



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

Forever.

Whoever smites the wrong, the right upholding,

In spite of error's clamoring cries; Who'er uproots the false, the truth unfolding.

Along the path where ignorance lies, Who'er, opposing vice, is nobly giving

To virtue's cause his best endeavor, However lowly life he lives, is living A life to be forgotten never.

Whoever lifts his hand against oppression,

Where'er the blighting curse may fall,

Whoever makes his life a sweet expression

Of love of equal rights for all, Who'er the work of hand or brain bestowing,

Assists the tyrant's claims to sever, Though humble deeds he does, some seed is sowing

Whose fruits shall gladden hearts forever.

Who'er to an afflicted brother, needing,

Extends the hand of charity, Who'er binds up a heart that's broken, bleeding,

With bonds of love and sympathy, Who'er, by kindly word or act bestowing,

Binds human hearts more close together,

His deeds, through years in beauty growing,

Shall live in memory forever.

Who'er, from sin and shame and degradation,

Assists an erring one to rise; Who'er, with life itself upholds the nation,

When freedom needs the sacrifice; Who'er lives not for selfish ends and glory,

The law of love forgetting never, His name, though written not in song or story,

Will live in human hearts forever.

—Selected.

Home Chats.

We read a great deal about the part played in the happiness of the home by the husband and father or the wife and mother. A kind, thoughtful, industrious father and a wise, careful, even-tempered mother is much; but it is not all. There is another element in the home-life, seldom mentioned, which cannot be overlooked, and every year it is becoming more apparent. An ungrateful, bickering, quarrelsome child can render abortive the best efforts of the most well-intentioned parents. In many homes, this element is so strong that the parents scarcely feel at home in their own house, and too often the mother especially is not allowed to say her soul is her own. In most cases, the direct presence of the father carries with it some small degree of restraint, but in others the home-coming of the tired bread-winner is but the signal for bringing out the great guns and waging the battle so fiercely that he is forced to seek in the streets the quiet and respect his position in the family should assure him.

Sometimes this high-handed family fire-brand is a son, but generally it is a daughter, who has been petted and indulged and labored for until respect and obedience toward, and recognition of the rights of, the parents have been entirely lost sight of, and the home in consequence becomes but a disagree-

able shelter and the food offered to the opposing hosts but a species of poison. Of course in such a life, there can be little comfort, and even a parent's love will break under such a strain though it may die hard and after long suffering; but die it will, unless there be a change. The father finds, sooner than the mother, the utter futility of hoping for even peace under such conditions, and is only too glad to see the strife end by the passing out of the disturbing element, but the mother-love, bruised and beaten though it be, clings even unto death to the child she has reared.

Such a state of affairs should not be tolerated. It is all well enough to love one's children, but the love, while abundant in quantity, should be wise in quality, and the parents should realize that they owe to their offspring more than merely food and shelter and clothing; that there are educational needs far beyond the power of any school to supply, and that one of their greatest duties to their children is the administering of a wise discipline. However great one's devotion to a child, it should show itself in training as well as in serving; in restraining as well as allowing, and in prohibiting rather than permitting many things. It is not too much love which brings about this distressing condition of affairs, but it is the weak yielding to their unreasonable demands and giving way to their importunities because such a course is less troublesome than to insist upon obedience and acquiescence which, it should be taught them, is their duty toward their elders who are supposed to know what is best for them.

O O

A few mornings ago, I heard a young miss say that, when she told her mother to stop doing things objectionable to her (the daughter), she obeyed; but that when she "spoke to the father, he showed fight." And I could not but think that if the father had "showed fight" before the young lady assumed the reigns of government with so firm a hand as to boast of governing her mother, it would have been better for both parents and child. After assuming such proportions as in this case, the evil is hard to remedy, but corrective measures should be adopted, even then, if only for the child's sake; if by no other means, the evil should be repressed by force, or the elimination from the home-life of the distracting element, for a son or daughter who is so lost to all sense of shame as to boast of the subjugation of a parent is too degenerate to deal with in any other way.

Parents have themselves to blame for much of the trouble brought upon them by unruly children, but it is not from loving them too well. There must be wisdom in all things.

Query Box.

H. L. B.—A little melted cocoa butter or almond oil well rubbed in will darken the eye-brows.

Busy Bee.—A cheap grade of striped bed-ticking well washed and hemmed makes excellent drying towels.

Maude S.—Fuchsias should be showered every evening, throwing the water well up among the foliage. Fuchsias are not generally good winter bloomers.

Housewife.—Strong alum water is very destructive to house vermin of all description; all infested wood work, closets, pantry, loose wainscot-

ing and furniture should be well brushed with it.

Mrs. C. H.—For hardening the gums, try a wash made as follows: Hot water, one pint; dissolve in it one ounce of borax and let cool; then add a teaspoonful each of spirits of camphor and myrrh. Wash the gums with this solution twice daily.

Tessie.—Seven pounds of fruit, four pounds of sugar and a pint of strong vinegar is the regular proportions for all sweet pickling. Spices may be added according to kind of fruit and one's taste.

