

fancy to a pink thing with a crowd of roses all growing and a-blowing which your wife would disdain to put on.

There is another thing about presents. Don't judge your wife's tastes by your own, or you may give her something which she won't like at all.

A box of chocolates is about as safe as anything, and if in doubt jujubes might be tried. A new pair of gloves will generally prove acceptable. If you tell the shopman they are for a lady he will give you the latest thing. If she doesn't like them you can say, tranquilly, "Well, my dear girl, it isn't my fault. I left it to the man in the shop." If you get the wrong size—as you probably will—it does not matter; she can change them next day. Only if you can't remember what number her gloves are, buy five and a half. And say innocently, "Not big enough?" They look twice the size of those dear little hands."

If she reads much you cannot bring her a better present than a new book. Not the latest novel, but some little classic which is well worth reading for the hundredth time and which seems to have derived new life from its fresh binding.

A bunch of flowers for the table, or a spray of violets to wear will please her. She misses the buttonholes you gave her when you were courting, and she is too honourable to buy them for herself out of the housekeeping money. I don't mean you should ruin yourself at an expensive florist's. A couple of rosebuds or a homely bunch of pansies will give her more delight than costly bathouse blooms. It's the thought that counts. A man I know brings his wife a button-hole every Saturday night for Sunday. Once when he was where he couldn't buy any for love or money he gathered her a bunch of wild ones and she wore them as proudly as if they had been orchids. The cost of the gift is less than nothing; the love which prompts it is all that matters.

Most women would sooner their husbands brought them home a silver bangle when they had been away than tossed a five pound note across the table with a curt "Get yourself anything you want."

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HOW TO TRAIN SERVANTS.

HOUSEMAID OR PARLOURMAID.

(By White Heather.)

As the care of all plate, glass and table linen falls to the share of the parlourmaid, the pantry should contain all that is requisite for her use.

To keep the silver entrusted to her in excellent condition, it is necessary for her to wash it after each meal in very hot water, into which has been placed a small quantity of common soda.

She should soap a good sized piece of flannel and proceed to wash each article separately, and to wipe them with a dry cloth while they are still hot; and before placing each in the plate basket, she is to rub them with a clamatois leather.

Washed in this manner, and cleaned with plate-powder once a week, all silver will keep in perfect order.

The glass should be washed in warm, soapy water, then wiped dry, and afterwards polished with a selyct kept for the purpose.

The parlourmaid should take great pride in the laying of the table, and never be slovenly in any detail, however small.

The tablecloth should be spotless and without wrinkles, and the glass and silver polished to their utmost brilliancy.

In waiting at table she must pay great attention to the wants of each individual.

Nothing is so bad as to be repeatedly asking the servant for what one wants.

Half the success of a dinner is due to good waiting.

The parlourmaid should study neatness, and be quiet in fulfilling her duties.

Her afternoon dress must be black, and devoid of trimmings; it should just reach to the ground. Her aprons are best large, not made of lawn, and not too elaborate, for, if they are so, they are soon damaged at the laundry, and then look shabby.

Plain white caps, with double gophered frills, and turn down cuffs and collars, complete her outfit.

It is very necessary that the parlourmaid should clearly and properly give the names when announcing visitors, so as to avoid awkward mistakes.

In most households the table linen is kept in repair by the parlourmaid. This will require great attention.

Everything must be carefully inspected on its return from the laundry, and anything damaged, however slightly, should be laid on one side to be mended.

When cleaning any grates, gloves must always be worn by the servant, as, unless this is done, the paint of the doors will suffer at her hands.

The drawing room carpet should be brushed with a small brush and the dust swept into a pan; this is better than if a long, stiff broom be used.

An abundance of clean cloths will be required in the preparation of a room, because each ornament must be carefully removed and dusted.

Feather brushes are the best for pictures.

It is well to cover up as much as possible of the furniture with clean dust sheets.

If the parlourmaid has the care of the flowers, she should aim at lightness, remembering that a few fresh flowers artistically arranged are far more pleasing than a quantity massed together.

Tiny ferns sold in small pots at twopence each, if placed in white china pots, produce a very fresh and pleasant effect.

Among the requirements of a parlourmaid are that she should be able to cut thin bread and butter, and dairy sandwiches—the necessary adjuncts to the five o'clock teas.

For this purpose the knife should be very sharp, and if the bread is new, she should, before commencing cutting, place the blade for a few seconds in boiling water, when the bread can be evenly sliced.

To take out stains in decanters it is a good plan to place in the bottom of each a quantity of tea leaves and to fill up with soap suds, leaving in them the mixture for a few hours, when the stains can easily be removed.

Port wine stains on table linen can be taken out by at once pouring on them a little sherry; and salt applied immediately is good for stains from all kinds of wine.

Stains of fruit may also be removed by rubbing the part on each side with yellow soap.

Then lay on a mixture of starch in cold water very thick, rub it well in and expose the linen to the sun and air till the stain comes out.

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WHEN PATTI SINGS.

The following lines were written (in French) by Adelina Patti in response to a request that she would describe, briefly, her feelings while singing:

"I have never been able to take proper account of my feelings during those few moments. I know that on the day of the performance I am nervous and agitated, and as the time draws nearer and nearer, I suffer more and more from stage fright.

"When the moment arrives for me to leave my room and go before the footlights, my whole being is dominated by a sensation of abject terror. My feelings while I am actually singing defy analysis; they differ according to the role: the number of artists around me, etc.—they are so varied that I simply cannot describe them. I should be obliged to enter into all the many details which, petty as they may be, at times impress us very strongly. When all goes well, I experience a something which carries me away and I forget where I am."

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