

EXPERIENCE.

Two butterflies of beautiful wing,
Above the flowers soft fluttering,
Questioned if any really knew
That in the blossoms honey grew.

The while they raised their doubting
word
There came a brilliant humming bird,
And dipping in a flower cup,
He drew the precious nectar up.

O fools and slow of heart! to stay,
Quibbling the precious time away,
When earnest, wise research forsooth
Would soon reveal the blessed truth.

— F. B. Greenwood.

THE HOME.

Economy in a Family.

There is nothing which goes so far toward placing young people beyond the reach of poverty as economy in the management of their domestic affairs. It matters not whether a man furnish little or much for his family, if there is a continual leakage in the kitchen or in the parlor.

It is the husband's duty to bring into the house, and it is the duty of the wife to see that nothing goes wrongfully out of it; not the least article, however unimportant in itself, for it establishes a precedent; nor under any pretense, for it opens the door for ruin to stalk in; and he seldom leaves an opportunity unimproved.

The husband's interest should be the wife's care, and her greatest ambition should carry her no farther than his welfare or happiness, together with that of her children. This should be her sole aim, and the theatre of her exploits in the bosom of her family, where she may do as much toward making a fortune as he can in the counting room or workshop. It is not the money earned that makes a man wealthy; it is what he saves from his earnings. A good and prudent husband makes a deposit of the fruits of his labor with his best friend, and if that friend be not true to him, for what has he to hope? If he dare not place confidence in the companion of his bosom, where is he to place it?—*Christian Union.*

Vegetables as an Exclusive Diet.

Many millions of our fellow creatures subsist in perfect health all over the world at agricultural occupations upon a diet consisting of milk and its products, grain in its form of flour and meal, a few vegetables, mostly potatoes, and very little meat. Uninstructed persons see this and exclaim: "What better food could we find for our children?" They forget that this diet is adopted from necessity, being composed of cheap and least salable articles of produce, and those best suited to the limited culinary apparatus of the poor. They forget that those who feed upon it are a picked population, many of whose children die, and the weakly of whom drift off to the better food of the towns. They also forget that the work produced upon this diet is slow and often indolent, and by no means up to the standard of the towns. And finally they forget that there are in the country certain stimulants to digestion in the shape of sunlight and fresh air and hard bodily labor, which develop what Horace terms the *dura mensura fidei*.

Nothing is more certain nor yet more generally overlooked than that country people eat such food from necessity and not from choice, so that potatoes, butter, milk, and porridge give place to bread and meat and better vegetables when they can be obtained, which is but seldom. How great an error is committed by those who adopt such a diet when they could get better; and how thoughtless the person who expects to thrive upon it without its natural accompaniments!

Milk as a Food for Infants and Babies.

Bread may be the staff of grown-up life, but milk is the staff of infancy, and the food of these ages is different because the work to be done upon it is different. A man has to work and the child to grow. The former serves others, the latter himself. The child is therefore limited in his exertions by pleasure, the man by his bodily exertions. The life of a child therefore requires much more nerve food than that of a man. In what that consists we cannot exactly say, but it is represented by a diet of much higher quality than that which is sufficient for a man. A baby who is fed with a diet without any exercise for a twelvemonth. What man could do the same? Such existence signifies high vitality, and high vitality implies high diet. Therefore we find that milk is composed of costly elements.

We see the same thing throughout the animal kingdom. All young mammals are nourished on milk. Nearly all young birds are fed on animal food. They are hatched in the spring, when such food can be obtained. When the young mammals have the breast they receive the diastolic morsels. The young herbivora eat the tenderest shoots, and the young carnivora are fed with the flesh of other young animals. One could parallel this in all the lower classes of the animal world.

How to Take Care of a Piano.

