

book on't." When last I seen and chatted with her, she assured me that at last prosperity was smiling upon them, for they had a "wee bit hoose at fifty a year, a coo and calf, and a pig in the sty."

HONOR BRIGHT.

Halton Co.

Seed for School Children.

The work of the Schools' Division of the Ontario Experimental Union has proved so successful, that this year it is to be materially extended. Last year, packets of seed were sent to nearly 8,000 children, and about 180 schools co-operated in the work, the seeds being sown and the work carried on either in the school garden or at the homes of the children, but under supervision of the teacher. For all particulars, write at once to the "Schools' Division of the Agricultural and Experimental Union," O. A. C., Guelph, Ont. Seeds, etc., will, of course, be sent only to schools and children within the Province.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

Professor McCready, B. A., Professor of Botany and Nature Study, O. A. C., Guelph, and one of the promoters of the Experimental Union above referred to, is strongly of the opinion that we should have especially-qualified teachers for our rural schools. We quote from his report for 1910: "Why cannot we have our Rural School Teachers recognized?—not as the teachers who are getting experience so that they may take positions in the towns, not as the teachers who have failed in the towns and sought oblivion in the country, not as teachers who may be hired at a low salary—but as experienced, progressive, successful, well-paid teachers, who are permanently secured as teachers specially suited to work amongst a rural community and make the most of life there for themselves, their pupils and their parents."

"In this connection, an endeavor was made at Toronto last spring to bring about the organization of such a section of the Public School Teachers' Department of the Ontario Educational Association. While the proposal found support from the teachers of rural schools present, the majority of the teachers present—who were urban teachers—voted the measure down. Such an organization will come later, when the work of the country school is seen to require a teacher of even greater gifts and equipment than is required in the graded urban schools. Let us have the Rural Teacher for the Rural School! The times are demanding it. It is due our 5,000 rural schools, with their 250,000 country school children."

Since the above words were written by Prof. McCready, events have moved onward enough to show that he is no false prophet. Already rural school trustees are beginning to demand teachers with agricultural qualifications for their schools. Several advertisements to this effect have been noted in the "Teachers Wanted" columns of the daily press during the past few months.

Old Maids.

The true "old maid," like the true poet, is born, not made, old maidishness being a question of innate character rather than of incidental condition. There are old maids of every state and age and sex, says Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler, creatures who revel in fuss, and batten upon detail, and abide in the narrowest of narrow ruts. Do we not all know married women with large families who are, nevertheless, old maids to the backbone, just as we know adorable elderly spinsters who have the minds of girls and the hearts of mothers? And do we not also know numbers of the (so-called) stronger sex whose absorption in trifles and avidity for gossip proclaim them old maids of the purest water?

TRADE TOPIC.

DICTIONARY.—Every home should possess a dictionary. A new one, very complete in all respects, and in type that is exceptionally easy to read, has been issued by The Macmillan Company, St. Martin's House, Bond street, Toronto. Price, only 45 cents, bound in cloth. Write for it.

"The Farmer's Advocate" Fashions.



6908 Child's French Dress,
2, 4 and 6 years.



6956 Child's Bishop Dress
with Straight Lower Edge,
6 mos., 1, 2 and 4 years.



6951 Child's Bishop Dress,
6 months, 1, 2 and 4 years.



6935 Girl's Kimono
with Yoke,
6 to 12 years.



6953 Girl's One-Piece Dress
Closed on Shoulders,
4, 6 and 8 years.



6950 Girl's Princess Dress
to be Slipped Over the Head
4, 6 and 8 years.

Please order by number, giving age, and allowing at least ten days to receive pattern. Price, ten cents per pattern. Address, Fashion Dept., "The Farmer's Advocate," London, Ont.

The Ingle Nook.

[Rules for correspondents in this and other Departments: (1) Kindly write on one side of paper only. (2) Always send name and address with communications. If pen-name is also given, the real name will not be published. (3) When enclosing a letter to be forwarded to anyone, place it in stamped envelope ready to be sent on. (4) Allow one month, in this department, for answers to questions to appear.]

