

"I'm Hurried, Child."

"O mother, look! I've found a butterfly
Hanging upon a leaf. Do tell me why
There was no butter! Oh, do see its wings!
I never, never saw such pretty things—
All streaked and striped with blue and brown and
gold—
Where is its house when all the days are cold?"
"Yes, yes," she said, in accents mild,
"I'm hurried, child."

"Last night my dolly quite forgot her prayers;
And when she thought you'd gone down stairs
Then dolly was afraid, and so I said:
'Just never mind, but say 'em in the bed,
Because I think that God is just as near.'
When dolls are 'fraid, do you s'pose He can hear?"
The mother spoke from out the ruffles piled:
"I'm hurried, child."

"Oh, come and see the flowers in the sky—
The sun has left, and won't you by-and-by,
Dear mother, take me in your arms, and tell
Me all about the pussy in the well?
And then, perhaps, about 'Red-Riding-Hood?'"
"Too much to do! Hush, hush! you drive me
wild;
I'm hurried, child."

The little one grew very quiet now,
And grieved and puzzled was the childish brow;
And then it queried: "Mother, do you know
The reason 'cause you must be hurried so?
I guess the hours are littler than I,
So I will take my pennies and will buy
A big clock! oh, as big as it can be!
For you and me."

The mother now has leisure infinite;
She sits with folded hands, and face as white
As winter. In her heart is winter's chill,
She sits at leisure, questioning God's will.
"My child has ceased to breathe, and all is night!
Is Heaven so dark that Thou dost grudge me light?
The time drags by."

O, mother sweet, if cares must ever fall,
Pray, do not make them stones to build a wall
Between thee and thy own; and miss the right
To blessedness, so swift to take its flight!
While answering baby questions you are
But entertaining angels unaware;
The richest gifts are gathered by the way,
For darkest day.

Pity Your Children.

Here are a few simple statements of fact which we implore parents by the love they have for their darling children to consider and weigh carefully:

I. "By Nature" we are "the children of wrath," Eph. ii. 3. Alienated from God through sin. That is, when we are born, we have a sinful nature derived from our parents, which keeps us apart from God; although as infants no actual sin may be committed.

II. In baptism God adopts the child into His own Family—His holy Church, and this stain of a sinful nature is put away.

III. The Church of God is the Family of God; all who are made members of that Family are brought into relationship of God; they are His children, brethren in one family, Christ is their elder brother. We cannot understand why, or how this should be, but there must be some good in being adopted by God as His child. The Jewish children had this privilege when they were eight days old. Are Christian children to be worse off than they?

IV. Baptism is the only mode of initiation into the Family of God. No one is a member of that Family (a Christian) until he is baptized; as soon as he is baptized he is a member (a Christian); whether he be a faithful or unfaithful one is another thing. An infant unbaptized is no more a Christian than a Jew. This is not a matter of opinion but a simple fact. No one has a Christian name until he is baptized.

[For example:—A man is not a member of the Free Masons until he is initiated. His father may have been a Mason; he himself may believe in Masonry, carry out its principles in his life, and even earnestly advocate it, yet he is no Mason until he is initiated.]

Ought we not to hasten to put our children into the arms of God at Holy Baptism? Is it not unfair to the darling children—is it not cruel to them to neglect their baptism, when to say the

very least it cannot possibly do them any harm. And if the Church is right there is a marvellously great blessing in Holy Baptism, and loss in its neglect. The Saviour pleads for the children with outstretched arms. He says: "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Fathers! Mothers! can you deny Him? It is cruel to withhold your darlings: cruel to the babes—cruel to the Saviour.

Why Not an Infidel.

"I once met a thoughtful scholar," said Bishop Whipple, "who told me he had read every book he could which assailed the religion of Jesus Christ, and he said he should have become an infidel but for three things: First, I am a man. I am going somewhere. To-night I am a day nearer the grave than I was last night. I have read all such books can tell me. They shed not one solitary ray of hope or light upon the darkness. They shall not take away the guide and leave me stone blind. Second, I had a mother. I saw her go down into the dark valley where I am going, and she leaned on an unseen arm as calmly as a child goes to sleep on its mother's breast. I knew that was not a dream. Third, I have three motherless daughters. They have no protection but myself. I would rather kill them than leave them in this sinful world, if you blot out from it all the teachings of the Gospel."

To Make a Happy Home.

