

## THE LADIES' JOURNAL.

### Women of the Bible.

The story of Ruth is one of those exquisite idyls of love and domestic life which bring remote ages close to our hearts, while all the splendid incidents of solemn history leave antiquity at a distance measured by the centuries that have rolled between. It has a distinction among these stories. It is the classic instance of a friendship between two women. What David and Jonathan, Damon and Pythias, are for men, that for the other sex are Ruth and Naomi. And—strange contradiction to modern flippancy—it is the passionate love of a girl for her mother-in-law.

Whoever, then, would be interested in Ruth must learn to take an interest in the elder friend, Naomi. Nor is this difficult. Through the dimness of centuries we can still discern one of those personalities which sway towards themselves all who approach. At a time when personal names meant something she bore the name "Winsome." A generation ahead of the beautiful Ruth, Naomi had her reign of beauty; when in the story she comes to her native city a broken-hearted widow, there is a stir of excitement, as at the return of one who has been a charmer of all hearts. Sadness, quietness, strength, these make the notes of her life melody; but she has had the rare gift of making quiet strength attractive.

The story passes into a phase of life widely sundered from modern customs and sentiment; a phase of life touched in the narrative with the utmost delicacy. A deep principle pervading the constitution of Israel was care for the preservation of families. Hence the curious "levirate law," where a husband had died without issue, the nearest brother-in-law, levir, might be called upon by the widow to perform for her all the duties of a husband, and raise up seed for the deceased. Here, however, there is no brother-in-law available; both the sons of Elimelech were dead. But round the strict letter of the law had grown up the more elastic "custom of goel," the nearest of kin had a general duty to act as "redeemer," goel, for the unfortunate, avenging their death or relieving their distress. If there was no law to help Ruth, might not something be made out of the custom of kinship? Naomi ponders while Ruth is gleaning through the days of barley harvest, and by the end of the season she has her bold plan. No false delicacy is allowed by Ruth to interfere; it is not for the Moabite stranger to question the customs of Israel; moreover, innocence is most triumphant when it can maintain its purity in equivocal circumstances. When the time comes Ruth is ready to play her part.

The joyous festivities of harvest home have run their course, and at the end each reveller, wherever he finds himself, lies down to sleep in the genial night air. Ruth, closely veiled, steals through the darkness to the place where Boaz is reposing, his head on a heap of barley. She softly lays herself at his feet. Boaz awakens, startled; the sweet voice which had thrilled him with its foreign accents all through the days of gleaning is heard:

"I am Ruth, thine handmaid; spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman."

It is the last word which is to convey Naomi's hint to Boaz; his heart catches it in a moment. But his first thought is for the innocent young woman before him. He speaks tender words; then addresses himself to the

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### WOMAN'S CHARMS AND FOIBLES.

A woman's letter to her sister is the most trifling thing on earth.

Every girl demands more credit for her piano playing than she is entitled to.

A mine is a good deal like a woman's love; nobody can tell what it is worth.

After a woman passes thirty she should quit talking about hearts, except beef hearts for baking.

The average girl has one good dress in winter, and changes her clothes by changing the ribbon on her neck.

The prospect of going to the poor farm is not so terrible; there never was a poor farm with a piano in it.

If a girl of sixteen should give her age as thirty-six some woman would say, "I know she is older than that."

No man should give up smoking his two cigars a day; it gives his wife such a good excuse for extravagance.

A woman is glad afterward when she refrained from saying something mean, but a man is sorry that he didn't say it.

Women all know bargains, but men do not; not one man in a dozen knows a good hat, a good shoe or a good shirt when he sees it.

If a girl sees another girl with a dress on prettier than her own she has a terribly hard time in giving her a sweet expression.

A woman has a terrible struggle with her conscience if she feels that she didn't struggle enough with her husband to get him to church.

When a woman believes everything her husband tells her confidence doesn't denote imbecility as much as it denotes extraordinary cleverness.

The trouble is that a girl thinks her labor is over when she has won a man's love, and doesn't appreciate the struggle that is coming to keep it.

When a guest doesn't bring clothes suitable for a big reception in her honor her hostess gets over an awkward situation by getting up a tacky party.

When church people call for a donation for a poor family a woman is hard pressed if she can't find some prize she won at a card party to give away.

A woman's idea of a true friend is one who, when she has company, will entertain the guests and take them down town mornings to give her a chance to clean up the house.

Much distress and sickness in children is caused by worms. Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator gives relief by removing the cause. Give it a trial and be convinced.



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**SURPRISE Soap** cleans clothes quickest and cleanest.

It's a harmless soap—it isn't a clothes eater.

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### DAISY AIR RIFLE

task of getting Ruth away before the least breath of scandal can touch her. As she is leaving another kind thought occurs to him; he has marked the pious frauds of the affectionate girl at the harvesting meets, and now shakes into her lap six measures of barley, that she may not go empty to her mother-in-law. Ruth arrives at the cottage while there is still not light enough for recognition; when she tells her tale Naomi knows that her scheme is successful: "The man will not rest, until he have finished the thing this day."

### What is Your Favorite Color.

Women are learning to develop themselves and their virtues and their talents by means of colors. The various colors are said to have a wonderful influence over emotional natures.

For instance, the timid girl will show you her room all draped in bright scarlet. She will have the brightest shades of red obtainable all about her; her gowns will be red, and her reading lamp, even, shaded with it. When you ask her the reason for this she will tell you that it is because red is the courage color.

The hypersensitive creature with great, far seeing eyes and a collection of books on spiritism and psychics, will always manage to surround herself with hues of violet and purple. This is the psychic color, and she determines to develop her psychic faculties by having a great deal of it about her.

The literary maid has also her color. She will tell you that she cannot write with proper enthusiasm without being surrounded by yellow, and plenty of it.

Green is the color for hope, blue for truth, white purity. The up-to-date maid has the symbolic list at her fingers' ends, and her own apartment is sure to display the result of her recent divings into color lore.

### The Evolution of the Shirt Waist.

The modern belle's jaunty and beautiful blouse waist has been fraced back to the time of Garibaldi, the liberator of Italy, who assumed a loose red shirt tucked into the belt, a costume which became the uniform of his troops.

### The Shopping of Royalty.

The Princess of Wales does all of her shopping by proxy. When she desires to purchase she sends for the forewoman of the department of the store selected, who comes, to Marlborough house with a sample of the goods.

The local newspaper of Falkenburg, a town in Pomerania, gives the following bit of news in a special edition:—"Reuter's office just announces that the Boers have sunk forty-six English ironclads in Delagoa Bay with a searchlight."

**A Successful Medicine.**—Everyone wishes to be successful in any undertaking in which he may engage. It is, therefore, extremely gratifying to the proprietors of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills to know that their efforts to compound a medicine which would prove a blessing to mankind have been successful beyond their expectations. The endorsement of these Pills by the public is a guarantee that a pill has been produced which will fulfil everything claimed for it.

One of the strangest facts regarding the present war is that English and Boer have so intermarried in South Africa that in countless instances brothers are fighting against brothers, and fathers against their sons.

**Totally Deaf.**—Mr. S. E. Crandell, Port Perry, writes: "I contracted a severe cold last winter, which resulted in my becoming totally deaf in one ear and partially so in the other. After trying various remedies, and consulting several doctors, without obtaining any relief, I was advised to try Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. I warmed the Oil and poured a little of it into my ear, and before one-half the bottle was used my hearing was completely restored. I have heard of other cases of deafness being cured by the use of this medicine."

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