

# HOUSEHOLD.

## Little Things.

A good-bye kiss is a little thing,  
 With your hand on the door to go,  
 But it takes the venom out of the sting  
 Of a thoughtless word or a cruel fling  
 That you made an hour ago.

A kiss of greetinug is sweet and rare  
 After the toil of the day,  
 And it smoothes the furrows plowed by  
 care,  
 The lines on the forehead you once called  
 fair  
 In the years that have flown away.

'Tis a little thing to say, 'You are kind;  
 I love you, my dear,' each night,  
 But it sends a thrill through the heart, I  
 find—  
 For love is tender, as love is blind—  
 As we climb life's rugged height.

We starve each other for love's caress;  
 We take, but we do not give;  
 It seems so easy some soul to bless,  
 But we dole the love grudgingly, less and  
 less,  
 'Till 'tis bitter and hard to live.  
 —'Christian Guardian.'

## New Soil.

When John Dalton came back from the  
 asylum where he had gone to place his  
 wife, his neighbor, Perry, met him at the  
 station and went home with him, that he  
 might not enter the empty house alone.  
 The old man was stunned and dazed.

'I don't know what ailed Mary,' he said,  
 dully. 'You can see how clean and snug  
 this house is. She always kept things so.  
 Up before dawn milking and baking and  
 washing. Same thing done at the same  
 hour year in and year out. She hadn't com-  
 plained of sickness for forty years. Then  
 all at once she begun talking of an iron  
 band around her jaws and queer pains in  
 her head.'

'She seldom went into town, did she?'  
 asked Perry.

'Never, hardly. I'm not much of a hand  
 for gadding about to no purpose. She used  
 to want to go into church Sundays, but I  
 didn't like to hitch up when there was no  
 work to do. But I wish now I'd done that  
 for Mary.'

'She didn't visit much with the neighbors,  
 either, did she?' asked Perry.

'No. That was my doing, too. When the  
 day's work is done, I want to put on my  
 slippers and rest, and then to bed, and not  
 go skirmishing about or having a lot of  
 company in.'

He was silent awhile. 'I don't know what  
 ailed Mary,' he said again. 'She would sit  
 looking at nothing, straight ahead of her,  
 by the hour, and then cry and cry, yet al-  
 ways saying she had no trouble. And she  
 got weaker every day, and then her mind  
 went altogether. She didn't know me, not  
 even her own name.'

'She will be cured in that sanitarium,'  
 said Perry, cheerfully, 'and come home well  
 in the spring.' He watched his old neigh-  
 bor furtively awhile, and then said:

'Do you know, Dalton, some years ago  
 my wife and daughter got peevish and ir-  
 ritable. I thought the steady work and  
 loneliness were telling on them. So I got  
 the parlor organ and pair for a year's les-  
 sons for Susy. We had music and singing  
 every evening, and the young folks would  
 gather in with their reading clubs. Then  
 I took two or three papers, my wife is a  
 ma'n hand for guessing the riddles. And  
 once a year I took her an' Susy up to town  
 for a week.'

'Ycs,' said Dalton, dryly. 'You spent a  
 lot of money, I've heard.'

'It's bring'ing me in good interest.'  
 They sat in silence awhile. Then Perry  
 put h's hand on the old man's knee. 'When  
 she comes back, if she ever does come, I'd  
 open up life for her a bit, Dalton. You  
 know how it is with potatoes. You plant  
 the best kind in good ground, and they

yield splendid crops for a year or two.  
 Then they begin to dwindle and rot.'

'Of course, the ground runs out. They  
 need new soil.'

'Yes. You plant them in a different lot,  
 and they yield big, healthy crops. Human  
 beings are like them, Dalton. You've got  
 to renew the soil, give them fresh food for  
 their minds, or they'll dwindle and rot.'

Dalton did not speak for a long time.—  
 Ex.

## For the Busy Mother.



CHILD'S TUCKED RUSSIAN DRESS.—  
 NO. 1027.

In all the plans for the new wardrobe the  
 small boy must not be forgotten, and a styl-  
 ish little suit is here shown, with sailor or  
 bishop sleeve. This little frock is made with  
 inverted box-plaited fullness below the belt at  
 each side, and has a stitched collar of the  
 same material. The pattern is cut in 6 sizes,  
 from 1 to 6 years. It requires 3½ yards of 27  
 inch material, or 2½ yards of material 36  
 inches wide for the middle size.

