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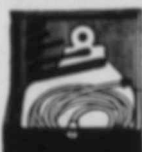
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THE ONE BLADE OF GREEN

(By Edgar L. Vincent.)

A lady who is now shut up in a lonely prison in Russia, for the crime of daring to think, not long ago sent past the lines a letter to one she loved. A single sentence from that message sent back from this living death touches the heart of the one who reads it. This is what she said:

"Today I saw from my window a single blade of grass, climbing from under a stone on the sunny side."

And how that one slender point of green, feeling about from its hard and stony covering for the sunshine, must have warmed the soul of the prisoner of fate peering through her narrow pane of glass! Think what a story of hope and cheer and encouragement it must have told to her listening ear! Just one blade of green, and yet it helped to make a gloomy life a little brighter.

One blade of green.
Life gets mixed with us all some-
times. You and I know how that is. Things out on the farm do not go as we would like them to. Our dreams seem a long time in coming true. We have put years of hard work into the place and have so little to show for it now! Once we had a glorious vision of the life that was to be, by and by, when the sunshine had touched the hills and made them to bud and blossom into beautiful things under our hands. And somehow they have not given us the flowers we had hoped—the flowers we had longed for all our lives.

So we are looking out of a prison win-
dow. But stay a moment. Is there no blade of green slipping from beneath its weight of stone? Just look about you a moment. Here are the dear ones that have been given to us. How we love them! Our very lives are twined about them. No evil has befallen them. The neighbor across the way has not been so blessed. Out yonder somewhere one of his loved ones is dreaming under the stars. Down the road there is a father and a mother who will go to bed tonight not knowing where the little girl who was once the light of their lives may be wasting herself.



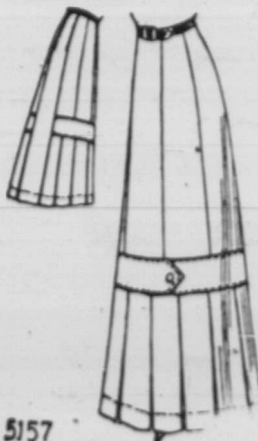
No. 5157—Ladies' Double-Breasted Coat. All Seams Allowed.

The ever popular short coat is again in vogue and we show one of the latest models. The straight fronts are double breasted and are securely fitted to the figure; the back is in two pieces and is only slightly fitted; an under-arm girth completes the coat, which is 30 inches long. The long rolling revers and notched collar make a stylish finish. The sleeves are plain coat style, finished by a cuff. This coat may be made of cheviot, serge, broad-cloth or any similar material. The pattern (5157) is cut in size 36 to 44 inches bust. To make the coat in medium size will require 2 1/2 yards of material 44 inches wide, or 2 3/4 yards 34 inches wide.

These things we have never felt. Thank God, there is after all many a blade of green growing outside our window! Let's drink in their beauty and go out to stronger, braver, truer lives!

In strange ways we are sometimes brought to know the splendid things which have all along and their place in our lives and we did not see them. Have you an idea that that Russian prisoner ever would have felt the power of one blade of grass to cheer a lonely hour if she had never known the wretchedness of her dungeon cell? Sometimes it takes shadows to help us see the sunshine.

When the frost is off the corn be-



5157

No. 5157—Ladies' Eight-Gored Skirt. All Seams Allowed.

A very stylish skirt in instant length is here pictured and is one that will develop in the heavy materials with excellent effect. The "banded-in" effect is made use of here, which gives the style without causing the wearer any of the discomfort of the actual fact. The model is cut in eight gores all except the back one stopping at knee depth, where a box-plaited flounce is attached under a band. The center-back gore gives the box-plait effect and extends to the hem of the skirt. The band at the head of the flounce may be made of a contrasting material, but it must be of the same color to be in the best style. The closing is at the left side of the back. Berge, bumcrisp, cheviot, basket weave or other semi-rough materials will make up best in this design. The pattern (5157) is cut in 8 sizes—36 to 44 waist. To make the medium size requires 4 1/2 yards of material 44 inches wide. Width of lower edge 4 3/4 yards.

fore its time, how thankful we are that the wheat all ripened so nicely and is now safe in the granary! If the waters sweep away the mill we built on its banks, is it not fine to think that we have the banks left and can put another mill there! And now it shall be stronger and a better mill, moored so safely to the shore that no flood can ever stir it from its foundation.

A tree bears fruit that somehow is not very bright in color. It lacks the touch of the red upon its cheeks. We wonder why. Other trees drop beautiful fruit into the hands of him who watches them, fruit all glorious with yellow and crimson. We call the pale fruit of our trees to the attention of a man who knows more about fruit than we do. He goes out and sifts ashes all about the earth under the tree. Just cold, dead, gray ashes! With a spade he crushes the turf and mixes the particles of gray with the soil and we go away. In the days which come afterward we go out and look at our tree and, lo! the fruit which once seemed so sickly has taken on the red of heaven and the yellow of the sunset. Ashes did it.

So ashes come into our lives now and then to help us grow better fruit. At the moment they seem harsh, lifeless and loveless specks of sorrow; it is the by and by which tells the story.

One day, somehow, a tiny seed was dropped outside the window of that Russian prison. Who knows how it ever came there? It may have been

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only a bird passing over which let it fall in its flight. But it grew and in after days sent up its shoot of emerald green to cheer a lonely woman's heart.

Have you and I ever done a thing like that to make another life a bit less lonely? Just stand still now and think about that. Look where we may there are those whose lives are not just as bright and happy as they might be. We know so many of them! And it seems as if it would not take much to change it all. Just a single kindly word; only a happy hour in your presence; one little act done out of a pure heart would come to be the tuft of green creeping from under a stone to lighten the whole day.

The best of it is, too, that when we have done a thing like that we go home with a sweeter song singing in our own hearts. That is part of the return for carrying a cup of cold water in His name. We do not have to wait very long to gather up some of the joy into our own souls, and more will come tomorrow!

HOUSEHOLD

To restore the color to gilt frames, wash with warm water in which onions have been boiled. Dry quickly with a soft cloth.

HOW TO SECURE PATTERNS

To secure any of the patterns published in The Guide all that is necessary is to send 10 cents to The Pattern Dept., Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, and state the number of the pattern, giving bust measure for waist patterns, waist measure for skirt patterns, and the age when ordering patterns for misses or children. It will require from ten days to two weeks to secure these patterns as they are supplied direct from the makers.