

THE LITTLE OLD MAN IN THE AUTOMOBILE.

You surely have heard of the old woman, I know. Who lived in a Shoe, so long, long ago. She had such queer notions and terrible ways!

THE DARKEST HOUR

All day carriages had come and gone, and a knot of the curious had stood by the park railings across the street.

Royalty had come and gone. The Premier was there. Only a few minutes before a tiny Pomeranian had escaped from the house and run yelping its freedom into the street.

"What did she look like?" A woman with a shawl over her head edged forward eagerly. "Was she handsome?"

"Why did you come?" she demanded. He did not comprehend. "Come?" he repeated. "Why should I not come? It was so many years—I thought she had forgotten, but she asked for me, Helen."

"Do you mean," he said, thickly, "that the little girl who was a woman now and lay dead in a palace. He muttered something inarticulate, but it sufficed.

Afterward he did not remember crossing the street or being admitted. Some-

thing in him seemed to have snapped. He knew vaguely that he was in a small room, full of the scent of flowers, and that an organ was playing softly not far away.

"I am her father," the stranger finished for him. His collar felt tight; he put his hand up to loosen it. It was not his collar, after all.

The organ played on, only now he recognized familiar hymns that she cared for as a child. For a moment he was back in the old church at home, with her beside him, her short legs dangling from the high pew, her head against his arm;

"You are wonderful!" a nasal tone now. "In your terrible affliction, to be so capable! It is the only thing American about you—your resourcefulness. Roses for the screen, and—oh, yes—you mentioned lilies-of-the-valley."

"She always loved them. Godfrey is attending to that." "Godfrey is like you, he keeps up quite wonderfully. Only married a year, poor boy. Well, I must not detain you. Lord Avondale is well?"

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but the American only shifted his accusing eyes to the new-comer. "Her father," Lady Avondale said, quietly, and, turning, she went to the window.

"I am sorry to have kept you," he began. Then he realized that his hand had been ignored, and he thrust it into his pocket. He looked boyish and weary.

"I was in Paris," she broke in. "The acouchement was not expected for a week." "Your mother?" demanded the American.

"The door into the hall opened impatiently. Against the light beyond, a heavy-faced man peered into the shadows of the room.

"The door into the nursery suite had closed again. Two trained nurses were standing in the hall; one of them leaned forward against the panel, listening. But the child was still. The secretary motioned them aside.

"The small room just beyond was empty. Through the archway could be seen the nursery—joyous, exquisite in its furnishings. The two men stood hesitating.

"The secretary's lips twitched, but his eyes were shining. "Do not go in," he said to the nurses. "Leave them together. If the child cries—let him cry."—By Mary Roberts Rinehart.

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just above the lens, as if into some one's eyes. Her toes were turned in unmistakably, and because he had held the camera crooked she seemed to stand on the side of a hill. In the foreground was a foot. It had belonged to the caddie.

"I would suggest a touch of pink," the bishop was saying. "Lilies make me ill, and besides, they are cold. Pink is not only cheerful, emblematic of hope, and—er—all that, but it would greatly improve the color scheme."

"The child!" he said, constrainedly. "A boy." "The father drew his breath in sharply. "God!" he said. "Think of the lonely little chap!"

"He will have his father," he said. "He will love the boy for his mother's sake." They had reached the doorway of the little room again, and the American stopped there, a hand on the door-frame.

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FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN

DAILY THOUGHT.

The religion of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate. This right is in its nature an inalienable right.—James Madison.

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As the carriage drove away he faced the American. Haggard as he was, the older man was more formidable now than he had been earlier. He had himself in hand.

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FARM NOTES.

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—In giving medicine to a fowl, commonly speaking, what would be considered the dose for a child is about right for a fowl.

—The small potatoes and other vegetables that are not suitable for human food can be fed to the chickens to splendid advantage.

—Lice increase very rapidly on the setting hen. Thoroughly insect powder her before setting, and a couple of times during the setting period.

—If we use but one crop on the land and cultivate it clean all the time the soil will quickly be robbed of its humus. Therefore we must follow a proper rotation in order to supply humus without which we can do little. Some men have never discovered this fact, however.

