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## About the House

### JUS TA FEW CLOTHES SAVERS.

Have you ever thought of wrapping paper as a clothes saver? I know a woman who uses it for that purpose, and the idea seems sensible to me.

If she happens to have a large piece of wrapping paper she makes an over-the-head apron. Smaller pieces she uses for waistline aprons. She says that they come in handy when she is working around the sink.

Every few weeks she spends an odd half-hour making them. I have watched her. She has a straight slip-on apron pattern seventy-two inches long and twenty-four inches wide, with an oval hole for the head twenty inches from one end. This pattern she places on the larger pieces and cuts several at one time. These aprons are full length in the front and waistline length in the back. When she has several cut she stitches ordinary tape across the back edges, leaving ends long enough to come around and tie in the front.

The waistline aprons are just straight pieces. These she folds lengthwise, and scoops the waistline edges a little to make them fit properly. Starting one-fourth inch from the top on the folded edge, she cuts a gradual curve to the upper back edge. Tape and ends finish the waistlines of these aprons too. She can run one of them through the sewing machine in less than a minute.

With ordinary wear a paper apron lasts over a week. You can figure the laundry saving.

Rubberized aprons are a great clothes saver too. Now that they are made in gingham and flower prints they look like any other apron. If you want to make your waterproof apron, you will find table oilcloth a fairly durable substitute for the rubberized goods. Any plain apron pattern will do for this purpose. Cut the apron as described for the paper slip-on, or use any plain apron pattern. The most satisfactory finish for the edges is binding. You can buy bias lawn binding cut and folded double already to put on.

Tapes on the hem of a house dress serve both as a clothes and time saver. You know pins have a way of not being where you can put your hand on them when you want to fasten up your skirt for a kneeling-down job such as scrubbing.

This tape trick also was handed to me by a woman who makes her own dresses and does her own work. She cuts pieces of tape three inches long and sews snaps to the ends so that each tape can be snapped together to form a loop. By tacking the centre of these tapes to the top of the hem on the wrong side of the skirt, she has a sure and convenient means of fastening the bottom of the skirt to the belt. A tape on either side of the front is plenty to hold the skirt up.

At almost any notion counter you can buy the tape with the snaps already on it. These little tape loops come on cards, and are intended to hold the shoulder straps of the underwear. You will find them convenient for that purpose too. It only takes a few minutes to tack them to the shoulder seam of a dress.

A detachable pocket is a handy housekeeping accessory. If you have a left-over half-yard of house-dress

goods, try one. Double the material and stitch down the sides and through the centre to make two compartments. Shirr the top a little and sew tapes to the ends and centre. Make each tape ten inches long, and tack the centre to the pocket. Then it can be tied to the belt of a dress or apron.

When you are doing up the housework, one of these carry-all pockets will keep the dust cloth within easy reach, to say nothing of affording a handy way of conveying those misplaced odds and ends from one part of the house to another.

There is the problem of kitchen clothes wearing out that we have to accept. But if you have an aversion for patches, the across-the-front kind that are an evidence of too much rubbing against the sink and table, try piecing.

A young bride I know said she just could not wear patches, so she pieced her worn-out frocks. It took longer and required more material, but the result was good to look at.

Her pet piecing idea was a ten-inch panel of contrasting material down the front with rickrack braid.

One of her washed-out prints she dipped yellow and gave it a panel of yellow and brown chintz. She said it was prettier than when it was new. You might use the left-over ends from one dress to piece another.

### IMPROVING FUDGE.

Imparting to fudge, either chocolate fudge or vanilla, that rich caramel flavor which is so desirable is just a little trick of preparing the butter. Put into the saucepan the quantity of butter to be used and let it melt over a rather slow fire.

Then, watching carefully lest it burn, allow the butter to become a beautiful brown—not too dark, of course, but of about the color of the vanilla caramels sold in candy shops. Then proceed as usual with your favorite recipe. You will be delighted with the fine flavor that will be added to your fudge.

### RUBBER FLOOR MATS.

Most of us are familiar with several various uses for discarded inner tubes. Few know, however, that these discarded relics can be made into floor mats, requiring but a short time and little labor.

The old tubes are first cut into strips. The strips are then woven or interlaced with each other, basket fashion. The end strips are made double width and turned over. These strips should be cemented in place.

A row of brass rivets, placed around the edges, improves the appearance greatly, in addition to making the mat stronger.

### TOY-FIXING DAY.

The busy little mother of two small boys finds it necessary and wise to bring as much system as possible into everything pertaining to their daily life and upbringing. She has, therefore, set a day each week when she regularly mends their broken toys. This habit, she believes, impresses upon the plastic little minds a degree of responsibility and regard for the cherished possessions.

"Never slip up on the fixing day," she writes. "Keep the damaged toys in a box for that purpose. Carefully show the child how his playthings are repaired and let him help whenever possible.

"Unless you have tried this, you have no idea how educational it is and how much interest the child takes in the operations. This method not only saves time, but it teaches the child, by having to wait for them, to be more careful of his toys. The fact that he is deprived of them for several days makes his playthings seem like new."

When ironing have you not been bothered with the electric cord getting in your way? A spiral wire spring such as is used in holding screen doors shut does away with this nuisance.

