

Announcements.

Republican primaries May 15, 1897. DELEGATE TO STATE CONVENTION. We are authorized to announce the name of LEON WATSON of Green Township as a candidate for Delegate to the State Convention, subject to the usages of the Republican party.

This time last year the American people were anxious about the gold reserve. It seems like ancient history.

PERU has suspended the coinage of silver at the government mint. It is a losing business, and Peru is tired of it.

THERE is as yet no new tariff law, and this is one of several reasons why it is absurd to talk about the recent municipal elections as tariff contests.

MR. OLNEY will write a book defending his Cuban policy. He should explain why it is easier for an American citizen to get out of a Cuban prison under this administration than it was under the last.

In the revolt of Greece against Turkey in 1812 the first shots were fired by a small body of Greek soldiers who could not be restrained. The long war that followed gave Greece independence.

JOHN PARSHALL an old soldier, died very suddenly of heart failure at Indianapolis, Ind., recently. He was one of the six soldiers entrusted with the final disposition of the remains of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Lincoln, all of whom registered an oath never to reveal Booth's resting place.

APPARENTLY the way is now clear for Theodore Tilton to return to this country which, although a land of melancholy recollections for him, is still his home. In the whole history of lives that have been blasted by scandal there is no more pathetic case than that in which he was one of the figures.

THE latest "promise of peace" for Cuba ought to be accepted with some reserve. The only promise of peace for Cuba lies in hope of freedom now. Should she fail this time, history will wait a while and then try again. The spirit that is abroad in Cuba today will not be satisfied with either defeat or compromise. It must be free.

THE "New English Dictionary" in course of publication in England is now complete as far as the letter "E," inclusive. It will be an immense work. Already it embraces 89,591 words, with twenty-one letters of the alphabet to follow. Of the words now in print 47,786 are current, 15,952 obsolete, and the remainder alien. No one can say that the language of the future is not voluminous enough.

It is a splendid idea that of sending John W. Foster as special ambassador to Turkey, to straighten out the crooks in our diplomatic affairs with that country. If any one can succeed in doing it, Mr. Foster can. It is time the Turks were brought to realize that Americans in Turkey must have proper treatment. By all means send ex-secretary of state, Foster, there to convince them.

In the free trade analyses of Chairman Dingley's character which are going the rounds of the press, justice is perhaps unwittingly done to his social qualities and to his mental habits, the charges against him being reserved to his alleged intention to force his destructive tariff bill upon the statute books. Upon the latter point Mr. Dingley can easily appeal his case to the people. They have their own notions now on the subject of what constitutes a destructive tariff, and there is warrant for the belief that the notions are not widely at variance with his. Unlike the free traders, at least, they do not believe that the way to bolster up American trade is to turn it over to foreigners.

Up to the present time we have observed no disposition on the part of the women of the other States to emulate their Colorado sisters and secure such legislation as will enable them to enlist in the National Guard. The women of Pennsylvania have not gone to Harrisburg to lobby for such a bill; the women of New York are not at Albany on a similar mission. In Massachusetts, Ohio and even in the States bordering on Colorado, they appear, as a rule, to be satisfied with women's accustomed work. Possibly the feminine nature cannot be changed by legislative enactment. That was attempted, we believe, in the matter of the theater hat. Possibly when war does come they will content themselves with nursing the wounded and closing the dim eyes of the dead. At any rate, they are not buying uniforms in job lots. That is enough for us.

"HOME DECORATION And all that Relates to Comfort, Convenience, Health and Enjoyment in a Country Home."

BY GERTRUDE MCELROY MORROW. The words of the old saw—"My son is my son till he gets him a wife, but my daughter is my daughter to the end of her life"—have been running thro' my mind ever since I consented to write a paper for this Institute, and in them I found the only reason why I should have been selected to write, for a farmer's daughter I am and shall be to the end of my life.

One cannot long live in a home in either town or country without becoming keenly alive to its comforts and discomforts, its beauties or its lack of beauty, and where it is to be found a farmer's wife or daughter who is not ever on the alert to discover some new way to disguise some ugly, stubborn, fact of every day life. A mistake in the location or plan of the house, or maybe, only a mistake in the color of paper or carpet, seeking ever to find out the tones which will harmonize with the notes already struck till all is "one grand sweet song."

