

The conspirators were surprised with the rest. They had not looked for so speedy an outcome of their plan, and they were almost as much delighted as the happy owner of the wheel himself.

"It's the second-hand," Dick whispered to Ralph after a brief survey, and it was. But it is doubtful whether a brand new hundred-dollar wheel ever brought the possessor more genuine pleasure.

"Got it for a birthday present after all," Walter chuckled in an undertone as Ed. and himself passed together into the schoolroom. "Uncle caught on pretty easy, didn't he?"

The bicycle proves a very useful adjunct to Mr. Kent's business, and, impelled perhaps by his nephew's gratitude and the wish that it were better, deserved, the merchant lets the lad off occasionally, simply for a pleasure spin.

Dick feels great satisfaction over the affair. "Tell you what!" he exclaims every now and then with much self-complacency, "that scheme of mine was a big success, wasn't it, though!"—C. A. Parker.

#### Valuable Household Hints

Brooms dipped for a minute or two in boiling suds once a week will wear much longer.

Mould may be prevented in ink, paste, mucilage, etc., by the addition of a small quantity of carbolic acid. It is well to add an ounce of it to whitewash when whitewashing cellars, basements and dairies. It purifies them.

A spoonful of horse-radish in a pan of milk will keep it fresh for several days.

Water standing in a bedroom over night is unfit for drinking purposes in the morning. A pitcher of cold water on a table in your room does much to purify the air.

Kerosene oil is used quite effectively to keep ants away, but a very simple remedy is a heavy chalk mark made on the shelf completely surrounding the sugar box or cake dish, etc. If the line is complete the ants will not cross it.

Fish may be scaled much easier by first dipping them in boiling water for a minute.

A tablespoonful of turpentine boiled with the white clothes will greatly aid in the whitening process.

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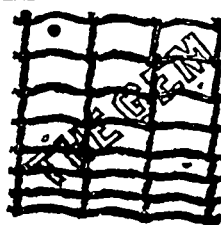
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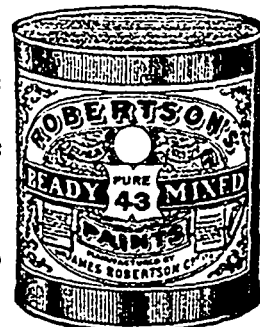
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