

1890 look cosy and homelike.

The box sent me by some friends containing some articles of fancy work has been the means of putting into their hands an educating factor, and has created in them a desire for more of those things, and a wish that they might have the material with which to make them.

Letter of Field Station
All these things show to me that there is a potential energy which it is possible to arouse and in time be made to accomplish mighty things. We cannot hope to make accomplished housekeepers of them in one year, for did it not take our mothers years to bring us to that state, even though we were under their teaching and discipline daily? We must take into consideration the environment of Indian woman and understand that it is a work that must be begun nearly at the bottom and the precepts are to be given over and over, "Yea, seventy times seven." The problem of higher domestic education for Indian women will be solved in no other way than by the method introduced by the Friends' Matron years ago and again put into practice in the present experiment; so by putting in the civilizing leaven here and there we will in time leaven the whole mass.

Of course there are always those who prefer to "eat the bread of idleness," but in them we mean to create a desire for better things, which means better living.

The pessimist cries, "How are you going to accomplish this, and won't they go right back when you are not with them?" I say, "No!" and we will accomplish our aim by going right into their homes and daily lives, treating them as younger sisters, and showing them by precept and example how they may keep their houses clean and orderly and care for their children in a wise, motherly, and sensible way, thereby improving the moral condition too.

Men and women are by nature extremely improvident, and when once they can be taught habits of economy along with industry much will be accomplished and the way made sure to independence and thrift. Hence, one of our greatest efforts should be to engraft prudence and economy into the Indian people. If some way could be devised whereby the Agents could have the authority to prevent the more idle and improvident ones from being continual and persistent parasites, feeding on more thrifty ones, it would remove a canker

1890 which destroys much of the ambition of the industrious class.

One reason why so many of these people are so destitute of every comfort in the house is, that whenever any member of the family dies, every article of furniture except the stove is either broken and cast away, or it is given to the various friends, and there is always sure to be a host on such an occasion. This they do because the dead member was associated with them and it augments their grief to see the things about. This must be corrected too, but it is a firm and fixed custom which will take time and effort to remove, unless the department makes a rule forbidding such customs continued, under some penalty.

Letter of Field Station
One would suppose from the large number of cows that are issued to them that all would have an abundant supply of milk, but it is the exception rather than the rule where the family has milk, and the reason given by them is, that the cows are so wild that they cannot break them.

Letter of Field Station
A revolution ought to be brought about in this matter, and I think if it was understood that only those who would promise to milk them would have them issued to them, or if only well broken cows would be accepted by the Agent from the contractors, this evil could be remedied. I find it hard to teach the women to make and cook any great variety of dishes for the want of milk, though I have taxed my inventive powers and substituted water for milk, though I am inclined to think it not the best policy to invent a substitute that will encourage shiftlessness in many cases.

The want of water has been a common obstacle in the way of my work this season. Many of the natural springs and little brooks and rivulets are entirely dry, and the people have been obliged to go to the Missouri for water, often at a distance of five miles. This could be remedied if the Department would encourage the farmers to dig wells, or put in cisterns for laundry purposes and cooking.

This year fifty of the original frame houses were to be repaired, and many of them have been, but in many cases very unsatisfactorily. Some are left without a foundation, some without chimneys, and almost all of them have an unfinished and unsightly recess under the chimney, which is built on supports,