

THE HOME CIRCLE.

BY M.

No. 7—FAMILY ETIQUETTE.

Of all the acquirements of mankind, that of home politeness is by no means the least important. Unmasked civility in the household, combined with christian gentleness, is a priceless gem, sparkling through all the intricacies of life, contributing, not only to the comfort and happiness of the individual, but of society at large.

Genuine politeness is not natural to man it must be acquired by careful culture, beginning with our infancy, and continued through life. It is not like the assumed manners of modern society, which may be taken up and laid down at pleasure; neither can it be properly cultivated in the outer world, but at home in every day life. Hence, parents cannot be too careful in teaching their children from their earliest years the essential principles of true courtesy. When such training is neglected in childhood no amount of after training can compensate for the deficiency. If children are to have good manners when they grow to mature years, they must be encouraged in early life to exemplify them under the parental roof.

In order to cultivate manners that will be really attractive and lasting, we must commence early labouring from the heart and soul outward, and they in their turn will react upon the heart, and aid the growth and development of virtuous character. "If we wish to mould clay, or plaster of paris, or metal, into any shape, we must not wait until it is half hard before we put it into the mould, for then it will be full of flaws and roughnesses, and will not well take the desired form. So if we wish to mould the heart and mind into good manners, we must not wait until a child is half-grown before we begin the training. We must begin with the young child. Greet its waking with a smile and a loving word, that it may learn to wake up pleasantly. Teach it to take gently what is offered it, not snatching, and to return the look and word of thanks. Teach it to share its treasures, to pity and soothe any one who is sick or sad, to pick up what is dropped by its elders, to lend its toys, to reply kindly, to say 'please,' 'thank you,' and 'good-bye'—indeed, there are hundreds of ways to teach a little one good manners." "Cultivate in your children the pleasant manners of a morning greeting, saying 'Good morning' with a smile and a bow; such a greeting makes the whole day go more pleasantly. Do not let the children go to bed without a good-night kiss: they are never too old for that. And how do we know but during the night-watches some one of the family band may take the long and solemn journey to the land that lies very far off? Let the pleasant greetings, morning and night, to all members of the family, be a part of family custom; then your children, going into the world, will carry these gracious home manners with them, and use them to teachers, employers and friends. Teach your children to think of others; to notice