WEAVING WAS AN ART

IN THE DAYS OF HOMESPUN WOMEN USED TO WORK HARD.

Our Grandmothers Used to Spend Much Time Spinning, Weaving, Knitting, Netting and Embroidering—They Manufactured All Their Own Cloth.

In the days of homespun four ounces of lint, cotton or a half pound of lock wool was a day's stint in spinning, though a clever spinner could easily do twice as much. Wool was often colored before spinning—dyed black or red, then carded with white. The resultant thread, steel or red mixed, was wonderfully soft and harmonious in color.

Old silk carefully raveled, then carded with white wool or cotton, made the silk mixed that was such a favorite for the long stockings worn with knee breeches, as well as for homespun gowns. They were woven in checks, stripes and cloudings. One of the prettiest was dice cloth—a kind of basket weave—of alternate white and black or gray threads, thirteen to the group. It was troublesome to weave—a thread too many made a balk in the pattern. Children and servants had simple checks in blue or copperas and white. Linseys for winter wear were gorgeous in green and scarlet and black and blue.

Dyeing was part of the home work, as well as weaving and spinning. From walnut hulls, bark and root came twenty shades of brown. Green walnuts and sumach berries gave a beautiful fast black that did not stain the wearer. Hickory bark or peach leaves gave a glowing yellow; swamp maple, a blackish purple; sugar maple, a light leather tint, and oak bark, set with copperas, a handsome grayish color. In fact, a skilled dyer could get twenty colors from the woods and fields.

Except for flannels, carpets and blankets the warp was usually of flax or cotton. A very pretty carpet had half the warp of coarse wool doubled—a strand of green and one of brown. In weaving when the woof came uppermost a very coarse wool thread was shot in. When the cotton came up a very fine thread caught and held it almost invisibly. Beaten up thick the effect was that of a mossy, clouded Turkey fabric. Other carpets were woven in stripes or plain, like webbing, the woolen woof threads passing over and under the cotton warp two at a time.

Size was estimated by the number of threads that, laid side by side, made cloth the regulation yard wide. The coarsest was 400. From that it went up and up with hardly a limit except that of the spinners' skill and patience. There was scarcely anything they couldn't weave on the looms—jersey and serge, and cotton and linsey, house linen, bed linen, blankets and counterpanes. The counterpane was homespun high water mark. Woolen ones had usually the figure in colors skipped up on a white or blue ground. Those of cotton were left white and bleached till they dazzled the eyes. Of some easy patterns a clever woman could weave eight yards in a day.

Of honeycomb, huckaback and diamond draper three yards was a good day's work. Fancy patterns were more tedious. The crown of skill and patience was knotted cloth. The weave was perfectly plain, but at intervals of an inch a big soft cord was woven in and pulled up in little knots all along its length. Over the body of the cloth they formed regular diamonds. For the center they made an elaborate arabesque design. Down one side of the spread the maker generally drew them up to shape her initials, with either the date of making in roman letters or her husband's name opposite, to balance her own.

There was room, and to spare. Beds in those days stood four feet from the floor. Counterpanes were three yards by four without the fringe, which was either woven with dates and initials in the deep open heading or knitted in open lozenge pattern to which deep tassels were attached. It fell over a valance, also homespun, and was either fringed or edged with netted points at the bottom.

Weaving was not the sum of housewifery in that era. The good dames knew as much of embroidery as their favored great-granddaughters. One of them has left behind her a monumental piece of work, in which can be found no less than nineteen different stitches, many of them among the rarest and most difficult known.

The netting needle and stirrup filled up many a day. The bed was the piece de resistance in furnishing then. It was a tall four poster, and, besides counterpane and valance, had netted curtains and netted points, edging the long pillow and bolster cases. Window curtains were netted, too, besides edgings and fringes for all kinds of household articles. In particular the "toilets" that fell over the high square bureaus had often a netted fall half a yard deep around them. In addition, caps, ruffles, purses and fichus were netted. The latter were called dress handkerchiefs, and folded high about the throat over the low cut gowns. On them the netter lavished her choicest art.

Sometimes the mesh was as fine almost as bobbinet. Netted capes were high in favor, but the square with long ends was accounted better for young women. Sometimes they had fringe or tassels about the edge, or even a ruffle of the net with a big pattern run in. The handsomest finish was embroidery. For that the net was tacked smooth over cloth, the figures were wrought through both, then the under fabrics were cut away, leaving something closely approaching old rose point.

