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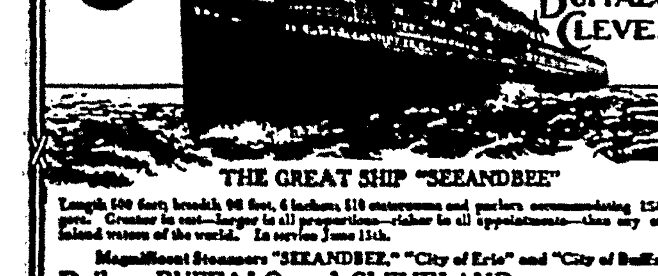


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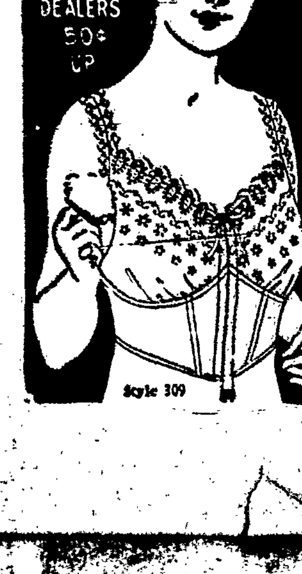


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# Amelia Clark's Secret

## How to Make Farm Life Enjoyable

By F. A. MITCHEL

Josh Hatfield's father died when Josh was fourteen, and his mother died ten years later. He had from the time of his father's death been learning how to run the farm, though his mother did most of the planning till Josh came of age. There is no better way of learning how to do things than doing them, and by the time Josh came of age he was a very good farmer. His product was milk, and he had twenty good Holstein cows. He had one assistant whom he employed regularly, and at haying time or when he put the ensilage in the silo he would temporarily hire more—that is, when he could get any one, which was not very often.

Josh's mother kept the house and the grounds about it looking tidy so long as she lived. After her death there very soon came a change in the appearance of both house and grounds. The floors were unswept, Josh's bed was seldom made and papers were scattered about. The chickens overran the flowers planted in beds on either side of the front porch, and weeds filled the walks. Josh had always left these things to his mother, devoting his whole time to the cattle, raising food for them and delivering the milk. This took up all his time and attention, and when his mother left him the other matters were bound to be neglected, all except the cooking, which was absolutely essential. This Josh did as best he could.

Several dairy farmers living near Hatfield's farm, including Hatfield himself, had an agreement by which one of the number delivered the milk of all at the railway station several miles distant. This they did successively, each man doing the work for a week. One morning Farmer Clark, whose turn it was to deliver the milk for that week, said to his daughter Amelia:

"Meely, go over to Hatfield's and say that Pete has gone lame and Bess is three-quarters sick. If he'll take my turn at delivering the milk this week I'll take his turn next week."

Amelia started out on the errand. She was a strong girl about nineteen years old, as straight as an arrow and tolerably good looking. When she arrived Josh was getting his breakfast, having attended to his morning chores at the barn. Her summons at the front door not receiving any attention, she went around to the side porch and, making her way through milk cans that blocked the way, found the kitchen door open and Josh trying to blow out a fire of burning fat. Without a word, she went in, took the skillet out of his hand and landed it upside down in the snow outside.

"Thank ye," said Josh. "I wonder why I didn't think of that."

"Reckon men don't know much about kitchen work. Your potatoes will burn in a minute."

Taking up a knife, she ran it through the potatoes, which sizzled merrily and began to turn a beautiful brown. Then she saved some toast from blackening as the potatoes had threatened to do, and turned her attention to the coffee, which was boiling over.

"You sit down, Mr. Hatfield," she said, "and I'll put the breakfast on the table for you. You might as well have a little comfort in my being here. Father sent me to say that there's something the matter with the horses and to ask you if you won't take his turn delivering the milk this week, he to take your turn next week."

"Sure! I wouldn't mind that a bit."

Amelia set the breakfast on the table and Josh sat down for the meal. She took a chair opposite him and began to pour his coffee.

"Do you take sugar and milk, Mr. Hatfield?"

"Both."

