

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

HUSH-A-BY, BABY

Hush-a-by, baby, on the tree-top,
When the wind blows the cradle will rock;
When the bough breaks the cradle will fall,
Down comes hush-a-by, baby, and all.

Hush-a-by, baby, let the wind blow,
Mother is watching and waiting below.
Hush-a-by, baby, rocking so high.
Hush-a-by, hush-a-by, mother is nigh.

Hush-a-by, baby, down comes the bough;
Where is the cradle for hush-a-by now?
Never fear, sweetheart, for baby shall rest,
Hush-a-by, hush-a-by, on mother's breast.

MAKING LOVE TO THE BOY

Boys are such wild, timid, self-conscious creatures! They think the eyes of the whole world are upon them and to be made ridiculous in company is too intolerable for words. Therefore the mother must be as wise as a serpent in making love to her boy.

Between the ages of ten and eighteen it should never be done in public, for the average boy between those years has an absolute horror of any public demonstration of affection. At the same time, contradictory as it may sound, there is no time in his life when the boy has a greater longing for or need of womanly tenderness, at least so it seems to me, after having studied boys for many years and loved them very dearly, particularly the naughty ones.

The time to make love to the boy is when he himself makes the approach. It is almost sure to be a shy diffident approach and easily checked by a hasty or careless word. Mother is sitting by the window knitting or reading by the waning light when Tommy, after hovering uncertainly about for some time, finally perches himself awkwardly on the arm of her chair. This is a good time for mother to put away her book or her knitting and slip her arm about her young son. Usually a few friendly interested words as to what the small man has been doing during the day will bring forth the cause of his seeking out mother on this particular occasion. Perhaps his heart is sore over some indignity suffered at school. It may be that he instinctively feels this particular grievance to be the sort of thing father will laugh at and mother will understand. The confidence rarely ends there. Soothed and comforted by her sympathetic words the boy is apt to draw the veil back and give his mother such a peep into his boy soul as has rarely been permitted her. It may prove to be one of those great occasions, a real landmark in their lives when they come very close together. Such an hour of perfect love and understanding will serve to bridge over many small differences without any lasting breach of confidence.

The important thing to remember is that these great occasions in the life of mother and child are not premeditated and come quite unheralded. It depends upon the quickness of the mother intuition whether they shall be turned casually aside or develop into a flash of complete understanding, the memory of which years will not erase.

MORE FACTS NEEDED

When writing to me for advice in the matter of beautifying your homes I would like you, dear ladies, to take me into your complete confidence. Tell me all about your homes. I like to have a plan of the rooms to be decorated laid out before me in black and white, with the windows, the direction they face and the size of the rooms clearly marked.

Next I want to know all about the furniture you are going to use in these rooms, every stick of it please, and whether it is finished in golden or weathered oak or mahogany or simply left natural and varnished. Don't forget to mention the rugs and curtains and if you will take the trouble to tell me about your pictures and ornaments and plants I'll be all the better pleased.

Finally give me just a little hint at any rate as to your own preference in the matter of colors.

If you would like samples of wall finishes, curtain materials or wood finishes, send eight cents in stamps to pay postage.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have long intended to write again as I so often see things in the letters published that I should like to see more fully discussed. I tried the sulphur for ants and it cleared them out with one dose. I put it in all corners and under oilcloths in the cupboards.

We hear and see so much now about the way the men treat us as regards spending money. I agree with "Another Mere Woman," that most men would be only too pleased if they always have the cash to give their wives. It depends a lot in the way our boys are trained when young. If father gives mother money she needs without a fuss, you may take it the boys will copy when in homes of their own. My boys, eight and six years old, quite often in their play deal out money to their little sister for household supplies and new clothes and tell me what wonderful things they will get mother when big.

I liked the piece in The Guide of August 4, entitled "Children as Mothers' Helpers." I find they are so willing to help, if at all encouraged. This morning I was much amused by our boy of six wanting to wash off the stand and wash basin, so he would know how to batch when big. His father can cook as well, somethings better, than I can, and I want the boys to learn. Just try letting them

unkind things will be said about her housekeeping, also she must go with her husband to visit the sick and give of their sometimes scanty fare to others. She is also expected to be president of this and that society.

If "Anon" had a little of the anxiety our ministers sometimes have perhaps he would not be so bitterly selfish. Yes, it might profit "Anon" to investigate and see how many of our ministers ever get all their small salary, instead of making the assertion that they rarely miss a dollar of a large salary. I know whereof I speak and "Minister's Daughter" makes no false assertion when she says her father many a time came home stumbling thru the door with icicles at eyelashes and eyebrows, scarcely able to walk. Our home has always been open to ministers and always will be as long as I am here to provide the best I can for them.

Yes, the pathos of life is shown sometimes by the bravery of a minister. We had a young minister, married, with a young family, about four years ago. He worked hard tho struggling with tuberculosis. He never said anything to anyone about his ailment. He was naturally reserved and some thought he did not do his duty, and he was doing more than he had strength for. He died in the fall of the year. He worked as long as he could. He left his wife and young family.



