

lies in the hands of young girls. They are moulding even now the lives of the young men of to-morrow, and shaping their ideals. The children's future—the future of the men and women of the next generation—lies in the hands of the young women of to-day. A great trust and a great responsibility! Are you facing it with unstained souls and high ideals?

I don't want you to be unfashionable or dowdy—far from it. I want you to be sweet and dainty in all your tastes, and as pretty as God intended you to be. I want you to be natural and unaffected, and to keep your eyes open to spiritual things.

It is nearly a hundred years ago since Charles Lamb started a discussion about "persons whom one would wish to have seen." Many famous people were named, and then one was spoken of reverently by Lamb in these often-quoted, never-to-be-forgotten words: "If Shakespeare were to come into this room, we should all rise to meet him, but if that Person were to come into it, we should fall down and try to kiss the hem of His garment."

The best help in our never-ending fight against worldliness is to remember that He Who sent us into the world is always beside us. There is a fairy story about a princess who was always joyous, although treated unkindly. Her days were filled with loving, helpful work, although no one thanked her and she was constantly blamed unjustly. All wondered at her, until she died, and the secret of her life was revealed. She carried in her heart a magic glass which reflected all her thoughts and acts to the one she loved best, and his approval was also reflected to her. With her eyes on his face, it mattered little to her whether others praised or blamed.

"JESUS calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, 'Christian, love Me more.'"

DORA FARNCOMB.

The Ingle Nook.

Rules for Correspondents in this and other Departments: (1) Kindly write on one side of paper only. (2) Always send name and address with communications. If pen-name is also given, the real name will not be published. (3) When enclosing a letter to be forwarded to anyone, place it in stamped envelope ready to be sent on. (4) Allow one month in this department for answers to questions to appear.

Dear Ingle Nook Friends,—Perhaps on this delightful May day I should be writing to you about springing grass and budding things, and, indeed, I feel sorely tempted to talk with you a while about the marvellous gradations of color that one may see just now anywhere where there are trees. For the leaves have not come fully out yet, and from a distance the treetops truly look as though they were, as Tennyson described it, "bursting into smoke." Nearer are all the tints of baby-green, and gray, and faint rose—beautiful indeed, with here and there a plum or cherry tree, all snowy, to lend the last touch of charm. Who would wish to be in Japan, these May days? Surely Canada is good enough.

But I am not going to dwell on these things, because, forsooth, I have been asked the question, "Junia, what do you think about Woman Suffrage?"—Awful come-down, is it not? and yet, notwithstanding poetic ravings about Nature, the human interest must always come first.

Now, I am not at all sure that my opinion will count for anything, one way or another, in this matter, but here it is, for what it is worth.

A year or two ago I wrote a scrap on the subject, and a very dear and clever friend of the Ingle Nook wrote, "I believe you are coming to it. I am a convert of two years standing." Well, I don't think I am a convert yet, as some women are. Of course, I do think that, as responsible humans, and on the principle of "No taxation without representation," women should have a vote. It is perfectly preposterous that they should not have had it long ago, but we are coming to it, surely, and, perhaps, not too slowly. I do not think for one moment that possessing the

right to cast a ballot could make any woman less womanly, or spoil her homelife in any way. It does not take much time to vote. A woman has to read, anyway, and most of the wide-awake ones nowadays are reading politics just as much as though they had the right of exercising an influence in them. Government is, unquestionably, the most important thing in the world to-day, and one of the most interesting. Women have to obey laws and to pay taxes; why, then, should they not, equally with men, who likewise have to obey laws and pay taxes, possess the right to take a part in the great important work of governing, through representatives?—oh, that eternal question of sex, sex, sex, makes me sick! I can see no reason whatever why it should enter, in a compulsory way, into questions of education and government. Why cannot we consider intellect and common sense as a thing apart, and humans as humans?

