



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McVey

Violets

O, quaint, wee violet, modest flower,
Breathing perfume from your lowly bower,
Your favor I woo; and my heart doth sing
When you smile at me, in the early spring.
I'm a simple bard, but you've touched the heart
Of a conquering sovereign—Bonaparte.

How many times is first love guessed
When a lover pins you on his sweet-heart's breast;
Your merry nodding and cheerful face
Teach of true love in an humble place.
And the lover trusts you his love to bear
And lay on the heart of the maiden fair.

Though a rock, like a sorrow, your way withstood,
You trusted your Maker, and lived for good.
Though skies were black, and snow-flakes fell,
You bring the message that all is well.
Violet, you're queen, 'til the spring is done;
No flower surpasses you, under the sun.

—Chas. H. Wallis.

Must Wives Be Self-Supporting?

American women are ceasing to find men to marry them unless they are self-supporting. This is the startling deduction made by the United States bureau of labor in its last report. The marriage rate among women who work and among women with money is much higher than among women who are neither workers nor rich, and the disproportion is annually increasing.

All rich women, according to the statisticians, have opportunities to marry and generally speaking all working women have equal opportunities, but the women who must depend on servants to do household work and on their husbands to supply all the household income are being driven from the matrimonial field. Fewer than one-half of them marry now, and the percentage is steadily diminishing.

Nine per cent of the married women of the United States work for wages apart from the performance of their household duties. Twenty-three per cent add to the household income by taking boarders. More than one family in five has its children at work. More than 20 per cent of the earnings of the average American family comes from the labor of the wife and the children.

The old type of American who supported by his own earnings his wife and his children, whose home was his own and who occupied an independent place in the community, is disappearing. Marriage is becoming more and more a commercial partnership where the man and the wife pool their earnings, or a fashionable festivity where the fortune of the wife added to the income of the husband maintains a social establishment until divorce doth them part.—New York World.

Commencement Gowns

For the Commencement days, which

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething should always be used for children while teething. It softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

come thick and fast in May and June, nothing is prettier than mull and the fine sheer lawns and muslins. The Philippines have sent us some new things, among them a very charming pineapple gauze that is quite simple enough to be correct, is exquisitely beautiful, and has the merit of being uninjured by dampness, while it does not rumple readily; but it is somewhat more costly than the muslins, and such of these as Persian lawn and organdie are quite smart enough, and are in by far the more general use. Good taste advises that trimmings be kept simple, and that if lace be used it be of an inexpensive sort; but this fact does not detract from beauty, for there are many lovely laces shown that are quite suitable, while the embroidered muslins are of themselves very beautiful. Dotted Swiss, with ruches of the material, with chemisette of tucked lawn, is pretty. The elbow sleeves make a feature of the season, and are much in vogue for all occasion of dress.—Ex.

Small Concessions

Those of us who are so blest as to have learned the wisdom of keeping our tempers sweet, have reason to hope and believe that we are not irritating elements in the home life, but privileged helpers. The longer adult members of the same family live together, the greater becomes the necessity for tolerations and concessions, in order to keep the home life sweet. It is harder to observe that courtesy, here in the intimate associations, which we should render to parents and esteemed friends, and lack of harmony grows from inconsiderateness of each for the other as to taste, marked preferences, dislikes, and sources of amusements and pleasures. No one deliberately chooses to be an unlovely, ungracious elderly and old person; but the habits can not be changed at will; to be lovable in old age, we must start young. If your aim is to have perfect comradeship and an atmosphere of harmony in the home, you must respect the likes and dislikes of others. A small discourtesy or contention may lead to a bitterness that would rankle long. Only a principle is worth contending for, and even then, we must remember "Blessed are the peacemakers."—Selected.

"Limitation of the Franchise"

In a recent exchange we find the following, which is worthy of some thought. In view of the wide-spread interest and discussion which the views of Dr. Osler in regard to elderly men have awakened, it makes very good reading. Here it is: "We insist that the male can be too old to vote, just as he can be too young. A man gets too old to pay poll tax, or to be impressed into military service; the parson gets too old to preach; the teacher too old to teach; the doctor too old to practice, and so on, down the list. Yet no man is adjudged to be too old to vote, no matter how failing his mental or physical powers may be. The right of franchise is one which needs for its use the most careful preparation, the clearest brain, the greatest integrity, the strongest mentality; yet no man seemingly gets too old to hand in his vote, and the older he is the surer he is to be a party slave, and the louder he denounces all who do not vote as he does. In family and church affairs, his opinion has no weight, because it is understood that he is in his second childhood, and his mental powers are weak; he does not know as much as

he did for several years before he reached his majority; but when it comes to affairs of the nation, any hand may drop the ballot—if the hand happens to belong to the semblance of a man. The average man is in his prime from fifty to seventy, and some fine intellects last many years longer than that, but in the majority of cases, the limit is reached before seventy.

