

HOUSEHOLD.

The Reveries of a House-keeper.

(‘Christian Work.’)

Come to look around my cosy kitchen a little, I wonder what I should do without the various ‘small articles’ doing me good service every day. Now, there is my ‘soap shake.’ I’ve never wasted a quarter of an inch of soap since I’ve had it. Neither have I had to go paddling around the dish pan full of hot suds with a fork, trying to find the last piece of soap that has eluded me. I don’t know who invented the cheap, convenient, soap-saving affair, but I hope he has made a lot of money from it. Then look at my neat dish mop. That is only second to the ‘shake.’ I don’t see how our grandmothers got along without a lemon-squeezer. As to the egg-beater, I like best those that look like a bed-spring. I can have the whites of a few eggs as stiff as foam can be in about three or four minutes with one of them. My grandmother did have a pie-fork, so it is not a recent invention, but I hope the descendants of the man who originated the simple, helpful idea are enjoying the profits that have followed its make. My meat-chopper and raisin-seeder scarcely come under the head of small articles, yet I can’t help mentioning them, and they are not as large as the clothes-wringer.

Whoever invented those little snapdragons as they always seem like to me, that nip the children’s hosiery, and keep them in place, deserves my thanks. I can keep them on the ends of strings back of the range, and nip the ends of dish-towels securely in place, and have them dried in no time. And as for my frying basket! It’s quite another thing to fry Saratoga potatoes, croquettes and apple fritters, from what it was before some person gave the public the simple, welcome device. Even the little open wire ladle that strains my fruit so easily in preserving is worth three times what it ever cost. I watched old Mrs. Smith drain her peaches in the kettle one year by very cautiously pressing each piece against the side, and even then a great deal of syrup had to be returned to the kettle. Last year when I made her a cheap little present of a wire fruit strainer, she said it wouldn’t have pleased or helped her more if it had cost five dollars. I wouldn’t take five dol-

lars for my cherry-pitter, if I couldn’t get another.

But there! one couldn’t begin to enumerate the vast collection of these little helps. You could put the doughnut and little fancy cake cutters, the little butter-printers, the very small roller for decorating the edges of pie-crust, the cooky printer, the fritter-turner, the salt, sugar, and pepper shakes, the canned goods opener, the potato knife, the various wire sieves, and many other small patented articles, on the same shelf in the kitchen closet, and still have room for more. Well, the morning is slipping away, and I must get out my porous wire sheet for holding the fresh sheet of sponge-cake. Here comes John, and it must be luncheon-time. I don’t quite relish morning calls. They interfere so with one’s work.

‘She Was so Pleasant.’

In a New England village graveyard there is a headstone over an obscure grave, with this inscription of only four words upon it. Short as it is, it speaks the regret of a whole community for the loss of a beloved member. There are a great many clever girls in the world, a great many active ones, a great many who have special talents—but how many are there who oil every wheel of life about them with kindness, who radiate cheerfulness and sympathy as a sunbeam gives light?

New Features.

One of the new features of the ‘Messenger’ for 1900 will be the FIND THE PLACE ALMANAC. Each week a number of short texts will be given, one for each day, with a reference only to the book in which they are to be found. This will make a good exercise for Junior Societies or Sabbath-school classes, the scholars learning the texts and writing out the full references during the week. This plan has been tried by several superintendents and found to be successful in making the young people familiar with their Bibles. Generally the teacher or some friend offers some little prize for those who do the work without any assistance, and a lesser one for those who use aids of any kind. Parents will find this an interesting study with their chil-

dren. Those who are accustomed to spend Sabbath afternoon or evening at home, are sometimes at a loss to know how to interest those under their care. The FIND-THE-PLACE-ALMANAC will be found to be a useful factor in such cases. Quite well-known texts, such as ‘God is love,’ are sometimes rather difficult to find, if one is not thoroughly well acquainted with one’s Bible. How many could give the exact reference for the shortest verse in the Bible, without looking it up? Who could give the reference for the longest verse? Who knows where to find the Ten Commandments? All intending to study these verses and look them up every week, may send their names to the ‘Messenger’ Honor Roll of Bible Searchers. Address all letters to the Editor of the ‘Messenger,’ ‘Witness’ Building, Montreal, marking ‘Bible Searchers’ in the corner of the envelope.

Another of our special features for 1900 will be our BOOK CORNER, in which we will give extracts from new books, and occasional reviews. These books will be such as would be profitable additions to the Sabbath-school libraries. They will be selected from among the newest and best tales of travel, and heroism, biographies of great men, and books for devotional hours, and children’s stories.

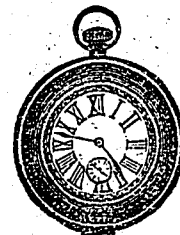
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