

A WOMAN ON THE SERVANT QUESTION

She Advises Fewer Papers on Boccaccio, While the Servants are Taught by Example That House-Work is not Degrading.

To the Editor of The News:
It is indeed heart-rending to hear the cry of the helpless housewife of literary tastes and aspirations, as, cookless and house-maidless, she metaphorically tears her hair and appeals for aid to the stronger sex. "Come to our help, Mr. Editor," she says, "with your pen, with your conservative wisdom, with your influence, sustain the dignity of our women, the comfort of our homes and the aspirations of our land for a cultured Southern womanhood. Let our next Governor have the discernment and the courage of a vardaman. Let him care more for Anglo-Saxon womanhood than he does for negro elevation."

"Men write much about the effect of woman's work in offices, stores and factories turning them from home-making. Can one reasonably expect a \$40 stenographer to gladly exchange places with a \$5 cook?"
"The negro has already had more done for him than any race on earth. He had a war fought for him without loss of his own blood; he gained freedom without his own effort; he has for 38 years been offered education without the use of his own money, and it does seem that it is time to let him alone, and to stop burdening the white man to do more than pay him honest wages for the contest. We feed the python, then marvel at its vigor."

"Forgive me for taking so much of your time, but we women need and want your time, your thought and your talents."
Coming, as it does, after a most tragic recital of the sudden desertion of house-maid and cook, who had left the fair writer for more lucrative positions at the North, without notice and while guests were in the house and herself sick, this appeal for aid goes to one's heart, and being myself a woman who can with more ease make good bread and coffee and broil a woman, who can with more ease broil a beefsteak than write papers on Boccaccio and Petrarch. I long to render some assistance to this sister in misfortune, this type of Anglo-Saxon womanhood who seems in danger of being rudely taken from her library table to her kitchen table. But there is something vastly amusing about her state of mind after all. She blames her trials on the fact that the negroes are educated and so made unfit for domestic services, or rather unwilling to enter it, and then she quotes from a friendly colored woman, as follows:

"A friendly colored woman has told me that in this town there are three castes among the negroes. The wives of the preachers, barbers, journalists, physicians, lawyers and teachers, from our circle; 'the washerwomen' who 'live in their own houses and who do not tote the clothes,' make another; but the 'cooks, them that fling the pots, they is looked down upon.' Now so soon as the negroes are educated they do not like to go into domestic service. We cannot blame them. Our help must come from the lower strata—the stupid and the depraved—whom to admit to a home is a curse, as well as an irritation. These must enter the privacy of every household, else our own women must do the work. We cannot get white labor of any nationality to compete in the South with the colored. Our condition is, therefore, worse than in other parts of the country, and it is going to continue so."

She confesses that if we cannot get SIGNED BOND PROTECTS YOU.
Mi-ona Costs You Nothing if It Fails To Restore Health, Say Woodall & Sheppard.
The poor, thin, emaciated dyspeptic, when he becomes plump, rosy and robust, after using Mi-ona, forgets that there is such a thing as indigestion. This treatment is entirely different from any other medicine or treatment for dyspepsia. It is so different and so uniformly successful that Woodall & Sheppard want every reader of the News to take Mi-ona for a month at their risk.
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This remarkable flesh-forming food is assimilated as soon as it is taken into the stomach, produces good, rich blood, tones up the weakened digestive organs and makes permanent cures in the worst cases of dyspepsia. You certainly can afford to start using Mi-ona today when Woodall & Sheppard take all the risk of its giving satisfaction.

the better class of negroes in our homes, those presumably, whose education has spoiled, we must have recourse to the lower strata, etc., and then suggests to a breathless and discouraged company of readers her two remedies:

One is to get rid of the negro, letting him (the indigent, as well as the trained), go where he will develop to his own satisfaction and that of his admiring friends, and then bring in white help. The other is to follow Mississippi and raise the cry of "white man's taxes for white man's education; negro taxes for negro education."
The first is as utterly out of the question as transporting the Anglo-Saxon race—and the last makes one fear that the writer's study of Boccaccio and Petrarch unfitted her for the more practical problems of the present day. To admit that education has made among the negroes an upper and lower class, and that the best of them do desire better pay and go where they can get it, and then to propose as a remedy that we withdraw our aid in educating them, is so monstrous a proposition that one cannot contemplate it with equanimity.