A hook is put in the ceiling above the ironing board, a little to the right of the person ironing. One end of the spring is caught into it; the other end is hooked to the cord. This keeps the cord off the board and out of the ironer's way, as it does not need to be shoved aside and it adjusts itself as the iron is moved.

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## A DOG OF THE STREETS

BY ARTHUR WALLACE PEACH.

### PART I.

The glass was brimming with an amber liquid, refreshing to the throat and delightful to the soul; his lips were at the rim when the earthquake came; and Mateo woke to become conscious of a stiff toe being driven vigorously against his side.

He gulped the last drop of the dream-drink, scrambled into a sitting posture, and looked up into the big-head eyes of Racca, the innkeeper. "Carrambos!" the innkeeper exclaimed in a hoarse monotone, and went on to say in a mixture of Spanish and bad English: "Mateo, you do nothing but sleep! Listen! You stopped. The coughing Englishman, Marston, with the beautiful daughter is here. He's in a hurry. He wants a man for hacienda on Quivino Road. I tell him—you, watch out. If there's a chance to rob, watch for it; let me know, and I will tell Jose, see? Come!"

Mateo was fifty years old, bloated by much drink and long loafing; his head was bald; one leg was three inches shorter than the other; and his eyes were bleary; but he obeyed the command as if youth were still upon him.

He followed the rolling innkeeper through the greasy areas of the kitchen to the front of the inn, where under the wide plaster arch, the Englishman sat in a lifeless attitude.

The tall gray-haired man turned a thin face toward Mateo and beckoned him to follow.

Mateo was willing. Racca nudged him with an elbow, and Mateo nodded. He had played in many a dark game with the innkeeper, with the thin, Jose and the oily Mendel. The Englishman was a "lunger," fighting for life against consumption; he had purchased, so rumor had it, the tumble-down hacienda, and was planning to live there with his daughter. It was whispered abroad, also, that Marston had been an easy mark in his trading. He would be an easy mark for Racca's scheming.

As Mateo went down the street behind the stooping Englishman, the little ninos, beginning to appear for play, hailed him with taunts and nicknames, and he dropped his head and slunk on. All his life he had been a joke in Andres, the butt of fun and farce for old and young. In all the years he could remember, he had never received a kind word or look.

Marston halted at the bank and sent Mateo for the horses. When he returned with them, he looked up, his bleary eyes expanded, and he gasped a little.

On the steps of the bank stood the most beautiful girl he had ever seen. In her light riding habit, the lithe, strong curves of her figure stood out; her hair was brown, bleached by wind and sun to a golden tinge in places; her eyes were brown, too. Mateo caught in them, as they rested upon him, an amused light, but a kindly one, and he stared steadily.

"Mateo!" Marston said sharply. "Ride behind!"

The ride through the rolling country, across the dry flats, by the peculiar earth formation known as La Santita, to the hacienda was quickly made.

There Mateo began to gather the information that would serve Jose and incidentally began for the first time to really live.

Riding with Miss Marston, down the Quivino road, Mateo listened to her friendly chat, and went through the novel experience of being treated as a man.

Marston gave him an automatic revolver of high-grade make and taught him how to use it.

One afternoon, while dozing in the corner of the ranch-house, he heard Marston say:

"I agreed to have the money here to-morrow morning for Morales to pay cash for the land. I'm simply sick, and I'm going to send you into the bank to get it. Mateo will go with you. Start back as soon as you can after the heat. I shall worry until I see you, but I don't see any other way to get the money here now. I expected to be stronger before."

Mateo heard her clear, cheery laughter interrupt her father. "Cheer up, pater, old top. You're getting better every day. Mateo and I will go and get back!"

Mateo was smiling to himself and thinking of the pleasure of the ride, when he was seized with a sudden trembling that made him sweat.

Racca, Jose and the others! It would mean death for him if he did not tell them of the opportunity at hand; he had been sent out there for a purpose—to be a spy!

### I Find Beauty Everywhere.

I find beauty everywhere  
On the earth and in the air—  
Highest cloud that sails the blue,  
Lowest cloud that brings the dew;  
Tousled gold that belts the bee,  
Tossing spindrift of the sea;  
Bloom of weed and plume of flower  
Lifting in the lily tower;  
Bridal white of waterfalls,  
Mosses purpling mountain walls;  
Dawn upon the crests of snow,  
Eve on valley lands below;  
Deep pool water, and therein  
The swift prismatic flash of fin;  
Sheen upon the swallow's breast,  
The soft woven oriole's nest;  
Catkins, thistledown, the brief  
Glint on autumn's last red leaf;  
The new moon's thin scintjar,  
And the virginal vesper star.

I find beauty everywhere  
On the earth and in the air.  
—Clinton Scottard.

### Bees Swarm in Auto.

A swarm of bees lodged on the fender of an automobile owned by a Ringtown (Pa.) farmer, after having followed him for some distance. Obtaining a large packing box, the farmer smeared the inside with molasses. After waiting some time, the queen bee entered the box, followed by all the others. The box was sealed and the owner left for his home with his new acquisition.

### No Wonder.

Johnnie was gazing at his one-day-old brother, who lay squealing and yelling in his cot.

"Did he come from Heaven?" inquired Johnnie.

"Yes, dear."

"No wonder they put him out."

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