

THE HOUSEHOLD.

AN OPEN QUESTION.

"Johnnie, dear," says his mother in an expostulating tone, and suggestive of an expected rebuff, "come in from the open door, you may take cold."

Neither reply nor movement from Johnnie.

"Come here, Johnnie, and perhaps mamma may find a penny for you."

"Don't want no penny."

"But you'll take a cold, I'm afraid, dear. Do come in, there's a good boy."

"I won't."

"I don't think that is a nice word to say to your own mamma."

"Don't care."

"O Johnnie," as though the delightful thought had just occurred to her, "mamma will give you a cookie."

"Got one."

"Well, a piece of pie then."

"Had some."

"Oh, look here, Johnnie!" and his mother hurries toward him with a picture book in her hand, and looks intently at it, evidently finding something very exciting in it. "Do you see this picture, a little boy with a goat carriage?" and while Master Johnnie for one unguarded moment turns to inspect the wonderful picture, she hastily moves him aside, and closes the door, talking meanwhile so fast as to be almost incoherent.

"Two goats, Johnnie, Billy goats, with bells on"—Johnnie finds the door closed, and gives a series of unearthly screeches.

"And a carriage painted red," she shouts to drown his yells.

Johnnie kicks and bangs the door, and yells as a Comanche Indian is supposed to yell. "I will have it open, you bad mamma!" and he kicks and screeches.

"Mamma's pet," is evidently in a passion.

"Little boy with a blue cap on!" shrieks his mother. "See his whip!"

Johnnie finding his efforts in making a hole through the door unavailing, throws himself face downward on the floor kicking and screaming as before.

"O Johnnie, papa shall buy you an orange," trying to lift Johnnie, who is instantly as "stiff as a poker," and is as difficult to lift as though he weighed a ton.

"When?"

"To-night."

"And a quart of peanuts, too?" bargains Johnnie?

"Perhaps so."

"Say yeth or I'll holler again," beginning to kick.

"Yes, of course, pet, come and sit on mamma's lap and let her read you a nice little story about a good little boy, like my Johnnie," kissing him as if asking forgiveness.

Then she reads the story, then another, and another, until Master Johnnie is tired of stories, and goes off to his playthings. His mother gives a long, weary sigh of relief.

"I shall be glad when Johnnie is able to go out of doors again," she remarks to her visitor, who is likewise her sister-in-law, "for he is so irritable and it is such hard work to conquer him when he is in one of his tempers." This within earshot of Johnnie.

"I wouldn't undertake it if his father didn't insist upon my forcing his obedience."

"Does he have these tempers with his father, Julia?"

"He doesn't now. He had one or two but John punished him severely, and now, I tell John, he is afraid of him. I consider it a misfortune for one's children to be afraid of one."

There was silence for a few moments.

"I have often thought I should be happy if Johnnie had such a disposition as your children have, Mary?"

"Jamie is as quick-tempered and passionate as Johnnie."

"But I never saw him in such tantrums as you saw Johnnie in this afternoon."

"He doesn't dare to indulge in it, Julia. The only whipping I ever gave him, was for an exhibition like this, and he remembers it."

"Oh! I could never whip my dear little boy. I could never forgive myself. Suppose Jamie should die, Mary, you would always have it to reflect upon that you, his own mother, had punished him severely."

"Suppose Jamie should live to man's estate, and his irritable, violent temper that

had never known a check was in full possession of him, that he were universally disliked because of it, and that it led him into quarrels and many unpleasantnesses. What would be his mother's reflections then, Julia?"

"But there are other ways besides that, Mary. To-night, when I put Johnnie to bed, I shall tell him how naughty he has been to-day, and he will be sorry, and promise to do better, and not to do so again."

"You have 'talked' to him before, then, Julia?"

"O, yes, indeed! I always do."

"And does he do better?"

Julia colored. "I think he will, as he grows older, be ashamed of behaving so."

"Don't believe it, sister. Rather think that this habit of uncontrollable passion will grow with his growth and strengthen with his strength. If talking seriously with him only makes him promise at the time what he forgets when the trial comes, a wholesome switching will cause him to reflect that it is sure to terminate painfully."

"That is what John says, and I tell him very often that he will be sorry some time."

"The fear of my children being taken from me will never deter me from the fulfillment of my recognized duty. I would never punish a child in anger. When I cannot control my own passion, I am unfit to discuss a point with a child."

"I never get into a passion with Johnnie. If I did, I could punish him, perhaps. I sometimes wish I could be angry with him, he annoys me so, especially when I have visitors."

