

THE SPENDTHRIFT.

Lustrous and silken haired he swept The blackthorn silver loose and left Into the leafless lane; His pleasant minstrelsy began; Torments of music riot ran Across the haze girl plain; He sang the fields new liveries; And green slashed doublets to the trees! Then, stepping, from a lily bowl Drank of the sweetness of her soul And madly sprang away. In marshes and moist meadows he Sounded the stately flour-de-lis; Kingcups in gilt array He tossed amid the tassled reeds Quivering and bent with crystal beads. And ever in his thoughtless flight About him danced in vestures bright His minion butterflies. His plunder was the rose hid dew, Rose leaves the largesse that he threw At random to the stars. Nor ceased he till he had made Amid the jacinthe's starry braid. So was his rich inheritance Ruined and lost. With swift advance And stern in russet gown Care attendants of the spendthrift youth, By bitter bonds devoid of ruth, Demanded summer's crown. Here from the corralled year alone The robins mourn his broken throne.

THE TWO FATHERS

The mother was a widow, an industrious woman, who worked late and early in order to support her child, a little girl between 4 and 5 years old, pretty as a fairy, full of fun, affectionate and coaxing as any happy child could be. On the opposite side of the landing of the fifth floor on which Mme. Etienne and her daughter Lillie lived was the door of the apartments inhabited by two brothers, cabinet makers by trade and bachelors either by choice or by chance, no one knew. One of those days when the intense heat necessitates the door being left open in order to get a current of air, the prettiness of Lillie attracted the attention of the two brothers, who were already past their first youth and adored children in their quality of approaching old bachelorhood. From that a sort of intimacy sprang up between the widow and her neighbors. Little reciprocal services passed between them. They sometimes made a party of pleasure on the Sunday. So well did they get on indeed that one day the eldest of the two brothers said to the other: "That child would want a father badly." "That is my opinion also." "Would you have any objection to my asking the mother to marry me?" "Why should I? In fact, I was thinking of doing the same myself. But since you have spoken first follow the notion up, but on the condition that you will let me see Lillie as often as I like. I love that child as much as if she were my own." "Forsooth! You will live with us." "The question agreed upon, the two brothers, dressed in their best, went to call on Mme. Etienne, whom, however, they found confined to bed. The evening before she had run in order to take some work back to the shop in time; on returning she had caught a chill, passed a feverish night and was not able to rise in the morning. She begged her neighbors to go for a doctor. It was no time to speak of marriage. Inflammation of the lungs carried away the poor woman in ten days. Thanks to the two brothers, she had not to go to the hospital, and until the last she was able to see her little Lillie, whom she earnestly recommended to them. They swore never to abandon the child. The funeral over they took charge of the little one, kissing her. They said to one another at the same time: "If you wish, we will never get married now." They went to live at Vincennes so that Lillie might have plenty of good air and take walks in the wood. They were very proud of their adopted daughter. When people stopped to look at them and asked in a casual way which was her father, they replied, "Both of us."

Lillie seemed to like one as well as the other and called them Uncle John and Uncle James.

When she grew a little older they put her to school—to a young ladies' school he it understood—taking her there every morning and calling for her in the evening. So Lillie grew without ever feeling the want of father or mother.

She cost the brothers a great deal of money, did the little one, but bath, they went no longer to the cafe and worked a little more than formerly. These supplementary hours were devoted to the pleasure and toilet of mademoiselle.

When she was 15 years of age, she was the first to suggest that she should stay at home for the future, at which, of course, the brothers were enchanted. What a charming little housekeeper they had then and with what joyful tenderness she greeted their return every evening! To say the spoiled child never abused their goodness would be saying too much, but at least she seized every available opportunity of pleasing them.

Two years passed over so quickly for all of them that on the day the two men brought a cake and bouquet to celebrate Lillie's birthday they exclaimed: "Seventeen years old! Is it possible?"

But, yes, it was possible. And James and John thought so much about it that it made them anxious and unhappy.