And don't you wonder, sometimes, why the "antis" so persistently bring up that old argument, "Women do not need the vote, because they may exercise so great an influence over sons, and husbands, and lovers"? What a low, slimy suggestion, savoring of cajolery and intrigue on the part of the women, and plumb stupidity or love-sick slavery on the part of the men! Don't be fooled,—not a solitary man who advances that argument, believes it. He only uses it as "expedient."—And not a solitary woman who advances that argument

thus gulled and persuaded; there would be a number who would, figuratively speaking, shout, "Hip, hip, hooray! The old party, and nothing but the old party!" voting blindly and prejudicially with the party they were "born to," just as numbers of men do; there would be a number of innocent, ignorant ones, voting just as they were told to by relatives or friends, irresponsibly, as many men do; and, last of all, there would be a number who would work might and main for personal advantage, for graft, for office for sons or husbands, just as there are thousands of men who do this thing. Now, dispassionately, isn't this so?

So the balance of things would not, after all, be so greatly changed, although, without doubt, a few good laws would be brought in, and that speedily, if women had the vote. Liquor interests would suffer; the white-slave traffic would be assailed with right good will; the sale of cigarettes to juniors would be prevented, and laws discriminating against women and children would be amended. All this would be well worth while, and, as all must agree, cannot come too soon.

Of course, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that many good men are working, and working hard, to bring about just these things. If women could vote, they would hurry up matters a bit, that is all.

To sum the whole matter up, the more I think about it the more I realize that

women are so short-sighted that they cannot bide their time, that they cannot wait as Ireland has waited, and Wales has waited, till the chance could come. Cannot women practice the patience of hope?

"Not women of the Pankhurst type. If they do not get what they want immediately they will fight for it. They can't fight as men fight, but they will destroy property, burn houses, and now will not even draw the line at life. They are so enraged, so infuriated, that reason has left them. The sentence of Mrs. Pankhurst, which seems perfectly justified, to three years' imprisonment with hard labor, is resented with nothing less than impassioned fury. She will starve herself till released, and they will not hesitate to kill. It is a condition of horrible mob-madness, which we pray may not invade this country.

"Of course, Mrs. Pankhurst's demand of votes for women is just. So far she is right. We can imagine a condition in which we might even look with leniency on her method of warfare. It is a woman's method, not a man's, and women have as much right to fight as have men, in case of oppression; and the refusal of the right of representation is oppression. What we claim is that this recourse to force, to fire and bombs, is foolish, crazy, because it is untimely. These British women have not tried instruction and persuasion to the limit. Their method awakens attention to their cause, and so is, in part, helpful; but their way is not the way the end has been gained in Australia and Colorado. Our (the American) women's way is better.

"To illustrate our way, we take not the great successes in so many States, but the appeal to Congress. It is so fine as to be amusing. They asked permission, 681 of them, to present petitions personally to Senators and Representatives in the rotunda of the Capitol, and it was granted. So they came, each addressing the man of her district or State, Mrs. LaFollete pleading to her husband, the Senator, that she might be given the ballot; Mrs. Nelson to Representative Nelson, of Wisconsin; Mrs. Roberts to Representative Roberts, of Massachusetts; Mrs. Kahn to Representative Kahn; Mrs. Taylor to Representative Taylor, and Miss Morgan to her father, Senator Morgan, of Alabama. "It is to laugh," and a smile is quite as good a weapon as a bludgeon or a bomb."

Of course, you know that women's suffrage has been granted quietly in nine of the United States, and is under weigh in several others. Perhaps Uncle Sam is more chivalrous—or more progressive—in this matter than John Bull.

Now, "Enquirer," you know my opinion. But please do not ask it again in so weighty a matter. I do not like to write so many capital "I's."

In the same copy of The Independent, appears an article on floods. May I quote you a bit of it, just to hammer down the suggestion made in this column a few weeks ago?

"The expansion of our country has itself been an agency of destruction. We cannot retrace our steps, and no true conservationist wishes to do so; but much can be done BY PLANTING TREES WHEREVER POSSIBLE, and by teaching scientific soil cultivation for the prevention of run-off. Here, then, the believer in the conservation of timber and soil has a common interest with the advocate of river regulation and flood prevention, and they should work hand in hand."

