

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

DESIDERATA

Four things a man must learn to do.
If he would keep his record true:
To think, without confusion, clearly;
To love his fellow man sincerely;
To act from honest motives purely;
To trust in God and Heaven securely.
—Henry Van Dyke.

THE WORDS OF THE WISE ABOUT HOUSE FURNISHING

Every few years decorators and designers of house furnishings are seized with fads which they air upon every possible occasion for the benefit of us poor ignorant ones who don't understand the true inwardness of interior decoration. Then another generation of decorators comes along and tells us that these first people were insane and that the styles of decoration they recommended were hideous. So it remains for us to experiment for ourselves and discover which of their ideas are really practical and beautiful.

Just now they have instituted a campaign against the cheap woodwork, stained a light oak and highly varnished, and suggest as an alternative painting it a soft cream shade. Now I believe it is ugly. I have lived with it for a good many years and that is the general impression it has left on my mind, but I never dreamed of painting it cream until I read about it in a work on decoration. Even then I wasn't sure that the writer knew what she was talking about so I tried a little experiment on my own account. I got three samples of beautiful wallpaper and held them up beside some cream woodwork and tried the effect. The first was a bright hard tan paper and the effect was anything but pleasing, but the next was a dead fawnish brown with a shade of yellow here and there and it was delightful. The third, a dark blue foliage paper with dark brown stalks, also blended perfectly with the cream woodwork.

So now, from actual knowledge, I am prepared to say that the cheap oak-finished woodwork would look much better covered up with cream paint and, combined with wisely-chosen paper will make a beautiful room.

Speaking of papers, there are certain general rules that should be observed in order to obtain good results. Never use a large patterned paper except in very large rooms. On small rooms use papers with light colored grounds. They will add to the apparent size. It is always safe to choose fawns and browns and greens for color schemes as they will blend with pretty nearly anything you happen to have in furnishings.

If I were planning a house I wouldn't have a parlor in it at all, unless I had so much room I didn't know what to do with it. I would have, instead, a living-room with big cosy seats and lounges where one could sit down and be comfortable. This living-room would be a real homey place with books and magazines about and a few healthy plants, and, if I could afford it, a good picture or two.

All the authorities are agreed that the walls of our living-rooms should not be decorated with the pictures of our friends, either dead or living; that we should keep these personal trophies for our sleeping rooms. This comes to us as rather a shock at first, we have been so used to hav-

ing our friends smiling down upon us from every side but there does seem to be reason in it, doesn't there? It is safe to say that very few of the people who visit us in our homes will be interested in these photographs. On the other hand if we have one or two copies of really good pictures they will give pleasure to every casual caller.

Another thing that the professional decorator of today is trying hard to discourage is the habit we have of cluttering our rooms all up with nick-nacks. They don't approve of nick-nacks. This is more or less an outgrowth of the modern enthusiasm for sanitary homes. Shells and vases and picture frames and bric-a-brac generally all collect dust we are told and are not beautiful. We should get rid of them or put them in the attic. Most of us have no attics and we hate to deliberately dump out on the ash heap that queer bit of crockery that some old aunt gave us for our birthday away back in the joyful times when birthdays lagged instead of tramping on each others' heels as they do now; or this photograph album which we all feel to be ugly but which has pleasant associations. Perhaps they are right, however. It may be that if we compromised by packing most of our ornaments away in the bottom of our trunks that our homes would be vastly improved in simplicity and cleanliness and beauty.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

A CHAMPION OF HUSBANDS

Dear Francis Beynon:—I am very much interested in your part of our Guide, the Country Homemakers and Sunshine. Yes, I think women should have votes. How can any reasonable man refuse women this right? But I do not think women should be too independent in the home. As "Ma" says about the butter money, John, poor fellow, who bought the cows (most likely) feeds and takes care of them the whole year round, should have no share in the profits. That is alright where a farmer is all fixed up so he has money, a little spare cash coming in from some other way, between crops. Or in an older country where the farmer is well fixed. Then yes, it is alright for a woman to have her own income. But not in our new country. The man needs every spare cent to pay hired men and other expenses that have to be paid with

cash. Then should not the wife, the woman he has taken for a partner, who has promised to go through good and bad with him, share all alike, be one in all with him?

