

From Rags to Silk Attire

By Augustus Goodrich Sherwin

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Rags—a room full of them, a warehouse given to shreds, patches, fragments, to strips of rotted woolen lengths, thin and faded cotton tatters. Rags once white, now spotted and soiled. Discarded silks from my lady's dressing room, homespun weaves that bore the mark of rain and grime, and wear and tear.

And amid the biggest heap of the fragments to be sorted plodded and sang as pure and bright a spirit as cloister or palace might contain. They called her Floribel. Where she came from, who her father and mother, no one seemed to know except old Jacobs, the owner of the rag shop.

Once his wife had given it out that they had reared her from a child, had taken her from an orphan asylum. They were coarse, common people at the rag shop, but even in that atmosphere of dreary Floribel grew like a beautiful lily.

She would sing when alone like a lark, but never when Madame Jacobs was about. Floribel was in deep dread of the lynxlike, tigerish-eyed old woman. Not that the madam ever mistreated her, except to keep her at work twelve hours a day, but because she shrank from the inharmonious nature of the woman. Madame gripped at the heaps of rags in a way that seemed to tell that so forcefully would she tear at human hearts, if she could find gold among them!

Once Floribel had found a diamond ring in an old glove. When she gave it to the madam, the selfish, avaricious glee of her task mistress fairly appalled her. She gloated over it, she kissed it, she hastened to convert it into money.

After that, the probing eager eyes of the old woman terrified Floribel. Ever on the lookout for treasure, for money or trinkets, the rag woman resembled some famished ferret on the scent of blood.

Then one day "The Hero" came into the lonely life of the beautiful isolated girl. A young man entered the place and asked for its proprietor. Old Jacobs was absent on a rag buying trip. The madame was also absent, but would return soon. In awe of the rich tasteful attire of the unfamiliar caller, fascinated with his handsome face, the courtesy of the true gentleman that he bestowed



She Gloated Over It.

upon her, as in a dream Floribel dusted off the one rickety chair in the place and resumed her work.

He sat looking at her with more than common interest. Her pure, innocent face deeply attracted him. He influenced the shy eyes to seek his own, he led her to talk with him. Soon he had her simple story.

"It is no place for you, this," he said, and he took a card from his pocket and wrote upon it. "I am giving you the address of my sister," he explained. "She is a widow, young, lonely. I am sure she would find you a brighter home than this wretched place."

Then Madam Jacobs came in. The young man stated his business. He was Ario Willis, his sister was Mrs. Ivan Neal. The latter had removed from a former home. A great part of its old furniture, the varied contents of a lumber room, had been sold. Among some papers, old papers that had been thrown out from the old furniture, was a certain document the caller wished to recover.

The second-hand dealer who had brought the stuff had informed him that all the old carpets, rags and paper had been sold to Jacobs. Could madame recall the transaction, Mr. Willis inquired quite anxiously.

"Scarcely," she told him, but the watchful Floribel noted a quick eager gleam in her basilisk eyes. "I will search, though," she promised, "and let you know. The document, sir—"

"Is a number of folded blue sheets, tied with a faded white ribbon. It is marked 'W!'"

"I will report to you," pledged madame, and took his card, and he

left the gruesome place, but not until he had bestowed a kindly parting glance at Floribel.

Then she dreamed. All life seemed radiant. It was as if some royal prince had entered a squalid Cinderella hut, leaving behind him a rare memory of bewildering sensations. Poor child! love budded in her tender heart, in her very humility she worshiped at its shrine.

Floribel treasured the card. She memorized the names upon it. Could the vision indicated by her courteous visitor ever come true? To have such friends, to be cared for amid cleanliness and comfort—she thought not of opulence or luxury—just to be near such sweet natures, to toil for them, to love them—this, simply, was the aspiration of her childlike, loyal nature!

All that afternoon the madame poked and ferreted about the place. When her husband came home she held a spirited low-toned conversation with him. Then both of them proceeded to ransack pile after pile of hitherto unsorted wreckage.

A quick token of interest came into the mind of Floribel, as she saw them hastening to the wretched room dignified as the office of the old toppling warehouse. The names "Willis", "Neal" floated to her hearing, cautiously spoken. She gained a court where she could overhear what was said.

"It's the paper," she heard the madame say, "and it is worth a fortune."

"How do you know?" spoke the rapping tones of old Jacobs.

"I have read it. A family secret, man—an old scandal that these rich people would surely give a fortune to suppress. Ah, we are rich, rich, rich at last!"

Guileless as to the ways of the world as Floribel was, she realized from what followed that her avaricious guardians were bent on a vast blackmailing scheme. Her mind woke up to the immensity of the occasion.

