

## ELLEN'S DIARY

By An Island Farmer's Wife

These mornings of gold and blue harvest-weather, a lad of this place is being initiated by degrees into the routine of schooldays. . . . While it is likely that one day he will be able to look back pleasantly to the rare enchantment of this period in his life, to sing heartily as can a host of nostalgic adults: "Schooldays, schooldays, dear old golden rule days!" his first acquaintance with them gave little promise of it.

He is a sturdy, dark-eyed, dimpled, tanned fellow, this younger son of the farm, who up to this has led a life untrammelled by rules or confinements, undisturbed by book-learning except that which he cared to absorb in a roundabout way from being read to or asking questions of Jamie or the Family.

He, of course, knows something of numbers. These were necessary factors in computing the aggregate of kittens and lambs and calves. And nails or spikes— "Give me" with an air of deep concentration, "two for this hand and two for this one—let me see now! That will be four altogether." For intriguing pieces of carpentry.

His acquaintance with words by sight or sound was limited to a few and his knowledge of the alphabet confined to the recognition of the initial letters of his own and loved ones' names. Yet given leave to sit at the typewriter how quickly he could place these—and child of the mechanical age though untaught—master the operation of the machine! And so we gave him "at scratch" yesterday morning, a pupil, quick by nature and of average or perhaps we confess we do find it difficult to be impartial where the grandchildren are concerned!—a shade better I. Q. to the teachings of modern schooldays.

We gave him to be one of the number of new-beginners at school in this district—sent him off as Carolyn would have shod and scrubbed and shining under his father's patient and understanding escort. He returned, as Aunt Kitty Mahoney would have said, "Before a body could turn around!" and with an extremely sober face.

"Aw!" he observed, losing a shoe-lace to come to his barefoot freedom. "I didn't like the looks of the place at all!" "But it's all painted bright and new and pretty," we offered. "I know," he replied, "but still I don't like it! I'm not going any more. No sir!" he nodded to emphasize his words, with the same air of finality as James when he proposed to take what he calls "a wild goose chase" anticipating some entertainment or pleasure. "I'll go when I am as big as Jamie—then I'll like it."

But through the morning which turned out to be a longly one with Jamie and the Spotty-dog awa' he came in to remember something. "The Teacher brought me a pretty book to look at. I wonder" he mused, "just what it was about. I wouldn't mind going back long enough to find out. That wouldn't take long, would it?" And we blessed the kindness and discernment of a teacher who could recognize the bewilderment of a little boy on his first day in school.

Left to his own inclination this morning, after Jamie had left for his classes, he decided, "I guess I'd better go too to find out what's in that pretty book. It won't take me long!" It however, with other engaging interests kept him happily until morning recess. Noon is the goal set for tomorrow. "And after that?" he smiled broadly. "After that?" we echoed proudly, "you'll be a full-fledged schoolboy!" "Yes," he agreed, "and I'm liking it too!"

Like the line of an old plaintive song of memory, James, who of late, has joined the workers at Alderlea, "never returned." We listen now in the enfolded night for the sound of his foot-step . . . but, we fancy, in vain.

Until tomorrow . . . Diary . . . Good-night . . .

## Morning Smile

### Misinterpreted

"Do you have Matins at this church?" asked the visitor.

"We used to have," replied the verger, "but the Vicar tripped over them, so we put down the carpet!"

### Monkey Business

Mrs. Hatt stopped to talk to a friend, and her husband waited a short distance away. Presently she rejoined him.

"H'm," he said, "and what was Mrs. Brown talking about?"

"Business," she replied, off-handedly.

"Yes, I know," murmured her husband, "but whose?"

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## DOROTHY DIX'S COLUMN

### Persecution Complex

Woman Can't Hold Job; Feels That Everyone Dislikes Her

DEAR MISS DIX: For several years I have been forced out of position after position, due to people's personal opinions and dislikes. It has come to a point where it is impossible for me to obtain steady employment. I have received very high marks on pre-employment tests and am very careful of my grooming, but people simply don't like me. Because of these experiences, I have developed a dislike and fear of people.

MILLY

ANSWER: You have developed a persecution complex and, unless you can effect a cure yourself with simple measures, you had best seek expert medical and psychiatric treatment.

