knit plain; 2nd row, purl; 3rd row, plain; 4th row, knit six stitches, slip two, knit four, slip two, and so to the end of the needle, ending with six plain; 5th row, same as 4th only purl; 6th row, same as 4th; 7th row, same as 5th; 8th row, same as 4th; 9th row, knit plain, slipped eight stitches and all; 10th row, same as 2nd, 11th row, same as 3d; 12th row, knit three, slip two, knit four, slip two, and so on, leaving three plain at the end of the needle. The alternate rows of honeycomb must commence and end with six stitches, the others commence and end with three.

The narrow stripe is made thus:

Cast on 40 stitches; 1st row, knit plain; 2nd row, knit four, purl eight, knit four, purl eight, knit four, purl eight, knit four; 3d row, knit plain; 4th row, same as 2nd; 5th row, plain; 6th row, same as 2nd, and repeat until 16 times or rows; 17th row, knit four plain, take a third needle, slip four stitches on third needle, knit four, then knit four from 3rd needle, repeat to end of needle, making three twists with a row of garter stitches between.

If Anna, of Wessington, Dakota, has not a supply of rugs I will send directions for one: First cut blocks from heavy cloth two and one half by two inches, with one end oval; it should be two and one half inches at the longest place. Then work around loose buttonhole stitch, with bright worsted. Use a piece of ticking about three inches smaller than the rug is desired, for a foundation.

Sew on the blocks in rows, lapping in shell form. Make the center of black, worked in cross stitch or embroidered with any pretty pattern.

BROOKLYN.

BESS.

#### OUR WINTER DRESSES.

Harper's *Bazar*, always standard authority on the fashions, tells us how to make up winter dresses. The style here described as suitable for flannels, is suitable and stylish for any heavy woolen goods: "The cloth-finished flannels are used for inexpensive street dresses, made up with a little braid on the basque and apron, while the foot of the pleated skirt has a bunch of tucks or of braid above a deep hem. When made over an alpaca or silesia foundation skirt there need be only a deep pleated and tucked flounce across the front and sides, while above this is a full apron that may have, by way of ornament, linked rings of mohair braid; in the back there are two long box pleats, deeply folded in triple layers extending from the belt to the foot, and tucked to match the front. The best basque for such a dress is in coat shape, of even length around the hips, as this coat effect will make the dress appropriate for wearing in the street without a wrap in the intermediate seasons of spring and autumn, for women of small means should choose their wool dresses with a view to wearing them the greater part of the year, at least in Northern climates. The fronts of the coat are single-breasted, and may be buttoned their entire length, or else cut away below the waist line. Slit pockets curved slightly are set in the fronts, and there is a small breast pocket for the watch. The collar, whether turned over or standing, is nearly covered with rows of the mohair braid, and there are three or four rows around the cuffs. This design, though not new, is preferred to more elaborate models which detract from the neatness of a plain costume and make it look 'fussy' and common."

Astrachan cloth is greatly in favor both as trimmings and entire garments, this winter, Astrachan jackets are frequently seen on the street here, and recently a lady wearing a Russian circular in this goods was noticed on the Avenue. It is popular as trimming for both outside wraps and full suits. Astrachan cloth is fifty-two inches wide, and sells at \$4.50 per yard. An outgrown coat or cloak can often be nicely made over by adding a border and cuffs of astrachan, in the same or contrasting color, at little expense. With collar and pocket lids of the same material, what is intended as an economy becomes an adornment. Dress skirts are sometimes bordered by a deep band or half skirt of this material, over which a soft wool overdress or polonaise is worn. It is put plainly upon the foundation skirt. Basques of one color and material are often worn with skirts of another, an economical fashion. The basque is often plain, the skirt of some pretty plaid goods. It is made in conventional fashion, with a pleated lower skirt and

drapery that may be long or short in front, but must be very full and long behind; this drapery is arranged on the tournure to droop in two soft loops by catching up the upper part of the long breadths that cover the back of the skirt; a cluster of small pleats or one large pleat is taken at each side and in the middle of the back drapery to give this effect.

