

One Advantage of a Red Head

By F. A. MITCHEL

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I was born with a head of fiery red hair. As a kid I remember people looking at it as they would at a burning barn, making all kinds of allusions to my hair and countless jokes, many of them very poor and in bad taste and all obnoxious to me.

When I grew old enough to have a sweetheart I was obliged to go with out one, all on account of the growth on my head. I kept it cut very short, but without effect. Just as soon as I came in contact with man, woman or child I saw at once that my hair was against me. One thing I would not do—I refused all barbers who suggested my permitting them to dye it. On entering their shops I would say, "Hair cut; no dye." Whenever, after this notice, a barber offered to give my hair a different color I glared at him and told him that if he repeated the offer he must fight. I thrashed so many people for reference to my blemish that I became an expert boxer.

Hoping that the people of the west were more considerate than those of the east, I went to Denver. The first salute I received there was: "Hello, carrot top! Y' goin' to set the timber on the mountings afore?" I had got tired of thrashing people and turned away without a word. I sought employment in a large manufacturing concern. On entering the office my eyes lighted on a gentleman sitting at a desk who had red hair, for all the world as red as mine. He looked up, and in an instant his gaze was fixed on my top.

He arose from his chair and, advancing to the office rail, grasped my hand in a viselike grip.

"My dear sir," he said warmly and with a respectful air I had never before been favored with, "what can I do for you?"

"I'm seeking employment."

"You shall have it right here. What can you do?"

"Nothing. I must learn. But I'm willing to work without pay till I do."

"You'll not work without pay here. Judging from your appearance, you are well bred and educated. A man of your condition can't get on with less than a hundred dollars a month. I'll give you that and put you in our best department. Mr. Stamper!" he called.

An employee advanced, and I noticed he, too, had a red head. He was instructed to put me to work and on the payroll at the same time. As I passed through the works I noticed every man had a red head, but none so red as mine and the manager's. Ours was the same hue exactly.

"You'll be shoved up ahead of us all," said the man who had taken me in charge.

"Why so?" I asked.

"You're the only man here who has as red hair as the president."

The words proved true. I was jumped from one grade to another so fast that I barely had time to learn the duties in each. And every time I jumped my salary jumped too.

This was not all. Mr. Flynn, the president and principal owner, asked me one day to come to his house to dinner. I went, of course, and was introduced to his family. Every one of his children had red hair of various shades. His oldest daughter, Emily, had veritable Titian locks. For the first time in my life I felt easy in social company. For the first time not a person about me looked at my head, much less referred to it. Miss Emily Flynn was very gracious to me and was the first young woman who had ever thus treated me so. I was happy as a clam at high tide. After dinner she led me into a separate parlor, and I spent the hours there chatting with her. They were thus far the happiest hours of my life. I left her with a wildly beating heart.

To make a long story short, Miss Flynn encouraged me and I encouraged Miss Flynn. One day she told me I might go to her father and ask for her. I did so and was accepted for a son-in-law with great gusto. "Go back to Em," he said, "and tell her you have my hearty consent, and remain to dinner."

I spent the afternoon with Emily and dined with the family. After dinner Mr. Flynn said to me:

"You have shown wonderful restraint in not asking why I have welcomed you into my business and into my family. The time has come for me to enlighten you."

"Years ago I came to this country from Ireland without a cent and worked at any job I could get in a great city. One day I was arrested, accused of stealing from a Jew. He had told the police that a red headed Irishman had robbed him. I was stood in line with several other men, and this Jew picked me out as the man who had robbed him. I was tried, and the evidence was strong against me. I was about to be convicted when a red headed man strolled in among the spectators. My attorney, following a suggestion given by the man's red hair, called for him and placed him beside me. Then he sent for the Jew and when he came into court asked him which of the two had robbed him. The Jew couldn't tell. He had simply identified me because the man who had robbed him had a red head. The Jury acquitted me at once.

"God bless red headed men!" I exclaimed. "From this day they are all my bosom friends."

"And it has always been my wish to have a red headed son-in-law and be the progenitor of generations of red headed descendants."

HOW TO CARE FOR SILVER.

Too Much Scouring Will Wear Out Plate and Means Needless Work.

