

# The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon

## A SCHOOL TERM

As a friend was speaking of a certain person one day, and regretting his educational limitations, I was moved to say, in extenuation of his lack, "He didn't have an opportunity," when a shrewd old gentleman in the party said, quietly, "What difference does that make?"

There you have in a nutshell the attitude of the world to the uneducated. The world may be sorry for him, but it does not like his company any better or find his services more acceptable because his ignorance is not his own fault.

And now, that a new term of school will shortly be opening, it seems a fitting time to impress upon parents the enormity of the calamity they are bringing upon their children if they cheat them out of an education.

Occasionally it has been my misfortune to encounter what I have always inwardly designated as the "smart Aleck" sort of father who boasts that education has never helped him to plow an acre of land (a fact too evident to require emphasis), and that it doesn't add to the weight of the harvest in the field.

This contention is obviously not true, but there is nothing to be gained by entering into a discussion with the sort of man that thinks life can be measured in dollars and cents. Let him go his way and gloat over his ignorance.

Fortunately, this sort of father is rare. Most men are willing to let their children have a good education if it does not involve too much trouble. There's just the point. There should be no trouble and no sacrifice too great to insure a good education for the children. It is the one heavy debt of parent to child, and not to be escaped on any plea of lack of opportunity. Opportunity should be made.

You do not want your son or daughter to be one of those young people who is covered with embarrassment, when obliged to write a note for the perusal of educated people because of a well-founded doubt of their ability to spell the simplest words.

Rather you want them to be sure of themselves, and to be able to enter into any enterprise confidently. You want them to have the boundaries of their thoughts and interests extended by reading and study, so that their lives won't be lived in a narrow little circle of drudgery.

If one is not educated and not clever one lives such a meagre life, with so few things to think about, whereas thru education, even those dull of intellect come in touch with the thoughts of the greatest people of all ages.

So that there is nothing else that can compare in importance with that of giving the children a good education, even tho it means reducing the profits of the farm by hiring help, and I will feel that this page is not all in vain if anything we have said induces a few of the parents who read this to set this ahead of them as their great goal in life.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

The Guide has the following little book, lots of special interest to mothers, for sale at the merely nominal prices of 5c each for "How to Teach the Truth to Children," and "Maternity," and 10c for "The Most Wonderful Story in the World."

## NOT "A HANDFUL OF WOMEN"

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have long thought of writing to your valuable page. Now, seeing the letter by H. Bate, I thought I would like to state a few facts. He says we virtually call all the men he-devils or fiends. What a mistake! If so, where are all those noble men who have boldly taken their stand for women's rights against all odds. May all honor and God's blessing rest on those who, with voice and pen are daring to stand by what a God-given conscience says is right. Among these are many editors at the present time

who approve of, not only woman suffrage but many other progressive measures so much needed. No, Mr. Bate, we do not desire to be whitewashed. Too many are that now. What we want is to begin from the heart and work out and in what better way could we begin than by giving expression of our true heart's desire in marking a ballot in favor of what we believe to be right in the sight of God and man?

"A handful of discontented women," you say. No, but a grand army of men and women with a high and holy purpose. You and I know it has not always been the majority who were in the right. Past records show the opposite to have been the case many times. "Marriage a slavery and martyrdom." Sad to say it has been and is to some women and also to some men, but to more women because men have the advantage. Notwithstanding, there are many happy ideal homes, where woman is a helpmeet not a servant.

William J. Bryan has come out strong in favor of woman suffrage. He will greatly advance the cause. You say only the lopsided want the vote. Would you call W. J. Bryan and many other educated men who favor our vote lopsided?

Would you so name Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, and many other women reformers, who have laid the foundation of higher education, also suffrage in many states thru toils and tears?

I could say much more, but think my letter is long enough and I am too tired to answer all Mr. Bate's arguments. The fight is on in our Dominion. We shall win!

JUSTICE.

## COLORADO WOMEN HELPED

Dear Miss Beynon:—Seeing an article on the Homemakers page of The Grain Growers' Guide of July 8, headed "Not a Square Dealer," because some former article was not published in full, I am sure if it was in tone with the one "Not a Square Dealer," it would not hurt the suffrage cause any, rather the opposite.

I do not think that the women that want a vote have publicity so much at heart as the writer of that letter.

I am sure the women voters had not much to do with the Colorado affair, only to try to smooth over and fix up damages and bear the blame for the fine male militia that Uncle Sam sent to loot and kill the defenceless.

I could refer the writer to a twenty-five cent paper giving him forty cents a week of good reading that would do

him good, that is, if he would read it, and not do as a party I know of, give it to the pup to play with instead of reading it. But some are always throwing the truth to the dogs.

ANXIOUS SUFFRAGETTE.

