# AUNT NORA'S CORNER.

pondents to keep up this good work, and she is sure each and every one of them understands the meaning of that beautiful word, duty. Once upon a time a little boy was asked the meaning of duty and he aptly answered, "something that must not be overlooked." Now, Aunt Nors does not mean to "preach," but she feels she must say a word here about the little duties faithfully performed which go so far toward making the world better. No one whose abilities are slight and whose time is limited meed on that account feel that he is shut out of helping and uplifting his fellows The danger is that while admitting that the little services are as honorable as the greater, we shall content ourselves with doing nothing; waiting, perhaps, for a more convenient season. Dear young friends, there is not one of you who has not a commission to do some work for our Lord. It may be a small service, but it is never unimportant. It is perilous to neglect it. God asks of you no more than you can do, but for these little duties which crowd thick upon your way He holds you responsible.

Now, to come back to our immediate duties. Aunt Nora hopes all her nephews and nieces will consider it a point of honor and duty not to neglect writing often. Some may ask what shall we write about? Aunt Nora would reply : About yourself, your studies, school, church, name of the street you live in. Montreal is rich in subjects for pen and pencil.

Lillie Cox, Katie Clark, M. Scullion, Maggie O'Brien and others are invited to write again.

Now, about the competition! Of course you are all working hard to win the prize, and Aunt Nora wishes she could peep in and see some of her studious and ambitious little friends working away with puckered, thoughtful brows over the facts and figures of the subject. or the light of enthusiasm flashing from eyes that contemplate the ideal view of the theme. Now, a word to those boys and girls who have not yet seriously considered the competition or made up their minds to start it. Aunt Nora wishes to remind them that their American cousins are using every means to advance and improve themselves, and after a little while, if we are not up and about making use of the opportunities that come to us, Uncle Sam's chil dren will be away ahead of Johnny Canuck and his little sister.

Now, as I said before, Aunt Nora's boys and girls of to-day are the men and women of the future, and now is the time for them to decide what kind of men and women they mean to be. Every thought and word and deed of your life is a stone in the edifice of character perseverance and tirm resolution, the work will crumble and fall away, and instead of a beautiful structure we shall view only a miserable ruin housing a neglected soul. The habits you form now will cling to you all through life, so be careful and cultivate good ones, in order that you may gather fruit as you travel along through the villey of life, and you shall not need to stop by the way to tear up the weeds that choke the paths of those who followfolly and vice.

 How very beautiful the trees are these February mornings! Every bough and twig shines with a sparkling coat of ice. This is the season of the Purification of Oir Blessed Lady, when candles are blessed and lighted in her honor, and it seems as if some little frost-angel had turned all the trees into great crystal candlesticks with myriad twig-tapers on their glistening branches, and when the Sun comes up out of the East, he finds them and lights them all in Mary's

I must tell you of a letter that was written by a dear little girl to her grandmama last Christmas. She was only eight years old, but she was a bright and clever child and attended the Convent school; so when Christmas came the good nuns directed her to write a nice loving and pious Christmas letter to her parents and her dear grandmama. When her grandmama got the letter it pleased her so much that she put it carefully away. A few weeks ago the little one died, and now that Xmas letter is treas. Sured as a precious memento of the little life that was so soon quenched on earth olive. As the design is worked either Ito shine anew in Heaven.

Now, when the tempter comes to one of Aunt Nora's boys in the form of some Johnny or Tommy of his acquaintance who induces him to smoke or chew

It is the duty of Aunt Nora's corres- Islang is the proper style of language, because it sounds smart, and calls him a 'Sissy" if he does not use it, let Aunt Nora's little friend show this Johnny or Tommy that he knows another kind of smartnesss that makes gentlemen, while the slang, tobacco and dime novel kind fills prisons, refuges and asylums.

> Habits once formed are not easily broken. Bit by bit we must unravel the cord we have twined around us, and which daily cuts deeper into our flesh. John Boyle O'Reilly illustrates this very aptly in the following little poem which you would do well to commit to mem-

> > THE FORCE OF HABIT.

' How shall I a habit break?" As you did that habit make. As you gathered, you must lose, As you yielded, now refuse; Thread by thread the strands we twist Till they bind us neck and wrist; Thread by thread the patient hand Must untwine ere free we stand. As we builded, stone by stone, We must toil, unhelped, alone, Till the wall is overthrown.

But remember, as we try, Lighter every test goes by; Wading in, the stream grows deep Towards the centre's downward sweep, Backward turn, each step ashore, Shallower is than that before. Ah, the precious years we waste Levelling what we raised in haste; Doing what must be undone, Ere content or love be won!

