

WHEN THE MASTER COMES.

Slowly the dusky curtains of night are silently lifted softly the light is glimmering over the eastern sky. Brightening dark places where shadows lie: While the dawn is creeping over the hills, And the new-born day with rapture thrills The waking earth, to life and joy serene, Comes with noiseless footfall, a guest unseen, Whispering to man, who faint would flee: "The Master is come and calleth for thee."

A GUEST IN SODOM.

Yes that was Benjamin Rice. He has been that way ever since the affair of the automobile. His mind was run over and killed by that machine, if not he can run over and killed, and sometimes think they can. I have known Benjamin Rice ever since we were boys together, and he was smart enough, but he never quite got through his head the wickedness of the world he had been born into. He thought everybody else was good and honest as he was, and when he got out he was mistaken, it was too much for him. His wife feels just as I do about it. "That automobile was too much for pa," she often says. "Poor pa didn't make a god of his money, but he knew the worth of it, through he and his father before him workin' so hard to get a little laid by, and losin' so much was an awful shock to him; but that wasn't the worst of it. Findin' out what an awful wicked place this world he was livin' in was, and what kind of folks there was in it, just broke his heart."

"What folks generally buy 'em for," says he: "to go ridin' round and get a little pleasure out of livin'." Look at here, Billy, says he, "I'm gettin' on in years, and I ain't never had much except my board and lodgin' for my hard work. Now I'm goin' to take this money, and I'm goin' to buy an automobile, and I'm goin' to have a little fun, and my wife is goin' to, and Lizzie is goin' to before she gets old," says he. "What kind of an automobile are you goin' to buy?" says I, sort of feeble. "I am goin' to buy an automobile of the Verity Automobile Advance Company of Landsville, Kentucky, says he. "Why don't you buy nearer home?" says I. "Sammy Emerson is agent for them automobiles, and he says they are the best to be had for the money, and he knows all about them, and he's goin' to show me how to run it, and maybe Lizzie can learn, and he's goin' to keep it in order," says he. "Have you got a guaranty?" says I. "Lord! yes," says he; "I'm dealin' with real square and above-board people. If the first car don't work to suit me, they'll send me another, and they'll supply all the parts that get broken for nothin'; but Sammy says nothin' is goin' to get broken. He says that machine is built to last fifty years."

Sammy Emerson we all think is a genius. We shouldn't be surprised if he did anything. He is a real mechanical genius. We found it out when he stole the works of the Baptist church organ when he was only a boy. That organ began to act queer, and it acted queer and queer, and one Sunday Lemuel Jones, the organist, couldn't get a solitary squeak out of it, though little Tommy Adams was blowin' till he almost dropped. Then they found out what the trouble was. The works were gone, and Sammy Emerson had another organ most rigged up in his ma's barn. There was an awful fuss about it. That organ had been made over, and the works carted back from the Emerson barn. Sammy had stolen them piece by piece. He had made a key that would unlock the church door. Mrs. Emerson had to pay a lot of money; for of course it cost, and they wouldn't let Sammy help set up the organ, though he offered. But after that we all felt that he was a genius, though we were rather scared. My wife said she didn't know but Sammy would try to steal her sewin' machine and make a flyin' machine out of it; but Sammy didn't do much harm after that. He just tinkered away, and almost did pretty wonderful things. His ma had money, and she let him buy lots of old junk that he thought he could make something of. Sammy had almost made an automobile himself. Everybody thought it would go, if he could once get it started; but he never quite fetched the startin'. Then he took the Verity agency. I dare say his ma begun to think he was spendin' too much, and had better try to earn a little to exercise his genius on. "Well," says I to Benjamin, "I suppose Sammy Emerson knows about it. He ought to."

Once in a while, after Sammy Emerson had done an extra lot of tinkering, car would run real nice a day and a half or two days, but she never run over two. I went out in her once, and I was so sorry for Benjamin that I chipped in and helped him pay a man with a team to drag her out of the barn, and she walked home. That settled me. I was glad to see that Benjamin come and tell me his troubles, but I didn't want to walk home. Well, things went on from bad to worse. Finally Lizzie Rice wrote a real nice, ladylike letter to the Variable Tea-Kettle Company, and asked for the money back. She said she had seen a dancin' on the stove at full boil can figure out for herself that it had wheels and tires it might get somewhere. Accordin' to my way of thinkin', says he, "a tea-kettle just naturally leads up to an automobile. "Does it run by steam?" says I, a little surprised. "Do you think me and ma and Lizzie is goin' to take any chances of bein' 'bu'st' up by a steam-engine?" says Benjamin. "Of course it runs by gasoline. "Where be you goin' to get your gasoline?" "I'm goin' to buy it in Rockland," says Benjamin. "You'll have to cart it." "Can't I run the automobile over there, —it's only ten miles,—and have it put in?" says Benjamin. "And I've cleared out the barn where I kept my hay wagon and tip-up cart for the automobile."

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN

When we look into the long avenue of the future and see the good there is for each one of us to do, we realize after all what a beautiful thing it is to work, and to live, and to be happy. —Robert Louis Stevenson

Linen blouses in champagne or white are being beautifully decorated in punched work for this season's wearing.

