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The Home Beautiful.

Forgiveness.

I sat in the evening cool
Of the heat-baked city street;
Musing, and watching a little pair,
Who played on the walk at my feet;
A boy, the elder, of strong rough mould;
His sister, a blossom sweet.

When, just in the midst of their play,
Came an angry cry, and a blow,
That bruised the cheek of the little maid

And caused bright tears to flow,
And brought from my lips quick, sharp reproof
On the lad that had acted so.

And he stood by, sullen and hard,
While the maid soon dried her tear,
He looked at her with an angry eye:
She timidly drew near.
"Don't be cross, Johnny!" (a little sob),
"Let me forgive 'oo, dear!"

And the cloud is passed and gone,
And again in their play they meet.
And the strong, rough boy wears a kinder mein.
And brighter the maiden sweet,
While a whisper has come from the heart of God
To a man, a man in the street.

A Good Method

There was a little schoolma'am
Who had this curious way
Of drilling in substruction
On every stormy day:

"Let's all substract unpleasant things;
Life's doleful dumps and pain,
And then," said she, "you'll gladly see
That pleasant things remain."

Sunshine and Music

A laugh is just like sunshine
It freshens all the day,
It tips the peak of life with light,
And drives the clouds away.
The soul grows glad that hears it,
And feels it courage strong;
A laugh is just like sunshine;
For cheering folks along.

A laugh is just like music
It lingers in the heart,
And while its melody is heard,
The ills of life depart;
And happy thoughts come crowding,
Its joyful notes to greet;
A laugh is just like music;
For making living sweet.

Discipline

There is no trouble in the home equal to that of training children in right behavior. Every family has the worst case in the country—some incorrigible young sinner, who is more difficult to manage than anybody else. At times both father and mother are at their wits end. In manners and morals everything seems to go wrong. What is the matter? This month we make bold to offer a few suggestions. The first is contained in a little narrative. The writer some years ago was a guest for a day or two in a family in which there were four boys from 8 to 20 years old. The charming thing about the household was the deference the boys showed for their mother. When she entered a room they stepped aside to let her pass in first. In the conversation she was never interrupted when she was talking, and what she said was treated with respect. The visitor could see that she held a unique place in the household. She was mistress, and her boys gave her the deference that they would have conceded to a queen. There was no lack of genial temper and bright sally and rejoinder. It was evidently a happy household, but the note of affection and honour for the mother was unmistakable. The explanation was not difficult to discover, for it needed only slight

observation to detect that the attitude of the sons toward the mother was only the reflection of the attitude of their father toward his wife. Her personal authority and precedence in the home was emphasized and enforced by her husband's unflinching courtesy toward her. One could but think how much parents can do, if they are wise, to prevent their children from falling into habits of disregarding their rightful claims of honor, that are such a reproach to many homes, if husbands and wives honor each other with considerate courtesy.

There is a principle here that applies to all conduct. The parents must begin by setting an example in conduct, intemper, in language, in manner's. They must be all they would have their children be. This is the first law of government.

Looking Ahead.

The very best thing for a parent to do is to arrange matters so that trouble is not likely to arise. Mrs. Jones has a small boy Willie who is hot-tempered and inclined to be disobedient, simply because he wishes to follow the lead of his desires. Every morning Mrs. Jones talks to Willie for a few minutes in bed when he crawls in beside her. The talk is all of the encouraging kind. "Where's mother's good boy to-day? Who is going to be helpful to mother. Is Willie going to fight his old temper to-day?" &c. The result is that Willie even though he is a very little boy is forearmed for the day's warfare. Of course he often forgets, but still he does better than if he were not spoken to before hand. Frequently Mrs. Jones says to him "Do you remember how Willie was naughty yesterday? Do you think that was right Willie? What should Willie say to mother now?" &c. In this way the wrong doing is spoken about after all temper is gone. Mrs. Jones is right. She is not thinking of deeds but of a state of mind. She believes in talking about wrong-doing and at the same time keeps her child in loving sympathy with her. The mother who punishes when angry or when a transgression occurs is very likely to estrange her child's affection, and the child is in no state of mind to appreciate her arguments.

