

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon

NO CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

The Christmas Number of The Guide will have to go out this year without a Christmas editorial on the woman's page. Vainly have I tried to call up the old jubilant spirit of Christmas. There is no enthusiasm in the air for this great festival of peace.

My comrades in the city are going laggingly about their few and simple preparations for the occasion. They have no heart for the task.

The anniversary of the coming of the Prince of Peace and the greatest war of all time, rebirth and death are anomalous and cannot be reconciled by any stretch of the imagination.

To observe the great Christian celebration this year while Christian Europe is so busy demonstrating its disbelief in the teaching, "Peace on earth, good will to men," seems almost a sacrilege.

The pen writes haltingly and unconvincedly upon the subject, and finally stumbles and stops altogether.

THE QUEERNESS OF FOLK

As the old Quaker gentleman said, "All the world is queer but thee and me, Eliza, and thee's a little queer." The unexpectedness of folk has been brought home to me by the comment aroused by the John and Jennie Tightwad cartoons. If anyone was going to feel peeved about them, you would have expected it to be the men. Not so. The men, who have taken the trouble to express their opinion on the subject, were apparently mightily taken with them. It is the women readers who are sternly disapproving.

I am afraid some of them have made the mistake of thinking that these cartoons were intended to portray the life of the average woman or of any particular woman, for the matter of that, whereas the object of them was merely to illustrate how our laws may, and sometimes do, work out. All that we were trying to get at was that in cases of domestic disagreement the man and the woman should start even. Under our present laws, in which the woman has no claim on the property and no legal right to her children, the wife has a ten-mile handicap.

But I hasten to disclaim any intention of printing something which would insinuate that all men are patterned after our friend John Tightwad. The very best evidence that they are not is that so many of them liked the cartoons. Proof positive that the shoe did not pinch.

So you see, dear ladies, that this illustrated story was not meant for husbands generally, bless 'em, nor for husbands particularly even, but, as I said before, to illustrate a law.

I agree entirely with the indignant friends who claim that domestic infelicity is as often the fault of the woman as the man. It has always been my contention that the virtues are pretty evenly distributed between the sexes and that, generally speaking, men and women are pretty much of a muchness.

All I am working for is to get things adjusted so that when they come to blows the man won't have the infantry, cavalry and artillery of the law at his back, and the woman be left with only the rolling pin to defend herself.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

GOOD READING

Dear Miss Beynon:—I noticed an inquiry in last week's number of the Grain Growers' Guide for stories for children.

When I was a child we had the Saint Nicholas Magazine in our home, and we children used to look forward with joy to each new number. But now that I have a home of my own and we have two wee children in it, yet we cannot afford St. Nicholas Magazine for them. But we do provide them with good stories and songs.

The "Little Folks' Magazine" is full of stories for little people, and is one

dollar per year, fifteen cents extra for postage to Canada. The address is, "Little Folks' Magazine," Salem, Mass., U.S.A. A trial subscription can be had for three months.

Then there is American Motherhood. There is a department for stories for children. Some are continued stories, some are picture stories, and then there are the stories that the little ones in school can read to a brother or sister who is just beginning to take an interest in stories. These are in large print. Then the stories to help mother in teaching truth, cleanliness, contentment, kindness to animals, how to overcome the habit of procrastination and many other habits that are formed early in childhood. Stories of the robins and other birds, and stories of animals. We cannot afford both magazines, so we take American Motherhood. I like the stories in it best, anyway, and many of

ing mamma's and papa's face and reading the changes there. Parents must be the leaders of little folks, but in our firmness in teaching obedience there must be the continual flow of love and self-control.

Bible stories for children can be obtained of American Motherhood Corporation, New York, for \$1.20. The magazine is one dollar per year, and twenty-six cents extra for postage to Canada. A sample copy can be obtained by writing for it.

For our little four-year-old we got an animal book, and now she tells little brother the stories of the different animals.

I have a request: Has anyone a copy of the February number of the Ladies' Home Journal they do not care for? I will pay postage on it.

