



THE HOME CIRCLE

THE TOWNBREDs and THEIR COUNTRY PLACE

By Edward Riddle Padgett

THE LAST STRAW

THE morning after the night on which the Townbreds had been compelled to beat a hasty retreat to the city and spend the night in a hotel, because of the non-availability of their furniture at their country place, Mr. Townbred walked serenely to his office while Mrs. Townbred made an early start for Five o'clock tea.

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miss the late edition of his evening paper. The ride out seemed interminable, his seat like a torture chair and most of his fellow passengers an uncouth, bundle-burdened lot. But when he finally arrived at Five Oaks he had to admit that the air had a tang quite different from the murky atmosphere of the city.

As he turned into "the place" a thin spiral of smoke was curling lazily upward from one of the chimneys and, for the moment, Mr. Townbred had a vague feeling that, after all, it might not be incongruous to think of "the place" as "home, sweet home."

But, alas, once he had stepped inside and beheld Mrs. Townbred in all the dirt and dust and glory of her moving costume, his optimism took wings.

"For goodness sake, Frieda," he ex-

"Did the furniture come? What was the trouble?" he interrupted, serenely unconscious of his narrow escape from sudden death.

Valiantly and with magnanimity Mrs. Townbred overcame her emotions and explained.

"Oh well, never mind the breakage," he remarked cheerfully. "We're lucky to have anything left. Now what can I do to help you?"

Mrs. Townbred collapsed in a chair. "Nothing!" she snapped. "Nothing but let us alone!"

"Why Frieda!" exclaimed Mr. Townbred in surprise. "If you feel that way about it—then very well!"

And he attempted to ward a dignified way through the impedimenta up to the second floor.

There, too, everything was at sixes and sevens. The bed, minus sheets and pillows, was piled high with suitcases and clothes. His books were strewn all over the floor of one of the front rooms. The guest-room contained a jumble of odds and ends and another room was barricaded with barrels and boxes.

He returned to the bedroom and transferred the contents of the suitcases to the bureau drawers and the closet. Then he busied himself with filling the shelves of one of the upstairs book-cases, cheerfully unaware that every book would have to be removed again for dusting. But one book-case was quite enough, so he wandered downstairs.

There he found that Mrs. Town-

"I 'spect it'll be a little late this evening," Mistah Townbred," Virgie answered in a tone that heroically concealed her real feelings. "And I guess you'll have to take pot-luck. But I'll sit somen direct, jes' as soon as I kin git dis heah dinin' room table cleahed."

"Huh!" grunted Mr. Townbred. "What's that darn statue of the Flying Mercury I lugged out yesterday doing on the dining room table? Virgie, for all I care, you can take that thing out and bury it—and the deeper the better!"

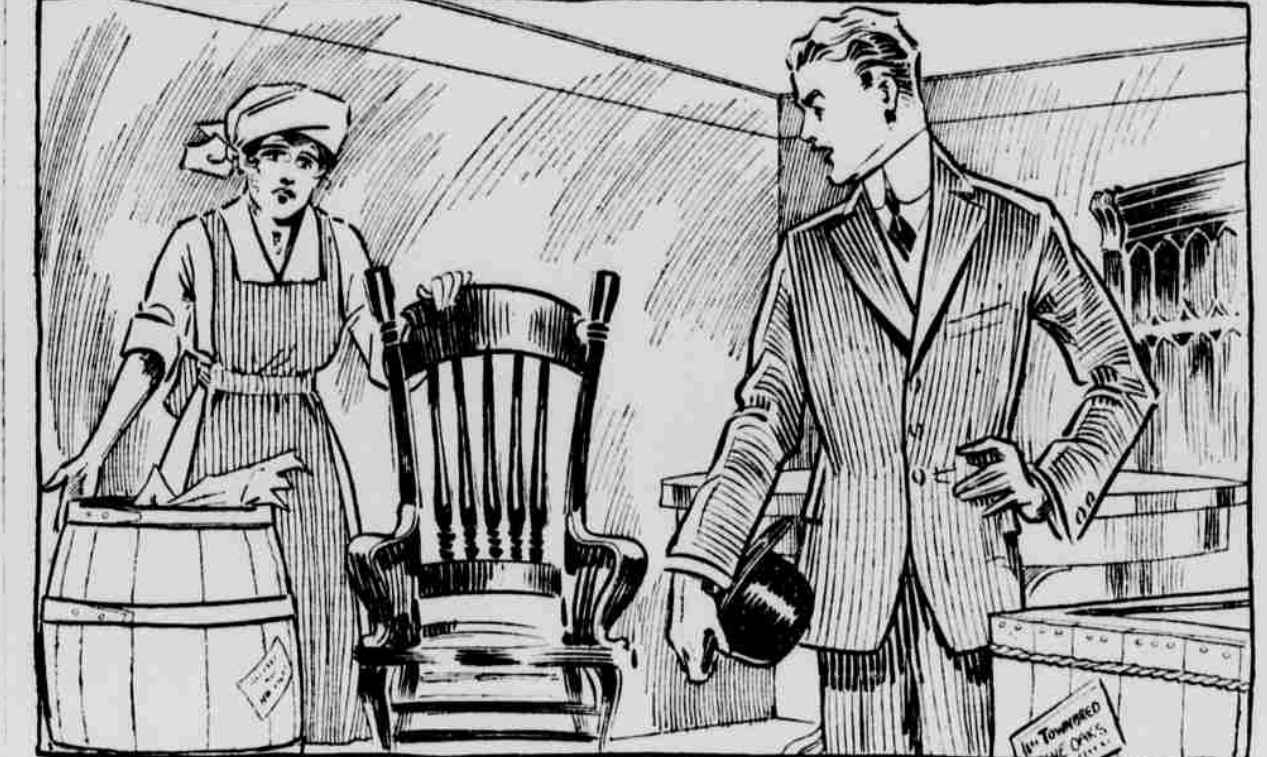
"Yassuh," answered Virgie non-committally.