'NORTHERN MESSENGER.'

PATTERN COUPON.

Please send the above-mentioned pat-  
 tern as per directions given below.

No. . . . .

Size . . . . .

Name . . . . .

Address in full . . . . .

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N.B.—Be sure to cut out the illustration  
 and send with the coupon, carefully filled  
 out. The pattern will reach you in about a  
 week from date of your order. Price 1¢  
 cents, in cash, postal note, or stamps. Ad-  
 dress, 'Northern Messenger' Pattern Depart-  
 ment, 'Witness Block,' Montreal.

## For Mothers.

Children need models more than criticism.  
 To bring up a child in the way he should  
 go, travel that way yourself.

The sooner you get a child to be a law  
 unto himself, the sooner you will make a  
 man of him.

We can never check what is evil in the  
 young unless we cherish what is good in  
 them.

Stories first heard at a mother's knee  
 are never wholly forgotten, a little spring  
 that dries up in our journey through  
 scorching years.

Line upon line, precept upon precept, we  
 must have in a home. But we must also  
 have serenity, peace and the absence of pet-  
 ty fault-finding, if a home is to be a nursery  
 fit for heaven's growing plants.

There are no men or women, however  
 poor they may be, but have it in their  
 power by the grace of God to leave behind  
 them the grandest thing on earth, charac-  
 ter; and their children might rise up after  
 them and thank God that their mother was  
 a pious woman, or their father a pious man.  
 —D. McLeod.

## Habits and Character Form- ed by Play.

In 'Home and Flowers,' S. V. Tsanoff, one  
 of the pioneer agitators for public play-  
 grounds, has an article on the educational  
 value of these institutions. Speaking of  
 the influence of play upon character, he  
 says:—

'Through play the child forms those  
 habits and tastes that crystallize into char-  
 acter. By character here is meant, not the  
 whole man, but its manifestations through  
 habitual practices and manner of life. In  
 this sense character has well been defined  
 as "a bundle of habits." We work, and  
 talk, and behave in general as we have  
 been mostly accustomed to or in the habit  
 of doing. Let us note, then, that the child  
 forms his habits chiefly through play and  
 social environment. No matter what he is  
 taught at home or at school, he is strongly  
 inclined to imitate his playmates, and to  
 be influenced by his play-time surroundings.  
 Who does not know this to be a fact? Pro-  
 longed life of this kind forms the habits  
 and creates the tastes that control the con-  
 duct and denote the character.'

'All the above means that play is ordain-  
 ed by the Creator to supplement the other  
 educational activities; to develop the phy-  
 sical and mental health and vigor, to build  
 character, train citizenship, and produce  
 the highest possible types of manhood and  
 womanhood. For achieving this end, play  
 bears the some relation towards the emo-  
 tional faculties which the hunger for truth  
 or knowledge sustains towards the intel-  
 lectual life. To suppress it, as is widely  
 done to-day, means to suppress the child's  
 growth and to dwarf body and mind. To  
 neglect it, as is also universally prevalent,  
 means to have the child fed, in this respect,  
 on poisonous food in the streets, alleys, and  
 other rowdy gatherings, and to become a  
 man or woman of low tastes, vulgar habits,  
 degrading tendencies, blighted life.'

## Selected Recipes.

PUMPKIN PIE.—Cook the pumpkin well  
 and strain it. Take five eggs, three cups of  
 sugar, two-thirds of a cup of butter, two  
 tablespoons ginger, one pint of cooked  
 pumpkin and one quart of new milk. This  
 will make three pies. The secret of making  
 good pies is to use as little water as pos-  
 sible to get the dough into shape. Put a  
 cup of lard to a quart of flour and a tea-  
 spoon of salt. This should make four crusts,  
 either two pies with covers, or four with-  
 out. Work the lard in the flour with your  
 fingers until it is thoroughly mixed be-  
 fore adding the water, thin only a little,  
 and then press the dough to-  
 gether hard, then turn out on a well-flour-  
 ed board and roll only one way. The un-  
 der crust should be a little the thickest.  
 When you make a pie without an upper  
 crust it is always desirable to have a very  
 heavy edge; make this by wetting the edge  
 and laying on a narrow strip; pinch it up  
 together, or when cutting the crust around