

THE LADIES.

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE.

BY BLANCHE BENNAIRDE.

A thousand blessings in disguise
About "our daily paths" are strewn
And though unseen by mortal eyes,
Yet none the less are they our own.
We weep a beauteous spirit frown,
Its body mouldering in the earth;
While it, near a celestial throne,
Has joys of heavenly birth.

A thousand blessings in disguise
From infancy our lives have blest;
Yet, while we saw the clouded skies,
We thought not of the promised rest;
Though pictured in the purpled west,
Like radiant clouds at close of day,
Bright Hope appeared in beauty drest,
To glad our future way.

A thousand blessings in disguise
Within our home's bright hemisphere,
In His wise providence arise,
While we lament that they appear.
We mourn for those beloved and near
When we are called to bid adieu,
We weep for them a bitter tear,
While they have heaven in view.

A thousand blessings in disguise
Attend our way through manhood's prime,
And few there are, who, truly wise,
Improve them in this golden time.
We dream of fairer, brighter climes,
Where only beauteous flowers are found,
Nor hear the sweet and pleasing chime
From Truth's delightful ground.

A thousand blessings in disguise
Surround us while we mournful stand,
And breathe despair in heart-felt sighs,
At loss of hopes that rose so grand.
We think of friends with open hand,
Who greeted us when Fortune smiled,
Nor she that brighter hopes expand
While thus from them exiled.

A thousand blessings in disguise
On us are showered—on you and me,
And hope before us ever lies,
Though we her form may fail to see.
Then, if in deep despair we be,
Though all seems dark, let's look above,
And to the Blest One ever flee,
Where all is light and love.

KIND WORDS DO NOT COST MUCH.—They never blister the tongue or lips. And we have never heard of any mental trouble arising from this quarter. Though they do not cost much, yet they accomplish much. 1. They help one's own good nature and good will. Soft words soften our own soul. Angry words are fuel to the flame of wrath, and make it blaze more fiercely. 2. Kind words make other people good-natured. Cold words freeze people, and hot words scorch them, and bitter words make them bitter, and wrathful words make them wrathful. There is such a rush of all other kinds of words in our days, that it seems desirable to give kind words chance among them. There are vain words, and idle words, and hasty words, and spiteful words, and silly words, and empty words, and profane words, and boisterous words, and warlike words. Kind words also produce their own image on men's souls. And a beautiful image it is. They soothe, and quiet, and comfort the heart. They shame him out of his sour, morose, unkind feelings. We have not yet begun to use kind words in such abundance as they ought to be used.—*Pascal*.

DRESS FOR THE MIND.—On Sunday morning, before going to church, what a dressing there is among all classes, and what a stir to appear gay and pleasing! Is it quite sufficient for the great purpose of our existence, to wash the out side of the platter? Curis may be arranged, fine tortoise shell combs fixed, sparkling ear-rings hung, splendid garments displayed, and yet, perhaps, the gay fair one's mind may be poisoned with conceit, and troubled with rivalry, and kept on the torture by ignorance and vanity. Windsor soap does not wash out the stains of the heart. Cologne water cannot throw a fragrance over an impure mind; nor will the rubies of Golconda dazzle the recording angle into forgetfulness of filling up the leaves of the book of retribution.—*Ex.*

ON THE CARE OF PARLORS.

In selecting the furniture for parlors, some reference should be had to correspondence of shades and colors. Curtains should be darker than the walls; and, if the walls and carpets be light, the chairs should be dark, and *vice versa*. Pictures look best on light walls.

In selecting carpets, for rooms much used, it is poor economy to buy cheap ones. *Ingrain* carpets, of close texture, and the *three-ply* carpets, are best for common use. *Brussels* carpets do not wear so long as the three-ply ones, because they cannot be turned. *Wilton* carpets wear badly, and *Venetians* are good only for halls and stairs.

In selecting colours, avoid those in which there are any black threads, as they are always rotten. The most tasteful carpets are those which are made of various shades of the same colour, or of all shades of only two colours, such as brown and yellow, or blue and buff, or salmon and green, or all shades of green, or of brown. All very dark shades should be brown or green, but not black.

