MESSENGER. NORTHERN

THE HOUSEHOLD.

ELSIE'S. VICTORY.

BY ERNEST GILMORE.

There was no light in Mrs., Henry's house, except in the dining-room ; thence a feeble ray issued from the almost tightly closed blinds.

"There must be some one sick," Uncle Hugh said anxiously, as he stamped the

Elsie Henry said, putting her arms around Uncle Hugh's neck the moment he crossed the threshold.

What's the trouble, Puss? Any one sick ?" he inquired, returning Elsie's caress. "No one sick now. What made you

ask ?" Elsie asked soberly. "Because the house is not lighted, and your face is so doleful, and you are sitting here alone in this forlorn dining-room."

"Oh, Uncle Hugh !" Elsie wailed. "Well, my dear ?" her uncle said questioningly, as he threw aside his coat and sat

down in a large arm-chair. "Do you wonder that my face is doleful, when you know that my darling sister is dead ? And what do I care for the house being lighted, when I'm doing nothing but just sitting here, brooding and mourning over Ellen's death ?"

"Surely I do not wonder at your doleful face, or your darkened house, if that is all. I had hoped better things of you," Uncle Hugh said tenderly.

What had you hoped ?" Elsic asked.

"Hoped that you would lean heavily on Him who has said, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee;' hoped that you would cheer your saddened mother, who has had so many crosses to bear that they have borne heavily upon her; hoped that you would brighten up the house, --- not make the dark-ness more intense." Ekse looked up wistfully through eyes brimming full of tears, to ask : " How can one undertake to cheer another, when that one is depressed ?"

"It is not so hard as one might think, if one resolutely goes to work to cheer. You may sob and mourn for Ellen ; it is only the expression of a loving, human heart ; but it is not quite the right way, to; sit down deliberately to brood and mourn. Remember, Elsie dear, that the sun still shines, and God reigns. It is hard for us to know, that we can never see Ellen's sweet face here ; but is it not joy to feel sure that we will greet her again over there? I was 'I gave my life for thee,' and of how little we could do in return. You have a grand opportunity of answering the Master's question, 'What hast thou done for me?' You can say, 'I give up my sister willingly at Thy call. I will not be rebellious. I will remember that although her work is finished, mine is not; and just now this seems to be, to bring sunshine into my home. Will you not try to feel this way, Elsie dear ?"

Elsie could not answer then ; she only sobbed; but when Uncle Hugh came in sight of his sister's house the next evening, he was answered to his satisfaction. There was a glimmer of light beckoning from the hall, and the large comfortable sitting-room was brilliantly illuminated. Uncle Hugh rubbed his hands with delight as he opened the door into the warm, pleasant room. Elsic met him with a smile ; her face was no

"I fought a battle last night, Uncle Hugh. I conquered at last; but it was in the wee, sma' hours, before I won the victory," she whispered.

" Ah, my dear, thank God that you won, he answered heartily, looking about him at the sweet home picture,-Elsic's mother busy with some bright worsted work ; El. sie's father sitting near her with a pleasant book in his hands; while all around were evidences of Elsic's loving thoughtfulness. a-rose in the vas n The tea-rose in the vase upon the table the dish of rosy apples near by, the slippers warming by the fireside, were all voices pro-claiming victory. While Elsie ran up to her room for a little gift she had been pre-paring for Uncle Hugh, he remarked : "You look very peaceful and happy here." "Yes, and we feel so. It has been so here to any flow died. Elsie

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Mrs. Henry said feelingly. "I almost thought I had ventured into

the wrong house to-day when I came home and found the sun streaming in through the windows, the bird singing for joy, and even my own Elsie actually singing me a greeting from the piano. But, thank God, it was my own house! Thank Him that we at last realize, that even behind a frowning providence God hides a smiling face.". Christian Intelligencer.

WHAT SHALL THE CHILDREN EAT.

