

THE HOUSEHOLD.

MARTHA AND MARY.

"It's all very well. I've not much fault to find with Mary, but we do want a bit of Martha as well. There is too much of this religious indolence which pretends to be piety. We want people who can stir about and work the leaven of their goodness into the world. While some are sitting at the Master's feet, others are going down into the pit. I don't wish to put Martha against Mary—not at all; but what I say is, all Marthas and we should forget the Master; all Marys and we should forget the world. A Christian should be a mixture of both."

"Then, in her way, you really think that Martha is a pattern Christian?"

"Most certainly. Aren't we told to be 'not slothful in business'? Besides, it was all for the Master, and didn't He say that even the 'cup of cold water' should not lose its reward? No. We want more fidelity in these daily household matters, these worldly things."

"Still, you must see that Martha, however tenderly, is rebuked, and Mary is commended."

"Yes; and that is just what I can't understand. Mary's was by far the more self-denying task, and Mary's much the more comfortable position. Judging, too, by a comparison of congregational and practical Christianity, most Christians prefer to be 'sitting at his feet,' than to be up and doing their Master's work. 'It is good for us to be here,' they cry, and in their own enjoyment forget or overlook the sorrow and distress that call for their activity."

"I grant you much of that. So, then, to be candid, you would say that Mary was a gentle, emotional, soft, dreamy sort of woman, who loved discourse rather than practice, and lounging rather than work?"

"Well, I don't like to say that exactly, because, undoubtedly, she had one genuine feature, her choice of the 'good part.' Still I must confess that I should have liked her better had she taken her share of the work."

"And didn't she?"

"Yes; by sitting on the floor."

"Didn't she take her share at the table?"

"No, indeed she didn't."

"Then what does Martha mean by complaining that she left her?"

"Why that Mary wouldn't have anything to do with her in getting things ready."

"My dear fellow, that's just where you have misread the story. You must be with a person before you can leave them, and that is Martha's complaint, that Mary leaves her in the midst of the work.\* Now look here. This is how it runs. Martha receives Jesus into the house, and with Mary commences to prepare a meal. But while the Lord is waiting the magnet is working. Mary wants to be with Jesus and listen to his words, and so at the earliest opportunity she escapes to his feet. But not before her work is done. True, there may have been one or two odd little things left—perhaps the water had to boil as we might say, or something of that sort. But with Martha it was different; she was 'cumbered with much serving'—she was distracted—'dragged in different directions.' Can't you fancy her? She wants everything to be right, and it all seems wrong—now the cloth, say, is crooked—that plate must be rubbed again—that knife and fork changed. So she worries herself doing the same thing twice over, just the honest, impulsive, fretful housekeeper that she was. But there was no magnet at work. Her mind was taken up with the serving, and the words and person of the Lord Jesus Himself are not able to draw her away. No, in words tenderly mild, but searchingly plain, she is told that she is vitally wrong. Let us follow Mary, never neglecting temporal duties for spiritual pleasures; and yet in all occupations always under the magnet, longing to be at the Master's feet and to hear his words. Sweet and wonderful messages He has for all such, only we must not tarry too long at the work nor leave it undone. Here we get refreshment and strength for service. Christ says, 'He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me; and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.' If Mary were wrong, and Martha right, the Lord was too fair, too true, and too kind not to have pointed it out. So

\* The Greek word means "left me alone in the midst of my work."—*Parrar*.

that Mary is our great, our true and only pattern. Now, don't you think I am right?"  
"Well, I almost think you are."—*The Christian*.

A BIT OF WISE COUNSEL.

We take this bit of wisdom for mothers from the columns of *Church and Home*:

Teach the children to respect you. Perhaps you smile at this. Love seems so far above and beyond respect! The children love you with all their hearts. Granted. But for all this, neglect not to cultivate respect in them. A devoted mother is willing to forego comfort for the sake of her loved ones. Sleepless nights and aching limbs must sometimes be; but there is another kind of self-denial for mothers. When Marion has devoured her own portion of the choice fruit or confection, and her baby fingers stretch towards mamma's plate, deny yourself the pleasure of giving her the whole, or a portion of what belongs to you.

When Isabel longs for a new hat which she does not really need, and the family purse reminds you that you cannot purchase that without wearing your old cloak another winter, buy the new cloak, and let the hat wait. It may be there is an instructive course of lectures in progress. For some reason all the family cannot attend. Take your turn with the others. You will be surprised to see how willingly the girls or husband will remain at home when they find "mother" cares about going. Do not say, "Anything will do for me." Have a proper care for your person and apparel.

Encourage the children to work. Something more than encouragement may sometimes be necessary. In most cases, however, a judicious mother can so interest the boys and girls that work will not be a heavy burden. Marion wants to wash dishes, but is too small. Let her dust, while Isabel does the dishes, and by-and-by instruct them both in the mysteries of bed-making and bread-making. Be sure that the boys chop the wood and bring the water. No doubt it would be easier to do all this work yourself, there's so much "bother" about teaching children, but for their sakes, if not for your own, give the extra time and labor.