While all homemakers take genuine pride in the handsome appearance of their table silver, many find the care of it a burden and give themselves an unnecessary amount of labor over it. The weekly cleaning, which is a bugbear to many housewives, is not only needless, but a real harm, since constant scouring will soon wear off silver plate and has an appreciable effect even upon solid silver. To avoid this it is hoped that the following hints may prove helpful to some housekeepers:

Silver in daily use should be washed as soon as possible after leaving the table, following immediately after the glasses in the process of dishwashing. After a preliminary rinsing to remove loose food by using a stained piece for future use and immerse the rest in a pan of clean, hot, soapy water. Wash such pieces as used it with a soft cloth and place them all in another pan of hot water to which a tablespoonful of ammonia and a dash of soap have been added. Wipe the pieces directly from this water without draining them. Plenty of dry, soft towels are required. Follow this by a rub with chamois skin or soft flannel, rubbing briskly, but not heavily enough to bend the handles.

Take the stained pieces next. Egg stains are removed with wet salt, others with whitening moistened with alcohol or ammonia. After all stains have been removed wash and polish pieces as above. Two course, wide mouthed pitchers will be found a convenience in washing silver. Soap should never be rubbed directly on the silver, but a strong suds should be made with the soap shaker. This program may seem somewhat elaborate at first, but if persisted in it easily becomes a habit, and the result is much more than worth the trouble.

For the grand cleaning choose a clear, dry day. Provide yourself with a convenient table covered with oil cloth or papers. Have whitening, sifted three times, in a dish before you, a small bottle of alcohol, one of ammonia, a soft brush, flannel and cotton rags, chamois skin and plenty of tissue paper.

Begin with the small pieces and separate the sets. For the most part a rub with a cloth dipped first in alcohol, then in whitening, will be all that is needed to clean, but if the articles are much stained make a paste of the whitening and alcohol and apply thickly, allowing it to dry out. After this cleaning rub all the articles first with old flannel, then with chamois, using the brush to remove the whitening from the ornamental work. In case there are obstinate stains which do not yield to this treatment a competent authority advises touching them with oxalic acid, washing it off immediately and then rubbing again with the whitening and alcohol. Oxalic acid is a poison, and all due precautions must be observed in its use. If the spot looks dull after the acid has been used rub it hard with a flannel rag moistened with sweet oil and dry whitening.

After everything is shining and clean all that which is not in daily use should be put away in cotton flannel bags, each containing a small bit of camphor gum. It is an added protection also if each piece is previously well wrapped in white tissue paper. Paraffin paper is excellent for wrapping, as it helps to exclude gas, which is the greatest household agent, either coal or illuminating gas, in tarnishing silver.

This thorough cleaning should not have to be done oftener than once or twice a year if the pieces to be put away are properly protected and the daily care outlined above is bestowed upon all the articles in daily use.

How to Clean Bagdad Rugs.

It is very difficult to wash a Bagdad couch cover or rug successfully. The colors are almost sure to run when treated in the ordinary way. Before beginning operations separate the strips. Then wash each one in a separate water. Use white soap and lukewarm water to which a little salt has been added after a suds has been raised by brisk stirring. Do not rub the strips on a washboard, but merely dip them into the water and stir them briskly, then quickly rinse them and hang them over a clotheshorse in the kitchen away from the sunlight. Be careful when drying that the strips do not overlap. When almost dry press out the wrinkles with a hot iron. If the middle strips have become slightly worn exchange them with those on the outside when sewing the cover together again.

How to Cook Pumpkin.

The best way to cook a pumpkin is to set it in a tin and then place it directly in the oven without any other preliminary treatment than a light washing with a wet vegetable brush. Bake it for an hour or more, according to the size of the pumpkin. When it is done open the steam end and remove the seeds. The rind will peel off as though it were so much paper. As a time and trouble saver there is no better way to cook a pumpkin.

How to Have Pins Handy.

A pin cushion on the wrist is a convenience to the small dressmaker. It should be a small, soft cushion, attached to an elastic band just snug enough to wear on the left wrist. No stopping of work is then necessary to look for a pin.

How to Renovate Scratched Paint.
To remove scratches on paint made by scratching matches rub with a cut lemon.

HOW TO HAVE WINTER EGGS.

