

## HOUSEHOLD.

## The 'New Woman' on the Farm.

Said Farmer John to his wife one day,  
'You wimmen folks must manage some way

An' do su'thin' ruther to airn the cash  
To buy your furbelows an' trash;  
I tell you,' said he, 'it's mighty tough,  
An' is usin' a man most all-fired rough  
To keep him forever down in the ditch  
To buy you dresses, and music, and sich.'

'Why, father!' said she, in a voice weak  
and thin,  
'Don't the girls and I bring anything in?'  
'Wall, yes, in course; but reely,' said he,  
'Housework don't 'mount to nothin', yer see.

It takes clean farmin', an' big crops,  
An' stiddy peckin' to bring in the rocks;  
An' it's kind o' tough when all on it goes  
For flowers, an' feathers, an' furbelows.'

'Well, father, please tell us,' said Daughter Bess,

'What shall we live on, and how shall we dress?

Pudding and doughnuts don't grow on trees,  
Nor can we be clothed, like Adam, with leaves;

Just give us the poultry, milk, fruit, and honey,  
And we'll never ask you for any more money.

We'll raise chickens and turkeys, make butter and cheese,  
We'll take care of the fruit and attend to the bees.'

'Oh, ho! laughed the farmer with chuckle and grin,  
'You kin hev all o' that an' the truck patch thrown in;

An' I'll plough it an' harrer it nice an' fine,  
But putt'rin' with garden sass ain't in my line.  
But you mus' s'ply the table outer your cash

Before buyin' gewgaws an' sich kind o' trash.  
Mother an' Sue, do you 'gree with Bess?'

Mother quietly nodded, and Sue answered 'Yes.'

Then as Farmer John went away to his work

He said to himself, 'I don't want to shirk  
Any duty or responsibility, but then  
I kin help 'em out of their troubles agen.  
They've tried it an' failed, an' g'in up they're beat

In tryin' to make both financial ends meet,  
An' mebbly they'll 'con'mize a leetle more when

They've larnt the real cost of a dollar, like men.'

Now Farmer John's heart was lightsome and gay,  
And he whistled serenely, as much as to say,

'I'll roll up a few hundred dollars or more,  
To add to the pile that's already in store;  
Fur it stan's to reason an' natur', too,  
'T I can't allus work the way I now do;  
An' if I don't save fur the rainy day,  
Who's goin' to do it? That's what I say.'

'Now, mother,' said Bess, on the very first day

They tried the new plan to make house-keeping pay,

'I think we're rich, and I'm glad for one,  
That there's something new here under the sun;

We will all of us work with a hearty good will,

With you for our teacher and guide until  
We can take our diplomas on butter and cheese,

And on growing celery, cabbage and peas.

'And you still further our banker shall be.'  
'No, no,' said the mother, 'we're partners all three;

We'll share in the work and share in the pay,  
And then all consult how to spend the best way.'

Then mother and daughters grew merry and bright,

And sung at their work from morning till night,

While Farmer John wondered and puzzled his head  
The sequel to fathom, but not a word said.

And Farmer John's table had its full supply  
Of milk, butter, and cheese, pickles, pudding and pie,

Garden sauce fruit and eggs with poultry and honey;

But never a word did he hear about money.  
The mother and daughters were neat and trim,

And the house was as tidy and nice as a pin.

As for mother and daughters themselves, I ween,

A happier trio than they was ne'er seen.

When the harvest was ended and stored away,

Then Farmer John said to his wife one day,  
'Wal, mother, a very good harvest this year,

I calc'late I've made a cool two hundred clear;

That depends, come to think'—with a poor, sickly grin—

'On how deep into debt you three's got me in.'

'No, we've kept free from debt, and have money in store;

Tho' it's not very much, it's three hundred or more.

Bess can now study music and Sue go to school,

Without, as you see, breaking over our rule  
To keep out of debt.' Was Farmer Jones dumb?

No; he simply remarked, 'Wal, I never, I vow,

If you three are spec'mens, I can't see no harm

That "the new woman" does—when she lives on a farm.'

—Mrs. H. T. Noyes, in 'North-western Agriculturist.'

## Making Over.

(Amy Russell, in 'Christian Work'.)

If we have little money to use, we have something else. There is a garment that can be made over for a child. Put it in your charity basket, and bear it in mind for your first leisure hour. That pair of hose needs new feet, and you know how to do that work nicely. If you have taken new flannels unto yourself this winter, please find enough in the well-worn laid-aside garments for a child's need. Many a one, and with sleeves, too, have I made of similar articles, and glad was the poor mother to get them.

Then, again, about the sewing. Practically I find that many articles too far worn to be of much further use for an adult can be made very useful as a child's garment.

A little hood can be made of different pieces, and will look pretty, too, if you can brighten it with a bow of ribbon. A gown laid aside will make two dresses for a child (I know, for I have just done that thing). To be sure, I put some puffs on the little sleeves, and a little fresh trimming on the waist of red; but even if you pay two dimes for the dainty finishing, you can save that amount perhaps in car fares. An old pair of pants will make two little pairs, and a yard of braid is all you need for fine finish.

Of course you know many other ways of utilizing the various household belongings of an ordinary family. I am a little enthusiastic over the subject, because I see so much need that nothing should be allowed to go to waste.

I do believe that we are responsible for the best use of all that is intrusted to us. If we have leisure, we must do large good with it. If money, that is to be used wisely and unselfishly. If sympathy is our God-given talent, we can brighten many a desponding spirit, comfort many a sorrow-stricken one, and add joy to those who are already glad. We shall in this way imitate the example of our blessed Master, who went about doing good.

## Use of Soda.

Some uses of soda are recommended, as follows: Apart from the use of bicarbonate of soda as a relief for indigestion, both this form and the crude washing soda are useful to the cook and the housekeeper. A burn caused by a hot iron will cease to pain almost immediately if a piece of soda moist-

ened with the tongue is put on. A scall, or burn, if the skin is not broken, can be cured by placing the burned part in strong soda water. Boil greasy tins in soda water once a week, and use hot soda water for a greasy sink. Put a piece of soda the size of a walnut to a tablespoonful of salt into a basin and pour on boiling water. Allow dirty sponges to stand in this for a short time, when they will be clean and free from grease. Rinse in cold water. Dissolve a cupful of soda in a gallon of water and leave in a jar near the kitchen sink. Into this throw all pieces of soap and remains of packets of dry soap. Dip into the jar and add to the water used for washing and scrubbing very dirty pans, earthenware, tinware, woodwork (but not paint), and for washing kitchen cloths and dusters.—American Paper.

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