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Dear Chatterers.—Doesn't it warm the very heart of you to receive a word of praise (whether you happen to deserve it or not), or be consulted on some important matter, or be intrusted with someone's secret? Did someone answer, "no"? We do not believe you, my dear, not one of us. Though you may say with a shrug of your shoulders that you do not care a rap what people think of you, and that you can get along perfectly well without friends, we know, and what is more to the point, you know, that you are claiming a near relationship with Annanias and Sapphira.

We hear a great deal in these days about making books our friends and Nature our friend, but beyond that the human heart needs the human friend. Books and Nature are a little too perfect to be comfortable; we can't find fault, and we can't talk back, that source of great relief to humans. Friendship is a matter of giving as well as receiving sympathy, encouragement and advice, the last named particularly proving the Scripture statement of the blessedness of giving over receiving.

To begin with, we (and I fear me this "we" means women rather than men, but tell it not in Gath) should make a clear distinction between acquaintances and friends. Friendship, like love, may be a case of first sight, but it is just as rare and just as hazardous. Repenting at leisure is too often the result of one of these sudden friendships, and with a virtuous feeling of righteous indignation we refuse to have any more faith in mankind, because we confided in an acquaintance whom we ourselves had first disguised as a friend, and the part that hurt most was the feeling that it was all our own fault. Our doll certainly was stuffed with sawdust, but it never pretended it wasn't; we did the pretending and looked amazed—at our own stupidity.

Sincerity is a wonderfully good quality for friends to possess, but few there be that find it, present company, of course, excepted. Webster doesn't give bluntness and brutal frankness as synonyms for sincerity, but we often use them so. Between comrades, the demand is for the truth at any price; but remember, the naked truth is not welcomed in polite society, garb it in kind intentions and garnish it with loving words. That kind of truth is much stranger than fiction—to some people, not us, of course. Don't we often excuse some unkind criticism by saying, "Oh, well, I can say anything to Jean, we've known one another so long?" Maybe so, but that is no excuse for jabbing knives into Jean, is it?

Is there anything harder to do than to make an apology? To strangers and chance acquaintance one can apologize easily, for the occasion is usually trivial, and the strain is only temporary, but only a deep wound makes an apology necessary between friends, and then you have to live up to it afterwards, which takes a heap of grit and the grace of God in your heart. But it's worth it for thereby you save a friendship from death and cover from your friend's sight a multitude of minor transgressions.

When I began this little talk about friends, I did not think there was so much to be said about it, but find this could be extended for several pages with out exhausting the subject. Besides, you all have thought along this line, and have, doubtless, come to helpful conclusions. Sit down some evening and make five or six brief rules for conduct towards friends, and let us all have the benefit of your thinking. You see, I am only an acquaintance hardly that, as yet, and I want to be a friend in the Single Nook, so I am anxious to get a recipe. D. P.

Dear Dame Durden, I like so many others, have never written before, but I notice that in July 19th number an English woman from the far West asks for a few hints how to manage the "wee toddlers," and I thought, perhaps, she has not tried one way that I have.

I start when they begin to creep or sit alone, and get a strong box from the grocery store (larger or smaller, as you have kitchen room), the one I have at present being about like a small trunk; have it planed smooth at the top, if it is not so, and put a quilt in it at first, as they fall often if they have been used to being tied in a high chair or rocking chair; have it just high enough so that when sitting on the bottom they can reach up to the top with their hands to pull themselves up. They can stand and walk around, and have their play things in it too. In summer, when the door is open, they cannot get out, and in winter they do not get the cold draft off the floor. I do not keep them in that box all the time, but when out feeding chickens, or sweeping, or scrubbing, or having a cellar door open, etc. I know there is a danger of their standing on their little limbs too long, but give them playthings that they cannot lift easily. I always use camphorated oil for outward application for bruises and burns. Hoping this suggestion will be of some use, and not too long. ALBERTA A.

The Preserving Season.

As the pickling and preserving season is upon us, the recipes so kindly sent by the chatterers will be of help and interest just now:

1. To keep cauliflower without vinegar, place them in a tub and pour strong brine over them. You will find that they keep perfectly.

2. To Pickle Cucumbers: Peel and slice onions and cucumbers together, sprinkle with salt, and let them remain over night. To half a gallon of vinegar add one pound of mustard and enough flour to thicken; allow this to come to a boil. Drain brine off the cucumbers and place in the vinegar. Let boil until they become slightly softened. Put in a crock, and cover without sealing.—Diamond.

3. Worcester Sauce: One peck of ripe tomatoes, five lemons, one pint cider vinegar, half a pound salt, half a pound brown sugar, two ounces allspice, half an ounce ground cloves. Cook all together, and pass through a sieve. Cork tight while hot, and seal up.—J. H.

4. Chow-chow: (The proportions given in this good recipe will make two gallons of the relish.) Half a peck of green tomatoes, two large heads of cabbage, one dozen large onions, five heads of celery. Chop as fine as possible, sprinkle a pint of salt on the mixture, and hang up in a cotton bag all night. Press out any water remaining in the morning; put the pickle in a kettle, with a pint grated horse-radish, one pound white mustard seed, one-quarter cup ground black pepper, two ounces of tumeric, a tablespoon of cinnamon, two pounds of brown sugar. Boil for two hours, and put in stone jars.—C.

5. Canned Corn: Reckon ten or a dozen large cobs to one quart; cut the corn from the cobs, and press it into the can with a small potato masher, when can is full screw on the cover lightly. Place the cans in a wash-boiler in the bottom of which you have laid a cloth to prevent broken cans. When one layer is filled, put a cloth above that layer, and put in second layer of cobs. Cover well with cold water; boil for three hours steadily. Lift from fire and let cool. Remove the cans, tighten their tops, tightening again before putting away. Wrap each can in dark paper, and set away in a cool dark place.

Recipes.

Collie Cake: One cupful of butter, one cupful of brown sugar, one cup of good molasses, one cup of strong coffee, two eggs, four cups of "Five Roses" flour, one teaspoon of soda, one teaspoon of cloves, cinnamon nutmeg, one pound of raisins. Bake slowly for two hours.

Cup Cake: Two cups sugar, one of creamed butter, one of sweet milk, four eggs, four cups "Five Roses" flour, two teaspoons of cream of tartar, one teaspoon soda. Flavor as desired; bake in loaf.

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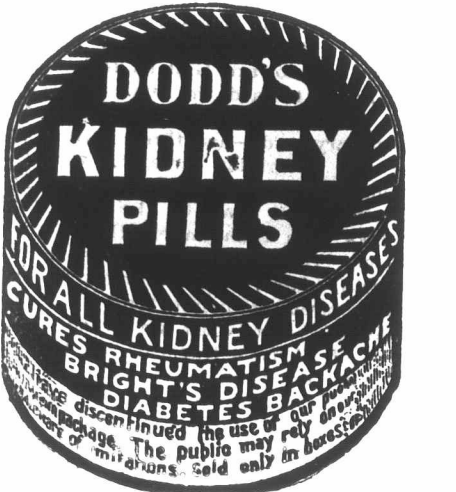
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