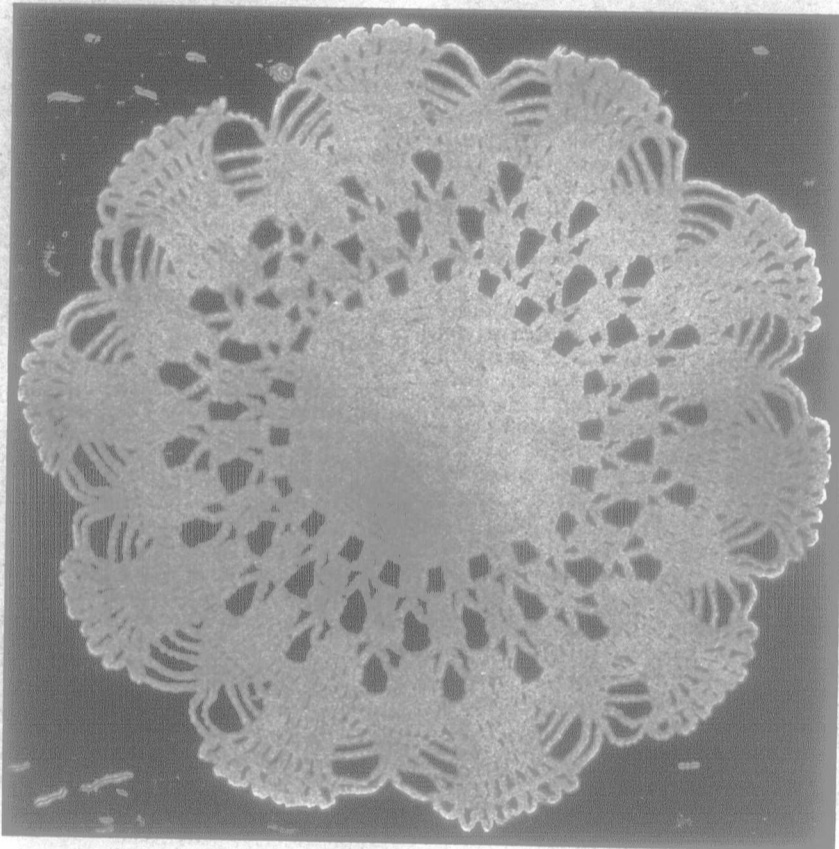
Plan for a few trees along your farm this year, won't you? They can be planted either in spring or fall. Of course, the work should be done carefully, so that the roots are not broken nor dried out before resetting.

JUNIA.

[P. S.—By the way, do you know that the question of local option for Woman Suffrage has been mooted in Great Britain.]

Table Mats.

Some time ago someone asked for a design for table mats. We have had the accompanying one photographed, but please do not ask for detailed instruc-



Crocheted Table Mat.

understands what she is saying. Either she hasn't thought about it enough, or she is so puffed-up by flattery and self-conceit that she can't see straight.

On the other hand, I have no idea at all that giving women the vote will bring the millennium. I have been in women's meetings, and heard, occasionally, women speakers argue as though this must almost come to pass. They have harangued about women's purity and nobility, leaving the converse in regard to men to be inferred, until I was, well, just about nauseated, and so, I am sure, was every other woman in the audience who wished to be fair.

I have knocked about a great deal through the world, and have had much to do with men as well as with women, and upon my word, I can't see much difference between the two. If the wrongs that ordinary men commit—granting that no one is perfect—are sometimes more flagrant, I am not at all sure that the more petty ones indulged in by women are not just about as bad, all told. If women had the vote, there would be a number who would try to vote honestly, just as there are a number of men who try to do so; there would be a number who would be easily gulled and persuaded by unscrupulous party-workers, just as there are a number of men who are

Government is a tremendous thing; that it entails a tremendous responsibility, not only on the part of representatives in Parliament, but on the part of every single, solitary human, who possesses a vote. And the next step is clear—viz.: that our men, as well as our women, need more education along political lines, and common-sense lines, and altruistic lines, to make them fit for the privilege.—Yes, education, and more education, and yet more education!

As to the methods of the militant suffragettes in England, to me they seem utterly futile and ridiculous, as most undignified things are. An article in The Independent (New York), voices what I have thought on the matter so fully that I cannot do better than quote it:

TWO FEMINE CAMPAIGNS.

"It is a pity of all pities that when Great Britain has a Ministry and Parliament resolved, as never have Parliament and Ministry been resolved before, to right long wrongs and put justice in place of injustice, and when they are taking up one cause and case after another against the greatest opposition, each in its turn—for each must take its turn—and when Parliament and Ministry are willing and even eager to give its turn to votes for women, a class of