

## HOUSEHOLD.

## Etiquette For Young People.

## THE COMPANY DINNER.

(By Cousin Belle.)

For a small party it is not necessary to be very formal, but a few rules help to make things go smoothly. The hostess should plan beforehand where each person is to sit. The principal lady among the guests should sit at the right hand of the host. The other guests should be placed with a view to several considerations, such as keeping up cheerful conversation. Do not put all the shy and quiet people on the same side of the table. It is usual to have the ladies and gentlemen placed alternately round the table. If there are, for example, five ladies and five gentlemen present it can be done very nicely. When dinner is announced the hostess may lead the way to the dining-room, but the more formal way is for the host to offer his arm to the principal lady guest, and for the others to follow by twos. If the hostess indicates to a young man which lady he is to sit beside, he makes some pleasant remark to the lady and walks in with her. He should not offer her his arm unless the occasion is very formal.

If the first course is soup everyone should take some whether he likes it particularly or not. One reason soup so often begins a dinner is that it is quickly served and everyone has something to eat immediately. Therefore at a dinner-party you should not refuse soup. You can taste it, or merely put your spoon in it and fill up the time with talking to your neighbor, but do not appear to be waiting hungrily for something else. A thick piece of bread, square or brick-shaped, will be found beside each person's knife. This is not to be crumbed into the soup, but eaten dry in small pieces broken by the fingers—not bitten. Perhaps you will have fish instead of soup. Some people have both soup and fish before the meat, but that makes rather a long dinner. If you find two knives and two forks at your place the smaller knife and fork is probably for fish. If you have only a steel knife eat the fish with a fork only. Steel knives should not be used for fish or salad, but they are considered the best for cutting meat. With fish potatoes are often served but not the other vegetables.

After soup or fish comes meat, probably two kinds, such as roast beef and chicken, not only to give a choice but so that all may be quickly helped. Potatoes and other vegetables are passed round. If there is salad or sliced tomatoes, small extra plates should be set at each place, so that cold things need not be mixed with hot. The pudding is helped by the hostess. If there is a pie as well it may be cut at the same time by some one else. Coffee comes afterward, and the plates are changed again for fruit or ice-cream. Bananas should be eaten with a fork. An orange can be very elegantly managed by cutting it in two—not, as it were, from pole to pole, but through the equator, and digging out the pulp and juice carefully with a teaspoon. This can be done without soiling one's fingers or spilling much of the juice on the plate, but you may find that it requires a little practice. It is quite permissible to peel an orange and break it into sections. But each of the natural divisions, unless the orange is very small, should be broken in two before eating. Pears and apples should be cut in quarters first. Then peel and eat one quarter at a time. The coffee cups used at dessert are small.

When dinner is finished the hostess generally takes advantage of a pause in the conversation to catch the eye of a lady near the other end of the table, and both move their chairs at the same moment and the company rises. The ladies go first in leaving the dining-room, the hostess and the principal lady guests leading the way.

Company Dinner Problems. — 1. At a quiet house there, arrive the same day four people who intend to stay a short time. The youngest son of the family and his bride, just returned from their wedding tour, an aged aunt who often visits here and a young lady who is almost a stranger. At dinner that day which lady has the place of honor, the right hand of the host, and why?

2. What is the proper way of eating cheese?

Address all answers to problems 'Cousin Belle.'

## Sunday Morning Mending.

By Susan Teall Perry.

'Isn't it wicked to sew on Sundays?' asked little Marjorie, as she stood by her mamma's side while waiting for a couple of missing buttons to be sewed on her waist.

'Not when it is a case of necessity,' replied the mother. Marjorie soon had the buttons in their places, her mamma finished helping her dress, and then the child went to look at her Sunday picture books.

'It does seem strange, Mary,' said her husband, 'that you have so many buttons to put on or holes to darn before we can get ourselves ready for church Sunday morning.'

'Bridget is so careless with her laundry work, she pays no attention to the buttons when she puts the clothes through the wringer, and she rubs holes in the garments when she puts them on the rubbing board.'

'But could you not look the clothes over when they come up from the wash before they are put away, and put delinquent buttons on, and place friendly stitches in gaping wounds of garments that have parted company and need a peace-maker to bring them together again?'

'Oh, yes; I suppose I could. I do hate mending the most of any of my household duties.'

'You are like the old woman I read about, who hated to wash so much that she said she always put it off all the week until Saturday. I am afraid the children will remember you as a mother who did her mending Sunday morning. I heard what Marjorie asked you a few minutes since and your answer. Do you really think this matter of Sunday morning mending is an act of necessity?'