The things I have seen may not be new sights to many eyes but they may be to some, and may open some eyes to see the heaven that lies around us at home—our country homes. First let us view our home from the outside, remembering other homes that nestle among vines and branches. Think of the robin's nest, built up of bits of sticks and grass, yet so carefully set among the branches as to seem quite in place, after all; the big gray hornet's nest, a part of the limb from which it swings, and the oriole's nest, a piece of nature's own drapery on a favorite tree. Seeing these we will not set our house out by itself on an open field but will leave some sturdy monarchs of the wood to guard our homes as he has guarded the homes of bird and squirrel in years gone by. Of course no tree should be left so near the house as to endanger its safety in a time of storm but yet near enough that its protecting shadow may fall upon us daily.

But if our house is already built and the woodmen have not spared a single tree what may we do to get into harmony with our surroundings? Other trees may be planted and while they are growing into shade givers, we may plant vines to cover our porches and windows to catch the feverish fingers of sunlight ere they penetrate too deeply into the life centres of our home. It is well to plant two varieties at first, one annual that will clamber clear to the roof in a single season, and the other a slow grower that will at first only reach a little ways upwards but year by year mounting higher clinging to brick or board, wherever it can find a foothold till the annual need no longer be planted. Are vines healthful? I think so. Of course we do not want them to screen our windows but in slender columns to sway back and forth with every passing breeze, not excluding the sunlight entirely but extracting from it its finest glare ere it reaches our rooms. It is now asserted that vines, instead of inducing dampness as is sometimes urged, really absorb moisture in their close contact with moist surfaces. But vines can never take the place of trees so what shall we plant in our yard? Apple, peach, pear and cherry trees. Fruit trees! yes, but not because they are fruit trees but because they are truly decorative. What other tree presents such a variety of attractions as those I've named? Take the apple tree, a mass of daintiest pink and white blossoms in May; next a mound of pale green leaves changing to a deeper shade as the season advances till, in September, the rich hues of the ripe fruit shine out from a background of dark rich green. What sweeter scent than that afforded by these blossoms?

"Blow, wind, and waft thro' all our rooms The fragrance of the cherry blossoms!" Let somber yews and spruces find a place elsewhere; there is no room for them about the farm house door.

But we must hasten, we are only in the yard let us mount the steps and stand on the porch not the veranda or portico, please, just a porch, a good, big, wide one. Big enough to accommodate the whole family on summer evenings without having to hold an overflow meeting on the steps and grass below.

Let us visit the livingroom first; the brightest cheeriest room in the whole house. The room which exerts on every member of the household an influence either uplifting or depressing. In the winter season this room is hung with paper of some warm tint perhaps of yellow, since it catches and makes much of every chance sunbeam and helps light up the room on gloomy days. Yellow, the color of sunshine and ripened grain is always cheerful color and when skillfully used never a trying one.

There is plenty of light in our living room; the vines have been taken down and the winter sunshine enters unrestrained. A few thrifty, hardy house plants brighten our window, not many for the farm house-wives are busy folk, but they are sufficient to bring to our minds thro' the long, dreary winter the green and the bloom of a summer to come. Above them in his cage a bird flits about singing, now and again, of brighter days and sunnier skies.

Pictures are on the walls of this room, not expensive ones, perhaps, but pictures which mean something. A rustic landscape maybe, for one; the pictured face of a saint or else of the second and some historical scene for the third. Choose this latter category for children ask often for stories, and every good story is suggested by pictures. Let no unworthy picture find space on the walls of this room; a really poor picture is dear at any price. If we have only a few pictures let us change them around so that we are led to look often at a favorite picture because of its new environment. Let the dining room the parlor change places with some more familiar one in the living room and each will be restituted by all.

big fat floor cushion (I hope it has a red cover) which delights the heart of the child who likes to lie on the floor and read his future in the glowing fire or in summer to see the moon rise, from his couch—the porch—made less hard by his faithful floor cushion. There is not much that is merely ornamental in our living room but much "which pertains to the health, comforts and convenience of our country home."

Let us visit the parlor: Have you ever seen a parlor like this? The door creaks a little as we enter showing that it is seldom opened; the couch springs are as stiff as when set here years ago; the chairs are so unused looking we dread getting acquainted with them; the curtains hang primly; the family portraits frown at us from the walls, and our conversation languishes and we long to be back in the free and easy living room. No amount of cost and labor will impart to our rooms the charm which belongs to rooms in which every day lives are lived. So let us open wide our parlor windows in summer to let the wind blow the primness out of the curtains even if it should bear with it some unwanted dust. Let us all gather here for music on summer evenings and Sabbath afternoons. Let us have fire in the parlor sometimes in winter when no company is expected and spend an occasional evening here just by ourselves. For some of us will use these homes of ours only a little longer till we hear the call to "the upper country, the fairer day" and let us enjoy to the full the best we have—all by ourselves—occasionally, for we love our own the best.