But seriously, the selfishness of all this is pitiable. Because we are made to work in our homes while our service system is overthrown, we a strong race, we the educated women of the Anglo-Saxon race, must needs propose to withdraw from the child-race the help which it is our privilege to give.


Suppose our kitchens are deserted for the time being—whom are we to blame but ourselves? are not the negroes all copy books, as the children say—and do we not set the copy? If you, my fair and cultured friend, consider that cooking or any other labor to which it may be necessary to put your hands, can degrade or make you any less a lady, why should you blame the educated woman of the other race for thinking the same thing? Until we can prove to them by example that no honorable labor can make a gentleman less a gentleman or a lady less a lady—we had better withhold our criticisms and our sneers.

Some one has said that what the women need in solving the question of how to get their cooking and house-work done is to do more of it. And why not? Lay away some of the papers. Write one instead of two and learn to make good bread in the time it would have taken you to write the other.
I know women who are foremost in outside enterprises and regularly and conscientiously attend meetings of all descriptions to transact all manner of masculine business and yet whose homes are hardly fit places to live in. And on the other hand I know women whose nerves are worn to the prostration point in striving conscientiously to do all the home duties which are theirs first of all and the outside calls, which the public female opinion seems to require of them.

I remember hearing my father say when two opposing duties seemed to lay claim on him, "Duties never clash." And so it seems to me that it behooves the Anglo-Saxon women to look with clear eyes at this question of duty and then with strong and willing hands to do it, and with steadfast loving hearts rule well our kingdom, ready to lend a hand to what you are doing, but unwilling—and they are blameless—to carry the burden on which you scorn to lay your white fingers. And suppose we do let the negroes alone for a generation or so, if this state of things lasts—at long last, surely we can find some other helpers and save our homes and perhaps keep our poor husbands' bodies and souls together a little longer and by dining out occasionally with friends, may even preserve some papers on Boccaccio and Petrarch. By giving the children bread and milk and sending the hungry men to restaurants, we might even attend a few clubs and make sometimes stirring addresses on domestic economy or the negro question, or How Best to Develop the Individuality of the Child, or How to Suppress the Appetite of the Husband.


But seriously, where is the help to come from? Why not from the bread-winners who now work in stores and in offices, and in sewing rooms? Why cannot a lady help with the cooking or the house-work, or the care of children in your home or mine as well as I all day in the offices of men, or at all day behind the counter, catering to the whims of the women who shop? And these young women would be willing to be with us, many of them would gladly welcome the protection and privacy of a home, but they will not brook being treated as inferiors, and I honor them for it. But let it be once clearly understood that the helper's place in your home is that of a trained nurse or a teacher; that you are willing to share her work, even to make some sacrifice by doing things not altogether necessary, because in the eyes of outsiders her position is not clearly understood—and we should had the class of women whom it is a pleasure to have in our homes, coming willingly and gladly to take some of the burden off our shoulders, and to add to the peace and comfort of our lives.

SENATOR DIETRICH'S DEFENSE.
Says He Will Waive His Rights As Senator and Stand Trial.
(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Nov. 18.—Senator Dietrich said yesterday of his indictment at Omaha: "There is absolutely nothing to have warranted the indictment. I have never received a dollar or any property from Mr. Fisher or any other person in exchange for my influence. I have some bitter enemies. As governor, I refused to pardon Joe Bartley, the defaulting ex-State Treasurer. I have it from reliable authority that Mr. Summers, present United States District Attorney, is largely responsible for securing the pardon of Bartley. It has been intimated to me for a long time that Summers would make me trouble if I did not cease my endeavor to have him ousted from his present position."
The Senator says he will go home and demand an immediate trial, waiving his immunity as Senator.