#### PARTNERS.

A sturdy little figure it was trudging bravely by with a pail of water. So many times had it passed our gate that morning that curiosity prompted us to forther acquaintance.

"You are a busy little girl to-day." "Yes'm." The round face under the broad hat

was turned towards us. It was freckled, flushed and perspiring, but cheery withal. "Yes'm, it takes a heap of water to do

a washing." "And do you bring it all from the

brook down there ?" 'Oh, we have it in the cistern mostly,

only it's been such a dry time lately." 'And there is nobody else to carry the "Nobody but mother, an' she is washin'."

"Well, you are a good girl to help

her." It was not a well-considered compliment, and the little water carrier did not consider it one at all; but there was a look of surprise in her gray eyes, and an almost indignant tone in her voice as she answered:

Why, of course I help her. I always help her all the time; she hasn't anybody clse. Mother'n me's partners." Little girls, are you and mother partners? Do you help her all you can ?-Selected.

# WHY DOGS CHASE CATS.

The Greeks explained in the following why dogs chase cats and cats mire: Once upon a time the Dogs had a lawsuit, and, because they were of roving habits, they gave their documents into the keeping of the Cats, who were stay-at-homes. The Cats placed the papers you are building daily. Now, if you do in a cupboard for safety; but the Mice not use good solid stones, or if you found them out, and gnawed them to neglect to cement them together with bits. Consequently, whenever Dogs see Cats, they chase them, because they destroyed their documents, and the Cats, in their turn, bunt the Mice, because they are their papers, and thus made enmity between the Dogs and them-

# ENJOYMENT.

We are inclined to think that young people, especially, give too much thought as to how they can be "happy." To enjoy life seems to them the acme of all endeavor. But life is earnest, and its aims should be high; and when we live as we may, we shall perhaps give less thought to enjoyment, but we shall enjoy

Once there was a wealthy and powerful king, tull of care, and very unhappy. He heard of a man famed for his wisdom and piety, and found him in a cave on the borders of a wilderness.

"Holy man," said the king, "I come to learn how I may become happy.' Without making any reply, the wise

man led the king over a rough path until he brought him to a high rock, on the top of which an eagle had built her nest. "Why has the eagle built her nest

"Doubtless." answered the king, that it may be out of danger."
"Then imitate the bird," said the wise man. "Build thy home in heaven and thou shalt have peace and happi-

# A DAINTY TOILET SET.

ness."

A dainty bureau set for a young girl's room, consisting of cover, a set of mats, and a stand cloth to match, is of white linen, embroidered with a morning glory design, showing leaves, flowers, the long slender bud, and tendrils. The edges are in scallops, buttonholed with white silk. The flowers are in pale pink, veined both with the white and dark garnet, and the leaves are in shades of one of the heart-shaped leaves or a flower alternates with the scallops in the border, making a very pretty effect.

# TO CLEAN EMBROIDERIES.

Worsted and soft cotton embroideries nasty tobacco when the school is out of Add one quart of fresh bran to three sight, or who tries to persuade him that quarts of water and let it boil for half

an hour, then strain and pour the boilings into two basins. Add cold water to the larger quantity of boilings to make it lukewarm, put in the embroidery, and rub it well with your fingers till clean. Rinse in clean warm water, then stiffen the article by dipping it into the second basin of bran-water. Press out the moisture, and dry quickly.

THE LITTLE GIRL THAT GREW UP.

She was sitting up straight in a straightbacked chair. There wasn't a anarl in her shining bair;

There wasn't a speck on her dainty dress. And her rosy face was full of distress.

When I drew near to this maiden fair, She suddenly rumpled her shining hair, And dropping down "in a heap" on the

Uplifted her voice in a wail most sore. Now, what is the matter, my pretty

maid?" 'I'm all grown up," she dolefully said, And I'm lonesome—as lonesome as lonesome can be-

For Humpty Dumpty and Riddle-me-ree. 'There's Little Boy Blue, who used to creep

Under our haystack and fall asleep. He isn't my friend since mother dear Did up' my hair in this twist so queer.

'And the dog and the fiddle, they left me, too, When the baby into a woman grew.

I'ne dish has hidden away with the And the cow has staid at the back of the moon.

"The little old woman who swept the Is caugue in her cobwebs high and dry,

And Jick and his beanstalk I cannot  $\mathbf{find}$ Since I began to improve my mind.

"I wouldn't be scared—not a single mite-

If the bugaboo I should meet to night. The bogy man I'd be glad to see, But they'll never-no, never-come back to me.

'I watched in the garden last night at dark

A fairy favor to find-but, hark! My mother is calling—don't you hear?—
'Young ladies don't sit on the floor, my dear."

