



HISTORY ROOM

NEWS



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by Carolyn Tucker

This edition we are delighted to have an article from the Co-ordinator of the Strathalbyn History Room. ed.

'Enquire Within Upon Everything'

Published 1868 by Houlston & Wright, London

To have a copy of this book with every family was looked upon as essential 150 years ago.

The Tucker family's copy with well-thumbed pages, little brown stains throughout and the cover hanging together by threads, reveals its importance in the daily lives of generations long past.

Today this book might be called 'Google.' It has 2,517 separately numbered items of advice - on everything!



'Enquire Within Upon Everything'. Rachel and Ewen McDonald was a Primary School when the place was She married Walter John Tucker, a 1871. Both of their fathers had been eastern states to South Australia in



Mrs. Rachel McDonald, nee McLean of 'Balmerino', Lower Finniss owned Annie, the eldest child of Teacher at the Finniss called Queen's Own Town. farmer of Sandergrove in drovers of stock from the late 1830's and 1840's.

In 1874, with a one-year-old son and a large family of children yet to come, Annie had to farewell her parents and all her brothers and sisters as they left for the Wimmera district of western

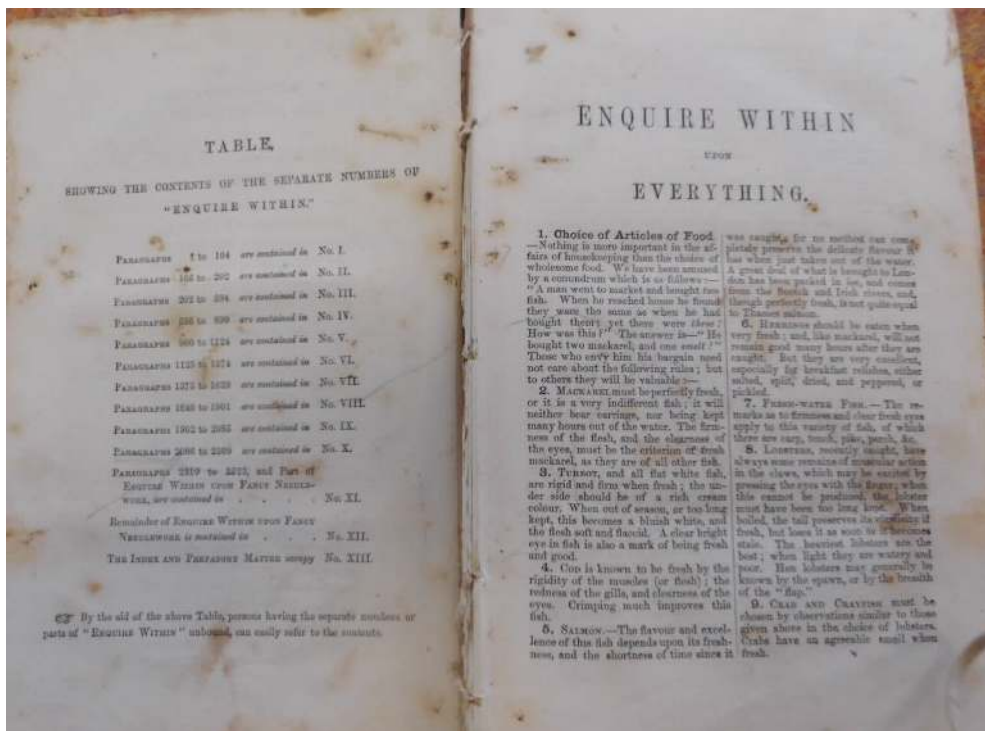


Victoria. This was at the height of the farmers 'exodus' from districts surrounding Strathalbyn to the North, South East and Victoria where new farming and grazing opportunities attracted large numbers of families.

Rachel gave Annie her book. How much Annie relied on its wisdom, no one knows. She was described by a nephew as "of strong character, and a good cook who kept her family in order". If she had needed help with any of those qualities — all were in the book!

There are Hints for Household Management, Cooking, Gardening, Home Comfort, Hints for Husbands, Hints for Wives, How to get Sleep, First Aid, Making a Will, Raising Children, Kill Flies and Earwigs, Care for Leeches and all their uses, Art of Writing and Conversation, Answers to Questions like "Why does milk turn sour during thunderstorms?" and "How to ascertain whether a bed has been adequately aired."

