

her walk with one of her friends.

It was not an unusual afternoon. The mother discovered that the children were beginning to take it as a matter of course that her plans should be made to suit theirs; that at any time she might be disturbed, to wait on them. Aunt Kate was right; the children were growing selfish, and it was their mother's fault! Mrs. Burnham had faith enough in her children to feel that they needed only to be shown things as they were. So, next morning, when Tom called, "Mother, where's my cap?" instead of leaving the breakfast table to help in the search, she answered, "Probably where you left it, son, either in your room or the hall", and apparently oblivious to his impatient remarks, went quietly on with her breakfast.

Nellie was surprised to hear her mother say, "Leave a little early for school, dear, I want you to take Mrs. Brown's pattern." "Why, mother", she said, "you were to leave it on your way to prayer meeting." "I thought afterwards you would rather go the two blocks out of your way than have me go four", she replied.

And so it was all day. The children found their mother as kind and as interested in their studies and amusements as usual; but they *waited on themselves*, they were even asked to wait on others. The change was sudden enough, as Nellie said, "to make them sit up and take notice"; and they were quite ready for the talk that followed after tea.

They fully justified their mother's faith in them, and when Tom, who had always longed to belong to a society as the older boys did, said, "Let's form a society for keeping mother unselfish, the S.K.M.U., we'll call it", the girls laughingly agreed. That happened a year ago, and Mrs. Burnham says she is so truly unselfish, that she is the best waited-on mother in town.

St. John, N.B.

How to Teach the Hymn

By Miss E. M. Russell

In teaching a new hymn to the little ones, it is well to familiarize them with the air first, by having it played softly on the piano. When they know the melody well enough to be able to hum it, begin teaching the words.

In order that the child may sing with the understanding, the words should be explained in a simple way. Take, for instance, Hymn 483, in the Book of Praise. One might begin with a little talk like this:

Something came into my room this morning and wakened me. It didn't make any noise. It came so quietly, that I did not hear it. It didn't wait till the door was opened, but came right in at the window, and made the room very bright. Oh, I see you have guessed what it was! Yes,—the sunshine! Make a big round sun with your hands.

Tell me where the sunshine goes, besides in our rooms. All over the land,—the trees, the streets and the houses, the fields and away out on the water. Do people have to buy sunshine? No, it is free. Our hymn says:

"Summer suns are glowing
Over land and sea,
Happy light is flowing,
Bountiful and free."

Are you not glad when the day is bright? Tell me some other things that seem glad. Yes, the grass and the flowers, the trees and the birds, the brooks and the rivers. As the hymn says:

"Everything rejoices
In the mellow rays,
All earth's thousand voices
Swell the psalm of praise."

The sunshine is one of God's good gifts, for which we should say "I thank You" to the heavenly Father. Tell me some other gifts—our *food, clothes, rain, snow*, etc. I wonder if you know why God sends us these good gifts. Why do father and mother give gifts to their children? Because they love them. Yes, and that is why God sends His gifts to us. Just as God sends His sunshine all over the world, so He sends His love over all the world to everybody. Like the sunshine, it is *free* to men, women and children. The second verse tells us:

"God's free mercy streameth
Over all the world,
And His banner gleameth,
Everywhere unfurled.

Broad and deep and glorious
As the heaven above,
Shines in might victorious
His eternal love."

Can we always see the sun? What hides it? The clouds seem to spread a veil over