

You may venture a kind word,  
Just to cross the border.  
Parlors are no trusty key,  
So, if you would guess her,  
Never mind the bric-a-brac,  
Watch the kitchen dresser.

"Tis the girl that's orderly  
Makes the household pleasure;  
And not many understand  
How to take her measure.  
She may play a fine nocturne,  
Paint a pretty cluster;  
But be sure that she can use  
Both the broom and duster.

"For the pleasant evening hours  
She has used adorning;  
See her in the kitchen, son,  
At the early morning.  
If she can, with cheerful heart,  
Every duty carry;  
She's the wife for daily life—  
She's the girl to marry.

"If—and, oh, be sure of this—  
She's good to her mother,  
To her father dutiful;  
If not—choose another.  
For the daughter that will sneer  
At her parents' life,  
Is not worth a wedding ring,  
Nor the name of wife."

#### A LADY'S GIFT TO HER VERY DILATORY SUITOR.

##### THE MITTEN.

This little mitt I hope will fit,  
'Tis for your hand intended. It  
took me very long to knit, But I am  
glad to send it. You'll wonder why  
I send but one. And think I acted  
blindly. But one will do the best for  
you. And you may thank me kindly.  
It is all wool, of good stout yarn. Your  
yarns are all un-common, And I am  
sure a gladder gift was never sent by  
woman; And by this mitten you will  
see That you I've not forgotten, And  
when you wear it think of me—It's real-  
ly wool, not cotton. I hope to-night  
you will not write. And say it is  
un-mat- ted. And think it only  
half a gift. And feel but half  
elated; But if you find one  
will not do. And you can  
only rest with two. With  
fingers which are  
deft ones, I'll set  
to work, and  
send to you,  
Another mitt,  
BOTH LEFT  
ONES.

#### WHEN TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN.

"MOTHER," a little child once said, "mother,  
how old must I be before I can be a Christian?"  
And the wise mother answered, "How old  
will you have to be, darling, before you love  
me?"

"Why, mother, I always loved you, I do

now, and I always shall," and she kissed her  
mother; "but you have not told me yet how  
old I shall have to be."

The mother made answer with another ques-  
tion: "How old must you be before you can  
trust yourself wholly to me and my care?"

"I always did," she answered, and kissed  
her mother again; "but tell me what I want  
to know."

And she climbed into her mother's lap, and  
put her arms about her neck.

The mother asked again: "How old will  
you have to be before you do what I want you  
to do?"

Then the child whispered, half-guessing what  
her mother meant, "I can now, without grow-  
ing any older."

Then her mother said: "You can be a  
Christian now, my darling, without waiting  
to be older. All you have to do is to love and  
trust, and try to please the One who says, 'Let  
the little ones come unto Me.' Don't you want  
to begin now?"

The child whispered "Yes."

Then they both knelt down, and the mother  
prayed, and in prayer she gave to Christ her  
little one, who wanted to be His.

#### SIGNS OF THE TIMES.



MISSIONARIES.—Last month one of  
the most remarkable meetings of  
that remarkable body, the Salva-  
tion Army, was held at Regent's  
Hall, Oxford street. The occasion  
was a farewell to 40 missionaries, or  
rather officers, leaving for India under the care  
of Major Tucker. They were dressed in native  
costume, and intend to go barefoot and eat  
native food. The passage money is £25 each,  
and the cost of maintenance in India is  
estimated at two shillings a week. There can  
be no doubt that if the system adopted by  
Major Tucker can be followed out upon a  
large scale, the evangelisation of India may be  
accomplished in a comparatively brief space of  
time.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE IN LONDON.—The  
*British Weekly* publishes the results of a cen-  
sus of worshippers at the forenoon and at the  
afternoon and evening services at the churches  
and chapels of London on Sunday, October 24.  
Out of a population of over 4,000,000, about  
460,000 were present at the morning, and  
410,000 in the evening. At St. Paul's in the  
morning, 1662 were present; in the evening,  
3403. At Westminster Abbey, in the morn-  
ing, 1721. At Archdeacon Farrar's, 1730 in