Too often the noon lunch is made of remnants of cake, sauce and pie, instead of one or two nourishing dishes in which a child's preferences should be indulged as far as may be healthful. In one home this is made the children's special meal, just as the later dinner is planned to subserve in particular the needs and tastes of the head of the house. Nothing has been of greater service to us than the often misunderstood and mutilated bean. Cooked in a simple way, not borrowed from cook books, it has contributed largely to the growth of young forms that have both strength and endurance and minds that are quick, alert, and take "learning" almost like inspiration. Before breakfast wash a quart of the best white beans; put them over the fire in a tin pan with plenty of boiling water. Let them just come to a good boil, then drain off this water and add fresh boiling water to cover them about an inch deep or more, and a tablespoonful of salt. Cover them and move them back on the range to where they will only just simmer, adding water if needed. Two hours before noon add "a large table-spoonful of sugar, and a cup of rich milk or cream, or an equal amount of good beef gravy. Cook slowly two or three hours longer, and let them be full of juiciness or gravy when taken up-never cooked down dry or mealy. Highly seasoned or variously flavored soups do not find favor with them like a clear strained stock made from a soup-bone simmered four or five hours, and seasoned only withsalt and a mere suggestion of vegetables. Give them small crackers to float in it. One little boy furnishes imagination for the feast, and "plays" that his dish of soup is the ocean, his crackers islands or sail-boats, and his spoon a big ship searching for Robinson Crusoe. Or his saucer of oatmeal is a snow-covered moun. tain, with rivulets of milk down its sides for snow-slides and glaciers, or streams of berry juice for molten lava, etc. Fancies like these have almost as much power to give a charmed relish to food as the carefully cooked viands themselves. If bread is a little stale, make Queen's toast of it. Cut it into half slices, not very thin, and dip it in-to two eggs beaten up with a large cup of milk. Lay it on a hot griddle and brown it nicely on both sides. If any addition is desired, a little sugar or canned fruit spread over it will answer nicely. Milk toast slightly thickened and salted is another much-relished lunch. Little corn-meal or Graham gems are fancied for their cunning shape when the large brown loaf might not be attractive.—M. T. C. in Christian Union.

WHO TIED DOWN THE BELLOWS. BY CHRISTIEN REID.

In the old days, before we had found out that coal would burn, and when only wood was used, it was not always easily kindled, especially if it was what is called "green"not dry. Then there were no matches; our young people hardly know what a little time it is since matches began to be used. Then, if you wanted to make a fire, you had to carry coals, and there was no blaze until you could blow it up to a blaze with air. People blew with the mouth fit to blow the breath away, and so he was well off who had bellows, with two handles and a nose, 011 ofw or pipe, out of which you could blow the air. The blacksmith uses a big pair to make his fire hot.

One day the lire did not burn well ; it was a wood fire, such as people have again now. They are very pleasant, but will not make a room very warm in cold weather. We had a room very warm in condiversities. If the state of the space left in the apple with sweet of the lights had not been brought. A DELICIOUS way to prepare baked the plaque, and the result will be the before child's eyes at least, a thing of beauty apples for tea is to cut out the core before child's eyes at least, a thing of beauty out start up the fire a little?" It was just fill the space left in the apple with sweet out of fretfulness. *Clivistian Intelligence*. "Yes, and we feel so. It has been so lonely for us all, since Ellen died. Elsie, poor child, grieved herself almost sick. We thought until to-day, that we had lost both of our daughters,—the house seemed at twilight the lights had not been brought cream with a little powdered sugar in it.

like a fomb; but we've found our dear in, and Grace reached out her hand and took Elsie again,—brighter, nobler, sweeter, for her passage through the fire of affliction," of air that did no good whatever to the fire. of air that did no good whatever to the fire. She looked, and thought, perhaps, she had them upside down, for there is a hole on the under side, where the air draws in, and then a little flap falls down inside and keeps the air from coming out that way, and sends it through the nozzle. But if the bellows are upside down, this little trap falls open. No; the hole was right, and yet there was no air. "Pshaw!" said Harry, 'you can't blow worth a cent;" and he took the bellows out of Grace's hands. Harry was a boy who could always do things better than any one else, at least in his own opinion. He went to work with great zeal; with much more zeal than success.

"What's the matter the mean things

won't half open !" "Let me try," said Susan ; "you must hold them so. Oh, I.see! somebody has tied them together. Now. John, you're always in mischief." "I didn't," said John ; "I don't like to be blamed when I don't do things;" and there

was a prospect of a lively dispute. 'Stop, children !" said Dr. Ellis ; "I tied

them ; but don't you see, they will work-just as well ;" and he began to use them ; it

must be owned with very small success. "Why, how absurd !" broke in Susan, taking hold of them. "Of course the bellows can't do any good tied up in this way ;" and she proceeded to loosen the string. "There !"

"But, said the Doctor, "you told me yesterday that it made no difference."

"Why, papa !--oh !" and she stopped, conscious-for her father had gently told her she was wearing her dress too tight about the waist, and that her bellows, that is, her lungs, which, with the ribs, work in the same way, were tied down too tightly, and could not do their full work. Down in her inmost soul Susan was conscious that her dress was a trifle tight, but she hoped to train herself, or reduce herself, or get used to it. It was so very nice to have a slender, trim waist! And as she was an honest girl, and did not really mean to do wrong, this lesson rather came home to her. She saw a great many girls who breathed up and down with their shoulders because their lungs had not room " east and west," as her father said, and she saw corsets advertised "for day and night wear" for the poor misguided souls who did not know how the good God had made them ; she would not be so wicked; but, then, it was dreadful not to look trim and nice! So Susan and her sis-ter both understood the lesson of the bellows, and took it to heart. Their father meant to interpose his authority, if necessary, but he much preferred they should see for themselves and apply the lesson. He took off the string; and the bellows worked freely; he picked up the cat, who was quietly taking her ease by the fire, and showed how her ribs moved and swelled at every breath. Then he proceeded to put a band around and prevent this motion of her ribs. But pussy had no pride, and was not willing to be made uncomfortable, especially as there was so little to be gained by it. So she resolutely protested against a tight band, to say nothing of corsets. Sensible cat !