No. 1782 "Avoid talking about yourself - Praising your own works and proclaiming your own deeds. If they are good they will proclaim themselves, if bad, the less you say of them the better."



From the Book ' Enquire Within Upon Everything' 1868

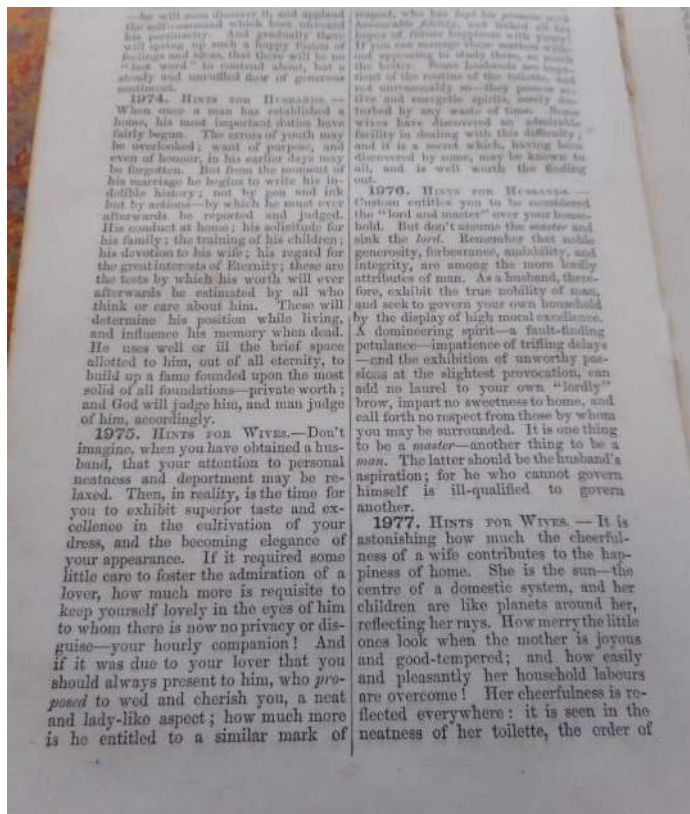
Page 280, No. 1977... "Hints for Wives"

"It is astonishing how much the cheerfulness of a wife contributes to the happiness of home.

She is the sun — the centre of a domestic system, and her children are like planets around her, reflecting her rays. How merry the little ones look when the mother is joyous and good-tempered and how easily and pleasantly her household labours are overcome? Her cheerfulness is reflected everywhere; it is seen in the neatness of her toilette, the order of her table and even the seasoning of her dishes.

We remember hearing a husband say that he could always gauge the temper of his wife by the quality of her cooking. Good temper even influenced the seasoning of her soups, the lightness and delicacy of her pastry. When ill-temper pervades, the black pepper is dashed in as a cloud — perchance the top of the pepper-box is included, as a kind of diminutive thunderbolt; the salt is all in lumps; and the spices seem to betake themselves to one spot in a pudding, as if dreading the frowning face above them.

If there be a husband who could abuse the smiles of a really good-tempered wife, we should like to look at him! No, No, such a phenomenon does not exist. Among elements of domestic happiness, the amiability of the wife and mother is of the utmost importance — it is one of the best securities for the HAPPINESS OF HOME."



HAPPY RESEARCHING Carolyn

Help is available in the Goolwa History Room when a volunteer is on duty. If you are travelling some distance it may be advisable to phone the Library on 8555-7000 to ascertain whether a volunteer is available. (The Room and Family research database are accessible whenever the Library is open but some documents may only be viewed when volunteers are present)

At Strathalbyn's History Room Volunteer Pamela is available 10 am – 4 p.m every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for family history – phone for 1 hour appointments. No appointments necessary for Local History enquiries on Thursdays 10 am – 4 p.m. However, if travelling some distance 'phone to check Andrea or Carolyn will be attending. Written enquiries with contact can be left in Visitors' Book at any time during Library hours.

For comments, suggestions or to receive this newsletter via email history.goolwa11@gmail.com

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