"Another limitation (or qualification) should be sobriety. It is rather humiliating to a proud, pure-minded, intelligent woman of undoubted business ability to watch the reeling sets who, on election day, get together to make the laws she must obey, knowing, too, that even in their 'sober senses,' they know absolutely nothing of the merits or demerits of the questions before the people, or the fitness or the unfitness of the candidate for the place; simply voting as they are told, in the dumb, dull way of an automaton."—V. C., in Practical Farmer.

Query Box

"An Adventurer."—For the information desired, write to the Librarian of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. D. G.—The formula for rose perfume was given some time ago. Your druggist will sell it to you cheaper than you can make it.

Francis.—Hand embroidery is much used on the newest shirt waists; the designs are wrought in linen thread—white thread for white.

A. H.—As there have been published several recipes for yeast-making, I am at a loss to know which you want. Can you specify?

Essie.—There are many books and pamphlets published on etiquette. Ask your book dealer for the names of several good ones.

Needle-Worker.—Any magazine which publishes fancy work patterns can give you the names of books furnishing directions for doing the various lace and embroidery stitches. Not expensive.

Emma S.—Get a book, or better, take a magazine devoted to physical culture and massage. If you can take a few lessons, do so. I am not informed on the subject.

Mrs. J. C. B.—You can wash the dress in gasoline with perfect safety. Do not rub; just "sozzle" up and down, until clean, rinse in clean gasoline and hang to dry without wringing in the open air. For the fly-specks, rub carefully with a little sweet oil. Thanks for kind words.

C. S.—Crude petroleum is not coal oil or kerosene such as is used for lamps; it is odorless and of a greenish tinge; can be got of your druggist. Do not use highly scented soaps. In most cases, the perfume is used to cover up the poor oil or fat.

Eva.—If you get a bottle of cement, directions for its use will be on its label. (2) Try the "bland soap" recommended in another column. (3) Read "Toilet Soaps" in another column.

S. M.—Stock collars of lace are still much worn, and promise to retain favor. Linen collars are worn, but are neither so pretty nor so cool as their lacy rivals. The bishop collar, under its various names, is the favorite.

Annie L.—It is a matter of taste whether the bottom of the skirt is bound with braid, or not. The braid is very serviceable, and will preserve the lower edge of the skirt. If used, it should be a fine silk or mohair braid, sewing it so that the merest edge is seen below the edge of the skirt—just

enough to take the wear off the goods. Anxious Adie.—It is claimed that olive oil, taken in teaspoonful doses, before breakfast and after supper, will clear the complexion of the sallowness due to torpid liver. The oil is palatable. It can be had of your druggist, or, perhaps of your grocer. A teaspoonful of granular phosphate of soda in half a glass of water is recommended to be taken before breakfast. The best plan would be to consult your physician, who will be a better adviser than I am.

Sunbonnets and Tub-Hats

The sunbonnet girl is to have a great vogue, this season. From the wee tot just commencing to walk to the grown up "girl," who, perhaps has youngsters of her own, tub-hats and sunbonnets will be worn for various occasions. The outing trunk will not be well equipped if there is not plenty of headwear of this order, which may go to the laundry with the summer gown and other accessories. For wear with shirt waist suits there will be all sorts of dainty creations to suit even the most fastidious. One of the prettiest shown is made of cut-out embroidery on a jaunty shaped wire sailor foundation. This frame is covered with soft, white mulle to disguise the fact that a frame is a necessity. Upon this the circular embroidered crown is lightly tacked, and the embroidery brim adjusted, after which the folds of ribbon with a bow at one side are tacked into position. Two eighteen-inch squares of cut-out embroidery will make the hat. Fold the squares and make the corners round; then cut a circular piece from the center for the crown; edge this piece with embroidery, and edge the brim with embroidery slightly shirred. One piece is, of course, tacked over the other underneath between the top of the crown and the joining of the brim.

These tub-hats are made of embroidery, India linen, mulle, pique, lace, pongee, and many other fabrics that lend themselves to such uses, and are variously trimmed with embroidery, lace, ribbons, flowers, silks and velvets, which, if unwashable, may be removed before the hat is sent to the laundry.—Ladies' World.

Cotton corset lacings make excel-

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