

It Works While They Work

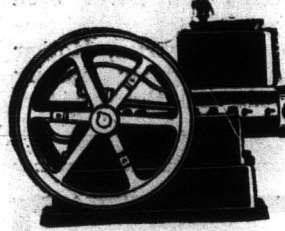
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With each machine goes free a secret washing formula that alone is worth \$5.00. It has never before been available to house-

wives. Treatment as per this formula loosens up the dirt, and the soiled things are the more thoroughly washed, absolutely without injury to the fabric.

The Vacuum Steam Washer is a scientific invention, tried, tested and found perfect. It is the most practical labor saving device ever invented. 1200 machines sold in six weeks. It is the no work, no worry wash method that the busy housewife has been looking for for years.

Once used it will displace all other methods of washing. Price \$2.50. Carriage paid to any point in Canada. With the washer goes the \$5.00 formula. Our profit at this price is small, but every machine placed means at least ten more sales, for every friend of every purchaser wants one.

Order-to-day. Remit by postal or express order. Orders filled same day as received. Remember you deal direct with the manufacturer and have no agent's profit to pay. That's why we are able to sell the Washers so cheaply.

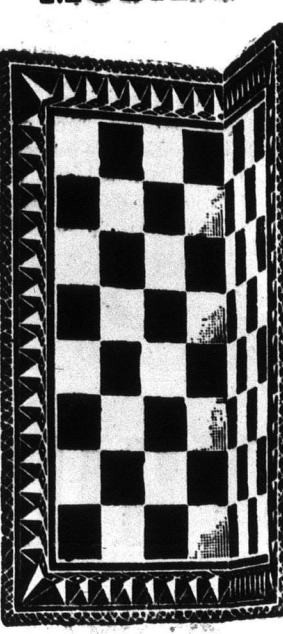
"Get rid of the worries of wash-day, let the Vacuum Steam Washer do your work."

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"Get rid of the worries of wash-day, let the Vacuum Steam Washer do your work."

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the doorway, stood Mrs. McBain herself. Her bright yellow hair was tightly coiled on the top of a rather broad head, while her rather plain but pleasant face was covered with freckles. A dress of black sateen, evidently donned in honour of the minister's expected arrival, was covered with a clean white apron, and showed beneath the short practical skirt an unmistakable pair of men's boots.

"I was just looking for you, Mr. MacDuff," said she, with a welcoming smile, as the minister drew near. "You'll be just in time for supper, and needing it too I expect."

"I've no doubt I shall be able to do justice to your excellent fare, Mrs. McBain," replied he with a laugh; "but I did not think it was so near six."

"Aye now, Mr. MacDuff, but it's not often I have to complain of you being late," said the widow with a sly dig at the clerical weakness for good fare, "but we're having it early to-night. The boys are mad to go to this play-acting at the Hall."

"But come in, come in," she continued hurriedly, and relieving him of bag and stick led the way inside.

After MacDuff had rinsed his face and hands at the little tin basin, which stood on a stool just outside the door, he took his accustomed place at the head of the table, the party being completed by the widow's two boys, lads of nineteen and seventeen. After pronouncing a somewhat lengthy grace, and helping himself to everything within reach, the minister sat down and the meal began.

Conversation was not brilliant, as the lads were engrossed with anticipations of the evening's entertainment, while both the elders were pre-occupied with their own busy thoughts.

Ample justice, however, was done to the tasty home-made cakes and pastry, stewed fruits and cream, especially on the part of the minister. It was his custom, under the mistaken idea of saving trouble, to refuse to have anything passed to him, but saying, "I can reach, thank, I can reach," he insisted on getting it himself, a proceeding for which his short arms and rotund figure were anything but suited.

Supper ended, the widow commenced to wash-up the dishes, while MacDuff having put on a roomy pair of carpet slippers—a present from his hostess—and retired to the large easy chair in the little parlour. Not long afterwards the boys, both rather self-conscious in new store suits and the latest style in felt hats, drove off in the buggy, thus leaving the minister a clear field.

