

**Minnie May's Department.**

**A Few Words With Our Nieces.**

"Dear me," sighed a young friend, what a pile of dinner dishes I have to wash; it seems to me there can be nothing left on the shelves; every pan and dish seems to be dirty. Our friend did not accustom herself to the following rules: It is a good plan never to allow such a pile of dishes to accumulate, but to make a practice of washing them as soon as you have finished using them. It takes but a few minutes at the time, and then you escape having one of those immense piles that we all detest so much. They wash much easier before they have stood an hour or two, and tins in particular keep their brightness much better for this practice. It is a poor principle to allow a pile of unwashed dishes to be standing around drawing the flies; everything should be washed and put in its proper place as soon as used; it simplifies work a great deal to follow this rule.

So, too, in regard to mending, to sew on a button, for darn a pair of stockings, in an odd minute or two, and not allow your sewing basket to become full the comfort and tidiness of a family is greatly benefited by following this simple rule. The kitchen never presents a scene of confusion with everything out of place and nothing in readiness when wanted.

MINNIE MAY.

**Don't Allow Talent to Rust.**

As by constant friction steel is kept highly polished, so by constant exercise is talent ever at its brightest.

Will our powers grow by use? If we neglect to cultivate the habit of observation we might as well walk through the world blindfold. We lose our faculty of what artists call our "touch" by neglect of practice on other things besides the piano.

The man who seldom reads, reads slowly. The woman whose writing is confined to an infrequent letter to some absent friend, spends more time over that than does a practised writer over a dozen pages of manuscript. Exercise of possessed talent is absolutely necessary, then, if we would retain our gifts. For example, if our occupation is sedentary, we need to plan for walks, rides and active games to keep our muscles lithe and serviceable. But if our employment gives us enough muscular action, we should plan for mental exercise, for employment enough of our memory and our reasoning powers to keep them from rusting. And in either case then life must provide exercise, for mind and body can alone bring us to the stature of the perfect man.

M. M.

MY DEAR MINNIE MAY,—I have often found some very useful recipes and hints in your pages and have never seen a recipe of Scotch-bread, which is very nice and will keep for months. As you requested your nieces to help you and send you some good recipes, I embrace the opportunity with pleasure. Will enclose one for Scotch-bread. From your friend.

J. D. HUGHES, Toronto.

**GENUINE SCOTTISH SHORT-BREAD.**

Take two pounds of fine flour, one pound fresh butter, half pound fine sifted sugar; thoroughly knead these together, roll out the cake to half an inch in thickness, and place it over paper in a shallow tin, and fire slowly until of proper crispness. It is usual to insert in upper surface a few caraway confections and small pieces of orange-peel.

J. D. H.

MY DEAR MINNIE MAY,—A great many people may find their supply of preserved fruit insufficient to last until the fruit season. I am speaking from experience. I know we have, and are very glad to use apple marmalade, which is easily made. I will give the recipe I use for making the marmalade for those who may wish to use it. From your friend.

J. COOK, New York.

**APPLE MARMALADE.**

Peel and core two pound acid apples and put them in an enamelled saucepan with one pint of sweet cider, or a half a pint of pure wine, and one pound of crushed sugar; cook them by a gentle heat three hours or longer, until the fruit is very soft, then squeeze it first through the colander and then through a sieve. If not sufficiently sweet, add powdered sugar to suit your taste, and put away in jars made air-tight. It is delicious eaten with cream, but very good without.

Rings which have stones in should always be taken off the finger when the hands are washed, or they will become discolored.

MY DEAR MINNIE MAY,—Please accept the following recipe from your niece and well wisher.

**TEA HUSKS.**

Half a pint of new milk and one cup of yeast, add flour to make a batter, and set the sponge at night. In the morning, add half a pint of milk, one cup of sugar, one of butter, one egg, one nutmeg, and flour to make it sufficiently stiff. Let it rise, then roll it, and cut it out, let it rise again, and then bake.

M. J., INGERSOLL.

DEAR MINNIE MAY,—I have become much interested in your monthly department, and would like to assist you a little. I think something about the fashions now and then would not be amiss in your columns. Some who live in the country have not the advantage of magazines, therefore might derive some benefit from a little description concerning the fashions occasionally. Mr. Weld may object to having fashions in his agricultural paper; but "tell him" that we belong to the farm, therefore wish to look as tidy as possible, and, when he comes to see us, not to be "decked out" in a dress that was made fashionably perhaps eight or ten years ago, to receive him. What is more mortifying than to go to town in a nice new dress which cost forty or fifty cents a yard (for I must say as a general rule farmers wives purchase expensive goods) made up in some ancient way, and overhear two city ladies, dressed in a material which only cost a shilling or fifteen cents though made fashionably, say one to the other, "Do look at that dress, Lizzie, I believe it belongs to her grandmother," and another say, "Oh, Annie, how do you like the style of that dress," besides being stared at by all the curious people in town. Now I will give you a few hints on

