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

Cleansing Stairs.

To remove pitch and tar stains rub lard on the stain and let it stand for a few hours. Sponge with spirits of turpentine until the stain is removed. If the color of the fabric should be changed, sponge it with chloroform and the color will be restored.

A Useful Bench.

One of the most useful contrivances the home tinker can make is a little bench about a foot wide and three feet long, supported on end pieces about ten inches high. It will be found the greatest comfort when placed across the lap of a sick person in bed to rest the tray of dishes upon, taking the weight from the limbs, so that one may move without upsetting the food. Paint it red, so that it will contrast cheerfully with the napery and china.

Nothing that requires so little work and trouble as this is could give the satisfaction it does when in use. Make one and see for yourself.

Mistakes in Framing.

The commonest mistakes in framing pictures are in choosing frames of too ornate a character, too narrow margins or mats of the wrong color. Green is in high favor for picture frames just now, and two other very new ideas are exceedingly desirable. One is a soft silver gray or forest green frame with the corners rounded off in Japanese fashion. The second is of rosewood of a rich old mahogany tone and has "cabinet" joined instead of mitered corners. Veneered frames, really a mat of wood, made from one piece of wood, with the opening cut in the centre for the picture, are very popular.

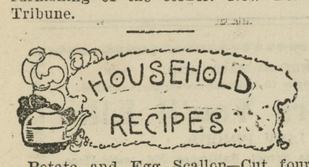
Family Poison Book.

It would be an excellent idea for every family to have a little book giving briefly prompt antidotes for various poisons," said a prominent New York doctor. "Physicians know that there are scores of cases of accidental poisoning never heard of outside of the family concerned. I've had several cases of poisoning by an accidental dose of the chloroform and aconite liniment that almost every one keeps, and one woman gave her child muriatic acid that was kept for cleaning the marbles.

"Prompt action is the great thing in cases of poisoning. By the time one can get help from a doctor or druggist it is often too late to save the patient. A few antidotes for the common poisons would be easy to learn. Still, if there was such a book I suppose most persons would be too much excited to use it in time of emergency." —New York Times.

A Cosey Chimney Corner.

A charmingly designed chimney corner has a flight of gray black swallows above the mantel, the tiny faraway ones reaching in a graceful curve several yards to the left almost as high as the ceiling. These are painted in water colors, cut out separately and arranged on the wall, which is a warm pinkish terra cott in color. On the rough stones immediately above the fireplace is engraved the legend in which Oliver Wendell Holmes delighted, to the effect that there is no earthly happiness like "four feet on a fender." Little "three cornered" cupboards at either side increase the apparent width of the chimney place, and below these there are low burlap covered seats fitted in. A pot of English ivy fills one end of the mantel (which is not draped). The longer growths of this are trained up on the wall, and the shorter sprays fall over the mantel. In the low window seat at the opposite side, a great fern reaches its yard long fronds to the floor, and a little gray green rag carpet rug is laid before the little brass knobbed fender, and one slender, long stemmed vase of iridescent glass near the centre of the mantel completes the furnishing of the corner.—New York Tribune.



Potato and Egg Scallop—Cut four medium sized potatoes and four hard boiled eggs in rather thin slices; put a layer of potatoes in a baking dish, sprinkle with salt and pepper; then put over a layer of egg; continue with alternate layers until all are used; pour over a thin white sauce; spread over buttered crumbs and brown in a quick oven; the potatoes should be cold boiled.

Peach Cake—Mix together one pint of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, half a teaspoonful of salt and one gill of sugar. Rub through a sieve and add a gill and a half of milk, one well-beaten egg and three tablespoonfuls of melted butter. Spread this in a well buttered shallow cake pan and cover with peaches pared and cut in halves. Sprinkle with three tablespoonfuls of sugar, and bake for half an hour in a moderate oven. Serve hot with cream and sugar.

Glance was Unfortunate.

A story is told of a certain English clergyman who had for his curate a tall, cadaverous-looking individual. One Sunday, according to custom, the vicar made an appeal for the curate's stipend fund, but, unfortunately, glanced over at his co-worker as he concluded with these words: "The collection will now be taken for that object."

SONG FOR AN AUTUMN DAY.

BY CLINTON SCOLLARD.

