

A PAGE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO WOMEN READERS

Cynthia Grey's Mail-Box

[Correspondents are requested to make their inquiries as brief as possible, and to write on one side of the paper only. It is impossible to give replies within a stated time, as all letters have to be answered in turn. No letter can be answered privately.]

Copied It Again.

Dear Miss Grey.—Some time along through the spring, "Anxious Inquirer" asked for the words of an old hymn, "Don't You Hear a Soft Voice Calling?" As I had the words in an old hymn-book, I wrote them off and enclosed them in a letter to you on May 17. I watched the page closely, but my letter or questions did not appear, so I concluded they had gone astray.

I have again written the hymn off, and am enclosing it for "Anxious Inquirer" if not too late. Am very interested in "our page." Enjoy the visits of the Mail-Box writers very much, and send sincere sympathy to "Aunt Nannie" and all the other sorrowing ones.

NEARLY SEVENTY-FIVE. Ans.—I'm sorry that your first letter did not appear, it surely must have gone astray. Thank you for recopying the verses. I'll use them some day soon. Re your postscript—odd, isn't it, that "someone" and "are neighbors"? Many thanks for your kind words. Am using that excellent recipe in our Cook Book.

Makes Her Sore. Dear Miss Grey.—Isn't it nice to be a soldier's wife these days? Nearly every time one picks up a paper there is something about soldiers' wives. Soldiers' wives drink and neglect their homes and children; soldiers' wives go to picture shows; soldiers' wives buy pianos; soldiers' wives won't work; and why don't soldiers' wives save and learn to work so that they can help

their husbands when they come home wounded?

Really, it makes me sore to read it day after day, and I wish the Government would bring in some form of conscription to make the single men go, and then maybe our men could come home and go to work again; and then we would be free from all of the knocks. After reading the Mail-Box on Saturday, the 5th, I felt I couldn't help but write in defence of our good name, for we all try to do our best, and, really now, where can a woman go and get a drink? If there is such a place, I for one, have never seen it, and if "One From Old England" thinks our soldiers' wives are so well off, why don't she let her man go, for I am sure they are all needed these days, and then maybe she would be able to buy a piano or a seal coat. I will say this, that if a soldier's wife does her duty to her home and children, she doesn't have any money to throw away.

Then in regard to raising chickens, one cannot begin to build barns and runs without it taking a lot of money and then one cannot depend on them doing any good, for I know several people that have had chickens and they have lost on them instead of making good. Well I guess I have said enough so will close with best wishes to the Mail-Box.

I will sign myself JEMIMA. Ans.—Regarding your personal note, Jemima, I think you do wonderfully well to get on as you do. If "O. F. O. E." could meet a few soldiers' wives of

your type we'd have a different opinion from her. As it is, evidently she's just seen or heard of the other kind, but I'm sure we'll win her over to a better understanding.

Active Oldtimer. "An Oldtimer" sends this cure for poison ivy: Take plantain leaves and either bruise or steep them and wash with the juice or tea; it is a sure cure.

Your quilt block came just in time to be slipped into "Aunt Nannie's" bundle, and so it has gone with the rest.

I really do remember you, and think you are wonderfully active. May you long continue so. Shall be looking for the songs.

Coal Oil For Cholera. Dear Miss Grey.—I am sending recipe for chicken cholera, which cured our chicks after second feed. We had lost seventy-five or more before I tried this simple recipe; hope it will do the same for "Sail Ford's". Have the coops all cleaned and disinfected, take one quart of wheat and put two teaspoons of coal oil, and if not a little damp use a few drops of water, let stand for one hour before feeding. I fed it to ours for supper and breakfast, and thought it worked like magic. Tell us how you get along, Sail Ford. JANET ISABELLE.

Ans.—Glad to pass your help on to Sail Ford, and hope it is not too late to save her chicks.

Should Not Criticize. Dear Miss Grey.—I saw in The Advertiser a letter about how the soldiers' wives use their money. Why should people criticize how a soldier's wife uses her money any more than a farmer's wife? Poor farmers, I feel sorry for them; how many are there that haven't pianos and autos, and the wives and daughters can give from \$15 to \$25 a hat? The farmers are not the only

Daily Bible Question Club

By Rev. T. S. Linscott, D. D. (All Rights Reserved.)