For spring wear with tailored suits of whipcords, mohair, serge, etc., the one-button pique or cape glove in tan or gray shades obtain.

Some of the new princess petticoats have the upper portion made of spun silk, with a ribbon across the shoulder instead of the customary strap.

Transparencies are freely used for material in evening dress. Chiffons, voiles and nets are in favor and a large proportion of the toilets are in veiled effect, the chiffon or tulle taking the form of overdresses, tunics, draperies and scarfs.

Silken belts are of the crush order, and are usually worn high; they end with two or three large buttons, a rosette, sash end, a square bow or a large flower—at the left front is the flower. Black satin is the favorite silken belt.

Have you noticed how everything in dress is dominated by the triangle? It contrasts the all-pervading notion, and all draperies and materials are coaxed into something which is three-sided. One of the most popular forms of the tunic is a triangle, the apex placed at one side of the figure and the sides draping up to the waist on the other side.

One of the newest models for evening bodices means a triangle of material draping one side of the front and another triangle draping one side of the back. The two triangles equalling, of course, a square of the material. The favorite rafter is just a triangle of lace, and the tricorn hat is another triangle.

The color schemes are "curiouser and curiouser," as "Alice in Wonderland" declares. The idea of the milliner is apparently to put together the most daring contrasts, the description of which sounds much worse than they really are.

As a matter of fact, they are quite pleasing to the eye, and one finds oneself contemplating complacently a chic little hat of purple and cerise, and another of a greeny bronze straw turned sharply off the face with a purple underbrim. Then a harmony in blue and green attracted attention and a deep shade of rich brown with Nattier and pink.

Ostrich plumes in white are in great demand—they rest gracefully round the hat or stand boldly erect, towering to an exceptional height. These feathers are being used in such profusion, in white chiefly, but a great deal in gray, black and color that we who wear them should feel shy of meeting with the unfortunate bird whom we have thus ruthlessly plundered for our own adornment.

"What are the one-piece frocks like?" is the question of today. One might answer that whatever has been invented in skirt or in blouse may be put together as a frock.

The majority of them are fastened down the front, which is a convenience and does not take away from the style, as every one supposed it would. The skirt remains stitched to the blouse in most gowns, and yet it is quite correct to have the garments separate with the skirt hooked on to the boned lining of the waist.

There is no advantage in this. It necessitates keeping a keen watch over these hooks and eyes, and it does not fit around the neck. The simplest thing is certainly the stitching together of the bodice and skirt and fastening both down the middle front or the left side.

What is known as the "slip-on" comes near being the most convenient frock made. It is of thin material, has a mesline lining, no bones, as loose a waistline as one will permit, and is usually slightly low in the neck.

Chiffon cloth, marquisette and voile are the fabrics usually chosen for these frocks, and the trimming is of satin or velvet ribbon, sometimes a bit of lace, and if one likes the new needlework, then she can add roses or small flowers or colored crevils.

Devilled Crabs.—Take 12 crabs, a half pint of milk, two tablespoonfuls of flour, one tablespoonful of butter, salt and cayenne pepper to taste and one tablespoonful of chopped parsley. Put the milk on to boil, rub the butter and flour together, add the milk, stir and cook two minutes. Take from the fire and add the crab meat, the yolks of three hard-boiled eggs mashed fine, then parsley, salt and pepper. Fill the shells, brush over the white of an egg, cover with bread crumbs and put in a quick oven or cook a frying basket.

Take one cup of pulverized sugar into which sift two desertspoonfuls of dry cocoa; two tablespoons strong hot coffee, in which is melted a piece of butter the size of a walnut. Beat well and add a little vanilla.

An artistic tray may be made at home from an old mirror or picture frame. In the case of a mirror, remove the mercury-covered glass and replace with a plain one. Cover the board that fits behind the glass with a piece of flowered or figured cretonne or rich-looking tapestry. Put the board in place and over the back of it tack a piece of felt, which will prevent the tray from scratching any table upon which it might be placed. Get two brass handles at the hardware store, screw them on the ends of the tray. It is then ready for use.

Really the spring fashions for children are charming enough to lure the last dollar from the purse of the doting grandmother. Such lovely little garments there are, instinct with the adorable charm that characterizes every tiny piece of apparel.

For a little belle of one year old a white poplin coat is a lovely springtime out-of-door garment, arranged with a pointed cape, edged with Irish guipure, and given tucked back cuffs to match. There is, naturally, a bonnet of the same material, almost all guipure, with a garland of white silk rosebuds and foliage upon the brim, and strings to fasten beneath the chubby little chin.

FARM NOTES.

To rid flower pots of earth worms water with lime water.

Pots and boxes of stevia should be moved around occasionally to prevent them rooting through too much, also any chrysanthemums or other strong rooting subjects.

After all the grape vine is one of the surest bearers, as it fruits on new wood entirely, and even if some of the new vines are neglected it puts out fresh wood which bears some fruit.

