

all. Harold, dear, I am so ashamed of myself for that. No woman is justified in leaving her husband on so slight a pretext as I had."

I thought so too. She was becoming the most sensible little woman in the world; but I had been to blame too, and I was not going to let all the magnanimity be on her side.

"We were both to blame," I replied. "I am not going to exonerate you quite, little wife, but I am going to own to my fault. I was a brute to doubt you. Marian, you must forgive me, dear."

"Oh, Harold! we shall be so happy again now, shan't we?" the little woman replied; and then she wound up our reconciliation in a truly womanly style, with tears and smiles and kisses.

But the mystery of the money was still more dark after Marian's explanation, and it was months before we penetrated it. We did so at last, however.

Our piano being sadly in want of repair, I sent to a professional man to come and "do it up." I was in the room when he proceeded to take it to pieces. As soon as the front was removed I perceived a little black box snugly lodged inside, which I immediately recognized. My grand idea now flashed into my mind. Here, then, was the clue to the mystery. *It was the thief.* In my anxiety I had placed the money inside the piano, while still under the influence of sleep.

Marian was delighted. She actually shed tears of joy when I told her of my discovery.

"Oh, you abandoned man," she said, shaking her head at me, "to suspect me when all the time you had stolen your own money!"

THE END.

Ventilation of Bedrooms.

The *Lancet* says that the sleeper is entirely dependent upon the atmosphere supplied to him for the means of carrying on the chemical purification and nutrition of his body. He must breathe the air that surrounds him, and he does this for a lengthy portion of each period of twenty-four hours, although it is probable that in a large majority of cases the atmosphere has become so deteriorated by the expiration of carbon and the emanations from the body generally that if the senses were on the alert some change would be sought as a mere matter of preference. When a person places himself in a condition to take in all air without being able to exercise any control over its delivery, he ought to make sure that the supply will be adequate, not merely for the maintenance of life, but for the preservation of health. If a man were to deliberately shut himself for some six or eight hours daily in a close room, with closed doors and windows (the doors not being opened even to change the air during the period of incarceration), and were then to complain of headache and debility, he would be justly told that his own want of intelligent foresight was the cause of his suffering. Nevertheless, this is what the great mass of people do every night of their lives, with no thought of their imprudence. There are few bedrooms in which it is perfectly safe to pass the night without something more than ordinary precautions to secure an inflow of fresh air. Foul air will find an exit if pure air is admitted in sufficient quantity, but it is not certain pure air will be drawn in if the impure is drawn away. So far as sleeping rooms are concerned, it is wise to let in air from without. The aim must be to accomplish the object without causing a great fall of temperature or a draught. The windows may be drawn down an inch or two at the top with advantage, and a fold of muslin will form a "ventilator" to take off the feeling of draught. This, with an open fire-place, will generally suffice and produce no unpleasant consequences, even when the weather is cold. It is, however, essential that the air should be pure. Little is likely to be gained by letting in a fog, or even a town mist.

"Mamma," remarked an interesting infant of four, "where do you go when you die?"

"One can't be quite certain, darling. How can mamma tell?—she has never died yet."

"Yes, but haven't you studied geography?"

Scene in the cars:—

A candy-boy, passing through a car, meets a cross old gentleman, and says, "Pop-corn! Pop-corn!"

"Hain't got no teeth," angrily replies the man.

"Gum-drops! Gum-drops!" Calls the smart boy.

The letter D is truly an old salt—been following the C for years.

It is lucky to pick up a horse-shoe, unless, of course, it happens to be attached to a mule's hind leg.

Minnie May's Department.

MY DEAR NIECES,—Of late years it has become a favorite amusement to gather quantities of the most beautiful autumn leaves, mosses, and grasses. Many of the grass bouquets we see are failures for the reason that there is too much crowded into them. A collection of the rarest and most elegant grasses, if tied into a bunch and crowded into a heavy vase, will fail to be pleasing. The beauty of grasses depends upon their ease and freedom. Some color the grasses, or incrust them with alum crystals. There are numerous kinds of wild grasses suitable for bouquets; dry them in a cool, dark room, free from dust. As you take your autumn walks, eagerly search for the gayest leaves and ferns to decorate your windows and pictures, and fill your vases. Gather the smallest leaves you can see—the dark maroon wild rose, the bright red huckleberry, the delicately notched Miller grapevine, clover, and toad-sorrel; then do not forget the maple, which are always so beautifully tinted. Press them carefully between books. When they are dry, varnish them with copal varnish. Mottoes make pretty gifts, and are easily made with leaves. Draw with a pencil the outline of your letters on cardboard, then carefully stick on the leaves with common flour paste or mucilage. The word WELCOME! made in this manner is very pretty to hang in the hall. Bookmarks with motto on one side and initials on the other make pretty birthday gifts. We frequently have seen directions for bleaching ferns, but in the fall of the year we experience no difficulty in finding them pretty enough without that trouble. Besides the white, there are straw-color, pea-green, and many beautiful shades of brown. Some of our nieces who are lovers of the beautiful will take great pleasure in arranging their bright leaves for decorating. Japanese work is very simple and pretty; the materials required are some fine black paint, a piece of sandpaper, a little isinglass, and a bottle of shellac or copal varnish, ferns and leaves. Any article may be ornamented by this "elegant domestic art," such as the old workbox, writing-desk, tea-caddy, fire-screen, flower-pots, small tables, wall-pockets, etc. Select perfect leaves, carefully pressed and dried, rub the surface of whatever you wish to ornament smooth with sandpaper, cover the surface with black paint, let this dry thoroughly and add two more coats of paint, then gum your leaves on after the paint is quite dry. Dissolve a little of the isinglass in hot water, and with a brush apply a coat of it while it is warm. When this is dry, give the work three coats of copal varnish, allowing ample time for each coat to dry. To make the work very Japanese or Chinese-looking, the leaves are put on in every possible way, but we think it is more tasteful to arrange the leaves and ferns in bouquets, clusters, wreaths or garlands. An old table which has been thrown aside for its defacement can be made into a thing of beauty, of which the most fastidious might feel proud. If a round or oval table, fashion a wreath of leaves; but if square, make a wreath or bouquet in the centre, and pretty figures in the corners. Flower-pots look very nice with a small garland around them. In fact many are the beautiful articles of use and adornment that can be made by this pleasing art.