All this may require self-denial on the part of the loving mother, who would gladly give herself and her possessions for the dear ones; still, in kindness to them, as well as to herself, these simple rules should be followed. When each child has his or her allotted portion of work, and mother is treated with the respect that is her due, there may be fewer sickly attempts at art, and fewer wishy-washy stories and poems written. There certainly would be fewer poor, tired women longing for rest, but mother, instead of being the slave and drudge, to be thrust into the background when parlor company comes, will become what God designed her to be, the queen of the home.

HOW TO AMUSE CHILDREN.

While children are satiated with artificial means of amusements, the simplest and most natural sources of pleasure are often entirely neglected. For instance, a child brings in a handful of field-flowers; the mother says, "What a litter you are making with that rubbish; let's clear it all away, and play with your pretty doll." What a source of pleasure and instruction might have been derived from examining the different colors, the different shades of the same color, and the shape and texture of the buds and leaves.

Once saw a child take up a dead spider; the mother said, "Horrid, nasty creature; throw it away; never touch these nasty things; you may be bitten and hurt one of these days." What an opportunity was here lost of telling the child a number of interesting and entertaining particulars respecting the eyes, the feelers, the thread spun by the spider, the web, etc. And afterward, what useful lessons might have been given, by asking little questions in order to lead the child to repeat clearly the information it had received, and to accustom it to an accurate method of expressing its ideas.—*The Mother's Magazine*.

A NEW USE FOR TOADS.

The latest and most ingenious way of getting rid of roaches and water bugs we have heard of, is related of a citizen of Schenectady, whose kitchen was infested with them.

A servant hearing that toads were an antidote, caught three ordinary hop-toads and put them in the kitchen. Not a roach or water bug, it is stated, can now be found in the house. The toads have become domesticated, never wander about the house, and are so cleanly and inoffensive that there is no objection to their presence.

Another use for toads is to employ them for insect destroyers in the garden. They are determined enemies of all kinds of snails and slugs, which it is well known can in a single night destroy a vast quantity of lettuce, carrots, asparagus, etc. Toads are also kept in vineyards, where they devour during the night millions of insects that escape the pursuit of nocturnal birds, and might commit incalculable havoc on the buds and young shoots of the vine. In Paris toads are an article of merchandise. They are kept in tubs, and sold at the rate of two francs a dozen.—*Scientific American*.

CONFIDENCE IN CHILDREN.

I well remember a circumstance that occurred when I was a child, it was so stamped on my mind I could never forget.

It was one time when I went with one of my sisters where she was staying a while with a lady who had three girls and one boy. The second girl would lie and steal and try to get me to do the same, but my parents had taught me not to deceive in any way, so I did not yield to the temptation. One day this girl took something from the older sister's pocket, then when asked about it, said she did not know anything about it, whatever. My sister turned to the girl's sister and said, "There's Minnie, (myself,) ask her if she knows anything about it, for what she says is true, for she never lies." Then I told her I saw the girl take it, and tried to get her not to steal.

When I was alone again, I pondered on what my sister said, and resolved, let come what would, to never betray that trust. "She never lies." Could it be that I should ever cause her, or any one, to lose confidence in me? The more I thought of it, the more firm was my resolve. There I resolved in prayer to never lie nor steal, if it would save me from the stake.—*Aunt Mary in Household*.

WHY WOMEN BREAK DOWN.

There is little doubt that women are breaking down more rapidly than men, because they allow themselves to take less real rest. When a man drops his business, he drops it. When a woman lets go of any work she may have to mind, she ties it to her apron strings as it were. She has been taught through long ages of training that it is a high crime and a misdemeanor to let anything escape her mind, so she is constantly, when she is at rest, pinching herself or prodding herself to see if she hasn't forgotten something. In this way she carries the burden of her work into the resting hours, and sits down among the roses of relaxation with her foot on the treadle of the grindstone of prosy drudgery.

If men kept their noses to the grindstone with womanly persistence, they would be nervous and irritable beyond comparison. If women would get their own consent to rest they would have better complexions, better stomachs, and a happier life.—*Inter-Ocean*.

RECIPES.

DISCOLORED TEA and coffee pots may be cleaned by filling them with water in which two or three tablespoonfuls of wood ashes have been placed, and letting it boil up, then wash thoroughly with hot soap suds, and rinse.

ONE MAY UTILIZE old matting which is no longer fresh enough to look well, by putting it under carpets. It can be cleaned perfectly by washing it on both sides with hot salt and water; hang it on a line out-doors to dry.

CHEESE OMELETTE.—This is a nice supper dish. Butter the bottom and sides of a pudding dish, and cover the bottom with thin slices of cheese, on this put a layer of broken crackers, and season with salt, pepper and butter. Put another layer of cheese and cracker, and season and so on. When ready for the oven, pour over it a cup of milk, or enough to nearly cover the cracker and cheese. Bake until a light brown and serve while hot.