With proper care and attention a good piano should last a family a lifetime. Says Charles H. Steinway, the well-known piano manufacturer, in the *Ladies' Home Journal*. If this is not given it, the piano will in time become harsh and "tin-penny," and afford little satisfaction or delight to its owner. Ordinary practice, whether by a child or a grown-up person, will not injure a piano in any way. It is not necessary to be a professional piano player, and to know exactly what force to strike the keys, in order to keep the instrument in good condition. Of course it will not be improved by thumping the case, or by striking the keys with any hard substance. Neither does this remark apply to schools and institutions where playing is taught, and the instrument is used continuously for ten or twelve hours every day. In the latter

case the felt portions will wear out sooner than if it was used in a private family.

The matter of tuning should be neglected, and should never be intrusted to any other than an experienced person. Incapable tuners very often work irreparable injury to the most perfect and costly instruments. During the first year a new piano should be tuned every three or four months at least. After that it will only be necessary to have it tuned at longer intervals.

Dampness is the most dangerous enemy the piano has to contend against, and for this reason the climate must be considered. If the instrument is placed in a damp room, or left open in a draught of air, the result will be that the strings, tuning pins, and the various metal parts will become coated with rust, and the cloth used in the construction of the keys and action, becomes swollen. It is positively painful to play on such a piano.

Health Hints.

If the head aches look well to the stomach.

SLEEP in a well ventilated apartment where there is free circulation of fresh air, but not in a draught.

CARBOLEUM is the best disinfectant. It not only destroys foul odors but also all germs of disease.

Two or three drops of the essence of peppermint in hot water are valuable in relieving the colic of infants.

If vaseline or butter be applied to the skin immediately after a blow of any kind it will prevent discoloration.

One of the best and simplest remedies for torpid liver or biliousness is a glass of hot water with the juice of half a lemon squeezed in it, but no sugar. This is to be taken night and morning.

A MEDICAL writer says the dyspeptic, who eats a light supper, should resort to the use of a towel, wet with tepid water, and covered with a dry cloth, the whole then applied to the pit of the stomach. Before the sufferer knows it he will float into shadow land, such is the sympathy between the organs of digestion and the brain. Owing to the position of the stomach a light sleeper ought to sleep on the right side instead of the left, never on the back.

Hints for the Housewife.

BREAD that is to be kept for a week should be kneaded longer than that to be eaten soon.

MUSTARD for instant uses should be mixed with milk—to which a little thin cream should be added.

The marrow in bones should be scraped out and used for cooking. It is more delicate for this purpose than suet.

The sauce par excellence for broils is mushroom ketchup; and the garnish crisp lettuce, watercress, or endive.

When you have spilled anything on the stove, or milk has boiled over and a suffocating smoke arises, sprinkle the spot with salt and it will disappear.

BUTTER for cooking should always be clarified. In "frying out" or clarifying butter it is done when the froth begins to rise. Skim, strain, store in a cool place and keep well covered.

THE FARM.

Points in Poultry Keeping.

At a meeting of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Agricultural and Horticultural Society, Dr. C. Greene read the following essay: "For forty years with occasional interruptions, it has been my fortune as (boy and man) to care for poultry, and some experiences I have gathered during these years I propose now to make public for all who are interested in the matter."

1. Hens, if properly kept, are a source of profit and comfort to the owner.

2. The eggs can be increased in size and richness by proper feeding of the fowls.

3. They require a variety of food, and get excessively tired of one kind.

4. The egg contains almost all the constituents of the human body, and hence the hen must have a variety of food to construct it.

5. No other product of animal or vegetable life contains substances exactly like the albumen and yolk of an egg.

6. The hen ceases laying when improperly fed, or when in a diseased condition.

7. They require a warm, clean, properly ventilated house for winter months.

8. If by neglect vermin infest the bird roosts and house, they should at once be removed, as they are deleterious to the health of these friends of man.

9. The droppings of hens should be occasionally removed. They should not be allowed to accumulate. The floors should be covered with loam or sand.

10. As hens require a great deal of water, drinking only a small quantity at a time, it should be supplied abundantly, and kept clean and fresh.

