



DECEMBER.

Hark, my soul, the dying year
Softly whispers in thy ear:
"Child of earth, my sun descending,
"Tells me that my race is ending;
"Soon its latest glimm'ring ray
"Will to darkness die away,
"And my short existence be
"But on page of history."
As the sun of life declines,
And in clouded radiance shines,
By that sober light we view
What before we never knew,
Or if known, but left behind
Little impress on the mind:
Precious golden wealth of earth
Reckons up to little worth;
And we wonder we could chafe,
Ever eager in our race,
O'er the rough and tedious ways,
Through the long and winding maze,
Where we thought that we had seen
Pleasure's smiling fairy queen:
Disappointment heaves her sigh
O'er man's day of vanity.

When life's closing scene is nigh,
When we raise the languid eye,
And the hurrying moments tell
We must look a lust farewell,
Where affection's little hand
All in speechless sorrow stand;
Then the soul expands her wings,
Hovers high o'er earthly things,
And but sees or joy or pain,
Fears her loss or hopes her gain,
Where the pain no respite knows,
Where the joy for ever grows.

HINTS ON ECONOMY.

Perhaps with most of the society in large towns, there is a misrepresentation as to what part of our living costs the dearest. Almost every-body in making their calculations—seem to look entirely at the list of catables, as if those were all that would cost money. We have had some opportunity for observation, and we hesitate not to say that the mere catables for a family, do not, in any way make up one of the largest items of family expense. Fuel at present is a large item. The bill for clothing with many, especially with those of keeping up appearances is the largest. And last, though not least—is the sum of nameless little expenditures, for nameless little trifles, which in the course of a year often amount to a large sum. We once had the liberty of looking over the expense book of a family, whose whole expenses for the year were rising 500 dollars—and were not a little surprised to find that the little things, which cost 12-2 cents or less, amounted to about the same as all the other expenditures, notwithstanding the groceries were bought by the quantity.

How shall we economize?

1. As to FOOD.—Buy the best kind, and when practicable, by the quantity; and never cook a new dish till the last has

been entirely eaten. Some families waste more than they eat, and we are pretty sure that the economy in the matter of food does not depend so much upon the buying as upon the spending of it. ☞ WATER for drink is the cheapest, and we think the best.

II. FUEL.—Make special effort to be informed as to the best means of warming your room, and of retaining all the heat produced; then procure your stove or grate, or whatever else—and be content to use it without a change, till it is worn out. More money is often spent in changes and alterations, than the fuel itself costs. ☞ Do not forget in cold days to keep the doors shut.

III. CLOTHING—Dress decently; may well—but never dress gaudily. And when you have once got a suit of clothes wear them out; even though the fashion should change two or three times during the period. Fashion! what a word alongside of Economy! Fashion! Economy! look at them, and do not forget that one is death to the other. A good surtout—or a nice shawl is just as warm a thing, whether the one be blue or brown; or the other be white, red, or 'Scotch plaid.' It will make but little difference 50 years hence to any of us, how our coats were cut, or our dresses made in A. D. 1836!

IV. SMALL MATTERS—Have a purse sufficiently tight to hold four-penny-bits with strings on it; and do not forget that sixteen of these pieces make a dollar. Therefore take care of them. Let it be understood that you do not often condescend to 'small things'—and your 'small matters' will be small indeed.

"IS SHE ENGAGED?" is a question not unfrequently mooted touching interesting young ladies. It's a pity some generally received sign, bearing upon the question, could not be adopted by the sex. It would satisfy a very natural curiosity and might not be to the disadvantage of the ladies. In a dissenting Chapel in England, a foreigner noticed the ladies' boxes on their benches oddly arranged, some on the left and others on the right side, while others were directly in front. It was found on enquiry, that, married ladies had the box on the right side, young maidens on the left, and those "engaged" wore them on the front of their benches. A manifestation of this kind, would suit much needless solicitude and anxious enquiry among those gentlemen who are candidates for matrimony.

MANNERS.—I make it a point of morality never to find fault with a man for his manners. They may be awkward or graceful, blunt or polite or rustic, I care not what they are, if the man means well and acts from honest intentions, without eccentricity or affectation. All men have not the advantages of good society as it is called, to school them in all its fantastic rules and ce-

remonies; and if there is any standard of manners, it is founded in reason and good sense, and not upon those artificial regulations. Manners, like conversation should be extemporaneous, not studied. I always suspect a man who meets me with the same congealing of body and the same premeditated shake of the hand. Give me the hearty—it may be rough—grip of the hand—the careless nod of recognition, and when occasion requires, the homely but welcome salutation, "How are you my old friend."

The faithful in Scripture are compared often to trees, which, though they be well rooted, yet may be shaken; and to Noah's ark, which though it was a safe harbour, yet it was tossed; and to an house built on a rock, which, though it be firm, and cannot be moved, yet it may be removed; and to the stars, which, though they be heavenly, yet are twinkling; and among them, much to the moon, which, with her light, hath yet some dark spots.

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