It was the younger who said one evening to the other:

"Do you know that Lillie is getting more beautiful every day?" "Eh! Yes, I know it well. And others know it too. There must be a good many admirers prowling around here after her." "And it is certain one of them will take her away from us before very long." "Poor little thing!" "Yes, if she were to get a bad husband!" "Oh, I should kill any man who would treat her badly!" "There is only one way of escaping that." "Ah!" said the elder brother, without making any addition to the exclamation. "And then," continued the other, "think how sad it would be for us to part from Lillie—never again to see her trotting about the house, never to hear her merry voice singing after we return from work of an evening." "I have been thinking of all that for a long time, my dear John." "It must be put an end to." "And your plan?" "It is very simple if it pleases you. I shall marry her before she gets fond of any one else." "Zounds!" The elder brother stood up, almost threatening. "I also have thought of that plan. I was often going to speak about it, but always held back." "Why?" "Because I wanted to marry Lillie myself." The two brothers looked at one another far from amiably. Then the younger said: "This is the same as with the mother formerly. Do you remember, James? I gave her up to you. It is your turn now to give Lillie up to me. You are three years older than I." "Which nevertheless does not make you very young." A song was heard ascending from below stairs. Lillie was coming back from her daily shopping. "Listen!" said John rapidly. "The child who has made our happiness up to this must not be a cause of disunion between us. Let her choose which one she likes best." "All right," said the other. "That is quite fair." Lillie entered, took the two men by the neck, kissed them and drawing a chair between them, said: "I wish to speak to you seriously." The face of the young girl looked quite joyous. "I wish to get married." "John and I were just speaking about it." "But you have not found me a husband." "As a matter of fact we have. You love us very much, say?" "Like father and mother at once." "That is why we wish to propose to you to choose between us." "Why choose?" "Which of us you will marry." The young girl burst into a fit of laughter so joyous, so prolonged, that the two brothers remained quite dumfounded. Then, brushing the tears from her eyes, she said: "No nonsense, my uncles. I said I wanted to speak to you seriously. You mustn't joke. I have a sweetheart." Neither replied. "Now, you must not be angry. I am so fond of him, and he is coming tomorrow to see you." "Like that! All at once! And us, Lillie?" "You will always be my two fathers."

Athena and the Goat.
Your genuine Athenian believes the goat to be the proper milk producing animal, and he regards the cow in this connection about as we Americans do the mare. The milkman takes his animals with him, jangling their bells and sneezing. "Gala!" he shouts, a quick, startling cry, with a "g" whose guttural quality is unattainable by adult learners and usually unperceived by them. When a customer comes to the door, he strips the desired quantity into the proffered receptacle before her vigilant eyes, selecting one of the goats and paying no attention to the others, who understand the business as well as he does. Patiently they stand about, chewing the cud or resting on contiguous doorsteps. When their master moves on, they arise and follow, more faithful than dogs.

The obvious and well nigh overpowering temptation to which the milkman is subjected affects him in Greece as in America. In Greece it is taken for granted that he cannot resist, and he is therefore obliged to take his animals with him. But even thus he is not above suspicion, for they tell of a rubber water bag carried inside the coat and provided with a tube reaching to the palm of the hand. Each time the milkman closes his hand over the udder he presses the bag between his arm and his body.—Scribner's.

Agreeable Parting.
"Well, major, goodbye. Glad to have met you."
"Indeed, sub? Wherefore glad? It must take little to make you glad, sub."
"It does."
"Hah! Well put. But every one says 'glad to have met you' on leaving a new made acquaintance, and none means it."
"More figure of speech. To tell you the exact truth would hurt your feelings, major. Only hypocrites can be real nice to people. As a matter of fact, sir, I am sorry I met you, and I don't care if we never meet again."
"Why, hang it, sub, you are getting to be an honest gentleman! I should like to meet you again, sub."
"Never, if I happen to see you first, major. Ta-ta."
So the raspy old soldier had some thing to think about.—New York Press.

The Home

SOME MEAL HINTS.

Housekeepers grow weary in planning the meals, for it should be remembered that this same work has to be gone through with three times each day, and frequently when there is but a slender pocketbook from which the necessary supplies may be furnished. Beefsteaks and chops are, of course, the prime favorites with the majority of men, and it is almost pathetic to see the look of despair upon the faces of the holders of the aforesaid slender pocketbooks, when, through sheer desperation, the lords of creation are appealed to to furnish a hint as to the next day's breakfast. "Why, I don't care; give me a fine porterhouse steak if you run short," and his lordship speaks as confidently as though the poor, harassed wife of his bosom need only go to the back door and pick that fine steak off the bushes.