Laundress.—Whisky is said to take out every kind of fruit stain. Pour it on the stain before sending the garment to the wash. I cannot answer your other query in these columns.

Mrs. J. M.—To remove the flyspecks from varnished furniture, wipe carefully with a soft cloth wrung out of warm skimmed milk and water, equal parts; this will also add brilliancy to the gloss of the varnish.

Irene.—I really cannot answer your poultry questions. You should take and read a good poultry journal, at the same time study your birds closely. In such matters, practical experience is a good thing to mix with theory.

Summer Girl.—See that your spelling is correct. Do not skip a page and then turn back and write on it; write straight along, numbering your pages, for correspondence with friends. See that your writing is readable; poor writing is not a mark of genius so much as of slovenliness or carelessness. Writers are usually busy people.

R. M.—Soft fruit vinegars may be made of inferior fruits, carefully picked over. To four quarts of the fruit allow three quarts of white wine vinegar; pour the vinegar over the fruit and cover closely; let stand several days, then strain and add a pint of sugar to each quart of vinegar; bring to a boil, skim and bottle; cork tightly and set in a cool, dark place.

Anxious.—For a dry, wrinkled skin, almond meal should be used in place of soap, and the face never washed in hot water. After thoroughly cleansing the skin, rub in thoroughly a softening cream, removing any surplus with a soft old piece of linen, then apply a good powder. Ruching can be cleansed by soaking in gasoline, shaking dry in open air and, to restore the stiffness, hold over a kettle of boiling water for a few minutes.

Miss Maude.—To keep the skirt and shirt-waist together at the back, try this: Take three tiny brass rings (do not use iron or steel, as they will rust in the laundry), cover with button-hole stitch made of medium size sewing thread; sew one in the center of the back, and one on each side, about an inch and a half from the center, on the upper edge of the waist line belt; hook to corresponding hooks on belt of skirt.

The Fuchsia.

It is said that about the time of the introduction of the fuchsia into Europe as an ornamental plant, which is more than a hundred years ago, a sailor brought to England from the West Indies one plant, of a very beautiful species, and presented it to his wife. The plant created much excitement and admiration among flower-lovers. An enthusiastic horticulturist heard of it and went to see the wonderful flower, and offered the woman a large sum of money for it, but she declared that she would not part with it

at any price. The man was determined to have it, and threw down a hundred pounds sterling, with the promise that he would take cuttings from the plant, and would give her the first two that bloomed. The woman gave him the plant, and he made as many cuttings as possible and as soon as they were rooted and growing, he kept his promise and gave the first two that bloomed to the sailor's wife. Each plant was sold at one pound sterling, and the lucky horticulturist in time realized from the fuchsia slips alone over two thousand dollars. The plants are very cheap now, as well as greatly improved, are easily grown, and are a favorite in the humblest cottage as well as the largest conservatory.

Keeping The House Cool.

Margaret Sangster, in the Christian Herald, tells us of two ways to keep the house comfortably cool in summer time. Neither of these ways are new to some of us, but to others they may be worth repeating. This is what she says:

Two theories obtain in women's minds as to the most effective methods of keeping a house cool in very hot weather. One airs her house in the morning as early as possible and hermetically seals it the rest of the day, closing every window, darkening every room, shutting every door. When the walls are thick, this course is satisfactory, and the step from outdoor broiling to refrigerant chilling is very marked and agreeable; also, at times it has a certain risk. Houses that keep the vault-like temperature are not built with thin partitions and rushed from foundation to roof with the celerity observed in the building of Jonah's gourd, but are those that were erected when men took time to do good work, and buildings were erected with a view to durability.

"The other method is to screen the ordinary, every-day house in city or country, in every window and door, from insect pests. Take up the cumbersome carpets and have bare floors, or use matting; put away all useless bric-a-brac, every vase, every curio, every dust-collecting ornament, and everything the sun will fade, and then let the air sweep through. The house will be purer for the light, sweeter for the wind, and the temperature will be cooler. In extreme torrid weather, cool a room by hanging wet sheets in it, or by electric fans at play."

In addition to these two methods, either of which may be tried with gratifying results, if the house is kept pleasantly clean and free from "clutter," with windows well polished, and dust washed or wiped up, the effect will be extremely agreeable. A dirty or disorderly house always looks and feels hot on a hot day, and no amount of artificial cooling will compensate for the "mussy" feel of the atmosphere. A crowded room always seems hot, whether it is or not, while a clean, bare room has a cooling effect that one enjoys.

A Danger Signal.

I have a word of caution for the city mothers, or those who live in towns where there are cheap places of amusement, such as dime museums, etc., to which the boys may wander at will. I would like to know if you have ever been there, if you have let your son go, or whether he goes occasionally when he has 10 cents to spend.

Don't, on reading this, "pitch into" your boy, as though he had done some dreadful thing which he should have known better than to have done; but, when the right time comes, and both of you feel in a chummy mood, ask if he knows anything about the freaks you have seen advertised on the bill boards, and what kind of a show is given there. Ten chances to one, if you have been lovingly watchful, that he has not been there; but, if he has, that he will tell you freely all about