THE GIRL’S OWN PAPER.

THE GIRL’S OWN PAPER.

The ceremony of knocking, “do come back with me! Father’s took bad, and I can’t make out what ails him. He’s grown weak, you know, and takes no notice of anything I do.”

Kind-hearted Mrs. Carter, who was just sitting down to her breakfast-table, rose hastily, and leaving her untasted tea to cool in the cup, hurried across the road, and followed Mary’s eager footsteps up the steep stairs and into John Haynes’s bedroom.

The old man lay just as his daughter had left him—speechless and motionless, with a startled look on his face, and his face strangely livid and distorted.

“What ails him, Mrs. Carter?” asked Mary, as she anxiously watched the good woman’s face to read her verdict there.

“It’s a stroke he’s had, my lass. You’d better send for the doctor at once, though it’s little he can do when a man’s struck.”

“But will he die?” whispered the poor girl, in her terror and distress.

Mrs. Carter shook her head. “Wait till the doctor comes,” she said in tones meant to be reassuring. “He’ll tell you then what’s happened. He’ll live long enough; happen he’ll get better of it, or happen,” sinking her voice to a whisper, “he’ll just go out like the snuff of a candle. But put your bonnet on, my love, and run down for the doctor. I’ll wait here. The air’ll do you good; you look ready to faint.”

Dr. Wintercame, but could do nothing. Mrs. Carter had been right in saying the old man had had a stroke, and how it would end no one could say. He might pass away any moment, or he might live for days or months.

Mary’s place in the village choir was empty that day. Neither was there any walk for her by the riverside after evening service. Instead, the day was spent by her father’s bedside, while the summer sun shone without, the birds sang gaily, and the church bells filled the air with their solemnly joyful music.

Patient Mary watched over the sick old man. The shadows crept round and lengthened; the soft breeze, laden with the scent of roses, hay, and sweetbrier, came in through the open window, and mingled with it came the distant lowing of cattle and the bleating of sheep and lambs. Now the clang and the clash of the bells ringing for evensong had ceased, and in the silent chamber Mary could hear the faint rise and fall of the hymns, sung to the dear familiar tunes.

It soothed her anxious sorrow listening thus, and presently she found herself humming softly in accompaniment to the distant music, and the very words fell like balm on her heart.

“O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.”

She wondered if her father took in the meaning of the beautiful words. Surely they ought to soothe away the terrible anxiety in his eyes. He was always fond of hymns, and liked to hear Mary sing them; but now he seemed insensible to their meaning and to the hope and comfort they conveyed.

She had repeated his favourite passages over and over softly in his ear, and had read him short passages from the New Testament; but nothing seemed to calm the trouble which was evidently on his mind, and which the dumb lips seemed to be longing and striving in vain to tell.

“What is it he wants, Mrs. Carter?” Mary asked, when the old woman came in for the sixth time that day to see how her neighbour was.” “I’m sure he wants something, and I can’t make out what. I can’t believe he’s lost his sight and not know what he wants. I’m sure he wants me to do something.”

“They mostly look so,” answered the old woman. “Maybe they are thinking of things they had meant to say; but there’s no use wondering when they can’t tell us. Try not to think of it, honey; don’t bother yourself worse nor you can help. Go and take a little walk and I’ll wait here till you come back. He won’t want anything just now but what I can get him as well as you.”

Mary thanked the kind old woman, and did as she was bidden, as far as going out into the fresh air. But she was not inclined for a walk, and shrank from meeting any of the little groups of friends and neighbours who were congregated here and there, discussing the news of the village, or sauntering by the riverside, or along the meadow paths. Instead, she seated herself in the open doorway, and leaning her head against the oak frame, abandoned herself to sad thoughts.

A voice at her side startled her, and she turned to meet the face of Tom Attham, who stood close by with a look of pitying tenderness on his face.

“Poor little Mary,” he said, softly; “there was no walk by the river for us this evening.”

The tender tones were too much for the poor girl. She had borne up bravely through the day, but Tom’s pity and the yearning love shining so unmistakably in his eyes made her break down. Her lips began to quiver, and, then, hiding her face in her hands, she burst into tears.

“Don’t cry, Mary; don’t cry,” pleaded Tom, with an old little quiver in his voice. “I can’t bear to see you cry. I wish I could take all your trouble from you.” He possessed himself of one of her hands as he spoke, and it was not withdrawn. His kind pressure was gently returned, for Tom’s love and sympathy were very precious to the poor girl then. She was soon calm again, and had raised her face and wiped her eyes.

“I can’t bear to see you in trouble, Mary,” the young man went on. “It cuts me to the heart to see you cry, when I’d lay down my life cheerfully to make you happy. I’d meant to tell you a great deal this evening, my dear, if things had been different, and you hadn’t met me by the river. Maybe you’d not be in a humour now to hear what I’d got to say;” he questioned, hesitatingly and doubtfully.