Sullen sky, and a sea
That heaves its sombre breast;
And a wind that dirges ceaselessly
In blind unrest.

And yet, and yet one heart
Is blithe as a May-tide flower;
One soaring spirit bears no part
In the gloaming hour!

Blue is the sky (her eyes!)
And bright is the sun (her smile!)
And there is a right of paradise
For a dreaming while.
—Collier's Weekly.

THE STRAWS OF DEATH

How a Rivalry Was Settled on the Firing-Line.

By W. O. Geehan.

THE regiment was settling down for the night with some grumbling and much profane jesting, for Western volunteers possess a sense of humor superior to the most trying conditions. Somewhere in the darkness in front, the Filipinos were taking pot shots between their cigarettes, as an occasional zeu! attested.

"There go the blamed typewriters," cried a young private. "Firing at fireflies, as usual. No sleep to-night."

"Typewriters" was a contemptuous appellation given to the Fourteenth Regulars, because the popping of their magazine guns in the distance slightly resembled the noise of the machine of peace.

"Put your mouth on the safety notch," ordered the captain from the right of the company. "They're sending out the outposts. Get their bearings so that you can shoot around them if the ball opens up."

Two men were receiving final instructions from the colonel, previous to venturing into the hostile country in front. "Sneak out about 200 yards," ordered the officer, "and lie low. If you see any signs of an attack, try to get back and warn us. If you can't get back, you must warn us somehow, and take your chances. No need to tell you to be careful. You hold the lives of many men in your hands. Good luck, boys."

This sort of work is called Cossack outpost duty, and men detailed upon it should not be men of family or nerves. A few nights previously two nervous men were detailed upon it. One of them fired at a white pariah dog. The shot caused the Filipinos to concentrate a series of volleys lasting thirty minutes in the direction of the outposts. The Americans awakened from a sound sleep and let go several unauthorized volleys. Consequently the two nervous men, being between two fires, were riddled with two kinds of ammunition.

The two men detailed for this evening's work were of different metal. "Morituri te salutamus, colonel," said one with a reckless laugh. With the easy nonchalance of veterans, they gave the rifle salute, and, sliding over the top of the trench, disappeared into the night.

"There go two good men, observed the colonel.

The two men tiptoed across the dry rice paddies, each holding his rifle at the ready. There was no sound except the occasional hiss of a random bullet, or the faint and distant pop of a rifle.

"Guess this is far enough," said one of the men at length; "here is a little hollow. Why, it is almost as safe as the trench." The other acquiesced with a faint murmur, and they sprawled upon the ground facing the enemy's territory.

"It's a queer freak of fate that we two should be detailed on this together," observed the shorter of the two, "after avoiding each other so successfully."

"It's blamed queer, Osbourne," returned the other, "but we'll have to stand it."

"It is not that I would want a better man for a tight place, Wade," said Osbourne, "but there is that one thing."

"Yes, I know," wearily; "that's the trouble. If you were not as good or a better man than I, there would be no danger of Helen Bartlett caring for you."

"We were good friends in the old days, Billy," said Osbourne, rather huskily; "if one of us only loved her a little less."

"No go, Tom," replied the other. "It is either her or the jumping off place for me. Our friendship was a friendly thing, but she is above that. Would you——"

"No, you are right. It's no thoroughfare. I wish it were ended, one way or the other."

"What can we do?" queried Wade, with studied composure. "We can't gouge each other with bayonets out here, and Springfields at two yards is a bit too unique."

Osbourne laughed harshly. "We might draw straws, the loser speedily to meet an accidental death."

"No, thanks," replied Wade. "I am am willing to take my bullet, if it comes, but not that way. One of us might get it decently at any time."

"You're right, Wade," said Osbourne. "You're a good fellow."

"Same to you," returned Wade. "Let's quit chatting and attend to our work."

For some time they lay silent, staring into the darkness for things they could not see, even had they been there. Only the intermittent popping of musketry and the occasional zeu! of a Mauser bullet broke the silence. Now and then they could see through the blackness a faint, momentary red flare.

"Confound them," observed Osbourne, "the Filipinos can smoke, anyhow. I'm dying for a cigarette."

"If you light a match here," said Wade, "we'll be targets for about 4000 rifles."

