Women's Page

BY A WOMAN



MARY TODD LINCOLN

Someone has said hat the wife of a great man is to be pitied. Perhaps so; but if she has the power to forget herself, and be content to aid him in his progress upward, then she can feel that she has a share in his greatness.

The life of Mary Todd Lincoln was a sad one, especially toward the end of her husband's life when every one was beginning to admire him while they slighted her.

She was born in Kentucky in 1818 of a fine Southern family, her father, a prominent and wealthy citizen. The first sorrow that came into her life was when her mother died. She was only six years old at the time. Her father, burdened with the care of six children promptly married again, and his second wife bore him nine children. It is said that she never got along very well with the first six. However, Mary Todd grew up to be an attractive girl, having received as fine an education as a girl could get in those days. It was while she was on a visit to her sister in Springfield, that she met young Lincoln in 1839. He was only a struggling lawyer at that time not moving in the same circle as she did, but she saw in him a coming man and, in spite of violent opposition by her family, they were married in 1842.

During the first ten years the position of the family was by no means brilliant. Mary did the housework and gave birth to four children, while he chopped wood, milked the cow and pursued his legal and political career.

Mary came through the ordeal well, a good wife and a good mother. But their two personalities were as divergent as the two poles. And Lincoln though gentle, tolerant and faithful was not an ideal husband for Mary Todd. Perhaps he would not have been the ideal husband for any woman.

His thoughts ranged wide and deep and his love was for humanity and could not centre in one small women. When her husband was elected, she went to New York and indulged in many extravagent purchases and at the end of her husband first term her debts amounted to $70,000, debts that she did not let her husband know of but which hounded her through all her life at the White House. These with the fact that the Lincoln, were very coolly received by the social circle of Washington. Embittered her. The civil war was a terrible trial to her as all of her people were southerners, and she was torn between anxieties for them and loyalty to her husband. In 1862, she lost her little son, Willie which brought on long spasms of grief.

Then when her grief was somewhat softened and the end of the war came the final blow came, her husband was assinated. She remainded for weeks at the White House too overcome to make preparations for moving while the incoming president waited. When finally she did move, she was accused of taking away property belonging to the Government.

So, hounded by debt, and attacked by both houses of Congress, Mary's life was a sad one. She had to go to a sanitariam for a while, but when she recoved, her friends had secured her a pension which was sufficient for her to live comfortly for the remainding years of her life which ended in 1882. And so the latter years were quiet peaceful ones indulging in memories and hoarding her possessions with no real interest in them.

Fresh Paint Stains Come Out Easily

Paint stains, if they are taken in time, are easy to get out. But if they are allowed to dry in they are almost beyond being taken care of at home.

Youthful Jane, who is training to be an artist or a house painter, has put this theory to a hard test, and her mother has had a chance to try it out on several occasions. One of Jane's masterpieces was painted in her new party dress—which Jane adored with all the fervor of her careless 7-year-old heart. The dress was splotched with bright orange paint and the splotches dried on. Nothing could be found to take them out. They were lessened—but they weren't eradicated.

A few days later Jane decided to try another masterpiece, in the center of the living room rug. The large rug was a monotone, and of course the blue and red smears of paint that were there when Jane removed herself and her aristic endeavors to a safer place looked awful.

Jane's mother was disconsolate. But she didn't scold Jane. Instead she went hot-foot to the drug store and bought a bottle of turpentine. And with plenty of clean cloths she promptly went to work before the stains were dry. They all came out and the rug bore no trace of them with which to twit the repentant Jane. If they had dried in, the big rug would have had to take a special trip to the cleaner's.

You can prevent salt in the kitchen shaker from hardening and caking by placing the shaker, when not in use, in a covered jelly glass. Under trying conditions of humidity this suggestion is well worth the extra effort required

New Hats Combine Winter and Spring

There's no necessity for bursting forth in a Spring hat this season. You can make the change by easy stages so that even if you do give up your Winter hats in mid-February, no one can accuse you of rushing the season. All the shops are showing clever little hats that combine lightweight felt with straw and fabric. And there is the new woven cellophane that looks like straw but isn't.

There are charming little turbans made entirely of cellophane, black, navy blue or brown, and sometimes a band of straw is used to give the lightweight felt or fabric turban a touch of Spring.

Your hat should be like the weather—partly Winter with a touch of Spring.

So much has been said about the new flower-trimmed hats that we might have expected hats laden with roses and violets and forget-me-nots and pansies in the good old nineteenth century manner. But the new flower trimmed hats are different. Usually the flowers are white and they are massed at one side or tucked in a fold of the felt or fabric so that the lines of the hat are as well defined as you please.