MINNIE MAY.

"John, did you go round and ask how old Mrs. Jones is this morning, as I told you to do last night?" "Yes, sir." "Well, what's the result?" "She said that seeing as how you'd had the impudence to send to ask how old she was, she'd no objection to telling you that she's twenty-four."

RECIPES.

EMBROIDERING ON WOOD.

DEAR MINNIE MAY,—I have received so much information from your department that I offer as a slight return the following directions for embroidering on wood, which were sent to me from abroad:

Select a cigar-box of smooth and prettily marked wood. Take out the nails which hold the sides together. Then clean each piece and oil and polish it thoroughly, thus bringing out the natural beauty of the wood. Upon the sides trace with a pencil any kind of geometrical pattern, taking care to have it consist of straight lines only, which, however, will form a variety of beautiful figures. Then at the end of each line in the figure bore a small hole with a gimlet or awl. At a point where several lines meet the hole should be larger. In and through the holes work brilliant zephyrs of divers colors. Into the holes put large beads or tufts of wool. Fancy round buttons inserted in a hole at each corner of the bottom of the box, and held by a pin through the eye, will serve as feet. The box may be fastened together again with the nails which were extracted from it and then lined with colored silk or less expensive material, according to fancy. Other varieties of wood and other ornamental articles are equally pretty embroidered in this manner.

A subscriber sends in a very appropriate season a hasty method of

PICKING FOWLS.

Dip the fowl in boiling water; then wrap a flannel cloth around two or three times, and let it remain about ten minutes. The feathers will then be dry and their liveliness not destroyed.

PLUM JELLY.

Pour sufficient boiling water over your plums to cover them, turning it off immediately and draining them. This removes the bitter taste of the skins. Then boil your fruit with enough water to cover them till the skins burst and the juice is extracted. Pour off your syrup, strain it, and to each pound of syrup add one pound of white sugar, return to your kettle and boil twenty minutes. The plums may be sweetened and used for pies or sauce.

A TEA DISH.

A nice dish for tea is made by putting six or eight butter crackers in a dish, pour boiling water over them and grate loaf sugar and nutmeg or lemon over, and lay on slices of jelly. Pour enough sweet cream over them to make a nice sauce.

FOR THE HANDS AND SKIN.

Bathe the face in buttermilk, sour of course; it is not quite agreeable, I know. Take a soft rag and dip into a cup of the buttermilk, and wash every part of the face, neck and hands. If there has been a greater exposure to the sun than usual, after washing the face well squeeze out the cloth and just wipe the skin off, and let it remain on without washing till morning. You will be astonished to see how soon the freckles and tan will disappear. For keeping the hands white and the skin soft, there is nothing equal to buttermilk. When one gets burned with the hot sun, one or two bathings in buttermilk will cause the smarting to cease, take out the inflammation, and render it comfortable quicker than any other remedy I ever tried. There is something in the acid contained in the buttermilk that does the work. When one has stained fingers, with either berries, apples or nuts, it will remove the stains almost immediately. It is particularly cooling to the skin. You will never try any other lotion for beautifying the complexion after using the buttermilk, if you can obtain that.

FOR CLEANING CHILDREN'S HEADS.

Take half a pint of wheat bran in a tin dish, turn a quart of boiling water upon it, stir it thoroughly, and let it stand and settle till cold. Drain off the liquor, and add a teaspoonful of spirits of ammonia. Wash the head and hair well with a sponge dipped in the liquid; then rinse with pure soft water, and you will have your little people's heads as clean and sweet as you could wish. Dry off by rubbing with a soft dry towel, and a good brushing. (Fine-toothed combs are not a good thing to use with children unless you are obliged to.) I find this wash for cleaning heads just as good for grown-up folks heads as for children, and they need it applied quite as frequently.