Beefsteaks and chops are, indeed, all very well, but they are among the most expensive of meats, and not to be thought of by the holder of the slender purse. There are many dishes that are appetizing that may be had for one-quarter of the money, that if judiciously prepared will furnish a chop need not be brought forth only on the rarest occasions and will not be missed.

Let us suggest a very simple breakfast that need not cause anxiety to the worried housekeeper, and will, we are sure, cause great satisfaction in the household. For a family of four, get a fine kippered herring, which may be had for 15 cents. Broil it carefully and serve hot, garnished with parsley. With the kippered herring serve some corn fried potatoes. Put a tablespoonful of lard in a pan, and when quite hot add to it four large-sized potatoes cut into dice. Turn frequently until the potatoes are cooked through, when they will be in quite small pieces. Now brown them, and serve steaming hot, with some rolls, hot coffee and some fruit you will find that John will vote his breakfast a success and will want it repeated. It will cost scarcely half as much as the steak and coffee, and the present low price of eggs serve an omelet with a little of the cold ham left from yesterday or a little quantity of crabapple jelly in it, some corn muffins, an orange and coffee, and your breakfast will be enjoyed. Stewed kidney with a very little sherry wine as flavoring, some wheater gritz and some bakers' rolls will tempt the family another morning.

Ask your butcher to chip you some beef from the round. Have it cut just as carefully as the salted or dried beef is cut. Have the frying-pan very hot, and just a tiny piece of butter, and when it is melted put the beef in the pan. Cook it for about five minutes, then add a half pint of milk. Stir until the milk simmers, thickened slightly with a lump of butter the size of a walnut rubbed in a heaping teaspoonful of flour. Cook until the gravy is of the consistency of rich cream, remove and serve at once. Some buttered toast and stewed potatoes are a delightful accompaniment to this dish.

Try to so manage your meals that the left-overs, such as an orange and coffee, and the dishes may be served without expense save that of time, that the table may be greatly improved without taxing the slender allowance.

PRETTY BEDROOM SLIPPER.

The comfortable slippers crocheted from wool and sewed to fleeces lined soles are familiar to most women and are indispensable for comfort in cold weather. "Motherhood" explains a way to make a pair of slippers for hot weather wear which is entirely new. It is made from gray linen mercerized in simple single crochet. Each stitch is taken up in the back of the loop. Begin at the toe of a number three slipper by making a chain of 11 stitches and in the centre to each alternate row add two stitches to widen until there are 43. Commence the side by taking up 12 stitches, and after knitting seven plain rows, begin to widen at the top for the heel, which must be four stitches higher than the sides.

After widening sufficiently for the heel, which must be done very gradually, knit two rows without widening, and decrease in the same proportion until there are but 12 stitches. Knit seven plain rows and crochet fast to the other side. Of course the work must be measured and graded according to the sole that is to be used.

A shell border finishes the top and an elastic and bright ribbons are run through it and tied with a bow on the instep. A strong cord sole, lined with gray linen, should be used and care must be taken in sewing the slipper and sole together so that the stitches may be hidden.

SOME SELECTED RECIPES.

Pumpkin Pudding.—Stew the pumpkin till tender and quite dry. Rub it perfectly smooth. To one quart of pumpkin add one pound of sugar, a teaspoonful of butter, one quart of milk, the beaten yolks of three eggs and one teaspoonful of cinnamon. Beat the pumpkin, crust, and pour in the pumpkin; bake in a moderately hot oven.

Apple Pie.—Quarter and pare eight apples. Cut the quarters in two and fill a deep pie plate. If the apples are quite sour use two-thirds of a cup of granulated sugar, if only moderately so, half a cup. One teaspoonful of cinnamon. Roll the under crust very thin. The upper crust should be punc-

FARM-FIELD AND GARDEN

VALUABLE SECRET.

