Kent News

ESTABLISHED 1841.

Subscription - - - $1 Per Year

WM. B. USILTON'S SONS, Publishers.

Fred. G. Usilton. - - Wm. B. Usilton, Jr.

An Odd Tea Table.

An odd new tea table for the veranda of an out-of-town house has the chrysanthemum as its decorative motif. The stalks of the flower form the supports, and the flowers and leaves are delicately carved on the top.

A Handsome Porch Shade.

A new porch shade is something on the order of the old time Japanese shades, only instead of being made of reeds it is made of slats twice as thick; it is colored moss, green, red or mottled, and is very effective. It is not only a porch shade, but makes a decorative accessory to the summer home. They are shown to match blinds or shingles or any other color feature of the house.

New Asparagus Dishes.

Asparagus dishes are gorgeous things in color, the body of the platter in green usually, and representing long stalks of asparagus. In some of the dishes the china asparagus stalks are curved up at the sides to hold the vegetable better, and in still other dishes this curved part is separate from the platter proper, and is perforated so that the asparagus may drain on the serving dish. One dish, having the stalks in green, has a representation of red rosebuds at the sides, and at one edge of the platter there is a standard and a pitcher to match the platter for holding the sauce.

Some Modern Conveniences.

To keep pace with the modern improvements and conveniences for the home, one would need really to build a house every spring. Wanting that experience, it is a good plan to go through the new house of some friend just as it is ready to be occupied. In one thus visited recently it was noticed that in a compartment in the refrigerator which was, of course, a cold storage box, and finished in white tile that was beautifully clean and attractive, a rack to hold eggs was fitted. This had round holes large enough to hold the eggs standing on end, and thus combat the carelessness of the average cook, who will put them in the ice-box in a paper bag even, and will wonder to find them crushed against heavy jars and dishes. Another innovation in this same house does away with shade cords, those torments of the housekeeper, that have until recently been considered necessary evils. In every room in the house stands a slender rod of wood, tipped with a brass catch, to be used when the shade flies up to the top of the window. These poles are neatly finished, the metal work highly polished. Their use permits a much neater handle or finish to the shade than when the ugly little ring and knotted cord must be relied upon for control of the spring.—New York Post.

Curry of Lobster in Rice Cups—Cook a cupful of rice in salted water until tender, then line with it cups, or a large mold, if preferred. Fill centres or centre with lobster meat cut into small pieces and mixed with a cup of seasoned white sauce to which is added a tablespoon of curry powder. Put in a dash of horseradish if liked. Cover with more rice and bake in a pan of water thirty-five minutes. Garnish with pickles and parsley, and, when fresh lobster is used, with lobster claws.

Lemon Sandwiches—Trim the crust from a loaf of bread; put in a large covered dish and surround with lemon peel. Take sufficient butter, cover in grated lemon, cover in wax paper and put in the covered dish with the bread, allowing this to remain over night. In the morning take out and rub the butter down until it is a little soft; spread on the bread, adding gradually a little piece of the lemon and a small quantity of finely-chopped parsley. Put two slices of the bread together and cut in the desired shape.

Potato Omelet—Cut cold boiled potatoes into dice a quarter of an inch square; mix them with enough white sauce to well moisten them. Place a tablespoonful of butter in a frying-pan; when the butter is hot put in the potatoes and saute them until browned on the bottom, loosen them from the pan, and turn them like an omelet into a flat dish; or this preparation may be put in a baking dish, sprinkled with crumbs and grated cheese, then put in the oven to brown and serve in the same dish.

Preserved Peaches—Plunge ripe but not soft peaches into boiling water and pare them by rubbing off the skins. Halve and stone them, and reserve about one-fourth the number of stones, which open and remove the pits. Weigh the fruit, and to every pound allow three-fourths of a pound of sugar. Make a syrup by boiling the sugar with one cupful of water to each pound. Skim until the syrup is clear, then add the peaches and the pits, and cook until the former are transparent. Pack in glass jars and seal.

