

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

REMEMBER?

By Archie Austin Coates, in
The Delineator

Remember how you did
When a yellow-headed kid,
Years ago?
When they sent you up to bed,
With the sky still glowing red
On the snow.
Remember?

And lying half awake,
Gazing out upon the lake
Grey and cold—
In your thoughts were damosels,
Knights, and jesters hung with bells
All of gold.
Remember?

Until the dying day
Hung a filmy cloud of grey
O'er the deep;
Then your vision turned to air—
Daddy came and found you there,
Fast asleep!
Remember?

FLOWER DECORATIONS

Out on the prairie the flowers are unfolding one by one. From the arrival of the first downy crocus until the autumn they come in a swift moving procession for the summers are short and the plants, like human beings, live hard and fast.

Thus it happens that an ever changing and indescribably lovely array of flowers is presented to the country woman for the adornment of her home. But this very prodigality of nature is often a hindrance to the beautiful use of flowers in the farm house. How often have I seen people go out and gather an apronful of flowers and stuff them in one conglomerate mass into a jar or tumbler, bluebell and white anemone, lily and rose. Think of spoiling the perfect charm of the wild rose by mixing it with other flowers! As a matter of fact it is very rarely that two sorts of flowers should be mixed in a bouquet. Most flowers are most beautiful alone and with not too many of their own kind even, so that the whole perfection of each single bloom is revealed. Try, for example, picking two sprays of the wild rose and putting them in a plain green jar, if you are so fortunate as to have one, and see for yourself how much more lovely they are than a tumbler crammed with flowers.

A lady speaking to a convention I attended once upon a time gave some rules for the arrangement of flowers which I have tried and found very good. She said that low growing flowers should always be arranged in low vessels and tall ones in tall vessels, and that flowers were most beautiful when accompanied by their own foliage. The long and the short of it seems to be that flowers are most beautiful when they are arranged as nearly as possible in the manner in which they grow out doors.

The second requisite for the ideal arrangement of flowers is that the vessels in which they are placed be harmonious in color and without a strong and definite design to conflict with the flowers.

By remembering to use only one kind of flower at a time and by using simple vessels, low or high according to the nature of the flowers, very good results can be obtained even by those whom the gods passed by in the distribution of artistic gifts.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

MINISTERS HAVE EASY LIFE

Dear Miss Beynon:—I noticed your letter in The Guide with reference to superannuation of aged ministers and was prompted to write a few lines to express my opinion on the subject if you will allow me to do so.

I can not see why a minister should need superannuation any more than any one else when he receives a salary which is equal to the average business man and a much larger salary than most any of the hard working men of this world. He has a free house, without rent, and many other little accessories and a very easy way of making his living, while there are other people just as honest and favor-

able in the eyes of true religion who toil in the sweat of their brows, and when they become old men they must have enough to live on or starve, whichever they like.

I think it absurd to superannuate ministers as it encourages insincere men to follow the profession who do so merely for the honor and the easy way of making a living, since their recompense on earth is sufficient reward for their work (if not superfluous in some cases) without any thought of reward "higher up."

Any man who does his share of helping the dependent and earns his living honestly is just as much in need of superannuation as any minister, for any man is discarded from his line of work when he becomes too old to perform his work with energy, and why should a minister be chosen while the others are left to sink or swim?

I knew a young man once who was working in the hay-field with his father, and as any man who has worked in the hay-field on a scorching summer day knows how tiresome it is, they will understand how tempting it looked when there passed riding in a top-buggy a couple of ministers, one with his feet up on the dash-board. The young man remarked to his father what an easy time ministers do have to what other people have and he added that he was going to follow that profession. He never forgot it and

when it will be right for one man to stand idly by and see his own or his neighbor's house pillaged and the people murdered, and this war, now that it is on, must in some way be fought to the finish, and after that what? Have we any surety that it will be any different in the future? I fail to see how so long as war is in any way glorified in the minds of the young. It's not a hard thing to educate a people up to war, for there seems to be a natural proclivity in the minds of the male of most species to fight just for its own sake. Those of us who live in the country can't but notice it, especially in the young roosters. We have seen it too in families of boys who haven't plenty to do and have not had the unmanliness of it all drilled into them by some elder whom they respect.

They talk of the glory of a soldier's death and I know it takes a brave man to be a soldier when they consider what is before them, and as the world stands I don't know what would have become of it had there been no brave ones to meet the aggressors in this war. But I think I would rather my sons died in most any other way than in trying to kill some other woman's sons, even tho they be Germans. Wouldn't it have been a huge joke to say such a thing as that a year ago. There was no people on the face of the earth more looked up to. I remember hearing about three years

for a while. The world didn't consider before how this military spirit, which was being drilled into the poor machines of men, could not help in the end brutalizing many of them. It was the good Germany, the scientific Germany the world knew before. But as Lloyd George said recently, "Should they win in this struggle it would not be the good Germany that would be dominant, but the one which forced the struggle." But surely the good Lord will not let them be victorious, altho He had nothing to do with it, and had He been with the originators it would never have occurred; but how much innocent blood must yet be spilled before it ends?