Paris Puts Waistline High, Low, Sometimes Medium

It's "Pay your money and take your choice" this Spring.

Fortunately paying your money has a bright aspect because prices are really down. Dresses, coats, suits, hats, blouses and various accessories really are lower in price than they have been for many a year, and manufacturers and dressmakers have managed to give even less expensive things a style and a line of real quality.

You really can take your choice—of hats, dresses, coats, blouses, scarfs, gloves, necklaces and everything else that makes up the Spring wardrobe—because there is tremendous diversity in fashions. The first despatches from Paris gave us the impression that there wasn't much change. Things were running along pretty much as they had been. No drastic changes in line or general construction. The differences would be achieved by way of new details, slightly different use of fabric and color. But things have happened since then and the fashion situation is not quite so stable as it seemed to be a few weeks ago.

The interesting thing is that the different important dressmakers in Paris have been working along rather different lines and instead of hearing of a certain set of style developments in Paris we hear of many.

Chanel, for instance, places her waistlines below normal, just above the hipline; Lanvin makes use of what is called the low natural waistline; many important dressmakers show a waistline just a trifle higher than normal; while Augustabernard and others effect a compromise by joining bodice and skirt above normal and marking a low natural waistline with a belt.

So whether you want to place your waistline at normal or slightly above or slightly below, you have perfectly good authority, and within a short time, if not already, you will find dresses of these various types of waistline ready for your selection.

One of the Paris dressmakers has evolved the Egyptian silhouette in his new thing—and that is something new.

Lanvin uses large sleeves, makes a waistline high at the front and low at the back. For daytime skirts are 10 inches from the floor, for afternoon just above the ankles, for evening at the floor or instep.

So among them, the French dressmakers have given us something novel to think about when we buy our new Spring wardrobe.

RECIPES

Chocolate Cake

Cream three-fourths cupful of butter and gradually cream ino the butter two cupfuls of sugar. Stir in four beaten egg folks and two and one-half blocks of melted bitter chocolate. Add one teaspoonful of vanilla flavoring and two teaspoonsfuls of baking powder and two and one-half cupfuls of sifted flour. Beat half a teaspoonful of baking soda into one cupful of buttermilk and alternately add the buttermilk with flour to the cake mixture until all is used. Lastly, four in four beaten egg whites and bake in three layers.

Filling.—Pour half a cupful of boiling water over two cupfuls of sugar and boil until it spins a thread. Beat this slowly into two well beaten egg whites. Add 15 marshmallows cut up and one tablespoonful of vanilla. When it thickens, begin icing the layers of the cake.

Salmon-Stuffed Potatoes

Bake six medium sized potatoes until tender, remove from the oven, cut lengthwise, scoop out the centers and mash and add salt, pepper, milk and butter. Then combine with one can of salmon from which the bones and skin have been removed, mix well and replace in a moderate oven to brown for about 20 minutes.

My Neighbor Says:

White enamelware, which has become stained, may be easily cleaned rubbing it with a wet cloth generously dipped in baking soda.

If you are thinking of doing over your dressing table for Summer why not choose white Swiss with rose-colored dots and bind the flounce all around with plain chintz the same shade of rose.

To restore the texture and finish of undressed kid shoes, bags, belts, gloves, etc., rub gently with the finest grade of sandpaper that may be had. It removes the soil and makes the leather look almost new.

Humble Egg Hailed as Foundation of Cookery

The French chef says: "All cookery rests on an egg. The egg is the Atlas that supports the world of gastronomy; the chef is the slave of the fresh egg. What is the masterpiece of French cookery, the dish that outlines all other dishes, the thing that is found on his majesty's table no less than upon the table of the bourgeoise, the thing that is as French as the Frenchman, and which expresses the spirit of our people as no other food can express it?—the omelette. Could you make an omelette without breaking eggs? Then cast your mind's eye over this extraordinary Monsieur Egg and all his antics and evolutions. Now he permits himself to be boiled plain, and even like that, without frill, he is excellent. Now he consents to appear in all ways from poached to perdu, now he is the soul of a vol-au-vent, now of a sauce; not a pie-crust fit to eat but stands by virtue of my lord the egg, and should all the hens in the world commit suicide tomorrow, every chef in France worthy of the name would fall on his spit, for fish is but a course in a dinner, whereas the egg is the cement that holds all the castles of cookery together."—Kansas City Times.

