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HOW TO MAKE THE OLD HOME CONVENIENT, CHEERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL.

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Some practical, sensible suggestions for people living in old inconvenient houses. At little expense these old houses may be vastly improved for convenience in working, for the health of its occupants, and in beauty as well. Suggestions based on much observation and on practical experience.

SOME one has wittily said that our sins of omission are those we forget to commit. So far as the old farm homes are concerned it would seem that in their construction the sins of omitting to make them as convenient as possible were few. But the sins of our fathers need not descend from generation to generation in this particular line. These fine old homes possess great possibilities. They can be remodelled and made very comfortable and convenient.

Laura Rose Stephen very comfortable and convenient.

There is often a charm and coziness about a made-over house which the modern dwelling lacks. Snuggling down amid the protecting shelter of the tall, graceful elms and wide-spreading maples, the old home has a settled, built-to-last-for-centuries look that adds hundreds of dollars to its value. The associations connected with these pioneer farm homes also gives prestige and value to a place. We drive past a farm and are told "That's 'The Grange'—the old Henderson homestead—came from Scotland in the early thirties—people of splendid stock, and it showed in everything they had."

A CARE FOR BRAINWORK

How to go about fixing over an old house is a problem requiring more brains than to plan for a new one—an outsider sees things with different eyes to those accustomed for years to existing conditions. Talk over your ideas with your friends; get their opinions, and while you may not agree, still there will be suggestions from which you may evolve real practical improvements.

What are the most pronounced defects found in the old houses? Here are a few: Kitchens too large and the pantry or china closets in the further corner from the dining-room; parlors stuffy and secluded; low ceilings, and an absence of water and sewage systems.

The kitchen trouble can be remedied by building a china cupboard against the wall separating the kitchen from the dining-room, and having doors on each side, and with handles on each end of the drawers, so they will open from either room. This makes our kitchen smaller, and brings our dishes just where we want them—as near to the dining-table as they can get.

It is a crime to have two or three steps be-

tween the dining-room and the kitchen. One cannot estimate the wear and tear on the human body such an inhuman contrivance entails. Cost should not be considered in abolishing these steps. The whole house, woodshed and all, should be on one level. While we speak of the woodshed we might say a word about the wood-box. It would not be a big chore to make a hole in the kitchen wall at the floor and build a box opening at each side, having a hinged cover on the one in the kitchen. Then the box may be filled from the shed—an easy, clean way of getting the wood brought in.

The old-fashioned farm home parlor is too frequently a place to be dreaded and shunned with its gloomy and musty smell. In the old houses this special room was shut off by itself with but

the otherwise small square parlor may be transformed into a beautiful, cheerful room. This was done in a friend's home this summer, and she now has a room anyone might envy.

In times past not so much attention was given to having plenty of windows and there was a set stiff rule in placing the windows that were put in. Don't be afraid to break into the wall and insert windows of odd shapes and in odd places—the windows are often the making of a pretty room. A dingy sitting room might be transformed into a room of cheer if a large bay window were built in it.

HIGHER CEILINGS—BETTER HEALTH

Many of the early-built houses were made with low ceilings. To raise the roof of such dwellings would mean airy, sunny, healthful bedrooms—and a much finer appearing house on the outside.

Where at all possible there should be running water in every farm house. To carry from a pump, no matter how convenient, all the water used indoors, adds much to the labor of house-keeping. If an hydraulic ram cannot be installed a tank and wind-mill could be erected.

Where there is a chimney flue available an inside toilet is easily obtained. I saw one in the west this summer. The seat was home-made, and the closed-in box below was large enough to hold a galvanized pail. From the back of the box a stove-pipe connected with the furnace flue. This simple contrivance was quite sanitary and added materially to the comfort and health of that family on the prairies. I have seen a closet or small bedroom off from the kitchen converted into quite a respectable bathroom.

An improvement which adds greatly to the appearance of the outside and to the cleanliness of the floor on the inside, is a cement walk from the house to the barn.

MAKE THE HOME COMFORTABLE FOR WINTER

Often it is hard to install a furnace, but if possible one should be put in. To have a house comfortably aired all over and snug and warm in the living rooms takes away the dread of the long, cold winters. Often the middle-aged are neglected in the keeping up of fires. Their blood is thick and warm, but the very young and the old feel the cold keenly, and should have consideration. Lots of farmers could use up rough wood that is rotting if they only had furnaces in their houses.

The time to place and execute changes is now. Do not leave it for the early spring when the rush of work makes everything else stand aside. We are only living once, and the money we spend in making the lives of others and our own more comfortable and enjoyable is the money we get the very best interest on. We really enjoy only the money we spend.

A FAMOUS TRIBUTE TO WOMAN

It takes a hundred men to make an encampment, but one woman can make a home. I not only adore woman as the most beautiful object ever created, but I reverence her as the redeeming glory of humanity, the sanctuary of all the virtues, the pledge of all perfect qualities of heart and head. It is not just right to lay the sins of men at the feet of women. It is because women are so much better than men that their faults are considered greater. A man's desire is the foundation of his love, but a woman's desire is born of her love. The one thing in this world that is constant, the one peak that rises above all clouds, the one window in woman's love. It rises to the greatest heights, it sinks to the lowest depths. It forgives the most cruel injuries. It is perennial of life and grows in every climate. Neither coldness nor neglect, harshness nor cruelty, can extinguish it. A woman's love is the perfume of the heart. That is the real love that subdues the earth; the love that has wrought all miracles of art that gives us music all the way from the cradle song to the grand closing symphony that bears the soul away on wings of fire. A love that is greater than power, sweeter than life and stronger than death.

By Robert G. Ingersoll

one doorway as an entrance. The making of an archway or a single door into the living or dining room would connect this isolated parlor with the rest of the house and make it a more livable place.

Cutting a doorway is not a colossal task. We put up for years with a great inconvenience just in this manner, and finally decided an entrance into the other room must be made. When once the men started it didn't take long, and what a change that doorway made in the house—no more running the length of a long hall to get into the room.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE SPARE BEDROOM

Sometimes removing a door and hanging a heavy curtain makes an improvement. I have more than once suggested this for the tiny spare bedroom off the parlor, where the only available space for a chair was interfered with when opening or closing the door. If this little bedroom can be dispensed with and the partition removed,