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Old Lady Day Customs.

The Festival of the Annunciation, and the first day of the Georgian year, has long been observed as "Quarter Day," and from its civil importance, as well as being the only festival of the Virgin which falls in Lent, has come to be known as Lady Day, or, more correctly, "Our Lady Day the Annunciation," as it is written in ancient documents. It was called "St. Mary's Day in Lent," to distinguish it from other festivals in honor of the Virgin. An old adage tells us that it is unlucky for Easter and Lady Day to happen together.

When Easter falls in Our Lady's lap, then let England beware a rap.

There are plenty of other proverbs for this day—in one of which we are told how

"St. Mary in the spring, the swallows come in"; while in Belgium the day is called "Jours de la Prosperité," because anything planted on that day easily takes root, and seeds, sown prosper.

It is also a popular notion that the year will be fruitful if before sunrise the sky is clear and the stars shine brightly. In other days, when the tenant was a stranger at the mercy of the landowner, various customs were indulged in on quarter-days which have long since fallen into disuse. The best remembered of these consisted of the presenting of the gifts of various kinds with which the land favour in the eyes of the landlord.

This custom is referred to by Macaulay in his "Flowers of Foscara," published in 1875. "The tenant had when the tenancies come to pale their quarter's rent, lay bring a dish of fish in Lent."

Apart from the collection of rents, with their attendant observances, there do not appear to be any very general customs now indulged in on Lady Day. There are some traces of the "strengthening of sickly children" in Scotland by laying them in freshly-dug graves on Lady Day, and in Lancashire there used to be a festival known as the "Guisling Fast," held at Ashton-under-Lyne, while a species of cake known as "Pope's Ladies" was sold at St. Almas, in memory of an escape from outposts on the Great North Road.

These observances have long since fallen into disuse, and the general idea appears to be to honour the custom of Lady Day rather in the fact than in the observance.

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TEA.**

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SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

WHY SO SILLY!

Why are people so foolish about making their wills?

If death were a thing that just happened to a few people and that one might escape altogether

if one were lucky, even then it seems as if people would prepare for that danger by planning to have the property they have worked so hard to get together to those whom they love best and who need it most.

But as it is, well, it seems almost inconceivable that we should be so careless about a matter that vitally concerns those we love. Picture to yourself your wife sick and lacking money for comforts and someone you care nothing about endowed with a few thousands just because you left it to the law to dispose of your property instead of spending a few minutes attending to that matter yourself.

Doesn't it make you wild to think of all the labor and self-denial by which you amassed that money ending that way.

Do It Now.

"It's enough to make So-and-So turn over in his grave," I have heard people say of a man to whom such a thing has happened. How much wiser to bestir oneself a little in the present instead of turning over in one's grave—which may be difficult to manage and of no help to anyone.

A man I know died last year. He had always been going to make a will, but he never had. He was well to do, he had a beloved nephew (by marriage) who had been almost like a son to him. The rest he meant to leave to his greatly loved wife so that she could live in the same comfort in which he had kept her. He never thought of any other disposition of his property. But, alas, he did nothing but think. He was taken suddenly ill and died of pneumonia, without time to make a will. The law in the state where he lived provided that

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the man's state of mind, though not his act, for ethically that property should have gone to him and one can see how he must have justified himself in his mind.

It Won't!

But the law cannot make exceptions for such cases. That wouldn't be possible.

And the only way to safeguard oneself is to comply with the simple necessary regulations. If you can afford a lawyer go to one. If you can't, write out a simple statement of what you want done with your property, sign it and get it witnessed according to the regulations in your state.

And don't have that silly superstition that making a will is going to hasten your death. It won't any more than buying a baby carriage would bring a baby into the family, or failing to make provision for one would keep a baby away if it had decided to come.

Household Notes.

If you have no money to serve with hot biscuits, beat a cup of jelly with half cup of melted butter. When light in color and of creamy consistency, it is ready to serve.

If you wish to paint inside woodwork white, do not use any oil in the paint. Oil is only needed for outside painting, and it turns the woodwork an ugly yellow.

Many business women are glad to rent a sewing machine occasionally instead of investing in one. Yours may add quite a few pennies to your income by being used in this way.

A small ironing board especially for embroideries, laces and strips of buttons may be made by covering a board 14 by 20 inches with four thicknesses of Turkish towelling and an outside cover of muslin.

Shoulder straps for underwear may be made from worn white silk hose. Cut lengthwise strips and fold in both edges to the center and stitch down. These straps are durable, slightly elastic, and do not slip as ribbon does.

When you have only a three-burner kerosene stove and need every one for preparing the dinner, the coffee may be made ahead of time and kept boiling hot in a vacuum bottle until dinner time. This vacuum bottle may be used which would otherwise be occupied by coffee pot.

Everyday Words.

WHAT WE OWE TO OTHER NATIONS.

English is composed of dozens of other tongues—in fact, you cannot say even the simplest thing without using a number of foreign words. Take your house for instance, and see how many languages are needed to describe it.

Opening the gate, you enter the garden, a word meaning an enclosure, which comes from the old Vikings. The porch is a Latin word; so is the vestibule, which originally was the place where Romans left their vestments or overcoats.

Some women have their own little dens, which they call boudoirs—French, again! Boudoir means "a sulking place," and it was the room to which the lady of the house retired to put away her ill-humour when she was feeling that she hated everybody. A recess in a room is called an alcove, which is an Arabic word meaning an arch.

The kitchen is Latin; scullery is certainly not an English word, but it is doubtful whether it was the place where the Romans put their trays, or that where the Vikings swilled their pots. The ladder is a French word meaning a bacon-store.

The staircase is German. At the top of it is the passage, a French word meaning "space for moving to and fro." The Romans gave it this name because their children used it as a playground.

The lumber room—really Lombard room—is the place where the Lombards, the great Italian bankers of the Middle Ages, kept their papers. It is also given the German name garret, or the Greek name attic. Greek temples were built with a triangular structure above the pillars at either end, hence the name is given to the room with a pointed railing at the top of the house.

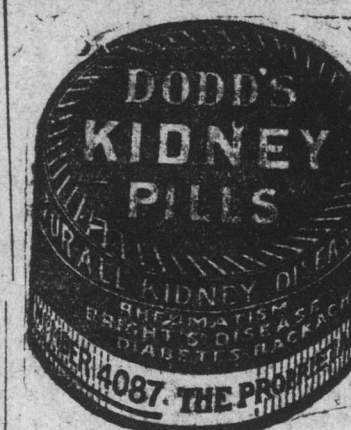
Houses are built of French bricks and roofed with slates, a German word meaning "split things." The chimneys are Greek. The gutters that collect the rain water are French, while the water spouts that carry it away are Swedish.

Icelandic windows keep out the wind, and at night Venetian blinds are drawn. These, by the way, came to Venice from Spain, where they were called "jealousies." The jealous Spanish husband kept his wife in seclusion. She was not allowed to draw up her blinds, but she might peep out through the slits between the laths.

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