# RECIPES.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

of salt and one-fourth of a teaspoonful pentine on them. of pepper. Butter a deep earthen dish. Put a layer of the veal in and pack down solidly; then put in spoonfuls of tongue here and there, and fill in the paces with yeal. Continue until all has been used, and pack solidly. Cover the dish and place in the oven in a pan of the day before it is to be used.

Tea Biscuit-One pint of milk, one tablespoonful of salt, one tablespoonful | lormation may be readily obtained:of butter or lard, two eggs, one tablespoon'ul of sugar, three pints of flour. one-half of a compressed yeast cake. Scald the milk and add the shortening. and stand aside to cool. When cold add the salt, sugar and yeast, mix and add one half the flour; heat for a few minutes. Cover and let rise. When light add the eggs well beaten and the balance of the flour. Knead lightly and continuously for 15 minutes, or until elastic. Cover and let stand in a warm place until very light: then roll out in a sneet about an inch thick; ent in biscuits with a cutter, let stand half an hour and bake in a quick oven 15 minutes.

Stewed Onions-In peeling onions be careful not to cut the top and bottom too closely or the onion will not keep whole. Boil ten small onions in salted water until tender. Drain and put to simmer in a cup of hot milk or cream or half and half. Season with one teaspoonful of sait and one-fourth tea-spoonful of

# PRESERVING THE FURNITURE.

The fortnightly polishing of furniture figured as a prominent item on the oldfashioned programme of housework, when furniture was valued, perhaps, more for its lasting qualities than for decorative effect. A half-hearted dusting, with now and then a wiping with a damp cloth, is the extent of the efforts of most domestics, and when scratches, stains and breaks occur the article marred is relegated to the storehouse or auction room, or else left to grow more and more unsightly and shabby until it becomes utterly useless.

Furnace and steam heat are to a large degree responsible for the cracking and warping of the lighter kinds of lurniture. especially bamboo. And to counteract the ill effects of the same, they should be rubbed regularly with equal parts of linseed oil and turpentine, applied with a flannel and then rubbed with a soft cloth. Bamboo is also improved by an occasional wash with cold water, but

should be thoroughly dried afterward. Any of the natural woods that are not varnished can be polished in the same way, but varnished surfaces should be washed with water in which tea leaves have been steeped for half an hour. This will make them much brighter than if washed with soap and water,

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and unlike the latter, it will not remove the gloss. When the varnished furniture becomes scratched, the spots should be gone over with a camel's hair brush and hellac varnish until they disappear. Nothing should be allowed to truch the places until the application is thorough-

Mahogany, rosewod or black walnut should be rubbed with linseed oil or crude petroleum, a very little being put on at a time, and rubbed in thoroughly until the surface shines like a mirror. If the rabbing is done once every two weeks, it is not at all difficult to get a good shine in a short time, but the first application may require longer.

If a small splinter of wood is knocked off a bureau or a chair, glue it on again with a little liquid glue, and if the edgea show white color them with paint to match the rest of the wood. When this is dry, varnish, and the break will hardly be perceptible. If the broken piece is large and where it is likely to be hit and knocked off again, in addition to the glue secure it in position with small brada.

Leather trimmings, which have such a persistent way of separating them selves from wood, may be securely refastened by means of a paste made of melted India rubber mixed with shellac varnish. The leather itself can be made to look almost like new by being washed with warm milk. This is especially good for leather seats or lounge coverings.

HOW TO CLEAN A MACKINTOSH

A dirty mackintosh should be spread out flat on a table, and scrubbed all over with a nailbrush, using cold soft water and yellow soap. When all the dirt is Marbled Veal—Trim all the rots and off, dip the cloak in several lots of clean tough parts from a boiled pickled tongue, cold water, but do not wring it out. chop and pound to a paste. Have one Shake well and hang it up in the open quart of cold roasted or boiled veal air if possible, to dry. Failing this, let chopped and pounded to a paste. Mix it hang in a col room, but on no account two tablespoonfuls of butter and a put it near a fire. Hot water must never fourth of a salt-spoon of pepper with the be used, and it there are any very hard tongue, and with the veal mix three stains or grease marks which will not table spoonfuls of butter, one teaspoonful yield to the scap alone rub a little tur-

# PATENT REPORT.

Below will be found the only complet weekly up to date record of patents granted to Canadian inventors, which is warm water Cook one hour. Serve prepared specially for this paper, by cold, cut in thin slices. Should be made Messrs. Marion & Marion, solicitors of patents and experts, head office, Temple Building, Montreal, from whom all in-

CANADIAN PATENTS.

