



When flowers are scarce and expensive it is well worth while to study ways to keep their beauty from fading.

Our readers are advised to try the following very next time there is an opportunity, and they will have this department to thank for their flowers lasting three or four times the length of time they would if treated in the ordinary manner.

In the first place, before removing the beauties from the box or paper in which they arrive, sprinkle them gently, but thoroughly, with fresh, cold water; then make some good strong soap suds, which takes the place of roots, and is, therefore, very important, and put the flowers therein, taking care not to pack the stems too closely together.

Every morning without fail the flowers must be taken out of the suds, their stems clipped a wee morning, and laid sideways in clean, cool water. See that every stem is well covered, let lie for a few minutes, sprinkle with the fresh water, shake and return to the suds, and your flowers will look as if just that moment picked.

Change the suds every three days, follow this rule carefully, and at the end of a whole month compare your flowers with those that were in the ordinary household ammonia. For instance, dip a white carnation or a dark red sweet pea into the ammonia, and the former will immediately change to a dainty yellow, the latter to blue, deepening into purple.

Green roses are not pretty, but if there is a faded pink one it will be curious to dip it, and behold it is transformed into a beautiful lettuce green.

To do away with insomnia a night cap is recommended. Not a comfortable hot drink just before retiring, but the real, realistic headgear, bringing to mind the picture of a woman in her kerchief and in my cap have just set her brains for a long winter's nap.

enches to be observed in its compounding over that of the Northern meal.

It must be sifted once to begin with, and no sugar or molasses is needed, as its natural sweetness is sufficient. Except in making muffins, no baking powder is used, and then only half the quantity put in with other meal.

Furniture usually needs a freshening every spring. The following preparation for polishing is offered under a guarantee of value and reliability: Of olive oil and good, sharp vinegar take equal parts, shaking together until thoroughly mixed.

Orange baskets are dainty, both as to taste and appearance, and the trouble in preparation surprisingly little, considering how much they contribute to the decoration of a table.

A plain, yard-square table center for informal use on the polished luncheon table may be made attractive by having the laundress crease an eighteen-inch square in its center and pass the fold through a fluting machine, crimping it only about half an inch in depth.

Small dollies the color of the lamp shades are sometimes used at luncheons, placed at each cover for the bread. When this is done a small individual butter plate is provided.

Two small gastronomic hints are, to put the merest suspicion of peppermint in a French dressing for a green salad, and to grate a fresh coconut over a dish of fish salad.

Here is an inexpensive way of preparing a fricassee of lamb: There are cheap parts near the neck which the butcher will sell from 6 to 8 cents per pound, and will, if asked, trim away the fat and cut into the shape of chops.

A salad par excellence is usually of French origin, but an American lady visiting in England sends one partaken of for the first time at the hospitable table of that most cosmopolitan of men, James Payne, M. P., of "American Commonwealth" fame.

IN RELIGION'S REALM

Expressions From Various Religious Newspapers.

The Religious Thought of the Day as Expressed in the Secular Press.

It is during the last 300 years that morals have been separated from the doctrine of the church, or conduct from creed, says the "Living Churchman." It is a sad fact that it is undeniable that this has been the tendency of more than one influential Christian sect.

Men are saying: "We have had enough of a religion which consists only of 'creed,' let us embrace one which consists only of morals, in which not belief, but conduct, shall be all in all." And thus we have offered to us the last fruit of nineteenth centuries of Christianity, a "Life Creed," or an ethical scheme, which is to take the place of the old religion.

"If one abstains from things which are good and proper in themselves and practices things which are always wrong, there is a contradiction in his life," observes the "New York Independent." "It is of vastly greater importance than abstinence should extend to sinful acts than to fish and flesh; that the spirit should be mortified rather than the body; for the life is more than meat, as the Savior taught, and it is of infinite concern that the heart be right."