A sharp retort came to the wife's lips, but she checked it, for she had already begun to question whether the answer she had given her little girl was a true one. There might be justifiable cases where something about a garment might give away at the last moment, and a few stitches must be taken to readjust it. But the mother knew perfectly well, when she looked at the matter in its true light, that she did encroach upon the day in which we are commanded to do only the work that is necessary, by leaving the mending needed at the time of changing garments until just before they were put on. We do not feel quite pleasant, usually, when we are reminded of our shortcomings, even by those who are nearest and dearest to us. The wife knew her husband's words were just ones, but she maintained a silence which is indicative, at such times, of the supposition that we consider ourselves the injured party. Even the children coming in from Sunday-school late in the afternoon, with their library books and Sunday-school papers, did not meet with the helpful words and pleasant smiles mother always gave them at that hour. As George Macdonald says, 'The hardest words to say, in the whole English language, are, "I was wrong." And it is just such little neglects as that of mending at the proper time, that make

'The little rifts within the lute  
That by and by will make the music mute'  
in the home.

Every Sunday morning some one had to wait in the midst of the preparations for church for the duty to be performed that should have been done at an opportune time. This habit of the mother not only hindered others in their preparations, but often led to irritation and delay in getting ready for the Sunday duties at the proper time.

It is always a sweet time in our lives when by God's grace we are led to 'come to ourselves' and look at things in their true light. The mother sat in her room after putting her little ones to bed that night and thought of her answer to her little girl. Did she wish that child to grow up with a remembrance of her mother doing the mending on God's day?

When her husband came in some time later she said:

'You were quite right about the Sunday morning mending. I am never going to do my mending again on that day. After this I am going to devote one afternoon of every week religiously to my duty of putting garments in order. It has been a very shiftless habit I have had of putting off one of the

essential duties of my office of housekeeper and homekeeper until the last moment, because it was irksome to me. I don't wish to have a child of mine ever ask me again if it is wicked to sew on Sunday. I must conquer my aversion to mending and learn to love it.'

Of course her good husband stooped over and kissed her. Then he whispered, 'We shall all be more comfortable and happier for that, my dear.'

Marjorie never saw any more Sunday morning mending in her home. Every garment was made wearable before it was put in its place, after being taken out of the wash basket.

If a young homekeeper and housekeeper would consider this mending subject one of great importance to the comfort and well-being of her family, she would form a habit at the beginning of having a stated time to do the mending. It is quite as necessary to have a mending day, as to have washing day, ironing day and sweeping day established ones, and only unavoidable circumstances should hinder the respective duties being performed at the stated time.—'The Christian Work.'

## Selected Recipes.

Asparagus Salad.—Cut off the tough ends and cook in enough boiling salt water to cover, about one half hour. Drain, cut into pieces an inch long; serve cold with cream dressing.

Rice Waffles.—One cup of boiled rice, one pint of sweet milk, two eggs, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one teaspoonful of salt, butter size of a walnut, and flour to make a thin batter.

## NORTHERN MESSENGER.

(To the Editor of the 'Northern Messenger'.)

I may say our Sunday-school is well satisfied with the 'Messenger.' The wonder is how you can supply such a paper for the price.

ROBERT FISHER.

Oak Bank, Man.

One yearly subscription, 30c.

Three or more to different addresses, 25c each.

Ten or more to one address, 20c each.

When addressed to Montreal City, Great Britain and Postal Union countries, 50c postage must be added for each copy; United States and Canada free of postage. Special arrangements will be made for delivering packages of 10 or more in Montreal. Subscribers residing in the United States can remit by Post Office Money Order on Rouses Point, N.Y. or Express Money Order payable at Montreal.

Sample package supplied free on application.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,  
Publishers, Montreal.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

'The Witness' never claimed infallibility, but one often hears the remark, "I saw it in 'The Witness' and I believe it."

**HAVE YOU** seen a recent copy of the Montreal 'Witness'? If not, samples will be sent you free of charge by addressing a post card to PROMOTION MANAGER, 'The Witness,' Montreal.

THE MOST NUTRITIOUS COCOA.

**EPPS'S**  
GRATEFUL—COMFORTING  
**COCOA**  
WITH FULL NATURAL FLAVOUR.

**BE BABY'S OWN** SOA P.

THE 'NORTHERN MESSENGER' is printed and published every week at the 'Witness' Building, at the corner of Craig and St. Peter streets in the city of Montreal, by John Redpath Dougall, of Montreal.

All business communications should be addressed John Dougall & Son, and all letters to the Editor should be addressed Editor of the 'Northern Messenger.'