“No, not tonight, Tom,” she answered quickly, while her thoughts flew to the old father upstairs lying in his living death. “It seems I oughtn’t to think of anything but him just now, whilst he’s so as he might go off any moment.”

“You know best, Mary,” he answered, with a heavy sigh, in which there was no trace of impatience. “I’ll wait till you’re ready to listen to me, and if you want anyone to help you any time with the old man, you know how glad I’ll be to do it.”

“Thank you, Tom,” was all she said, but the look she gave him spoke more than words, and he was content; while to her in her sorrow his patient unselfish love came with a wonderful power of soothing comfort.

(To be continued.)

HOW TO WASH AND IRON.

BY RUTH LANK.

CHAPTER I.

COTTAGE WASHING.

“Por’ it’s thump, thump; scold, scold; wash, wash away.”

There’s not a bit of pleasure upon a washing day.

Many a time, in my childhood days, have I heard the “Washing Day” verses of which the above two lines form the chorus. The verses themselves have escaped my memory, but I know they were a vivid description of the domestic misery and discomfort which accompanied washing day. There were the scolding wife, the sullen husband, crying and neglected children, meals ill prepared, or not prepared at all, the slopy kitchen, deserted by the cat; and the favourite dog kicked out of doors, and not daring to show his honest muzzle until his instinct told him that the chief business of the day was over.

A certain amount of discomfort is almost inseparable from washing day in a cottage home, and where there are few conveniences: want of water, who does the work, and the girls who help, may very materially lessen this if they go about the work in a neat and orderly fashion.

Washing is like a fairy helper, and has been represented as such in many a juvenile story. It not only reduces discomfort to the minimum, but actuallylightens labour.

In arranging my chapters on washing, I will
HOW TO WASH AND IRON.

First take cottage work, where space is small and mechanical appliances are few. I will then tell something about the actual processes, and the more expensive machinery of various kinds which are used in laundries and houses, and which equally save time and diminish labour.

The materials required for simple laundry work are wooden tubs or earthen pan-chambers—white kettles, small copper baskets, pots, lines, props; a wooden clothes horse, or "maidens," as some call it; a thin calico bag, to boil clothes in; a long, smooth stick, to turn them in the copper; blue- and soap of two kinds, yellow and white and card; some soda, starch, and bleaching powder. Soda softens water, and is valuable for dissolving the grease and cleansing very dirty articles; but it should not be used in water intended for flannels, or it will turn them yellow, and it would also spoil most prints. Many washers' powders are advertised, but I cannot recommend or condemn any from actual experience. I have heard ladies complain of the use of strong powders by laundries, which they say have spoiled their clothes. This is tender and rot- ted by them. A pint of boiling water poured over a quarter of a pound of quick lime, and drained off clear into the copper, will put in ten or twelve pounds of clothes to white and bleach such as need it. It must be well stirred in. In most old-fashioned cottage homes, and, indeed, in many new ones, there are what are known as moving people, and one a-much-borrowed one amongst neighbourly people. Properly used it is a great help, especially for coarse things and the much-needed clothing of working people. Old-fashioned as it is, numbers of cottage laundries prefer it to some of the newer washing machines. I say some, because there are jerry, and blackest labour, and a great many other soft and clumsy that they rather increase than diminish it.

The number of washing utensils, the length of lines, &c., must be regulated by the amount of work to be done, and the space available for drying purposes. The copper in which water is heated and clothes are boiled should be kept scrupulously clean; indeed, should be washed after every other utensil. Buckets, pots, lines and ovens ought to be regularly washed and brushed; the lines, when stretched, rubbed with a clean cloth from top to bottom. Buckets carefully washed before the ironed garments are hung on them to be aired.

Soap goes further when dry. It is more expensive per pound, of course, but at least it is wanted. It should be cut up into squares and hung in a twine net in a dry place. When boiled starch is used, it is advisable to strain it through a muslin bag, which ensures perfect smoothness and no lumps. Solid blue, which I prefer to the powdered article, should be tied up tightly in double tins and the bag kept in a clean place out of use.

These details may seem very trifling, but it is just want of attention to these little things which makes all the difference in the appearance of the linen.

When people are annoyed at seeing a dirty patch on the hem of an otherwise clean garment, and manifestly caused by dirty peg or line? Who has not chafed over a shiny patch of starch on the surface? If a dab of starch or oil, or cuffs flecked here and there with dark blue, instead of being evenly tinted, as the linen was when new?

All these oft-recurring disfigurements might have been easily prevented by regular attention to mere trifles such as I have suggested.

In my early home it was an article of faith that girls ought to learn how to do everything connected with the house, not merely in theory, but practically: from cleaning a saucepan, blacking a grate, and scrubbing a floor, to the concocting of a chintzy dish, or the getting up of lace as fine almost as snow, and even to the attainment of perfection in all these branches; but I had to try my hand at them, and I have a vivid recollection of the humiliation I once felt when I thought I knew what I was about to do something which I considered infra dig.