Remember that there is no fertilizer for the garden that compares with well-rotted barnyard manure. Application of peat-bark borer, if you find it, even if the ground is not to be plowed till late.

All flowers kept in bloom much longer, and the flowers are larger, if not allowed to form seeds. Pinch off every flower as soon as it begins to fade. This is especially true of sweet peas and pansies.

A Chester county correspondent sent some specimens of peach leaves to Professor H. A. Surface, State Zoologist, Harrisburg, Pa., and asked for information concerning the presence or absence of peach-tree borers. To this inquiry Professor Surface gave the following reply:

"Leaves of trees will not give any evidence as to whether borers are present or not. You can tell this by looking around the base of each tree, and see if there is gum there that contains fine particles of grains like sawdust, and before saw-dust-like material there present, the borers are there. The gum, either clear or brown, may be present without borers. If the fine castings mixed in the gum show the presence of borers, you should go after them at once with a knife and wire, avoid cutting across the trunks of the trees any more than is absolutely necessary, but cut up and down, or lengthwise of the trunk, and get the pests out. Loosening the ground as you have done would tend to permit the borers to go deeper, but after they are once under the bark they will work down during warm and dry weather and for wintering, and will work upward when it is wet.

"After you remove the borers from trees you can leave the roots exposed in the fall or early spring after the adults have quit laying their eggs, and before they commence again in June. In two or three weeks after the first process of removal, go over the trees again and remove any borers that were left after the first operation. Then mound the trees to a height of one-half foot each, and keep them mounded.

"You can prevent the adults from laying their eggs by spraying the base of the trunk with lime-sulphur solution, either home-boiled or commercial, made the same as you would for San Jose scale. To be effective the first coat should be applied about the middle of June, and this should be repeated about the first to the middle of August. If this is done each year, you will have very little loss from borers. Remember it is only preventive, and will not destroy them after they enter. It should be about the same strength as for San Jose scale when trees are dormant, although it is used when they are in leaf, although not applied to the leaves. Some sediment or some free powdered sulphur mixed in the solution will be effective in helping to prevent them from laying their eggs.

"The sun will not injure the trees by removal of earth for searching for borers. If you examine the trees for these pests again in the spring, it should be done as early as possible, because the peach tree borers remain dormant during the winter, and commence to feed again in the spring. A quart of wood ashes close around the base of each tree will do some good and will do no harm, yet I prefer not to place the strong wood ashes directly over the roots. I should put some earth on the roots, and start the mound, then finish the mound with wood ashes, or else spread the earth around the trunk, and make a mound of ashes or lime. This will help greatly in preventing the borers. You will get better results from your wood ashes if you will scatter them around the tree just a little farther than the branches extend. In this case they will be acting as a fertilizer, whereas in the previous case they will act chiefly as an insect preventive."

The following information concerning lime-sulphur solution was sent by Professor H. A. Surface, State Zoologist, Harrisburg, Pa., to a Reading correspondent, who desired detailed instruction on the subject of lime-sulphur spraying:

"You can spray your peach and apple trees of different ages with the same strength lime-sulphur solution, and none of them will be injured, for scale insect pests, and plant disease germs, and they will be cleaned up by this. You can do your spraying of both peach and apple in the early part of the winter, or in the latter part of the spring, if you wish. It will be all right to spray in December, as you suggest. You may be assured that it is not necessary to modify the strength of the solution for peach trees. I recommend, by all means, that peach and plum trees be sprayed with the boiled lime-sulphur wash, whether they have scale on them or not.

"If I were to choose the best time for the lime-sulphur spraying, I would prefer that it be just as the buds are swelling in the early spring, but often there is not time to do the work thoroughly then, and it is far better to do it shortly after the leaves drop, or during the winter time, and be sure that it is done and completed in the proper manner, rather than to delay it until toward spring, with the risk that something may prevent its being done thoroughly. You must remember that one important point is, that strong winds are liable to be blowing in the spring, and while one can spray with the wind, he cannot possibly spray against it. Thus if the operator can do only half a job, it really means no job at all, unless he is able to catch a wind blowing in the opposite direction, or watch for a period of weather when he can spray thoroughly the entire side of the trees that he could not reach while the wind was blowing.

"I note with great interest, that you had wonderful results from spraying this year with the lime-sulphur solution, and it is great encouragement to continue it. This is the universal report from those who used it thoroughly in this State.

"For planting any kind of trees I prefer fall to spring. I have never had experience in planting Catalpa, but personally should prefer to plant them in the fall when I had soil and weather conditions favorable, and have more time to do it properly. I shall be pleased to answer other inquiries along my line if needed."

Abraham Lincoln's Prophecy.

Near the close of the war, in reply to a letter from a friend in Illinois, President Lincoln said: "Yes, we may all congratulate ourselves that the cruel war is nearing its close. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. The best blood of the flower of American youth has been freely offered upon our country's altar, that the nation might live. It has indeed been a trying hour for the Republic; but I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. "As a result of the war, corporations have been entrenched and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will attempt to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all the wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic destroyed. I feel, at this moment, more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of the war. God grant that my suspicions may be groundless."