

Country Home Department.

Conducted by Mrs. E. D. Nall, Sanford, N. C., to Whom all Matter for this Department Should be Sent.

THE LOOKOUT MAN.

Now, listen, little children, and I'll tell a story true—
And better you remember, for it means a lot to you—
For if you heed the lesson, then when Christmas time is here
You'll get a lot of presents and a lot of Christmas cheer,
The Lookout Man is walking, when the stars begin to peep
To see if little children are in bed and fast asleep;
And all who act up naughty and don't mind their ma's and pa's,
The Lookout Man is watching, and he'll tell old Santa Claus.

I knew a little fellow once who got real bad, and said
He didn't care for Santa Claus, and wouldn't go to bed;
And said he didn't have to mind—oh, he was awful bad,
And didn't seem to care a mite in making folks feel sad.
But when it came to Christmas Day he didn't get a thing,
For Santa Claus had heard of him and not a thing he'd bring.
He knew that bad boy's record—better mind your ma's and pa's,
The Lookout Man is watching and he'll tell old Santa Claus.

I also knew a little girl who was just awful bad,
She wouldn't get her lessons and she always got so mad
If anybody told her to be still and hush her noise—
Well, she was always wishing for a lot of Christmas toys;
But when 'twas Christmas morning, to her wonder and surprise,
An empty stocking hanging in the corner met her eyes.
You see, she acted naughty—better mind your ma's and pa's;
The Lookout Man is watching and he'll tell old Santa Claus.

The Lookout Man is peeping thru the windows every night
And counting up the children who are always acting right,
And going off to bed at once when told it's time to go,
And never pouting, not a bit, or taking clothes off slow,
He puts them in the good book, but the bad ones in the bad,
And when he writes a bad one, oh, he looks just awful sad
For he knows they will get nothing—better mind your ma's and pa's—
—The Lookout Man is watching and he'll tell old Santa Claus.

—W. M. Maupin, in The Commoner.

PRETTY GIFTS FOR MEN.

A collar-bag of gray linen is very easily made. Cut a circle of the linen eighteen inches in diameter, or according to size wanted. Embroider this with a design midway between edge of circle and center—that is—leave a plain circle in the center the size of the collar when the ends are brought together, then do the embroidery between this and the edge, which will be the side of the bag when completed. The lining may be of white or gray linen, or of silk, matching the predominating color in the embroidery. Linen will be found more practical; since if this is used, the bag may be laundered as frequently as desired without harm; and white linen conveys an impression of immaculateness. Seam the edges of the circle, leaving space to turn right side out again, then blindstitch the edges of the opening; or if preferred, turn in the edge of the outside and fell the lining to it, or bind the edges of both together. Run the draw-strings—for which tubular cord of silk or linen serves excellently, through small rings attached at even distances to the edge, or a row of eyelets worked near the edge. The rings may be of brass covered, with silk or mercerized cotton in double crochet, or battenberg rings may be used.

Another method of making such a bag is to cut a pasteboard circle the size of the collar for the bottom of the bag, cover it with gray linen or any material chosen. Cut a strip about eight and a half inches wide and long enough to extend easily around the circle. Seam the ends after embroidering. Line with similar strip, with ends seamed, join to the edge of the circle, line the latter and finish the top as suggested.

A tie-rack or cravat holder is another gift that will find favor with the average man. The foundation for such a rack is usually oval or oblong; and for this, a rather thin wood or very heavy, firm pasteboard is required, since the bar over which

the ties are to be hung is attached to it by means of tiny screws. Cover it with the embroidered linen, gumming the latter over upon the back smoothly; then prepare a lining by covering one side of a piece of cardboard of the same shape with plain material, and glue the two together, inserting between them the ends of the ribbon which is to serve as a hanger.

Whiskbroom holders are easily and quickly made of little odds and ends and are very pretty and serviceable.

Never give a man a present that is not useful if you expect him to appreciate it.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE FOUND OUT.

To Fix Nails Firmly.

Saturate a small piece of cotton batting in glue and wrap this round the nail, and then insert the latter in the hole (previously made) in the wall. As the glue dries, it will harden.

Castor Oil For Shoes.

Castor oil is the finest thing to soften your shoes, and if they are black, the oil can leave no stain. Rub the oil well in with a pad of cotton or flannel, and repeat this two or three times during the day. When thoroughly dry the shoes can be polished in the usual way.

To Mend a Woolen Skirt.

First draw the torn edges together with silk thread, then place a piece of the goods the size of the tear underneath and fasten it in place with mending tissues. Darn with tiny stitches across the torn edges. Catch it lightly to the patch underneath.

Remove All Paper.

Articles of food that are damp or juicy should never be left in paper. Paper is merely a compound of rags, glue, lime and similar substances, with acids and chemicals intermixed, and when damp is unfit to touch things that are to be eaten.

Washing Wooden Articles.

When washing wooden ware like chopping bowls, moulding boards, etc., never dry them by the fire. They warp and crack when exposed to dry heat while they are wet.

The Oven Temperature.

When baking in an oven that is too hot fill with cold water a dripping pan about an inch deep and place it on the top grate of the oven. On the contrary, should the oven be too hot on the bottom put a grate under the article that is to be baked.

DON'T FRET.

When I see a woman with that beautiful countenance which won the heart of her husband darkened by a frown, constantly fretting and making all about her uncomfortable because there will be "dirt" somewhere, the maid servant is slow and does not understand her business; baby is cross, always crossest when much is to be done, children unreasonable, and so on, I am tempted to exclaim:

"Hush, dear woman, these useless repinings! Examine yourself; perchance the blame lies at your own door, after all."

There is a talisman possessing a magic charm which will scatter all these evils. It is cheerfulness. The maid servant is quickened and improved by kind, encouraging words. The very cast of your countenance, the tones of your voice, have their effect on your little ones. Then let your husband see that instead of a fretter his wife is gentle, kind, self-denying, shedding peace and happiness around his hearth and brightening his home by the sunlight of her smiles. A man of sense is not slow in discovering the gentler virtues of his wife. The secret of her influence over him lies here.—Selected.

THE ORIGIN OF SAYINGS.

"The lion's share" embodied the sarcasm of old Aesop, in whose fable, at the conclusion of their joint raid, the animals announce their wish to divide the booty, the lion claiming one quarter by reason of kingly prerogative, one quarter for his superior courage, one quarter for his dame and cubs. "As for the fourth quarter" said the lion, "let who will dispute it with me."

Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost," is a cynical slogan derived from the Spaniards. It is said that His Satanic Majesty once conducted a school of magic at Toledo. At the end of the term the graduating class was, it appears, made to run through a long subterranean hall, the President of the institution being entitled to the hindmost if he could catch him.

"A feather in one's cap," is derived from Scotland. Among the woodcraft enthusiasts it was the custom for the individual first to kill a woodcock to pluck out a feather and place it in his cap. Oliver Cromwell conferred dignity upon this expression when, on his refusal of the English Crown, he observed: "Royalty is but a feather in a man's cap let children enjoy their rattle."

A thoroughbred gamecock shows only red and black feathers, and the cross-breed is known by a white feather in his tail. Hence, "to show the white feather," conveys a strong notion of cowardice, from one point of view, at least.

One may search the Scriptures in vain for any illusion to Job's turkey. The expression, "As poor as Job's turkey," had its origin in the brain of a humorist, "Sam Slick." He described this bird as being possessed of but one tail feather, and as of so feeble a condition that only by lean-

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