"That's true enough," agreed Osbourne, with a soft chuckle; "cigarettes are rather expensive out here." Another period of silence followed.

"Wade," inquired Osbourne, suddenly, "are you willing to try a wild scheme for settling this matter forever?"

"Anything fair and reasonable," replied the other. "What's your plan?"

"Draw straws," said Osbourne, briefly, "the man who gets the short one to stand up and light a match, and—go to his fathers."

Wade caught his breath and remained mute for some time, considering. "Not so bad," he observed, after a time; "but we are on duty now."

"O, Fudge!" said Osbourne, lightly; "the Filipinos wouldn't attack for all the loot of Manila. An outpost here is merely a matter of form. Besides, one of us will be left."

"That's so," returned Wade, "and I see no objection."

"You fix the straws, then," said Osbourne, quickly. "I'll draw." He began to whistle softly in a nervous fashion, as men do when they are close to death. Wade fumbled silently with some fragments of rice straw. His movements were slow and mechanical. Some men are constituted that way. "Here, Tom," he said, stretching out his right fist. "May the better man get it."

Osbourne extended a hand that trembled slightly, and fingered the disclosed ends of the straw for a brief time. Suddenly he clutched one and pulled it out. At the same instant there was a strange, soft thud, and Wade fell upon his face. His limbs moved convulsively for a moment; then he lay motionless.

"For heaven's sake, Billy! what's up?" cried Osbourne, in an agonized whisper. He laid his hand on the man's face, but jerked it away horrified, for it touched something warm and wet.

"She's mine!" he muttered, with fierce triumph; then, "Poor Billy."

A thought came that caused him to gasp and shiver. He hesitated, reached for the dead man's hand, and loosened its clasp from the other straw. It was several inches longer than the one he had drawn.

"What shall I do?" he moaned. "Oh, Billy!" he cried, shaking the dead man's shoulder, as if to rouse him. "What shall I do?" Only the far-off popping of the rifles broke the oppressive stillness.

"What would you have done?" he asked in the same strain. "By Jove!" suddenly, "you were a good man. You would have kept the compact. I lost fairly. Bear witness, Billy, I am as good a man as you."

He laid his hand for an instant on the dead man's forehead. Then he rose slowly, and fumbled in his pocket. At length he found a match. For a moment he stood irresolute, inhaling strong breaths of air. Already he had begun to feel the horror of being shut out from it forever. It was hard to give the signal for his own death. His teeth came together with a click, and, scratching the match on his shoe, he held the flame before his breast.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Making the Dead Live.

Dr. Laborde, of Paris, appears to have given a striking demonstration of the possibility of restoring to life persons apparently drowned or otherwise asphyxiated. It is well known that forced or artificial respiration has often been successful when all hope seemed to have vanished. Dr. Laborde's method consists in producing rhythmical traction of the tongue, which has been found to revive respiration when other means had failed, and he has invented a small apparatus for the purpose. In the course of experiments he chloroformed a vigorous bulldog, so that breathing seemed to have ceased. After fifteen minutes tongue traction the animal recovered. In another experiment anaesthesia was carried to a more extreme point, and it took two hours of the action upon the tongue to restore sensibility. In the case of a human patient the subject is laid on his back and the tongue is grasped by a pair of tweezers, attached to the apparatus, by means of which a continual pulling in and out process is kept up. The experiences seem to point to the assumption that, athough an animal organism may have apparently ceased to live, a germ of life may exist somewhere within which is kept alive, and gradually the influence of the living spark spreads to the rest of the system.—London Telegraph.

Autumn Leaves Instead of Crape.

"Within the last two months I have had at least a dozen orders from my customers to supply autumn leaves instead of crape as a badge of mourning," said a Columbus avenue undertaker. "These leaves are woven into a wreath and tied with black ribbon, and they make, to my mind, a much more artistic emblem of grief than the long streamers of crape usually fastened to the front door.

"I don't know who is responsible for the innovation, but I certainly think the idea a pretty one, and I hope it will keep on growing."—New York Tribune.

An Absurdity.

The craze for affixing tablets to historic houses has now reached the bathetical stage. It is announced that a tablet has been affixed to a house at Soden, near Frankfort, with the following inscription: "In this house Richard Wagner spent the first night on German soil after his exile of eleven years. August 12-13, 1860."—London Post.

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