My dear, sensible father put his hand kindly on my shoulder, and said, "My dear child, if during your future life, you are so favoured by fortune as to have servants to do all these things for you, the knowledge you are gaining will enable you the better to estimate how they are to be used. You will know both the time and labour that should be bestowed on each, and this will teach you to be reasonable and patient with other workers. If your servants are ignorant you can teach them, and your knowledge will command their respect. If, on the other hand, you have no servants to teach, experience will render the work you have to do easier for yourself."

The lesson went home. I believe that was my last grumble, and I have known what it is to feel very proud of my bit of housework, and get up even more than, and of the nice appearance of my white muslin frock, "got up" by my own youthful hands.

These lessons in domestic economy were not, however, always held in high regard by school duties, which were regularly attended to. Time was found for both, and I remained a daily pupil until I was nearly eighteen. My French books were far less attractive than I could boilpoint a French command that, or my Italian translation less carefully prepared because of my intimate acquaintance with the language. And now, as I look back, after being many years wife, mother, and mistress of a home, I assure you I value more than ever the lessons which my own mother taught me.

Let us now suppose ourselves preparing for a cottage wash. All articles, except prawns and flannels, should be slopped and put in to steep the night before; and this points to Tuesday as the best for washing, because in hot weather especially the water is apt to smell badly if dirty clothes lie in it from Saturday to Monday.

The articles should be carefully sorted, according to texture, &c. Those which are comparatively little soiled should not be mixed with the coarser and dirtier. Fruit and wine marks in flannels must be taken out before they are touched with soap, as follows: Stretch the stained part over a bowl, cover it with salt, and pour your boiling water over it. Some flannels may be removed by dipping in your buttermilk and drying in a hot sun, afterwards washing in cold water. This process may require repetition. By putting salt on a part of the stain, the mark will not become fixed; or the immediate application of a little sherry will have the same effect. For the removal of iron-monkies, fill a basin with boiling water and add it with a pewter plate, on which place your plate. Cover the spot with essential salts of lemon, and then slowly pour boiling water from a kettle upon the powder to dissolve it. Then lay a dry portion of the linen lightly over, so as to keep in the steam, but not to touch the stain. Then while the stain is retained the mark will quickly disappear. The article should then be washed out separately, or the salts will curdle the soap, and make all the water in the wash pan water which cannot be removed.

Perhaps it may seem out of place to introduce these instructions preparatory to washing, but it is to cottages that a great deal of work for which more and more large houses is carried out. This is almost wholly the case in our watering-places and in the country; and even very sweet does the linen smell when it has been dried in an old-fashioned cottage garden; very different from the smoky odour which country people complain of in the case of the improved washing.

When the clothes are put in soak, all the most soiled parts should have a special sponger after an extra soaking—such as collars and cuffs, greasy spots, &c.

Early rising is especially on washing morning. The first thing to be done is to light the boiler fire to get the hot water ready. While this is heating let the kitchen, house, place, &c., be got into order, and have prepared, in which the family take their meals, be put into its proper state of cleanliness. In town washing is mostly done below stairs in the cellars; in country cottages it may be in a little room to wash-house, or, perhaps, in the one room that serves for parlour, kitchen, and every purpose, except sleeping. But even if in the case, there is all the more need for order. What makes the old jingle, "There's not a bit of pleasure upon a washing day," a truth?

If it is not the unwashed hearth, the unmade beds, the unwashed breakfast crockery, the absence of everything in the shape of a decently-prepared meal?

Let us hope your heart is bright, if the wash-tub has not under the window; and do those little things which you know must be done at the proper time.

When ready to commence, work the clothes that are in soak about with the hands; pour off the soiled liquid, and add fresh hot water to each lot. Begin with the cleanest, lightest, or the least soiled, and wash it through, soap it again and pass it into another vessel with fresh warm water. The articles should follow each other according to fineness and colour, a portion of water being poured off from time to time and fresh hot added. After a second washing through, all white articles should be scalded. Lay them in the pancheon of scalding water at first, and, when you finish with collars, cuffs, and muslins at the top; cover with a clean towel, to prevent grit or sediment from being mixed with your clothes, and pour on boiling water till the vessel is full. When cool enough wring out, and rinse through perfectly clean water, into which enough blue has been taken from your potato to give the necessary tint. Too much blue is more a mistake. It looks ugly by daylight; and, by gaslight, gives, what should be white articles, a blue tinge.

Most articles are dried before being starched, but I remember my mother had such as required only slight stiffening passed through what she called "water starch," after being bleached. It was a little of the thick, boiled starch strained and immediately diluted, until it seemed scarcely thicker than water. The bodies of skirts were passed through it and the wrists, fronts, collars, &c., squeezed through some as thick as jelly afterwards. A little white was scraped into the starch, and, by pouring boiling water over, to prevent the sticking of the iron later on.

