

## SAVING MOTHER.

The farmer sat in his easy chair,  
Between the fire and the lamp-light's glare;  
His face was ruddy and full and fair,  
His three small boys in the chimney nook  
Gowned the lines of a picture book;  
His wife the pride of his home and heart,  
Baked the biscuits and made the tart;  
Laid the table and steeped the tea,  
Deftly, swiftly, silently,  
Tired and weary, and worn and faint,  
She bore her trials without complaint,  
Like many another household saint—  
Content, all selfish bliss above  
In the patient ministry of love.  
At last, between the clouds of smoke  
That wreathed his lips the husband spoke.  
"There's taxes to raise, an' interest to pay,  
And of there should come a rainy day,  
"Twould be mighty handy, I'm bound to say  
"T have sumthin' put by. For folks must die,  
An' there's funeral bills, an' gravestones to buy—  
Enough to swamp a man, purty nigh;  
Besides, there's Edward and Dick and Joe  
To be provided for when we go.  
So 'I was you, I'll tell you what I'd do,  
I'd be savin' of wood as erer I could—  
Extra fire don't do any good—  
I'd be savin' of soap, an' savin' of fle,  
And run up some candles once in a while;  
I'd be rather sparin' of coffee an' tea,  
For sugar is high,  
And all to buy,

And cider is good enough for me.  
I'd be kind o' careful about my clo'es,  
And look out sharp how the money goes—  
Gegaws is careless; natur' knows;

Extra trimmin'  
'S the bane of women.

"I'd sell the best of the cheese and honey,  
And eggs is as good, nigh about's the money;  
And as to the carpet you wanted new—  
I guess we can make the old one do;  
And as for the washer and sewing machine  
Them smooth-tongued agents so pecky mean,  
You'd better get rid of 'em slick and clean.  
What do they know about woman's work?  
Do they calkilate women were made to shirk?"  
Dick and Edward and little Joe  
Sat in a corner in a row.  
They saw the patient mother go  
On ceaseless errands to and fro;  
They saw that her form was bent and thin,  
Her temples gray, her cheeks sunk in,  
They saw the quiver of her lip and chin—  
And then with a warmth he could not smother,  
Outspoke the youngest, frailest brother:  
"You talk of savin' wood and ile,  
An' tea and sugar all the while,  
But you never talk of savin' mother!"

**DELICATE APPLE SAUCE**—Pare, halve and quarter a sufficient quantity of nice stewing apples; put them into a baking dish, and cover thickly with sugar—bits of lemon peel may be added if liked. Put a plate over the dish, and set it into a pan having a little hot water in the bottom, and place in a hot oven. Bake until the pieces are clear and tender.

**COAL ASHES.**—Common coal ashes, if well distributed about the roots of currant bushes, is one of their best promoters. This should be done by loosening the soil about their roots, and placing the ashes near them; cover firmly with earth above, and the bushes will bear such clusters as will speak the beneficial effects of this application of material too commonly thrown aside as of no use. Cherry trees also gratefully accept this renovator, and if carefully bedded about the roots with coal ashes in the fall, the yield of fruit the following year will surprise the cultivator. Especially is this effect produced in the black loam of Illinois. We have in our mind one fruit garden there where all the small fruit was treated in this way, and have never seen, their yield excelled. — *National Farmer.*

**THE FRUIT GARDEN.**—There should be a Fruit Garden on every farm for the profit, health, and enjoyment that it brings, where well cared for—yielding a succession of fruits from early strawberry time until the latest grapes are gone. It is our desire that all who have no garden for small fruits may resolve to prepare the ground and plant one the coming spring. The soil for a Fruit Garden should be rich, deep, and mellow, and above all thoroughly drained should it be naturally wet. There is nothing better than well rotted stable manure for enriching a garden soil. The list of Strawberries that may be planted is a long one and has been added to from year to year. Charles Downing, Seth Boyden, Monarch of the West, and Sharpless are all reliable. The Bidwell has proved excellent, and the Manchester is a promising new sort. On heavy soils the Jucunda and Triomphe de Gand do well. Among Raspberries are the Cuthbert, Patrician, and Herstine. The Mammoth Cluster and Gregg are among the best Black-caps for general use. For Blackberries the Kittatinny and Snyder are the best. The Versailles, Red Dutch, and White Grape lead in the Currants. It is difficult to select from the long list of excellent grapes, Concord, Wilder, Brighton, Kumelan, Delaware, and Pocklington give a good variety. — *American Agriculturist.*