

# Home and School

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## The Leaven.

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"The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."—Matt. 13. 33.

Most of our little readers have seen the way in which our bread is made—by putting a small quantity of yeast into the flour, and know that the yeast will work and cause the dough to swell to a large lump.

The woman in our picture is just placing the leaven in her jar of meal, and she is sure it will cause her bread to become leavened all through. She has only to put it there and it will do its own work.

Leaven is used in the verse we give you as showing the work of the Gospel, how it changes everything it comes in contact with. It means that if we have God's grace hidden away in our hearts, it will influence and shape our whole lives, making us more Christ-like.

The word leaven is not always used to represent a good influence. It occurs very often in the sacred Scriptures as the emblem of sin. And justly so, for sin changes the nature very quickly, and transforms a man into a raging demon. Once started, it is next to impossible to stop its deadly work, or get away from its power.

How important it is, then, that the leaven which is in us, and will go from us to influence others, should be the mild and gentle leaven of the Gospel, working in us to will and to do the Master's pleasure! God says: "My son, give me thy heart,"—not "thy money," or "thy good name," or "thy learning," but "thy heart,"—going at once into the very inner man, because if the tree is good, the fruit will be good, without doubt.

How much of this heavenly leaven have we in our hearts to day? Have we felt its power in our souls? Are we being changed by it into the image and likeness of our blessed Saviour?

Let us all try to be as good, sweet leaven in our



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homes, among our schoolmates and associates, in the neighbourhoods around us, in the church and everywhere. Every Christian, whether old or young, should be a lively leaven, a central power, from which should radiate a life giving power to all around. If this could only be so, how long would it take to change the whole world?

Our religion does not consist of how much we give to the church, how regular we are in attendance, or what denomination we belong to, or how loud are our professions of piety. It is in the

heart. If the love of Christ be there, if his grace has entered into our lives, then will it show, like leaven, in all our actions, and we shall indeed be true followers of the meek and lowly and loving Jesus.

Let us avoid the leaven of evil thoughts, of bad books and bad companions, as we value our happiness here and hereafter, and let our daily lives be as a wholesome leaven upon those with whom we are associated, and verily we shall not lose our reward.

## Word Twisting.

"My dear boy," once asked a head master of a Philistine member of his sixth form, "do you mean to say that you have never heard of that magnificent statue of Michael Angelo, by Moses?" Clergymen seem especially addicted to this habit, perhaps because their excessive anxiety to be correct renders them nervous, and to those of their congregation who are gifted, fortunately or unfortunately, with a keen sense of the ridiculous, such slips are excessively trying from the impropriety of openly testifying appreciation.

"Sorrow may endure for a joy," so an Irish clergyman is reported to have read with the utmost feeling; "but night cometh in the morning!" With the transposition of initial letters a new field of solecism is opened up, in which a living cleric, in other respects intelligent and accomplished,

works with an involuntary assiduity that is most upsetting to his hearers. "My brethren," so ran one of his most startling announcements, "we all know what it is to have a half-warmed fish (that is, half-formed wish) in our hearts." With him, however, the mischief goes further, extending to the mutual entanglement of words which is terrible to contemplate. He has been known to speak of "Kinquering congs," and on one occasion, ever memorable to his interlocutor, addressing himself to a gentleman who had intruded upon his seat in