Did you ever read that passionate, strange, somewhat mystic book, by Thomas Carlyle, called "Sartor Resartus"?—Well, "Sartor Resartus" simply means "the tailor patched," and I have just been thinking this morning of how many tailors have been patched during the time one can remember, even in regard to so trivial a thing as clothes.

Coming down street this morning I saw the store-windows filled everywhere with the pretty new summer goods, so airy, so light, so cool, so really "sensible," and my mind darted back over the years, singling out one incident, or scene, rather, which still clings, as such unimportant things will cling sometimes, when more momentous ones have been long forgotten. Again I sat in the old church, a very little girl, looking about with awed eyes on the Sunday splendours of the church folk—and, indeed, even Solomon in all his glory had never been arrayed like one of these. I think it must have been about the first time that clothes impressed me—I cannot remember anything of fashions before that, at a distance, and perhaps that

was the reason why the scene has remained to every detail. It was a boiling hot day, yet nowhere were there muslins or dimities or chambrays in evidence; and so the inference is that, at that particular period, such "cheap" things were not considered good form for the well-dressed woman. Instead, nun's-veilings were everywhere, mostly of a terra-cotta shade (think of it!), which must have been very much favored of Dame la Mode about that time. There was, too, a lady from Toronto gowned in very heavy black silk, draped and draped over a huge "Grecian bend,"—Grecian!—save the mark! Her "bend" was much the largest present, so, to my childish mind, the wearer thereof was very much the most fashionable woman present.

Well, we have patched the tailor considerably since then, as we have noted, in dress, as well as in many other things. We have discarded the bustle, and the wasp waist, and, thanks be! we have learned to wear cool, simple clothes in summer, even for "best."

And so I suppose you are all hurrying through with the making of the pretty things before the spring opens any further. Already there is a perceptible increase in the general work that must be done; the fresh cows are all "in," there are little calves to be attended to, and hotbeds to be fussed over, and the hens are cackling their heads off down in the henhouse, so that how can one resist the temptation to run down a dozen times a day to see what they are about! Later will come the cleaning of the yards, and house-cleaning, and gardening, and crowding upon that the whole summer work with a rush. Then happy you will be if every stitch in every gown for the whole season has been taken before April is ended.

It may be, however, that a few of you have not yet put scissors into cloth, nor have even been to town to find out what is being "shown this season." And so I hear you ask, "What are to be the styles this year? And what are favored materials for summer dresses?"

Well, in the windows I see evidence of thin and sheer materials everywhere. There are foulard silks and toska silks, and thin silk-and-wool mixtures in plenty; but the wash-goods counters are even more attractive, and here are to be found all sorts of lovely things, all-over-embroidery dress lengths, muslins, mulls, cotton voiles, batistes, India linens, dimities and zephyr ginghams for dressiest gowns, with chambray, cotton poplin, cotton rep, pongee linen, pure linen, duck, crash, print and Indian head for the heavier gowns and suits that form so serviceable a portion of the summer wardrobe.

I have just been looking over the latest fashion books from New York, too, and I find that for linens, chambrays, etc., skirts are to be plain, rather narrow, and straight, sometimes trimmed with banding or insertion set in various ways. With them are to be worn easy blouses, usually with deep, narrow sleeve-caps, with guimpe and straight, tight undersleeves of white all-over embroidery or some equivalent. For the more sheer goods, such as mull and muslin, the designs are softer and fuller, and there is a hint of a return of the deep frill on the skirts. Occasionally, in all designs, there is an indication of a front panel in the skirt, extending up over the waist. Here and there, too,—quite generally favored, indeed,—the high waist-line obtains, but the tight princess is as extinct as the dodo, and the strictly hobble skirt is fast following it,—thanks be!

So much for the spring fashions.

Pastry Bag.

Dear Dame Durden,—Would you kindly give directions for making a pastry bag and tubes in your columns? Also, suggest a good-paying occupation for a young girl of rather limited means, who wishes to soon earn her own living? I do not wish to do housework or engage in a factory.

WILDFLOWER.

Have your tinsmith make two small tubes about two inches long, somewhat funnel-shaped, one about three-eighths of an inch in diameter at the smaller end, the other half an inch across. It does not matter particularly about size of the larger end of either. Now you have your two tubes, one to be used for piping marionettes and icings, the other for potatoes and cream-puff dough. Next take a