

Good Housekeeping.

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[THIS Essay, which commends itself, was sent in for our Prize Competition on "Good Housekeeping" last March. It failed to get either of the Prizes, the judges ruling that it did not deal sufficiently with the details of the subject, but its merits won for it "Highly Commended."]

LIVING as we do, in an age in which "of making many books there is no end," is it not surprising that so little is written bearing directly on good housekeeping? However, we are pleased to know that the enterprising manager of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED is not indifferent to this all-important subject. We say all-important, from the fact that upon household management depends very largely the happiness or misery, the weal or woe, of mankind. Good housekeeping implies a great deal more than simply keeping things clean, and having plenty to eat. Although in our fair Dominion we have no schools devoted to making our daughters proficient in the various branches of household economy, it is nevertheless a science of national importance which is second to no other branch of education.

However accomplished and talented a woman may be, or how useful in society, if she is negligent in her domestic duties, there is very little weight in her influence, and she wins little respect in the social circle. The home may be humble, entirely destitute of the adornments of wealth, but neatness, order and taste make it a picture upon which both sexes look with admiration, and one that attracts and welcomes the toil-worn husband at the close of the day. No matter what the architectural design of a dwelling may be, how satisfactory the location, however well-equipped with modern improvements, or how luxuriously furnished, without order and cleanliness it lacks that indescribable charm which it would otherwise possess.

By order, we mean that systematic arrangement of daily duties which provide a time and a place for everything, and has everything in its time and place. Order saves both time and temper; nothing is more annoying than the hurry and worry of searching for things that have been mislaid. Why not just as well put a thing in its place at once, instead of laying it down, intending at some future date to put it where it belongs, and thus avoid the confusion and disorder which must inevitably follow. Especial attention should be given to order, cleanliness, and also to ventilation, not alone because it produces convenience, and is gratifying to the senses, but it is essential to the full enjoyment of health. A lamentable amount of disease is engendered by filth, consequently every good housekeeper will see that no decayed fruit or vegetables are allowed to remain in the cellar, or anywhere about the premises. No offensive odor, whether from soiled clothing, tobacco, slops, or refuse of any kind should be allowed to taint the atmosphere. Why should not the mistress of every house follow the example of Her Majesty, our beloved Queen, and prohibit tobacco smoking within her dwelling. Too much attention cannot be given to ventilation. Doors and windows should be opened each day (according to the temperature outside), that the house may be thoroughly aired. Beds and bedrooms require particular attention; before leaving in the morning the bed clothes should be turned down, in order that the exhalations of the body during the night may be dissipated. To breathe the impure air of unventilated rooms is a violation of Nature's

laws, and sooner or later the penalty must be paid in sickness and suffering.

Thoroughness is another qualification which ought to be practised in the every day work of life. "What is worth doing at all, is worth doing well." It is a praiseworthy ambition for a woman to strive to excel as a housekeeper; to be the best cook; to make the best butter; and to have the whitest and smoothest linen. She should also aim to have the cleanest door yard, the nicest flower beds, and the most attractive surroundings, for the duties of the mistress of a house are not confined to the inside alone. It is her duty to see that the window blinds, door knobs, the steps and walks are alike kept clean. To accomplish so much, she will not only have ample scope for her mental and physical powers, but to bring everything into complete and harmonious action, a wife must have the co-operation of her husband. He is equally responsible with her for the management of household affairs. Although woman was designed by the Creator to be a "help meet" for man, he is often an indispensable "help meet" to her. That she may have leisure time for reading, writing, etc., he should not only see that she has sufficient help, but he should aid her in securing the benefit of modern labor-saving inventions and improvements, by which the most tedious and laborious departments of woman's work may be greatly lessened.

It has not been our aim to enter into the minutiae of household economy, nor to lay down a code of laws, with rules and directions concerning all kinds of housework, for no set of rules would apply alike to every household, but we have endeavored to condense the most important points, viz., order, cleanliness and thoroughness, which, with care, economy and taste, are qualities always to be admired, and may be shown in the management of a small household and the management of little furniture, as well as upon a larger scale.

While it is of vital importance that every house should have certain rules and regulations, they need not necessarily be like the laws of the Medes and Persians, unchangeable, as by too rigid observance of law a house may be robbed of that home-like feeling which makes it the happiest place on earth to those who dwell within its walls. Let it be brightened with the sunshine of good nature and intelligence, blended with purity and love, and from its door will go forth men and women who will be nobler and better for having lived in such a home.



Yes, Plague Take Him.