One Family Has Furnished Stamp Cancellers For Sixty-five Years.

Since 1835 all the machines by which postage stamps are canceled and envelopes marked with the name of the postoffice, the date, etc., have been made by one family. In the year named the postmaster general entered into a contract with Benjamin Chambers, a citizen of Washington, to furnish a device by which postage stamps might be canceled so that they could not be used again, and, although there have been a multitude of competitors on several occasions, that contract has been renewed year after year for 65 years with Mr. Chambers, his son and his grandson, who have a secret process by which the dies are made of malleable iron and carbonized into steel at a cost of from 50 cents to \$2.75 each. It is certainly the only government contract and probably the only contract in the United States that has been renewed so often and continued so long. The department buys about \$25,000 worth of new cancellers every year. Bids are advertised for annually, and every now and then some ambitious manufacturer who thinks he has a good thing offers a proposal, but the Chambers family are invincible. They have improved the device until it is now almost perfect.

The stamper is a circular cast steel box with a screw thread, one end of which is closed and is provided on the outside with a square shank to secure it to the hard wood handle. The portion of its thickness enters the box by means of a screw thread around its periphery of almost 20 threads to the inch. This permits of a space between the inner face of the die and the bottom of the box, while the remaining thickness of the disk forms a flange with the edge, which is coarse milled, so that the disk may be turned with the hand or a wrench. On the outer face of the disk are characters of the body of the cylindrical die. These combine the marking and the canceling devices, one being on one side of the disk, including the name of the postoffice in a circle. There are three slots for removable type, for months, dates, hour and half hour. Diametrically opposite the circle is the canceling device, the side of which is parallel with the edge of the disk. Any required number or letter is cut in relief in the center, while three grooves are cut in steel. The removable types are of cast iron and have on the end opposite their faces projections from their outer edges, so that when inserted in the slots the projections can be clamped and held in place.

Until 1880 Captain Chambers manufactured the cancellers here in Washington, and he is still required to maintain a repair shop in the neighborhood of the postoffice department, but he moved his factory to Northampton, Va., on a log of wood at the mouth of the Potomac, where he has a little village composed exclusively of his employees and their families. No one can enter his grounds without permission, and those who have been there say it is quite an ideal little village, safe from the spies of competitors who would like to get the contract away from him.

SPRAYING IN FULL BLOOM.

At the recent New York state convention of beekeepers Professor Beach of Geneva made an address on the matter of spraying trees "while in full bloom," and of this E. R. Root, the bee man gives a resume in American Bee Journal:

In the experiments conducted it was found that the blossoms that were sprayed just at the time they were in full bloom were either killed or injured. If the spraying were administered only during the blooming time, the poisonous mixtures did not go the right spot in a good many cases, for the simple reason that no cluster of apple blossoms, for example, opened out at one and the same time. Some blossoms would be closed and impervious to the effect of the spraying liquids, and if no more spraying were administered during blooming time then these blossoms that were not open would not receive the benefit, and the fruit eating insects would then get in their work. The professor brought out the point clearly that if spraying were applied before blooming and after the leaf eating insects in the other would be destroyed. He further showed that the spraying mixtures are exceedingly harmful to the development and growth of the delicate pollen.

A certain set of trees was set apart and sprayed while in bloom, and only then, and others were not sprayed. Even though the bloom was exceedingly abundant, it was found that those trees that were not sprayed during blooming time yielded from a third to a bushel and a half more of fruit. In some cases they sprayed a half of one tree several times during blooming time, leaving the other side of the tree not sprayed. There was a marked difference in the setting of the fruit on the two sides of the trees, and that difference was decidedly in favor of the side not sprayed.

A certain fruit man who believed that spraying during blooming time was the right thing to do estimated, after he had sprayed his whole orchard at such time, that he had lost nearly a thousand dollars. He had had enough of that business.

POTATOES THAT PAY.

Heavy Yields, Including Carman No. 1 and Empire State.

Sixty-two varieties of potatoes have been under trial for five or six successive years at the Canadian experimental farms, and, while the 12 most productive sorts have averaged during that period 352 bushels per acre, the remaining 50 have given an average of

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Backache and Conquered

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