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A HUMBLE CONFESSION

I have a letter before me from a young girl out in the country who says, "I have read your page and I feel that you know how we country women feel." I do, you know, because I lived in the country in Manitoba and walked three miles to school when I was a little girl, and went back and taught in country schools after I grew up. But it isn't any credit to me to understand. I feel guilty when you all write and praise me for the work I am doing. You see, I am being paid for the work and I love it.

I love to come into my office in the morning and find a whole pile of nice, interesting letters there from all over the West and the United States and England. When you tell me about your home life I fill in the details and have a vivid picture in my mind of your surroundings.

There is a country farm house where I often go to visit in the summer. We drive over a delightful country road, broken in the middle by a small wooded stream. After we have jogged along comfortably for eight miles we turn in at the gate and drive up to the kitchen door—we always use our kitchen doors in the country, do we not? Then the family, headed by the sweet faced mother, come forth to meet me and I am escorted in state to the big kitchen from which comes forth delectable odors of fried new potatoes and ham and eggs to make one's mouth water. In the gracious hospitality of this and other country homes I have kept fresh in my mind the atmosphere of farm life. Not because I had any idea of using this knowledge in my profession, but because I love the country.

So you see, the understanding of country conditions isn't a virtue on my part, it is second nature, and I must, to be honest, disclaim all credit for it.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

WAYS TO ECONOMIZE

Dear Miss Beynon:—I would like very much the two little books entitled, How to Teach the Truth to Children, also The Most Beautiful Story in the World, for which I enclose 15 cents. I get the Grain Growers' Guide from my father-in-law every week and I like to read Sunshine page very much.

Perhaps these few hints will help someone else.

I make the children underwear out of old ones and I make mitts out of old socks and my flour bags I dye what color I want and make blouses and dresses for the little one, and it wears very good. I trim the dresses with a bit of lace and they look nice. I make mats out of very old clothes, also comforters. The way I make the mats, I get four laths and nail them together, then I sew a bag, opened up, on to the frame. I bought a mat hook for six cents. I cut my rags in strips about one inch wide and hold strip of rag with thumb and finger of left hand on the back of the canvas, then stick your hook in and pull it through just like small loops, about half inch high, and always pull your last end through so it won't pull out. I hope you will be able to understand what I mean.

Well, now I will tell you how I make my quilts. I sew all my pieces together just the size I want; then put the backing on and leave a vent about 4 inches long, then stitch two more borders and leave a vent in each facing one another; then stitch a fancy design in the centre and leave a vent again. Then fill with feathers and stitch up vents. These are very warm and light.

Well, you may print this if you wish. With best wishes I will now conclude.
JUST TWENTY-THREE.

Thanks ever so much for your good practical suggestions, and come again whenever you can.

F. M. B.

HAS PAPERS TO GIVE

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have been an interested reader of The Guide for some time and especially of the corners devoted to women and children.

Must say I am heartily sorry for some

of our dear sisters who find life so hard with the one who should be their protector and lover all through every trial of life. I do not know that I have any advice to offer as each case would have to be dealt with accordingly, as the case required, but would just like to say, "Do not allow yourself to become a drudge nor a martyr, when, in doing so, you are not doing any one a real service of kindness, but rather doing him or them an injury by allowing them to become warped and thus losing their dignity."

My real purpose in writing is to offer to any one a quantity of Sunday School papers and cards. You can forward a letter to me through Miss Beynon and I shall be pleased to send prepaid to any address. These papers are full of good reading.

Also, I enclose 20 cents for the two books, "How to Teach the Truth to Children" and "The Most Beautiful Story in the World." I also think we women should and will have our vote as well as the men.

You know I am not a former contributor to this Homemakers page, but would like to add that I find it quite interesting and heartily fall in line with such a sisterhood, but I feel so sad when I think of the unhappy lot of some of my sisters.

We have been married fifteen years and have come through many sicknesses and trials, among them life in a shanty on the prairie, but have loved and comforted each other thus far and love each other better as the years go by. I think the common purse the only way as it is, and has been, our plan all our married life. Of course, there might be exceptions in cases where a woman would not consider her husband's means.

I must close now and sign myself

WESTERN SISTER.

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F. M. B.



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