#### NOVEMBER WORK AMONG THE FLOWERS.

A small amount of labor in the garden this month will be found another spring to have been well bestowed. There are many varieties of shrubs and herbaceous plants termed hardy that, although they will survive our winters with little or no protection, do far better as spring advances, in strength of growth and richness of coloring in flower and foliage, if protection is given. This should be of the right kind, so as to act as a fertilizer as well; and for this purpose, dead leaves with a mixture of rotted manure is I think in all respects best, and will give life and mellowness to the soil when well worked in the spring. The dead and dry branches should be trimmed away, if not already done, and where possible the plants, after covering the soil around the roots, should be laid down and a few pieces of brush put on them to keep them in place. Roses are grateful for as much and as rich mulching as any, and if not pruned and cared for will surely resent it. *Wigelias* and *Deutzias* require less protection than roses, while *Altheas*, *Calycanthus*, *Magnolias*, &c., must don a straw overcoat, snugly fitted, to come out safely.

There are few shrubs more satisfactory by beauty of form and profuse blooming than the *Althea*, beginning in midsummer and continuing a mass of color until frost. Litter from the barnyard and around the stacks is quite handy, and saves time when it is to be applied, but proves a snare when with it is brought to the bulb beds, already sown with seeds of hardy annuals with a view to their early rising in spring, the unwelcome "seeding down" of grass and grain with greedy, strong roots to monopolize the soil. A good load of leaves and litter from the woods applied to the flower garden will work wonders; as we are all learning it does with the soil for potted plants. The rich vegetable mould combines all the elements of fertility.

MRS. M. A. FULLER.

FENTONVILLE.

#### AN EXCELLENT REMEDY.

In response to a request of the Household Editor, I give directions for making a remedy which I have used myself during recovery from a long and severe illness, which left me weak and feeble, minus alike strength, ambition or blood: Take three pounds of the best beef, that which comes off what is called the round, which must be entirely free from fat, gristle or skin. Have the butcher chop it up for you. Pack it, raw, into a large earthen jar or dish; pour over it one pint of the best Bourbon whiskey. Let it



stand twenty-four hours, then turn into a clean cloth or bag, and squeeze thoroughly dry. The liquor will have absorbed the juice of the meat, and the latter will be white and tasteless. Take a tablespoonful three times a day. It is one of the best things in the world to make new blood or build up a constitution enfeebled by a long sickness. The taste is not unpleasant, being neither of raw meat nor whiskey. If a person does not know how it is prepared, it can be passed off as a tonic. Sometimes a "spleeny" individual cannot take it if he knows what it is made of. I have, as I have said, taken this myself with great benefit, and others of my acquaintances in this city and elsewhere, have found it very beneficial.

MRS. S.

DETROIT

#### ANOTHER COUNTERPANE FOR STRANGER.

Seeing a correspondent wants information about knitting, and being an old knitter, I thought I would send my directions for knitting a counterpane in squares. I am quite pleased to see the subject of knitting introduced into our little Household.

Take any size cotton you wish, the coarser the quicker done. 1st. Cast on one stitch, on a coarse knitting needle, then carry your thread around the needle, letting the loop form a stitch; by so doing your square will increase to seventeen stitches; knitting all the time garter style. 2nd. Still carry your thread around as to form the loop, but purl across; after knitting the two first stitches, then carry your thread around the needle, narrow the next two, and continue until you knit across the needle. 3d. Knit plain. 4th. Same as the second row. 5th. Same as the third row. 6th. Knit back and forth, garter style, for three rows, and still carry your thread around to form the loop; in the fourth and fifth row don't make any loop, but narrow the first two stitches every time. 7th. Knit the same as No. 2, only still keep narrowing the first two stitches every time, until you have the same number of eyelets as knit in No. 2. 8th. Knit garter style and continue narrowing the first stitch until you have narrowed down to one.

