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Women's Page

BY A WOMAN

PORTIA

One of the best known plays of Shakespeare is "The Merchant of Vanice" in which Portia is the bright shining star.

Bassanio a young Venetian Noble had lost all his investments his chief creditor being Antonio, the Merchant of Venice. This Antonio was well beloved, for he lent his money without usury and was everready to give a helping hand. This was a great grievance to Shylock, a rich Jew, who made much by lending his money at high interest. He also hated Antonio because Antonio taunted him with that fact.

The play begins with Antonio informing his friends that he had sent his ships to sea to bring back home spices and other treasures of the orient. Then Bassania comes in and tells him of a fair lady, Portia in Belmont, whose father has died, leaving her all of his great riches.

Bassanio loves her, but does not dare to go to her without a handsome retinue, so he asked Antonio, to lend him three thousand ducats. Antonio has sent all his money away in his ships but to oblige his friend, he tells him to borrow it and he will be his surety. So Bassanio goes to Shylock.

Shylock, eager to avenge himself on Antonio, readily lends it on this condition, that if not paid in a certain time Antonia would give him a pound of flesh from near his heart. Bassanio protests, but Antonio readily consents, feeling sure that his ships would be in by that time. So they go to a Notary and sign the bond.

In the meantime Portia is being beset with suitors, and she is describing them to her maid Nerissa in a sparkling humorous way. But she says no one could win her hand who had not taken the test. The test was left in her fathers will. He left three caskets: one of gold, one silver and the third lead. Portia's picture was in one of these, and the man who chose the right one should be her usband. A Mooriah prince comes in and chooses the gold casket. All he finds there is a verse "All that glisters is not gold" another comes and tries the silver with the same result. Then Bassanio arrives, Portia, delighted to see him, begs him not to try the test for awhile, as she wishes to see somthing of him, fearing, that he too might fail. But Bassanio, eager to know his fate, goes in and chooses the leaden casket, and there finds the picture. Their happines is complete. Portia gives him a ring and urges him never to part with it. Just then messengers come in to tell Bassanio that all of Antonio's ships are lost at sea and the time for the bond is due. Portia tells Bassanio to take three tims the sum and give to the Jew and before he starts for Venice they are married. As soon as Bassanio is gone she takes her maid and goes to a wise judge, and begs him to take the case. He is sick, but he tells her just what to do, and lends her his robes. In the meantime, Bassanio goes to Shylock and offers him the money but the Jew insists upon the pound of flesh and they go to court: Here they are met by a young judge, famed for his wisdom, otherwise Portia. She takes the bond and says it is correct. Then she appeals to Shylock with these words.

"The quality of mercy is not strained, It droppeth as the gentle dew from heaven upon the earth beneath. It is twice blessed, it blesseth him who gives and him who takes;" but Shylock insists upon the bond so she tells him to sharpen his knife and Antonio to bare his breast. Then looking again at the bond, she says. "It says only one pound of flesh." So you must not take one drop of blood, or you forfeit your lfie.' So Antonio was saved. Bassanio was so gratefu lto the judge that he offered large sums of money, but the judge said he only wanted one thing, and that was the ring he wore. As it was the one Portia had given him he begged that the judge would take something else but being so insistant he at last gives the ring. The judge disappears and Portia enters: "Where is my ring," she says and pretends to be very angry, after she has teased him awhile, she shows him the ring and then he knows that the learned judge is his wife, Portia.

FASHIONS FOR SUMMER

White Suits

For those who look well in white the white-tailored suit is the smartest idea of the summer season. It comes in white wool, for instance, with a short jacket and with sleeves that have wide cuffs of fox. The fur is very soft and flufy and dyed in any one of a range of extraordinary colors, including orchid.

Waxy Fruits

Waxy imitations of fruit, varnished ribbon bows and little pompons of silk form the ornaments on many a hat these days. The fruit is likely to hang in a cluster from the crown of a broad-brimmed chapeau, the perky little bows and the pompoms being generally reserved for the tiny, slapdash bonnets that perch over one ear.

Black chiffon and lace combine to make as distinguished and useful a dress as you'll find this season, for wear from late afternoon, through dinner and on until midnight. Particularly smart are the lace collar which extends as a cape across the back and the lace ylk which falls into a soft cowl line. A very slenderizing effect is achieved by the bodice, which crosses over to continue in a tied girdle in back, giving a deep swathed waist line above the shaped side gores of the ankle-length skirt.

Should you prefer a less formal dress for general afternoon wear there is anther version with a shorter skirt and amusing set-in sleeves that tie below the elbow. Dark, yelowy-beige canton crepe is the material chosen for this dress. Design S3557.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

The New Double Curtain

If one curtain is beautiful, two must be twice as lovely; isn't that so? It certainly proves itself true in the new double curtains that have one color behind the other in a most charming effect.

As a rule, white is next the window, this giving a smarter effect from the outside than color. But color for the interior is attractively furnished by the second pair. Both pairs are ruffled, with the ruffle edged with the color of the other curtain. Those featured are white and tomato, white and brown, white and green and blue with lemon. All unusual and distinctive, you see.

Theseals are including a top ruffle, and are made of fine organdie, curtains. These include white grounds with red or blue dots, and colored grounds wit hwhite dots.

String Holders

One of the cute litle gadgets which gives individuality and color to the kitchen is a feminine string holder. She is only a head, black as the ace of spades, with a red kerchief and "gold" earrings.

