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The Economy Game and How the Turners Played It

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Protection for Our Feathered Neighbors

WHAT shall we do for the birds this season? We know what they will do for us if they get a chance. The robins will steal our earthworms, what matter, there are plenty more where those came from. And they will gladly accept some of our cherries too, if we remember their habits from last year. Well, perhaps we will have enough wormy ones so that we know that the bluebirds will do us no harm, and that they will be a continual source of joy to us throughout the summer if we can induce them to nest in our boxes, and can give them the protection that they deserve. In the first place then, there comes the problem of the English sparrow, that ever present nuisance. From the wren house he can be excluded by making the opening only the size of a quarter, and the wren can then easily enter.

The protection of the bluebirds from this rascal—the rat of bird-dom—is not nearly so easy. Unfortunately. Bluebirds will accept a lower nest than the English sparrow cares to occupy, so it is said, but that lays it open to the attacks of cats.

A cat campaign would be worth while, if it wasn't so likely to get tangled with people's prejudices. Wherever cats can be abated on the quiet or openly it will be abated on the quiet or openly it must be. There isn't an item on any of those lists which she could possibly eliminate. There were so many things to consider and take two piece housedresses? Just the thing!

When Lucy returned from school one evening a few days later she found her mother cutting up long strips of unbeached muslin.

"What are you going to do with that, Mother?" asked Lucy.

"Those are curtains for your room Lucy, that you have wanted so long," her mother answered.

"Curtains, Mother? Not from that cheap stuff, surely," said Lucy.

"Yes," said Mrs. Turner, "Go up to my room and bring down that bag of scraps, and that box of old embroidery floss. Now select from them scraps all the colors you can to match your appearance of the room."

The practice of economy had now become quite a game in the Turner household. Everyone did his or her part to save as much as possible so Lucy might get her new gown. As the end of the month drew near Mrs. Turner in summing up her accounts found that she had saved enough to buy her daughter's dress, but there would be nothing left for a wrap. It looked very much as if Lucy would have to wear her old coat.
Next day when she was ransacking an old trunk for some material, she brought out of its moth ball atmosphere a heavy broadcloth suit that had been hers some years before. It was faded of course, but the material was good as new.

"Good, I'll do it," said Mrs. Turner after inspecting the old suit, and her actions for the next two weeks greatly puzzled Lucy. There was an air of secrecy about her Mother that she couldn't understand.

But the mystery cleared one evening when Mrs. Turner presented Lucy with a beautiful heavy broadcloth cape, lined throughout and trimmed in caracul.

"It took a beautiful color, didn't it dear," said Mother, "and the lining and collar cost so little."

Lucy danced about the room in glee and out the door to meet her father who was coming up the walk.

The economy game proved to be so much fun that the Turner family decided to play it always.

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