The women who practiced these arts made tatting, knit lace, stockings, mittens, tufted gloves, overshoes, comforters, garters, galluses and many things besides. Before their works follow them it might be well if some collector should gather up and keep safe for later generations a representative array of the homespun masterpieces.—New York Sun.

Bagging Grapes.

People often ask what is the use of the abstract studies scientific men and women often indulge in. The reply is you must first discover a new truth before you can tell whether you can make any value of it. The valuable discovery that the black rot can be prevented from injuring grapes by inclosing the bunch in a paper bag is the direct result of scientific studies.

When it was found that the rot was caused by a fungus growing from a little seed or spore which, floating through the atmosphere, attaches itself to the grape berry, it was the easiest thing to think of putting bags over the bunch early in the season so that the spore couldn't get there. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been saved to the cultivator by this bagging of grapes which would have been totally lost but for the labors of scientific men.—Meehans' Monthly.

SPECIMEN CASES.

S. H. Clifford, New Cassel, Wis., was troubled with Neuralgia and Rheumatism his Stomach was disordered, his Liver was affected to an alarming degree, appetite fell away, and he was terribly reduced in flesh and strength. Three bottles of Electric Bitters cured him.

Edward Shepherd Harrisburg, Ill., had a running sore on his leg of eight years' standing. Used three bottles of Electric Bitters and seven boxes of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and his leg is sound and well. John Speaker, Catawba, O., had five large Fever sores on his leg, doctors said he was incurable. One bottle Electric Bitters and one box Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured him entirely. Sold by George & Redden Druggists.

The Ingredients of Fireworks.

The chief constituents of all fireworks are gunpowder and its ingredients. Iron and steel filings and castiron borings, free from rust, are used to increase the brightness of the display and produce the Chinese fire. When the rocket explodes up in the air the bright and varicolored sparks are produced by these filings as they ignite in the oxygen.

Copper filings and copper salts are used to produce greenish tints. A fine blue is made with zinc filings. A light greenish tint with much smoke is made out of sulphuret of antimony. Amber, resin and common salt protected from dampness produce a yellow fire. Salts of strontia make a red light. A green light is also made by the salts of barium.—New York Evening Sun.

Consumption Cure

An old physician, retired from practice having had placed in his hands by an East India Missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by his motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. NOYES, 820 *Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y*

Examiners Notice.

The undersigned duly appointed by the County Commissioners of Caroline County, as examiners on the new County road in the Fourth election district of Caroline County, beginning at the County road leading down to the Wheeler wharf in Choptank and running with the present road laid down along the river through Choptank to Main street thence with said street to the road leading to the farm of E. S. Zell, thence with said road to the South side of the peach orchard on said farm, thence at right angles and with said peach orchard across the lands of E. S. Zell to the mouth of Hunting Creek or Linchester River at a point opposite the wharf on the Dorchester shore and at this point to join the County Commissioners of Dorchester county with a ferry, hereby give notice that we will meet at Choptank on Thursday August 4th, at 10 o'clock a. m., to execute our commission.

ROBERT M. MESSICK,
JOHN A. TRIBBITT,
PERRY D. TAYLOR,
Examiners.

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Potter's,	2.00	Oxford,	7.00
Two Johns,	2.10	Double Mills,	7.30
Willis'	2.30	Easton,	9.00
Dover Bridge,	3.00	Oxford,	10.00
Medford's,	3.45	Corner's,	10.30

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From Baltimore.

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	A.M.		A. M.
Corner's,	1.30	Medford's,	9.15
Double Mills,	4.15	Dover Bridge,	10.00
Easton,	5.00	Willis'	10.30
(Leave Easton,	5.30	Two Johns,	10.45
Oxford,	6.30	Pottter's	10.55
Cambridge,	7.30	Lyford's	11.05
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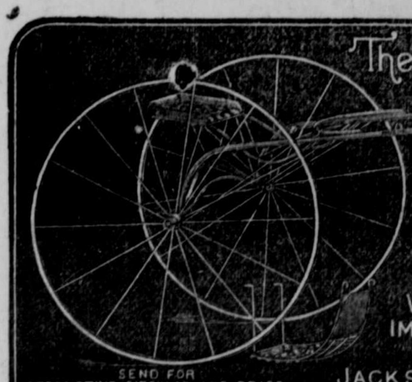


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