In laying down carpets, it is a very bad practice to put straw under them, as this makes them wear out in spots. Straw matting, laid under carpets, makes them last much longer; as it is smooth and even, and the dust sifts through it. In buying carpets, always get a few yards over, to allow for waste in matching figures. In cutting carpets, make them a few inches shorter than the room, to allow for stretching. Begin to cut in the middle of a figure, and it will usually match better. Many carpets match in two different ways, and care must be taken to get the right one. Sew a carpet on the wrong side, with double waxed thread, and with the *ball-stitch*. This is done by taking a stitch on the breadth next you, pointing the needle towards you, and then taking a stitch on the other breadth, pointing the needle from you. Draw the thread tightly, but not so as to pucker. In fitting a breadth to the hearth, cut slits in the right place, and turn the piece under. Bind the whole of the carpet with carpet binding, and nail it with tacks, having bits of leather under the heads. To stretch the carpet, use a carpet fork, which is a long stick, ending with notched tin, like saw teeth. This is put in the edge of the carpet, and pushed by one person, while the nail is driven by another.—Cover blocks or bricks with carpeting like that of the room, and put them behind tables, doors, sofas, &c., to preserve the walls from injury, by knocking, or by the dusting-cloth.

Cheap footstools, made of a square plank, covered with tow-cloth, stuffed, and then covered with carpeting, with worsted handles, look very well. Sweep carpets as seldom as possible, as it wears them out. To shake them often is good economy. In cleaning carpets, use damp tea-leaves, or wet Indian meal, throwing it about, and rubbing it over with the broom. The latter is very good for cleansing carpets made dingy by coal-dust. In brushing carpets in ordinary use, it will be found very convenient to use a large flat dust-pan, with a perpendicular handle a yard high, so that the pan will stand alone. This can be carried about, and used without stooping, brushing dust into it with a common broom. The pan must be very large, or it will be upset.

When carpets are taken up, they should be hung on a line, or laid on long grass, and whipped, first on one side, and then on the other, with pliant whips. If laid aside, they should be sewed up tight, in linen, having snuff or tobacco put along all the crevices where moths could enter. Shaking pepper from a pepper-box, round the edge of the floor, under a carpet, prevents the access of moths.

Carpets can be best washed on the floor, thus: First, shake them, and then, after cleaning the floor, stretch and nail them upon it.—Then scrub them in cold soap-suds, having half a tea-cupful of ox-gall to a bucket of water. Set open the doors and windows for two days or more. Imperial Brussels, Venetian ingrain, and three-ply carpets, can be washed thus; but Wilton, and other plush-carpets, cannot. Before washing them, take out grease, with a paste made of potter's clay, ox-gall and water.—*Miss Beecher*.

FLOWERS.—"How much flowers resemble the young heart, in its bright morning, ere it has stained the plumage of its sinless years. Tradition of them tells us that they were once like youth—even in this—that they loved, and talked, and had passion like ours. Whether the golden age of flowers has passed or not, they are still invested with these susceptibilities in song. How often, and how fondly the poet revels in the field of flowers. Do they not talk to him? Who has ever heard the soft, low whispers of the green leaves and bright flowers on a spring morning, who did not feel rainbow gleams of gladness running through his heart? Like beauty in the human form, flowers hint and foreshow relations of transcendent delicacy and sweetness, and point to the beautiful and unattainable. From the garden favorite to the dainty wild flower of the mountain, all have a charm inexpressible, beauty unapproachable, leading the way, and wooing the spirit onward and upward. How sweetly and instructively the flower bows its head to the breath of night, or the rude storm. At morning it yields its fragrant orison, borne to heaven on the soft wings of the dew-drop.—Thus the heart learns to bring a holier offering to the shrine of all good."

TO TAKE THE OUT OF LINEN.—Take a piece of mould candle, or common candle will do nearly as well, melt it, and dip the spotted part of the linen into the melted tallow. It may then be washed, and the spots will disappear, without injuring the linen.—*Ohio Cult.*