

THE DOMAIN OF WOMAN

The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.
TALKS BY "TERESA"

Speaking of pretty Christmas gifts brings up a sort of phalanx of counters loaded with dainty and inexpensive presents for the many friends who must be remembered at this season of the year.

Note-paper and envelopes are always an acceptable and useful present and nothing more elegant or refined could be chosen than a five guineo box of the beautiful "French Crepon" writing paper manufactured by Barber and Ellis Co. It comes in four delicate tints and in two sizes, and besides resembling exactly the texture of fine crepon it is most smooth and delightful to write upon. It is a ladies' paper par excellence and would make a handsome gift for a lady friend. Messrs Simpson & Co. have prepared a large catalogue embodying most of the lines they are offering in the way of articles suitable for gifts. The china and silverware sections in the basement are really bewildering in the variety of the beautiful things shown, and the most slender purse may be accommodated as all prices prevail, from small to large. An umbrella makes a useful present, these may be found in great variety. A pretty collarette would be appreciated by a friend living in the country who perhaps cannot obtain these dainty neck trimmings. A length of silk for a blouse is comparatively cheap considering the beauty of the silks this firm always has in stock at a moderate price. \$5. would buy a length of lovely silk worthy of the days of the Empire.

A piece of silverware is always acceptable to anyone possessing a sideboard on which to display it, and amongst the articles of this description obtainable at a moderate price may be mentioned cruet stands, butter-coolers, cake salvers, pickle and preserve jars, fruit bowls, sets of serviette rings, spoons and forks.

A nice pair of slippers is a serviceable present for a gentleman and one dollar will purchase a handsome pair. In fact there's nothing the middle dollar will not do except stay in one's pocket.

Judging from the hullabaloo that the papers set up over the discovery of a couple of alleged small-pox cases anybody would have imagined that the city was on the eve of an epidemic of appalling magnitude. It is certainly quite right and proper to take every precaution to prevent the spread of infection but why scare nervous and silly people almost to death in the process?

A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY. Give me your attention, dear readers, and prepare yourselves for a shock. An infallible and laudable local publication published under a medical title has recently discovered a remedy of which nobody, not even the persons most concerned, had any idea. In the words of the eminent journal itself, "Joachim Pecci, otherwise Pope Leo XIII, is insane! Oul think of it! A remedy which would have cured him, if he had only known it! He knew something about it, when they ought to have been investigating the causes of cerebral disturbance. Dear, dear! And who had been reading and admiring the lucid and powerful utterances that issue daily from his pen, and who had no notion of the Holy Father's affliction. In view of its startling discovery, the paper has been offering some calm and dispassionate advice to the conclusion that the best remedy would be to the succession, recommending His Holiness Cardinal Rampolla, and pointing out the advisability of bestowing a Cardinal's hat upon Archbishop Ireland."

EX-REEVE CRAGG. A PROMINENT DRESDEN CITIZEN TELLS AN INTERESTING STORY. How Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured Him of Rheumatism and Gout, after his Best Doctors and Many Medicines had Failed.

DR. CRAGG'S STORY. Dresden Dec. 12.—This town boasts a peculiarity of which its people may well be proud, as it proves beyond dispute that they possess a desirable attribute common sense, in no small degree. That peculiarity is the remarkable decrease in the number of cases of Rheumatism during the past few years.

"I have often thought of the great injustice done to women by those in a better position entering the various fields of occupation and taking the wages that should go to some woman or girl who, so far from having any one able to care for and protect her, may have others dependent upon her. The profession of school teacher for instance, has in its ranks girls belonging to well-to-do, in some cases, wealthy families. The fathers of these young women are quite well able to take them in comfort, and they must needs go out and swell the ranks of an overcrowded and often poorly paid profession, merely to gratify ambition or a desire for dress. I know one or two cases, one daughter of an ex-M.P., and the other the daughter of a man in a good position receiving a handsome salary. Indeed the latter gentleman has two daughters who are both qualifying for teachers.

teachers and professions! How generally? There is hardly work enough for the man educated for it; and the invasion of women into the market place can only increase the competition to a fearful pace. As a forcible writer said a few years ago, "That woman has every right to work and earn a living wage without saying, 'With facts as they are, not as we wish them to be. When fifty women apply for every opening on the press, as contributor, correspondent, or department editor, when every paying newspaper and press agency is loaded down with MSS., what follows?"

The best known writers, women who win, experience the knowledge of society best fit them for their work, complain that they cannot get a third of the price paid for articles ten years ago. One wealthy woman who wrote for the press was surprised when an equally wealthy proprietor of an old city (New York) work shop desired her to write for five dollars a letter, because he had so many applications from women who did work as good as her own who were laid to work at that rate!

The conditions are even worse, scarcely a newspaper in the city will pay anything like a fair price for work, they are so deluged with articles and MSS. I have it on the best authority that one lady formerly connected with a well known daily paper used to work for a sum representing the ordinary wages of a sixteen year old factory girl.

As for teaching, there are a hundred applications for every vacancy likely to occur in it in ten years, and it is inundated in doubled every year by the shoals of girls graduating from normal schools.

There is always room at the top! Oh, yes, but how are you going to get to the top when you cannot even get your foot upon the first rung of the ladder?

And when you are elbowed or pushed out of the way by women whose parents have comfortable houses and good bank accounts, and who have really no need to work, the cause of injury and injustice becomes acute.

Every year the struggle of working women and girls becomes harder and more bitter. If we could stand at the corner of some street at the evening hour, when workshops, factories and offices redcharging their tired occupants and pick out half a dozen of the women and hear their stories, we should have a record of struggle and defeat and some starvation that would harrow our souls to the core.

And still the procession comes; we mourn with fathers and mothers who can keep them in comfort, swell the ranks of the poor toilers who have no choice but to work, and to work for what they can get.

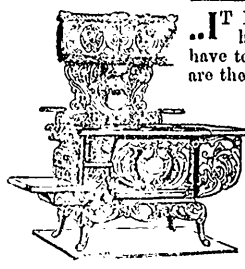
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The Souvenir AN OLD FRIEND



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