MEN AND HOUSE CLEANING

They Do Not Approve of the Annual Renovation.

By JOHN HAZELDEN. ——— Pictures by CARL WERNTZ.



HOUSE cleaning is the invention of woman. It is one of her several excuses for proving to man that he is the inferior being. It is a little plan she has to demonstrate to him that although he may pay taxes on the house there are times when he hasn't very much to say as to what takes place there.

If this world were populated by men alone there wouldn't be any house cleaning. The tables and the chairs and the sofa and bookcase would continue to stay in the same old places. The carpets would never be taken up, and the rugs would not be moved.

At one time I became acquainted with two men who were keeping "bachelor's hall." They never cleaned house. They never moved the furniture out and then moved it back again. When they first settled in their place of abode the arrangement of everything suited them, so they let everything stay just where it was. Once in awhile they would sweep up and put the sweepings under the sofa. They figured that as long as no one moved the sofa the sweepings might as well be there as anywhere else.

They got along for four years without any house cleaning, and the place looked just as well at the end of four years as it did the first time I saw it. But it didn't look very clean the first time I saw it.

If a woman had ever got into those rooms and started in to regulate things she would have moved the furniture around and changed all the pictures. Then it wouldn't have seemed like home any more.

If there is anything that will make a woman mad it is to have her husband say that the house doesn't need cleaning. It shows that he is trying to deprive the woman of her annual privilege. A woman likes to clean house, no matter what she says to the contrary, and she knows that if she doesn't do it once a year she will be talked about all over the neighborhood. The desire to clean house is an evidence of our modern civilization. Adam and Eve didn't have any house to clean. If they wanted a change all they had to do was to go over and sit under another tree. When they finally left the garden of Eden they simply walked out, without even a trunk or a bandbox. Adam didn't have to telephone all morning in order to hurry the wagon, and there was no getting the piano out of the front door or wrapping rugs around the pictures so as to protect the glass.



The House Cleaner Should Be a Professional Strong Man.



But the Man Doesn't Enjoy It.

In all the history of the early peoples, and even into medieval times, we find very few references to house cleaning and moving. Our ancestors managed to get along with very few household articles. They didn't have the house full of bric-a-brac to accumulate dust. They didn't have to take up the carpets and beat them, because they had no carpets. There was a spinning wheel in the front room in place of a piano, and the walls were comparatively free of pictures, as the oil painting with a pound of tea and the picture of "Mother's Darling" with every year's subscription are recent inventions.

House cleaning in a modern house has become a large and serious task. We have started in and filled our dwelling places with art furniture, fancy chairs, footstools, rugs, tidies, sofa cushions, plaques, panels, books, art folios, photographs, mineral cabinets, iron lamps, marble-top tables, statuary, vases, and so on until the mere thought of shifting the accumulation from one room to another, or moving it two miles and setting it all up in another house is enough to appall the ordinary man.

He starts in by being afraid that he'll break something, and before he gets through he hopes that he'll break everything.

Statistics show that out of every 100 men who try to assist in house cleaning or moving, at least 99 break down and get mad at everybody. A man who is to keep around the house at this time of the year ought to have a preparatory education covering many years. He ought to begin at the age of ten, and work two hours in the gymnasium every day. He ought to take lessons from a tight-rope walker, so that he can balance himself on a step ladder. He ought to know the carpenter's trade, because then he can find the right place to drive a nail so that it will connect with the joist and can box up the winter bedding without hurting his fingers. He ought to study art abroad, so as to be able to hang the pictures in the most effective way. Furthermore, if he is to go through the ordeal of moving and house cleaning without any worry or profanity, he needs to have the patience of Job and the generalship of Napoleon Bonaparte, combined with the physical strength of Samson. As most men are hardly up to the standard of these historical characters they are comparative failures.

Of course there is one kind of husband, the wise and experienced kind, who leaves home at the first symptom of house cleaning and doesn't return until the trouble is all over. He allows his wife to manage everything, not because he is lazy or wants to shirk his duties as a married man, but because she is so much more competent than he is. He goes fishing and duck-hunting or is called away on business, and by the time he gets back the new wall paper is dry and the paint smell is dying out. Then, if he has any gratitude at all, he tells his wife that the house looks a thousand per cent. better and the new wall paper is beautiful and he always did think the big sofa ought to be on the other side of the room.