"The Church Standard" (Episcopal) admits that there is some truth in the charge of sectarian superciliousness often brought against the Episcopal Church. "There is," it says, "a good deal of offensive conceit in the way in which we talk about 'sects' and 'denominations.' There is something hardly less offensive in the patronizing way in which we sometimes admit the Christian graces which are exhibited in the lives and works of their ministers and members, as if, forsooth, they were a marvel of God's exceptional and wholly unaccountable grace."

"In these days one rarely hears of insanity on the subject of religion," says the "New York Observer" (Pres.). "And even the few instances reported from time to time are apt to be located in the remotest, most intensely rural of our country districts, where the twilight of superstition has not faded away into the light of Christian common sense."

"The position of the antagonists of revealed religion is enormously strengthened," says the "Watchman" (Bapt.) of Boston, "by the unwillingness of their opponents to concede any thing until they are compelled to do so. The argument from consequences is pressed to a ridiculous extreme. It is constantly said by the inner circles of orthodoxy that we cannot follow the force of this objection to some detail of reserved opinion, because if we do then the camel will get his head inside of the tent and his whole body will follow. We do not believe that that argument should weigh with honest men."

"The Ohio boy read Lincoln's farewell address to the people of Springfield when he started to Washington. He followed him on that memorable journey and grew indignant when it became apparent that the life of the man he loved was in danger—that he might be assassinated before reaching the ruins of Government House. He, like thousands of other boys, wanted to stand between him and danger on that journey to Washington thirty-six years ago last month. And how satisfied he and they were when he was inaugurated. In their eyes things would go badly when Buchanan was out and Lincoln was in. They believed, until that April day when the news came of the lowering of the flag in Charleston Harbor, that Lincoln would settle the disputes between the North and South. He did, but not in the way they then thought he would."

will be pretty hard, we suspect," says the "Christian Register" (Unit.) of Boston. "For Dr. Trumbull to furnish evidence sufficient to establish this proposition. It may be, indeed, that the Bible miracles are not as wanted exertions of the imagination as we find in the 'Arabian Nights' and in fairy stories pure and simple; but we maintain that there is nothing to distinguish them as a class so far as credibility is concerned from the miracles of other religions. Celsus in the second century pointed out very clearly, and with abundant examples, that the miracles held by Christians were made out of just the same material as those held by the people of other religions. The story of Deucalion was just as reasonable as that of Noah, the story of Hercules as that of Samson; and there were birth legends and resurrection legends different in form and color, but making no greater demands upon credibility than those held by Christians. In the stories of Homer the gods are constantly working through human agencies and in that way it is there anything in the adventures of heroes which makes any greater draft upon the credulity than the story of Jonah in the Old Testament? Or is there any story of direct generation by the gods through a human mother which is any harder to believe as fact than the story of the miraculous birth of Jesus?"

"It is frequently said nowadays that the account of the creation of the world in the first chapter of Genesis was taken from the Babylonian legend relating to the Creation. It is said that the Hebrew author rewrote that Oriental legend, striking out its polytheism and asserting the one living and true God in the place of the many gods of the Babylonian account. How so unwarranted and extravagant an opinion originated, it is difficult to conceive," says the "New York Christian Intelligencer" (Ref.). "In reality it is inconceivable that the record of Genesis was taken in any degree from the Babylonian mythological story. The points of resemblance are few, the dissimilarities are many, constant and extreme. In view of what we have in Genesis, the conclusion is irresistible that the Babylonian story is an extreme degradation, under polytheism, of what may be supposed to have been an original inspired manna fast, let him fast, where the Lord, not to the church, not to the public, and if he fast not to the Lord he fasts not at all. It is a good Lutheran precept that 'a fast is not of itself and in itself worship of God; but when conjoined with penitence and prayer, to the end that the flesh may be brought under control, and the mind may be made ready for spiritual things, fasting is well-pleasing to God.' It should not, however, be limited to a certain time, but be constantly observed."