Pans and dishes carefully polished and put away, and the kitchen tidied for the night, the widow removed her apron and joined MacDuff in the parlour. There she established herself with her knitting on the couch by the window.

For some time nothing was heard but the 'click' of the knitting-needles and the rustle of the paper that the minister was pretending to read:

* * * * *

The small congregation who awaited the minister's coming next morning were gathered in knots outside discussing the effect of the prolonged drought on the crops, the scarcity and high price of hired labour and the many other matters of interest to a farming community.

"The minister's in grand fettle the day," said one as his approach was noticed, "he's comin' along like a two-year-old." For his elastic step and jaunty carriage were evident to all.

"I'm danged if he hasn't got a flower in his coat," said another: the flower in question was a large nosegay pinned there by the hands of the widow herself, who had at the same time excused herself from attending the service.

The minister greeted and shook hands with most of the members of his little flock, but studiously avoided Angus McRae, who as he could see was anxious to have a word with him.

Angus, however, intercepted him at the entrance to the building.

"Weel, Mr. MacDuff," said he in a loud whisper, "do ye mind what I was speakin' till ye about?"

"Yes, yes, answered the minister hurrying past, "and I am glad to say I have persuaded her to alter her views."

"Ye dinna say sae!" exclaimed the delighted Angus.

The minister preached that day with a

fine eloquence that made his hearers open their eyes in surprise; not a few of whom felt relieved that the carefully selected five cent piece was the only coin in their possession at the moment. However, when the hat was returned to him on this occasion it contained in addition a whole new silver dollar placed there as a further expression of his gratitude by the joyful McRae.

At the close of the service, MacDuff having cleared his throat to attract their attention, addressed his hearers as follows:

"My friends, before we depart to our various habitations, it is my privilege to make an announcement, which I trust will be of interest to most if not to all of you. It is that a wedding will shortly be celebrated between two persons, who are both well-known to everyone present here." (At this point McRae squared his shoulders and blew out his chest.) "It has been my duty in the past to be present on many such occasions, but upon none of them do I remember looking with such feelings of pleasure and satisfaction." (Guid for ye, Mr. MacDuff, said Angus to himself, for the minister was certainly exceeding his expectations.)

"The bride is a lady who has lived amongst you, respected and admired for many years as widow of the late Mr. McBain" (here several people glanced at Mr. McRae, who tried to look dignified and happy at once). "As for the bridegroom," continued the minister, "I need not say how unworthy he is of such good fortune" "eh!" said Angus, sitting bolt upright. "The older amongst you have known him ever since you came to the country, and are well aware that in spite of his many faults and weaknesses he has tried to do his humble duty." (Guidness gracious! is the mon daft?" exclaimed Angus, for this was beyond a joke.) "However," continued the speaker, "in spite of his failings and unprepossessing exterior, Mrs. McBain has done him the honour of bestowing on his unworthy self her hand and heart." (Honour, indeed! snorted McRae, now



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thoroughly enraged; "if the minister does na smart for this!" "The name of this fortunate individual," continued MacDuff, "is, as you no doubt have already guessed, James MacDuff, your humble pastor and servant." (Done brown, exclaimed the astonished and disgusted McRae, 'an' by a meenister; this beats a'!)

After the sensation caused by this announcement had subsided, MacDuff, turning his gaze full upon the crestfallen McRae, resumed: "I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. McRae, who was the first to express his regard by presenting me with a magnificent 'wedding suit'."

This naturally turned the gaze of all present upon the furious farmer, who by no means wore the pleasant expression suited to the occasion. It was more than fish and blood could stand, and muttering fiercely, "Eleven dollars clean bang it awa'," he rose grimly in his seat and stalked stiffly from the room, leaving the smiling minister to receive the congratulations of his somewhat bewildered congregation.

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