If a man won't help clean house the least he can do is to applaud his wife, but there are some men so mean that they allow their wives to do all the work of house cleaning, and then after it is all over they come home and grumble because things have been moved.

That's the way with a man. He will put a book or a letter on a window sill and expect to come back six weeks later and find it in the same place. If it isn't there he growls and says there's "too much cleaning up around this house." He doesn't stop to consider that if he didn't have a woman to follow around after him and keep the place tidied up the whole house would soon resemble the waste-paper department of a junk shop.

As previously pointed out, it is a wise provision of Nature that women really like to clean house. Of course it is hard work and they become exhausted and say they are glad when it is all over, but they wouldn't miss it for anything in the world, especially the selecting of the wall paper. On the other hand, there was never a man who had any affection for house cleaning or moving. The painters and paperhangers and the robust workmen who beat carpets and carry out stoves come around and assist the women, but not because they want to. They have to do it in order to make a living. They are entitled to at least $10 a day each, but they don't receive that much.

In the large cities there are business concerns which make a business of moving household goods. They have large covered vans, each about the size of a country schoolhouse, and they employ certain men who do nothing else, from one year's end to another, but load and unload household goods. Every day these men come up against the same old problem of how to get a four-foot table through a three-foot door. They have to carry pianos down winding stairways without scratching the varnish and pack hardware in with the glass and not break anything. It seems to me that six months of that kind of work would undermine any nervous system and make a man gray-headed before his time. Two days of it have been known to drive some men crazy, but think of having it every day in the year!



Monarch of All She Surveys.

Although house cleaning is a necessity, as most people will admit, there is a possibility of overdoing it. Some women want to clean house once a month. Of course, they can't change the wall paper or take up the carpets, but they do the next best thing. They move the furniture around so as to make the place seem new and different.

I had an acquaintance once who roomed at a boarding house kept by a woman who had the house-cleaning habit. She would come into his room every day and move the clock from one mantel to another, just to keep herself busy.

Once a month she would change the arrangement of all the furniture in his room. The furniture consisted principally of a bed, a bureau, a dresser, a washstand and a large rocking chair. He tried to keep his matches on top of the bureau, but she used to move the box in order to make the room look different.

He would come in late at night and feel his way over toward where the bureau was supposed to stand, but instead of the bureau he would usually find the rocking chair, with his shins. Next he would run into the bed, which had been shifted from the opposite side of the room. If he went out in the morning and left the matches on top of the bureau in the southeast corner of the room he would come back at night and discover, after groping around for 15 minutes or so, that the bureau was in the northwest corner, but that the matches were on the washstand over in the southwest corner. Every time his landlady moved the furniture he had black-and-blue marks to show for it.

Once she varied the programme by putting a new kind of chair into his room. He got hold of it in the darkness and knew that he didn't have any plush-covered chair in his room, so he shouted: "I beg your pardon," and made a run for the door—and fell over the washstand. He had to leave the house at last. The landlady quarreled with him because he took the casters out of the bureau so that she couldn't move it around any more.

Probably most men will agree that once a year is often enough for cleaning house.

JOHN HAZELDEN.

Asked Where She Was "At."

She was a dear old lady and she certainly didn't mean to use a slang expression. In fact, it is doubtful whether she would have recognized her question as an exclamation of the street at all if the bystanders hadn't laughed heartily. She was using the drug store telephone and talking amicably over the wires to some well-known acquaintance. "Well," she concluded, finally, "find out about it, will you, and call me up again. Where am I? Why, I'm in——I'm in—why, I guess I don't know where I am. Wait a minute," and she turned to one of the amused clerks and widened his smile into a hearty laugh by naively questioning: "Where am I at?"—Chicago Times-Herald.

A French philological journal estimates that of the 860 different languages spoken on the globe 89 are in use in Europe, 114 in Africa, 123 in Asia, 417 in America and 117 in Oceanica.

A circus elephant, needing surgical treatment, was recently chloroformed in Peru, Ind. The anaesthetic was given through the trunk by means of a trouser leg slipped around it and packed with cotton.

Who Made the First Reaper?