Make Hens Comfortable and Keep Chicken House Clean.

One great essential in getting winter eggs is to make the hens entirely comfortable. The first thing to do is to get the pen and clean out the house thoroughly. Remove every useless article and leave the floors entirely free from anything that will obstruct their freedom as a scratching place. Clean down the walls, spray thoroughly, remove every bit of litter from the floor, and if it is a dirt floor take out at least a couple of inches of the old dirt, which should be replaced with clean loam.

Make ready a corner in each pen that can be used as a dusting box. This can be kept supplied with the fine siftings from hard coal ashes and will be much enjoyed by the whole flock. If it can be placed where the sun will shine on it so much the better. Do not close the windows until the weather gets real cold. Let there be one glass window for each pen of 10 by 12 or 16 feet and one muslin covered frame, with at least twelve square feet of surface for each pen.

This may look like a cold proposition, but it will be found the muslin does not make the pen any colder than does the same amount of glass surface and at the same time gives a steady supply of fresh air. This muslin will help greatly in keeping the poultry house dry during the winter and will make it much more comfortable than a closely shut up house can ever be.

For colder nights have a curtain of cheap sheeting running across the front of the roosting place. This does not need to fit tightly except at the top and may hang out some inches from the dropping boards, giving plenty of room for the fowls to pass to and from the roosts. On the very coldest of nights the roosting place will be found to be entirely comfortable, and in the morning the hens will come out ready to scratch and hustle for their breakfast.

Above all things, be sure to keep a good six inches of perfectly dry straw on the floor for scratching material. There can be little comfort for the hen in scratching a pile of dirty, damp litter that has been on the floor for a month or more.

HINTS ON HOUSE FLOWERS.

How to Care For Plants During the Winter Months.

Keep plants well watered. Many persons will pour a little water on a plant, enough to soak in an inch or two, and wonder that the plant does not grow. The trouble is that the growing part of the plant receives no nourishment. Plants should be watered every day and in such a way that the roots get plenty of moisture. The soil should be rich. Care should be taken in placing flowers near a window. Remember the upper sash is warmer than the lower.

Asparagus ferns and sword ferns are very good winter plants. They must be kept moist and be closely watched for the red spider.

Primroses require much care. They should be changed from one pot to another until in a pot five or six inches in diameter. The atmosphere should be cool, about 55 degrees. They should be kept well watered.

The umbrella plant, the cyclamen, the geranium, the petunia, all will thrive in the winter if attention is given them.

Hellotropes need especial attention. The soil should be rich and the room warm and the plant kept where it will get lots of sunshine. The soil should be kept just on the verge of drying out and differs from other soils in this respect.

Palms need a moist heat. They are among the most difficult plants to care for in the winter. Coal gas often proves fatal to them. They always should be kept moist.

Begonias are the best plants for winter. Their foliage is beautiful, and the coloring on the leaves is as dainty as that on the flowers when they bloom. Good soil and plenty of water will make them grow.

How to Preserve Plaster Casts.

Plaster casts which for any reason have to be exposed to damp or to outdoor weather conditions can be readily insured against disintegration by the use of a cheap and simple soapy preparation. Dissolve three parts of caustic potash or use three parts of ammonia in thirty-six parts of hot water. To this add nine parts of stearic acid. Dilute this paste with an equal quantity of hot water containing 25 per cent alcohol. In the case of old plaster casts the surface should be cleaned with a 3 per cent potash solution before the preparation is applied. Then it should be put on warm and afterward sponged.

How to Bronze Cast Pewter.

Here is a simple method of bronzing cast pewter articles requiring no great skill and entailing little expense. After cleansing the surface of the pewter thoroughly wash the articles in a bath in which twenty parts of water, one part green vitriol and one part blue vitriol have been stirred. After the surface has been dried wash it again in a bath of eleven parts wine vinegar and four parts verdigris. When this in turn has dried the bronzed article may be polished with crocus.

How to Hang Out Washing.

A good way to save yourself and headkerchiefs in freezing weather is to get a line long enough for the amount you have in wash, pin handkerchiefs on the line while in the laundry, carry line to yard and hang on hooks. When dry take line from hooks, carry to laundry and remove clothespins.



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