In this room the clever fingers of the girls find expression in embroidery, drawn work, etc. for table covers, draperies, photograph holders and dainty sofa pillows. Care should be taken in work of this kind that each piece harmonize with every other. Many a bit of really beautiful fancy work loses its charm by being placed among unbecoming neighbors. Who has never seen a pink headrest on a red chair? Parlor decoration sometimes assumes curious forms. Gilded clothes-pins and touting sacks may be decorative, but I must confess my inability to view them in that light. In faraway city homes a decorated spinning wheel may serve to show "how the world do move" but in our country homes where the busy whirl of the wheel has scarce died away, it is quite too soon to attire it in paint and ribbons and use it as a decorative possibility. Wouldn't it be quite as good taste to treat the discarded scythe and rake to a coat of paint and a ribbon or two? Where would the end of these things be? "Dinner is served."

Few farm homes can boast a dining room and especially in winter; the most of us like Mrs. Whitney's girls must either "dine in the kitchen or kitchen in the dining room." So into the kitchen we go to dine. The table linen tho' not very fine is white and clean; the clever fingers of the girls have wrought a center piece and doilies. In winter we must do without floral table decorations, but all summer long flowers may be had for this purpose. If we have no time to cultivate flowers the children can find some very effective wild ones. A center piece of daisies or wild roses is within reach of us all in their season. One of the prettiest center pieces I ever saw was made of thorns and the feathery blossoms of the elderberry. Apple and peach blossoms can be made to form as beautiful table decorations as ever appear on the tables of the city bred. Let us "take stock" at the first of next season and let not a single week pass without a new flower for our tables. Beginning with arbutus in April and ending with golden rod in October we need not have a single flowerless day.

Let us go upstairs and visit the sleeping rooms, the children's first; quite early in life children begin to show artistic tendencies—crude efforts they are at first. But children ought to have some place where every harmless hobby may be ridden without fear of censure, and I know of no better place for this than their own rooms. Of course the results may not always be artistic to our older eyes, but never mind, the children are learning, and we are needed only to direct their ideas into proper channels. If one boy has a collection of bird's nests let us furnish him with a little tree firmly fixed to a block of wood which will hold all the nests he'll collect while the bird lasts and not prove an eyesore either. Old picture frames may be made to hold mounted specimens of insect life, while his geological specimens neatly labeled are arranged on a convenient shelf near the window. If our boy's room contains no wardrobe let us make one which will serve more than one purpose: a box, say four feet long by eighteen inches wide, is furnished with castors and a hinged top. The inside is divided into two compartments one for clothes and the other for boots and shoes. It is neatly padded inside; the top is padded with perhaps an old comforter and covered with some bright cotton or denim; brass nails hold it firmly in place along the edge of the lid. The box proper is concealed by a deep flounce of the same material as the top and is a combination wardrobe and couch for our boy's room, a much more decorative feature than is afforded by a drape of men's clothing on the walls.

The girls' room we will find contains draperies and many fancy articles their clever fingers have devised to adorn their own room. Both boys and girls are required to keep their rooms in order under the penalty of losing their treasures.

With a word about special decorations I must close. We must look to nature as a guide in the arrangement of her treasures. When a flower droops naturally we must never arrange it bolted upright or vice versa. Flowers that grow in clusters may be arranged in masses with good effect, while those blossoms that nature sets alone must be arranged with lots of green about them. Nature has a grand color scheme we would do well to study and follow in our decorating. See the pale green of the new grass starred with blinks and paler anemone; the rich hues of the flowers that nestle among the rank grass of midsummer and the rich red and yellow of sunnec and goldenrod which come when the grass is sated by the breath of coming winter. In all our efforts at home decoration let us be consistent with our environment. We cannot fill our rooms with the same things our city cousin can, but we have at our very doors decorative material we cannot buy. Let us open our eyes to the beauties which lie in what we call common things. Let us use the material nature lays at hand and learn with Paul "therewith to be content."

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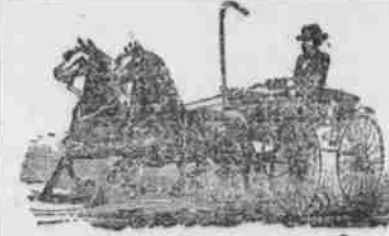
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