There definitely is some reason for your continual loss of employment. No one can so constantly be the object of personal dislike unless there is an underlying cause somewhere. Obviously, it must be within yourself. It is up to you to discover and eradicate the basis for your unpopularity. If you can't do this alone, see a doctor, as I have already suggested.

### ANALYZE YOUR SHORTCOMINGS

A thorough analysis of your own shortcomings is in order. You state that you are careful of your grooming, but are you sure the care is completely adequate? Soap and water cleanliness often isn't enough. From head to foot you must be immaculate—scrubbed and polished to the nth degree.

Having eliminated the possibility of personal offense as a reason for your unacceptability, take stock of your disposition. If you are a caustic, sarcastic individual, look no further. No other type person is so thoroughly disliked. Are you more apt to see the bad points of your fellow workers than their good ones? Do you embark on a new job with the assurance that you already know everything about the work, in fact, know more than the employees who are already on the job? If you proceed to let everyone know that you consider yourself superior, popularity will fly out the window. Perhaps you have nervous mannerisms that are distracting to those who work with you. Whatever the cause, be assured that very few people dislike others for no reason at all. The number of misanthropes in the world is small. On the contrary, most folks are very anxious to make new friends and acquaintances and are inclined to be most cordial to a newcomer in the office. It is scarcely plausible that you have unbecoming features. Whatever your difficulty stems from, the world yourself, and this is curable. You are not at peace with the world. You live in a city noted for its fine libraries, and a local librarian will be glad to assist you in locating helpful literature. Also in your city are churches of several denominations, whose pastors specialize in helping the distraught. Your civic information center will help you locate them.

You are an intelligent woman. Stop blaming others for your trouble; ferret out the reason why you make such a poor impression and overcome it.

DEAR MISS DIX: I have known Bob for two years. He recently returned from overseas and wanted me to come see him at camp before he was discharged. My parents didn't think it right for me to go, and I agree with them. However, Bob cannot understand it. He is 24, and I am 21.

Would it be wrong for me to go see him at his home on my vacation? His parents, of course, would be there.

J. J.

ANSWER: You and your parents are perfectly right on the camp question. After his long absence from home, Bob is understandably anxious to see the people he loves, and just cannot see any reason why the most apparent solution to his problem isn't feasible.

If Bob's parents invite you to their home, it would be proper to accept, but don't go on the boy's invitation alone. It should be seconded by his mother.

DEAR MISS DIX: My wife and I get along fine except for one thing—television. After a day's work I like to watch television, but my wife wants me to discuss the happenings of the day. I do devote some time to her but she doesn't consider it enough.

HORACE

ANSWER: Television has created the same problem in many, many homes. Your wife should be grateful for a husband whose only vice is watching T. V., and you should be grateful for a wife who is so interested in your day that she wants to know everything you do in it. Try to effect a compromise and realize that television, if allowed to monopolize your attention, can ruin a happy marriage.

Miss Nissen cannot reply personally to readers but will answer problems of general interest through this column.

## How Can I!!!

By Ann Ashley

Q. How should I oil an un-painted floor?

A. Use boiled linseed oil. Keep the oil hot all the time while applying it with a large brush. It may even be necessary to reheat it when going over large surfaces. When floors are oiled in this manner, they are easily cleaned, almost dustless, and wear much longer.

Q. How can I keep the yolk fresh if only the white of an egg is used?

A. Just puncture the shell and let the white drain out; then seal with waxed paper. The yolk will keep fresh and moist for several days if kept in a cold place.

## Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

Q. When should the bridegroom and his best man arrive at the church for the wedding?

A. At least 15 minutes prior to the ceremony, thus allowing any time for any delay. Upon their arrival, they repair to the vestry where the clergyman awaits them. They enter through a side door, not through the church.

## Household Scrapbook

By Roberta Lee

### The Hands

If one does not take the time to rub a lotion well into the hands after laundry work, dish washing, etc., she should at least keep a jar of vanishing cream in the kitchen and apply some of this after drying the hands. To many it is just as effective as a liquid softener and is much more quickly applied.

### White Paint

The next time white-painted articles are to be cleaned, try using water in which two or three onions have been boiled, and see how readily the dirt is removed.

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