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Struggle to Throw Off an Influence.

(Copyright, 1908, by American Press Association.)

Elisha Hereford at twenty married a girl of eighteen. Elisha was rather a bright fellow, but without good judgment. His wife was exactly the opposite. She was not bright, but possessed an enormous amount of "horse sense." For twenty years she kept her husband on the track and when he showed signs of "breaking" tone, pull strong on the curb and now and then give him a sharp cut with the whip. The consequence was that Hereford, being smart, by the time he was forty had secured a competency.

Now, the thing without which success is not to be attained is often unrecognizable, especially by the achiever. Hereford attributed it in his case to his talents, arguing that if he were not pulled back by his wife he would be a millionaire. His most intimate friends knew that his wife had put those talents to their proper use and prevented his wasting them. Perhaps if any of them had told him this it might have neutralized this story. Perhaps he would have received the information in a more palatable form. It is the more probable.

One day Hereford disappeared. It was found that he had taken \$50,000 and left \$100,000 for his wife, with no explanation whatever. This is the most practical thing he had ever done without her assistance. Almost any one would pronounce the money preferable to the explanation. But the act was just like Hereford. He was a mixture of the sublime and the ridiculous.

He hadn't been gone long before his wife received a letter from an American gentleman in Constantinople named Tarbox stating that Hereford had died there. He had left instructions with Tarbox to send what money he had left—some \$10,000—and his incinerated remains to his wife. Her friends said that so long as he had sent the money she hadn't have anything to say about the matter. Mrs. Hereford deposited the former in bank and wept over the latter. When it came to sentiment she had her weaknesses, the most pronounced of which was a sincere affection for Elisha Hereford.

She was so sensible to keep her husband's dust in her own house, so she spent \$100 on a marble tomb, placed it in a cemetery and locked the dust in it. Not that the \$100 represented her love for her dead husband. The tomb was plenty large to contain the ashes, and Mrs. Hereford's sentiment never ran away with her instinct of economy.

Before proceeding any further with this story I wish to say that there is a feature in it that won't be believed. You can invent a lot of imaginary nonsense, and it will be gulped down, but give people a real coincidence such as happens every day and they will laugh at you. I am sure, however, that any one who knows Elisha Hereford on hearing what I refer to would say, "That's just like him for all the world."

As I have said, Mrs. Hereford was prone to indulge in a sentimental sorrow so long as it was not expensive. She went once a week to the cemetery, took out the urn, dusted it, probably because she had been used to periodically dust the marble clock on her mantel at home, wept over it and put it back. One day just after having done the dusting she turned the key and what a bowed head was met with offering a prayer for the repose of her husband's soul when she was aroused by a crash. It seemed she had heard some wooden structure knocked into kindling wood. Starting up, there in a lot not a hundred yards from her she saw a promiscuous mass of slender timbers jumbled with some light woven texture. From beneath it a man struggled to free himself and after doing so stood upon his feet. The widow went toward the fragments, and when the man's head appeared above the wreckage she caught at an iron rail inclosing a burial lot.

She saw him whose ashes she had been weeping over.

"Well," he exclaimed petulantly, surveying the wreck, "it's all up, and I'm glad of it."

Mrs. Hereford, who saw a medium for wasted money, breathed hard.

"Elisha," she said sternly, "what foolishness have you been guilty of this time?"

"I own up, my dear. It was this way: I heard of all these fellows trying aeroplanes, and I had a plan that I wanted to try myself. I knew you would never consent to spending the money to build it, so I concluded to take the job into my own hands, first eliminating you from the experiment. Jim Twinkler was going abroad, and I charged him to take care of you from there under an assumed name, telling him what to say and what to send. This left me \$40,000 with which to—"

"Elisha!"

"My dear."

"Have you sunk \$40,000 in that—that heap?"

"I've sunk \$20,000."

"Where is the rest?"

"In bank."

"You come right home with me and draw me a check for it. I was a fool not to foresee something like this. Never again will you have a dollar under your own control. I've got the money you left, and when I get that you haven't thrown away we'll be safe."

Mrs. Hereford sold the tomb and the urn at a good profit. She secured a check for what money her husband had not sunk on the aeroplane, and from that time to the present she has held the purse strings to the family capital.

THELMA C. HOYT.

Farm and Garden

TOMATOES IN WINTER.

The Best Way to Keep Them Safely in Winter.

The most important conditions for forcing tomatoes are: A warm, light house—one having a two-thirds span facing the south being preferable—strong bottom heat, rich soil, careful training, uniform temperature, care in watering and pollinating and, as before suggested, good judgment and constant watchfulness on the part of the grower. Bottom heat is not absolutely essential to success, but the crop matures more quickly if given this condition.



To make the best use of the house two crops should be grown during the season. This will bring each crop on at a season when the expense of heating during a part of the time will be slight. Plants for the first crop should be started as early as August. If two or more houses are available a second sowing should be made in about three weeks to give a succession. For the second crop seed should be sown during the latter part of October.

The plants are treated in every way as for outdoor culture till hauled the last time. For fruiting some prefer benches, with about six inches of soil, but in the experience of others the best results have been obtained from the use of boxes eighteen inches square and twelve inches deep. In the bottom of the boxes is placed a layer of charcoal, broken pots or clinkers from the furnace, after which soil, consisting of three parts good garden loam and one part well rotted stable manure, is filled in to within two or three inches of the top. Each box will hold four plants, and the check caused by the partial confinement of the roots seems to be of value in hastening maturity. If the soil bed is used instead of the boxes the plants are set about six inches apart in each way, thus occupying a little more than one and one-half square feet of floor space for each plant.

Best returns usually follow where the plants are trained to a single stem, as shown in the illustration. Flax cords about the size of a small cord are fastened to the corners of the boxes or to wires placed parallel to each row for that purpose and attached above to wires running lengthwise of the building on the rafters or sash bars. The plants are secured loosely to this support by means of short pieces of string about the size of a small cord or piece of raffia passing around the main stem above a leaf, thus forming a sling. At this time, too, it is well to stir the surface of the soil and work in a quantity of well rotted manure or to give frequent applications of liquid manure.

The temperature of the house should be as nearly uniform as possible—about 60 degrees at night and 70 degrees in dark weather, but 80 degrees or even higher on bright, sunny days. All cold drafts and sudden changes of temperature should be rigidly avoided.

Garden Hints.

Squashes and pumpkins should be stored in a cool, dry place before being touched by frost and be handled very carefully to avoid bruising them. Satisfy (or vegetable) oyster and parsnips are left in the ground over winter for spring use. But both are good in the autumn. They may be stored in damp sand for use in winter when the ground is frozen. Turnips are not injured by the frost until there is danger of the ground freezing.

Cabbages are not injured by frost and may be left out until quite cold weather is imminent. Carrots and beets may be left in the ground till freezing weather.

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Schedule in effect Nov. 1, 1908, subject to change without notice. Eastern time.

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No. 35, daily, 12:15 p. m. U. S. Fast Mail, first-class coaches and drawing room sleeper to New Orleans; dining car service.

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No. 37, daily, 1:42 a. m. New York and New Orleans Limited; all Pullman train, club and observation cars to Asheville, Atlanta, New Orleans. Sleeper to Charlotte. Dining car service.

Trains leave Harrisonburg for Washington 6:40 a. m. week days, and 3:05 p. m. daily; arrive Washington 12:25 p. m. and 9:30 p. m., respectively. Trains leave Washington for Harrisonburg 7:50 a. m. daily, and 4:15 p. m. week days; arrive Harrisonburg 2:50 p. m. and 10:10 p. m., respectively.

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