Then on two sides of the above block you will notice the loops, those are the sides to join on the rough sides, and four of these form a nice square block. When the spread is completed knit the old style oak leaf edging to trim the edge; it is durable and quite nice.

Can any of the lady readers give the directions for knitting the double rose leaf? I can furnish directions for coral or ferns that are very pretty.

AN OLD KNITTER.

DETROIT.

#### BEDDING.

Our little paper has told us how to make bread and butter, cook greens, and discussed the "school question;" now shall we not make up our beds for winter?

Shall we make comfortables or buy blankets? If blankets, shall they be

colored or white? Shall we use spreads, or spend our winter evenings in piecing quilts? Shall we have feather or straw beds, mattress or springs, or both.

Will not some one give us an idea of a bed that will combine healthfulness, neatness, warmth, lightness and cheapness?

LITTLE PRAIRIE RONDE.

#### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

SOME hot-headed, restless individuals greatly prefer straw pillows to those of feathers, as being less heating to the head. Do not fill the ticks too full, or the pillow will be hard and uncomfortable.

OFTEN there are open cracks in the kitchen floor, or between the floor and baseboards which let in much cold air and keep the feet of the occupants of the room uncomfortably cold. A scientific journal says such cracks can be filled by a composition made by thoroughly soaking newspapers in paste made of one pound of flour, three quarts of water, and a tablespoonful of alum, thoroughly boiled and mixed. Make the final mixture about as thick as putty, and it will harden like papier mache.

WE would earnestly recommend our readers to manufacture their own vinegar from cider where possible, such being the purest and best for household purposes. It is almost impossible to buy a gallon of really excellent cider vinegar in the city. It is "doctored" with drugs and diluted to an extent positively deleterious to health, even when any proportion of cider enters into its composition. Much vinegar owes its being to acids which are injurious to the stomach, and fails to give good results when used in cookery. Many will wish to change their cider to vinegar as quickly as possible. This change is effected by the oxygen of the atmosphere getting up a fermentation. If a little cider is drawn every day and turned into the barrel it will carry more or less oxygen with it. A little old vinegar turned in the cider barrel will hasten the change even more than cider will.

MRS. M. A. FULLER writes us that she was quite successful in competing for premiums at the various fairs at which she exhibited. She was awarded the Sibley silver cup for the finest collection of garden flowers, the second time she has won this trophy. At the Fenton fair Mrs. Fuller received first premium on collection of garden flowers, and on each separate specimen in that class, also on floral design in cut flowers and everlastings. She also took first on fancy geraniums and fuchsias, and second on collection of greenhouse plants. In several classes she competed with professionals, which makes her success the more creditable. Mrs. Fuller says that no fair in Michigan, not even the State Fair, offers as liberal premiums in this line as do the fairs of New York, Illinois, and several other States. She

would like to know why Michigan cannot offer as liberal inducements as are given elsewhere.

MRS. W. H. GORSLINE, of Battle Creek, will be grateful to any one who can tell her where she can obtain rubber rings for the Colby washing machine. She has a good machine but no rings.

#### Useful Recipes.

**BAKED INDIAN PUDDING.**—Scald one pint of milk. Stir into a little cold milk one teacupful Indian meal (the yellow is preferable) and add to the boiling milk, stirring until it thickens, but no longer, or it will not bake well. When nearly cold add two well beaten eggs, a pinch of salt, a pint of cold milk, sweeten with half sugar and half molasses, and flavor with nutmeg. Bake about an hour, or until one can see water bubbling from the top. It is best served hot.

**DELICIOUS PUDDING.**—A delicious pudding is made by adding grated cocoanut to the common corn-starch blanch mangle. The cocoanut should be fresh. Stir it into the pudding only two or three minutes before taking from the fire. Put it into a mould which has been dipped into cold water. Do not use an egg in this pudding, but make a boiled mustard for a sauce. Pour it over the pudding or serve in a fancy bowl, letting each one "help himself" to it.

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