The Doctor then went on to talk inciden tally of the Flathead skull and the Chinese foot, to show how much the frame can beau and live, made some incidental allusions to high heels and pinched toes as not being exactly what the Maker of all intended, and left his lessons to work their purpose. Then he hung up the bellows by the side of the fire-place, and they went out to tea.-Christian Union.

ONE WAY to economize and to produce excellent results in cooking is to use suct in place of butter or lard. For many purposes it is better than either of these. Some people who object decidedly to cakes fried in lard relish them when suct is used for frying. Beef balls are very nice fried in uet. Round steak can be used for these Chop the meat fine, season well with pepper and salt and any herb you may choose shape them like flat balls with your hands, dip in egg and fine cracker or bread crumbs and fry in the hotsuet.

PUZZLES.

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PHONETIC CHARADE. My first and second reveal a name That finds no place on the roll of Fame,-A household term, to which comes, when

heard, A maiden at times, and at times a bird.

My third and fourth disclose a name

My whole is one of a class accurst !

Of nuisances often called the worst ;

Which the people too willingly tolerate, And one which they could, if they would, abate.

FIVE CONUNDRUMS.

1. Which is the most ancient of the trees?

2. When is a boat like a heap of snow? What comes after cheese ? 4.

What is that word of five letters from which if you take away two, only one remains?

NUMERICAL ENIGMAS.

Ι. 3. . I am a proverb of 22 letters. My 18, 9, 16, 3 is hard to bear. My 22, 6, 5, 4, 21 is to part. My 13, 20, 17, 15, 19, 11 is something children are always losing. My 9, 14, 2, is the track of a wheel. My 1, 7, 19, 3 a very common metal. My 1, 2, 10, 18 is a toste

My 12, 10, 18 is a taste.

11.

My 13, 14, 16, 1, 4, is a small house. My 11, 17, 22, 23, is a small animal. My 2, 15, 19, 8, any authoritative prohi-

oition.

My 18, 10, 7, 20, 6, pliant. My 12, 9, 21, 24, 23 is a small brush. My 5, 18, 3, 22, 23 is a peculiar glance.

My whole is a proverb.

CHARADE.

(FIRST.)

A house is what my first doth mean, Or 'tis oft called the place ;

Twas also called the temple,

By a well known ancient race.

(SECOND.) Search well through Webster's volume.

For instruction or for fun ; There you'll find I'm well-defined,

As meaning only one.

(WHOLE.)

A village on the eastern slope

Of old Mount Olivet;

Here many wondrous things were done, Which none must e'er forget.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.

EASY GEOGRAPHICAL PUZZLE-1. Fear. 2. Ray 3. Clear 4. Fairweather. 5. Charles. 6. Land's End 7 Sable. 8. Sandy. 9. Kace. 10 Wrath. 11. Ley. 12. East 18 Henry. 14. North. 16. Horn. 16. Good Hope. 17. Farewell. 14. North. HIDDEN CITIES.—1. Lisbon. 2. Paris. 3. Bath Perth. 5. Halle. 6. Potsdam, 7. Nice.

Word Changes -- Near-tear -- year -- hear pear-bear-tear-wear-dear-gear.

ENIGMA. Noah.

BEHEADINGS AND CURTAILINGS. — L-am-b. .-at-e. P-as-t. L-ass-o. L-an-d. W-rat-h. SANS TETES ET SANS PIEDS,-1, FUSCe; 2, usago; 3, tavern · 4, adleu; 5, farce; 6, naughty.

RAINY-DAY WORK FOR THE LITTLE ONES. -It is raining and the children do not know how to employ their surplus energy. 'Mamma, what shall we do now ?" they say, till that wonderful woman is at her wit's end what to suggest. Provide some moulds, such as are used for blancmange and jellies, or even some cups and bowls, or saucers will answer, and give the children plaster of Paris and water. let them fill these and turn them out. The birch bark plates which are used by bakers and grocers will make plaques which the little artists may hang upon the chamber or sitting-room wall, if they choose. In lang them, a der to loon w 28861 This may be provided for by a bit of ribbon or braid of the proper length, the ends of which may be laid under the wet plaster. When the plaster has hardened, the loop will be firmly adjusted. Then a pretty scrap picture may be pasted in the centre of the plaque, and the result will be, to the