Archery Record

The National Archery association of the United States says that the best flight shoot record made by shooting an arrow with a longbow (wooden bow) is 424 yards 2 feet 8 inches. This was made by L. L. Dalley of Monmouth, Ore., at the annual tournament of the National Archery association held in Chicago, Ill., August 12 to 15, 1930. There is a report that in 1914 one Ingo Simon made a flight shoot in England of 462 yards 9 inches. In making this shot, however, he used a Turkish composite bow instead of the longbow, and, so far as we know, Mr. Dalley's shot, as given above, is a world record for a wooden bow.—Washington Star.

Mental Health

Mental hygeine is vastly important in the proper development of a normal individual. Compulsion neurosis is a sense of guilt and fear acquired in childhood connected with some feeling of having to do something in expiation of the funcied source of the sense of guilt. Reassurance and interest in other things is a cure if the compulsion is not severe. In severe cases an understanding of the cause of the condition is necessary, the question and answer department of Hygeia Magazine informs a reader.

Monkish Abode That Is Thoroughly Up to Date

Living as they do apart from mankind in a little world of their own, monks are not usually thought of as go-ahead people. The little country of Luxembourg, though, can claim a monastery which is thoroughly up to date. These monks were expelled from France some thirty years ago, and they have since built a monastery which is as modern in its comforts and appliances as a luxurious London office building. The monastery is connected to the railway station by a light railway along which all supplies are brought. Other railways connect up the various buildings, and save labor. All the heavy work is done by electricity.

Electricity operates the central bakery and supplies the heat needed in the great ovens of the communal kitchen. Cooking is done on the most scientific lines. Every shelf of the ovens can be hermetically sealed, and by means of special devices all kitchen smells are done away with. Milk and butter come from the monastery's own dairy, which again is electrically operated. The cows are milked by electricity, while electricity separates the cream and churns the butter.

The monastery publishes many books, all of which are printed by the monks with the help of electrical machinery.—London Tit-Bits.

Central Europe Yields First Records of Celts

Brittany, or Bretagne, is the peninsula in the northwest of France, and embraces about five departments. The Bretons are an Alpine or Celtic people, and racially have much in common with the Welsh. So have the two languages, both belonging to the Celtic family.

Celtic-speaking people occupied a very wide territory of old, spreading from central Europe, where the first records of them exist, far to the west, southwest and even southeast. They settled in Gaul perhaps about 1000 B. C., and were probably at the height of their power about 400 B. C. Later they were under constant pressure from the Germanic tribes to the north, and saw most of their territories conquered by the Romans, from the south. They maintained their independence in the British isles, though, for centuries.

The encroachment of other peoples tended finally to merge them with their neighbors, or to break them into isolated groups like those in Brittany and Wales; and even here the admixture of Irish and English with the Welsh, and of various French stocks with the Bretons, have widened the difference between them.

Original Lead Pencils

The first allusion to the use of pencils in the modern sense of a solid rod of marking material used for writing and drawing, either incased in some form of holder, is in the treatise on fossils by Conrad Gesner of Zurich, Switzerland, in 1565. This writer describes an article for writing formed of wood and a piece of lead, or, as he believed, an artificial composition called English antimony. The famous Borrowdale mine, in Cumberland, having been discovered about that time, it is probable that we have here the first allusion to that great find of graphite. While the supply of the Cumberland mine lasted the material for English pencils consisted simply of the native graphite as taken from the mine.

"Cure" for Seasickness

Of old writers, one of the pleasantest is Fynes Morison, who traveled over Europe at the end of the Sixteenth century, and has much to say about seasickness:

"Let him often eat Pomegranates, Quinces, Corianders prepared, and such meates as are sharpe, and comfort the stomake, and let him drink strong Wines, and sometimes hot Waters, but sparingly, and let him dip a piece of bisket in his Wine. And to restrain the extremity of vomiting, till he be somewhat used to the Sea, let him forbeare to looke upon the waves of the Sea, or much to lift up the head."—London Times Literary Supplement.

Ornithologists Puzzled

For years ornithologists have hunted in the countries of South America without finding a single specimen of the northern variety of swift. They merely guess that the birds winter in the interior of Brazil, and they would like to have some explorer prove it. The mystery of the swifts' hiding place is probably not momentous. It is teasing, none the less, since those companionable visitors of the northern summer are said to be the only birds whose winter residence is not precisely known—a rare achievement of privacy in a world grown almost too obvious.—New York Herald Tribune.

