

## HOUSEHOLD.

## Looking Forward.

(By Maida Maitland.)

Things were all at 'sixes' in the Stewart family that July day when Aunt Laurie arrived unexpectedly. The whole family of boys, six in all, seemed to be fairly possessed with the spirit of discord and mischief. Baby Rob had been sick and restless all night, consequently it was not a very bright little mother who presided over the noisy breakfast table. It was Saturday, too, and the little flock all remained at home to add to the noise and din of the day. By five Mrs. Stewart was a 'bundle of nerves,' irritable and cross and not overly just in her settlement of disputes.

It was not to be wondered at, for she certainly had endured more than one little mother is often called upon to endure in one twenty-four hours.

Fred had met her as she descended that morning with a handful of his father's choicest bulbs which he had uprooted to see why they were not growing.

Arthur had experimented with the aquarium that for some weeks past had been a source of great amusement and interest to the whole family, but he had wearied of watching the graceful movements of the pretty gold fish and was filled with a great desire to see just how they would behave out of water. Consequently the tap was turned, and soon the poor fish lay in a dying condition. At this point Mrs. Stewart visited the library, but too late to revive two of their special pets.

Then all day there were constant shouts of alarm, from falls and bruises, and many were the quarrellings and disputes that had to be settled. But things seemed to reach a climax in the afternoon when on coming into the newly-carpeted dining-room Mrs. Stewart found that Ted, in his haste, had carelessly upset a bottle of boot-polish that would forever ruin the appearance of the pretty room.

It was right here that poor, tired, and decidedly cross Mrs. Stewart was seated when Aunt Laurie arrived, and took in the situation at a glance, but it was not until the 'cool' of the evening, when seated cozily in a quiet nook, that Aunt Laurie heard the history of 'this dreadful day,' when some way, in the quiet of the night when the little ones were all tucked away, her hasty words, and hasty judgment touched her heart with a pang of remorse and made her wish she had been more tender with them all.

They sat in silence for some time, then Aunt Laurie remarked: 'I have just come from visiting an old lady of eighty, who had brought up and settled a large family. In the pretty, old-fashioned country house there is a shabby old window that she would never have modernized like the rest of her home, and in this unattractive spot the old lady sits. The sill of the window is rather a disgrace to the pretty room, for it is old and scarred and cut into all shapes. The black sheep of her flock had, in his young days, come into great disgrace for trying his new knife on this window, and severe was the punishment the lad had received. He was far away from her now, fighting, and not too successfully, the battle of life, and all his tiresome faults, that seemed such a heart-break to her in the long ago, were forgotten, and she longed for the day the "bairns" used to toddle about, that she might be more patient with them.'

"This was some of Hughie's work," she said to me with a sad smile, as she fondly ran her fingers along the disfigured window-sill, and I knew the ugly hacks made by that first jack-knife were dearer and more beautiful to her than the most elaborate grill work.

Mrs. Stewart looked up with a sad, understanding smile as Aunt Laurie continued, 'When the days seem all full of things going wrong, and the children seem only a worry and a care—stop and think quietly of the time when your boys will all be away from the shelter of home, and when "mother" will only be a memory to some of them. Try each day to live with them that your recollections of their early years will be free from remorse and their memory of you, when you have passed out of their lives, will be a loving, beautiful one, and that round the name of "mother" will be gathered in the hearts all that is good and

pure and beautiful. A mother who has accomplished this has indeed done a noble life-work.'

Mrs. Stewart's eyes were full of unshed tears as she walked back to the house, declaring in her heart, 'I will begin again tomorrow,' and the little trials will seem lighter when "Looking Forward."—'Onward.'

## Housecleaning Hints.

(Sada Ballard, in the 'New England Homestead.')

Never clean house except in sunny weather. If a damp, gloomy day comes, put off the cleaning or else you will rue it. You'll be sure to have the blues, everything will be depressing and nothing will go as it should. If there are ceilings to be whitewashed it is well to use whitewash that will not rub off easily. Such can be made by mixing up half a pail of lime and water in the usual way; then take a quarter of a pint of flour, mix with water, pour on a sufficient quantity of boiling water to make a paste, pour it while hot into the whitewash and stir all well together.

If you want to paper walls that have been whitewashed, make a flour paste, add a generous quantity of liquid glue, apply evenly to the walls with a whitewash brush; let it dry, and when you wish to apply the paper, dampen the wall with thin paste, and use thick paste on the paper in the ordinary way. If wall paper is smoked and grimy, it can be cleaned to look almost like new by making a very thick dough of one quart of flour and five cents' worth of ammonia, adding a little cold water if needed. Work and knead the dough till smooth and free from stickiness, then cut off a piece and rub the paper, turning the dough so a clean surface is presented with every stroke, and taking a fresh piece when that gets too dirty to use.

If the walls are painted and need a thorough washing, they may be made to look fine by use of the following mixture:—Shave fine four ounces of castile soap and dissolve in one quart of boiling water; when cold add four ounces of ammonia, two ounces each of alcohol and glycerine, and one gallon of cold water. Use one cupful of this liquid to a pail of warm water.

If stovepipes of Russia iron must be stored away, they should have a good coat of coal oil all over and be put in a dry place. When wanted for use again, give them a coat of benzine, then rub off smooth and dry. Stoves should have a coating of oil before they are put away, which can be rubbed off with coarse woollen rags when de-

sired. The mica windows in the stove, when smoked, are easily cleaned by brushing free from dust and then washing them with vinegar slightly diluted with water.

## How to Treat Burns.

For a burn, take one part fresh lard and two parts baking soda, mix together and spread upon pieces of white or cream tissue paper, lay these gently upon affected part and bind on with muslin strips. While waiting for the lard and soda the burn should be bathed with witchhazel.

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