"Two lumps?"

"That's about right."

The sun shone in at the dining room window, and there was a marked cheerfulness there. But it could not have been for the sun alone, for it lighted the breakfast table most mornings. It seemed that an especial comfort had come in with Amelia. Somehow the coffeepot looked brighter, the toast was certainly better—not dried as usual, but soft—and Jack wondered how Amelia had contrived to keep it hot. Then, too, the coffee tasted a great deal better than usual. In short, although he couldn't remember that Amelia had done anything except saving the breakfast from burning it tasted very much better than ever before.

"It must be kind of hard for you to do your own cooking," she remarked.

"I don't like it at all. Nothing I do seems to come out right. I'm always breaking the dishes and don't know how to mend them. If a tooth breaks in my plow I know how to put in another, but if my coffeepot leaks I'm lost."

"Why don't you hire somebody to come in and do your housework for you?"

"I don't know any one that would like the job. All the women about here seem to have enough to do in their own homes without coming here to do my work."

"I never thought o' that," replied Amelia. "I suppose they can't do two things at once."

"I've sometimes thought that in a family where there are several of 'em one might be spared. I'd be willing to pay good wages."

"Do you mean elderly women or young ones?"

"I was referring to families where there was a mother and several daughters. They wouldn't need all the girls."

"It wouldn't be right for a girl to come in and do the housework for a young man. People would talk."

"I suppose they would. Reckon there's no way for me except to get married, and I don't know any girl who would have me."

"Shall I pour you another cup of coffee, Mr. Hatfield?"

"Half a cupful, please. One lump. That's right. Thank you."

"Mother always said," he continued, after a pause, "that if she died before me I'd have to get a wife to come in and do the cooking and housework. And so I would if I knew any girl who would fill the bill of wife and housekeeper. But I don't. Besides, the girls are all going to college nowadays, and when they come back they don't aspire to the kitchen. They'd rather address a meeting or something like that. I don't blame 'em. Farm work's pretty hard."

"Most work is hard, I reckon. I notice country people are crazy to get to the cities, but maybe city life is pretty hard too. I know several girls who have left home for city life and they're all having a mighty hard time of it. Seems to me that though we country people have to get up early mornings we have lots of advantages. We breathe the fresh air of the country and are not tied up to offices and stores and factories, with a master over us, like children in school. We work longer hours in some cases, but we're not cogwheels in a machine. As for me, give me the free life of the country."

When Josh finished his breakfast he thanked Amelia for what she had done for him.

"If you're going to take the milk this morning you'd better go right off," she said. "I'll remove the breakfast dishes."

"You needn't do that. But you're right about my getting off. Much obliged. So long."

When Josh returned from his morning work at noon he was astonished to see everything spick and span. The breakfast dishes were washed, kitchen utensils had been polished and the house had been swept. Josh set about getting his dinner.

"With all this done for me," he said to himself, "I should feel inspired to go at this job of getting dinner with a light heart. But I don't. I don't feel any more competent to get my dinner than I did to get my breakfast."

He stumbled about the kitchen as usual, at last putting on the table some poorly cooked meat and vegetables, the only successful dish in the lot being boiled potatoes. But it was not only the meal that troubled him; he missed the cheery girl who had sat opposite him at breakfast, she who had no aspirations to work in a store, an office or a schoolroom, but was content with the duties of a country girl. Why did the coffee he poured himself taste so inferior to that poured by Amelia Clark? What was the difference in the room at dinner from that of breakfast time? Josh knew very well what it was: the absence of that which had filled the natural desire of the heart, companionship.

That night Josh sat down to a cold supper and made a resolution that it should be the last meal he would take alone. After supper—it occupied seven minutes by the clock—he threw the dishes, unwashed, into the pantry and soon after set out for Farmer Clark's. He found Clark in the barn and asked him how his horses were getting on, mentioning that he would carry the milk till they got well. Then he asked if he would find the family at the house and, being assured that he would, repaired thither.

Whether Mrs. Clark suspected something or not, she soon withdrew, taking with her the children. Then Josh, without any beating about the bush, began a proposal to Amelia. It was very practical, being entirely devoid of that sentiment which is expected in all engagements.