Patience.

I know there are mothers who say they haven't time for patient methods. This is a grievous error. A mother has time for nothing else. There is nothing takes up so much time, effort and life as scolding. One scolding makes another necessary, for like fire scolding grows by its own activity. "A tart temper never mellows with age, and a sharp tongue is the only tool whose edge is not blunted by constant use.

Disobedience.

But whether she uses negative or positive incentives the mother must get obedience. And obedience means instant compliance at the first time of telling. A direction should never be issued more than once. It is a positive injustice for a parent to issue an instruction and then to keep on issuing it. The child understands by this that the mother is only half in earnest. Mrs. Jones says "Willie sit up on the chair." Then she waits until the action is performed. There is no second telling, no unnecessary word. As a result Willie respects his mother's command and he never hears anything that later on rankles in his mind.

Positive Means.

Whenever possible the parent will use positive rather than negative means to secure good behavior. Praise is better than blame; a word of commendation is infinitely better than a dozen words of condemnation. There is great danger in the phrase "Thou shalt not." This was the

phrase that brought the race into trouble. If our first parents had thought of all the things they could enjoy there would have been no trouble, but under the tempter's influence they began to worry about the one thing that was forbidden. You see where it all ended. So will it be in any home where it is all instructions and prohibitions and words of censure. You scolding mother and cranky father, do you hear this? Cultivate the peaceful, the impelling tone rather than the tone of coercion and compulsion. See how many things you can devise for your children's entertainment and occupation, and avoid the languages which is made up of a succession of don'ts. See if you can live one whole day without scolding and complaining, and at night compare the result with that of other days. It will be like comparing clouds with sunshine, or salt with sugar. And the best thing about it all is that love and sympathy will take the place of anger and discord.

Justice.

It frequently happens that the parent is wrong and the child is right. The thing for the parent to do as soon as she finds herself in error is to apologize. Certainly! Why not? If the apology is made in the right way the two are bound together as never before. A loyalty is developed which will last as long as life; for loyalty is founded on justice.

The Real Transgression.

A mother told the child that he must not play ball in the house. He refrained for a few moments, then began his game again. Once more he was reproved, but after a few minutes tossed the ball again. This time breaking a valuable vessel. The mother then punished him saying "I'll teach you to break things in this way!" Of course the child's inference was that it is no harm to disobey so long as no damage is done to property. This is on a line with the Hindoo philosophy. "It is no harm to steal so long as you are not found out." Such philosophy undermines respect for law and for law-makers. Children should be punished, if punished at all, for the real transgression, not for an accident. Yet we venture to assert that four-fifths of the punishments inflicted in the home are for accidents.

Pleasures in the Home.

The responsibilities of parenthood are no greater to-day than they were a decade ago, although there is a prevalent notion that the opposite is the truth. The real point is rather whether the parents of to-day are meeting their responsibilities in as simple and effective a manner as their forebears. It is a very fair point to consider whether there is not too much of an export of pleasure.

The feeling seems to be too general among girls that to have a good time nowadays they must go outside of their own homes to have it. Where a girl cannot have a good time in her own home—where she feels that she must go to a dance, to the theatre, to some outside affair to enjoy herself—it is perfectly plain that something is wrong in the home of her parents. What seems to be needed in some of our homes to-day, among mothers and fathers, is a clearer conception of the duty that lies nearest. There is a little too much of the reaching out of great (!) works to be done outside and a neglect of the things to be done inside.

Table Manners.

Teach the little one table manners as soon as she is old enough to hold a spoon. Nothing forms a complete dividing line between well-bred and ill-bred persons than manners at table. Eating in company is not merely for gratification of appetite. It is in some sort a festival, and should be so regarded.