And through her open mouth comes a length of string so that it is always handy when packages are to be wrapped. The ball itself is concealed in her head and her price is 50 cents. A nice booby prize.

RECIPES

Vanilla Wafer Pie Crust

Grind enough vanilla wafers to make 1 1-4 cup crumbs. Line buttered pie pan, packing mixture in well. Pour in filling and bake twenty-five minutes in a slow oven, 300 degrees F.

Graham Cracker Pastry

12 graham crackers
1-3 cup butter.
1 tablespoon sugar.

Rol or crumble crcakers fine and mix with softened butter and sugar. Butter pie pan and press mixture firmly with fingers against bottom and sides. Pour in filling and bake twenty-five minutes in a slow oven, 300 degrees F.

Magic Strawberry Meringue Pie

1 1-3 cups (1 can) condensed milk
2 tablespons lemon juice.
2 eggs
1 cup sliced strawberries
2 tablespoons granulated sugar.
Vanilla wafer pie crust.

Blend together milk, lemon juice and egg yolks. Fold in strawberries which have been sliced. Pour into pie plate lined with vanilla wafer crust. Cover with meringue made by beating egg whites until stiff and adding sugar. Bake in a moderate oven, 325 degrees F. until brown. Chill before serving. For a lemon pie, use the juice of three lemons instead of berries.

Cream Filling

3-4 cup sugar.
1-3 cup flour.
1-8 teaspoon salt.
2 eggs.
2 cups scalded milk.
1 teaspoon vanilla or
1-2 teasponful lemo nextract.

Mix the dry ingredients, add the egg slightly beaten, and pour on gradually th scalded milk. Cook fifteen minutes in a double boiler, stirring constantly until thickened, afterwards occasionally. Cool and flavor.

Chocolate Filling

Add one and one-half squares of chocolate to the recipe for cream filling.

Struck a Paper Mine.—Before his death Edgar Wallace was telling a scribbler friend what a great business the film industry was. "Why," said Wallace, "it's marvelous. I write a scenario in a couple of days and they pay me a fortune for it. You ought to get into it," he advised.

"Yes, I know," returned his friend, "but it's too strange for me. I once was asked by a film company to submit something. I sent them four scenarios and blamed if they didn't return me nine!"—New York Morning Telegraph.

Repairing Telephone Lines Estimated to Cost $1,000,000

Storm Interrupted Service To 23,650 Telephones And 1,087 Long Distance Circuits And Isolated 75 Central Offices In Maryland, Virginia And West Virginia

Storm-wrecked telephone lines such as that pictured above were familiar sights in Maryland, Virginia, and eastern West Virginia following the severe blizzard and snow storm of March 6.

Top, right, linemen stringing emergency wire to restore service, and bottom, L. F. Cromwell, plant engineer, Maryland, holding a section of wire heavily laden with ice.

A recapitulation of the storm damage sustained by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Companies March 6 shows that extraordinary repairs will involve expenditures of more than $1,000,000. A wet snow frozen to the wires over a wide area of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia accompanied by high winds reaching blizzard-like proportions caused interruptions to the service of 23,650 telephones, 1,087 long distance circuits and isolated 75 central offices.

Repairs to the telephone plant in the affected areas will necessitate the replacement of 21,400 poles, and 10,000 miles of open wire lines. The construction of 60 miles of cable to replace open wire local and long distance circuits will insure less interruption from future storms in the areas in which this type of plant will be constructed.

The cost of extraordinary repairs resulting from this storm is provided for by a depreciation reserve fund maintained by the telephone companies for just such emergencies, according to a statement made by Lloyd B. Wilson, president. This reserve, he states, is looked upon as one of the necessary costs of providing telephone service.

Beginning with the first report of trouble in the storm stricken areas, the telephone companies' line forces were called out to restore service and to clear the highways of poles and wires. In making temporary repairs to telephone lines about 2,500 miles of emergency insulated wire were used. This wire was strung on stubs of poles broken off by the storm, along fences and on trees and in some places laid along the ground across fields.

More than 850 linemen and repairmen were engaged in restoring service. Also a large force of engineers were engaged in making surveys of the damage and in preparing specifications for making permanent repairs. As fast as the surveys were completed, the necessary poles, crossarms, wire, cable and other supplies were ordered by rush shipments, so that the lines could be restored to a peramnent condition as fast as possible.

Restoral of service during the early period of the storm was badly handicapped by travel conditions. In many cases the roads were blocked by snow or trees and falling limbs, which necessarily had to be removed before traffic could be resumed. In other cases where the wires were across private property removed from the highways, it was necessary to transport the emergency wire and other equipment by horse-drawn vehicles or manpower.

President Wilson states that every effort has been made to restore telephone service promptly and gives assurance that permanent repairs will be made as soon as possible. Where cable is to be placed or extensive pole line replacements are necessary this work will necessarily require several months.

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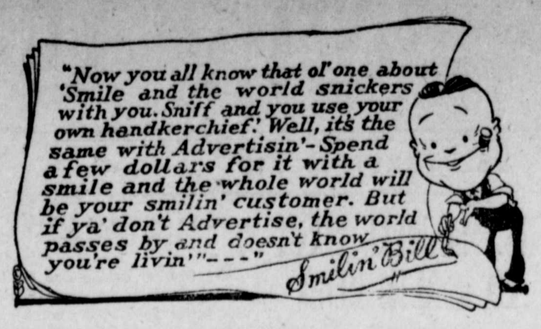

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SNOODLES By CY HUNGERFORD

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