## A CARD OF THANKS

Dear Miss Beynon:—Will you allow me, thru the page, to express my thanks to Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Fulcher for their advice in this week's issue as to the baby's trouble. Before their letters came into The Guide another lady had written me offering suggestions, some of which I have followed and which have been of great benefit to Muriel, and consequently to me. Every mother knows what a lot of trouble a sick, or even delicate, baby causes. Mine are all bottle babies, and I never had any trouble with the older ones. The third boy has never had any medicine of any kind, and a fine bonny boy he is, too. I see Mrs. Lewis objects to laudanum and opium, but I still say they have never been known to fail. Of course one would not give it quite so strong to a wee mite. I have given it

we might be able to accept an entire new set of idols. But that is not the way human life changes. It never stops. There are no clear gaps between one period and the next. If there ever was such a gap it would be the last one.

So the new woman comes into view, jostling and overlapping the old one, both somewhat blurred and injured in the process.

We have for so long worshipped woman in traditional phrases, on one definitely established pedestal in prescribed costume and regalia, like a plaster Madonna, that we absolutely do not recognize her when detached from this imagery.

We had believed, in all good faith, that these associations were essential to womanhood, that they were womanhood; and we naturally supposed that if the sacred associations departed we were doomed to a womanless world.

It is no wonder at all that men have feared such a change, that they still fear it; indeed—in view of the increasing commotion and dust of conflict as new and old change places—that they fear it more than ever.

Whatsoever else may change in human life the essential characteristics of womanhood do not.

Here is the comfort of the new biological view that "the female is the race type," that she was there first, in the remote ages when life made its initial experiments; that she is the permanent factor, he the variant.

He may change, has changed, most nobly and advantageously. The difference between primitive man and modern man is far greater than the difference between primitive woman and modern woman.

He has changed so fast and so far that he is away beyond her in the distinguishing powers and achievements of humanity.

As a matter of fact this sociological commotion now going on is caused by the tremendous efforts of woman to catch up with man.

He doesn't know it. He is so used to seeing her thru the reversed opera glass, as it were, in a remote and stationary position, that this sweeping onrush is most bewildering—he feels as if he were being charged at and would be overthrown and trampled on.

Here she comes, running, out of prison and off pedestal; chains off, crown off, halo off—just a live woman, coming.

He feels, and so do the sisterhood yet clinging loyally to their pedestal (or their prison), and hanging on to their halos as to hats in March (or their chains hanging on to them, as the case may be), that if those appurtenances are lost—so is womanhood.

But it is not. Womanhood is there, all right; it is up and coming; it is more in evidence than ever before.

Women are becoming more womanly, not less so, and are bringing their womanliness into action. Look at all this high enthusiasm for a purer, sounder marriage, for clean, discriminating motherhood, better care and training for the world's great family of children, better home- and city-keeping, nobler standards of manhood—isn't all that demand "womanly"?

Of course each age, in changing, outgrows something, loses something; but it gains more. We shall never have again the woman of the nineteenth century, but we shall enjoy those of the twentieth century better—when we leave off being afraid of them.

Both sides should have patience in a time of sudden and far-reaching change. It is by no means easy for the woman; she is so hurtled thru crowding experiences that she feels like the one in the nursery rhyme—"Lawk 'a' mercy on me! This is none of it!"

But it is, all the same, and man, now equally bewildered, will find her, when he gets used to it, a pleasanter companion than she ever was before.

## WILD GEESE

(By Pai Ta-Shun)

How oft against the sunset sky or moon  
I watched that moving zig zag of spread wings  
In unforgetten autumns gone too soon,  
In unforgetten springs!

Creatures of desolation, far they fly  
Above all lands bound by the curling foam;  
In misty fens, wild moors and trackless sky  
These wild things have their home.

They know the tundra of Siberian coasts,  
And tropic marshes by the Indian seas;  
They know the clouds and night and starry hosts  
From Crux to Pleiades.

Dark flying rune against the western glow—  
It tells the sweep and loneliness of things,  
Symbol of autumns vanished long ago,  
Symbol of coming springs!

to my twin children at different times and found no ill effects. A child will not take a lot of physic, anyway. I gave mine the fifteen drops in three tablespoons of water, but could only get them to take two teaspoonsful at one time, but all the same it was effectual then, at two years of age.

Also a lady I know called in the doctor to her baby boy for cholera infantum, and he ordered castor oil with two drops of laudanum, and an injection of water and two drops of laudanum added. He said the laudanum lulled the awful pain in the bowels, and the castor oil binds after the first movement. That's why I like the combination. But every mother knows what is good or bad for her children, and it is up to us to do the best we can for them in every way. All good wishes to you, Miss Beynon, in your work.

Yours sincerely,

MRS. B. REAVILLE.

## MRS. GILMAN SAYS:

(From the August Delineator)

The false gods are a long time going, and they do not go willingly; the new ones, arriving in a mist of undignified combat, fail to command our instant homage.

If only the previous incumbents could be swept clean off the stage first, then

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