















Machinery and Woman's Work.

[Read at the April meeting of Hillsdale Pomona Grange by a Sister.]

Worthy Brother and Sister Patrons.—The task assigned me at the last Pomona Grange was one I do not feel competent to perform, but as we allow no drones in our hive of industry, I will do the best I can in describing what machinery has done to relieve woman from much of the drudgery that was once her position.

Distinction in dress, from an early age to the present time, has been the means of displaying wealth, and the queens of Greece at a very early age spent their time fabricating garments for their royal husbands.

But when inventive genius went abroad in the land, the cradle came into use, welded by the strong arm of man; then woman took the rake. But farther down the stream of time came the reaper and hay rake, which brought joy to many through the land.

Not many years ago it was her task to card, spin and weave the various fabrics used in clothing herself and family. How is it to-day? One girl 15 or 16 years of age can, with modern machinery, spin as much and in a quicker time than 500 women could with their old spinning wheels.

We might also mention the embroideries, laces, and beautiful robes for infants and children which were once wrought by high born ladies, and worn only by the few.

Then look back at the homes of the masses of fifty years ago, the ill-cut clothing of the men, women and children; the naked windows and bare walls, the uncarpeted floors, the rough crockery, the open fireplace, the crane, hook, and fire-dogs, with the old brick oven and bake kettle;

and given time for inventing and perfecting the various machinery.

Ah! but my task is not half done. There is the knitting machine that can knit one pair of hose in five minutes, that would take two or three days to knit the old fashioned way.

Then comes the sewing machine, that makes the stitches faster than we can count. In making up our garments, the machine will ruffle, bind, tuck, hem, and fell—and, in fact, will make all that a woman can by hand, in one-tenth the time.

Then has not machinery done a great deal to relieve woman, and given her time for mental culture? Then there are also other machines that come to help us in our daily routine.

For instance, take the washing machine. That comes in play when our husbands and sons follow the example taught them at our last meeting by two of the good brothers, who proposed to take their horse and carriage, and ride out for their health and pleasure on washing day.

The cook stove, with all its appliances, is one of the greatest blessings; our paring machines, with their improvement; and many other little helps in the kitchen, the coffee mill, egg beater, flour sifter, and many other things that time will not permit me to mention.

Without a doubt, machinery is a blessing to woman and the world. The true woman will ever busily and anxiously seek for a noble development, for herself and loved ones.

While as a people, we on the farm are coming to the front, it is now no longer a wonder that our girls are taken to grace the drawing rooms of some city home, for they are well able by their culture to win and keep the hearts of the best.

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