Old Campaign Scandal

The "Mulligan letters" were certain letters written by James G. Blaine to his private business partner, Warren Fisher. They were obtained in some way by James Mulligan, a clerk of Fisher's, and the insinuation made that they showed corruption on Blaine's part in the legislation affecting certain western railroads. Mulligan appeared before a congressional committee investigating Blaine, but Blaine himself regained possession of the letters and read them to congress in June, 1876. The letters were the subject of much campaign controversy.

America Gets Relics

Many of the doors and fireplaces from the 300-year-old New Inn, Park street, Windsor, were sold for shipment to America. The house had been demolished. In the room where the Beefeaters held their feasts a number of coins bearing the date 1800 were found. A concealed trap-door leading to a stable was discovered under the floor, and here a large quantity of old pattern live cartridges were concealed. An oven found in the basement went to the British museum, as it is believed to be the only model of this particular type in existence.—London Morning Post.

ALWAYS THERE IS ROOM AT THE TOP

Even Where Professions Are Overcrowded.

Mexico is one country where the people get action from their government.

In the state of San Luis Potosi, for example, the local legislature passed a law the other day suspending higher courses in law and medicine for five years.

The reason was simple. The lawmakers decided that there are enough practicing lawyers and doctors in the state. So why spend money preparing others for these overcrowded professions? they asked.

Which, considered from the standpoint of economy alone, is an unassailable position.

But suppose for a moment that such a philosophy of government prevailed in the United States. Both the medical and legal professions are overcrowded in this country, too. Many physicians and lawyers are eking out a bare existence and every year the colleges, universities and night schools turn out more doctors and lawyers to increase the competition.

Should we pass laws to prevent the teaching of law and medicine just because we have too many lawyers and too many doctors?

Of course not. And the reason is just as simple as the reasoning of the legislators in San Luis Potosi.

We have too many lawyers and too many doctors, it is true, but no one will deny that we have too few good lawyers and too few good doctors. The legal and medical professions are crowded at the bottom, but there is plenty of room at the top.

It is an inexorable law of human nature that mediocrity prevails, even in the skilled professions. Thousands of young men are studying law and medicine. Most of them will land in the crowded bottom ranks of their profession. A few will go to the top and do great things for humanity. In American medical colleges young men are studying who will make discoveries which will prolong the span of life. In law schools of today future justices of the Supreme court are learning the rudiments of law.

It is quite obvious that we would lose something of inestimable value if we closed down the law schools even for five years to gain a few dollars in lowered expense.—Houston Post-Dispatch.

Jewish "Baptism"

Baptism as it is understood by Christians is not practiced by the Jews. There was, however, an ancient Jewish rite known as Jewish baptism or proselyte baptism which bears a striking similarity to Christian baptism. When a pagan became a convert to Judaism he was compelled, after submitting to circumcision, to go through a purificatory washing. This washing symbolized the removal of all pagan impurity and the stranger who sojourned among the Israelites did not become one of them until he had complied with this rite. Orthodox Jews still require gentiles to comply with this rite when they become converts to Judaism.—Pathfinder Magazine.

School Robbed of Oranges

The Granada (Calif.) grammar school is probably the only one that has its private orange orchard, but even that has its drawbacks. Late at night while teachers and pupils were away from the school grounds, and the school closed, thieves entered the orchard, where more than 400 boxes of Valancia oranges had been gathered and stored. They took away the entire harvest.

Care of Goldfish

A salt bath is beneficial to goldfish as a remedy for parasites and fungus growth which attacks them. A solution of 13 ounces of salt per gallon of water is prepared and the fish dipped up and lowered into the bath, where they should remain for two or three seconds. They may then be transferred to another vessel containing well aerated water of the same temperature as that from which they were taken. This treatment may be profitably repeated daily for two or three days.



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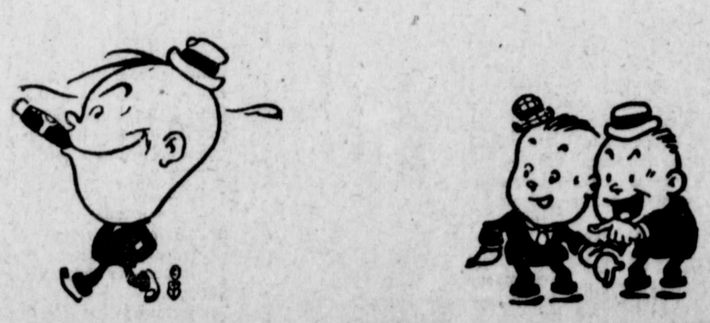
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