Plague take the man who "knows it all,"
How pleased we'd be at his downfall;
His nose so keen,
Scents all things mean,
And that's the way he nose it all.

A Bovine Soliloquy.

The cow which all the summer through
Has feasted on the clover,
Beneath the sunlit skies of blue
That arched the beauty over,
Now sad and melancholy strays
Across the chilly lea;
But ever and anon she says:
There are no flies on me!

BAGLEY: "All of Mrs. Howe's children call her 'the mater.' Isn't it nice to see such affection?"

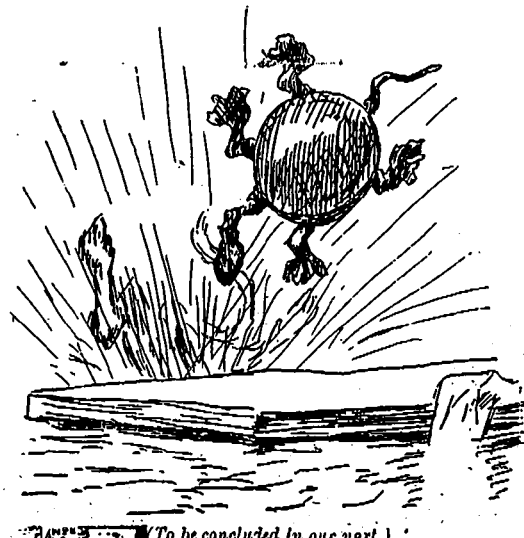
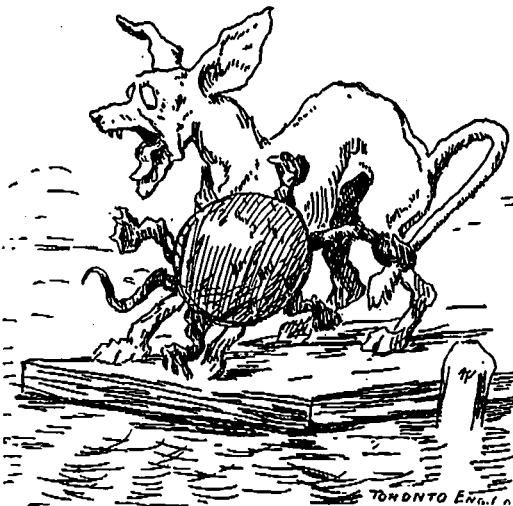
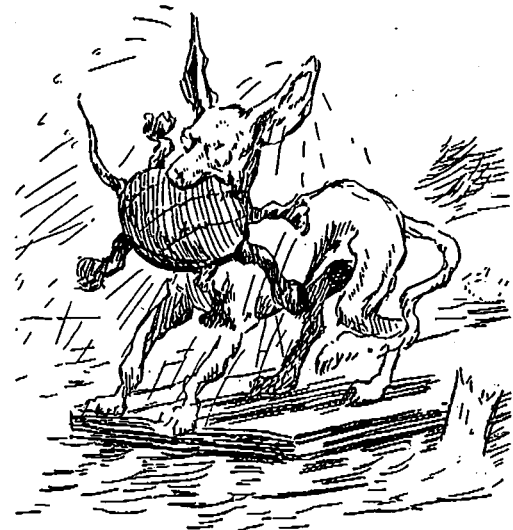
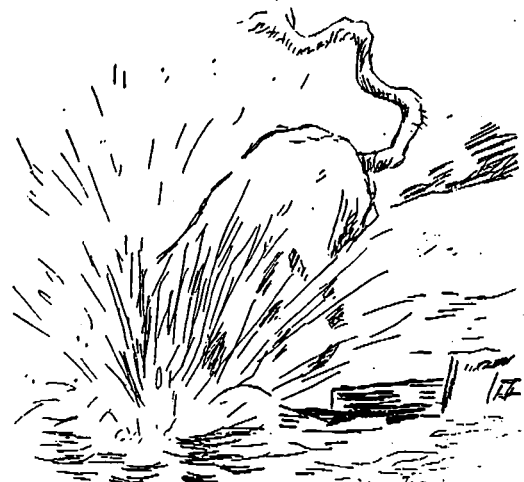
Bagley: "That isn't affection. She succeeded in marrying off six daughters in six years, and they call her 'the mater,' because they think she has fairly earned the title."

Every miss hasn't a mission. Neither has every man a mansion.

But one thing on earth is better than the wife—that is the mother.

Æsop Improved; or, Vanity Rewarded.

(Continued from last month.)



To be concluded in our next.