An Easton correspondent to a Baltimore paper recently gave credit of invention of the reaper to a Hagerstown man, but it now appears that the patentee was a Talbot county man, Fayette Gibson, who owned Marengo estate, in Miles River Neck. The first reaper was built after a model made by Mr. Gibson at a blacksmith shop in Miles River Neck. It was exhibited at the fair grounds near Easton, and there, it is said, Mr. Hutsey, who has been given the credit unjustly, first saw it, and shortly afterwards patented. Parts of the original reaper, as well as the wooden model of the machine, were at the Marengo house when it burned down in 1847. This reaper was taken to the estate of Tench Tilghman when first built, and there it cut 189 acres of wheat, oats and barley. Three mules furnished the motive power.

Trader's License Test Case.

It has been agreed by both sides in the suit of the J. H. Hutchens Company, of Frostburg, against Circuit Court Clerk Clerk Theodore Luman to compell the latter to issue the plaintiffs a trader's license that the mandamus shall issue. Clerk Luman has appealed and the case now goes to the Court of Appeals to be argued during the May term, so that a speedy settlement can be effected. An act of the last Legislature requirs applicants for traders' licenses to make oath that they are not interested in mining or railroad corporations. Members of the Hitchens Company, an extensive mercantile firm long established, are interested in mining corporations. The case will not be argued in the lower court at all, but will be sent up by Judge Sloan on a pro forma order.

Lawyers Should Study the Bible.

A writer discussing what is good reading for a lawyer, declares that "First and foremost among the books which a lawyer should read comes the bible. Here he will drink from the well of English undefiled. From it he will learn to handle words in the strongest and most forcible way. From it he will learn how to express his thoughts in the simplest and most natural manner. From it he will gain a keen insight into human nature and the motives which influence mankind. From it he will acquire those grand fundamental principles which underlie all forms of government and every system of laws. In the bible we find spread out before us the finest code of morals the world has ever seen, one which never has been and never will be improved upon. Nor can the laws which it promulgates and inculcates be surpassed. From it we have derived the very cream of the common law. And then in arguing before a jury, what an inexhaustible storehouse is it from which to draw examples and illustrations to touch the conscience and enforce truth. The lawyer who fails to study his bible will find himself unable to cope with the master minds of his profession."

Republican State Government.

Baltimore, May 15, 1899.

Mr. Editor:

Public attention was directed to the remarkable improvement in the State finances under the Republican administration a few days ago, when it was announced that State securities amounting to $4,167,190.11 heretofore held in the sinking fund had been cancelled and that such cancellation meant a saving to the Commonwealth of $130,000 in interest per year.

In this connection it was pointed out that the net debt of the State, with assets, on January 1, 1899, was $5,101,926.13, being $40,797 less than in 1895, the last year of the Democratic regime, notwithstanding the fact that there has been appropriated for permanent public improvements and paid out of the general treasury the sum of $1,200,000.

There is in the general sinking fund securities, the par value of which amounts to $2,147,470, which, if deducted from the loans of the State, would leave a total net debt of $2,954,456, and this, too, although there has been paid to the school for free books $150,000 annually, which for four years aggregates $600,000.

The distributions to public schools have increased from $500,000 in 1896 to $827,000 in 1898, the latter also being about the sum which will be distributed this year. In other words the distribution for public school purposes are now 33 per cent. more than ever heretofore in the history of the State.

This showing is as of January 1, 1899 and will be largely increased by the end of the fiscal year, September 30, as the receipts of the State do not begin to come into the Treasury until after June 1, when the license money is received.

To the new assessment is attributed much of this splendid financial showing. It is considered, too, an irrefutable argument for the lowering of the tax rate from 17½ to 16 cents, a measure that has been urged by Republicans but which has met with persistent opposition by Democratic members of the Legislature. The next Legislature will doubtless give this subject the attention which it deserves.

TAXPAYER.

A Model Memorial.

On the first day of the September term of one of the Indiana Circuit Courts, which had just adjourned, the proceedings were interrupted to permit the chairman of a committee of the Bar Association to offer resolutions adopted by them on the demise of a fellow attorney. Following the resolutions the committee soliloquized as follows:

"Life is but a span between two eternities—'a right of way in gross'—joining the mystery of creation, to the realms of a future and everlasting existence. Man walks through this way whether willing or unwilling, leaving behind him a fast fading memory of his life, his character and his achievements, and goes to confront perils, or to enjoy Elysium. Which? God knows.

Our brother, with his virtues and his sins, has gone. Where? God knows.