**SPRING FASHIONS.**

Skirts are made still more clinging and some elaborately trimmed; one large pocket is almost always put on the left side, the very tight skirt making it impossible to use a pocket inserted in the dress. The curiass basques are still the favorite, they are made longer than they were three months ago, some extend at least two-eighths of a yard below the waist. The over-skirt is cut very long in front and very narrow, so that it may be draped at the sides to fit closely to the figure. The back consists of one breadth of double width, material bunched up in the back to form puffs. Deep flounces cut on the bias, gathered and headed by a narrow knife-plaiting frill, flounces plaited on two inches from the top to form a heading, to stand up. Ruffles, deep puffs and deep scallops are the most fashionable trimmings. Another new over-skirt is made quite long on the left side and short on the right side. Now that two colors are worn, it is a good plan to make two old dresses into one, make the under-skirt trimming for the over-skirt and sleeves of the one, and over-skirt trimmings for the under-skirt and basque of the other and you will have a fashionable dress.

MYRA.

**Barley—Produce and Profit.**

Barley has again proved a remunerative crop, though the season was unfavorable for harvesting it in the finest condition, and consequently there was a less quantity classed "Canadian No. 1" than in previous years. However, the demand for malting barley continued brisk, and such brought a good price, while inferior samples sold at paying prices for feeding stock. The yield throughout was good, and many will, no doubt, continue to grow it, as part of their crop of cereals, and let the soil rest from the long-practiced succession of wheat crops. By growing barley as one of a rotation of crops, farmers would have their land in a less exhausted condition. Was such a system generally pursued there would be a regular supply of barley in the market, not a glut one year and another year a dearth; and, with a regular supply, it would be more used for feeding, for which it is very valuable; and there would be a constant demand. A farmer in the neighborhood of Larra, threshed, last season, 800 bushels of merchantable barley from 16 acres of light land, that would not have yielded 15 bushels of wheat to the acre; and this was not an uncommon yield. Much higher produce was had in the neighborhood of Kingston and the Bay of Quinte.

**International Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1876.**

The Ontario Advisory Board are prepared to receive entries of horses, cattle, and other live stock for the Centennial Exhibition. The entries will close on the 10th of April. We understand that four ex-Presidents of the Provincial Agricultural Society have undertaken the duty of making selections of such animals as are likely to maintain the credit of the Province in competition. We hope the Dominion will fully uphold her credit in the pressure of the nations of the world. Her live stock and cereals stand high in the estimation of judges, and we cannot doubt that some of the animals our stock breeders will exhibit, will not fall behind any on the continent. From all parts of Canada we hear the note of active preparation.

One mistake made by the greatest exhibition yet seen—that of Vienna—will, we hope, be guarded against at the Centennial. Their admittance fees were so high as to prevent from being present those who would have gladly gone. We know many farmers are anxious to go to this exhibition, and we hope the charges will not be so high as to keep away a class whom it may greatly benefit. Many also are afraid that the expenses of boarding, and other expenses, such as hotel charges, will be extravagant. Could any members of the Advisory Board or Mr. Frazer let us have any information on the subject in time for the issue of the next number of the ADVOCATE.

Woods, grains, grasses, wool, flax cotton, agricultural machinery, and all objects except fruit and other perishable objects, and live stock, must be located previous to April 19th, 1876. Fruits will be admitted in their season. Vegetable and other perishable products will also be admitted in their season. Dairy products will be admitted on Wednesday of each week during the period of the exhibition.

The live stock exhibition will be held within the months of September and October, the periods devoted to each class and family being fifteen days, as follows:—Horses, mules and asses, from Sept. 1 to 15; horned cattle, from Sept. 20 to Oct. 5; sheep, swine, goats and dogs, from Oct. 10 to 25; poultry, from Oct. 28 to Nov. 10. Animals to be eligible for the exhibition, must be, with the exception of trotting stock, walking horses, matched teams, fat and draught cattle, of such pedigree that the exhibitor can furnish satisfactory evidence to the Chief of Bureau that:—As applied to thoroughbred horses, they are of pure blood; as to short-horned cattle, they are registered in either Allen's, Alexander's, or the English herd book. As to Holstein's, Hereford's, Ayrshires, Guernseys, Brittanys, Kerrys, and other pure breeds, they are either imported or descended from imported animals on both sides. As to Jerseys, they are entered in the herd register of the American Jersey cattle, or in that of the Royal Agricultural Society of Jersey. Exhibitors will be expected to furnish their own attendants, on whom all the responsibility of the care of feeding, watering, and cleaning the animals, and also of cleaning the stalls, will rest. Forage and grain will be furnished at cost prices at depots conveniently located within the grounds. Water can be had at all hours. All animals must be entered according to the prescribed rules, as given in forms of entry, which forms will be furnished on application to the Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture. The exhibition will open on the 10th of May, and close the 10th of November following. All sheep offered for exhibition must be accompanied with a certificate to the effect that they have been shorn since the 1st of April, and the date given. Poultry can only be exhibited in coops made after specifications furnished by the Bureau of Agriculture.

