

TYRANNY OF HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

"If you'll promise not to tell a soul, Charlotte," said Mrs. Darlington to her hostess, "I'll admit that I'm suffering from an overdose of daughter-in-law. A certain amount is a mental stimulus—too much simply stimulates."

"Frances, my son Arthur's wife, came to visit me just at the time all well regulate housekeepers think they have to go through. The cleaning process known as housecleaning, she went on. "Now, don't breathe it to a soul, but I never clean house. I carefully try to keep things nice and comfortable, but my natural instinct is to avoid dirt. My attitude is that if it will leave me alone I will have it be so."

"Who minds a little dust under the beds and in the closets? I will never my own conscience by telling you that Frances does not do a perfect housecleaning about it. She is content with talking about germs and microbes. Since I am confessing all my abominations, I will admit that I don't believe in such microbes, anyway. The reason Frances does, though, Oh, dear, yes, she does."

"She simply can't sit down and read happily unless the house has been thoroughly swept and garreted. I can do it without a tremor. I can leave dishes unwashed until every dish in the house has been used and not feel a qualm. Frances has the dishes piled up and washed so quickly after they have been used that she leaves you with a defrauded feeling, as though you had been done out of part of your meal."

"The morning after she came I saw her eyeing the living room curtains, which I must confess were not immaculate."

"Don't look at those curtains, Frances," I said. In my merry, light-hearted way, I know they're not very clean, but I'm going to have the laundress wash and iron them Monday."

"Frances half opened her mouth, then shut it again. I wondered at the time why she didn't say whatever it was she had on her mind, but later in the day I found out."

"Mother," she said, tactless—Frances is very tactful—that afternoon when she was sitting in the living room having what I considered a very little chat, "I've been wondering if it wouldn't be nice if you should get some curtain stretchers and stretch the curtains on them instead of leaving the laundress wash and iron them."

"To make a long story short, she dragged me downstairs that very afternoon and we bought curtain stretchers. The next morning, with her own hands, she washed those curtains. Oh, there is no doubt that she is wonderful. I stand in the greatest awe of any one who can wash things clean. I never could. There's always much worse when I finish with them than when I began."

"After the curtains were arranged to suit her I happened to mention that I had some material which I intended to make into comforters when the spirit moved me. Again speaking metaphorically, she felt upon that material teeth and nail. Then for days she and I struggled and perspired and hid bits of cotton."

"When one morning she accidentally opened the door of the chamber of horrors I thought she was going to faint. The chamber of horrors, by the way, is the room into which it is the time honored custom of the family to pitch everything that the family wishes to rid itself of. Personally, I get along very nicely with the door slightly ajar and shying in the article. Then after the door is shut I have no further qualms. But Frances got quite white when she looked in. She made me feel—she did it tactfully—that no decent, self-respecting woman could exist in a house with a chamber of horrors. So together we pulled and hauled and worked and suffered and threw things away and had a perfectly horrible time generally, but we finally emerged in that pathetic and deplorable condition called "as neat as a pin."

"It took us days to do it and we were both nearly dead when we got through. But the very next morning after we finished, if you can believe me, I found her with her head out of the window and the air of a bound that is just getting the scent. She was listening to a vacuum cleaner that was chugging across the street!"

"Oh, mother," she said, "I'm going out to see if those men can't come tomorrow."

"Frances," I said, "you will do nothing of the kind. I positively refuse to be any cleaner than I am. From now to the end of your visit I intend to have my kind of a good time here if there isn't a floor swept or a dish washed."

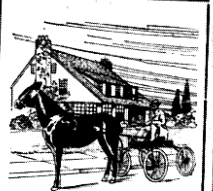
"I did it," said Mrs. Darlington, proudly. "I kept Frances whirling in a perfect vortex of matiness and luncheon and afternoon teas and I had a beautiful time. But I related the day before she went away and told her clean up the house for me."

"Frances is a dear girl," Mrs. Darlington declared finally, "but she certainly has a weird idea of having a good time!"—Chicago Daily News.

Good Reason for His Action.
In Germany during a war a captain of cavalry was ordered upon a foraging expedition. He marched to the district assigned to him. It was a lonely valley, but finding in the midst of it a small cottage, he knocked at the door. It was opened by an old man, who looked upon a staff. "Father," said the officer, "show me a field where I may set my troop to forage." The old man led them out of the valley and after a quarter of an hour's march they came to a fine field of barley. "Here is what we are in search of," exclaimed the captain. "Wait a few minutes," said the old man. "Follow me a little further." At the distance of a mile they arrived at another field of barley. The troop alighted, cut down the stalk, tramped it and rode off. The officer then said to his conductor: "You have given yourself and us needless trouble; the first field was better than this." "Very true, sir," replied the good old man, "but it was not mine."

Whence the Term "Gazette."
The name "Gazette" as applied to a newspaper is derived from a small Venetian coin, the price of the first news sheet published there.

Keeping Friends.
Not to need your friends is probably the best way to keep them.—Aitchison Globe.



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Sun and Fire Symbols.
There are to be found occasionally upon the walls of old brick houses, at about the line of division between the first and second stories, flat pieces of iron five or six inches in length and shaped somewhat like the letter "S". The use of these articles was clearly brought from England, where it is still continued, and there is a curious origin and meaning attached to them. The figure in question is an early symbol of the sun. It is still used in heraldic and other parts of England. There one is informed that the reason for the particular form of these irons is that they were made thus in order to protect the house from the fire as well as from collapse.—Harper's Weekly.

Margies Talk German.
In the large German colonies in Brazil there are many cockle-bug negroes who can talk nothing but German.

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The next time you are ALL together have that group picture taken you have talked about. There is always a LAST time when you meet. I will come to you if you can't come to my studio.
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We also have some sweaters carried over from last year to sell at 25 per cent discount.

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Portable ENGINES Made in 8, 12, 16 H. P. Stationary ENGINES Made in 2, 4, 8, 12 and 16 H. P.

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The New Holland mill will do the work quickly and with less power than other grinders, preparing the grain so that the stock will get the most from the ration and you will get all the profit there is to be had from the grain you feed.

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The Ohio Ensilage Cutter with self feeder and blower is the best machine on the market for filling silos and is strongly recommended by many local users. The farmer who buys the Ohio will make no mistake.

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