11. As they require, and must have, carbonate and phosphate of lime for their shells, it must be given them in unstinted quantities, and in the most convenient manner for them to pick and swallow into the crops.

12. These requirements will be found in old plastering, broken oyster shells, and, best of all, in fresh bones, with some of the gristle and meat attached. It should be cut on a long with a hatchet every day; the strile made by fowls to get at it when offered them will plainly prove to you that they like and need it.

13. The instincts of the hen in summer, with a proper range, will teach it what and where to collect the variety of food required. In winter, when housed, man must supply it to them.

14. The application of sulphur sprinkled upon the fowls, with a pepper box, while roosting or otherwise, will destroy vermin. Cast oil applied to their roosts in small quantities will also kill parasites. Two or three drops of whale oil, dropped occasionally on the back of a hen or any other bird, will kill the lice.

15. The nest must occasionally be renewed and kept clean. Straw is better

than hay. Tobacco stems covered with straw is an excellent prevention of insect breeding especially when they were setting.

16. When clucking and not needed for mothers, the quickest way to stop their chicken-raising desire is to put them in boxes or cages without anything to lay upon except the board.

17. A few fowls in separate pens are much more profitable and more easily kept healthy than in large numbers.

18. They require, and must have in winter, green food such as grass, turnips, beets, or cabbage leaves.

19. The temperature of a coop should not be allowed to be lower than 45 degrees in winter, and should be most of the time up to 60 degrees.

20. Corn and wheat middlings, corn unground, oats, bread and feed, change as often as twice a week.

21. Like cows, and other stock, harsh treatment injures them. They like a kind master, and know his voice, as quick as heard.

22. Hens should be killed when three feet above the third, and they naturally become diseased and not so good eating when they become older.

23. The sooner in the spring you commence setting the hens for the purpose of raising only one better; late chickens generally fare badly.

24. Pullets rarely make good mothers; three and four year-olds are best.

Nance's Sermon.

By SALLY CAMPBELL.

The Rev. Mr. Carpenter had just elaborated the third head of his next Sunday-morning discourse, when there came a knock at his study door. It was a very bold, imperative knock, and as Mr. Carpenter bade his visitor enter, he raised his eyes inquiringly some six feet above the threshold. He had, immediately after, to lower them very considerably, to suit the much more moderate dimensions of the girl, who opened the door and shut it behind her again, with a firm, business-like click. Had this girl lived up town, she would have been looked on as a prodigy, but in the country she was a common sight. She was a big girl as ought to be brought in quite a good deal now, to top all up.

"Are you the preacher's gentleman?" she asked shrilly, looking at him with a pair of peculiarly bright eyes from out a tangle of short dark hair.

"Yes."

"Well, I've got a job for you."

"Have you? What is it?"

"It's my grandmother. That is, it's her mother, but then it's all the whole street of us, takin' it altogether. This is how it is, you see; there's some things that by lumps in, fifty folks can get a good deal of them, just as handy and just as cheap as if they wasn't, but only a single person. It's so with preachin'."

And so I says to my grandmother, if I get him for once, I'll get him for all; I might 'as well as well, you know."

Mr. Carpenter felt too much in awe of the very young guest of his, to venture to interrupt her by any questions, though he much would have liked to get some clearer notion of what this was all about. As it was, he set himself to gather what he could from her remarks as she proceeded.

"Have you? What is it?"

"It's my grandmother. That is, it's her mother, but then it's all the whole street of us, takin' it altogether. This is how it is, you see; there's some things that by lumps in, fifty folks can get a good deal of them, just as handy and just as cheap as if they wasn't, but only a single person. It's so with preachin'."

And so I says to my grandmother, if I get him for once, I'll get him for all; I might 'as well as well, you know."

Mr. Carpenter felt too much in awe of the very young guest of his, to venture to interrupt her by any questions, though he much would have liked to get some clearer notion of what this was all about. As it was, he set himself to gather what he could from her remarks as she proceeded.

