

FATHERHOOD AND WHAT IT IMPLIES

Dickens has truly said: "The mere act of bringing a creature into the world does not go far toward the realization of the name of mother."

If mother stands for indefinitely more than child-bearing and child-rearing, fatherhood demands something more than merely providing the physical comforts of a home and paying the bills.

Unless a father can inspire in his children a genuine interest and love, an all wise and patient care over them, mentally and morally as well as physically there is something wrong and he is not fulfilling his highest duty of fatherhood.

Better far can they dispense with the luxuries which money alone can provide than the sterling qualities which make of any home a haven of rest and refuge from the world's cold blasts. Also, that we shower sympathy on those who have made no financial success in this world but possess those intrinsic virtues which money can never purchase.

How much more is our sympathy for the child who goes through life starved for the real things of life and honest birthright, a cordial welcome, perfect health and the love, loyalty and devotion that should rightfully belong to every human being.

There is much truth and pathos to be found in a little sketch in the June Craftsman, entitled, "The Busy Man." The following lines tell the story of a busy though wasted life described in the above mentioned article:

"On a bit of paper I have said that I consign to my children the lands and bonds which I have so busily accumulated. But I have left them no memories, no rare books with marked passages, no heritage of May mornings, of comrade-fireplace, no April rambles through damp woods."—Carrie May Ashton.

FLOWER POTS

Made From Old Tin Cans

One of the most convenient uses to which old tin fruit cans can be put is to serve as flower pots. Those most suitable are the two or three pound size. Holes can be pierced for drainage with a strong wire nail and a hammer.

Procure some asphalt or tar, say about seven pounds. Melt in some old pot over the fire; bring to a boil. Remove from the fire and dip in the cans one by one, giving the whole can a good coating inside and out. Have ready a box of clean dry sand, and roll each tin while hot in the sand, covering every part with a good coating.

Other things may be used instead of sand; the cork that the Malaga grapes come packed in would do. When emptying the fruit a tin might be cut open on the side instead of the end, and the can then used horizontally, making a pretty boat-shaped hanging pot.

WEDDING RINGS

How Women Came to Wear Them

It would be a clever guess to hit upon the original purpose in the use of what is now commonly known as the wedding ring.

Most of those who study the customs of long ago, agree that the use of the wedding ring of the present day, had its origin in the days when men used to own their own wives (many men think so yet). In those terrible times which foolish people call the good old days, men used their brutal strength to make women their slaves. It was customary to put a chain on a wife to keep her, and to prove her property.

After a time when men became more civilized, instead of actually using a chain round the neck or body, they invented something which would have the same significance without its disadvantages, and the wedding ring on the finger became the custom, and still meant that the wife was the husband's property.

It would astonish us to learn how many of our other customs arose in a similar fashion; for instance, when people marry, they often go away on some trip for a time, which we call the honeymoon. There is no doubt that this really remains from the time when the husband stole his wife away from her family and took her off with him in hiding till the wrath of relatives might subside somewhat.

However, the custom really came, in the first instance, we are glad it came somehow, and that it came to stay.

RECIPES

Nut-Layer Cake

Two cups sugar; one scant cup butter creamed together; three eggs well beaten. One cup sweet milk; three cups flour sifted with two teaspoons baking powder, one teaspoon vanilla. Mix well together, add one cup chopped walnuts. This can be baked also into loaves. Frost with caramel frosting as follows: Two cups brown sugar, half cup milk, butter size of an egg. Boil ten minutes, then beat until thick enough to spread; add vanilla before beating.

Egg Sandwiches

Boil two eggs twenty-five minutes; plunge into cold water and peel; rub through a fine sieve, and to each egg allow a half teaspoon of soft butter. Work to a paste, season highly and spread between thin slices of unbuttered bread.

Cheese Sandwiches

One half pound cheese grated fine; the yolks of two eggs boiled hard and grated; one teaspoon prepared mustard; one table-spoon melted butter, one of strong vinegar. Mix thoroughly and spread between thin slices of lightly buttered bread. These are nice for school lunches.

SELF-SACRIFICE

All really human persons want to give themselves away, at least for something, if not for somebody. We may preach a prudential morality sometimes, because it seems so sane, and men are so selfish, ourselves included, we say; but we know very well that no man ever satisfied his soul with prudence with the sanest selfishness—though many have tried. The only thing that can satisfy a human being is an object of devotion, not himself for which he can feel it worthy of him to sacrifice himself without limit. No man is fully alive, who is not ready to die for something. The characteristic law of human life, as we feel it in our most vivid moments, is not self-preservation, but self-devotion passing into readiness for self-sacrifice. "He that loath his life for My sake"—for some sake—"shall find it"—Dr. Sophie Bryant. ("Studies in Character.")

LIFE AND LOVE

One of the very fundamental principles of life is so much love, so much love in return; so much love, so much growth; so much love, so much power; so much love, so much life;—strong, healthy, rich, exulting and abounding life. The world is beginning to realize the fact that love, instead of being a mere indefinite something, is a vital and living force, the same as electricity is a force, though perhaps of a different nature. The same great fact we are learning in regard to thought—that thoughts are forces, that thoughts are forces, the most vital and powerful in the universe, that they have form and substance and power, the quality of the power determined as it is by the quality of the life in whose organism the thoughts are engendered; and so, when a thought is given birth to, it does not end there, but takes form, and as a force it goes out and has its effect upon other minds and lives, the effect being determined by its intensity and the quality of the prevailing emotions, and also by the emotions dominating the person at the time the thoughts are engendered and given form.—Ralph Waldo Trine.

THINGS WHICH LAST

A good deed done will live to be
A light through all eternity.

—Dr. H.

This world God's organ is, and every life
A several pipe from which He seeketh music.

Words pass as wind, but where great deeds were done,
A power abides, transfused from sire to son.

—Lowell

No man's labor for good is vain,
Though he win, not the crown, but the cross.

—Owen Meredith

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