Fine white articles which require boiling should always be tied up, very loosely, in a thin calico bag. Coarse towels and aprons do not need this precaution. Flannels and prints of the common kinds will follow each other, and should not be soaped in places, but washed through, after being strained out of white curd soap, boiled and prepared beforehand. These ought also to be quickly removed from the boiling water to a lather, as it would shrink flannels and fade prints. They require twice washing through, but no scalding. Flannels are now being prepared to wear as long as worn by letters; others rinse them in clear water. The following is said to make flannels keep their colour, and not shrink: "Put them into a full- and half-boiling water on them, letting
THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.

HER MAJESTY'S HOUSEHOLD AND HOW IT IS GOVERNED.

The Queen was married in 1858 to a man nearly 24 years her senior. It was to be a little kingdom in itself, and enjoyed a peculiar reverence from its antiquity. But she succeeded in the training of the household staff, as it was first in dignity, also in first in purity, in efficiency, and in well-regulated economy; and waste, the canker of all, but especially of great, establishments as difficult as possible. All this was done without detracting from the splendour, befitting a great monarchy without incurring any debts; for, in the Queen's rule, the House of Commons was the only source of true magnificence. Nearly every bill was paid within three months, equivalent to ready money. George III., when he realised how much piled up, caused a salutary at Windsor, caused inquiries to be made of the different functionaries who, according to their showing, received little or nothing beyond their respective appointments. Instead of being directed to make an average statement of their perquisites, which they put down at a trifling sum. The king adopted the report; and from that time, he had of any extras, the sums named by each was to be added to their salaries. They were caught, you see, in their own web.

It is a great deal my girl readers, who will most probably have some household cares resting on their shoulders in course of time, may care to hear how the first home in the country is regulated.

Presiding over all are three great officers of State. First, the Lord Steward, the Earl of Sydney, G.C.B., to whom the state of the Queen's household is entirely committed to be ruled and governed by his discretion. All that appertains to eating and drinking comes within his province. In early days not only did he preside the servants at his discretion, but he was the judge of life and limb for the dwellers in the palace; now his rule does not extend to chapel, chamber, or stable. He is a Member of the Privy Council, takes no heed of all dukes not of royal blood, and carries a white staff as a sign of his office. At the death of the sovereign he breaks the staff over the corpse.

The duties of the Lord Steward were more arduous earlier than they are even now, seeing how in Elizabeth's time most stringent rules were laid down that no forray or theft should be dressed out of your Majestic's court be brought to your food without assured knowledge from whom the food did come and that no such orders should be given with regard to the charge of the back doors to your chamber's chamber, where handmaids and waiters, wardrobes, the chief housekeeper, the maids, the housemaids, the cooks and many other members of the household.

them. He told cold the first time of washing," I presume they would be first clean washed, as scaling dirty articles helps to fix the dirt.

Before making up flannels I always soak the length of about forty hours in cold water and then hang them out dripping, in order to do the shrinking in advance.

Prints should be put into plenty of clean, cold water after washing, and a handful of salt in the water sometimes helps to fix the colours. Delicate prints are best washed in a thin solution of bran.

A word about using plenty of rinsing water. I often find, as the discontented glance at the linen which the laundress had sent in, "I do not know how it is that our clothes always have a musty look; perhaps you could explain it to me," for not giving them an abundant supply of it. In any case the improvement in the colour consequent on its use will repay a little extra trouble.

Coarse woollen stockings and other odds and ends in the shape of怎sters and household clothes come last, and require nothing but a simple wash. For all these the Peggy is a valuable help.

A word about wringing clothes. The little inexpensive wringing machines, which press out the moisture and serve also as mangles, may be found in the possession of most cottage laundresses, especially those who "take in washing." In large cities, a person in a poor neighbourhood sate a living by a wringing machine, a trifle being paid per dozen for wringing large things, and again for mangling. Articles with many buttons are best wringing by hand. Care should be taken that not part of the garment is tightly strained over the rest.

A nightdress, for instance, should be gathered up at the collar and the garment lifted up and down and allowed to lose its folds. For want of care in this apparently trifling matter, new material has been cracked into slits, and unsteadily patches remain unoccupied.

Every article should be thoroughly shaken before being pegged to the line. Black and elaborate coloured stockings require great care, being pencilled down and thrown in loose folds. For want of care in this apparently trifling matter, new material has been cracked into slits, and unsteadily patches remain unoccupied.

Apropos of clearing. A laundress, whose linen and prints were noted for whiteness and brilliancy of colour, told me that she used to place her tubs of clothes before using blue water, under a running spring in her garden.

A word about the Scottish. At the actual washing is done, the last business is to scrub and clean all the utensils, clear out the copper, and tidy the cellar or washhouse. Let us hope some thoughtful little girls will thereby come to realize that there may be a refreshing cup for mother.

When writing about utensils, I forgot to mention the shaped tub which seems to me the best and the one always used in my native county, Lincolnshire. It is oblong, and narrower at the bottom than the top, so that the greatest pressure is received back down the sloping sides. There is a little triangular shelf at one corner, to hold the soap.

Young laundresses, when learning, are very apt to rub the skin off the wrists. This is owing to the rubbing on the wrist instead of making one portion of the article come in contact with another. Some, too, wet their own clothes very much in the front. This is both uncomfortable and dangerous, as damp gat-
HOW TO WASH AND IRON.