"Have you? What is it?"

"It's my grandmother. That is, it's her mother, but then it's all the whole street of us, takin' it altogether. This is how it is, you see; there's some things that by lumps in, fifty folks can get a good deal of them, just as handy and just as cheap as if they wasn't, but only a single person. It's so with preachin'."

And so I says to my grandmother, if I get him for once, I'll get him for all; I might 'as well as well, you know."

Mr. Carpenter felt too much in awe of the very young guest of his, to venture to interrupt her by any questions, though he much would have liked to get some clearer notion of what this was all about. As it was, he set himself to gather what he could from her remarks as she proceeded.

"Have you? What is it?"

"It's my grandmother. That is, it's her mother, but then it's all the whole street of us, takin' it altogether. This is how it is, you see; there's some things that by lumps in, fifty folks can get a good deal of them, just as handy and just as cheap as if they wasn't, but only a single person. It's so with preachin'."

And so I says to my grandmother, if I get him for once, I'll get him for all; I might 'as well as well, you know."

Mr. Carpenter felt too much in awe of the very young guest of his, to venture to interrupt her by any questions, though he much would have liked to get some clearer notion of what this was all about. As it was, he set himself to gather what he could from her remarks as she proceeded.

"Have you? What is it?"

"It's my grandmother. That is, it's her mother, but then it's all the whole street of us, takin' it altogether. This is how it is, you see; there's some things that by lumps in, fifty folks can get a good deal of them, just as handy and just as cheap as if they wasn't, but only a single person. It's so with preachin'."

And so I says to my grandmother, if I get him for once, I'll get him for all; I might 'as well as well, you know."

Mr. Carpenter felt too much in awe of the very young guest of his, to venture to interrupt her by any questions, though he much would have liked to get some clearer notion of what this was all about. As it was, he set himself to gather what he could from her remarks as she proceeded.

"Have you? What is it?"

"It's my grandmother. That is, it's her mother, but then it's all the whole street of us, takin' it altogether. This is how it is, you see; there's some things that by lumps in, fifty folks can get a good deal of them, just as handy and just as cheap as if they wasn't, but only a single person. It's so with preachin'."

And so I says to my grandmother, if I get him for once, I'll get him for all; I might 'as well as well, you know."

Mr. Carpenter felt too much in awe of the very young guest of his, to venture to interrupt her by any questions, though he much would have liked to get some clearer notion of what this was all about. As it was, he set himself to gather what he could from her remarks as she proceeded.

"Have you? What is it?"

"It's my grandmother. That is, it's her mother, but then it's all the whole street of us, takin' it altogether. This is how it is, you see; there's some things that by lumps in, fifty folks can get a good deal of them, just as handy and just as cheap as if they wasn't, but only a single person. It's so with preachin'."

And so I says to my grandmother, if I get him for once, I'll get him for all; I might 'as well as well, you know."

like runnin' into debt, but my grand-mother is so awful poorly, I'm afraid of waitin'. And I'd be sure to make it up; anybody down our way would tell you that Gran and me are as honest as if we was ladies."

As she spoke, she had been fumbling in the purse after the coins there, and by this time she had struck them out in a row on the edge of the study table, all pennies, with the exception of a three-cent piece, which was proudly placed at the head of the line; the whole making twenty-five cents. She turned the lining of the purse inside out to be sure that she had overlooked none, counted them, then glanced expectantly at Mr. Carpenter for his answer. It was slow to come, so that presently she demanded sharply: "Well, ain't there enough? How much more must it be?"

"No more," said Mr. Carpenter, finding his voice at last. I shall be very glad to preach a sermon for your grandmother. When do you want me to do it?"

"That is for you to say. You know what would suit your own affairs best. Mr. Carpenter explained to her that his Sundays were full, and mentioned a day during the week when he could be free.