To celebrate their discovering a fortune, the old man and woman sent out for liquor. It was long after dark when they sank into a sodden sleep. Floribel approached the recumbent madame.

She had noticed where she had secreted the blue colored document with a white ribbon encircling it, just as Mr. Willis had described. Her eyes grew brilliant as two stars as she secured the precious paper. She thrust it into her bosom.

Over and over again she repeated the name and address that Ario Willis had written on the card.

Floribel rarely went out of the wretched building where she had toiled so hard. It was a bitter cold night, and her ragged shoes and thin covering poorly kept at bay the fierce biting frost. Twice as she hurried along she felt as if she would sink to the ground, benumbed and overcome. Bravely, however, she fought her way against the wintry blast. She located the address given on the card, a great ornate mansion on a fashionable thoroughfare. Floribel had just sufficient strength to totter up the steps and ring the doorbell, when her senses reeled and she sank to the cold marble step, unconscious.

There she had been found by Mrs. Neal. Floribel awoke to find herself in a luxurious bed, a beautiful lady hovering over her. What loving grateful arms inclosed her, as she told her story—so simple in its naive recital, but meaning so much to the proud Willis family!

And it was in silken attire, a transformed Floribel, that Ario Willis saw the lovely ward of his sister the next day.

Like one transported to a perfect paradise, the sweet little waif entered upon her new life.

Her bright ways, her gratitude, her beauty and then her fervent love appealed to the great nature of Ario Willis.

The Jacobs people never saw her again, but society did. In all her brilliant loveliness, loyal, unspoiled, radiantly happy, the humble child of the lonely rag warehouse became the reigning bride of the season.

What to Eat.

Overeating is the primary sin of civilized man. I fed one thousand men a day (the unemployed) in New York recently, on one meal a day, and they all stated they were never better nourished than on three meals of soup, white bread and coffee. These meals cost one cent each.

The following articles contain everything the human body needs: Eggs, milk, cereals, fats, fruits, fresh vegetables.

From these articles a person could live indefinitely in any climate and while undergoing any kind of physical or mental work. All that is necessary is to select, combine and proportion foods from these several classes, according to age, occupation and the time of the year.—"How to Eat and Enjoy Life," Eugene Christian, F. S. D., in National Magazine.

Joy in Productive Labor.

There is pleasure in mere struggle, so it be not hopeless, and in overcoming resistance, obstacles and hardship. When to the pleasure of exertion is added the satisfaction of producing a new value, and the further satisfaction of earning a livelihood through that new value, we have the common pleasurable conditions of productive labor. Every workingman who is worth his salt, I care not whether he works with his hands and brains or with his brains alone, takes satisfaction, first, in the working; second, in the product of his work, and, third, in what that product yields to him.—Charles W. Elliot.

An All-Season Street Suit



Admirers of the shepherd's check in cloths for tailored suits—and these are many—were given a very great variety in models this spring to choose from. Those suits for which small checks were chosen, cut on simple, but carefully thought out lines, proved to be the most successful. A great many of them were made with short-waisted box coats. A less number had short jackets, and some of the smartest were designs in which semifitting coats figured. Skirts were nearly always plain, moderately wide and somewhat flaring. The advance of the season proved that the suits of shepherd's check received a merited appreciation. The pretty spring suit becomes the crisp midsummer suit by a variation of the shoes and hats worn with it, and is a paying investment as it will serve for street wear in both seasons.

One of them is illustrated here. The perfectly tailored skirt is plain with moderate flare and cut instep length.

The jacket is among the modest number made with normal waist line, which rises a little at the back, where plaits are depended from the belt. It is cut in points at the front, is longer than at the back and is shaped by small plaits laid in at each side. The belt terminates at these plaits.

The shoulders are somewhat long and so are the plain coat sleeves. The flaring turnover collar is cut in three pieces and unusually well adjusted. Ball buttons in three sizes are used for fastening and trimming.

The suit is worn with low shoes and black cloth gaiters, to be changed to white for midsummer wear. The sailor hat, of black taffeta, with collar and border in black and white stripe, is trimmed with small pompons of black feathers with long curving ribs extending from them. White neck ruffs of malines or combinations of white and black look well with these check suits.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

Transparent Hats and Others for Midsummer



Early in the season hats having transparent brims made their appearance. These brims were flat and mounted on braid crowns. They were made of malines, net, chiffon or thin crepe. Nearly always, embedded between layers of such airy materials, flowers, with petals spread flat, added touches of lovely color. The effect is very pretty—and gave the hats their distinguishing name—that of "halo" hats—the embedded wreaths encircling the head like a halo.

