

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

GERMANY'S LOSS IN THE LUSITANIA

Public opinion in combatant and non-combatant countries alike has been shocked by the news of the destruction of the Lusitania, not because of the number of lives lost, for the death of a few thousand people more or less is of small account in these days of wholesale slaughter, but on account of the principle involved. The deliberately planned destruction of innocent non-combatants, including, of course, women and children, is a new departure even in warfare and one is bound to reflect upon the effect on Germany of thus over-stepping the bounds of civilization.

As I thought upon this question I was reminded of the time when I was teaching in a country school and a little girl came to me with a mean little story about her fellow pupils. So far as I was concerned the incident closed with the administering of a mild rebuke, but from the sounds that drifted in thru the open door I knew that Jane received her punishment from an outraged public opinion. It is the severest penalty that can be inflicted, to be set apart from one's fellows as a creature beyond the pale, and many a time have I seen the child so isolated pass thru the successive stages of indifference, defiance, conciliation and whimpering pleading to be taken back into favor with the most abject promises of good behaviour.

Within very recent years we have seen two pitiable examples in the case of adults who have outraged the public standard of honor, the one an explorer and the other an official of whom the public expected sacrifice in a great emergency. And this was not the wavering public opinion of the school yard, but the cold relentless judgment of maturity which closed the doors of all the popular clubs and centres of social life against the offenders and left them alone in a crowd, the most utter desolation conceivable.

Now we have a third example, and this time it is not an individual, but a nation which has outraged all the standards of honor between nations. More than that it is a great nation, which will make it so much the worse for it when the day of reckoning comes. By the day of reckoning I do not mean the war indemnity which will have to be paid by Germany thru long toilsome years, if victory is ours, as we feel confident it will be. The real day of reckoning will come after the terms of peace have been arranged and the world has settled down again to the regular routine of business. Then will the German nation find itself in the position of Dr. Cook and Bruce Ismay—a people placed by public opinion outside the pale of common honor and decency. It is certain that the time will come when the fine spirited people of Germany—and there are many millions of them—will come to curse the name of the men who gave the orders for the destruction of the Lusitania.

It is a very inexorable thing, this public opinion. It is not either persuadable or purchasable. The only public opinion the German people would care to have on their side is that created by newspapers and magazines, which have won the public confidence by proving themselves to be above the reach of such influences and to the favor of such organs the destruction of the Lusitania has dealt a death blow.

That Germany should be cordially hated by the people of the allied nations is to be expected, but to be despised by the citizens of neutral countries as a nation which has not yet learned the rudiments of civilization will be gall and wormwood to her thru many generations.

But above all these considerations the great loss which the people of Germany will suffer thru the destruction of the Lusitania will be the shock to their own self-esteem. An individual or a nation can hold up its head in the face of adverse public opinion when fortified by a consciousness of rectitude, but when, after the heat of battle is over, they take stock of their conduct in this latest reversion to barbarism, the last sting will be added to their cup of bitterness

in the knowledge that the reproach of the world is justified.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

CHILD WEAK FROM BIRTH

Dear Miss Beynon:—In The Guide of April 28 there is a letter signed by a "Mother of Six," in which she said that they were badly in need of clothing. We have a few things that I would gladly send if I had her address. I am sending you an addressed envelope in which to forward her address. I am certain that everybody who has anything of use will send it to her.

A few weeks ago I saw a letter of a young mother who said she used flaxseed and her little girl of eleven months was not able to sit up, and that instruments were used at birth. My cousin's little boy, who will be five this fall, is just able to creep. Till he was old enough to walk he could not hold up his head, but the doctor says he will be able to walk when he is five. Instruments were used and the doctor said the spine was injured, but as he grows older he improves faster. In other ways he is as smart as

lengths as you desire for a border on each side. My rug when done is 60x30 inches. Finish both ends with a heavy wool fringe of corresponding shades. If you succeed in keeping this rug straight while sewing I venture to say you will make another.

Then there is the knitted rug. Mine is wood brown, with border of black and rose. Take the ordinary men's fleece underwear and dye the desired shade then cut narrow strips around the body so as to avoid seams. One can often get yards and yards without seaming by cutting this way. Wind into balls. Now cast on as many stitches as your large aluminum needles will hold and knit conveniently. Turn the goods, knit back and continue this way. Its the garter stitch learned by beginners. When you have this from 36 to 40 inches long, close off. This centre width being broad is hard on the hands. I then cast on about half the number of stitches that the first width contained, knit it to the length of the first or centre width and close off as before. Then cast on the same number of stitches as in the strip just finished. These three widths are of solid color (golden brown is pretty).