For the next hour Mr. Townbred conscientiously insisted upon helping; and Mrs. Townbred, despite her distress and her weariness, hadn't the heart to tell him that the line of demarcation between inexperienced help and woeful hindrance in such a crisis is indeed a fine one.

Then at night—their first night in the country—was closing round they sat down to a surprisingly satisfactory dinner, considering the circumstances.

And, an hour later, every light in the Townbred domicile had been extinguished and Morpheus was supposed to have cast over it his spell that brings surcease even from such harrowing responsibilities as country places, moving and the computer's weary lot. But, evidently, old Morpheus had himself succumbed to his medicine.

For presently Mrs. Townbred spoke



claimed, "haven't you got straightened out yet? What have you been doing all day?"

Mrs. Townbred reached out for the nearest object to heave it at his head, but was forced to clutch at something solid for support.

"Ruthvin! — Ruthvin Townbred!" she gasped. "If you say another—"

"What have you been doing all day?"

breed and Virgie and John had made really remarkable progress in straightening out the living and dining rooms.

"When'll dinner be ready?" he inquired blandly.

Mrs. Townbred gave him one look, gasped, clasped her hand to her mouth and turned and fled.

in the darkness.

"Ruthvin? Ruthvin?" she called gently.

"Yes, Frieda, what is it?" Mr. Townbred replied, wide awake.

"Listen," she continued. "Faintly but still audibly, came the strains of a sweet lullaby. 'I Didn't Raise My

Seamless Wall Paper

HERE has recently been put upon the market, a seamless wallpaper, which to many women fills a long-felt want. With or without reason, many insist that no paper but shows the seams, beside which, for one cause or another, the paper often separates, leaving ugly places. Possibly in some cases this is true, but these new papers do away with this objection, for they are to all intents and purposes, seamless.

Coming from four and one-half to nine and one-half feet wide, the width of the paper is used for the height of the room, and whatever deficiency is felt is made up with dados or borders, or woodwork.

There are four seams to a room, each corner being cut to fit, making in this way a perfectly neat and clean job. As usual with new ideas, the first patterns were somewhat limited, but this defect has steadily decreased, until now the variety of colors and patterns are able to satisfy even the most difficult of women. The Tiffany blends were evidently too great a favorite with the public not to be included in the making, so they can be found running the full gamut of colors and tones. Leather effects for libraries, dens, and dining rooms, seem especially well chosen, and the absence of any seams makes them in this case, most desirable.

For bedrooms come many soft tones, and if preferred, patterns in both flowers and stripes. These days few bedrooms are over nine and one-half feet high, but when such is the case, a drop ceiling with a picture moulding can be used to fill up the needed extra space, or if preferred, a border to harmonize with the room. So many women are still loyal to plain papers with bright flowered borders to match the cretonnes used in the room, that here is a splendid opportunity to induce that taste. When deep baseboards are built in the house, there is rarely a necessity for anything, as these make up all needed spare inches.

