

Saint Mary's Beacon

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ST. MARY'S BEACON

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ANCIENT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

The people who lived at this remote era of the world's history would doubtless have been surprised at many of the articles found in the houses of to-day.

They would have been puzzled how to use a sewing-machine, and the matrons of Thebes of Babylon would have regarded a pocket of pins as a priceless luxury.

Luxurious furniture was not unknown, and there are evidences still remaining that at the time Chieftains were building the great pyramids in Egypt, and King David...

He was not seen again by his bride or his family until the following evening when he timidly knocked at the door and was admitted.

His bride, who had been waiting for him, opened the door and looked at him with a smile.

She had been waiting for him, and she had been waiting for him, and she had been waiting for him.

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OUR SOCIAL LIVES.

Some people never make acquaintances, but shut themselves up from their kind as does an oyster in his shell.

It is not hard to make acquaintances if we set about it in the right way; but it is useless to hang back and wait every door to be opened.

We must push them ourselves. Said a lady to us the other day: "I never make acquaintances in traveling; I wish I could."

Said another: "I get acquainted with everybody; I talk to the women who sweep the ferry boats, and to any decent person who happens to sit by me in the cars."

I find every human heart is human, and that I can learn something I didn't know before from every new acquaintance, or communicate information that may be valuable to her."

We are most of us too apt to stand on our dignity and wait for advances from others; to indulge a capricious disposition, and criticize whom we should commend.

The cultivation of a genial, charitable, benevolent spirit will not injure any of us, and will certainly benefit the community in which we live and act constantly to the number of our friends.

A FOR OF HER SEX.—A Massachusetts woman, it is said, has lately patented a self-fastening button, which needs no button-hole, which holds as fast as the most desperate person can desire, and which yet can be unfastened by a simple touch.

The time would come when that unhappy, too ingenious woman will be denounced as one of the worst foes of her sex who has ever existed.

Nothing is a greater protraction to matrimonial ideas in the mind of a forlorn bachelor than the difficulties which he has with his apparel on the subject of buttons.

How these useful fastenings leave his wrists and neck collar and even single can sadly tell, and how he himself has made absurd attempts to repair the damages by sewing on buttons himself, he would be ashamed to tell.

Despair at inability to conquer this annoyance of single life has made many a man double, reduced the wild bachelor to the discipline of a home, taught him his duties as a citizen, and made him in time respected as a husband and father.

And this Massachusetts woman, who undertakes to emancipate the male sex from the social influence of buttons, will become in after years, a scorn and byword to her sex, especially among single sisters.

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CONFEDERATE LOSSES.

The forces and losses of the Confederate army were the first contribution to history from the Southern Historical Society.

In the November numbers of "The New Electric" and the "The Land we Love," 1869, an interesting and important correspondence was published between Dr. Joseph Jones, Secretary of the Historical Society, and General S. Cooper, ex-Adjutant-General of the Confederate States.

From that source we glean the following facts for the benefit of those who are not so fortunate as to have preserved a file of those valuable magazines. Such facts are startling even to those who participated in the Southern struggle:

1. The available force of the Confederate army did not, during the war, exceed 600,000!

2. The Confederate States never had in their defenses more than 200,000 men in the field at one time!

3. From 1861 to 1865 the Confederate forces actively engaged were only 600,000.

4. The total number of deaths during the war were 200,000!

5. Losses of prisoners counted as total losses on account of United States policy of exchange, 200,000!

6. The loss of Confederate States army by discharge, disability, and desertion amounted to 100,000!

7. At the close of the war, the force of the Confederate army was less than 100,000 men!

8. Out of 600,000 men, 500,000 were lost to the service!

These facts are taken from calculations made with great care by Dr. Joseph Jones, submitted to and approved by General S. Cooper, Adjutant-General of the Confederate army.

From them we deduce these two facts: At the close of the war the Federal forces numbered one million; the Confederate forces numbered one hundred thousand!

How sad and eloquent a difference! Eloquent of disadvantage, determination, devotion and death!—*Mobile Register.*

Kind Words from Wives.—The following from the pen of Elizabeth Caldwell Stanton, contains a world of truth and deserves to be a life text for all wives, and for all husbands, too, for that matter: A wife must learn how to form her husband's happiness; in what direction the secret of contentment lies. She must cherish his weaknesses by working upon them; she must not rashly run counter to his prejudices. Her motto must be, never to irritate. She must study never to draw largely upon the small stock of patience in man's nature, nor drive him; never, if possible, to have scenes. I doubt much if a real quarrel, even if made up, does not loosen the bond between man and wife, and sometimes unless the affection of both be very sincere, lasting, if irritation should occur a woman must expect to hear even a strength and vehemence of language far more than occasion requires. Mild as well as stern men are prone to the exaggeration of language. Let not a woman be tempted ever to say anything sarcastic or violent in retaliation. The bitterest repentance must needs follow such an indulgence if she does. Men frequently forget what they have themselves said, but seldom what is uttered by their wives. They are grateful, too, for forbearance in such cases, far while asserting most loudly that they are right, they are often conscious that they are wrong. Give a little time, as the greatest boon you can bestow, to the irritated feelings of your husband.

A DAY NEARER HIS DOOM.—When a man has been sentenced to be executed, as the time appointed draws nigh, many people are often heard to remark: "Well, one day more of poor—'time has gone." It does not appear to occur to the careless outside observer that this is no truer of the prisoner than of himself and every one else—that another of his days has gone, and that he is just as absolutely one day nearer to his own death as the condemned prisoner is to his. It is a nearer approach to his own death which the condemned man makes at a common pace with all the living, only the day of his doom is known to him while that of others is concealed from them.

Most fully concealed, too, for how much would the enjoyment of this life be diminished if we knew beforehand just when we should be obliged to quit it. The uncertainty when we are to go, the expectation of dying in our own homes, with our last hours consoled by the attentions of kindred and friends, and sustained by the hopes inspired by religion, these considerations rob death, come when it may, of much of its terrors, and lead us to look upon it as the peaceful close of our life's labors.

ITEMS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.—Alum or vinegar is good to set colors red, green or yellow. Sal-soda will bleach. One spoonful is sufficient quantity for a kettle of clothes. A hot shovel held over varnished furniture will take out spots. A small bit of glue dissolved in skimmed milk and water will restore old rusty brass. Ribbons of any kind should be washed in cold suds and not rinsed. If fat-irons are rough, rub them well with salt, which will make them smooth. Harry Ford says: "Wud of the dab-dab-dee-oo of the wood is a cold id the 'ol."

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