This court and this bar have no jurisdiction now. The case has been removed by the supersedeas of the Omnipotent to a court from which none can escape, and where the hearing is upon the record alone. Will the transcript show error? God knows.

Absolute justice would exclude the wisest and best of earth from the companionship of the saints, but the mediation of the Son of God may avert the penalty. Can our brother obtain this mediation? God knows.

The judgment to be rendered will be final. Will it be tempered with mercy? God knows

To us, finite creatures, who grasp at and misinterpret the promises of the divinely appointed embassadors of heaven, to us, the propect is alluring. We rest securely in our belief that it is only our neighbor's sins which are too deep for forgiveness, that our own are but venial, and that a just and merciful God will ignore them. How was it with our brother? God kdows.

On the records of this court—De Mortuis Nil Nisi Bonum—because to-morrow some one may be called whose record of sin may cause angels to weep while hell rejoices. Shall it be one of us? God knows.

Man is mortal. His ambitions, his passions and his fears, his success and his failure, all have about them the smell of earth; but his hope, lighted by his faith, reveals to him the enchanted picture, the City of Zion, eternal bliss in heaven.

With our borther and with ourselves, how is it? Will this hope end in fruition? We cannot answer. God knows?"

The Indiana Law Journal comments on this memorial as follows: "It is customary in drawing such resolutions to recite that 'It has pleased Almighty God to remove' the deceased 'from our midst.' In the present instance we infer that this pleasure has been shared by the bereaved bar. 'God knows.'"

His Life Was Saved.

Mr. J. E. Lily, a prominent citizen of Hannibal, Mo., lately had a wonderful deliverance from a frightful death. In telling of it he says: "I was taken with Typhoid Fever, that ran into Pneumonia. My lungs became hardened. I was so weak I couldn't even sit up in bed. Nothing helped me. I expected to soon die of Consumption, when I heard of Dr. King's New Discovery. One bottle gave great relief. I continued to use it, and now am well and strong. I can't say too much in its praise." This marvellous medicine is thesurest and quickest cure in the world for all Throat and Lung trouble. Regular sizes 50 cents and $1.00. Trial bottles free at George & Redden's drug store; every bottle guaranteed. 2

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6.25	9.10	Queenstown	9.02	5.35
6.31	9.16	Bloomingdale	8.57	5.25
6.38	9.23	Wye Mills	8.50	5.17
6.44	9.30	Willoughby	8.45	5.04
6.51a		D. & C. June	8.38a	
6.53	9.43	Queen Anne	8.37	4.49
6.55	9.45	Hillsboro	8.35	4.45
6.59	9.50	Downes	8.31	4.40
7.02	9.53	Tuckahoe	8.28	4.37
7.07	10.00	Denton	8.22	4.30
7.16	10.15	Hobbs	8.12	4.15
7.23	10.23	Hickman	8.06	4.05
7.27	10.27	Adamsville	8.02	3.58
7.31	10.32	Blanchard	7.58	3.53
7.37	10.40	Greenwood	7.52	3.45
7.44	10.55	Owens	7.44	3.35
7.47	11.00	Oakley	7.40	3.20
7.58	c11.15	Ellendale	7.33	3.12
8.06	11.24	Wolfe	7.17	2.58
8.11	11.30	Milton	7.12	2.51
8.19	11.38	Whitesboro	7.05	2.43
8.22	11.41	Overbrook	7.03	2.40
8.26	11.45	Greenhill	6.59	2.35
8.30	11.50	Lewes	6.55	2.30
A. M.	A. M.		A. M.	P. M.

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7 25	3 46	Phila.	10 46	5 42
9 38	5 47	Clayton	8 45	3 46
9 48	5 56	Kenton	8 36	3 37
f9 57	6 04	Hartley	8 26	3 27
f10 00	6 06	Slaughter's	8 23	3 24
f10 08	6 12	Marydel	8 17	3 16
f10 16	6 19	Henderson	8 10	3 11
10 24	6 26	Goldsboro	8 03	3 04
10 34	6 39	Greensboro	7 52	2 54
10 44	6 46	Ridgely	7 42	2 43
10 54	6 55	Queen Ann	7 31	2 33
11 04	7 02	Cordova	7 24	2 24
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11 42	7 37	Trappe	6 55	1
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