By 

CHAPTER II.

HERE is a very general impression that the
more rapidly a family washes, the better,
and that the less they do in the way, the more
excellent must be the domestic manage-
ment. Certainly, the
having clothes about
in an unfinished state,
day after day, is a
sign of anything but
good management in
a home. Still, I am
not in favour of too
great hurry. Laundry
work, like everything
else, requires a
reasonable amount of
time and pains, if the
result is to be satisfactory.

In a sanitary point of
view it is good to give
underclothing, table and
bed linen as much light
and fresh air as we can,
otherwise put it up being
both improved thereby.

When it is noticed that articles are getting
a bad colour, let them go through all the
proper washing, putting them out on the grass to
bleach, wetting and turning each from time to
time, and finishing when drying day comes
round again.

In my former chapter I described the mode
in which boiled starch is used. For all delicate
fabrics, such as muslin, and for shirts, collars,
cuffs, fronts, &c., cold starch is preferable. It
is very economical, both as regards time and
material, cold starched articles being almost
immediately ready for the iron, whilst those
done with boiled starch require to be some
time after being sprinkled and folded. The
use of extremely thin, white varnish for all
white underclothing makes it easier to wash
and to keep a good colour, besides improving
the appearance.

For starching collars, cuffs, and things which
require to be very stiff, the starch is smoothly
mixed into the proportion of four ounces to a
quart of water. There is an article sold called
"starch gloss," and a small quantity of this,
well combined with the starch, makes a beautiful
sheet to the surface of the linen, and makes it
look like new.

The water should be put in slowly and very
well stirred, and, if needed, the surface should
be skimmed after the mixture has stood for a
few moments. When well mixed it should stand
for three or four minutes to allow part
of the solid starch to settle, and then half
the mixture, which will be of the consistency and
colour of new milk, should be poured into a
range basin. In this, starch shirt-fronts, collars, &c.;
but as each article will take a
little of the stiffening quality out of the mix-
ture, more must be fed from the thickened vessel
in order to make up for the loss, the solid starch left
being again treated as at first directed.

Four ounces of starch will suffice for nine
shirts, or smaller articles in proportion; and,
when too thin for these, the poured-off mixture
is used for other things which require less
stiffening. I say the poured-off mixture
because there is always the greater part of the
solid starch left behind, and when the cold
starching process is over this must by no
means be thrown away. On the contrary,
though no longer available for the same kind
of stiffening, it must be allowed to settle and
the water drawn off. Kept in a cold, clean
place, the sediment again dries and hardens,
and on the next washing day can be added in
only in the form of boiled starch, for which it
is almost if not quite as good as when fresh.
I prefer the white starch to the blue, and use
the ordinary kind of starch.

The sprinkling, folding, and ironing of linen
is such clean and pleasant work that I cannot
fancy the most fastidious young lady finding
anything to object to.

In the process of ironing, the table should be white and clean, and, as each
article is taken from the clothes-basket, it
should be lightly and evenly sprinkled.

Careless hands sometimes deluge one part
and leave the others dry. Fine, even sprink-
ling is the right thing, and in winter, if the
child is taken off the water, so much the better
for the fingers of the workers. When you
have sprinkled a goodly pile, put your hands
under and over, and turn the clothes to your
way, so that the starch may come to the
top. Well stretched and straitened each
piece, bring corners and seams nicely together,
and fold everything for the mangle, as neatly
as possible in the same way as when finished
ready for wear. Shirts and similarly starched
articles are not sent to the mangle; they are
sprinkled, cold starched, folded, and singly
wrapped for ironing. Collars and such little
matters should be nicely stiffened after
being squeezed through the starch, rolled up,
and wrapped in a clean towel. Table-cloths
and sheets should be starched by two pairs of
hands, and lengthways. Suppose two girls
doing this. Each must take two corners; go
backwards along the length of the article, and pull
it gently but forcibly, gradually gathering
up the hemmed ends in your hands until both
meet in the middle, but with each fold stretch-
ing again. Then let the cloth go gradually,
until your hands are back at the corners again,
when you must give it a good shake, or two
and fold it in half, right side inside. Turn
the selvages back to the middle of the wrong
side, just as a pocket-handkerchief is folded;
meet your companion by bringing your corners
nearly to hers, and finish the straightening on
the table.

Table linen requires very little starch, only
enough to give it a decided form. Nothing
is more disagreeable than to have stiff, cracking,
table napkins, and board-like table-cloths; but
they should be very well mangled and ironed
on both sides, so that when laid on the table they
look almost like brocaded satin. The folding
should also be most carefully done, that there
may be no folds sticking up, or unslightly
crushed when the cloth is spread.

There are a few starched articles that
require no ironing. Dimity curtains should
be most particularly stretched, straightened,
and shaken after starching, and pegged out by
the loops, or pinned to something else when put
on the line to dry. Many laundresses, other-
wise experienced, do not know this, and conse-
quently iron all the pattern out of the
dimity, and send home, smoothed and glazed,
what ought to be in ridges and have a rough
surface, as when new.