I was very sorry when I read that the women of Canada had refused to join the Women's Peace Conference at the Hague. Of course we want no patched up peace, but as I understand it no more do the originators of the conference, nothing short of the utter demolition in the end of these fiendish instruments of war, by a peaceful process if possible. Oh, Miss Beynon, if this is not accomplished soon what will the world come to? Dear old Longfellow said, "Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts given to redeem the human mind from error, there were no need of arsenals and forts." It is not simply camps and courts now, but the minds of so many bright men seem bent on inventing some new instrument for the destruction of human life, not alone for land and sea, but for the heavens above, and there is no nation on the face of the earth but welcomes each new device. Of course if one gets it for conquest the others must have it for defence.

I don't know how the decision was arrived at that there should be no delegate sent to the conference, but, Miss Beynon, do you think if there was a vote taken of the mothers, wives and sisters in Canada that it would go against trying by peaceful methods to bring this war to the right conclusion and save some of the precious blood which is being shed on both sides? I know their efforts may not be noticed by the men more than a puff of wind, but it seems to me it's worth trying, for I fail to see how we will be any nearer peace when a lot more people have been sacrificed and homes destroyed, for can peace won simply by the forces of hate, of which war is composed, be called real peace?

"There shall be wars and rumors of wars, but the end is not yet." The end of what? The end for which man was created God's image, I think, and which is being so cruelly perverted by everything which has the spirit of hate in it.

PENNSYLVANIA.

It was not because the women of Canada do not want peace that they refused to send a delegate to the conference, but because they realize that a peace concluded now would be interpreted by Germany as a triumph for their militaristic party, and the women of this Dominion are not willing that a peace shall be made until Germany has been made to realize that the age of autocracy is past. I like your letter. Won't you write again?

F. M. B.

THE WINDSOR CHAIR

This is the second in a series of illustrations of good designs in furnishings. Most of the things illustrated in this series will be such as have stood the test of time. The windsor chair, for example, is a very old design which has always enjoyed the appreciation of those who have a cultivated taste. It combines beauty, comfort and strength.

As a substitute for the vodka shops, which have been abolished, there have been erected in the open places thruout Russia 'People's Palaces' and smaller buildings where the people may meet for entertainment and instruction. Considerable progress has already been made in carrying out this scheme, the scale of which can be inferred from the fact that in the government of Poltava alone 300 of these popular recreation places have been opened or projected. They contain reading rooms and halls in which concerts, exhibitions and other entertainments can be given.



The Old Windsor Chair

he started to college that fall after the harvest was passed and sure enough became a minister, altho I am sure there was no real "calling" in this case, merely laziness and love of ease—well who could blame him. (This is absolutely a true incident).

Yours truly,

A FRIEND.

A WOMAN'S OPINION OF WAR

Dear Miss Beynon:—Many years ago when I was a young girl in a little country neighborhood in Pennsylvania our pastor invited as many of the young people of the vicinity as would to meet with him on Saturday evenings to read and study a book entitled "The Nation," by Elisha Mulford. I'm afraid it isn't much of statecraft I learned for I know now that the social part of it attracted us as much as anything else, but a few of the principles put forth in the volume still cling to me, and the underlying one was that the nation is a person, and according to his definition a person was not a real person unless he lived up to the best there was in him, and one of the motives was, "Be a person and respect others as persons."

Is there any personal grievance so great that it will justify one man taking another's life? We know what the law of all peoples who call themselves nations do about that, and yet those same nations will deliberately plan and carry out their plans to kill millions of their fellow beings.

Of course there will never come a time

ago a bright loyal young Englishman straight from England saying that if he could choose his own nationality he would rather be a German than anything else. And they are the same boys now, some of them good and some of them bad, like our own, but all of them human and too good to be murdered and made murderers of, and with their naturally bright minds and their wonderful system of thoroughness there is nothing good that with God's help they could not have accomplished had they chosen to be a real nation.

What then has caused this world wide revulsion against the Germans? I think one reason is that it is only since the war began that the world is beginning to see the terrible consequences of this spirit of conquest, regardless of the rights of other people which has been drilled into them. A man who was in Germany in some public meeting when the news came that war had been declared said the people, many of them, jumped onto the seats and shouted in insane joy. We know that no such spirit existed here. It was just a terrible calamity that must be met. I think we will all agree that it was not because they were naturally more wicked at heart, but simply on account of their education, compulsory education, not for the sake of the growth of the individual, but to be used at the will of the Kaiser and his men for the furtherance of their aims. There is no freedom in such an education as that and without freedom there can be no continuous growth, no matter how big a showing there may be