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### A Bit of the Bright Side.

SISTER RURAL READERS.—Do you think that in this "workaday" world of ours, we count our blessings often enough? You know that old saying that when one feels particularly depressed in mind or spirits he or she should count over twenty-five blessings, especially his or hers, to act as an antidote for such ills. Now, suppose, when we first wake in the early morning, instead of beginning to think of the baking to be done, and wondering whether or no the sponge we set last thing the night before, has risen, or worrying over the hard, busy day before us, we turn to the little face on the pillow near us. It may be the baby of a few months, rosy and dimpled, sleeping with tightly clenched fist thrown up over its head, showing by that act (they tell us) perfect health and sound sense. Or it may be a little maid of eight or ten summers is enjoying the heavy sleep of early childhood by your side. Kiss the quiet face, thanking God for the health of your little one, and let it count as first of your list of blessings. Surely it is one every mother's heart will appreciate. Cover up the little one and step softly around. Plenty of sleep is such a good thing for babies, young or old,

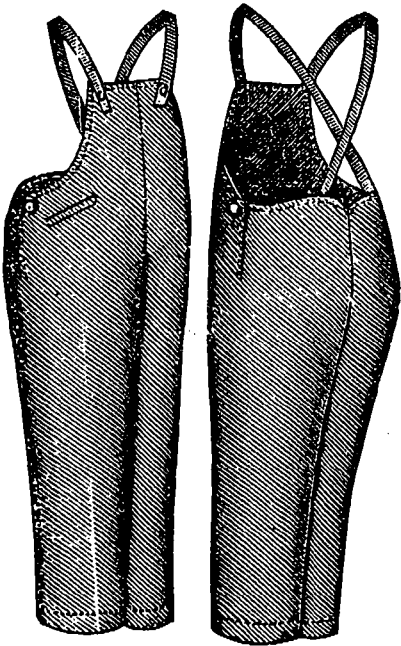


FIG. 1.

and we know the little heads are safe from harm when on the pillow. Let me quote a remark made by the good mother of a large family to my own mother. "Mrs. Howell," she said, "when the children are all put safely in bed, and none of them have been sick, or got hurt during the day, don't you think it a good day's work done?"

We do, and we also think letting them sleep reasonably late in the morning a good day's work well begun.

Let us hurry down to the kitchen now, where the head of the house has already started a fire and put the freshly-filled tea-kettle over. Count that, my sisters; it's a blessing not to be overlooked, and come out of the door for a breath of fresh morning air. Look away over the hills and far beyond to the mountains sharply defined by the early sunlight, thank God for the great creation spread before you, and thank Him also that you

are a part of it, doing His work under His guiding hand.

Bring your gaze back again to the boundaries of the farm, whose every foot is owned (clear of mortgage) by the good man you call husband. Note that blessing, please, my sisters.

And now count up. Have we enough of blessings, think you, to begin the day with? If so, we will add the rest at our leisure. You smile. What! Is the measure full already?

A FARMER'S SISTER.

OUR cuts of patterns this month represent two useful garments. No. 1 representing a pair of overalls with apron front. For a man measuring 34 inches about the waist it needs 4 yards of material 27 inches wide or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  yards 36 inches wide.



FIG. 2.

No. 2 illustrates a boy's working suit. It consists of a camisole and overalls and is adapted for a boy from three to fifteen years of age. To make the suit for a boy of nine years  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards of goods 27 inches wide will be needed; the camisole calling for 2 yards and the overalls for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards. If material 36 inches wide be used,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  yards will suffice; the overalls needing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards, and the camisole  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yards.

This cut illustrates a receptacle for photographs that is intended to hang upon the wall. It may be of plush, etc., and is crossed horizontally with graduated rows of tinsel galloon, which are secured with a few stitches at irregular intervals, to allow pictures to be slipped in any of the cases.

A diagonal stripe of galloon gives variety to the whole, and serves as a border to a triangular piece of embroidery or antique brocade. The galloon or a cord may finish the edges, and the back is covered with satteen. The interlining is of stiff cardboard, and the size depends entirely upon the taste.—*Domestic Monthly*.

**Bits of Soap.**—Gather together all the pieces of white soap that you may have, castile, ivory, and any others that are known to be good. Cut them into small pieces and dissolve in boiling water in the proportion of a tea cup of water to half a cup of scraps. As soon as the scraps have melted, and while the water is still hot, stir in ground oatmeal

to make a stiff batter. Grease some old cups and pour enough of this mixture in each for a small cake, and set it aside to harden and dry. You have now a very nice soap that is excellent for daily use in the nursery; or the mixture may be made just a little thinner and kept in a tin cup to be brought out as soft, white soap at the children's baths. For the boys' and girls' tri-daily hand-scrubbing stir the batter very stiff with oatmeal bran or wheat middlings, and mould into flat cakes. These have a roughness that is necessary to remove ink stains, pitch and the many defiling substances with which every healthy boy and girl seems to come in contact.

For fancy hand soap, melt all together the pieces of any colored toilet soaps, provided, of course, that they are good, and do not contain injurious materials; stir in a few drops of perfumery and a very little Indian meal. Pour this into shallow dishes (fancy-shaped if you like), and when partly cold stamp on a pattern and mould the corners of the cakes round, or cut into shapes with a cake-cutter.

The scraps of yellow soap may be put into the soap-shaker—a wire receptacle for holding soap that is to be shaken in the dish-water; but for those who have no such implement, this is a way of disposing of them: Dissolve the pieces as before, using less hot water, and when the mixture has partly cooled stir in a quantity (as much as it will take nicely) of scouring sand or bath brick scraped fine; pour into a wooden box and stir often until cold. This is excellent for scouring tins and cleaning unpainted shelves and floors, but will, of course, remove the paint from wood-work. Yellow soap may, like the white, be simply dissolved and left to stiffen a little to be used as soft soap.—*Ladies' Home Journal*.

### Helpful Household Hints.

By warming the knife hot bread will cut as nicely as cold.

MUCH sickness in farmers' families in winter is due to keeping large quantities of potatoes and other vegetables stowed under sleeping rooms.

A VERY sure and quick way has been suggested to remove grease spots from silk. "Rub the spot quickly with brown paper." The friction will soon draw out the grease.

BRIGHTEN up the half-worn house dresses with belt, collar, cuffs, etc., of the new cashmere or tinsel-edged ribbons. You will be surprised to see the change it will effect in the appearance.

TO CLEAN men's clothing, mix two parts alcohol and one part ammonia; rub vigorously with a sponge or woollen cloth (if a cloth is used it should be of the same color as the garment you are cleaning). This receipt is also excellent for other woollen goods and for carpet.



**Nut Candy.**—Take five cups of sugar, six tablespoonfuls of water, four tablespoonfuls of vinegar, one tablespoonful butter. Boil without stirring till it crisps in cold water. Line buttered tins with any kind of nut meats (walnut or butternut meats are best) and pour the candy over them. When nearly cold mark off into strips.