The laundress is now brought to such per-
fec tion that most people, whose means
allow them to do so, send their long curtains
to be cleaned instead of washing them at home,
and they come back made up like new.

It is, however, very easy to do them at home,
for whether lace, linen, or muslin, they should
not be touched with an iron. The cleansing
process should be effected by abundant soak-
ing, with a little soda as well as soap, and
frequent changes of water. These things
would be very quickly if subjected to
rough rubbing, so they must be handled
very gently, steved in a bag, as before directed,
or bleached, squeezed through strong cold
starch, and very nicely straightened while wet.

The quickest and best way of drying them is
to have a frame. It is a mere old ring of
wood, long enough and wide enough for the
purpose, and will small hoops fixed near the
edge, at a distance of two inches from each other.
The curtains are simply stretched and
hooked on these, and when dry are ready for
pegging up or hanging up. The curtains are
washed again. The frame is very expensive,
artifact, and saves much trouble, as the curtains
dry very quickly on it.

As a substitute, a sheet may be spread on
a carpet, and the curtains pinned to it, should
there be a spare room available. I know a
very good house in which they are always
dried in this way. If hung on a line, the
edges should be nicely straightened, and the
curtains gently pulled when about half dry.
white petticoats and the skirts of dresses. It should be narrower at one end than the other, in fact, the shape of a gore; the third, narrow and long enough for shirt and dress after washing.

And now we will begin by ironing first some collars and cuffs, then a shirt. If you use a bare-iron for this purpose you can get a better and cleaner result. Place the iron on a red-hot heat, then, after three minutes, put it in the long, narrow and long enough for shirt and dress after washing.

And now we will begin by ironing first some collars and cuffs, then a shirt. If you use a bare-iron for this purpose you can get a better and cleaner result. Place the iron on a red-hot heat, then, after three minutes, put it in the long, narrow and long enough for shirt and dress after washing.

And now we will begin by ironing first some collars and cuffs, then a shirt. If you use a bare-iron for this purpose you can get a better and cleaner result. Place the iron on a red-hot heat, then, after three minutes, put it in the long, narrow and long enough for shirt and dress after washing.

And now we will begin by ironing first some collars and cuffs, then a shirt. If you use a bare-iron for this purpose you can get a better and cleaner result. Place the iron on a red-hot heat, then, after three minutes, put it in the long, narrow and long enough for shirt and dress after washing.

And now we will begin by ironing first some collars and cuffs, then a shirt. If you use a bare-iron for this purpose you can get a better and cleaner result. Place the iron on a red-hot heat, then, after three minutes, put it in the long, narrow and long enough for shirt and dress after washing.

And now we will begin by ironing first some collars and cuffs, then a shirt. If you use a bare-iron for this purpose you can get a better and cleaner result. Place the iron on a red-hot heat, then, after three minutes, put it in the long, narrow and long enough for shirt and dress after washing.

And now we will begin by ironing first some collars and cuffs, then a shirt. If you use a bare-iron for this purpose you can get a better and cleaner result. Place the iron on a red-hot heat, then, after three minutes, put it in the long, narrow and long enough for shirt and dress after washing.
CHAPTER III.

No brush face-washers should need any stirring of muddy dirt on their work. Scouring, soaking, and many changes of water, with much unnecessary rubbing and working about, should take all the dirt out. If rubbed at all it ought to be between flannel and flannel, if possible, or else if the lace may be stewed in a slow oven, and with abundance of water in a covered jar.

No lace must be used; but it should always be dead-white; but it should be passed through the thinnest of cold starch,—only a remove from water: say a teaspoonful to half a pint, just to set it. Squeeze out of this and straighten most carefully upon flannel, picking out every little bit of colour from a small square of flannel over, and pass the lace under the mangle. Afterwards iron it through flannel, taking care that it is well dried, and passing to examine and adjust any little lumped points. Done by this process your laces will look only second to those which have passed through the hands of a professional cleaner, and in the wearing will repay the trouble you have taken.

I mentioned that time and patience are needed, and, as I wrote this, I was reminded of a friend's troubles over a beautiful piece of Honiton point. She had seen a recipe for washing lace, and thought she would try it. Having washed the collar, she thought it was to be stiffened in water with a lump of sugar dissolved in it. But how much? I cannot tell what quantity she used, but certainly far too much. The iron was wrong somehow, and stuck to the lace; another moment and she had scorch'd it. A hasty pull was followed by a tear, and a beautiful square of lace from the rest. Then, wherever the iron touched it was stiff as buckram. Vexed at her failure, and too impatient even to see whether the mischief could be repaired, she hung the costly lace over a beautiful piece of Honiton point. She had seen a recipe for washing lace, and thought she would try it. Having washed the collar, she thought it was to be stiffened in water with a lump of sugar dissolved in it. But how much? I cannot tell what quantity she used, but certainly far too much. The iron was wrong somehow, and stuck to the lace; another moment and she had scorch'd it. A hasty pull was followed by a tear, and a beautiful square of lace from the rest. Then, wherever the iron touched it was stiff as buckram. Vexed at her failure, and too impatient even to see whether the mischief could be repaired, she hung the costly lace over a beautiful piece of Honiton point.