54.618-J. B. Garand, Hochelaga, wheel hub. 54 775-Wm. D. McCauly, Elmore, cultivator. 54,758-Samuel Vessot, Juliette, grind-

AMERICAN PATENTS:-

576 336-Charles L. Benedict, Amherst, hand stamp holder.

576 398-Thomas L. Fertune, Clinton. portable commode and bed pan. 576 218-Isaac Moore, Foronto, memorandum book.

576 147 — M. Patterson, Almonte, bicycle ball bearing. 576,479-Olof L. Stadig, Connors Station shears or scissors sharpener.

576 484-Robert Sword, Brandon, stovepipe joint. "Why do they say the coat is dyed

when it is changed from brown to black, I wonder?" said Tot.
"Don't you see?" said Dot. "It means the old color doesn't live any

more The brown is dead. Always come to me when you want to know any-

"Dear me!" remarked one girl, 'her parents must be very displeased with her engagement to that musician It is even worse than I thought." "On what do you base your opinion?" "They used to refer to him as a violinist. Now they say that he plays the fiddle."—Washington Star.

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#### CATHOLIC WORKINGMEN.

A MOVEMENT TO HOLD AN INTER-NATIONAL CONGRESS.

THE PROMOTER OF THE PROJECT SEEKS THE APPROVAL OF HIS HOLINESS.

The Roman correspondent of the liverpool Catholic limes says: "The Holy Father on Friday last accorded a long audience to M Léon Harmel, the great French economist. He has been for some days in Rome, and has already delivered a number of conferences on the practical solution of the social question in accordance with the ideas of Leo XIII. M. Harmel is reticent with regard to his interview with the Sovereign Pon tiff. But I believe it will be no indiscretion for me to state that M. Harmel's chief motive in seeking an audience was to interest the Holy Father in the helding of an International Catholic Workingmen's Congress. M. Harmel hopes therefrom great advantages both to capitilists and Libourers, and his idea would be to hold the congress either at Milan or Turin. Coming out from the audience with the Holy Father, he was radiant with satisfaction at the reception given to his project."

Referring to this corr spondence, the Catholic Times, in the cause of a lead-

ing article, says:

His object is, no doubt, to win recruits for the Church, first of all, amongst Continental workingmen. The field which is open to him and his fellow Catholics is extensive, and they can scarely fail to win many to their ranks. In Italy and France the vast majority of the toilers were brought up as Catholics, and numbers of them became indifferent to religion only because the erroncous notion was apread an ongst them that Catholicism enforced the necessity of a narrow political conservatism inc naistent with the rights of labour. That mischievous notion is being dissipated by working-men's societies in every quarter of Europe, and it may be safely assumed that it would not long survive such a Congress as that which M. Harmel is promoting. When in the name of the Catholic workingmen of the world a programme is drawn up defining the rights and duties of the employer, asserting denouncing the militarism of the princi pal nations and the heavy imposts it necessitates, and otherwise offering light and leading to those who are strugging for social justice, it seems to us that not only will to iters who are now outside the fold rally to their side as advocates of a common cause and acknowledge the immense superiority of the Catholic Church over every other religious denomination. but against it justice to the workers there will be established a safeguard which corporations as well as individuals, no matter how potent, must take heed. The weight of Catholic opinion thus focused will have a decisive effect in the settlement of labour disputes, for both masters and men must recognize that claims based upon and governed by Catholic principles are fair to both sides, and that to oppose them would be to engage in struggle wherein detent would be cer-

An Englishman and an Irishman were one day holding an argument respecting the nationality of various great men who had lived and died. The Irishman had successfully claimed each one mentioned as a countryman of his own, till at length the Englishman, somewhat ne:tleu, enquired "How about Shake-speare? Was he an Irishman?"

To which he received the reply: 'Well, I can't say that he was altogether, but, at all events, he had the abilities of one."—London Household Words.

"Here's the very picture of you, sir!" cried the delighted nurse, dancing the first edition smartly up and down, "a perfect image of you, sir, even to the little scar on lis chin-did you notice the scar on his chin?" The editor of the Jayville Clarinet laid his finger thoughtfully upon his brow. "We consider him, then," he said, in a grave, professional tone, "as s marked copy."—Pittsburg Leader.

"Well why didn't you arrest the man?" asked the equire, as the constable came into the office alone. "I—I didn't like to do it on account of his family," said the officer, standing on one foot, with the other crossed over it. "What! You are getting a little too considerate for this business." "I dunno what you call it, but I know that when I went after him the old man, his daughter and two sons met me at the door, and said if I tried to come in they would beat my head off. --Cincinnatı Enquirer

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