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"The Ohio boy of 16 threw up his hat and cheered as heartily as any one in the village that November morning in 1860 when it was definitely known that Abraham Lincoln was elected President. The boy, like tens of thousands of other boys, had taken deep interest in the campaign, and his enthusiasm for that army of boys played no small part in the Republican party's first successful battle. I have sometimes thought that the marshaling of these boys in the Lincoln army of Wide Awakes in 1860 was a part of God's plan. Certainly it helped in placing at the head of the republic a man who was best fitted for the high station. As Wide Awakes they learned how to keep step, how to form lines, to face, to obey orders. It was of great value to them a year later. They learned also to love Lincoln and looked up to him as their leader. In the battle for his advancement to the White House the Ohio boy was one of the great speakers of his State, including Senator Ben Wade, Joshua R. Giddings, Salmon P. Chase, John Sherman, then comparatively new in public life; John Brown and a young State Senator who was afterward President—James A. Garfield."

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"President Lincoln has called for volunteers, mother, I want to go. Please give father's consent," wrote the Ohio boy from his school. "You are too young; wait," was the father's reply. But when 300,000 more were called for the determination of the boy to become a soldier was so unbendable that the father and mother held a conference with closed doors and ended it by bowing their heads in prayer and asking God's guidance in the matter. The course of the Ohio father and mother was that of thousands of other fathers and mothers in the great emergency. The boy was told that he could go. Within twenty-four hours he had enlisted."

"The company is ordered to join the regiment, mother. I shall have to leave home to-morrow." Thousands of other young heroes said about the same thing that year. "God bless my boy," said the young mother, for she was young then, only 25. "Do your full duty, my son," said the kindly, patriotic father. Father and mother followed him to the gate, kissed the tall, comely, red-cheeked, beardless boy and smiled through their tears as he said: "I'll come back when the war is over."

"Not long after this the boy's regiment—the Twenty-third Ohio—left the State for the front. The heavy knapsack, full of haversack, cartridge-box and gun he carried on that first start to the capital made him perspire and his back bent before he reached the station, where he clambered into a hard-seated car. What a ride it was and what thoughts were in his mind. The train carried him only half way to Washington that time. He had to walk the other half, and between times to stand on lonely picket post, be a part of a skirmish line, take his place in line of battle. He had to cook his own meals, put up his tent, make his bed, wash and mend his clothes; but after he had fought in a score of great battles and won several promotions he reached Washington. It was a long, hard trip, but he will never make another of which he is prouder."

FOURTH Annual Announcement

IT IS WITH PLEASURE AND PARADOXICAL pride that we send to the citizens of Sacramento and vicinity our copy of this annual statement of the fourth year of the Sacramento Sanitarium or Neagle Medical Institute.

THIRD RAIL SYSTEM Wonderful Advance in Running Electric Railways. The following article from the Southern (Conn.) "Pheasant" will be read with deep interest by all as showing the possibilities in transportation by electric power.

Chiefly interesting at the hearing was the statements of President Clark, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, concerning the electric trolley system now in use on the Nantasket Beach branch at Boston, and the possibilities of further development and application of electricity to the now steam lines of the Consolidated plant.

"The question of the repeal of this section is one whose two sides have been energetically and fairly presented this week before the committee on railroads, and the personnel of legal talent representing the phases of this matter were all present in an exhaustive array of facts and many brilliant arguments at their presentation."

"The Nantasket Beach road having proved such an entire success, it became the duty of the directors of the great Consolidated road to extend that system because it would accommodate the public better and because it would bring a greater return to the stockholders, of which there are over 7,000."

"The N. Y., N. H. and H. R. R. company is now building an immense power-house at Berlin, in which power will be generated to drive trains by the third rail system between New Britain and Hartford, and between New Britain and Middletown, and in Mr. Clark's opinion very soon cars between all points in Connecticut and along the line of the Consolidated road."

"The committee then closed the hearing. The chief point in Mr. Clark's argument is that the future of railroading in Connecticut contains many surprises, not the least of which will be the total disappearance of locomotives and the substitution of the third rail system, which will cheapen the cost of transportation and freight."

"I am very sorry, sir," said the poet, "but I am obliged to call your attention to the fact that a line in one of my recent compositions was entirely perverted and the meaning painfully distorted by the compositor."