

## AN EVENING HYMN.

[From the German of Nicholas Herman, 1560.]

The sun has found his hiding-place,  
And sable night comes on apace;  
Be Thou, dear Jesus, our true Light,  
Amidst the darkness of the night.

To Thee be thanks, that through the day,  
From harm and danger, on our way,  
The angel band has us preserved,  
Through grace and mercy undeserved.

If Thee, this day, in aught we've wronged,  
Let not thine anger be prolonged;  
And charge it not our souls upon;  
But grant us peace through Thy dear Son.

Let angels guard around us keep,  
That fears disturb not whilst we sleep;  
From terror, dread, and the "fire-rod,"  
This night protect us, mighty God.

## A CLEAN HEART.

BY SALLY A. HUMES.

**G**OD requires a clean heart for His Holy Spirit to dwell in. The temple of God is holy, and must be kept holy so long as He abides in it. He will not compromise with sin. You cannot sweep out a small corner of your heart, and set it apart for His Spirit, and expect to use the rest in following worldly inclinations. God must have the whole heart, and it must be thoroughly cleansed before He can use it for His glory. Every day the sunshine of Heaven must flood its chambers and sweeten the air.

A thrifty housekeeper sometimes finds her house in disorder and is not willing to admit company into rooms that have not been swept and dusted. And the Christian is not always willing to let the Holy Spirit take full possession of the heart.

Somewhere he knows there is a little pride hid; a little unjust gain is stored in one corner; murmuring and fault-finding are not all cleared away, and in all these private nooks he would rather not have so much light thrown. But when a house is in perfect order it is thrown open with pleasure to the beholder, and a heart thoroughly cleansed has no part dark. A best room does not constitute a home, but every room well furnished makes it complete. A clean heart is a holy spot, and will sweeten and purify its surrounding, until the most forlorn home becomes bright by its presence. Filth and dirt are irreconcilable with a Christian home, and where the two exist there is a great obstacle in the way of growth in grace. But what to some minds is a matter of little importance is a wonderful hindrance to others. Some men care so little for anything beyond working, eating and sleeping, that they never notice the surroundings, and every thing is done in the most convenient place, and at the most suitable time, no matter if it is to cut wood on the back door step, or to smoke in the parlour. Such a man may be a Christian, but it is hard for his wife to be one if she loves order and cleanliness and must keep her temper while she cleans up after him.

A clean heart loves purity and will surmount almost any obstacle to prove how much it delights in decency and order; but if there are two or three to work in opposition, it sometimes makes but little impression on others, though the right motive may be there.

You love Christ, and your love draws you after Him, away from sin, upwards and along the mountain track of purity and duty.—*Dr. Buddington.*

A renowned clergyman lately preached rather a long sermon from the text: "Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting." After the congregation had listened about an hour, some began to get weary and went out; others soon followed, greatly to the annoyance of the minister. Another person started, whereupon the parson stopped in his sermon and said: "That's right, gentlemen; as fast as you are weighed, pass out." He continued his sermon at some length after that, but no one disturbed him by leaving.

## LADIES ON COOKING.

**W**E put on our silks and laces, and turn our backs upon our kitchens," says one of the sex, "as if they were not places for human beings to spend any time in, leaving the poor ignorant creatures who are obliged to stay there, to provide for the physical wants of our families.

"I hold that if ladies would study housekeeping and cooking in all their details, as thoroughly as their husbands study law, medicine, book-keeping, or any other occupation they expect to follow, we should soon see a different state of affairs in the domestic department. If any department must be neglected, do not let it be the kitchen. Care, study and labour there will repay one more than in any other place, and contribute more to the health and comfort of the family. Well-cooked, digestible food, will save one from all those pangs dyspeptics are heir to—will prevent even the incipient horrors of that disease. Better untidy rooms, than ill-cooked meals; better cobwebs in even the best parlour than in the brain. If the kitchen be sweet, clean and cheerful, the cooking utensils bright and pure, the task of compounding from the raw materials of the store and market those delicate and also solid articles of food that grace the table and minister to the necessity, comfort and refreshment of the family is, in my opinion, quite as refined and ladylike as sweeping, dusting, or sewing. These a servant can be easily taught to do, and mistakes, when they do occur, are not so serious; while very few domestics possess, or are willing to acquire, the power of exercising the care, judgment, and skill that cooking requires."

Another writes:—

"There is no loadstone so powerful to draw a man away from evil and evil associations as a comfortable home and a clean, well-cooked, well-served supper-table. The utter wretchedness of many a drunkard's home must be ascribed to the inability of the wife to properly fulfil her household duties, and her ignorance of the art of cooking. Many a home would be brighter and happier if the master of it could look forward to a well-cooked supper at the end of his day's work.

"Queen Victoria's daughters all underwent a course of kitchen instruction, and can, it is said, hold their own with professors of the culinary art. Wives cannot make their homes truly pleasant and happy, free from discord and jar, if they have not been taught the art of cooking and house-keeping. They thereby use the sweetest and purest blessings that belong to a wife—the perfect love and whole admiration of her husband. Husbands may love and pity a poor house-keeper, but who does not want love and admiration?"

Another writes:—

"I consider it one of the greatest favours one woman can confer upon another to teach her to cook, and if I had my choice of accomplishments, and could have but one, it should certainly be that of making good bread; and the greatest belle in the land (if she has any brains), will be proud if she possesses it. If I were a young man, I should not ask any lady to be my wife, though Pandora's box of good gifts were showered upon her, if this one were omitted. Duty to himself and future family demand it."

Then another writes:—

"The art of ornamental cooking is far better understood in America than the art of common cooking. There are more women who know how to make good cake than good bread; more who can furnish you with a good ice-cream than a well-cooked mutton-chop; a fair charlotte russe is easier to gain than a perfect cup of coffee; and you shall find a sparkling jelly to your dessert where you sighed in vain for so simple a luxury as a well-cooked potato."

**ONE OF CHRIST'S LAMBS.**—In a Christian family near Amoy, China, a little boy, the youngest of three children, on asking his father to allow him to be baptized, was told that he was too young; that he might fall back if he made a profession when he was only a little boy. To this he made the touching reply—"Jesus has promised to carry the lambs in His arms. As I am only a little boy, it will be easier for Jesus to carry me." This logic of the heart was too much for the father. He took him with him, and the dear child was ere long baptized. The whole family, of which this child is the youngest member—the father, mother, and the three sons—became members of the mission church at Amoy.