

The Wife's Money

"Susan, I wish you would let me have \$150 for title," said Mr. Baxter. "If I could drain that wet pasture I could raise a big crop of corn next year. I have been wanting to do it for a long time."

"I have no money except what is out on good first mortgage security, and I don't care to call it in," said Mrs. Baxter.

"But don't you see, Susan, that the crop on that field would bring more than six per cent? The whole farm needs a lot of money spent on it to bring it up where it should be," and Mr. Baxter passed his cup for more coffee.

"Look here, Lyman," said the wife, holding the coffee pot poised in the air. "I have \$5,000 that I have got together by the most kind of work. I am getting \$300 a year interest on it. That is what I used to get my wedding clothes and furnish this house. I shall have no more money for six months, and a good part of that is spoken for, as I am helping James' boy through college, so you see I shall have no money to spend on the farm for a year," and she poured the coffee and handed it to her husband.

"Women don't know anything about business. That field would be good security. I'll give you six per cent for the money," and Mr. Baxter rose in his chair and speared a slice of bread.

"Lyman, for goodness sake, ask to have things passed! You men have lived here alone until your manners are something awful," exclaimed Mrs. Baxter in an irritated voice. "Never mind my table manners. The thing that's biting me is to find a way to drain that field. Will you lend me the money, since you haven't enough interest in me and your home

to give it to me?" and Mr. Baxter poured his coffee into his saucer to cool.

"No; once and for all, I will neither lend nor give you a cent. If the field is such good security, borrow it at the bank. The thing is as broad as it is long. You managed to live on it to violence. I married you and you keep it up; if not you—"

But Mr. Baxter had risen from the table, kicked his chair back with a heavy boot, caught up his hat from the floor and banged out of the house.

This was the beginning of trouble. The father and two boys, sixteen and nineteen, entered on a consistent course of persecution. Every means to obtain possession of the wife's money was adopted. One day, after a particularly distressing scene, the men left the house and Mrs. Baxter, seizing paper and pen, wrote to her brother, living fifteen miles distant, begging him to come and take her and her furniture away. She named a particular day the following week when Mr. Baxter would be absent from home as the most propitious time. When the day came she carefully packed all her possessions and, watched with increasing nervousness for her brother.

The boys were at work in the barn when the brother and father rattled into the yard, but came out to see who had arrived. Without ceremony the newcomers began loading the furniture. The boys determined to prevent this, and when the men emerged from the kitchen door they shouted:

"Drop that furniture! Not a thing goes from this house!" These commands were seconded by angry brandishing of clubs.

The father was seventy-five years old, but wiry as a youth, and it did not take him long to disarm one of the boys. The brother managed the other, shouting, "Now take to the timber!"

The cupboard full of well-cooked food was all that remained for Mr. Baxter when he returned. His venture into matrimony as a financial enterprise had turned out less well than he had hoped.

Household Hints

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

When making extra strings for baby's bonnet, make them in one piece. Sew a piece of tape over the corner where one string on the strings. Slip string through tape and tie under chin. Windsor ties are nice, as they launder fine. When soiled they can be slipped out and there is no sewing or pinning when replacing them.

When comforts for beds are partly well worn, the cloth often splits lengthwise. To avoid that, lay a width of cheesecloth, or other thin goods, crosswise over the cotton, before putting on outside. It does not make them hard or heavy.

Good and inexpensive bluing: 2 1/2 cents' worth of Prussian blue, 2 1/2 cents' worth oxalic acid; dissolve in one quart boiling water and put in jar or bottle; it is then ready for use.

When cooking cake icing with milk or anything that is bad to scorch, sprinkle small handful of salt on stove lid.

Good way to cover comforters; enclose the ends in covering netting, tacking it here and there to prevent bunching up. Slip comforter thus made into the outside cover and tuck in place. When soiled it is easy to open one end and take out the inside. If this method is used the old way will be abandoned.

To make the legs of a chicken or turkey as tender as the other parts take a skewer and, before cutting feet from knee joint, pull the tendons out at knee joint and then, with a quick, strong jerk, you can loosen tendon from thigh and pull out from the other men. It's these tough tendons that make the whole leg an inferior portion. Also do not throw away the feet. Soak and remove outside skin and cook with giblets. They add much enrichment to the soup.

A Nice Plant Stand.

You can make a nice plant stand by taking an old castoff upholstered chair, saw the back off, take the bottom out, put in a wooden one, paint and varnish it and you will have a pretty as well as a strong stand for your fern, especially if your fern is heavy. An old-fashioned piano stool can be used the same way.

Wheat Possibilities in Australia.

The Commonwealth meteorologist, who has been making a close study of Australian wheat areas, states that the present production there of about 100,000,000 bushels can be increased by 1,000,000,000 bushels. Only 20,000 square miles in Australia are being used for wheat, which could be increased to 600,000 square miles.

