

## The Home.

### Trained Eyes.

The lack of observation among persons of average intelligence possessed of all their senses is a continual source of astonishment to those who have been taught to know and see the world about them. There are multitudes of persons living amidst a country filled with the most beautiful plumaged birds who will frankly confess when their attention is called to one of them that they have never seen such a bird before. They will even stare in credulous amazement when the plumage and ways of the familiar songsters who are their neighbors are described. A woman whose good fortune it was to possess a charming cottage in the midst of the hills and woods a little apart from the maddening crowd once described "a common bluebird" as a "rare bird" she had "just noticed." All her life she had lived in that one beautiful though secluded spot. The greater part of the spring and summer the bluebirds had thronged the orchard, yet she had never noticed them. Each month of the different season's birds of glorious song and lovely plumage had visited the fields and groves around her, yet she had been deaf to their music and blind to their colors.

She had visited the city a few times and she remembered with the keenest delight the gaudy trapping of the theatre when birds of impossible plumage were painted amid equally impossible trees. The rather coarse melodrama she saw there she remembered all her life. She heard a sermon preached one Sunday in a large church, wherein the preacher descanted somewhat on the beauties of nature. She remembered this and yet she had never heard the varying notes of the birds. They all sang one song. When flowers of rich color were brought from the adjacent woodlands she would exclaim for the moment in delight, yet she never seemed to see them in the fields around her. It required something startling like loud organ music and strident declamation to make her hear and coarse flashes of color to make her see.

She was a good, amiable person, a kindly neighbor, but all her life she longed for the vulgar experience of city streets and sights. She considered herself an abused person because she lived where nothing was "going on." If only she could have learned to interest herself in the beautiful flowers that filled the woods around her or learned the notes of the birds, she might have been thankful for her isolated home and the fact that she had been spared the vulgar annoyances of the crowd.

There are a great many homes where the shelves of the bookcase are filled with current literature, including poetry, essays and some popular works of science. Yet a knowledge of the woodlands, the fields and the beautiful swamps and lakes around that home may be a sealed book. The children do not know the names of the simplest wild flowers or anything about the habits of the birds or wild creatures of the fields and woods. They feel none of the reverence for them which all children should be taught to feel for the works of God. The German peasant boy weaves beautiful legends about his furry brethren of the forest and the birds, which he believes dwell very near the stars. It does not make him less capable as a wage-earner because he respects nature. All that is necessary to teach any intelligent child to love nature is to give him field lessons in birds and flowers and interest him in the habits of the furry creatures he sees around him by telling him tales of the way they care for their homes and showing him the ingenious methods in which they build their homes.

"He who loves not God, nor his brother, cannot love the grass beneath his feet and the creatures that fill the spaces in the universe he needs not, and which live not for his uses, nay, he has seldom grace to be

grateful to those that love and serve him. While, on the other hand, none can love God and his human brother without loving all those things the Father loves, and without looking upon them every one as in that respect his brethren also."—N. Y. Tribune.

### Rooms In Colors.

There is no reason why the cheapest room should not be tastefully papered. The papers for the ceiling border and main wall are no longer made in contrasting color, but in a succession of delicate flower-like tints. These papers at 10 cents a roll, are often the dainty designs of the best artists. A charming yellow room was recently papered in a design of single yellow pansies strewn over a white ground, striped with fine lines of satin. The border of the paper showed clusters of yellow pansies, tied with floating white ribbons. The ceiling reproduced the paper of the side walls in fine, faint tints. The entire cost of the paper used in this room was less than \$1. Still another room of average size was papered in Delft blue and white a similar price.

One of the most charming rooms was papered with a satiny-repped paper in tints of pale French rose-color. The design was a delicate wreath and scroll in small pattern. The dark walnut furniture and the dainty, creamy muslin hanging at the windows and bed made this a charming room.

### Ironing Days.

It is a great mistake to allow the work of the week to slip back by putting off the washing for rain. Make it a rule to wash on Monday, whatever weather threatens, and to dry the clothes in the house if they cannot be dried in the sun and fresh air. It is a choice of a lesser evil than postponing the work. Every one feels in better physical condition after the rest from hard work on Sunday, providing this rest has been taken, and Monday is therefore the best day for the hardest work of the week.

Tuesday is the best ironing day of the week and the work should not be postponed for any ordinary reason. The clothes should be sprinkled before breakfast, unless breakfast occurs at a very early hour, and the clothes should be sprinkled while breakfast is being prepared, served and until it is cleared away. This will take about two hours. By this time the clothes will be in admirable condition to iron.

It is best to iron the starched clothes first, while you are fresh, and the heavy articles, like sheets and tablecloths afterward. The secret of successful ironing is to have the irons very hot and the clothes thoroughly damp, and to iron firmly and rapidly. All those clothes that need straightening at the hems should be straightened out and folded while they are damp, after they have been sprinkled. It is a pity that the mangle is not more generally used in this country. It is a genuine labor-saving machine. A good mangle for family use costs about \$25; but will last through several generations.

There are more men in New York today worshipping gold than worshipping God. It has come to pass that men are judged not by their characters, but by the amount of money they are worth.—Rev. D. L. Moody, Evangelist, New York City.

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Morbidity, Mo., Jan. 21, 1886.

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JACOB J. KAPLER.

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DARTMOUTH, Sept. 24th, 1885.

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