So good an item of art in millinery was destined to outlast the early season and to introduce many transparent hats for midsummer. The latter are made, crown and all, of the thin fabrics, and brims have grown wider. Flower and feather trimmings—but mostly flowers—are mounted on the outside or underbrim instead of being embedded in the material.

A beautiful hat of this character is shown in the picture. It is of black malines made over a frame of fine silk wire. The edge wire and one other are outlined on the underbrim by flitter jet. There is an immense pompon of malines at the front with two long jet ornaments thrust in it. Nothing could be prettier for midsummer wear than this exquisite piece of millinery.

Hemp and leghorn hats, with facings of crepe on the upper or under brims are among the loveliest offerings in dress hats. Light pink crepe is the favorite color and hats of this character are among the best designed for bridesmaids at June weddings. One of them is shown in the illustration. It has a crown of hemp and its upper brim covered with crepe stretched smoothly over it, leaving the hemp as a facing. It is trimmed

with a wreath of rose foliage against a background of ribbon with a narrow border in black. Little June roses are set in the wreath. The ribbon band is extended into sash ends at the back. Near the brim a little cluster of roses is tied into the sash with a bow. The coloring is pale pink with the narrow black border of the ribbon and dark, natural green of the foliage adding depth and character. The roses are shaded and deeper in tone than the body of the hat.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

Smart Costume.

One of the smartest costumes for young women, exhibited on a living model at a recent opening, was of very pale tan worsted and mohair mixture, made with short, flare skirt, revealing the new slim black leather pump, guiltless of buckle or bow, and stockings of natural silk. A little coat, buttoning high to the throat, was surmounted by a very tall choker collar of white organdie with points reaching up over the cheeks and a broad stock of black satin holding it in place. The coat had a belt and a plaited coattail at the back. This knowing spring costume was completed by a tiny black satin hat with slashed sailor brim and a floating veil of black mesh with an allover violet pattern.

Dotted Chiffon Gown.

Chiffon figured in large polka dots of contrasting color is used for some very smart looking frocks, but models of such pronounced material must be very graceful and conservative of line, and utterly without elaboration. A good example of such treatment is a frock of sand color chiffon polka dotted largely in dark blue.

SELECT HIGH VITALITY SEED

Possess Power of Germinating Rapidly and Producing Healthy and Vigorous Plants.

(By W. W. ROBBINS, Colorado Agricultural College.)
Seeds with "high vitality" possess the power of germinating quickly and of producing healthy, vigorous plants. Seeds with "low vitality" sprout slowly and produce weak and spindling plants. The chief influences affecting seed vitality are as follows:

1. Age—Vitality of seeds decrease with age.
2. Maturity—Although seeds will germinate when not fully mature, the plants produced are weaker than those from fully matured seeds.
3. Size—Large and heavy seeds have a greater germinating power and produce plants with more vigor than small seeds.
4. Percentage—Seed should come from plants whose pedigree is known to be good. Strains that are "run out" produce seeds of weak vitality.
5. Methods of Curing and Preservation—Seeds cured and stored in a very moist atmosphere lose their vitality quite rapidly. Seeds should be stored in a dry, cool place.
6. Variety—Similar storage conditions do not affect all sorts of seeds the same. Vitality is a variety character.

INSECTS KILL MANY TREES

Borers Found to Be Cause of Death of Fine Oaks in Sections of Some Eastern States.

Last year in sections of the eastern states many oak trees—some white oak, some chestnut oak, and a few black oak—died and from apparently no cause, except perhaps a season of drought. Examination of the bark disclosed the fact that borers had been at work in the trees, and these insects were doubtless the direct cause of the death of these fine trees.

The larger galleries found underneath the bark of the trees were made



Work of Borers in Oak Bark.

by the common flat-headed borer, and the smaller ones by the two-lined chestnut borer. Both kinds of larvae were present in the burrows.

SILO IS QUITE ECONOMICAL

Preserves Palatability and Succulence of Green Corn Plant for Winter Cattle Feeding.

The Indiana experiment station gives the following practical reasons why farmers who keep live stock should build a silo. Here they are:

The silo preserves the palatability and succulence of the green corn plant.

The silo increases the live stock capacity of the farm.

Silage is a good summer feed when pastures are short.

Because of the small amount of ground space required by the silo it is an economical means of storing forage.

The silo located near the feed manger is an assurance of having feed near at hand in stormy as well as fair weather.

The silo assists in reducing the cost of grains in fattening cattle and sheep.

Silage greatly increases the milk flow during the winter season and decreases the cost of production.

There are no stalks to bother in the manure when corn is put into silo.

All should understand that silage is not a complete or balanced ration. It is a succulent food and should be supplemented with some balancing dry feed.

GOOD GROUNDS FOR POULTRY

Low, Heavy Soils Make Industry Precarious—Much of Success Depends on Warm, Dry, Sandy Loam.

