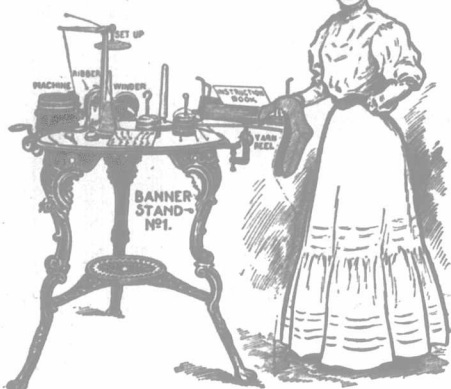


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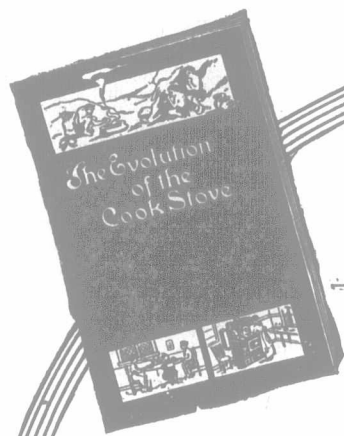
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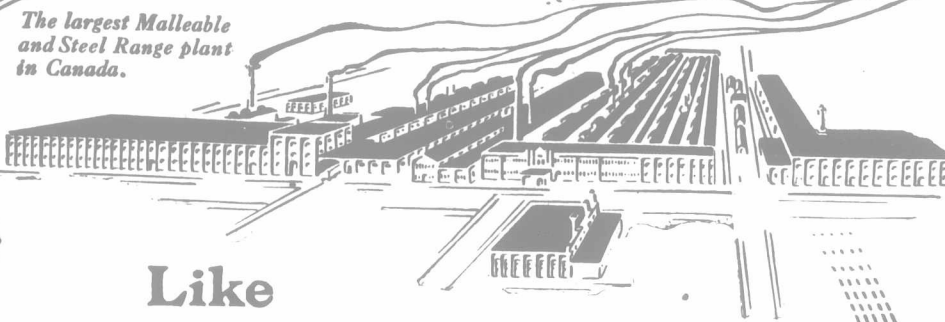
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knows, following with another, and still another, until all are aroused.

How much better this than hours spent in empty or harmful chatter about weakness, ailments, crime, casualty, gossip, or forced conversation enjoyed by none. Think of the delight given to listeners. How many of us remember the evenings spent in song in the old days; the pieces you sang with old friends and school-mates in the little singing-school many years ago; then the songs mother and father used to love, and that they sang with you in the old home,—there is not one of us but can recall hours spent in music and song, and thank heaven for the precious memories.

The woman on the farm needs music; it is her rightful inheritance. Let her come into full possession of that which is her own, then it is her mission to foster the development of music in her domestic dominion. I do think that of all reckless wastes, the custom of "giving up music" at the altar is one of the most appalling. Marriage and the making of a beautiful home needs all your powers, and all your accomplishments. Are you going to shut out the most beautiful power and accomplishment to which you devoted so many years? Most women do not really give up their music until they have little children—just the time in all their lives when they need it most. I do not mean for the reason of giving the children lessons, as that is a doubtful advantage, but for the formation of their taste for the atmosphere of beauty that will color all their lives, and for the lovely influence that extends with it from mother to child. Mothers, strive to keep up your music as one of the necessities of life, even if it is just to play a few hymns or old tunes for the children to sing, and there are few of us but can do that; the few simple tunes we can play will give so much pleasure to the family that you will never regret the time you spend upon it. Encourage the children in their love of music, and do not ridicule their musical efforts. If one shows a special talent for a certain instrument, if it is in your power, provide him with it and give him a chance. It may prove a great blessing to him. Many boys have left home and gone to destruction by being denied music at home. This is what one tramp told to a lady when begging for breakfast: "When my father told me he would horsewhip me if I didn't get rid of my violin, of which I was inordinately fond, I resolved to run away from home. I got in the worst kind of company. Oh, yes, I drink. It was the music in the saloons which proved my ruin. Mother and father both said music would be my undoing. The music set my brain on fire more than the liquor. I didn't drink at first, because I had no use for the stuff, but there came a cold night when I went in to listen to a fellow who played the violin. He was a master of the violin, and knew how to handle the bow. As I stood listening, all the memories of what I might have been rushed in upon me with such crushing force that to drown them I went up and ordered a glass of rum. My first drink. It drowned the voices in my soul, dispersed the choking memories, and I plunged deeper into dissipation and vice. Music would have saved me once. Now it has proved my ruin."

This has been true in many cases. The seductive music in the saloons has drawn many young men who could not get it anywhere else. If your boy is away from home, and has his violin or mandolin, or any music he delights in, it may prove his salvation. A piano in a boarding-house often constitutes a social shrine around which are gathered young and old at the close of a hard day's labor. A violin or mandolin or guitar, or all of these, in a student's room, will be sufficient to make that room a rendezvous in which many a pleasant social hour is spent. There is not only music in the instruments, but often salvation for the girl or boy who finds delight in them.

Then the phonograph; what a wealth of entertainment it provides! I think it is one of the most wonderful of all inventions. Think of the pleasure it has brought to homes that otherwise would have no music. Especially is it a boon to the older people—those of us who are left when the younger ones who have