



June

And what is so rare as a day in June?  
Then if ever come perfect days;  
Then Heaven tries the earth if it be  
in tune,  
And over it softly her warm ear  
lays;  
Whether we look or whether we listen,  
We hear life murmur, or see it  
glisten;

Every clod feels a stir of might,  
An instinct within it that reaches  
And, grasping blindly above it for  
light,  
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers.

—James Russell Lowell.



## Improving a Farm Home

Those of our readers who were subscribers for our paper last year will not have forgotten the keen interest and competition aroused by our Dairy Farms Competition which was carried on within 30 miles of Toronto. The results of this successful competition are still to be seen in that portion of Ontario, as the interest and enthusiasm that was created at that time among the neighboring farmers has not died away, but is still alive and working. One of our competitors wives has written us recently telling of the effect of the competition in her section. In part she says, "So much has been

means of arousing further love for improvement in farm homes of other women in Canada.

**A PLAIN BUT COMFORTABLE HOME**  
"Our home is a big old fashioned farm house, not to be compared with many of the fine modern residences in our community, but we love it and are trying to make the very most of what we have. Farmers are not millionaires and can not do as much as they wish, but a little touch here and there makes such a difference. It is wonderful what possibilities there are in a good old fashioned house. The modern house is built



Fig. 1.

Second Floor Plan of House owned by Mr. D. J. McClure, of Peel Co., Ont.

accomplished in one short summer, new friends have been made, new rivalries commenced and funny things have happened, for so many have discovered that they could have won in the competition had they tried. Should there ever be another competition I am sure that our country will be much better represented. It has been a great incentive to work."

### IMPROVEMENTS ON ONE FARM

That such a competition as this has awakened new interest and created a longing to still further improve a few farm homes, we are very glad. The winner of the third prize, Mr. D. J. McClure of Peel County, attributes a large measure of his success in the competition to his good wife. We have received a very interesting letter from Mrs. McClure, together with plans of her house, also the plans and an illustration of the small cottage which Mr. McClure has erected for his hired man. We publish here Mrs. McClure's letter almost in full. It will be of interest to other home makers, and no doubt be the

on as little ground as possible and crammed with conveniences, easy to heat and as a rule decorated. Old houses are plain and solid, but as it seems with a view to giving long walks. Land was cheaper in the olden days and fuel was abundant, yet with a little ingenuity and thought one can keep pace with the new houses and make our old houses a real haven of rest, comfort and beauty.

### A DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE IN DETAIL

Notice in Fig. 1, of diagram a wide hall through upstairs, on either side are two large bedrooms each provided with a wardrobe. In front and rear are long low latticed windows giving a quaint appearance to rooms. Fig. 2 shows the dining room, which is quite large. A big roomy fireplace is one feature of this room and in the fall and spring when it is blazing with pine knots or logs, it brightens many a gloomy day. A pretty archway is another feature of the room. Two large windows at each end of the room give an abundance of sunlight. A china closet,

near the fire place, is a great convenience. This room opens on to a large porch which we use as a summer parlor. Between breakfast room and kitchen, there is a passage from which stairs lead up to back stairs.

On Fig. 3, the one large room is our basement. The other rooms are the rear cellar for winter stores.

### THE GREATEST CONVENIENCE

This basement is our greatest convenience. Here we have both hot and cold water taps. The hot water from coils of pipe heated in furnace and connected with a large water tank. There is a sink near by where the men come to wash. In the evening work is finished before tea, and after washing they put

principle as my basement. It does a lot of unseen work and does it beautifully. You fill it up, as I do sometimes, with meat, puddings, vegetables, in the cold weather and presto! I have enough cooked for nearly a week, ready to shape into many dishes. There is in the kitchen also a baking cabinet, a very simple one, which I have had for fourteen years. There are many improved ones since but it is such a good old friend, that my kitchen would not be without anything without it. A little gem meat chopper is on end of table. It cost \$1.25 and I am sure it pays for itself in many ways.

### IN THE LIBRARY

Come along with me to our little library, and we will have a chat

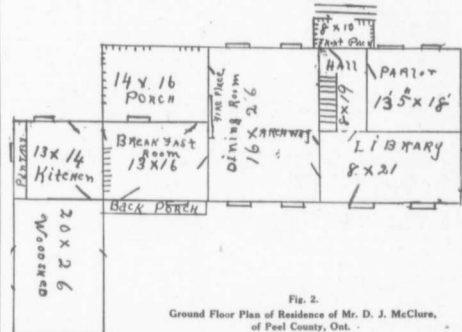


Fig. 2.

Ground Floor Plan of Residence of Mr. D. J. McClure, of Peel County, Ont.

on slippers and house coats and leave working boots and coats or smocks there and go by inside stairway to dining room. This is such a comfort to me. A big table, covered with white oilcloth and a tub on a stool stands ready near separator, and the milk vessels are here washed, scalded and put on racks and no hint of milk pails reach the kitchen. We have a good washing machine which cost \$6. It is indispensable for blankets, quilts and all heavy articles. I sometimes wonder how I ever did without one. I have used this for four years. It stands near taps and sink and the dreaded washing day has lost its terrors for me. It is always warm and comfortable in the basement and we do

about books. This is a very homely room, but it is a great comfort. We make a sitting room of it. A good sewing machine stands near one window. We have a few good books and a number of magazines come to us. We belong to a good public library. I sometimes think we have too many papers, we do not have time to read everything, yet each of us has a favorite page or magazine. If, as Lubbock tells us, "Education is the process of gaining knowledge," there is no better aid to it than the good books and good magazines within reach of everybody.

There is no danger of dwarfed minds if we make use of our blessings and privileges of good literature of to-day. We have bought some new books this year which have provided a great help and comfort to us all. We have a new friend on our magazine shelf, The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World and it has come to stay. "Hoard's Dairyman," keeps it company, also some back numbers of Farmer's Advocate. The World, Montreal Witness, Weekly Mail, country papers, The Canadian Horticulturist, McClure's Magazine and last of all my dearest friend, "The Ladies' Home Journal." As a woman's magazine, I consider it the best published."

### PAINT

Paint dark cupboards white and it will be an easy matter to tell if they are clean. Too many houses have dark closets in bedrooms, kitchen, hall or bathroom. They are often overlooked in the weekly cleanings, and are a "thorn in the flesh" of the neat housekeeper. Finish them all with white paint—doors, walls and shelves—and they will be an inspiration to cleanliness.

### HEARTH

If soot should fall on a carpet or hearth rug cover it quickly with powdered kitchen salt. It can then be swept up easily and without leaving any stain.

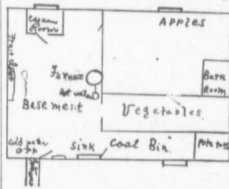


Fig. 3.

Plan of Basement of Farm House of Mr. D. J. McClure, of Peel Co., Ont.

all our rough work here. I cannot tell you how I value this room.

### LITTLE IMPROVEMENTS

As for kitchen conveniences, my greatest comfort is a new "Happy Thought" range. At first we dined on brown bread and brown biscuits; burned biscuits one dared to call. I burned everything I baked. I soon discovered "very little fuel" was the motto for my stove and now we dine in peace. Another treasure is an "Ideal Cooker," which cost \$8. I do not think that I could keep house without it. It is on the same