"That is another thing, Julia, that in my opinion is wrong; allowing a child to do or say before visitors; what would not be tolerated otherwise. I have been at places where the hostess would say repeatedly, 'Don't do this,' 'You mustn't do that,' and explain to me, 'I never saw Georgie behave so badly before.' I correct my children when they deserve it. If I do not care to make an exhibition of parental authority at the immediate time, I attend to it directly, when we are alone, and once or twice has always, so far, proved sufficient."

"Oh dear!" sighed the other, "I wish I knew what to do. I can't whip Johnnie, talking and reasoning does him no good, and a mild punishment only arouses his violence. If I only knew what was best!"

—The Household.

CAMPING OUT.

Those who can afford it take their summer vacation at the sea-shore or at some mountain resort. The object in selecting a locality, aside from those who are governed by fashion, being to find a place with surroundings as much unlike those at home as possible. But those who most need the summer visit to sea-shore and mountain side, the farmers' and mechanics' hard-worked wives and families, can rarely afford the outlay required. A week at any of these public resorts involves an expenditure that is beyond the means of the majority. After all, the real object of summer vacation is, change—a change of scene, a relief from the daily routine of household duties, a freedom, for the time, from care, and often a marked difference (sometimes for the worse) in the food. Besides these objects, there may be added the meeting with new people, and seeing new ways, which may or may not be desirable. All these results, save the last, can be had without expense, by a week or two in camp. A neighborhood must be poor, indeed, that does not, somewhere within a few miles afford a pleasant spot for a camp. It may be by the side of a lake or a river, where fishing can be enjoyed; a hill-side or a mountain top may afford a pleasant place. A desirable spot can usually be found not far from home—indeed, we know of one farmer who does not go beyond the boundaries of his own estate to find a pleasant, camping ground. If tents are not at hand waggon covers, barn-sheets, tarpaulins, or whatever will form a shelter from the dew and rain, may be pressed into the service. The chief point is to provide an abundance of bedding; buffalo robes and comforters, and plenty of blankets, are usually sufficient, though some may need ticks filled with straw. In starting out for camp, do not take too many things. One of the useful lessons of camp-life is, to show how little one can get along with. The most important part of the out-

fit is an abundant supply of good nature, a disposition to make the best of everything, to overcome difficulties, and be always cheerful. A grumbler is an unpleasant companion anywhere, but in camp he is a nuisance. In warm weather, the camp-fire should be at a good distance from the sleeping tents, and precautions taken that no spreading of the fire can occur. It is well to leave nearly all of the crockery at home, and provide a supply of tin plates, tin cups, and cheap knives and forks. Prepare in advance sufficient food to serve for the first two or three days, and then be governed by circumstances.

If the locality furnishes fish or game, the procuring of these will afford sport for the men and boys, but it is not safe to depend upon these, and there should be in reserve a ham, a supply, of the standard camp-food, salt pork, which, with an abundance of potatoes, hard-tack, dried apples, and coffee, will keep the table well furnished. Have meals at stated hours, let each one in his or her way help in preparing them, and—what is still more important—help in clearing away and washing dishes. Keep the surroundings of the camp in good order. Have a pit in a convenient place for scraps and slops, and provide other conveniences in a sheltered place at a proper distance. If guns are taken into camp, let it be the business of some one to provide a proper place for them beyond the reach of children, and where no accident can occur. See that the guns are always kept there when not in use. Reduce the work to the smallest possible amount, so that the greater part of the day may be spent in rest—in "leisure," in the best meaning of the term. Be sure and provide an abundance of reading matter. Any hard-worked family will return from a fortnight's vacation, or a longer one, of this kind, better fitted to take up the home routine, and perhaps be more appreciative of home comforts.—Agriculturist.

HOME CLEANLINESS.

BY DR. J. H. HANNAFORD.

Righteousness does not thrive in alley, where the cheering and purifying rays of the sun never enter, or in the dark damp and filthy cellars where soap is never used. While the soul is in this body it is affected, and that of necessity, by its physical surroundings. During this month the garbage, of all kinds, thrown out in the winter, are more or less affected by the warmth, fermentation and putrefaction ensuing. Many a back yard is now reeking with the foul odors from decaying and putrescent vegetables, the carcasses of the slain, greasy bones,—whatever may have accumulated during the cold weather. These odors may contain the germs of disease, soon to appear in the form of fevers, diphtheria, croup, and the like. It is safe to burn everything found in this yard, that is not needed for any other purpose,—if they can be burned,—burying the rest, but at a reasonable distance from the well, which is sometimes but another name for a cesspool.

