

HOUSEHOLD.

'Now I Lay Me.'

(By Rev. W. Russell Collins, in 'The Episcopal Recorder.')

'Now I lay me'—low and sweet,
Said the prayer, with lisp'ng tongue;
Tired little baby feet
Cease from toddling—day is done.

Day is done; yes, night is here;
Darkness follows hours of play;
Gowned for bed, each little dear,
Learns at mother's knee to pray.

'Now I lay me'—soft the hymn,
Falling sweet from baby lips;
Eyelids drooping, light grows dim,
Soft cheeks warm the pillow slips,

'Down to sleep;' so soft they lie;
Safely, fear they naught of ill.
Angels guard them from the sky,
Glad their watches to fulfil.

'Now I lay me down to sleep;'
Both are glad the day 's done.
'Pray the Lord my soul to keep;'
Tired of day—this day of fun.

Yes, 'tis a day of play-time now,
Of romping, laughing, singing, fun.
But ev'ning shadows come not slow:
E'en babes are glad the day is done

'Pray the Lord my soul to keep;'
Lightly now they say the prayer,
Heedless of the meaning deep;
Free of sorrow; free of care.

The day is done—the day of fun;
The day of worry, toil and strife,
Comes with the west'ring of the sun,
The welcome eventide of life.

Tired of day, we welcome night;
Glad we hail its quiet and sleep.
Yet, fraught with ill and dark its flight,
We pray Thee, Lord, our souls to keep.

Misunderstood.

(North-Western Advocate.)

Many children travel a thorny path, not because they are not loved, but because they are misunderstood. They are expected by parents and older brothers and sisters to see things as their elders see them and to fully comprehend what is said to them. But even adults do not always do this, and why should children? Their minds must have time to develop, and in the process they often get confused. We know of a little girl of three or four years of age who was told not to do a certain act and she replied, 'I won't.' From this she received the impression that when she would do as she was told she should say, 'I won't.' Not long afterward she was requested to do some simple act, but instead of saying 'I will,' she said 'I won't.' Her father, surprised at this defiance of his authority, severely punished the child for her refusal. Later he was more surprised to learn that he had misunderstood the child, who meant to obey, and he was deeply grieved at his own unjust punishment of her. Children thus often speak and act in ignorance and are punished unjustly. The

forms of punishment of children are usually of a character which not only give pain for the moment, but often sadden their lives for years. They are sometimes sent supperless to bed, shut up in dark closets, whipped, snubbed and otherwise punished for offences which in their hearts, at least, they did not commit. It is a satisfaction to know that God never misunderstands his children and that he judges our acts by our motives. He deals tenderly with our unintentional mistakes. So should we deal tenderly with the mistakes of our children.

Tact.

A little boy once said to his mother, when he found himself getting into close quarters about something which they disagreed over; 'Don't make me do it, Mamma; let me do it.'

It is easier to do a thing when they let us do it, than it is when they undertake to make us do it.

Little four-year-old Bud was playing with his older sister, Ethel, when some plaything was wanted from below.

'Bud, you go downstairs and get it.' The young man hesitated, and looked as if he was thinking. 'You might have said please.'

'But, Bud, you must, I am the mother, and I am the oldest.'

The little chap straightened himself up, and stamped his little foot, and said, 'Well, Ethel, if I must, I won't.'

Bud had a great deal of human nature, and Ethel was slightly lacking in tact. If the older brothers and sisters will put on fewer airs, and less authority they will get on much better managing their little brothers and sisters than they do when they are trying to show off their dignity. Patience and meekness help much about managing little ones.—'Christian Observer.'

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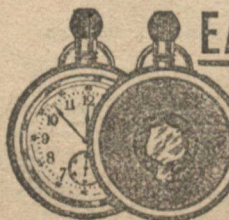
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