"That'll be all right; only come in the evenin', will you, for we're all workin' people round our place; we ain't got much idle time till after night. And, I say, choose out a comfortin' sermon please, sir; that's the sort we need most, specially Gran, all full of hope and promisin'."

It seems to me that I remember of learnin' once, when I was small, some Bible words about goodness followin' you as long as you lived; do you know any like that?"

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life," suggested the young preacher.

"There are the ones," said the girl, with a satisfied nod. That would suit Gran first-rate; she always frets so because she says she's overlive'n' her time, she ain't any good, and she costs more than she comes to. But I guess if the Lord can afford to keep her so careful and lowly, folks can. Gran's a good woman, only she gets dreary over bein' unworthy, and discouraged, more than she ought. If you've got a sermon off 'at verse, or one like it, that tells how much the Lord thinks of His people, no matter what age they are, or how weak and shaky, why, that would be the one for us."

It was the day after the sermon had been preached in Granny Mapes' room, in the great tenement house. Nance had made everything tidy before she went off to her work, and Gran was sitting now in her big rocker with her Bible open before her, and a more peaceful look on the worn old face than had been there for many days. A heavy step on the stairs did not disturb her; she was accustomed to the passing of many feet in the crowded lodgings; but this time they stopped at her door, and there was a knock. In answer to her invitation to enter, a half-grown boy stepped across the threshold, shutting the door carefully behind him, and casting a cautious glance about the room, before he ventured further in it.

"Well, Hiram, is it you?" said the old woman. "Nance is gone."

"She's gone, eh? That's good. I wanted to see you by yourself this mornin'."

Gran was evidently surprised, so much so that he felt compelled to explain.

"You see," he said drawing a chair up beside her, and hesitating uneasily still, in spite of her assurance that they were alone, "there's just a little something I wanted to ask you, and there's no need of the whole creation knowin' about it. Some of a fellow's affairs he'd like to keep to himself, 'specially when it's his feelin'."

And I've been keepin' this to myself for quite a while now, but I never was brought up to such things, and I'm bound to find out. It's about the preachin' last night."

Gran's face brightened. "It was grand, wasn't it?"

"It was so. But how about it? What does it mean? I felt kind of 'bashful about speakin' to you about it, or the preacher, or anybody else. And when I thought of you, and I come right over; you was just the one."

"What do you want me to tell you?"

"I told you," said Hiram slowly. "how to act so as to make sure of 'goodness and mercy followin' me on to the end, steady as me to what's right, and keepin' me on the right track."

"God is always glad to help us, and we can do very little without Him."

"Yes, I suppose so; that's all right. But helpin' is another thing. If any one was to ask a favor of me to help clean house for 'em, and when I got there, was to get her skirts wet and read love stories, while I did the scrubbin'; I tell you I'd want to know mighty quick what she meant by helpin'."

What I understood was that I was to come over and I was goin' to set things right between us, and it's my own fault. The Lord understands it just so. Well, any way, I knew Gran wouldn't feel as if she could make any stir to get what she wanted, and I went to work to think at it myself. I asked her if she knew what the price of one sermon would come to most generally; she said she couldn't say. I told her I thought we could get it done pretty reasonable if we went about it right; we wouldn't go after any o' these fashionable, high fly'n' preachers that's likely to bring big ideas of what their work ought to be, but we'd look up some plain young one that was just beginnin' that would be willin' to take what you'd give him. It ought not to be much of a job, seein' you needn't get out a new sermon; a second hand one will do us just every bit as well."

It was fortunate she was so absorbed in what she was saying that the girl did not notice the symptoms of amusement on her listener's face. Indeed now, for the first time she manifested some slight hesitation, as she drew out of her pocket a purse, and was just about to bring it out when she was interrupted by a knock. When he got up to go he said:

"I'm comin' again, sometime, when we can be just by ourselves, like it's been to-day. I see into it quite some better than I did, and I think