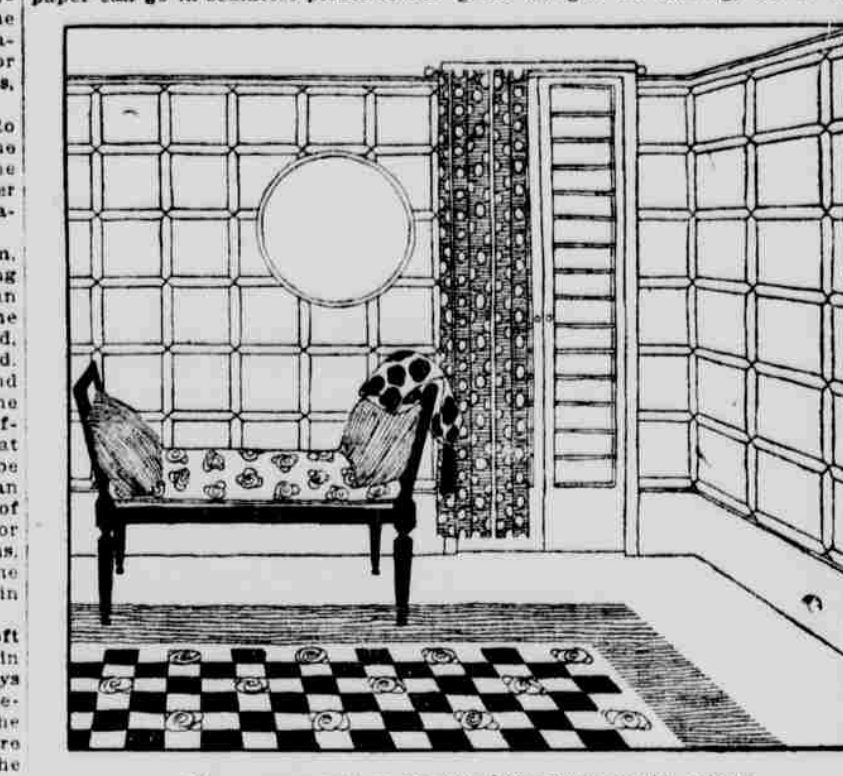
Down stairs there are many ways to give the needed height, and at the same time add beauty to the room. When possible, there is nothing so beautiful as panelling either in white or in the wood to match the rest of the furniture in the room. If in the dining room, this panelling can be finished at the top with a very narrow shelf, and by using an occasional piece of china here and there, add brightness to the room as well as a finish to the paper.

Before you should ever have to give the paper another thought. Where bookshelves are used, it would be very probable that one of the narrower widths of paper could be used, and this would cut the expense very materially. Don't spoil the charm of the room, by loading your shelves down with a miscellaneous assortment of articles, but content yourself with an occasional piece of old brass or copper, a dull bit of some unusual piece of pottery, and a bit of flowering plant.

Later on, these papers may be well within the price of everyone, but at present the prices run for an average size room, from seventy dollars up, for the lower floors, and from about sixty dollars up for bedrooms. Now of course, these prices may vary at different places, but these were the prices given me in the studio where I

In the library nothing can be quite so attractive as low bookshelves extending the full length of the room, and in any extra space. These should be about four feet high, and the top makes the space needed for plants, or bric-a-brac, or pictures. Thus your paper can go in seamless pieces to the

was being shown "the advance styles." It depends largely on one's purse, whether this price is great or small, but there is no question that it is a price beyond most of us. To a large extent, the price is based on the care with which it has to be hung, and the great danger of tearing, so it can



Your paper can go in seamless pieces to the ceiling.

ceiling, and it should be many years before you should ever have to give the paper another thought. Where bookshelves are used, it would be very probable that one of the narrower widths of paper could be used, and this would cut the expense very materially. Don't spoil the charm of the room, by loading your shelves down with a miscellaneous assortment of articles, but content yourself with an occasional piece of old brass or copper, a dull bit of some unusual piece of pottery, and a bit of flowering plant.

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easily be seen that it takes a much more expert man to hang this paper than one of narrow width. Nothing looks simpler, to be harder, than the hanging of great masses of paper, and where every "tear means a tear to the owner," she wants the best paper-hanger that can be had. This of course has to be paid for.