"Amelia," he said, "I came here to say that since you got that breakfast for me this morning no meal that you don't cook will ever taste good to me again."

"Why, Mr. Hatfield, how flattering!"

"And I've resolved that I'll eat no more meals at home unless you cook 'em."

"Are you going to starve?"

"No; I'm going to eat somewhere else till I can get you to do my housework for me."

"I couldn't do that; it wouldn't be proper."

"Not if we were married?"

As a wave rolling in from the ocean gathers and breaks so had the practical reached its climax and came tumbling in a foam of sentiment. They were sitting side by side and in a twinkling were clasped in each other's arms.

The surest way to get some things is to be content without them. Josh and Amelia enjoyed their work, being interested in it and the freedom it gave them; consequently they accumulated and are now enabled to give their children what the world calls advantages. Their oldest son attends an agricultural college, and their oldest daughter, who has artistic tastes, is studying music. Their children's work will be easier than that of their parents, but it will not be as sweet unless seasoned with contentment.

Form 380. **ONE**

Explanation—Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old matter to be omitted.

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Albany, July 20, 1914.

Pursuant to the provisions of section one of article fourteen of the Constitution of the State of New York, and section two hundred and ninety-five of the Election Law, notice is hereby given that the following proposed amendment to section one of article two of the Constitution of the State of New York is referred to the Legislature to be chosen at the next general election of senators in this State to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and fourteen.

MITCHELL MAY,
*Secretary of State.*

AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE

Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly proposing an amendment to section one of article two of the constitution, in relation to qualification of voters.

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section one of article two of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Every [male] citizen of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a citizen for ninety days, and an inhabitant of this state one year next preceding an election, and for the last four months a resident of the county and for the last thirty days a resident of the election district in which he *or she* may offer his *or her* vote, shall be entitled to vote at such election in the election district of which he *or she* shall at the time be a resident, and not elsewhere, for all officers that now are or hereafter may be elective by the people, and upon all questions which may be submitted to the vote of the people, *provided that a citizen by marriage shall have been an inhabitant of the United States for five years*; and provided that in time of war no elector in the actual military service of the state, or of the United States, in the army or navy thereof shall be deprived of his *or her* vote by reason of his *or her* absence from such election district; and the legislature shall have power to provide the manner in which and the time and place at which such absent electors may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election districts in which they respectively reside.

§ 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the legislature to be chosen at the next general election of senators, and in conformity with section one, article fourteen, of the constitution be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

State of New York,
In Senate, Jan. 28, 1913.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed, a majority of all the Senators elected voting in favor thereof.

By order of the Senate,
MARTIN H. GLYNN,
*President.*

State of New York,
In Assembly, Jan. 27, 1913.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed, a majority of all the members elected to the Assembly voting in favor thereof.

By order of the Assembly,
ALFRED E. SMITH,
*Speaker.*

STATE OF NEW YORK,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ss.:

I have compared the preceding copy of concurrent resolution with the original concurrent resolution on file in this office, and I do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole thereof.

[L. S.] Given under my hand and the seal of office of the Secretary of State at the city of Albany, this twentieth day of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

MITCHELL MAY,
*Secretary of State.*

Form 381. **TWO**

Explanation—Matter in italics is new.

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Albany, July 20, 1914.

Pursuant to the provisions of section one of article fourteen of the Constitution of the State of New York and section two hundred and ninety-five of the Election Law, notice is hereby given that the following proposed amendment to section four of article seven of the Constitution of the State of New York is referred to the Legislature to be chosen at the next general election of senators in this State to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and fourteen.

MITCHELL MAY,
*Secretary of State.*

AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO

Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly proposing an amendment to section four of article seven of the constitution, permitting the legislature to alter the rate of interest upon debts authorized pursuant to said section.