TO CLEAN HAIR-BRUSHES.—The best way in which to clean hair-brushes is with spirits of ammonia, as its effect is immediate. No rubbing is required, and cold water can be used just as successfully as warm. Take a teaspoonful of ammonia to a quart of water, dip the hair part of the brush without wetting the ivory, and in a moment the grease is removed; then rinse in cold water, shake well, and dry in the air,

but not in the sun. Soda and soap soften the bristles, and invariably turn the ivory yellow.

TOILET SET.—Mrs. J. E. Cole asks how to make a toilet set. Here is one which is both pretty and inexpensive: "Take a yard of silesia some bright color, one yard of cheese cloth, two and one-half yards of ribbon, the same color as the silesia, and five yards of lace edging. Take a piece of silesia half a yard square for the large mat, cover with cheese cloth, edge (this round with the lace, fulling pretty well at the corners, then briar-stitch around the edge. The small mats are made the same way, except being nine inches square. Make a cushion nine inches square of silesia and put a bow of ribbon on each corner. Now take a piece of cheese cloth five inches square, edge round with lace, and briar-stitch the edge, and place this on cornerwise to complete the set.—*Household*.

STARCHING.—Allow a teaspoonful of good starch to each shirt and collar. Use just enough cold water to wet the starch, wash it free from lumps, add a little more and stir it well; add for each shirt a little sperm or white wax as big as a pen, and a quarter of a spoonful of salt to three spoonfuls of starch, pour on boiling water, stirring slowly all the time; boil hard for fifteen minutes without scorching, skim and strain while hot. This can be done only by dipping the strainer in cold water, while the starch is in the bag, and squeeze it immediately before it becomes hot. Wet bosoms and collars in hot water, wring very dry, and starch while damp; rub the starch well in, and wring in a dry towel, and remove all starch left on the outside; spread out evenly, rub down with a dry cloth, and roll tightly together; let it lie two or three hours, and then iron, and you will have a gloss on your shirts and collars equal in appearance and perhaps better in quality than if it had been done at a Chinese laundry.

CLEAN AND WASH chickens thoroughly. Take a cloth and rub the skin with soda water, (a tablespoonful of soda to two quarts of water slightly warm). Scraping with a small knife is the usual method, but you will find a cloth the easiest. Then rinse thoroughly in cold water. Split in halves, cutting as near the middle of the back—lengthwise—as you can, sprinkle with salt, and put on a grate in a dripping pan, skin side down. Place in a moderate oven and in half an hour if the chicken has begun to cook, baste with butter and dredge with flour, and when it browns, turn, baste and flour the other side. Two tablespoonfuls of butter will be sufficient for each chicken. When done, which will be in about an hour and a half, allowing an hour more for an older fowl, remove to a warm platter, put the pan on the stove, where it will not be hot enough to burn, and stir into it a cup of cream in which a heaping teaspoonful of flour has been stirred. Let it just boil up, stirring till smooth and pour over the chicken. We like this better than broiled chicken, and it is much less trouble. Of course, a very young chicken will cook in an hour, but the ordinary "broilers" in October need longer cooking than their somewhat tasteless brethren of August.—*Household*.

PUZZLES.

TANGLES TO UNRAVEL.

Straighten out the following words so as to make familiar rhymes.

1. Pretty watch in the sky,  
At little peep that shines so blue  
Often come for I and you  
Star so bright to-night for me.
2. A summer's day ice ran away,  
All children fell out on;  
Sliding, they rest they on the all,  
As it fell in the three.
3. Fancy tea and dainty see,  
Three nibble to something, what,  
But pussy's mice liked big bright eyes,  
So they were little creep to,  
Scampering they could have find  
Nice mice soon sent them off,  
For in fright to out and for.

SUBTRACTION.

1. Take from a covering of floors its last word, or syllable, and leave an unctuous substance.
2. Take from to collect food for animals its last word, and leave a preposition.
3. Take from a plant its last word, and leave an obscure time.
4. Take from a robber its last word, and leave liberty.
5. Take from a case for dishes its last word, and leave a vessel.
6. Take from a love token its last word, and leave to refrain.
7. Take from a public building its last word, and leave to woo.

BEHEADED WORDS.

1. A metal; behead and make an ass.
2. A kind of cloth; behead and make a weed.
3. An animal; behead and make an ear.
4. Small pieces of ice; behead and make an ail.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN LAST NUMBER.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good.  
SQUARE WORD.

Oven  
Vidit  
Eden  
Nine

LETTER PUZZLE.

1. Undo; 2. Erie; 3. Ida; 4. hard; 5. elect; 6. clope; 7. laconic; 8. rattle; 9. ravage; 10. theft; 11. incrust.