1. Learn to govern yourselves, and to be gentle and patient.
2. Guard your tempers, especially in seasons of ill-health, irritation and trouble, and soften them by prayer, penitence, and a sense of your own shortcomings and errors.
3. Never speak or act until you have prayed over your words or acts, and concluded that Christ would have done so in your place.
4. Remember that, valuable as is the gift of speech, the gift of silence is often much more valuable.
5. Do not expect too much from others, but remember that all have an evil nature, whose development we must expect, and which we should forbear and forgive, as we often desire forbearance and forgiveness ourselves.
6. Never retort a sharp or angry word. It is the second word that makes the quarrel.
7. Beware of the first disagreement.
8. Learn to speak in a gentle tone of voice.
9. Learn to say kind and pleasant things when-ever an opportunity offers.
10. Study the character of each, and sympathize with all in their troubles, however small.
11. Do not neglect little things, if they can affect the comfort of others in the smallest degree.
12. Avoid moods and pets and fits of sulkiness.
13. Learn to deny yourself, and to prefer others.
14. Beware of meddlers, and tale-bearers.
15. Never charge a bad motive if a good one is conceivable.
16. Be gentle, but firm, with children.
17. Do not allow your children to go away from home at night without knowing where they are.
18. Do not allow them to go where they please on the Sabbath.

"I am so Discouraged."

"I am so discouraged," So spoke a lady the other day to her rector. And she added: "I cannot see what attracts you to this parish."

'Tis true, there were many discouragements—there always are; but they seemed in this instance to rise mountains high. The rector fell to meditating, and he expressed the thought a few days later, couched in these words:—

"There is one word I have made it the study of my life to understand. It is a little word; but it is a grand word. It thrills men. It gives them strength. It steadies their purpose. It has an attractive power. It keeps me where I am. That word is 'duty.'"

And it is a wonderful word. And the more one thinks upon its power, the more one understands

of its ability to bring success out of seeming failure—to bring courage out of what would otherwise dishearten—to keep the soul near to its God. Could Christian people generally realize the meaning of this little four-lettered word, the hindrances to the Christian life and to Christian work would fast disappear. And to-day those men and women, who are carrying on their shoulders the great work of the Church and refuse to falter or hesitate, are those who at every turn are actuated by the thought: "It is my duty."

Grasp then, Christian reader, the idea this word conveys, and become faithful to every trust, steady in your Christian purpose, courageous in your efforts to build up the Kingdom of your Lord.—*Christ Church Messenger.*

Hints to Housekeepers.

Do not use iron kettles or stewpans. Do not set cooking utensils in, but on, the range; their contents will cook more evenly; and to be obliged to handle articles, the bottoms of which are in a chronically soiled state, is anything but agreeable. The bottoms of tea-kettles, frying-pans, etc., should be kept scrupulously clean. The habit contracted by some persons of simply washing the inside of fry and stewpans, and leaving the outside smeared with soot and oil, is barbarous indeed. Purchase the lightest and best cooking utensils, and keep them as clean as you do glass and silver.

NEVER cook fruit in tin ware.

LAY all vegetables, when practicable, in cold, salted water for half an hour previous to cooking them.

IN boiling fresh fish, mackerel, cod, or trout, put a small onion in the water. The fish will not taste of the onion, but will have a much finer flavour than it would were the onion omitted.

Do not cook pies, having a bottom crust, upon earthen plates. The heat causes the pores of the ware to open, and the pastry emits a hot oil that quickly enters them. As the plate cools, those pores close and shut in a certain amount of grease. Any earthen dish used in this way very soon acquires a distinctly rancid odor, and it is very strange that many persons using them do not appear to notice the fact. Tin pie-plates are always preferable, especially those with perforated bottoms, which insure the bottom crust being properly baked. On the other hand, earthen-ware exclusively should be used for all pies where the bottom crust is omitted and the fruit comes in contact with the dish (and really the most delicious and healthful of apple pies are those baked with a very light upper and no under crust).

RINSE all dishes in warm water before placing them in the pan to be washed. Have the water too hot to bear the hands in, and use a dish-mop. The little patented, nickel-plated affairs, with teeth that clinch tightly upon the cloth and hold it firmly, are rather the best. Wipe each article rapidly and thoroughly the instant it is drawn from the pan.

REMOVE stains from your lamp-chimneys with salt.

USE no rugs about the cook stove or range which may not be as readily washed as a length of Turkish towelling.

WHITE dresses to be worn during the hours spent in one's kitchen, are more satisfactory than any others. They are cool and agreeable to the wearer, and if made plainly, are easily washed and laundered. The only complaint is that "they show the dirt." That, however, is only an additional item in their favour, since, if dirt is there, one should wish to see it.

As in days of old a pillar of cloud led God's chosen people, so full oft 'tis a cloud that leads us now; but thank God it still leads to the Promised Land of Rest and Peace.