The old garments there found, mouldy and putrid, may well enrich some part of the garden, buried at the roots of some tree so deep that the gases may not escape to pollute the air.

It now becomes the duty of the house-keeper to survey the premises, examine every nook and corner, from cellar to attic, and the dark closets where dust and dirt may have been stored away in the winter, admitting the air and sunlight as far as possible, washing, re-papering or staining the walls, applying white-wash, disposing of all of the filth. In the cellar decaying vegetables may be found, a pork-barrel containing rancid brine and putrid pork, the remnant of the preceding year, and other decaying articles. The sprouting of vegetables, the fermentation and putrefaction of all destructible articles, generate carbonic acid gas and other foul and poisonous gases, all unfavorable to the health of the family. The admission of air and sunlight into this cellar, placing vessels of copperas-water in various parts of it, often putting that water around the fruit-trees of the garden, will do much to purify it, avoiding some of the diseases generally prevailing about this time.

The spare bedroom—with the parlor, both of which are kept so sacredly close, dark, dreary, and forbidding that even a fly scarcely dares intrude—needs clarification, the removal of the mould and all noxious gases. This is the time to give special at-

tention to the stagnant pools, the sink-spouts, the woodsheds, all places where confined air and gases may be the sources of disease. The stable and all out-buildings from which emanate offensive odors may well receive attention. These offensive odors, disgusting stenches, are direct evidences that there is danger. As the easiest means of purification, at least open the doors and windows that the friendly winds may scatter the disease germs. But, above all, look after that piggery, the favorite home of personified filth! Not a breeze comes from it that is not laden with nauseating foulness, filth-saturated and repugnant to our finer feelings. This nuisance cannot well be removed too far from civilization, at least at this time of the year. If not removed, it should be almost daily filled with coal ashes or loam, that its foulness may become less offensive. A very convenient method of disposing of the refuse water from the sink is to dig a deep and large pit fill it with leaves and loam,—not quite reaching the general level,—in which may be planted some large variety of beans,—as the Haricot,—with a few sunflower seeds, instead of poles, for the beans, the roots of which will appropriate most, if not all, of the filth. This method has proved a decided success. If convenient, this water may be conducted off to the roots of a large tree, practically about the same arrangement. The growth of the vegetation will demonstrate the propriety of both of these methods. If the water flows on top of the ground for a short distance, if exposed to the light of the sun and breezes, there will be less danger than there would be if it should pass off in a more confined place, the foul gases reaching the house through open windows.—Watchman.

My 2, 6, 16, 8, 10, is a kind of window.
 My 3, 12, 21, 20, is a small animal.
 My 13, 12, 17, 7, is destiny.
 My 18, 19, 4, 17, is a slight coloring.
 My 15, 2, 5, is a domestic animal.
 My 4, 19, 9, 20, is a number.
 My whole is a distinguished poet and author.

BEHEADED WORDS.

1. Behead a German nobleman, and leave two words.
2. Behead a woman, and leave two words.
3. Behead a man, and leave two words.
4. Behead an elevated object, and leave two words.
5. Behead an animal found in America resembling a fish, and leave two words.
6. Behead land in motion, and leave two words.
7. Behead circular motion, and leave a series of things unfolded; behead again, and leave a spiral turn or wreath.

WORD PUZZLE.

From the letters of the name of a certain kind of candies may be spelled words which mean the following.

1. A holy city.
2. Desert travellers.
3. A pretty edge.
4. An old sheep.
5. A shell fish.
6. A vehicle.
7. A fine tree.
8. Spice.
9. Ground corn.
10. Guns and pistols.
11. Crippled.
12. Rich milk.
13. A bottle of English drink.
14. A quantity of paper.
15. A measure.
16. A chase.
17. Something found in a corn field.
18. Part of a circle.
19. Several men.
20. A Spanish coin.
21. Something that holds a sleeve.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.

RIDDLE. Glass.
 BEHEADINGS.—SCOW-COW; BOAR-OAR; CROW-ROW.

RHOMBUS.

Beet
 Deem
 Feel
 Meek
 Teak
 Neek
 Deed
 Peed
 Keen
 Feep
 Keel
 Reel
 Leel
 Teel

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been sent by Blackwood Graham, Archibald Thompson, and Lilian A. Greene.