A certain major in the Philippines managed in some way always to get leave just before trouble with the natives was due. His colonel suspected him of having a knack for fishing. "Some day," remarked the colonel, "they'll want to give that fellow a decoration, and I'll suggest one. It will be a wreath of leaves of abstinence."

Jumped at Conclusions.

Beetles—Heavens, man! that wasn't a collector you threw out then—he was a customer.

Waller—it was the second time I saw him here. A customer never comes here more than once.

Practice.

Boy—Miss Jones, you are very beautiful.

Lady—Thank you, Bobbie!

Boy—Oh, that's all right! Us Boy Scouts have to do one kind act every day.

THE SPREAD OF FREE DELIVERY

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A WAR NECESSITY IN 1863

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WASHINGTON CITY.—Twenty-five years ago the free delivery of letters was extended to all towns in the United States having 5,000 population or over. The free delivery of letters was begun in the larger cities in 1863, during the Civil war. It was then made necessary by the fact that the people in the cities crowded the postoffices to hear from the front. In larger cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, the increased mail department and made free delivery an absolute necessity.

But in 1861 there were only 635 letter carriers in all the cities of the United States. In 1889, when free delivery was extended to smaller towns, a vast majority of the two-thirds of the population of the country living in the rural districts had to travel on an average of from five to ten miles for mail, and in many of these districts mail was delivered at the postoffice only once a week.

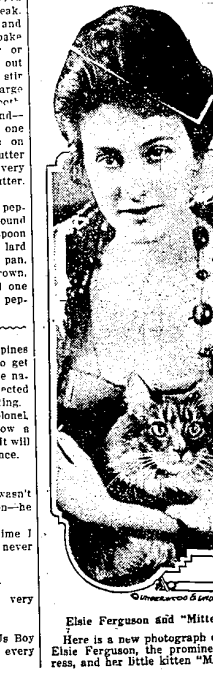
Today in almost every town and city the mail is delivered at office, shop or residence from once to ten times daily, except San Francisco, by an army of 30,000 letter carriers, while another army of nearly 45,000 rural carriers serve country communities from Florida to Canada and from Maine to California. An army of more than 75,000 men are employed by more than 60,000 postoffices to serve the American people, and with the exception of its hamlets and small villages, where every resident is convenient to the postoffice, everybody receives his mail by free delivery.

In 1897 the rural free delivery was established with 44 routes. For a year or two it was purely an experiment, for the economies were far in excess of the cost, and great to the rural free delivery does not pay the postoffice department, but it has become such an absolute necessity to the farmer that he has compelled the government to make it permanent, and the whole country is well satisfied to be taxed for the deficit. For rural free delivery has not only increased the attractiveness of rural life, but it has greatly augmented the business of the country, and the city and contributed to the general prosperity.

Saved By Quick Pinch.

LORAIN, O.—Charles Borne, farmer, saved his life by rare presence of mind. He was dying at the bottom of a 15-foot well on the farm of C. C. Pease and was blasting with dynamite. He placed the charge and lit the fuse. While climbing from the well he fell back, breaking both legs. Before he faltered he managed to squirm around and catch onto the bare hands found him later.

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Ladies' All Pure Linen Handkerchiefs—With Donegal Hand Embroidered corners and Armenian Lace Edge, at 50c each.

Ladies' All Pure Linen Handkerchiefs—hand hemstitched and Appenzel hand embroidered in one corner, at 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50 each.

Ladies' Real Duchess Lace Handkerchiefs—at \$1.50, \$2.00, \$3.50, \$4.00 and \$5.00 each.

Ladies' All Pure Linen Handkerchiefs—with embroidered Initial. At 10c, 12 1/2c, 15c, 25c and 50c each.

Ladies' All Pure Linen Embroidered Handkerchiefs—put up in 2-12 and 6-12 boxes, at 50c, \$1.00 and \$1.50 per box.

Men's All Pure Linen Embroidered Initial Handkerchiefs—at 15c, 25c, 35c and 50c each.

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SAN FRANCISCO.—The giant Oregon fir tree which has been shaped to make the largest flagpole in the world has been raised at the exposition grounds at San Francisco. Owing to its great weight and length, the pole was extremely difficult to handle, and the work of getting it into an upright position has required the most interesting and the most construction feature at the exposition.

The pole stands 222 feet above the ground, and the tilted star at its top rises 19 feet higher. Ten feet of the butt is set into a solid block of reinforced concrete weighing 200 tons, which will be of sufficient bulk to hold the pole upright against the highest winds without the assistance of guy ropes or other supports. The flagpole itself weighs 25 tons, the log from which it was trimmed having weighed 50 tons. Three derricks were required to erect the pole. The pole was placed at the intersection by the citizens of Astoria, Ore., and was floated down the coast to the exposition grounds more than a year ago. It will carry a great American flag 46 feet long, also given by the citizens of Astoria.

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