Messrs. E. Caswell and C. E. Chadwick, of Ingersoll, and Thos. Ballantyne, M. P., of Stratford have been in Philadelphia completing arrangements for the exhibition of dairy products in the Canadian Department. Intending exhibitors or visitors can have any information required by applying to Mr. R. W. Fraser, Centennial Commissioner, Scott street, Toronto.

We would call the attention of those interested in draining to Mr. Tiffany's Brick and Tile Machine advertised in this paper. It may be seen at work at E. Leonard & Sons' establishment in this city. Mr. T. has shipped one machine to West Virginia, despite the high rate of duty on Canadian manufactures.

**Patent**

**List of**

- 370 Dunn—Peter
- 371 S., Port Maitland
- 372 Sunderland—J.
- 373 S., Ravenna.
- 374 Duffries C.
- 375 Hugh Mitchell
- 376 Central Br
- 377 Ewald, S. Gres
- 378 Hamburg—
- 379 S., Hamburg.
- 380 Harris—W.
- 381 S., Belleville.
- 382 Beta—David
- 383 Sec., Belleville.
- 384 First Lenn
- 385 Membery, S., A
- 386 Hawthorne
- 387 Coverson, S. J
- 388 Edon—Wm
- 389 S., Beaverton.
- 390 Mariposa—
- 391 S., Oakwood.
- 392 Hickling—
- 393 Burns, S., Max
- 394 Mayfair—A
- 395 S., Longwood.
- 396 Millbrook—
- 397 S., Mill Brook
- 398 Mount Sid
- 399 Dynes, S., Pri
- 400 Banda—Th
- 401 Fullerton—
- 402 Richard Thom
- 403 Nobleton—
- 404 S., Nobleton
- 405 Welcome—
- 406 S., Welcome.
- 407 Egmondvill
- 408 Adam, S., Eg
- 409 Kinsale.
- 410 Forest Be
- 411 Smith, S. Sut
- 412 Lily of Me
- 413 topther Ogle,
- 414 S., Fullet—J
- 415 London—
- 416 Stanley—
- 417 Brucefield
- 418 Wesleyvill
- 419 cadden, S., W
- 420 Lyons—Ja
- 421 Lyons.
- 422 Grand Ri
- 423 Gal.
- 424 Port Dove
- 425 England, S.
- 426 Crowland—
- 427 S., Port Rob
- 428 Seeley's
- 429 McCutcheon
- 430 Orchard
- 431 Bain, S., Or
- 432 Holstem-
- 433 Holstein.
- 434 Hawkston
- 435 Jamson, S.,
- 436 Duntroon
- 437 Dunroon
- 438 S., Manilla—
- 439 ning, S., Ma
- 440 Heathcot
- 441 tor, S., Hea
- 442 Corunna
- 443 Fleck, S., C
- 444 408 Maple
- 445 Henry, Hors
- 446 409 East Nis
- 447 McKay, S.
- 448 410 Whitefie
- 449 ing, S., Wh
- 450 411 Bear Isl
- 451 N. R., J. H.
- 452 412 Wastive
- 453 Priestman,
- 454 413 Williscr
- 455 ham, S., Pa
- 456 414 Alma—
- 457 S., Little I
- 458 415 Star of
- 459 S., Rosevil
- 460 416 Fairvie
- 461 S., Black I
- 462 417 Lavend
- 463 son, S., La
- 464 418 Wheats
- 465 Wallace, S.
- 466 419 Eramos
- 467 Caig, S., E
- 468 420 Quinte
- 469 ford, S. R
- 470 421 Owen S
- 471 Bell, S., O
- 472 422 Kilsyth
- 473 syth.
- 474 423 Honey
- 475 mount, S.
- 476 424 Star—
- 477 Bowmanv
- 478 425 Niagar
- 479 Niagara.
- 480 426 Shetla
- 481 S., Shetla
- 482 427 McGill
- 483 Wright, S.
- 484 428 Farm
- 485 Nichols, S.
- 486 429 Huron
- 487 S., Pine R
- 488 430 Pine R
- 489 Pine Rive
- 490 431 Reac
- 491 Port Per