

HOME JOURNAL

A Department for the Family

People and Things the World Over

It is estimated that, since the Franco-Prussian war, 300,000 novels have been written.

Professor Lowell, of the Lowell University at Flagstaff, Ariz., says the end of the world will be caused by an unknown dark planet colliding with the sun.

Mr. Dean Howells, in a recent article in the North American Review, claims Napoleon, Lincoln and Tolstoy as the three greatest men of the nineteenth century.

Wireless telegraphy has already proved itself to be the best police agent yet known. By its means, the other day, a thief was arrested on board a ship five hundred miles out at sea. So the toils close about the criminal, and the day seems speedily approaching when even those without conscience must admit that honesty, right living, is the best and the only safe policy.

It is not generally known that Lord Avebury was the first person in England to be photographed. Daguerre had called on his father, who was, as his son was afterwards to be, a distinguished scientific author and a Vice-President of the Royal Society. The object of the Frenchman's visit was to explain his discovery to the elder Lubbock, and to gain his support. While they were talking, Daguerre saw Lubbock's young son—the present Lord Avebury—playing in the garden. He suggested that a daguerrotype should be taken of the child as an illustration of the practical value of the discovery. Sir John consenting, the child was there and then daguerrotyped, or, as we say, photographed.

Burbank Provides the Brains

The student of science or philosophy does not often combine business ability with his other gifts. Luther Burbank, for instance, the plant wonder-worker, has found that the worry of business and financial details hampers him in his life work of making the vegetable kingdom perform miracles, of making the plum change its skin and the cactus its spine. Lack of time and knowledge of the best method of doing so has kept him from giving out to the world the results of his experiments and discoveries. It was not selfishness that prevented all the world knowing of his successful attempts with fruits and flowers.

To surmount this obstacle to full knowledge, Luther Burbank has given to two men the sole right to distribute to the world his plant discoveries. There are Hartland Law and his brother, Herbert E. Law, of San Francisco, and they have capitalized the concern at several million dollars. This company will carry out all the details of some of the great schemes which Burbank's brain has formulated, such as the development into usefulness of the spineless cactus, making it fit for fodder and also capable of yielding both alcohol and sugar.

Lincoln's Speech at Gettysburg

Of all the letters and addresses by Lincoln none excels in simplicity, power and felicity of expression his speech at the dedication of the national military cemetery on the battlefield of Gettysburg, on November 19, 1863. The formal oration of the day was delivered by Edward Everett, and Lincoln's remarks were supposed to be of secondary importance. How nervous and disappointed Lincoln was on that day over his own part in the proceedings was narrated in a magazine article a year or two ago by a surviving eye-witness. That Everett's speech is long since

forgotten, while Lincoln's remains one of the gems of English literature, is common knowledge. Lincoln's address, which was remarkably brief, was as follows:—

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or whether any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will here little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to a great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

March and Gardening

Since March has come in—though it came like a lamb and may depart like a lion—it is time to be giving serious thought to gardens and gardening, and they are subjects worthy of serious thought. It goes without saying that if you have always had a garden you are preparing for it this year just as a matter of course, considering it as much a part of the regular farm work as sowing seed wheat or harvesting. If last year was the first attempt at making a garden, you will be anxious to get started again in order to correct the mistakes of the previous year and to test by experiment some of the new ideas that could not be worked out before. One of the fascinating attractions of gardening is that there are always new ideas to be experimented with.

If you have never tested the pleasures and profits of gardening, you may refuse to believe in the reports the gardening fraternity give out at the end of a season. It looks like too much expense to fence in a fraction of an acre and too much trouble to prepare the ground and care for the crop during the growing season. It seems easier to buy vegetables in cans all summer. But an object that is worth anything at all is worth some trouble to acquire, and good, fresh vegetables,—green peas, tender beans, crisp celery and lettuce, cool, firm tomatoes and mealy potatoes served without loss of weight or flavor sound as if they were valuable additions to any bill of fare. As for expense, the products of the whole garden will not cost you a quarter of the price of the stuff you would buy in cans from the store, and you have the benefit of the infinitely larger variety of vegetables.

If you can't manage a separate flower garden, grow flowers among the vegetables and along the path borders. Let nasturtiums and morning-glories hide the fence; put mignonette and candy-tuft along the borders, and spare a corner for poppies. Don't deny yourself to make money now, for the purpose of enjoying yourself later. You won't know how to do it then if you do not keep in practice; and American Beauty roses in twenty years from now will not give you pleasure if you have denied yourself the asters and pansies and humbler flower folk now.

The Place of Words

Words are sometimes unfavorably contrasted with deeds in a way that is distinctly unfair. Words can be made to mean a great deal—and to help immensely. The Wise King thought so, when he said, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." The deed alone often fails of its purpose to comfort and help; word and deed together make up an almost unfailing panacea for a comrade's woes. But there are occasions when nothing can be done, but something might be said if the speaker were wise enough to think of it and tactful in his speech. The husband comes in at night to find his wife tired out with extra demands on her strength during the day. He doesn't believe in saying much but promises himself that he'll get some treasure she has longed for when he goes to town tomorrow. Thus put right in his own eyes he sits down silently to the supper she has prepared and she thinks he doesn't care how worn out she is as long as he gets his meals. If he had put his arms round her and said "Mary, I hate to see you so tired," she would have forgotten the fatigue and thought more of the hearty words than of all the dresses and ornaments he could choose when he went to town. When things have gone wrong and a man is down, there may be nothing possible to do for him, but a few words of cheer and encouragement will help wonderfully in restoring his confidence in himself and his hope for future success. In times of deep bereavement words of sympathy are many a time a solace that deeds cannot supply. The habit of gracious, cheerful, kindly speech is one well worth cultivating. Let all kind deeds be performed when possible, but make constant use of pleasant words.

The Sins of the Father

The sensational arrest and trial of ex-chief-of-police Malone, of Simcoe, Ont., has ended with the judge's sentence of life imprisonment, for the prisoner. Malone was found guilty of shooting his sub-ordinate, Constable Wilkins, with intent to kill.

The trial brought out a sad story of two men, in whom their townsmen had every confidence, who had proved unfaithful and disloyal to the trust reposed in them. So strong were the proofs of attempted murder against Malone, that the defence announced that they would produce no evidence, and his counsel simply referred to his honorable career as a soldier in South Africa.

The wife and four little children were in the court room at the time sentence was pronounced, and Malone asked for a week's freedom in which to arrange his affairs. "There is my poor wife," he said. "It is no fault of hers." The judge gave consent to the respite, and spoke of how the innocent must suffer for, and with the guilty.

The theory held by many, that a human being makes his own heaven and hell here on earth, seems to be refuted when we think of that wife and those innocent children, who must suffer the loss of a father's protection, and endure because of him, the added suffering of disgrace. Any heaven they can make for themselves in this life, is one sadly marred by another's sin, and impossible of that perfection which heaven means: No man can suffer for his sin alone.

Miss Walker, secretary of the Seattle Y. W. C. A., has been made a salaried member of the city police force.

March 10, 1909

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Round holy Rabia's
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gravely.
"Daughter of God!" t
"Endure the Fat
bravely:
They who have steep
prayer,
Can every anguish calm

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Though not reproach
"Daughter of God!"
"Sustain thy Fat
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They who have learne
From Pain's dark well o

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But oh! the truth
I know not, when abs
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They who God's face
Feel not the working:
—Oriental, from Hy

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