

She tells how, directly after the husband's death, the widow's hair is cut off and her ornaments taken away; how she must thenceforth wear the coarsest clothes and eat the most unsavory food. Her presence is shunned, and she becomes the leper of society, doomed to pass her life in seclusion. She goes on to give a striking illustration of the venerable head of a Hindoo family sending out his creatures to hunt down a girl of ten to bless his remaining years, and then turning to his widowed granddaughter of fifteen and telling that her widowhood is a punishment for the loss of her husband, which can only be expiated by a life of austerity, devotion and purity.

The Queen Regent of Spain, despite prophecies to the contrary, still maintains her authority, and has done many wise and kindly acts which ought to keep her in power until her son is of age, or the Spanish people desire to establish a republic. A rebellion against her authority broke out in Madrid, but it was suppressed and its leaders condemned to death; she, however, pardoned them. This was followed by a decree, freeing the slaves in Cuba from their remaining years of servitude. This class comprises those negroes born in slavery before 1870 and not yet sixty years of age. Practically, slavery is extinct in the island of Cuba. There is some apprehension that both of those benevolent acts will get her into trouble. Her ministry resigned because of her clemency to rebels, and the planters of Cuba are anything but pleased at her interference with the slavery on that island. It will be remembered that for some years past all the children of Cuba, born of slave parents, have been freed.

This is the fiftieth year of Queen Victoria's reign, a fact which will be commemorated in a suitable manner by the people of the British Isles. To signalize the event, the Prince of Wales has proposed that an institute should be established to keep on permanent exhibition the arts and manufactures of the queen's colonial and Indian empires. Money is being raised to erect buildings in London to thus commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of a not inglorious reign. Say what men will, the fact remains that women have made better sovereigns than men. Comparing the rulers of all nations, there have been far more wise women monarchs, relatively, than of the other sex. But, curiously enough, the influence of women, when indirect, has usually been pernicious. The female favorites of kings have generally brought disgrace

upon the monarch whose councils they influenced. Victoria has already reigned longer than any other female sovereign in history.

A very convenient and ornamental music rack or paper holder may be fashioned from an ordinary saw-buck. The wood is first made perfectly smooth with sand-paper, and then ebonized or gilded. The ebonizing material comes in liquid form, and is put on with a brush and then rubbed smooth with a piece of coarse flannel. Two coats treated in this manner will give it a beautiful finish. A piece of pasteboard is folded together and cut to fit in the top, and this is covered on one side with satin, and on the other with plush. The edges of each end are turned in and overhanded together, and a plush cord sewed on the edge. Tack it in place. Broad satin ribbon is tied in a bow on each side where the pieces cross. Small castors are fastened on the legs, so it can be moved about the room easily.

The maurandya makes a beautiful hanging basket plant, but, to obtain the best results, put only one plant in a pot and give it plenty of root room. Then, with part of the branches twining around the wires which suspend the pot, and part of them hanging beneath it, you will have a lovely plant. The leaves become quite small in winter, and there are no blossoms at that season. We meet with success in the culture of plants in proportion to our knowledge of the requirements of each one, and they seem to possess as many idiosyncrasies as human beings. *Pilogyne* is another beautiful climbing plant, with leaves shaped like grape vine leaves, and small, fragrant flowers. It is a quick grower and easily raised.

A very pretty case for silverware may be made of a piece of ticking, thirty inches wide and the length of your cupboard, the length to be taken lengthwise of the goods. Turn up one-third for the pockets and stitch to the back, making the pockets the width desired, with a depth of ten inches. Bind with braid and work the stripes with a fancy stitch to suit the taste. Tack the case between two of the shelves, to the back of the cupboard. For occasional silver, make the case ten inches wider for a flap at the top. The pockets should be only large enough for one spoon, knife or fork.

Who has not noticed that that the world looks as different, when we are in different moods, as when we look through variously colored glasses?