

LOVELINESS.

Once I knew a little girl, Very plain; You might try her hair to curl, All in vain; On her cheek no tint of rose, Pale and blanch'd, or sought repose; She was plain. But the thoughts that through her brain Came and went, As a recompense for pain, Angels sent. So full many a beautiful thing, In her young soul blossoming, Gave content. Every thought was full of grace, Pure and true; And in time the lovely face Lovelier grew; With a heavenly radiance bright, From the soul's reflected light Shining through. So I tell you, little child, Plain and poor, If your thoughts are undefiled, Of the loveliness of worth— And this beauty not of earth Will endure. —Selected.

THE HOME.

Lettie's Love Charm.

"Why, Lettie Vincent, you don't mean to say you have been quarreling with Bertie, and only six months married?" said Mrs. Austin reprovingly to her niece, who had run in for a moment to see her. "Well, it wasn't exactly a quarrel," half sobbed Lettie. "But if he finds fault with me I have to talk back a little sharp, and then he goes away angry." "I always had a charm against these storms when I was married; I inherited it from my mother, and I think I shall give it to you." As she spoke she unclasped a necklace from her throat, made of twenty lustrous amber beads. "I didn't wear them when I was first married," said Mrs. Austin, "but carried them around in my pocket. So first you. Now when your husband speaks sharply to you and you feel like snapping back, just count three of these beads on your fingers. There is something mystic about amber, and when you've counted three beads you can say what you please." Lettie laughed a little angrily. "You are making fun of me, auntie," she said. "No, I am not," she said, gravely. "I don't expect you to believe it, but I do ask you to give it a fair trial." "But it seems so ridiculous!" "Plenty of good things seem ridiculous at first, but I know that if you won't utter a syllable after you have been vexed by Bertie until you say one, two, three—one for faith, two for hope, and three for charity—then mark my word, child, you will find the amber charm will work." "Well," Lettie said, taking the beads and glancing at them a little superstitiously. "I'll try them, but I'm certain they won't do any good." "And I am certain they will," said the old lady earnestly. When Lettie went back home that night, in the solitary summer twilight, Bertie Vincent was there before her, impatiently pacing the floor. "Well," he said sharply, "I don't know that I particularly admire to come home and find the house deserted. Why couldn't you have told me you were going away?" "Because I am not a three-year-old baby to have to ask leave every time I go out. That is the reason why." These words were the answer that rose to Lettie's lips, but she suddenly remembered the amber charm, and deliberately counted off three of the glittering globes; and by the time she had finished the "one for faith, two for hope, and three for charity" a little of the dreariness of the unlighted apartment struck into her own heart, and she realized that it was a cheerless place for Bertie to come home to. "I didn't mean to stay so late," she said cheerily. "But I did want to go and see auntie so badly, and perhaps I should have told you that I thought of spending the night at the farm." "I'll light the gas in a minute, ridiculous!" Bertie's frown faded away. "Well, suppose we both go down on Sunday, Lettie? I declare, I don't wonder you want to go, for it is insufferably stupid for you here all day long alone with only the cat and the kitten for company. Now sit down and let me read the paper to you until you get rested." And an almost superstitious thrill passed through Lettie's heart as she realized the success of the amber charm. Next morning Mr. Vincent, dressing in a hurry, found a button off his shirt. "If there isn't another button gone," he exclaimed, angrily dashing the shirt to the floor. "It does seem to me you might be a little more careful about such things, Lettie." A sharp remark trembled on Lettie's tongue, but like lightning the amber charm flashed across her memory, and the faith, hope, and charity trio were called to her relief. "I will look them all over this morning, Bertie. You shall find every button right after this." As she spoke she laid out another shirt not buttoned, and he laughed happily. "I shouldn't have spoken so quickly," said he, "but you know what a button off a man's shirt is to his temper." When he had gone to the office, leaving an affectionate good-bye on Lettie's pretty face, she drew out her amber charm and divided Bertie's kiss with it. "You darling old thing," she said aloud, "Bertie does love me, and thanks to you, my blessed trio, I am learning to control this pettish, wayward tongue of mine a little." Autumn leaves were falling when she went down to the old farm-house again. "Well, dear," said Mrs. Austin, "and how does the spell work?" "Oh, auntie!" she cried, "I am so happy! I am so thankful to you! And I can only keep these precious old beads forever!" "Of course, my dear, of course, I keep 'em as long as you want 'em. Only as far as their being a charm is concerned." "You needn't tell me, auntie, about that." And Lettie laughed and colored.

"I know it is not three beads so much as the stopping to think. But who would think that little way of stopping to count would be actual discipline for ourselves? I know I was always quick and irritable, but, auntie, I am learning to control my temper. And if I live one hundred years I feel that I must have my faith, hope and charity charm." "And so you shall, dear," said Mrs. Austin, as she took off her glasses and wiped away the mist of tears that had gathered on them. "Because," Lettie replied, "they have no doubt been to me a precious charm." —Selected.

The Girl Who Hints.

