

..HOUSEHOLD..

The Mother and the Children.

Gather the children, mother,
The little heads close to your knee.
In the hush of the beautiful twilight,
And talk to them tenderly.
When the bright eyes grow tired and restless,
And gaze at you wistfully,
And the sweet lips beg for a story,
Then gather them close to your knee.

Tell them a story, mother,
But tell them no olden tale
Of knights that rode through the forests
To search for the Holy Grail;
Or bearded the bronzed Crusader,
Who fought in the Holy Wars,
His face towards the Holy City,
And scarred with the battle scars.

Tell them—nor valor nor riches
Have ever the soul sufficed,
Nor the wisdom of all the sages,
Like a life that is given to Christ.
To 'take up the white man's burden,'
Through loneliness, pain or loss,
Where the star of the Northland gleameth
Or burneth the Southern Cross.

—Selected.

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FOR THE BUSY MOTHER.



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Our Mail Bag.

John Dougall & Son,
Montreal, Que.:

Dear Sirs,—Enclosed find the sum of 40 cents for the 'Messenger.' I would not like to do without it.

Yours truly,

A. NICOL.
Rockton, Ont.,
June 8, 1908.

Swan River, Manitoba,
June 10, 1908.

John Dougall & Son,
Montreal, Que.:

Gentlemen,—Some time ago you kindly sent our Sunday School a few sample copies of the 'Messenger.' We are so well pleased with them that we desire to order (20) copies to our address for one year. Enclosed please find \$4.00.

Yours truly,

A. C. SINCLAIR, sec.,
Church of Christ (Baptist and Disciples),
S. S. Swan River, Man.

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Danger of Cheap Candies.

Cheap candies are not only often poisonous, but are badly adulterated with glucose, cornstarch, and white clay, writes Prof. Louis B. Allyn in 'Good Housekeeping.' A sample recently purchased contained nearly five per cent. of the latter substance. Glucose or starch sugar is now produced in enormous quantities, both in this country and Germany, from corn or potato starch. It is used chiefly in table syrups, candies, as food for bees, in brewing and in adulterating honey. The process of manufacture is interesting, and in short is as follows: The starch is boiled with dilute sulphuric acid from fifteen minutes to two hours, according to the apparatus used; the longer the action the greater the percentage of glucose produced. The excess acid is removed by treating the solution with chalk, animal charcoal, and by filtering. The filtered solution is evaporated to a syrupy consistency and sent to the market under the name of 'glucose,' 'mixing syrup,' etc. When evaporated to dryness the solid product is known to commerce as 'grape sugar.' The main question is whether candy made from glucose is unwholesome. The answer is, it is not, provided such glucose has been freed from possible arsenical contamination through the sulphuric acid used, the lime removed, and provided the reprehensible practice of bleaching with sulphurous acid has not been followed. Candy made from glucose may frequently be detected by its lack of sweetness and its extreme brittleness. Much of the stick candy is composed largely of glucose, to which a small quantity of cane sugar has been added to increase its sweetness. A great deal of palatable and harmless confectionery contains the better quality of glucose.

One can often find cheap gum drops made

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from glucose and cornstarch held together by ordinary glue, the taste of the latter disguised by the flavor employed. The best gum drops are made from cane sugar and gum arabic. A curious form of adulteration is met with in some of the inferior productions sold as 'licorice.' The essential ingredients in many cases are burned flour, glue, cornstarch, and caramel. This combination often becomes practically insoluble. It is an instructive experiment to try to dissolve some of this cheap 'licorice' in hot water. The results lead one to consider its effect on the delicate digestive organs of a child.

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