FOR HOME AND WOMEN

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR MAIDS AND MATRONS.

Elegant Evening Gown — Skating Gown — Notes on Gloves — The Home Sewing-Room — When the Hair Is Healthy — Our Cooking School.

My Lady's Gown.

My lady's gown is gray and soft;
So like her eyes
That from its silken folds there comes
A hint of paradise.
I hold it close against my heart—
My lady's gown.

[illegible]

...rest contented with its color [illegible] and length. All they have to do to keep it in a state of glossy beauty is to brush it well every morning and every evening, being very particular to use only quite clean brushes.

A Comfortable Room.

A room as you enter it for the first time suggests one of two things: comfort or discomfort. Easy chairs, a sofa with plenty of soft cushions in suitable places, a few bright pictures, plenty of cosy rugs, and a little dainty bric-a-brac well placed, are things indispensable to a comfortable room. There must be tables and books, papers and magazines; in fact, the family sitting room should be the best used and most luxurious apartment in the house—well lighted and well ventilated—instead of which it is very often the least used room in the house, often kept locked, unless there are visitors. And the art of ornamentation in this room is sometimes carried to excess. I have entered houses where my first thought was of a fancy goods shop, and I have groaned to think of the amount of time and labor expended by some poor woman to dust those goods. One is almost afraid to move about at ease lest fearful damages might be the result. Hand-made decoration carried out in brackets and fans ornament the walls effectively, and add to the beauty of the room if in taste and limitation.

In a Little Girl's Room.

If your little daughter is about to move from the nursery into a room of her own here are a few suggestions as to its furniture: Have a dotted Swiss curtain at the window, tied back with forget-me-not blue ribbons. Let the little bedstead be painted with white enamel and draped with a canopy of white Swiss, through which a blue silk lining should show. The bureau, which should correspond in size to the bed, should also be white, and, if one's bank account will allow it, decorated in silver. The latest washstand for a child's room is of willow, painted in white, with a deep hollow in the center to hold the dainty bowl and pitcher. In this room all the appointments of the washstand should be of white china, strewn with forget-me-nots. In the corner of the room have a baby divan covered with light blue chintz and banked with white linen-covered pillows, ornamented with a blue silk frill. A little willow rocking chair is another requirement. It should be

ELEGANT EVENING GOWN.

OUR COOKING SCHOOL.

[illegible]

Skating Gown.

Of black and white broadcloth, the collar and skirt edged with ermine fur. The small hat is of black velvet, with one white ostrich tip on the left side.

Benefits of Borax.

One simple medicinal remedy that my father set great store by was borax, says a writer. He had my mother keep a solution of salt water and borax constantly on hand, and if the slightest irritation or sore throat developed among us, he had us gargle three times a day, and lave our mouth and tonsils freely. He thought our good health and freedom from fevers and contagious diseases was owing to the use of borax. In the case of a burn, he had us wet cloths dipped in a strong solution of borax water, and was very careful to exclude the air in putting them off and on. It is very cooling and healing, and a child does not rebel so much against it as with other remedies. One very great thing in its favor in using it among children is, it is so harmless, while other gargles with carbolic acid and such are often taken by mistake and cause great distress. I often think if every young mother only knew of its virtues she would be thankful, and having once adopted it, would never give it up. As a disinfectant it is excellent. One should keep it on the kitchen shelf. If you awaken in the night coughing

[illegible] cold pantry.

Cinnamon Cakes.

Whites and yolks of two eggs, which are to be beaten up with a quarter of a pound of castor sugar for half an hour; add two ounces of powdered almonds, quarter of an ounce of powdered cinnamon and twelve pounded cloves. Stir into this mixture very gradually half a pound of fine flour. Roll out into long strips and divide into cakes and bake in buttered tins.

Apples With Figs.

Cut apples in halves, core and pare, and lay in a baking dish. Into each apple cavity put a prepared fig and a few bits of crystallized ginger. Make a syrup of three-fourths cupful of water and one-half cupful of sugar and pour over the apples. Bake until they are tender, basting several times. Carefully lift them out into a pretty glass dish, pouring any syrup that remains into the fig centres. Serve very cold with whipped cream or a soft custard. If preferred, instead of cutting the apples into halves, they can be pared and cored whole, being careful not to remove quite all of the apple from the bottom, and proceed with as above.

Little Helps.

Milk will remove ink stains from cloth if used immediately.

Grease spots may be removed from oak by washing them with warm beer.

A sprinkling of freshly ground coffee will keep game sweet for several days.

Spirits of turpentine is the thing with which to clean and brighten patent leather.

An almost invisible cement for mending glass is made of [illegible] dissolved in spirits of wine.

Skim milk is very useful for washing floor tiles; it gives them a better appearance than hot water.