No, dear women, a man cannot be ruled that way. Some men will give their women this or that money for themselves. What the butter or eggs bring is yours, or this cow yours, but generally these men give their wives nothing else. Here I know of an independent woman getting her share of wheat every year. She is not satisfied, because it never reaches around. Why? Because she always spends above her means. Hubby must help her along with his pocket book very often. Take good care of baby's shoes and his best dress. Do not let him wear his Sunday shoes for everyday because you forget where you put the old ones. Then they will not get shabby. Maybe John's purse could not always buy when new ones were wanted because it was empty. Most men take a pride in keeping their family and home in good order. When they see their wives doing their best they will do their best also.

The whole trouble is women do not spend enough time loving their husbands. My heart aches for the men whose wives let them kiss and hug them and talk nonsense to them before they were married and now they will not stand for anything like it. Women, have you ever thought what a power of love the good Lord has given us to draw our husbands with? Take time each day to pet your husband. Let Mary go with an unironed dress, or baby with a little less frills and fancy. Give this time to your husband and you will not need your own income. For hubby will be proud and do all he can for you within his means.

Then I want to thank you, dear Miss Beynon, for your noble work of selling these little books. It is a thing all children should know. Have you not a book suitable for girls, telling them about themselves? So many books that are bought for girls are too hard for them to understand. Mothers, teach your girls how to look after themselves. You may be the means of saving them from a lot of unnecessary suffering which they get from taking colds and other ways. Be faithful to the trust you have in hand. Teach your children what they should

know and you will not have to regret it.
PAUL.

WIVES OFTEN SERVANTS

Dear Friend:—Every time The Guide comes I get it first and read "The Country Homemakers" page, for I am very much interested in the articles printed there.

Every week I learn something new and wish I could help too. Please send me your booklet "How to Teach the Truth to Children" for which I enclose five cents.

I have two children ages 14 and 16, the younger a well grown girl, the older a full grown young man, and I would like to know what books they should read on Purity. My other two are 4 and 10 and just the inquisitive age. I believe children should be told the truth when asking questions on life or any subject for how can our children be truthful and have perfect faith in mother if she herself is not truthful even in the small details?

I wish every woman had her rights in this country too, for so many of us are only servants or mistresses and without pay; we must obey because the law says so yet we are helpless to defend ourselves on the farm. The Canadian women do make splendid neighbors at all times and particularly in time of sickness or need.

Yours with best wishes,

AN ADOPTED YANKEE.

We are glad to adopt you into our family and hope you will feel very much at home with us as you evidently do in our country.
F. M. B.

GUIDE IS FEARLESS

Dear Miss Beynon:—Enclosed find ten cents in stamps, for which please send me the booklet entitled "How to Teach the Truth to Children," also your other little booklet, I just forget its name and can't find it in the last Guide, but I want it.

I enjoy your page, Miss Beynon, you have a chance to help a great many people. I admire the independent, fearless stand The Guide takes on other questions too.

It is in favor of Woman's Suffrage, but what is being definitely done to further the cause? I would be glad to help, so would my husband.

"PRAIRIE DWELLER."

VINEGAR ECONOMIES

As a cleanser vinegar is excellent. Used for cleaning smoke and dirt in general from walls and woodwork, especially yellow pine, vinegar works like magic. Put a pint in a basin, wet a flannel cloth in this and wipe the thing to be cleaned. When the cloth becomes soiled wash it out in clear water before wetting again in the vinegar. In this way no vinegar is wasted and there is no wetting of clothing. For removing fly specks from woodwork, picture frames, and windows there is nothing equals vinegar.

To take the odor of fish and onions from cooking utensils boil a little vinegar in them after washing them; then rinse thoroughly.

Vinegar will take shoeblacking from clothing, and, if the hands become rough or chapped rinse them well and apply a little vinegar, letting it dry on.

To make the roast tender, rub it with vinegar. A tablespoon of vinegar added the last thing to sponge cake improves it. Use vine-



PICTURESQUE SCENES FROM MADEIRA

A basket-sledge, or "carro," one of the peculiar vehicles in use in Funchal, the capital of Madeira. The streets of this town are so steep that the natives use these "carros" in preference to wheeled vehicles. Each sledge is drawn by a pair of bullocks, from whose necks tiny silver bells are hung. Madeira is frequently visited by Canadians.