You were gentleman and lady before you were husband and wife. Don't forget it.

THE LIGHT OF LOVE

By T. Y. McFarland

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The county courtroom of St. Anne's was crowded to the door. It was an assemblage unprecedented even in that country where a trial for murder always exercised an irresistible fascination, and where the allurements of old-time florid oratory conferred upon the courthouse something of the status of a theater.

Never before within the memory of those present had a white woman cowered under the menace of a possible capital sentence. Indeed there lurked some trifling doubt as to the propriety of the circumstance now. It was not that her guilt was questioned—in the popular judgment she was condemned beyond all peradventure—but with its innate, fantastic chivalry St. Anne's was disposed to be compassionate, and to meet alien logic with the sentimental reminder that "she is a woman."

The crime itself was as old as history—the tragedy familiar to every stage of life. In this instance its dramatis personae were of the lowest type—gross, ignorant and debased. Jenny Haskell was the wayward wife—her husband Jim was the victim; and the third figure was a handsome oysterman known along the tide water districts as "Bill" Thome. It had been a murder startling in its primitive brutality and had acquired full page prominence in sensational Sunday papers. The husband's brains had been shot out one night while he lay asleep by his wife's side.

There had been no doubt as to the identity of the murderer. The circumstantial evidence was crushing, and, in addition, the widow herself had frantically denounced Thome as her husband's slayer. His trial had been removed to the state metropolis, and after his sentence he had been taken to its jail to await the day set for his execution. The reason for this was purely prudential. St. Anne's was pitifully poor, and there was a growing disposition to regard the expenses of the court as excessive. The neighboring county of Marlborough had averted the cost of a similar trial by a quietly ordered lynching, and had boasted of its thrift, and there had been some warrant in the fear that the example might prove contagious.

This had been three months before, and the excitement had begun to subside when a new sensation was created by the arrest of Haskell's relict as an accessory to the murder, at the instance of Willis Howard, the state's atorney. Mr. Howard was a man of praiseworhy political ambition, and had achieved no little notoriety by reason of the conviction of Thome. He labored under the dual misfortune, however, of not having been born in the county and of having inspired the natives with an ungenerous disposition to associate his zealous activity with the approaching nomination for Congress.

It was the third day of the Haskell trial, and the interest was intense. An indefinite rumor was abroad that the state's attorney had a trump card to play, and a thrill of excitement swept through the crowd as he arose to address the court.

He proposed, he declared, to produce a witness who would testify to the unquestioned guilt of the prisoner—to her identification with "the foulest deed recorded in the criminal annals of St. Anne's." Then, as he turned to where the woman—white, panic-stricken and abject crouched beside her counsel, the whistle of an approaching locomotive sounded shrilly from across the river. The only train scheduled for the day would not arrive until night, and the coming of a special was an event unparalleled. It was like an "effect" in melodrama, and the throng waited breathlessly.

In the intense stillness every sound without was audible—the rumbling of the train; the stoppage at the station; and the ring of footsteps on the flags that led from the road to the courthouse. An instant later there was an agitation about the entrance and Thome, the convicted murderer, guarded by the officials of the city jail, crossed the threshold. The woman uttered a half-suppressed shriek, and the state's attorney smiled blandly. "This

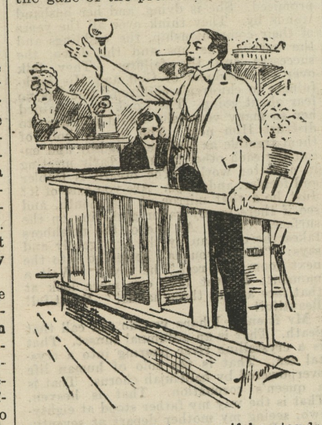
"Jenny Haskell was the wayward wife."

is my witness, your honor," he explained, and then sonorously, "Call William Thome."