To remove grease marks on velvet scrape a little pipeclay over the grease spot, and let it remain an hour or two. Afterwards brush off with a soft brush.

To cleanse tinware, first wash the tin thoroughly with hot soapsuds, wipe it thoroughly dry, and then scour with flour and well-crumbled newspaper.

THE THOUSAND-DOLLAR BILL

A MYSTERY OF THE UNITED STATES TREASURY—A SHORT STORY

BY LEONARD OUTRAM

CHAPTER I.

They were out on the verandah in the cool of the evening, old Caleb Loring, in a rocking chair, smoking his corn-cob pipe; Bertha, his daughter, swinging in a low hammock, and her husband, Edmund Hackett, who was perched upon the wooden balustrade. Wilton Loring was there, too, lounging in a canvas chair and smoking a "domestic" cigar. The verandah ran round three sides of a modest frame house, all painted white, with the exception of its bright green shutters. Edmond and Bertha, recently married, lived here in the outskirts of Washington with the head of the family. Wilton had run down from Philadelphia, where he was cashier of the Ranchers' National Bank. They were all grumbling over their incomes.

[illegible]

words about it! That's what I would do, mind that!"

Wilton laughed lightly.

"The bundles of rubbish; ninety-nine or a hundred bills; what would it matter to Uncle Sam? And I should send each of you $250. Think it over, dad."

"Think it over? I shall never forget this talk of yours, Wilton. A crime conceived is half executed. May I never hear more of this combination of yours, in joke or in fact, will be my prayer from this day to God in Heaven."

And shaking his head angrily the father strode into the house.

CHAPTER II.

[illegible]

And if Bertha [illegible] Hackett [illegible] argument, there are [illegible] in the Secretary's office [illegible] the counts beside me, and one of them would spot her oversight. Even if the short packet came to me, it would be useless for me to wink, for I should have one-half the bills. They are cut longitudinally," he added for Wilton's information, turning to his brother-in-law, "one half—the lower section—comes to the Secretary, and the upper goes to the office of the Register, to be checked there."

"We should need another confederate in the Register's," put in Bertha. "The steal would be caught to a certainty in the Register's office."

"Unless—by Caesar! we've the whole bag of tricks. The combination you figured out is not only possible, it is here in our hands. Dad is the Sent... Counter in the Register Division. [illegible] big bills go to him. This is marvelous. If fortune is disposed to [illegible] here's the method [illegible] and [illegible] I nobble a thousand-dollar bill at the bank and [illegible] packet ninety-nine into the Treasury [illegible] as [illegible] Bertha passes it through the Counting Division. Edmund gets the lower half in the Secretary's office, notes his wife's initials and swallows the shortage with connubial submission, and Mr. Loring, who spots the game in the Register's [illegible] of respect for—"

"His trust, his country's confidence, the honor of his name," burst out the old man, "reports the matter instantly. Yes, gives the lot of you away to ruin, to disgrace, to the hulks. No

[illegible] through if I took so long as you [illegible] have done with that [illegible] [illegible] "a wrong count," she added [illegible] [illegible] Mrs. Hackett [illegible] an impression [illegible] But something [illegible] Bertha's hand, for she muttered to herself as the packets were taken away to the cutting machine to be further checked in the offices of the Secretary of the Register, "There is just a chance!"

(To be continued.)

Usefulness of Great Lakes.

The great lakes have become a great artery of our richest commercial blood. One-third of the population of the United States is dependent on these lakes for their export and import trade. This waterway taps the richest and most prosperous agricultural territory on this continent of ours, together with our most productive [illegible] and it is worth while noting that within a radius of 400 miles of Cleveland lies one-half the population of the United States. It is a well-[illegible] fact that deep-water transportation is and necessarily must be [illegible] the cost of transportation by [illegible] compared [illegible] [illegible] when the voyage is of any considerable length is about one-quarter of the [illegible] average cost of transportation by rail, [illegible] by sailboat [illegible] of the latter. As this question of [illegible] transportation determines to a great extent the existence or non-existence of a possible industry and enhances or diminishes the value of every article of export in proportion to its efficiency and economy, the battle cry of the west for "twenty feet of water between Duluth and the sea" is no great problem to account for.—Ainslee's Magazine.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

Caring for the Sow and Her Pigs.

The following paper, read by Mr. Ed. Klever at the recent meeting of the Illinois Swine Breeders' association, will interest many readers:

Thirty years as a breeder of Poland-China Swine has afforded good opportunity for the study of some phrases, at least, of swine breeding. During that time I have become impressed with the fact that all of us can improve our methods of caring for the sow and litter. If I hint of some things that you are doing which should not be done, or things that you should do which you are not doing, and succeed in getting you to feed and care for the sow and pigs the best we can, then this paper will not have been in vain.