The six daily studies for this week constitute the International S. S. Lesson for next Sunday. Read the Bible Story on which this study is based, as you ponder the following questions:

"The Grace of Giving," II Cor. ix. Golden Text.—In all things I give you an example, that so laboring ye ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts, xx-35.

14. Verse 10. As God keeps the planets in their orbits, and gives the power to animal and vegetable life to reproduce itself, what is our degree of risk that he is both able and willing to "minister" to all our material needs? (This is one of the questions which may be answered in writing by members of the club.)

15. What are some of the fruits of righteousness, and particularly of taking care of the poor, and doing good generally?

16. Verse 11. What are the limits of inward, or soul, "enrichment" for those who love God with all their hearts, and

people in the world that work. I am a soldier's wife, and I have more to do than I can find time for. A lot of the farmers don't deserve help; when they get it, they don't know enough to treat people properly. They want all the work out of them, but don't want to pay only a starvation wage. I have worked on a farm for seven years, and I know what I am talking about. The majority of farmers seem to think that hired men and their wives should live on porridge and potatoes, and it would be a crime for them to have anything else.

The farmers would not be in the fix they are today if they had treated their hired help right.

But, on the other hand, a soldier's wife should not waste her money. I have three little children, and it takes me all my time to keep straight and feed and clothe myself and children. I have not been able to get a piano out of my Government pay, and I don't think I ever shall, if I keep the price it is now. But I think a soldier's wife has enough to bear in giving up her husband and taking the responsibility of raising a family and keeping the home going till her husband comes home, without people watching to see how she spends her money. I suppose there are some that do waste it, but the majority do not have any too much to waste.

I think this is the wrong time to be judging people; we should be thankful that so many men have come forward and offered themselves for King and country. But if the single men had shown up more, there would not have been so many married men needed, and that would mean less patriotic money. Hope to see other letters on this subject. SOLDIER'S WIFE, OXFORD COUNTY.

Mysterious Molly.

Dear Miss Grey.—Am enclosing a button for "Lost Heloise," as I promised, and I am so sorry I was so long in sending it, as I have been very busy. I hope she likes it very much, as I put it off my mind. I have a decided kick coming against "Caesar" for the things he said about "Silver Bell." I don't think she is that kind of a girl, and I think she feels kind of insulted, so, "Caesar," it is up to you to apologize handsomely to her. I extend thanks to "Trixie V." for her offer of candy and panes, and I was sorry to think I was in Camp Borden when the roses came, but I am sure they had stood enough strain without the journey to Camp Borden, so I accepted the will for the deed. I have been trying to think who "Molly" of "Molly and Cholly" fame is, as she says she thinks she knows me, but I cannot recall anyone answering to her description in my memory, but I am perfectly willing to be enlightened as to her identity.

I must now close, with lots of love to "Margaret Lindley," whose letters I used to enjoy, also "Calamity Ann" and "Beautiful Doll," also extend best wishes to "Miss Homestead" and to all readers, including yourself. Gee! this is some scrawl, but I am sure you will not scold when you find it is from your reader. TWENTY-ONE.

Ans.—The button has been sent on to "Lost Heloise," and I'm sure she'll be delighted. Hope before long your mystery re "Molly" will be cleared up, for it must be very trying on you, especially when added to mosquitoes, sand, etc. Am trying to locate that number you ask about.

Is Patriotism Worth While?

Dear Miss Grey.—Kindly allow me to say a few words regarding "O. F. O. E." letter. Please Miss Grey, don't ever print such a letter again! I always turn to your page for consolation, and I am pleased to say I have derived great comfort from some of the letters, but when I read that one from "O. F. O. E." well I just had a good cry. "O. F. O. E." may have thirteen in the war, but after all, distant relatives are not such a great loss. I have had one brother killed, two now in France and my husband going; he is expecting to leave Borden for the front very soon, and I can tell you, Miss Grey, it is very hard to part with only one year married, and at that time, too, he was in a good position, and left it to enlist. I know "O. F. O. E." is not alone in her opinion of soldiers' wives, and I often ask myself, is patriotism worth the price? Re the patriotic pay, if you ever become a soldier's wife, "O. F. O. E." don't come to London to live, or you may find as I have done, that "patriotic pay" is merely a fairy tale. Yours sincerely, TWENTY-THREE.