—Average fertilizer for corn: Use 800 to 1000 pounds per acre of a fertilizer containing: Actual potash, 9 per cent.; available phosphoric acid, 7 per cent.; and nitrogen, 2 per cent. The plant food in a ton of the above formula may be supplied by mixing 360 pounds of muriate of potash, 1000 pounds of acid phosphate and 260 pounds of nitrate of soda.

—Average fertilizer for fruits: Use 600 to 1000 pounds per acre of a fertilizer containing: Actual potash, 10 per cent.; available phosphoric acid, 5 per cent.; and nitrogen, 2 per cent. The plant food in a ton of the above formula may be supplied by mixing 400 pounds of muriate of potash, 1000 pounds of acid phosphate and 260 pounds of nitrate of soda. On thin, sandy soils use more nitrogen.

—Average fertilizer for tobacco: Use 1000 to 1500 pounds per acre of a fertilizer containing: Actual potash, 10 per cent.; available phosphoric acid, 10 per cent.; and nitrogen, 3 per cent. The plant food in a ton of the above formula may be supplied by mixing 420 pounds of sulphate of potash, 715 pounds of acid phosphate and 520 pounds of soda. In the tobacco Connecticut much larger quantities per acre have been found useful.

—The earlier the colt is made used to the harness, the better broken the animal will be when it comes time for him to do some light work. It is easier to keep colts from learning bad tricks than to break them of such habits. For that reason have every strap and rope used for the colts so strong that there is no danger of their coming away from a halter or other parts of a harness, there will be trouble, perhaps for all time.

—Success in milk and buttermaking depends largely upon the feed given to the cow in properly balanced rations.

—Undrained soil, being the more compact, remains moist on the surface, and evaporation from it continues at full speed long after it has been checked on the porous, drained land. Loose land is a poorer conductor of heat, and hence carries less of it down to the lower layers. The difference arising from these conditions is accentuated by another cause. Water is the hardest known substance to heat, and since during most of the time it is too wet, the undrained soil has more water in it than the drained, it follows that it must be colder. With drained land saving heat because evaporation is checked, conducting less to the lower layers, and at the same time being easier to heat, the temperature of its seed bed is easily maintained from 5 to 12 degrees higher than that of the undrained.

—Imagine what this means where land is to be devoted to crop-growing purposes. The roots of this crop take root in a warm and congenial soil, and, indeed, if the crop is to thrive and produce anything like satisfactory returns, the roots must have just that kind of surroundings. To the matter in the simplest form, it may be said that land drainage lessens surface evaporation, which is always a cooling process.

—Butter made from a single herd of cows in a small dairy lot, the farm, says a Washington State bulletin, should command the highest price of any butter on the market.

The first essential in making good butter is good cream. To get this simply means to take ordinary precautions regarding clean cows and barn, clean attendants and clean utensils, and then cooling the cream at once after separating, either by running it over a cooler or by setting it in running cold water and stirring. Cream should not be stored with any substance having an aroma. Sweet cream churns hard and gives a butter having a fat taste. To sour or ripen the cream, first heat it to about 70 degrees F. (use a thermometer) and let it stand until it has a mild but distinctly acid taste, or, second, add some sour milk or buttermilk (sterile) to start the ripening, at the same time holding it at 70 degrees. The best cream for churning is that which tests about 30 per cent. fat after starter has been added.

The temperature at which the cream should be churned depends on the size of fat globules, hardness of fat globules, age of the cream, percentage of fat in the cream, kind of feed the cow is getting, and this cannot be determined except by trial. Thirty-five degrees may be proper on one farm and 60 degrees on the other. A good rule to follow is to have the butter come out of the size of wheat kernels in about thirty or forty minutes.

While the granules are about the size of wheat the buttermilk should be drained, the granules washed and the salt added. Then they are worked together, only enough to distribute the salt evenly. When the churn is not stopped until the granules become large some of the buttermilk is incased, and it makes butter of poor keeping quality.

Mottles in the butter are caused by an uneven distribution of salt in the presence of buttermilk.

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