First, I will speak of how the sow should be cared for from the time of [illegible] pigs are farrowed. At [illegible] she should [illegible] not fat [illegible] known to be [illegible] she should be kept in as [illegible] up to farrowing [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] and will help them to [illegible] what they eat and give them [illegible] to begin with. The pigs should be kept clean from lice as well as from mud and other filth. The cleaner [illegible] and the cleaner [illegible] and sleeping [illegible] they will do. Some [illegible] Why not add a little milk [illegible] for the pigs?" I never [illegible] what I haven't got.

Harrowing.

The harrow is one of the tools that farmers should study with care, in the light of the needs of their own soil and its condition when plowed, for harrowing is one of the most important operations connected with the preparation of the soil for crops, and is scarcely less so in the case of such crops as corn, as an element in the cultivation of the ground after the crop is in, says Homestead. Everybody does not see the question alike, and, indeed, how should they, since the conditions of one farmer differ so much from those of another that their several necessities in regard to it will greatly vary? There are some soils that are in such a mechanical condition and are plowed in so timely a way with respect to the moisture that is in them, that they turn over under the plow like a bed of ashes and fall apart with scarcely a clod in a day's work. Here harrowing is simply a question of smoothing the surface, and [illegible] this answers every purpose. On the other soils the plow leaves the ground lumpy and full of holes between the furrow slices, and harrowing that merely scratches and levels the surface does not fill the bill at all. Harrowing in such cases must consist in breaking up the clods and cutting the furrow slices to a sufficient depth to settle the soil together and make it a smooth, compact seed-bed through which the wind will not blow and evaporate all the moisture it contains, and which will present to the roots finely comminuted soil from which they may extract nutriment presented in an available form. Two

farmers whose soil represents these two opposite conditions scarcely understand each other when they talk about harrowing. An implement that satisfies all the requirements of the one is of little or no use to the other, and results that are all that are necessary in the one case will in the other be found worthless.

Outside of plowing matches, where the best plowmen are on their best behavior, there is not a great deal of first-rate plowing done on soils that are a little difficult. We are in the habit of cultivating areas so large that a day's stint is a little too big to do the work in a really artistic way, and even the best plowmen fall into careless habits, and the result is that most fields are full of uneven places, cloddy furrow slices, balks and other imperfections, unless the soil should happen to be of the sort that pretty much plows itself. The task of making a mellow, well-pulverized seed-bed sufficiently deep to take the seed at an even depth and give its roots a chance to spread themselves without drying out in the open spaces between clods, is not only a very important one, but becomes largely a question of good harrowing and plenty of it, with a tool adapted to the faults to be overcome. The harrowing that is done by way of cultivation, on the other hand, is quite another matter. It is very necessary, but it is the surface-stirring, weed-killing, smoothing, moisture-conserving kind of harrowing that is needed, and with an entirely different kind of a tool. The two kinds of harrowing, in fact, have scarcely anything in common except the name.

Horticultural Observations.

[illegible]

...and found a tree growing and gave it a certain name. Another nurseryman went to another county and found the same fruit and gave it another name. Each secured wood for propagating and advertised a novelty. The practice amounts to a fraud on the public, for the nurserymen could find out the truth of the matter if they cared to do so.

Planting Shade Trees in Oklahoma.

A bulletin of the Oklahoma Experiment Station says: Those who failed to set out shade trees during the fall should prepare now to do so in the spring. At the Oklahoma Experiment Station, in one experiment on a hard soil, the following method resulted successfully: Holes three feet in diameter and three feet deep were dug in the early winter and allowed to remain open so that the soil could weather and become porous. In February, three forkfuls of well-rotted manure were put in the bottom of the holes and on top of this two shovelfuls of leached ashes. This was then covered with surface soil and the holes filled up to within about a foot of the top. This was then allowed to settle and become firm before the trees were set. The trees were set out in March and the soil within three feet of the trees was hoed after every rain during the summer. Maples and locusts were planted and they made a vigorous and rapid growth. While this method is perhaps too expensive to be used for extensive plantings, it is recommended for use in towns and about the house and lawn. Whatever method of planting is followed, little success will follow unless the soil is thoroughly cultivated and the surface kept free from grass and weeds.

While the advice to pasture the orchard with hogs or sheep may be all right as a theory, it is seldom practicable. Especially in the case of the family orchard is it impracticable. The fences are generally of a character not suited to hold sheep and hogs, and very often the orchard merges into the home grounds in such a way that there is no dividing line. The family orchard is a thing of beauty and it is not desirable to have the ground torn up by hogs. Often the cost of fencing would be greater than the good obtained. It may pay to pasture large, well-fenced commercial orchards, but as a general proposition we doubt if it should be entertained.