The little Indian-rubber Wringer is only intended for the work implied in its name, which it does admirably.

The bellows may be made to work, and not involve the disagreeable accompaniment of a sloppy floor whenever it is in use, especially for washing.

Let me say a word about advising some dear girl who is preparing for married life, and about to select a washing machine, either for her own use or that of her servants. We must prepare for a little tour of inspection; for we do not mean to choose such an important article in a hurry, or take the first that comes to hand. We will find out the names of the very best makers of domestic machinery; ascertain how long their inventions have been before the public; if they have stood the test of time and public competition; and what position they have held on such occasions. We will not ignore the medals that may have been awarded at the various great exhibitions. Then we may think over and compare notes with the merits of two or three machines which, after due examination, we have fixed on as the best, or, if may be, the best which our means will purchase; or, if it is to be purchased occasionally, whisper to my girl companion if she has only a small sum to spend, "Better wait a few weeks and go on saving, than make a hasty and expensive purchase to regret; or, if it is to be purchased occasionally, whisper to my girl companion if she has only a small sum to spend, "Better wait a few weeks and go on saving, than make a hasty and expensive purchase to regret; or, if it is to be purchased occasionally, whisper to my girl companion if she has only a small sum to spend, "Better wait a few weeks and go on saving, than make a hasty and expensive purchase to regret; or, if it is to be purchased occasionally, whisper to my girl companion if she has only a small sum to spend, "Better wait a few weeks and go on saving, than make a hasty and expensive purchase to regret; or, if it is to be purchased occasionally, whisper to my girl companion if she has only a small sum to spend, "Better wait a few weeks and go on saving, than make a hasty and expensive purchase to regret; or, if it is to be purchased occasionally, whisper to my girl companion if she has only a small sum to spend, "Better wait a few weeks and go on saving, than make a hasty and expensive purchase to regret."
THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.

vanised iron, to turn, stir, or lift clothes out of the hot copper. A double trough, with one partition for rinsing or blue water, and another for starchy water, was placed between, for facilitating this part of the work. Directions, in-boards, ironing-stoves, and the old-fashioned box-mangle; but the latter so vastly lightened and improved in design that it became a comparatively elegant article with country laundries.

It is most interesting to see the part which gas is made to play in connection with laundry fittings. Whilst the electric light has been threatening to put out gas works, its invention has been busily engaged in turning it to account for cooking and as a motive power of great engines. Gas engines are used for coffee-grinding, book-binding, sifting, stiffening, braiding, printing, and only a few days since I saw one working a large washing machine.

There are pretty little gas stoves which can be placed on a table and connected by a few feet of India-rubber tubing with an ordinary gas bracket. A single worker can heat her three irons on this, without any fires in summer. On its perforated cover she can also boil a small kettle of par or toast bread, &c., and all these at a trifling cost in gas.

There are also box-irons heated by gas; a polishing iron for finishing and glazing collars, cuffs, &c., that can be shaped alike at both ends, for working on the front and back of shirts, &c.; and a large hot-iron box, ironing, narrow trimmings, &c.

Gloving tongs are expensive, but comparatively slow to work with. The machines do beautiful work and very rapidly, having been much improved of late.

I must mention one or two little articles, called "the lady's guests," which any girl would like to possess and use for straightening and ironing laces. It is nickel plated, and heated over a gas burner, and if it were not so useful we should call it a pretty toy. A young friend of mine was delighted to have one, and constantly turns her iron to account in getting up lace really beautifully.

I think I have now mentioned most of the laundry articles that are likely to be used in private houses, and some that are perhaps better suited for large laundries, schools and business establishments of various kinds. But then, wherever washing is going on, whether on a large or small scale, girls are sure to be engaged in it, so it is well to know what articles can be obtained to improve the work done and to lighten the labour of those who perform it.

Glancing backward at the various materials enumerated and modern inventions in the way of machinery, we are led to wonder how people managed to purify their clothing in times when even soap was unknown. No doubt, in primitive days, the women used to take their linen to the nearest running stream and there cleanse it by rubbing, stamping, and rinsing in the running water.

To this day the Hindoos carry their garments and wash them, without soap, in their sacred river, the Ganges, but when the practice was a common one the streams ran unpoluted between grassy banks. Neither garments nor the wearers were exposed to the dirt and smoke-clouds of the immense factories which produce so many articles of luxury and comfort, but, alas! foul sadly the fair face of nature, make our streams like rivers of mud, and, unfortunately, fit to wash all the white out of our linen.

