

## Home Department.



### The Battle Field.

By WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Once this soft turf, this rivulet's sands,  
Were trampled by a hurrying crowd,  
And fiery hearts and armed hands  
Encountered in the battle-cloud.

Ah! never shall the land forget  
How gushed the life-blood of her brave—  
Gushed, warm with hope and courage yet,  
Upon the soil they fought to save.

Now all is calm, and fresh and still;  
Alone the chirp of flitting bird,  
And the talk of children on the hill,  
And bell of wandering kine, are heard.

No solemn host goes trailing by  
The black-mouthed gun and staggering wain;  
Men start not at the battle-cry,  
Oh, be it never heard again!

Soon rested those who fought; but thou  
Who minglest in the harder strife  
For truths which men receive not now,  
Thy warfare only ends with life.

A friendless warfare! lingering long  
Through weary day and weary year,  
A wild and many-weaponed throng  
Hang on thy front, and flank, and rear.

Yet nerve thy spirit to the proof,  
And blench not at thy chosen lot.  
The timid good may stand aloof,  
The sage may frown—yet faint thou not.

Nor heed the shaft too surely cast,  
The foul and hissing bolt of scorn;  
For with thy side shall dwell, at last,  
The victory of endurance born.

Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again;  
Th' eternal years of God are hers;  
But Error, wounded, writhes in pain,  
And dies among his worshippers

Yea, though thou lie upon the dust,  
When they who helped thee flee in fear;  
Die full of hope and manly trust,  
Like those who fell in battle here.

Another hand thy sword shall wield,  
Another hand the standard wave,  
Till from the trumpet's mouth is pealed  
The blast of triumph o'er thy grave.

### Mother's Fun.

Perhaps there is no quality which in a woman is more needed or more often lacking than humor. The woman who can see the funny side is rare and fortunate. So many times when the day has been full of little worries and the climax is capped by a failure in cooking the supper, a woman bursts into tears or vents her temper on her family, when, if she could only have seen it, there was a very funny side to the day's experience and a good laugh would have relieved the strain and rested the tired nerves.

Still oftener the mother takes the trifling misdemeanors of her children too seriously. If she could poke a little fun at them the children would be ashamed to repeat the mistake. Again, the tempers of mothers and children are strained to the point of giving way because of natural wilfulness on both sides, when a joke and a laugh would adjust the whole difficulty and the trouble would soon blow over.

Again, when mother has good cause to be tired and worried a little fun on the part of the alert and thoughtful daughter is better than a sleeping powder for worn nerves.

"This charming power to throw away for the moment the conditions which keep us from fun ought not to belong exclusively to babies," writes

Helen C. Candee, in the Ladies' Home Journal. "We took outrageous liberties with mother's sweet face when we lay cooling in her arms, and she was the happiest of women in consequence. Is it not a pity that through our years of necessary training we should forget the trick of playing with her by the time we are grown? No girl, I am sure, could possibly misinterpret me into meaning that we are to turn sober considerations into foolish ridicule. What I really mean is that many matters would be improved if a sense of humor shed its light upon them; and this can best be accomplished by girls."

The same author says: A fairy's wand has no such joy-provoking power as a compliment from a daughter to her mother. A girl doesn't know what it can do until she tries it."—Farm, Field and Fireside.

### Terse Suggestions.

All floor and whisk brooms should be wet in scalding hot brine before using them. It will effectually prevent the straw from breaking. Brooms will last much longer if they are dipped for a moment or two in a kettle of boiling suds each week. This will make them tough and pliable.

The gum that exudes from cheery trees, if boiled in soft water, makes a good muclage.

A thick solution of gum arabic, with plaster of paris to form a paste, makes a good cement for mending china. It dries in a few days.

Figs preserved with lemon juice and ginger, pickled and spiced, make a delicious conserve. If the dried fruit is used the figs should be steamed first.

To polish steel surfaces mix a soft mass emery powder with a liquid turpentine. Cover the article with this and rub vigorously, then dust slightly using a soft flannel rag with dry emery powder.

Cheese may be kept from driving or molding by wrapping it in a thoroughly wrung cloth that has been dipped in vinegar and then putting it into a paper bag, keeping it in a cool place—Sunny South.