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and the End



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How different from the ordinary soda cracker that comes in a bag.

After you have satisfied your immediate appetite, the package should be carefully closed and placed in the larder. When hunger calls again and you come to the end of the package, you will find the last **Uneeda Biscuit** fresh, crisp and good.

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The Crackle You Hear Is the Sign They are Fresh

A BOLD POSSUM.

Fine Fellow Caught This Morning On East Fifth Street.
When Mr. W. H. C. Barkley, who runs a cleaning and pressing shop at 12 East 57th street, came to his place of business about 7:30 this morning, what was his surprise to see a fat possum sitting on top of his establishment and looking sleepily down upon the passers-by. The animal soon attracted a crowd, but Mr. Barkley held his ground and didn't seem in the least fazed by the attention he was receiving. Mr. Barkley sent his negro boy up on the roof, who got the opossum by the tail and effected his capture, the marsupial making no effort at resistance except to show his teeth and try to scare his captor away. He proved to be a fat rascal.

Ex-Congressman John M. Brower is credited with having said that you could hunt 'possums by electric light in Asheville, but this is the first instance of 'possums invading the center of a metropolis like Charlotte in broad daylight. No one could account for his presence there.

WINS A PRIZE.

Mr. C. M. Bridgers Awarded First Prize For Writing Article.
Mr. C. M. Bridgers, of the grocery firm of Bridgers & Co., was one of three successful contestants for a cash prize offered by the Grocery World, of Philadelphia, for the best written article on the best way to conduct a grocery store. The articles were published in the Grocery World, which ranks as one of the leading grocery journals of the country. The contestants who tied, Mr. Bridgers were grocers of Philadelphia and New York. Mr. Bridgers is an old newspaper man, a merchant of much experience and one who has the faculty of putting his thoughts in vigorous English. While this is his first attempt in this line no one is surprised at his carrying off a prize.

Spelling Bee.

The spelling bee which takes place at the hall of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 88 tomorrow night, is attracting much attention and promises much fun to those who attend and that means every Odd Fellow in the city, who can possibly do so. The match was gotten up at the suggestion of the social committee of the order and will be under its charge. Mr. Frank R. McNinch will be teacher and the "blue back" will be used. In this connection it may be added that the book stores have sold quite a number of "blue-backs" this week.

An Orchestra For Charlotte.

Mr. Livingston who is in charge of the Academy Orchestra is very much interested in getting up an orchestra for Charlotte. He proposes to have about 12 pieces and his efforts along this line are being appreciated. Charlotte needs a good orchestra and Mr. Livingston says he can supply this need.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

This Supposed to be the Cause of the Big Philadelphia Fire.
(By Associated Press.)
Philadelphia, Nov. 18.—Fire early yesterday practically destroyed the five story brick building 117-129 North Fourth street, occupied by the Philadelphia Strawboard Company and several other tenants. The loss on the building is estimated at \$515,000, and on contents \$475,000. The heaviest loser is the Philadelphia Strawboard Company, whose property was damaged to the extent of \$400,000; partly insured.
The fire is supposed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion. Five hundred persons, mostly women, are thrown out of employment.

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The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Ayer*
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A Crutch to Old Age

My grandfather was troubled with inflammation of the throat and lungs, and periodically with a hacking cough. One bottle of Cheney's Expectorant removed the cough and acted as a balm to the throat and lungs.
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From the largest and best Woolen Houses in America. They are of the popular colorings, I guarantee style, fit and workmanship.
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There are no haphazard methods in our tests. Each test is of vital importance, and your eyes are safe in our hands.

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Every one in good condition; "you will have to hurry to get one."
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The dealer gives your money back if it fails.
Leaves no bad effects. Contains no opiates.

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Large storehouse, 809 E. 7th street. \$7.50 per month.
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The great improvement that has taken place in our store? If not we request that you do so, at your earliest convenience. The improvement does not stop with the appearance of the store, and is to be noticed in every department. We believe our service is better than it has ever been before, and it is our hope to improve it further.

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