Paris laundresses first soap and soak the articles, but complete the cleansing in bathtubs on the side of the vessel. At the bottom edge of the vessel, they beat it with a wooden utensil, rinsing, rubbing, and beating in turns, until it is clean. It does not appear that the fabric is injured by this process, or by a some-

what similar one which prevailed in country districts in Scotland.

Scotch lassies prepared their garments as above, and then beat them on a flat stone with a wooden stick frequently in the brook, and, with bare feet, treading them alternately in a tub of water.

Another mode of preparing white cotton or linen articles was by means of steam, and this has been most practised in France. The clothes were first soaked in a lye of potash, and then hung in a steam-tight vessel, communicating, by means of a pipe, with a boiler. The steam heats the dirt in half an hour, and little subsequent labour is needed. This mode may be carried out on a small scale with a copper kettle and a strong cask.

If any girl-reader thinks washing is a contemptible and menial employment, let her keep over my shoulder one of the most charming word-pictures imaginable. It is from grand old Homer's pen and Pope's translation, "Odyssey," Book VI. Read how the latter is adorned with a dream to fair Nausicaa, daughter of King Alcinous. The goddess bids the princess take all the state robes and wash them in the river, in preparation for her father's return.

The blushing princess goes to her father to ask for the loan of his royal car, in which to convey the robes to the river.

"Say, with my garments shall I bend my way Where through the vales the many waters stray? A dignity of dress adorns the great, And kings draw lustre from the robe of state. Five sons thou hast; three wait the bridal day, And spotless robes become the young and gay."

The request is granted. And then we see the collecting of the garments, the packing of viands under the queen's direction, the preparing of the golden cruse for the bather to—

Sleek the smooth skin and scent the snowy Embra."

The mules are harnessed; they start—

"Swift fly the mules, nor rode the nymph above the mares." Around a bevy of bright damsels shone; They seek the cisterns where Pheacian dames Wash their fair garments in the limpid streams."

Then emulate the royal robes they have, And plunge the vestures in the cleansing wave. (The vestures cleansed, o'erspread the shelly sand; Their snowy lustre whiten all the strand.)

There is a picture of a royal washing day. Read the rest for yourselves, and you will wish you had been there to join in that delightful drive, and the fun that followed after the work was done.

Old Homer, however, says nothing about soap. The first writer by whom it is named is Pliny, who wrote in the last century before Christ. He tells us that it was of two kinds—"hard and soft, and made of goat's tallow and the ashes of the beech tree. The latter is brought into Rome in Pliny's time for washing clothes with, but—for what, think you, dear girls? For dyes the hair red, the favourite colour in those ancient days."

But perhaps some young Bible student will ask, "What about that text in the third chapter of Malachi, written nearly four hundred years before Christ, in which it is foretold of Him that "He is like a refiner and purifier of silver, &c.?"

The word translated as "sopher," many centuries after Malachi wrote, and when that substance had become common in all civilized lands, simply meant anything that cleans—a detergent. Probably it referred to some kind of earth used by the fuller in the exercise of his business.

The labour of washing with nothing but water caused researches to be made, and various substances were employed as cleansing agents. The juices of what are called superfluous plants, soap-wort, &c.; the gall of animals, still used for carpet cleaning and lining the colours of stuffs; a ley or infusion of the ashes of burnt wood; infusions of meal or bran, carefully strained; and various kinds of earth, notably what we call "fullers' earth," from the purpose to which it was applied, were amongst the number.

Plym tells us that in Rome cloth was first washed with Sardinian earth, then exposed to the fumes of sulphur, and lately rinsed with a solution of another kind of earth.

Partially-cooked potatoes have been found an economical substitute for soap. In India rice-water is commonly employed for cotton and muslin articles.

Until the reign of Henry VIII. all the soap used in this country was imported, and London made none for itself until 1524. At that date the Bristol grey mortar was a penny a pound and black soap a halfpenny.

As a final piece of advice with regard to economy in the use of it: never waste your soap by leaving it in the water, and do not throw away your ashes, if you have a garden.

They are a most valuable manure, and your flowers, fruit trees, and your little grass-plot, will be greatly improved by watering with soapsuds.

Starch, invented in Queen Mary's reign, came rapidly into fashion, as all the portraits of Elizabeth's day abundantly prove; but it declined in James the I. 's time, because a Mrs. Tumer, the inventor of a famous yellow starch, wore a nine stiftened with it at the time of her execution for complicity in the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury. The secret of preparing this died with her; but it was subsequently found that a flour obtained by the grinding of rye, mixed with water, &c., had a tendency to give a yellow tint to linens. Hence the introduction of blue, a kind of salt brought into England in humps, or as a fine powder.

Starch may be made from wheat, rice, and potatoes, the latter kind being, I believe, inferior in quality to the others.

There is a great deal said in the Bible about the washing of persons and clothes, especially under the law, as a means of purification from ceremonial defilement. And it is in that same blessed book that we learn the need of yet another kind of washing, even the purifying of the soul in that fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness.

May we be led to desire that spiritual cleansing, to use that phrase, "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."