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section four of article seven of the constitution be amended so as to read as follows:

§ 4. Except the debts specified in sections two and three of this article, no debts shall be hereafter contracted by or in behalf of this state, unless such debt shall be authorized by law, for some single work or object, to be distinctly specified therein, and such law shall impose and provide for the collection of a direct annual tax to pay, and sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to pay and discharge the principal of such debt within fifty years from the time of the contracting thereof. No such law shall take effect until it shall, at a general election, have been submitted to the people, and have received a majority of all the votes cast for and against it at such election. On the final passage of such bill in either house of the legislature, the question shall be taken by ayes and noes, to be duly entered on the journals thereof, and shall be: "Shall this bill pass, and ought the same to receive the sanction of the people?" The legislature may at any time after the approval of such law by the people, if no debt shall have been contracted in pursuance thereof, repeal the same; and may at any time, by law, forbid the contracting of any further debt or liability under such law; but the tax imposed by such act, in proportion to the debt and liability which may have been contracted in pursuance of such law, shall remain in force and be irrepealable, and be annually collected, until the proceeds thereof shall have made the provision hereinbefore specified to pay and discharge the interest and principal of such debt and liability. The money arising from any loan or stock creating such debt or liability shall be applied to the work or object specified in the act authorizing such debt or liability, or for the payment of such debt or liability, and for no other purpose whatever. No such law shall be submitted to be voted on within three months after its passage or at any general election when any other law or any bill shall be submitted to be voted for or against. The legislature may provide for the issue of bonds of the state to run for a period not exceeding fifty years in lieu of bonds heretofore authorized but not issued and shall impose and provide for the collection of a direct annual tax for the payment of the same as hereinbefore required. When any sinking fund created under this section shall equal in amount the debt for which it was created no further direct tax shall be levied on account of said sinking fund, and the legislature shall reduce the tax to an amount equal to the accruing interest on such debt. The legislature may from time to time alter the rate of interest to be paid upon any state debt which has been or may be authorized pursuant to the provisions of this section or upon any part of such debt, provided however that the rate of interest shall not be altered upon any part of such debt or upon any bond or other evidence thereof which has been or shall be created or issued before such alteration. In case the legislature increases the rate of interest upon any such debt, or part thereof, it shall impose and provide for the collection of a direct annual tax to pay and sufficient to pay the increased or altered interest on such debt as it falls due and also to pay and discharge the principal of such debt within fifty years from the time of the contracting thereof, and shall appropriate annually to the sinking fund moneys in amount sufficient to pay such interest and pay and discharge the principal of such debt when it shall become due and payable.

*In case any annual tax heretofore imposed for the payment of a debt authorized by vote of the people under the constitution will, if continued, provide for the payment of the interest on such debt as it falls due and also the payment of the principal of such debt before it becomes due, the legislature may amend the law by reducing the rate of such tax provided that the same shall not be reduced below a sum sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due and also the principal of such debt when it becomes due.*

*The supreme court shall have jurisdiction to direct the comptroller or any officer of the state to impose a tax sufficient to comply with the provisions of this section for the protection of any sinking fund of the state.*

§ 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the legislature, to be chosen at the next general election of senators, and in conformity to section one, article fourteen of the constitution be published for three months previous to the time of making such choice.

State of New York,
In Senate, March 26, 1914.

This resolution was duly passed, a majority of all the Senators elected voting in favor thereof, three-fifths being present.

By order of the Senate,
ROBERT F. WAGNER,
*President.*

State of New York,
In Assembly, March 11, 1914.

This resolution was duly passed, a majority of all the members elected to the Assembly voting in favor thereof, three-fifths being present.

By order of the Assembly,
THADDEUS C. SWEET,
*Speaker.*

STATE OF NEW YORK,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ss.:

I have compared the preceding copy of concurrent resolution with the original concurrent resolution on file in this office, and I do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole thereof.

[L. S.] Given under my hand and the seal of office of the Secretary of State at the city of Albany, this twentieth day of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

MITCHELL MAY,
*Secretary of State.*

Form 382. **THREE**

Explanation—Matter in italics is new.

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Albany, July 20, 1914.