The tension was acute as the man took the stand. It was evident in the agitation of the kindly, patriarchal judge, in the feverish alertness of the reporters; in the hungry interest of the country-folk; and even in the unblinking gaze of the negroes who hung over the rail at the rear in stolid beatitude. The prisoner was livid and stared appealingly at the witness.

"Judge," began the latter slowly, "I've been doing a heap of thinking over this business since I've been sentenced. It's laid heavy on my mind, and when I found it could be fixed up so I could come and tell, I was glad. There was one reason in particular why I was so glad." His eyes rested upon the prisoner an instant as he spoke. His look was steady, and his voice, while low, was perfectly distinct. "She's told what she knew, and she's brought me where I am," he continued. "She's done her duty, and I'm ready to do mine. A man's got a duty even if he stands within the shadow of the gallows." The woman's counsel glanced up quickly here—the phrase was distinctly suggestive of Howard's rumbling periods.

"And I'm going to tell all I know," went on Thome, "and it's this." He paused an instant, and there was a slight smile upon his face as he met the gaze of the prosecutor "Nobody's



"A man's got a duty even if he stands within the shadow of the gallows," he said.

guilty for the murder of Jim Haskell but me, and she—she's as innocent—as Mr. Howard himself."

The crowd was fairly stunned by this unexpected declaration. That anything less than an incriminating disclosure was to follow had been undreamed of. All eyes instinctively sought the state's attorney. That officer was on his feet wild with discomfiture and rage.

"Do you mean to say," he had furiously begun, when his words were lost as the voice of Thome rang through the hall like a trumpet.

"It isn't what you expected, is it Mr. Lawyer Howard? You thought because she told the truth about me you'd get me here to maybe swear her life away. And you thought your bribes would make me do it. Why, Judge, this man offered me my life to go back on her. He told me he could handle the governor like a child and that he'd make him sign a pardon if I'd say she put me up to it. As if twenty lives and pardons could ever make me do that." Then he turned toward the jail officials. "I am done," he said, "we might as well go back."

The assemblage was quiet for a moment, and then someone with a finer appreciation of dramatic effect than decorum proposed three cheers and the hall rang with instant clamor. It was an uproar too vast for the efforts of the court officials to suppress. It was the glorification of what was regarded as undoubted perjury and of a convicted murderer—but of one who had become a hero because, despite all bribes, he had shielded and screened the woman who had betrayed him.

She did not even give him a glance as he was led out. Her whole soul was concentrated in the expression of smiling insolence with which she favored the outraged prosecutor. It was a smile that later became a badge of triumph as the twelve good men and true delivered the verdict of acquittal that enabled her to leave the courtroom—an Innocent Proclaimed. It should be added, however, that there was a disposition to enlarge upon the theme of ingratitude among the groups that delayed to gossip in the courthouse yard, and that in the evening the gentlemen of the jury called upon the vindicated widow and suggested the advisability of her prompt departure from St. Anne's.

And two weeks later the county seat again became a Mecca. It was the day set for expiation, and the natives had begun to jog into town hours before sunrise. There was something more than merely morbid curiosity in the throng that clustered about the little jail yard, and swarmed over the hillside at its rear, and the belief that Thome in this last scene would prove worthy of the prestige he had earned was fully realized. It was a crowd that lingered thoughtfully long after justice had been done and that nodded approvingly at an observation of the sheriffs.

"Gentlemen," said that officer, "I do not propose to deduce any morals on this sad occasion, but what I do intend—is to be present at the burial."

Little Girl's Shrewd Reasoning.

Referring to the growing habit of cigarette smoking among certain fashionables of both sexes the London Chronicle tells of a little English school girl who was parsing a sentence aloud and stopped at the noun "smoking." "Singular number," suggested the patient teacher. "Singular number," droned the pupil, obediently, "common gender——" "Not common, dear," corrected the lady, and waited expectantly. "But it can't be masculine, anyhow," cried the child of the period, "'cause, you see, mummy smokes as much as daddy!"

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References—Equitable National Bank, of Baltimore: Second National Bank, of Chestertown, and business community. My5-tf

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