A VERY PLEASING VINE-CLAD PORCH

fetch and carry the dishes for you a few times and see how it helps when you're tired. I will close with the heartiest wishes for our success in getting the vote.

DAUGHTER OF ERIN.

FROM A CHURCH STEWARD'S WIFE

Dear Miss Beynon:—It was with great interest I read the letter from a "Minister's Daughter" and wondered that some of them had not taken the matter up before. If it had not been on account of illness I would surely have done so myself. Now I am neither a minister's wife or daughter. I am a farmer's wife and my husband has been a steward for over twenty years and I know from experience that neither ministers nor their wives have an easy time. I have gone with my husband several times to collect promised payments of salary and I know that some of the people would squeeze what they had promised till it would nearly squeal before they gave it; but to my mind it is just as honest a debt as paying a store bill or any other debt and should be paid without being asked for or collected. What would the country be if it were not for our much abused ministers and our Sunday schools?

There may be an odd lazy minister, but it won't be the fault of the people if there is, they expect so much of them. As "Minister's Daughter" says, they have to be out in all kinds of weather, and they expect the minister's wife to keep things in perfect order at home or all kinds of

O the pathos of it all! God will reward all such.

MOLLIE.

AS THE PRINCESS DOES

A Little Parable

Once, in a time of revolution, a royal family lost the throne, and the three princesses settled quietly in a city at some distance from the capital. The eldest princess was of right kingly blood, but the two younger, tho born her sisters, seemed to have a more servile strain.

So one morning, when the eldest princess would have worked in the little garden that was to furnish their table, the two younger cried out, "It is not the custom of the place, dear sister Roya. We shall not be well thought of if we work in the garden. You see the other people hire a man to do it."

"But I like to do it!" objected Roya. "But what would people say?" cried the other two.

So she, willing to content her sisters, kept out of the garden, tho she could ill afford to hire a man for the work.

And another day, when Roya was going into the street, the sisters said, "You must not wear that dress. It is not the kind people wear here."

"It is pretty and good," said Roya. "But if you wish to wear it you must put ruffles on, and cut away the sleeves, and even then the color is not correct."

So for some time Roya pleased her sisters in trying to do as the people about her did. She gave up her lonely walks, her garden work, her friendly manners;

she wore strange and uncomfortable garments.

Then one day the princess in Roya awoke. "Why should I make myself unhappy doing as others do?" she said. "When my own way is good I will follow it. I am of royal blood. Why should I be a slave to foolish customs?"

So she put on her sun hat and went to work in the garden. And thereafter she wore the garments that seemed good and beautiful to her. She smiled upon the children, and the old and lonely. And she went her way happily, refusing to be bound any longer by that chain of custom.

"Do you see," said one neighbor to another, "that pretty young lady in the white house is working in her garden? I've always wanted to, but I hated to seem queer. I wonder if I might not. She seems quite a lady."

So the two neighbors decided they might, and did; and fifty neighbors all up and down the street soon did likewise. When Roya cast off the chain she must have weakened it.

"I wonder if I might not wear a more comfortable dress," said another. "The pretty young lady in the white house looks so comfortable in that plain, simple dress."

So she did; and fifty people up and down the street did likewise. They had been longing to, but hated to seem "queer."

And in a little while Roya found that she was an important person in the city. People wanted to know her; they listened to her opinions with respect; and they followed her example.

"It appears that Roya herself has become the custom," said one of the sisters disdainfully to the other.

But then Roya was a real princess and not content to follow servile ways.—Zelia Margaret Walters, in the Mother's Magazine.

SHALL CLOTHES BE SOAKED?

There are two advantages in the customary long soaking of clothes in cold water before washing:

1—To soften and separate the fibers of the cloth in order to loosen dirt before putting the garment or piece in the hot soap-suds, where the actual work of removing dirt takes place.

2—To make soluble certain stains which are "set" by plunging the clothing first into hot water or hot suds. Such stains are blood, milk and cream, grease, machine-oil, meat juices and clay stains.

The first reason has a bearing on the whiteness of clothes after the washing process. It is much easier for an inexperienced laundress thoroughly to remove dirt in washing, where this previous soaking has been given. Laundresses and housekeepers of experience, having clean, soft water to work with, have found that satisfactory results are obtained without this previous soaking, if stains are taken out beforehand and a washing-machine and hot water method are used. But inexperienced workers will do well to gain all the advantage they can from soaking the clothes in the most effective way.

The second reason for soaking the clothes—doing it as a means of avoiding setting certain stains—is equally important for the average home, because very few women will take the time to make a careful examination of all clothing before washing and take out individual stains in cold water. Even if great care is taken there are certain grease stains that are not noticeable before they are put in hot water, and then show up as "set" stains, which can only be removed by using strong chemicals.

Experiment has proven that soaking clothes in cold water, or luke-warm soap-suds, for a full half hour before washing, is just as efficient as soaking them for several hours. Or if one has a washing-machine, they may be run in a cold bath in the machine for ten minutes, and the same results follow.—Georgie Boynton Child in The Delinetaor.

Over seven hundred women are now employed as conductors on Glasgow Corporation street cars.