I saw a lady the other day, also her husband and child, and I commented on the remarkably healthy child. She was only sixteen months old; had a lot of teeth and had been running all over for four months. She is mentally above the average. She is a "flax" baby. The flax had been recommended by a New York nurse, and the mother's brother is a doctor, who did not discourage her taking the flax. The lady laughed at any disparagement of the treatment, but she just used the steeped liquid off the flax, which amounts to the same thing.

WOLF WILLOW.

ANOTHER ANGLE OF THE HUSBAND QUESTION

Dear Miss Beynon:—As a mere man I would like a reply to Fair Play No. 3. I believe the ladies are the better part of creation, but I think this writer rather belies her pen name and some lady writers show narrow vision—only see their own standpoint and are obsessed by sex consciousness. I write because The Guide enters many farm homes and many of the women inmates are, to my knowledge, much influenced by letters of women, heated arguments arise and some ill-feeling. There are letters that are one-sided and breed discontent.

We men are up against some of the worst economic conditions and unjust laws, and we seem powerless to alter them. A good deal we produce is filched from us. Nature is often hard to get along with, yet some wives seem to think the husband can or should be equal to all demands, or he is a fool or worse, if he cannot do as another man does. The two letters following Fair Play's on the same page, one woman writes of four lean years out of five, the other of two successive crop failures. Fair Play wants women to demand before marriage what she calls "a good binding contract" for a wifely wage to be enforced. What earthly use of such a signed contract in cases of crop failures, sickness, operations and all the afflictions and ups and downs of life. Life is all uncertain; marriage is a lottery. There are women who turn out poor wives as well as the poor hubbies.

We don't want or need these hard monetary "contracts," but sympathy between men and women. Any woman would be foolish to make such a demand and any man more foolish to sign it. Marriage is a matter of trust and faith in each other, and if these are absent it is folly to marry. The idea of a wife being a kind of paid servant is foolish. I have had more than one wife and several housekeepers. A man does not pay medical expenses, nurse nor clothes, pocket money, nor will his farm to his housekeeper. He parts with her if she becomes unequal to her wage or health fails. A wife is a man's second self. Their interests are in common, and they stand together "for better or worse."

I know farmers well and visit quite a bit. Wives here are treated as well and as generously as in any country I know. If any man treated his wife as "Tight-Wad" in one cartoon, where he stood with clenched fist threatening her, looking morose and cruel, his neighbors would tar and feather him, duck him in a slough or give him a thrashing. It has been done. Because I know these cartoons are unjust to farmers here, I would not send a Guide with one in it to anyone. It would be equally just to cartoon the slattern wife, the thriftless one, the nagging wife. Mrs. Boss and poor Mr. Henpeck. But none of these, nor all of them, are representative of farmers' wives, but are exceptions. It is helpful even to men to read your page when letters smooth life's difficult road, but anti-sex letters and those raising ill-feeling and discontent are hurtful to both men and women and are unpleasant reading. This letter is only a man's poor views, but none of us are perfect. Husband and wife sometimes misunderstand each other, there are mistakes and failures on both sides. Let us not forget our own faultiness.

Yours for all good causes,
JUST A MERE MAN.



What's a farm without a dog?

other children, and her little girl will likely grow out of it. This little boy received a good rubbing every day.

Wishing The Guide every success, I will sign myself,

A GIRL.

It was not quite clear to me from your letter whether the mother of this delicate child had used the flaxseed treatment before its birth. I should like very much to know. F.M.B.

DIFFERENT HOME-MADE RUGS

Noticing that the home-made rug has had a joyous revival and has been exalted to favor, not so much in the country homes as among the class known as "Bontons," I read with pleasure our editor's article on braided rugs and felt a desire to add a little more along that line. The rug described is truly pleasing to the eye and the colors she advises blend beautifully.

Now has anyone tried making each braided strand, say sixty inches long, sewing each end of the strand firmly and neatly. Make a goodly number of these sixty inch lengths, then with string that has been dyed with the rags, begin to sew the strands together, remembering to have as many darker strands or rather

Now sew all three together with string the color of the goods, being careful to have the sides of uniform length. Now have a finer cut class of rags and begin to crochet with a double crochet stitch (using a mat hook or bone needle). Go all around twice with one color, say black, being careful not to draw the corners, then two rows of rose, then four of black. This was a creation strictly my own, and pleases me well. At some later date I shall write of another very effective home-made rug, but to my mind none can compare with the old hooked rug when art and harmony are combined. But, oh, ye fingers! and the pain in the side is too great a price.

O. K.

A HEALTHY FLAX BABY

Dear Miss Beynon:—As I am the one who sent the much-discussed flax recipe to the page in the first place, I have taken an interest in it, and I think it has been condemned too sweepingly, especially by Prairie Violet.

I do not claim that it will eradicate any hereditary taint or anything like that, but a child that would otherwise be healthy will be just a little healthier and better and the average mother much more so.