

HOUSEHOLD.

Too Late.

(Standard.)

It has sometimes been sad to notice in homes we have visited that the tired but mildly cheerful mother still plodded on in her wonted tasks, in almost automatic manner—so long had she been accustomed to the same routine—and that husband and children seemed utterly blind to all which we saw.

In conversation lately a lady referred to a pleasant circle of friends who had been reading together as they gathered on their porches in the pleasant summer mornings Nansen's 'Farthest North.' Turning to the mother she asked 'Have you read it?' One of the daughters, not waiting for her mother, immediately replied, 'O, mother never has time to read, Mrs. Smith, but I've read it. Isn't it interesting?'

It did not require a long visit in that home to see that the mother, although a refined, educated woman, was allowed to be a drudge in the family. She was one of those who would never be appreciated until too late, one who could truthfully say when her days were shortened, and she had really been killed by too much work, too little recreation, when help and comfort were at last offered to her, 'Ah, that comfort comes too late. 'Tis like a pardon after execution.'

There are kindly husbands in many homes we know who are unconsciously thoughtless of their wives. While busy with their own employments down town they still are able to have many recreating hours, yet when they come home at night and sit down to a palatable meal prepared by the willing, devoted wife, they scarcely utter a word of appreciation or think for a moment of all the busy, uneventful day, which to her has come to its close, a day like so many others, when she has not been outside of her home because of the many pressing claims there, upon her time and strength. No one ever seems to think of asking some tired mothers to a concert, a lecture, or an entertainment. Indeed, if such were suggested, a daughter might reply, 'Mother much prefers to stay at home. She does not care to travel, she never attends concerts, I do not think she really cares for music.'

We understand why such a mother prefers to stay at home, because no daughter offers cheerfully and heartily to relieve her for a time from the home cares; and why she does not attend concerts is obvious, since no one ever invites her.

How delightful are the happy contrasts to such homes! Glad have we often been to hear the cheery greeting of the father at night, and the joyous response from wife and children, glad to note how the words of kindly appreciation for the attractive table, the palatable meal, the comforting glow of the fire, the bright faces of the children, their neat appearance, come bubbling up and out spontaneously, making all who hear them happy.

A Happy New Year to All.

The merry sound of the Christmas bells has died away. The old year passes swift. The new year dawns apace. What is the New Year to us? A year weighted with richest possibilities, a year fraught with deep responsibilities. A year to be received day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, fresh from the hand of a loving Father.

Let us watch for the special mercies this year that we may render an account to our Lord of the blessings of which he has made us stewards.

We wish all our readers a very happy New Year.

Pulpit and Press.

The influence of the pulpit no one denies. Its end and aim is to influence the hearts and lives of people, and it does accomplish its purpose.

The influence of the daily press is not perhaps so direct or so apparent. Yet the press reaches more people every day than the pulpit does every week. And when one contemplates the influence for good or evil that even the cursory reading of a book may have, one can readily appreciate the

fact that the daily paper must exert a mighty influence over its readers, whether they will, or no, whether for weal or woe.

Advertisers are not alone in appreciating the newspaper as a medium through which to influence people in their favor. He who offered all the kingdoms of the earth to the Christ if he would but fall down before him, has approached every newspaper editor with this similar proposition, 'Serve me, and I'll guarantee you a large circulation. And it would seem that some, at least, have accepted his offer unconditionally.

If this is fact, it will be well to publish it, so that the Evil One may not take us unawares, by approaching us in the innocent garb of news. Better give up newspaper reading altogether than read a paper with downward and demoralizing tendencies and corresponding influence.

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All business communications should be addressed 'John Dougall & Son,' and all letters to the editor should be addressed Editor of the 'Northern Messenger.'