

Losing And Keeping.

The children kept coming, one by one,
Till the boys were five and the girls were three;
And the big brown house was alive with fun
From the basement floor to the old roof-tree;
Like garden flowers the little ones grew,
Nurtured and trained with the tenderest care;
Warmed by love's sunshine bathed in its dew,
They bloomed into beauty, like roses rare.

One of the boys grew weary one day,
And leaning his head on his mother's breast,
He said I am tired and cannot play—
Let me sit awhile on your knee, and rest,
She cradled him close in her fond embrace,
She hushed him to sleep with her sweetest song;
And haphazard love still lighted his face,
When his spirit had joined the heavenly throng.

Then the eldest girl, with her thoughtful eyes,
Who stood "where the brook and the river meet,"
Stole softly away into paradise,
Ere "the river" had reached her slender feet.
While the father's eyes on the grave are bent,
The mother looked upward beyond the skies:
"Our treasures," she whispered, "are only lent,
Our darlings were angels in earth's disguise."

The years flew by and the children began
With longing to think of the world outside;
And, as each in his turn became a man,
The boys proudly went from their father's side;
The girls were women, so gentle and fair,
That lovers were speedy to woo and win;
And, with orange blossoms in braided hair,
The old home was left new homes to begin.

So, one by one, the children have gone—
The boys were five and the girls were three—
And the big brown house is gloomy and lone,
With two old folks for its company.
They talk to each other about the past,
As they sit together at eventide,
And say, "All the children we keep at last
Are the boy and girl who in childhood died."

Essay—By a Husband.

I hate door-mats. Always stumbling over them.
Had a glorious rain last night; and when I came in
the house this noon with the five dogs at my heels,
Jane called out, "Wipe your feet, Joseph; Ann has
just wiped the floor." What do you keep a girl for?
Does Jane think for an instant I would care to track
up a dirty floor? Goodness! no. Give me the floor
just mopped and I print my coat of arms from one end
of it to the other, and let the dogs fill up the chinks,
Bless dogs, anyway; with their playful little diggings
and scratchings and frisky bow-wows. Such company
for a man. Jane hates dogs.

Flies! Why, I often leave the dining-room door
open on purpose to let the little creatures come in.
It is a fallacy that flies love heated better than pleas-
antly cool rooms. No such thing. When I open the
door you should see them swarm in; cuddling among
the folds of the portiere curtains, playing tag on the
new ceiling, dancing on the sugar-bowl—happy little
things. One lit on my nose at the dinner-table, and
rather than disturb him I kept perfectly still, not dar-
ing to chew the beefsteak I held in my mouth. Tears
fairly rolled down my cheeks. By and by he, suppos-
ing Jane and I were one, no doubt, lit on the other
nose of us; and when I called my wife a goose for
slapping at him, she said something real pert and left
the table. Jane can't abide flies.

Next thing she was brushing up little heaps of
cigar ashes and burnt matches I had carefully scat-
tered over the carpet the evening before. Good for
moths, you know. Jane says there are no moths in
the house, and the ashes make the carpet grimy.
Poor Jane!

I spoke the cat up stairs yesterday and laid her on
the spare bed. Dear little kit-cat. She did so en-
joy Jane's satin quilt. Cats like neat, soft places
where they can lie and sleep. It did my soul good
to hear her purr, and see her claw at the quilt, just
as though she was kneading bread. Jane drove her
off. She doesn't even like cats.

Poor Jane! she is quite a bore at times.

Keep celery fresh by rolling it in brown paper
sprinkled with water, and then in a damp cloth, and
put it in a cool, dark place. Before preparing it for
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-:Bible Competition:-

NO. 20.

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The questions are as follows: Where in the Bible are the following words first found: 1. WINGS; 2. LEGS; 3. FEET.

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