Pursuant to the provisions of section one of article fourteen of the Constitution of the State of New York, and section two hundred and ninety-five of the Election Law, notice is hereby given that the following proposed amendment to article seven of the Constitution of the State of New York is referred to the Legislature to be chosen at the next general election of senators in this State to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and fourteen.

MITCHELL MAY,
*Secretary of State.*

AMENDMENT NUMBER THREE

Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly proposing an amendment to article seven of the constitution, in relation to the forest preserve.

Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That article seven of the constitution be amended by inserting a new section to be section seven-a, to read as follows:

§ 7-a. *The prohibition of section seven shall not prevent the cutting or removal of mature, dead or fallen timber or trees detrimental to forest growth, on lands constituting the forest preserve, nor the leasing of camp sites and the construction of roads and trails necessary for protection against fire, and for ingress and egress. The legislature may authorize the sale of lands outside the limits of the Adirondack park and the Catskill park as such parks are now established by law. The proceeds of such sales of lands shall be set apart in a separate fund and used only for the purchase of lands or for reforestation in such parks.*

§ 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the legislature to be chosen at the next general election of senators, and in conformity with section one of article fourteen of the constitution, be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

State of New York,
In Assembly, April 30, 1913.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed, a majority of all the members elected to the Assembly voting in favor thereof, three-fifths being present.

By order of the Assembly,
ALFRED E. SMITH,
*Speaker.*

State of New York,
In Senate, May 2, 1913.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed, a majority of all the Senators elected voting in favor thereof, three-fifths being present.

By order of the Senate,
MARTIN H. GLYNN,
*President.*

STATE OF NEW YORK,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ss.:

I have compared the preceding copy of concurrent resolution with the original concurrent resolution on file in this office, and I do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole thereof.

[L. S.] Given under my hand and the seal of office of the Secretary of State at the city of Albany, this twentieth day of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

MITCHELL MAY,
*Secretary of State.*

Man is more apt to get into trouble when his mouth is open than when his eyes are distended.

Even a worm will turn, and, if it takes a sharp turn, of course it becomes an angleworm.

Militant attacks on famous paintings may be attributed to an innate antipathy to any old master.

Don't worry over things that can't be helped. It is a loss of time that might be much better expended.

More than 34,000 young women are studying professional nursing. This ought to be a great help to matrimony.

It is the misfortune of Washington, Lincoln and other early statesmen that they lived before the moving picture era.

Bermuda has strong claims on the United States. It shipped here last year nearly 100,000 pounds of onion seeds.

It is a question which causes a mother the more worry—a boy so sick that he is good or so thoroughly well that he is bad.

Hope it's true, as reported, that radium will cure blindness. Price of it is enough to make persons open their eyes.

Almost any man is proud of his love letters until he sees them printed in the newspapers. Then they do not seem the same.

An ounce of contentment may be better than a ton of gold, but most people who have the contentment would gladly exchange it for the gold.

Collisions in the air are as deadly, it appears, as those on the ocean. Eventually it may become necessary to double track both sea and sky.

Don't forget if trouble comes that you are being given an opportunity to show other people how one should behave when things go wrong.

The English militants are talking of a kissing strike, and cool headed men are inspecting their ranks to determine whether it is a threat or a promise.

If it is ever made possible to photograph thoughts, as a scientist claims will be done, most of the photographs will probably be barred from the mails.

Germany has made a count of her cats and finds 500,000. That's only two and one-half cats to the square mile. Still, a good deal depends on the cats.

A handsome cup was presented to Sir Thomas Lipton at a banquet. Cup chasing may be right in Sir Thomas' line so long as it remains an indoor sport.

According to somebody's high figuring more than 14,000,000 women may be able to vote for president in 1916, and thus cause the high cost of living continue to soar.

A man who wishes to benefit his kind these days may have no opportunity to be a hero in war, a rescuer in peace or spend millions in charity, but he can always swat the flies.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz are the only two European countries which have no representative legislative bodies. But no one wishes to live in Mecklenburg, anyway.

According to a medical scientist, modern skill and knowledge of nature's laws have added fifteen years to man's life. Sordid young women who marry rich octogenarians should bear this in mind.