

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

CONSECRATED MOTHERHOOD.

On the first Christmas, on the Holy Night, God consecrated motherhood. Woven into that wonderful night of the angel's song is peace, hope, redemption, love and as a means to these blessings—motherhood and a little child.

Christ came to the world not in pomp and power but in simplicity. "He became a little child," thus honoring motherhood and giving prominence to child life. Is not motherhood then a great blessing? Is it not one of the greatest tasks committed to human hands?

Let us not fail to link the life of the child with the life of the Christ. What is the child? The wise of all ages have asked this question over and over again but it remains still unanswered but God is its creator and has made it his highest creation. He has given it to the mother who is greatly responsible for the development of its body, its mind, its soul. At the time it makes its greatest growth it comes into close contact with its mother. The child looks at her with the innocence and purity of childhood and who can tell that its eyes cannot read the soul better than older people? Everything about the cradle is educative. The impressions of early childhood are not easily erased by the later rough usage of the world.

Love, which gave to the world its greatest gift—The Christ Child—should be the motor of every home. Give a little love to a child and you get a great deal back. In many homes it seems that God who is love, is forgotten. Too often children must gain their knowledge at other fire-sides than their own. Out of our own lives made purer and sweeter by our love of God, will grow a care and love for our children which will be more tender, more wise. What wisdom, what grace, what consciousness, what prayerfulness there must be from day to day.

God does not regard lightly the work of motherhood. Mothers are the keepers of little souls and the moulders of little hearts. Christmas has a deep spiritual significance to motherhood, beautified, blest and consecrated on that night of long ago.—L. S. E.

THE CHRIST BABY

By Henrietta E. Staeger.

Ah, motherhood has grown divinely fair,
All motherhood that's worthy of the name,
Since in the calm of Oriental night
The long expected, Blessed Baby came.

And father-hearts re-echo thru the years
The glory-anthems of that Angel Choir,
When to their arms a little child is borne
In answer to their soul's supreme desire.

If you can doubt the glory and the song,
Go where earth's truest, purest mothers are,
And see reflected in each love-lit face,
The fair, faint radiance of that Eastern Star.

There wondrous peace and glad goodwill to men

From human hearts arise and overflow

To all the world, akin to that deep joy

Which came to Bethlehem so long ago.

O Holy Night, thou art recurring still
To reverent souls, thru all the earth abroad,

And Wise Men worship yet when they discern

Man's sacred, mighty partnership with God.

"I'M JUST A LITTLE BOY"

Tom Daly in "Evening Ledger"

Lord, I'm just a little boy,
Born one day like You,
And I've got a mother dear,
And a birthday, too.
But my birthday comes in spring,
When the days are long,
And the robin in the tree
Wakens me with song.
Since the birds are all away,
Lord, when You are born,
Let Your angels waken me
On Your birthday morn.

Lord, I'm just a little boy,
Hidden in the night;
Let Your Angels spy me out
Long before it's light.
I would be the first to wake
And the first to rise
In this quiet house of ours
Songs of love and praise.
You shall hear me first, dear Lord,
Blow my Christmas horn;
Let Your angels waken me
On Your birthday morn.



NUTS AND RAISINS.

THE old idea was that nuts were indigestible. That is because folk of grandmother's day usually ate nuts after they had already dined too lavishly and had worn out their appetites on six or seven heavy dishes first. Truly, nuts are as substantial as meat, richer in fats, and one might as well expect to eat sirloin steak as a deadly tidbit after a six course dinner as a fair serving of nuts.

But nowadays heavy dining has rather gone out of fashion. The fact that nobody loves a fat man and that the too fat woman is hopelessly out of fashion seems to have penetrated most folks' brains, and most folks know that the surest way to keep from getting fat is to dine moderately, to avoid many courses and to take but one really heavy dish in each meal.

In no place in the world probably are walnuts so highly prized as in England, and this in spite of the fact that the very name wal-nut is derived from some sort of root that school men tell us meant foreign nut. The nut of nuts, the nut they thought of when they used the single word nut, used to be the filbert some hundred years ago before the walnut had been introduced from Italy, and for some time it was as often called the Italian nut or Jupiter nut as it was walnut.

The filbert, which is really just a highly cultivated hazelnut, is still regarded by many an epicure as quite the finest of all nuts in flavor.

The almond also has its admirers, but it must be remembered that the almond is rather indigestible even

when not taken on a heavy dinner. It is really not the almond itself that causes the trouble, but the skin around it, and for this reason the almond should always be blanched by allowing it to remain a minute or so in boiling water and then removing the outer skin. For this reason when almonds are served plain they are best served blanched and slightly salted. Almonds that have been blanched and sugared are delicious as a luncheon sweet.

Often a course of nuts and raisins served after a good consomme makes a delightful luncheon. And remember that nuts are always most attractive when served in the shell, with the exception of the almond, whose tough skin makes this inadvisable. They should be heaped up in an attractive dish or bowl and garnished with fresh green leaves, preferably those of the nuts themselves. As this is usually impossible, any other leaves will do.

Anna Thompson.

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