Ans.—Re your unpunctuated question, "Twenty-Three," I think individuals have to go according to their strength in this matter. Some women can stand it, apparently, but it is a strain on the average woman, especially if she tries to keep things nice at home. Would depend too on what kind of employment you found and in what surroundings.

Delta's Bean Recipes.

Dear Miss Grey.—Some time ago there was an inquiry for canning string beans. I have seen no reply, so am sending a couple of recipes, hoping they will not be too late!

String the beans, wash them in cold water, cover them with boiling water, boil for fifteen minutes, drain and pack them in jars. Fill the jars to overflowing with cold water, adjust the rubbers, lay the lids on loosely, stand the jars on the rack in the boiler, surround them partly with cold water, cover the boiler, bring to the boiling point and boil for one hour. Lift the rack carefully, screw down each top, then lift it, put the rack with the jars back into the boiler, cover the boiler and boil for 30

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minutes. Lift the jars and stand them aside to cool. As they are cooling, give the tops an extra turn if the glass has contracted.

Another way is to boil the beans until done and add a tablespoon of vinegar to each quart (or less, as it depends on the strength of the vinegar), salt to taste, seal, bottle in glass cans. I always sterilize the cans.

Another reader of the Mail-Box wanted the name of a magazine which would give instructions in painting on silk, etc. I think "The Modern Priscilla" would suit her, but it would be well for her to see a copy before subscribing.

Someone has asked "Society" is the public library lady here, and she gave them a warm recommendation for library use.

Yes, coupon and flag requests are showing the Mail-Box just now, but maybe the "fever" will wear off before long—just like the kissing discussion.

Today, and Simple Living.

Dear Miss Grey.—Was very much interested in "Old Bird's" letter comparing the present day with the struggle to "keep up" to our grandmothers' day of simple living.

She said that "we would all enjoy a supper of good bread and milk, but mercy, if anyone dropped in what would they think?"

My dear "Old Birdie" they would not do half as much thinking as you would; white you would be worrying about it, they would just be enjoying it, (that is if you invited them to share it with you), and wishing that more women had the courage to do likewise.

If our women of today would only realize how much time and energy they are wasting on things that are not worth while, and make up their minds to "turn over a new leaf" and live the simple life, there would not be as many nervous, tired-out women in our land.

The home should not be just a well-conducted boarding-house, but the centre of all interest, pleasure, and happiness, for everyone connected with it. Some have said that "society" is the death of home life, and that hospitality is the flower." Don't you think that father, brother and husband would enjoy their home better and that there would not be so many children "coming up" on the street; mother and sister would have more time to devote to the children in the home; there would be more time to devote to the sweet courtesy and gracious interchange of feelings and ideas, and that the majority of

men and children would prefer home to any place on earth, if we lived the simple life in our homes.

But we seem to have so much to do, so many interests, and we are living so fast our lives have become like plants in a garden; they get too crowded sometimes and one thing chokes out another, and too often it is the best that gets choked out. It is a real danger and one that threatens us all in our rushing life in these days; cares and worries seem to grow in our hearts as naturally as weeds grow in a garden, and worry is a weed that grows very quickly, and if allowed to grow will soon crowd out the good.

Then let us weed our heart's garden

sometimes and pluck up the smallest roots of worry before they crowd out all the beautiful things that ought to grow there. Every few months—twelve at the very most—we carefully take stock to learn how our financial affairs stand. But day follows day, year follows year, yet how many of us take stock of what we have written on the hidden tablets which lie in the breasts of our dear ones in the home, our friends and companions. Let us try to get a little nearer to the simple life and see if the impatient word that comes from tired nerves would not be checked and replaced by kind and tender ones. Let us try it and watch the result. MARGARET LINDLEY.

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men and children would prefer home to any place on earth, if we lived the simple life in our homes.

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