Naturally you didn't ask him, and you would be very indignant indeed if anybody suggested that you had forced the poor fellow into bringing you the flowers, candy, or in taking you to the concert. No, you didn't ask him, but you couldn't have been any clearer about it than you were when you looked into his eyes and your most beseeching way and told him how anxious you were to hear the great violinist; how sweet you thought violets, and how you did wish for a pound of chocolate. He didn't want to get any of them, he doesn't get a very large salary, he is trying to keep himself out of debt, and yet because he is generous and can't resist a pretty girl, you have forced him into a dishonest position. That's it in plain English. When the end of the week comes and he is a dollar short in his money, a little bit on his board bill must wait, his laundress cannot be attended to, and the money that should go home must be apologized for. This is the first step toward not doing his duty, and you have made him take it. The American man is generous, and when he has the money he will invite you himself without your suggesting to him what you like, or what you think he ought to do. Besides the harm you do him, you are making yourself vulgar—he has a perfect right to go away and say that he doesn't want to visit at your house any more, because you hint and hint until he has to take you to some place of amusement, or make you presents and that, for his part, he cannot afford it. Continue as you are doing and after a while you will get the reputation among men of being a very undesirable girl to know, and certainly no man who has heard of your reputation to "get things out of men" will want to ask you to be his wife. Better stay at home forever than go self-invited; better never taste candy than eat that obtained at the high cost of self-respect; better never smell a violet, or wear a dress, than get in your search for them, that it is the modesty of the violet and the dignity of the rose that makes them pre-eminent among the flowers.—Ladies' Home Journal.

THE FARM.

Better Fields.

Prof. W. W. Cook is credited with saying that in Vermont the average yield per acre is only 130 pounds of butter per annum, while there are thirty dairies in the State that average over 300 pounds per cow. The average yield in the State is very low; but progress is indicated by the fact that it contains the thirty herds averaging 300 pounds. Ten years ago there were not as many herds, because in the whole country, and men used to travel long distances to see such a herd. Ten years hence they will be still more numerous. Such herds are now found in every dairy State. It is not possible for all dairymen to have them as yet, but are they not possible for every one in the not very distant future? The use of blooded bulls from noted butter families, and careful breeding and selection from the best cows, are the sources of such herds. Improvements may be made and profit realized in the first generation, so that the introduction of better bloods pays almost from the start, and it is a dull dairyman who is content with 130 pounds per cow per annum, or even 150 or 200, when 300 pounds are possible. In some instances, herd averages have exceeded this; and in many incidental cases the yield has been more than doubled.—New Hampshire Mirror and Farmer.

Make War on the Crow.

Many persons have been in the habit of contending that the crow does much more good than harm, and therefore ought to be spared. The American Agricultural Department, however, after a careful investigation as to the food of crows, presents a report that seems to disprove this assertion. It is not disputed that they destroy injurious insects, that they are enemies of mice and other rodents, and that they are occasionally valuable as scavengers; but these services are slight in comparison with the mischief for which they are responsible. The injury done by them to Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, and other cereals is enormous. According to one observer, the crow eats corn "from ten minutes after planting until the blades are three inches high," and more than a score of other observers testify that he not only pulls up the young plants, but digs up the newly sown seed. His depredations extend to potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, peaches, cherries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries, and he widely distributes certain poisonous plants, the seeds of which are improved rather than impaired by passage through his digestive organs. As if all this were not enough, it is shown that the crow eats beneficial insects, and that he makes himself a most formidable nuisance by destroying the eggs and young, both of domesticated fowls and wild birds.

—Speaking of soft food for fowls, the American Poultry Yard says: "It has been objected to soft food for poultry that it has a tendency to make soft or shabby eggs. A warm mash is certainly very palatable, and in our experience a compound of two-thirds wheat bran to one-third meal, wet with skimmed milk and fed warm in the morning, has a good egg-producing effect. This is much better than clear meal, and we have never noticed any ill-effects. The bran does not tend to fat, and the milk is even better than meal in the production of eggs. Fowls may eat too much meal for health, but milk they cannot drink at all, and those who have it may put it to more profitable use than making soft food for poultry."

Seed to the Acre.

A good authority makes the following statement as to the quantity of seed necessary to sow one acre of land: Wheat, broadcast, from a bushel and three pecks to two bushels; a bushel and a half is enough sown in drill. Rye, same as wheat. Barley, two bushels and a half, broadcast; two bushels in drill. Oats, from two to three bushels, broadcast, two bushels in drill. Buckwheat, one bushel. Corn, in hill, about a gallon and a half. Sorghum, from two to three quarts. Timothy grass, sown in fall, to be followed by clover in spring, from one and a half to two gallons. Red Clover, to be sown in spring on timothy, one and a half to two gallons; sown by itself, double the above quantity. Red-top grass, one and one half to two bushels; a bushel is fourteen pounds by weight. Kentucky blue grass, same as red-top. German millet, from three pecks to a bushel. Turnips and rutabagas, one pound to the acre. Beet roots (insects two pounds would be better). Irish potatoes from seven to ten bushels when planted whole. It should be estimated that the foregoing is only a rough estimate, intended to be of service in making calculations as to the quantities of seed required in a particular crop. Local circumstances may make a considerable deviation necessary in some instances.

TEMPERANCE.

The African Liquor Trade.

It is a humiliating fact that the vices and curses of civilization appear to go in advance of the blessings to the inhabitants of Africa. Mr. Joseph Thompson, a noted trader in Africa, recently lectured in Edinburgh, Scotland, and among other things he said: "He would unhesitatingly affirm, in the plainest language that so far as our intercourse with the African race was concerned, instead of being a blessing, it had been little better than an unmitigated curse to them. Our commerce with Africa had consisted chiefly in gin, gun-powder, and guns, alongside of which the good we had tried to achieve was hardly discernible. Taken as a whole, our trading stations on the greater part of the West coast of Africa, instead of being centres of elevating influence, were centres of corruption, moral and physical." So respectable an English journal as the British Weekly has just published the following statements from a correspondent in the Cape Colony, which are enough to make Christians blush. 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