### Pound Foolishness.

One of the commonest forms of pound foolishness is countenanced by many high authorities. This is the purchase of certain household provisions in large quantities. Few writers on domestic topics fail to lay stress upon the economy of buying groceries in bulk. That sugar and flour, potatoes, and apples should be bought by the half or whole barrel, cereals by the case, butter by the tub, and other things in like proportion is one of the early precepts in the "Young Housekeeper's Complete Guide to Domestic Economy." The ignorant young things buy the provisions first and the experience afterward. The flour grows musty, the cereals develop weevils, the potatoes and apples rot long before they can be eaten, and the cook exercises a lavishness in the use of the butter and sugar she would never show were they bought in such limited amounts that the housekeeper could hold close watch over them. Even after these events the young mistress feels as if she were absolutely reckless and no manager at all when she so far departs from household law as to buy food in small quantities.—The Independent.

### Losing Temper.

The most foolish thing in the world is to lose one's temper. Of old the wisest of men said, "Better is he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." The person in authority who is self-controlled can control others—children, servants, and employes generally. No one can govern subordinates who is not able to govern himself. When one loses temper in the home, and says bitter things, in a hasty mood, there is sure to come an after-time of sorrow and repentance, and there is a hurt in the heart which may or may not last for years. There are scars that never

cease to throb, though the old wound seems to be healed. Should death suddenly snatch hence a dear one, before pardon for some injustice had been sought and granted, the regret would never pass away.—Christian Herald.

### The Joy of Coming Home.

There's joy in sailing outward,  
Though we leave upon the pier,  
With faces grieved and wistful,  
Our very dearest dear;  
And the sea shall roll between us  
For perhaps a whole round year.

There's joy in climbing mountains,  
In fording rushing brooks,  
In poking into places  
We've read about in books,  
In meeting stranger people  
With unfamiliar looks.

But the joy of joys is ours  
Untouched by any pain,  
When we take the home-bound steamer  
And catch the home-bound train;  
There's nothing half so pleasant  
As coming home again.

—Margaret E. Sangster, in Harper's Bazar.

### In Lieu of the Hot Water Bag.

Nothing proves better than good dry heat to quiet pain. Hot water bags and bottles are excellent, if perfectly tight. Hot sand bags also are good to place beside the body and limbs. A relay of hot plates, wrapped in woolen cloth, will do wonders in giving relief to a patient. In any case of serious bowel trouble it is well to follow up with relays of hot plates, lightweight earthen, or, better still, because of their lightness, are the tin plates such as are used by bakers, being always careful they are as hot as can be borne, but not too hot and wrapped in cloth. This remedy will allay inflammation and pain to a wonderful degree. It is also excellent in rheumatism of the hip, knee or ankle. A frequent change of hot plates, well wrapped in woollen and placed beneath or over the suffering joint, as the patient lies in bed, will bring great relief.

### Coffee Cake.

One cupful of brown sugar, one-half cupful of butter, one-half cup of molasses, one-half cup of strong coffee, two eggs, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cinnamon, one teaspoonful of cloves, one-half teaspoonful of grated nutmeg, one-half pound of raisins, one-half pound of currants, and two cupfuls of flour; cream the butter, add the molasses, coffee and sugar, the eggs well beaten; add to the flour all the dry ingredients, dissolving the soda in a little hot water; add this to the first mixture.

### Rice Muffins.

Put two cupfuls of sifted flour in a bowl; add to it one-half teaspoonful of salt and three level teaspoonfuls of baking powder; beat one cupful of milk into one cupful of cold boiled rice, then add three tablespoonfuls of melted butter and one egg well beaten. Stir this into the flour mixture and beat very light; fill buttered gem pans two-thirds full and bake twenty minutes in a quick oven.

### Everlasting Yeast.

Pare and boil eight good sized potatoes and pass them through a colander. Add one cup hop tea made by steeping a single handful of hops in water. Then add to this one cup salt and one cup white sugar. Stir well and pour over the mixture three quarts of boiling water. Mix and place on the back of the stove. Now dissolve one cup flour in one quart cold water and add this to the other mixture. Bring to a boil. When cool add one dry yeast cake and one cup yeast. Put in a warm place to rise.—Mrs. George W. Butler, in Rocky Mountain Husbandman.