There are people who will tell you that any kind of ground will make good poultry ground. It will not. Chickens can live on tolerably barren ground, but poultry success is not met on ground too poor to bear vegetation.

Low, heavy soils make poultry raising precarious. The loss by disease of many kinds in certain flocks can be traced directly to the low ground upon which they feed and run. Such soil is damp and cold the greater part of the year.

The success of many a poultryman is not always so much due to his feed and care as the warm, dry sandy loam the fowls live on.

In buying ground upon which to raise poultry look well to the ground you buy. If it is not ideal poultry ground in soil, drainage and location, you can scarcely make it that except at a cost that eats up the profits fast.

Remedy for Feather-Eating.

Where feather-eating is practiced try giving the fowls some sulphur, one teaspoonful in the soft feed of every three fowls, two times a week.

TWO EXCELLENT CROPS

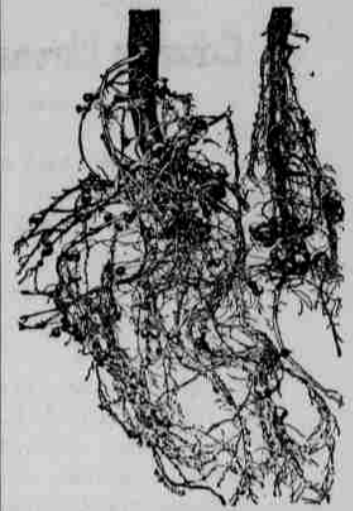
Benefit of Use of Leguminous Crops Just Appreciated.

Aggressive Campaign Waged for Past Few Years in Interest of Better Farming Has Not Been Without Its Reward.

(By T. PARKER.)

The soy bean, also known as Japan pea and soja bean, is one of the many good things that have come to us from Asia. The writer first grew it in 1872, but its real worth and value have not been appreciated by us until within the last few years.

As a forage crop, especially for hogs, it is exceptionally fine. For best



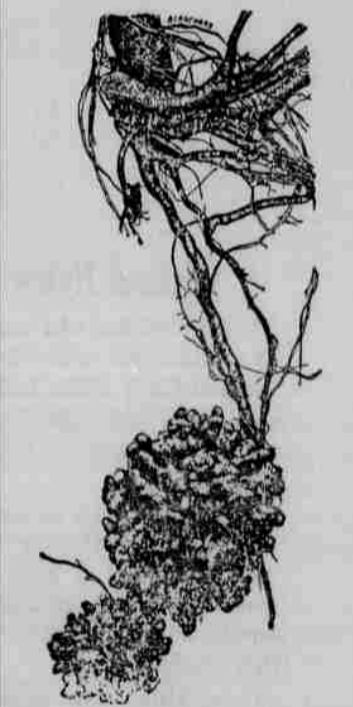
Roots of Soy Bean, Showing Nodules.

results the hogs should be turned on them about the time the bean in the pod has reached its full size, and before it begins to harden while the leaves are still green. The hogs will first eat the leaves, then the remainder of the plant until there is only the hard stalk left.

Soy beans require good preparation of the soil. Slipshod methods usually result in a failure of the crop. They may either be sown broadcast at the rate of a bushel per acre or planted in rows and cultivated. The latter plan gives best results. In purchasing seed, buy only bright, plump seed, the vitality of which is guaranteed.

Soy bean hay is of the finest and most nutritious quality. When cut at the proper stage of growth and well cured, it is relished by all kinds of stock.

The velvet bean is an important crop for the purpose of soil improvement, especially in cotton-growing territory. This plant has been grown in Florida and other southern states for a number of years. It is a rank-growing grass, the vines often growing fifteen or more feet in length under favorable conditions. The seed can



Roots of Velvet Bean, Showing Nodules.

be broadcasted or planted in rows, but best results will be obtained when planted in rows and cultivated. The rows should be four or five feet apart and the hills two to three feet apart in the rows. Plant about three beans to the hill.

ERRORS IN FEEDING PROTEIN

Plenty of Right Kind of Feed Is Required to Run Milk Machine to Its Fullest Limit.

It is a great mistake to give the cow indifferent care until her milk flow has greatly diminished, then try, by feeding her heavy, to get her back to her full flow.

The dairyman who withholds protein foods until the cows have cleaned up all roughage will soon learn the folly of his ways when he adds the figures of his milk checks.

A worse mistake than high protein feeding is made by many farmers. That mistake is not feeding enough of anything.

The man who goes into the dairy business thinking that selecting good cows and compounding balanced rations is all he needs to understand is sure to wake up a sadder and wiser man.

It requires plenty of feed to run the cow machine to its full limits. This limit varies more than most people seem to think.