



The Servant Girl Problem.

For the CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL by A. C. M.

To MENTION the "Servant" in company seems to start a flagging conversation into full vigor. This is natural, why? Because so much of the happiness or misery of home depends on it.

There are two points of view from which one can look at it:

(a) From the woman's side as woman.

(b) From the woman's side as Christian.

Of course this is true of all phases of work on earth. But I mention it because in conversation I have often noticed that while with regard to one's own family, duty seems to have a preference to what is incumbent on Christians, with regard to the "Servant," this is entirely ignored and the only idea is that of work done and value for the work given.

A recent work, said to be a solution of the servant problem, I saw advertised in the *British Weekly* with a picture of a minister saying to a servant, "I love you: will you be my wife?"

The story shows, however, that the servant was an educated woman, fit to be a teacher and of a good family. I fear very erroneous views of life might result if that story is held to be a solution of the servant problem.

I do think that in the story the writing and reading of the verses out of the Scriptures bearing on the servant question must do good in that they show our servants that service (in those days, slavery) was not a degrading occupation, for it is said to them, "Ye serve the Lord, Christ," and they must not think because they are servants they are to pity themselves and be discontented and so do their work in that Philistine spirit. Far from it: they are to be rewarded as the reverse, according as they do their work. Why? for the very same reason as masters are told to treat them properly, viz., "There is no respect of persons."

If a girl gets into her mind that household service is degrading (more so than shop work, or mill work, or office work,) of course she'll do it badly, at least not heartily. If she or he thinks a mistress looks down on household work as beneath her or the master, and draws comparisons between it and other kinds of work, then the relations will be unreciprocal and misery will ensue.

The trouble can be settled by each going to the Grand old Book, and each taking what is there given to her. It needs both to be willing to do this, however, to make pleasant intercourse.

The book so far is very instructive, but in so far as probability goes that the minister will marry the servant, it is not cor-

rect, for the servant in this case was not a type of the servant class at all.

Domestic service can be made much more enjoyable for servants, and of course if a girl is happy she'll do her work better.

Summer Recipes.

FROZEN ALMOND PUDDING.—Beat four egg yolks with four tablespoons sugar, then add one pint of boiling milk; cook until custard coats spoon, then add two tablespoons melted unsweetened chocolate, one-half teaspoon almond extract, one-half teaspoon vanilla; cool, then fold in whip from one pint of cream. Freeze like ice cream, then pack in a melon or other fancy mould lined with blanched almonds. Tie down cover, smearing edge well with melted butter to keep out the salt; bury in cracked ice and salt for three hours. Unmould and serve with fancy cakes.

SPRING SALAD.—Clean the tender shoots of dandelion; on these place a layer of cooked asparagus tips, then a layer of cucumbers sliced. Mask with a boiled cream dressing, sprinkle over cooked peas or beans and place a lettuce heart in centre top and arrange sliced tomatoes and hard boiled eggs on outer edge. Chill before serving. The many shades of color in the vegetables and dressing composing this salad make it an attractive dish for the spring dinner or for a high tea.

BLACK COFFEE.—Allow double the quantity ordinarily used for each person, mix well with one egg and half the shell. To each cupful of coffee used add one-half cup cold water, turn into the coffee pot, mixing well, then add four cups boiling water, let simmer fifteen minutes, set back on stove, and settle with a little cold water. It is always well in serving black coffee to have whipped cream in readiness for those who do not like coffee without.

PRUNE PRUNING.—One pint milk, three eggs, half cup sugar, two shredded wheat biscuits rolled and sifted, or half cup granulated wheat shred, one-eighth teaspoon cinnamon, one tablespoon butter, one cup chopped cooked prunes. Beat the eggs, sugar, salt, and cinnamon together. Add milk, stir well, turn over the biscuit crumbs and chopped prunes. Put little bits of butter on top and bake slowly till the custard is set. Serve with lemon sauce.

PLANKED SHAD.—Dress and split the fish, wipe with a damp cloth inside and out; tack to a hardwood planking board, brush with melted butter, set on a

"O Women; in our hours of rest,
Unresting, coy, & hard to please—
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please you if you get it, & that is
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rack in dripping pan, bake in a hot oven, basting frequently with melted butter until fish is well cooked and browned. Serve on planking board, placed on platter.

SHREDDED WHEAT BISCUIT AND BUTTER PUDDING.—One pint milk, four eggs, beaten separately, one cup sugar, one teaspoon salt, half teaspoon vanilla, five drops almond, two shredded wheat biscuits, one tablespoon butter, three tablespoons powdered sugar. Scald the milk, add sugar, yolks of three eggs, and one whole egg and salt well beaten, cook till it coats a spoon. Take from the fire and flavor with vanilla and almond. Split two biscuits, butter each half and line a deep dish with same. Pour the custard over them and set away to cool. Before serving, beat the whites of three eggs and powdered sugar till light and dry, and put on top of pudding.

Stitching the Wedding-Gown.

One superstition that exists among sewing girls and their associates of Paris is that, if the head dressmakers will stitch into wedding garments a single hair from the head of each they will become brides within a very short time after the maiden who wears the bridal outfit then in preparation.

When the sewing girls in the different departments and the girls behind the counters learn that the house has received an order for a big trousseau, they besiege the head dressmakers, and ask them to stitch into the wedding gown especially a single hair from their heads. This hair is so fine that it is easily concealed, and cannot in any way mar the beautiful wedding gown. The head dressmakers very often humor the girls.

The girls when they go home at night tell their girl friends that a hair from their heads has been stitched into the wedding gown of Miss So-and-So, and the lucky one is immediately envied. She will be married very soon, her associates say.

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