It is said to be washable, and to have perpetual wearing qualities. A wet sponge will bring off all the dirt, and leave all the pattern and color. If this is true, it is well worth the money, for we all know that the result in most cases is that we bring off the dirt, as well as the paper and the pattern and the everything that is bringable. Dirt and paper have formed an attachment that seems earthly partings, and it is a case of "United we stand, divided we fall."

LOUISE GOODLOE FALCONER.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE THE CORRECT "UNDERS" FOR THE NEW STYLE IN "OUTERS"

ANCE wide skirts are fashion's decree, wide petticoats are a necessity, that is, wide about the bottom. The top still fits snugly, some to the knee while others, made to begin to flare just over the line of the hips. It goes without saying the longer smooth fit should be adopted by the plump figure. But because petticoats are wide now, it does not mean that we should rush and buy new ones because ours are narrow. The top fit is the same as before, so if the underskirt is in good condition they can be relied in an up-to-date fashion.

A lower portion can be taken and new material, matching or contrasting with the color of the skirt, but not necessarily the same color, can be bought for a new skirt and the old one be cut up rimming the new, as bands and frills, if nicely remodelled, petticoat will be readily thought of as entirely new. It may be supposed that the result would be the same if the skirt were left as it was, with small ruffles added to the bottom to suggest fullness, but this is a mistake. The entire flounce must be replaced.

The case of lingerie petticoats is a very easy matter. One can buy lace-trimmed ones (corset cover lace is called) embroidery and quickly form a new one. When it is added the work is complete.

One of the petticoats are made of the dress stands out so much, suggest a crinoline, beneath the much variety by way of frills on the bias; straight accordion flounces, wide circular skirts edged on the bottom with bias or folds and plain skirts edged with a group of narrow overlapping

is used often than embroidery or trimming lingerie petticoats, once usually drawn up with a ribbon in a delicate color as a head-

sequently the under flounce (for must be a foundation for the of course) is threaded with the in which gives a very dainty ef-

at year this time we were giving



a welcome one. Some corsets were so long it was actually impossible for the wearer to sit down.

Women are delaying their sewing

LITTLE FABLES OF THE BUSINESS WORLD

Clothes and the Man

HERE was once a Young Chap who Got Busy for Easter just about the time the first March Wind cut loose. He was strong for this "Easter Parade" stuff and he didn't intend to be caught with his Lamp Untrimmed. So he set out to Secure the necessary Fixings.

The fact that he was already Three Laps behind his Bill at the Tailor's didn't deter him in the least. He walked into the Place like he Owned it. He mentioned quite casually Two Friends who were willing to play Follow-the-Leader with him in the business of buying New Easter Suits. And he spoke vaguely of a Check to be Mailed the first of the month.

Our time and thought to fluffy corset covers. We had to because the waists were so sheer and cut so low a dainty underwaist was an absolute necessity. This year the new waists button high to the neck and are far indeed from being the frivolous affairs they were last year. So as we must have fluffiness somewhere, I suppose we are putting it on our petticoats. The materials, too, for waists are much more substantial than formerly. Striped voile, pongee, crepes and tub silks are much more substantial than the materials used last season. Consequently the corset covers are more on the brassiere order made of embroidery and cambric as being more fitting for the outer waist.

Corsets, too, are changing. I do not think women will ever give up the comfortable straight front entirely, but it is certain we are to have a decided waist line this season. If we do we shall have to pinch in and the result will be hips will be in fashion again. Neither is the corset as long as formerly which is really a great comfort. Corsets of late have been little less than armor below the waist line, so I am sure this change will be

So, when Easter morning dawned,

this year, fearing the styles are not yet sufficiently settled to warrant making new frocks but as one must prepare underneath for the outer this sewing can be done with perfect confidence if my suggestions are carried out. I speak from absolute authority.

Without a shadow of a doubt skirts will be full and the waists fitted—and in many cases boned.

If table silver is placed in hot soapsuds immediately after being used and dried with a soft, clean cloth, polishing will be saved.

He arrayed himself in all this Glory that Solomon lacked and sailed forth to join the Easter paraders down the Main Avenue. And, leaving him there for the moment, we will now consider the case of another Young Chap. To wit—

He, too, desired to Fix Up a Bit for Easter. And he also began thinking about it 'way back at the Lion Stunt. But he stopped to Look before he did the Brodie. Which is to say, he was a Methodical chap and one who pinched the Ponies. With new his Bank Account which was fast approaching Years of Discretion. Not that he hadn't the Wherewithal, you see, but that he remembered it was Easter to Yank a Dollar out of bank than it is to Put one In.

