

"You surely don't mean that," he gasped.

"I do mean it. We won't take a cent less."

"But you offered it for \$200."

"Yes, we felt that we were compelled to sell it, but we don't feel so now."

"You will feel so," Enness said, as he arose and left the room. "You'll fail on your crop next year, and then you'll be glad to get what I offer, but I won't promise to give it."

He had never dreamed that his offer would be refused, and he really wanted the land. He consoled himself, however, with the thought that Miss Ashby would yet come to his terms and be glad enough to accept his offer, and he determined to patiently bide his time.

"I'm very sorry to have to decline your generous aid, Mr. Enness," Miss Ashby interrupted with a queer smile, "but the truth is, we've contracted the claim to the railroad company for a townsite for three times what you offer."

Without a word Enness left the house and walked back home. He was too completely beaten to say a word, but he thought a good deal. For the first time in his life it appeared to him as if it was very easy for greed to overstep itself.

It was manifest to him, too, that even a woman could accomplish a great deal when she resolved to try, even though she labored under adverse circumstances.

A few weeks later Mrs. Ashby stood in the doorway of the little sod cabin and looked out across the Kansas prairie for the last time. Her face was no longer sad and wan, for she was very happy. Mary Ashby's indomitable will and energy had brought better and brighter times.—Saturday Record.

#### WASHING BLANKETS.

A sunny, windy day should be selected, and only one pair washed in one day. First put the blankets on the line and shake the dust out of them. Cut one pound of good soap in small pieces and boil in two quarts of water till dissolved. Add half a pound of powdered borax. Fill a tub about half full of water and add the soap and borax. Be sure to have the temperature of the water the same as that of the outside air. This is not a difficult matter, as town water is usually a little colder than the air in spring and summer, and only then should blankets be washed. Press the blankets down into the water and avoid rubbing; then let the soap and borax do the work—they certainly will. Let the blankets soak for two hours, then rinse them thoroughly in several waters until the rinsing water looks clear, taking care to have the rinsing water the same

temperature as the first water and the outside air.

Then, without wringing, put the blankets on the line. Do not stretch them, and be careful to hang them exactly even, then the color in the stripes will not run into the white. Although dripping wet, on a clear day they will dry in four or five hours and will be soft and clear. The wear, not the washing, will show to a certain extent, although they will look more like new blankets than they did before washing. Take in when perfectly dry. They should not be ironed or pressed. They will be clean and will smell sweet. With set tubs, the only hard work is to get the blankets on the line properly, and if some one will "lend a hand," even this is not very laborious.—Good Housekeeping.

#### BREAD AND CAKES.

**BROWN BREAD**—One pint sour milk (buttermilk), one teaspoonful soda (or more), 1 cup Orleans molasses, boiling, one good handful corn meal; thicken to stiff batter with graham flour, steam three hours; salt and sugar. Have your molasses boiling and pour over your handful of corn meal, put in pinch of salt, also some sugar; then put your soda in your sour milk—you can tell how much soda to use by the sourness of the milk—and stiffen with graham flour until it will drop off the spoon readily; put in a can and boil in a kettle of water for three hours constantly. When done take out and set in oven for a short time until it dries.

**GINGER BREAD**—One cup molasses, one of sugar, one of sour milk, two teaspoonfuls of soda, two teaspoonfuls of ginger, two eggs, one-half cup butter and lard, flour to make batter.

**GRAHAM BREAD**—One cup Orleans molasses, one cup home-made yeast, one quart warm water, one teaspoon salt; stir in enough graham flour to make a soft dough, pour into buttered pans, let rise an hour, then put in the oven and bake an hour.

**BREAKFAST GRIDDLE CAKES**—One and a half pints corn meal, stir in boiling water until it is a stiff mush and set away to cool. Add one egg, one and a half pints flour, one teaspoon soda, buttermilk enough to make a batter not too thin; bake on a hot griddle. If you use sour milk, add another egg.



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The dreariness of drudgery may be changed to the blessedness of drudgery if the daily duty be regarded as the college of life for growth in mental power, and a gymnasium for building up character.—Chicago Interior.

Let man but speak forth with genuine earnestness the thought, the emotion, the actual condition of his own heart, and other men, so strangely are we knit together by the tie of sympathy, must and will give heed to him.—Carlyle.

Though an inheritance of acres may be bequeathed, an inheritance of knowledge cannot. The wealthy man may pay others for doing his work for him; but it is impossible to get his thinking done by another, or to purchase any kind of self culture.—Samuel Smiles.

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