



A Perfect Kingdom.

A man can build a mansion
And furnish it throughout,
A man can build a palace
With lofty walls and stout;
A man can build a temple
With high and spacious dome,
But no man in the world can build
That precious thing called—Home.

No, 'tis our happy faculty,
O woman far and wide,
To turn a cot or palace
Into something else beside;
Where brothers, sons, and husbands
With willing footsteps come; [tired
A place of rest, where love abounds—
A perfect kingdom—Home.

The Art of Bed Making.

NOTHING is more delicious than to creep wearily into sheets that are fresh and fragrant from clean water and oxygen. How restless to place the weary head on pillows that are thoroughly shaken, and how comfortable it is to draw around one bed-clothes that are satisfactory, not too thick in one place and entirely untucked in another.

Every article should be taken off and laid separately over a chair, and a strong current of air should be allowed to circulate through the room before the clothes are replaced. The mattress should be turned daily and from end to end, as this ensures it being worn more evenly, and it will not sink in the middle, which spoils the look of any bed, no matter how beautiful its cover.

The new fashion of steel chain springs is a great improvement over the heavy, old-style spring, which, when once taken up-stairs, was bound to remain there a long time. The careful housewife will cover the springs of her beds with linen, so that it may be taken off and washed. This saves the mattress all chance of rust marks from the metal. Clean newspapers will answer the same purpose.

It is only the soundest sleepers who can enjoy their slumbers when, by a scanty supply of sheet, the blanket scratches face and neck. Narrow bed clothing is even worse, especially where

the barbarous custom of sleeping two in a bed holds good. One drags the clothes one way, the other exhausts strength in clinging to them for dear life, and neither is comfortable. A simple remedy for this discomfort is to place one blanket lengthwise across the bed. In this way there is a double advantage—less weight on the shoulders and plenty of chance for a firm tucking up.

A restless child might be prevented from many a cold if blankets were placed across the bed. It is the careful watch of detail in home life that makes it differ from a hotel, and nothing is more satisfactory than a well-made bed.

A Friendship Cushion

is a delightful possession, in that it reminds one ever and constantly of dear friends who may be far away, but who have contributed in a most expressive manner to the decoration of our room and the comfort of our favorite chair or



lounge. To make a friendship cushion, each friend must work a square of the same material in any form or device she may fancy, adding, if sufficient space is provided, her name, or at any rate her initials in the corner. The various squares must then be sewn together, a small cord or fancy stitching employed to hide the joins, and the whole mounted with a silk back and a deep silk frill—just in an ordinary way. Friendship quilts or bed-spreads may be made in the same way, and we have known a very beautiful cover for a grand piano made in this fashion, the small pieces of embroidery being really no trouble to each individual worker, and yet the whole forming a most elaborate and valuable wedding present. For variety's sake the centre square of the cushion could be worked with the monogram of the future owner, but this must be left to individual fancy.

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