So this second Young Chap decided

to celebrate Under Wraps. He dug his Spring Suit of last season out of Moth Balls and sent it to a Tailor for the once-over and a Hot Iron. Also, he paid the Woman-Who-Cleaned-His-Room to Smeat a Little Gasoline over one of his Neckties and Rub out the Wrinkles.

He did Blow himself to a pair of New Shoes—but he found Scant Pleasure in the Blowings. As for a Walking Stick, he had no more use for that than he had for Credit.

All of which implies that the Young Chap was a Practical Cuss who was Making Good on his job and Salting Away his Earnings with a view to Being Somebody someday.

Witness now the Easter Parade in Full Swing. See the Dignified Old Gent in the Prince Albert and the Silk Chapeau. Note also the Fair Maid at his Side, resplendent in her Easter Pinery. He is the Boss, who employs both the Young Chap; and the Maiden Fair is his Lovely Daughter.

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Presently, the First Young Chap comes swinging jauntily along. His Backbone stiffens a bit more as he Recognizes the Boss and Makes him a Sweeping Bow.

What a smart young fellow! Who is he Papa? the daughter asks. "Oh, just one of the clerks in the office," the Boss answers. In a few minutes, along comes the Second Chap. He looks plainly uncomfortable and it is quite evident that he is there to See not to be Seen. He, too, Recognizes the Boss and Tips his Lid.

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SIMPLE SPRING-FARE RECIPES FROM THE WAR ZONE

BY HILDA BARKER

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plainer food is far and away the best for them. All children will like a simple cake for which I shall give a recipe and probably some of their elders also. It contains neither butter or eggs, yet is delicious eating.

Roll together for five minutes one cupful each of sugar and water, two cups of raisins, less than half a cup of lard, half a teaspoonful each of powdered cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg (less if spice is not liked) and a pinch of salt. The mixture should boil fairly hard for five minutes after it has reached the boiling point.

When it has cooled one teaspoonful of baking soda dissolved in a little warm water is stirred in and then flour sifted is beaten into the mixture. About two cupfuls of flour will probably be sufficient. Bake in a shallow tin for about three-quarters of an hour in a slow oven. Cut into squares and serve. Sugar cookies made without eggs are equally delicious.

Very dark brown sugar should be obtained, if possible, and take one and one-half cupfuls and cream it with half a cup of butter, drippings or either shortening and lard in equal

quantities. Mix two teaspoonfuls of baking powder with flour to roll. Flavor with cinnamon or nutmeg. Add the flour and water alternately. Roll out as thin as possible and sprinkle with coarse granulated sugar and bake in a very hot oven for five minutes or until lightly browned. Another economical cake recipe calls for one egg, one cupful each of sugar and milk. Two ounces of butter, two cups of flour sifted with a little salt and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Flavor with vanilla. Cream butter and sugar and add the beaten egg. Add flour and milk alternately. Bake in a shallow tin, the cake to be about two inches thick when baked. It can be iced or not as preferred.

Among the recipes for new and economical dishes coming from the countries at war is Oatmeal Cookies. You mix together six ounces of oatmeal with the same quantity of white flour, then rub in four ounces of butter, lard or drippings. Add the same amount of sugar, a pinch of salt and one teaspoonful of baking powder. Mix to a very stiff dough with the least possible water. Flour the board, roll out thin, cut, and bake in a slow oven for fifteen minutes.

Bone soup is a novelty but is said to be both palatable and nourishing. This is also a war recipe. Get the butcher to chop a large bone fine and put the pieces into a pan with a tablespoonful of drippings. Fry until a light brown then put into a soup kettle with two large onions, two carrots, and one turnip, all peeled and sliced. Add half a pint of split peas or lentils and one teaspoonful of mixed herbs. Season with pepper and salt. The peas should be soaked overnight. Pour over two quarts of cold water and bring slowly to a boil. Simmer for a couple of hours. Take out the bones and serve.

The recipe sounds very appetizing, and it is certainly an inexpensive dish. What is described here is an economical batter pudding requires three cups of flour, two ounces of suet chopped fine, one teaspoonful of baking powder, a pinch of salt and an egg.

Mix the dry ingredients and then beat in milk or water to make a batter. Watch your Step; also, that Clothes make the Man, at least in Feminine Eyes.

Four into a well-greased tin and bake in a hot oven.