I hope someone will get help from what I have written. We are all very

If your child's illness were fatal, would you fear to know the truth lest it cause you discontent?

Can you recall any reform that has taken place either in past or modern history where the people were enjoying perfect content?

If Kaiser William were a Socialist would this war have been?

Why are Socialists in public life trusted so much as servants of the people, and why is it that they live above the selfishness that causes graft and diseased patriotism?

In the mines on Vancouver Island every year there is an average of twenty-seven deaths, chiefly thru mine explosions. Does this fact strike you as a cause for contentment? Are you contented because the investigating commission who investigated the Hill Crest mine disaster made this their report: "That they believed the explosion could have been prevented if the mine owners and those responsible had taken precautions."

Does this state of affairs cause you feelings of pride that you are a Canadian? You wonder the Government and Trusts do not come down with all their force and blot the paper out. What have the Government or Trusts ever done to help The Guide except the opposing forces of both have fed and fanned the flames, and the fire has fed on their opposition?

If the writer's name attached to the article that caused you distress had been anything except a foreign name and Russian, would the truth in what she said have caused you alarm? My family is true Canadian since the days of the Duke of Wellington, and before that Scotch and Irish. I tell you this, "Plodder," that you might not have any cause for alarm and that you might know that one Canadian reserves the right to "think," that you say makes people ask questions.

I also claim the right that is laid down in the British constitution, the freedom that has made Britain glorious. It says man, but it also means woman. "That man shall worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, none daring to molest him or make him afraid." I contend that Mary Nicholaeff, who wrote the article you refer to, has a right to enjoy this freedom, and the discontentment you refer to is a healthy sign that points towards brighter days.

MRS. C. JACKLIN.

Beaufield, Sask.

WOMEN'S GATHERING AT BATTLEFORD

In conjunction with the annual seed grain fair, farmers' convention and poultry show, which will be held in the collegiate institute at North Battleford on December 17 and 18, there will also be held on the second day a Homemakers' Club conference. The conference will commence at 10 o'clock in the morning, and will be under the care of Miss A. DeLury, supervisor of Homemakers' Clubs, University of Saskatchewan. During the morning session Miss Jessie Wells, district organizer, Minnehaha, Sask., will give an address and demonstration on "Domestic Science in the Rural Schools," and Dr. L. A. C. Panton, of North Battleford, will give an address on "Contagious and Infectious Diseases."

In the afternoon session Miss Harrison, of the University of Saskatchewan, is expected to give a demonstration of "Soups and Chowders."

The Homemakers' conference will probably be adjourned in the middle of the afternoon to enable the women to attend the farmers' convention to hear the address of Principal Lake, of Edam school, on "School Gardening," and Professor Baker, of the University of Saskatchewan, who will give an address and demonstration of preparing poultry for market. These subjects should be full of interest to both men and women.



THE VIRGIN, INFANT JESUS AND ST. JOHN
From a painting by Bouguereau

our story writers write for both magazines. You see American Motherhood has so many other departments that help mother to learn lessons herself before she is competent to teach little folks, I could hardly do without its splendid mothering. The department on care and feeding of children, discipline, the teaching of sex hygiene, parents' problems, and all the other departments are so very helpful to mothers. There is always such a sympathetic understanding in all the answers to the letters in the parents' and girls' departments. It gives us courage to try again even after many failures in gaining greater self-control and in always exercising patience and love when we are worn out physically. A child, even a tiny baby, knows the spirit of the parent even tho there are no outward signs, and they are continually watch-

happy to know Mrs. McClung will be near us, and we hope to get an opportunity of hearing her.

MRS. E., ALBERTA.

A FRIEND OF MRS. NICOLAEFF

Dear Miss Beynon:—Your page in The Guide interests me very much, and as I read tonight of your offer to send a list with prices of books on wild animals, I would be pleased if you would forward me the list that I might get the books for the children. I enjoyed what you said about "Home Training" and "War," and think your page is very sunny and helpful.

I would like to ask "Plodder" a few questions thru The Guide, if I might be permitted to do so, as I too "think" and "ask questions."

What is your definition of Socialism? What is your definition of Progress?