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### FREE CHRISTMAS PRESENT

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## HOUSEHOLD.

### Hospitality.

('Christian Work.')

Real hospitality, the beautiful, genuine thing, not that which would falsely claim its name, not that which demands according to the old phrase, 'A cutter for a cutter,' but that which gracefully, heartily gives oftentimes without a thought of return, such hospitality is indeed rare. To many persons this grace has become synonymous with expensive entertaining. But the pleasures of hospitality may be enjoyed, and often are enjoyed to the full by those whose means are moderate. There are parents who thoroughly appreciate what an education it is both to themselves and to their children to widen their relationship and to bring into their homes friends of varied tastes, and accomplishments, and experiences, and such parents will be hospitable even when their means are limited. They believe fully that the choice guest gives much more than he receives, and that there is nothing more agreeable for the household than to enjoy a new atmosphere of personal quality and experience, and coming in contact with new interests which are the essence of culture.

Then, too, the guests who are first met around the paternal board often become the best friends and as often prove of the greatest advantage to one or more of the family in subsequent years. This last might seem selfish if it were the motive in extending invitations; but that, of course, is not often the case.

Two contrasting homes we have in mind as we write. In one riches abounded, but the habit of the life was against hospitality. As one entered the hall the servant unlocked the closed door into the parlor, and ushered us into a room, immaculately clean, with well polished mahogany furniture, with cold, clean, marble-topped tables, with lace curtains which do not dare move from their exact folds and hanging. The environment chilled one directly. Yet the host and hostess were kindly, generous to many and really thought themselves hospitable if, during each year, besides the entertaining of relatives, they should ask the pastor and his wife to supper.

The other home was most simple and inexpensive, but tasteful, inviting, hospitable. One felt at home on entering. A plant here and there, pretty, simple, draperies, tables tastefully covered, furniture placed without stiffness, lamps giving a soft and pleasant light, all this, and the ease of the hostess, her charm and dignity as she asked her guests to her simple meal with as much self-poise of manner as if the table were

laden with the most costly viands, were beautiful. And who that has known that home does not recall the delightful conversation about that board; the wit, and repartee; the telling stories, the experience of artists and travellers and scholars which have made even the memories of those visits delightful. With extremely limited means that mother would not deprive herself or her children of the delights of hospitality.

The frequent entertaining of guests soon makes it easy, especially when they are allowed to come without overtaxing the mother, or giving evidence that the entire family have been disturbed as if by a foreign invasion. Besides all that the family may receive from the acquaintanceship of desirable people, their coming cultivates ease and grace, and graciousness of manner in the children, it affords a school for learning the delightful art of conversation, and enkindles a desire for more extended knowledge. Naturally the tone of conversation is raised and diverted from household and personal matters to more interesting themes, but with the forced change of spirit the burdens and trials are not only temporarily forgotten, but oftentimes really lightened. Dr. Lyman Abbott well says: 'The true home does not confine its benediction to itself. It is a hospitable home. Its doors fly open to the stranger; it is a true missionary home; love shines through its windows on the wayfarers as well, and the door that opens to the father and son opens to others also.'

'One need not be rich to have a hospitable home. He may have nothing but a tent; he may be so poor that he goes out of it and sits under the tree for shade; and still he may be a hospitable householder and the home may entertain God's angels unawares. For to be hospitable, as Fuller says, we give not according to the one whom we are entertaining, but according to ourselves. We are inhospitable when we ask others to share the life we have not—when we try to create some impossible life which is not ours that we may give it to them as ours.'

What the hospitality of even a few homes has done for homeless young men and women, particularly in our large cities, can scarcely be estimated. Having the entre and being made welcome in such homes has given new courage and cheer to many a lonely, disheartened, hard-working artist, or student, or employee; has not only afforded them their chief hours of happiness, but has also strengthened their self-respect, cultivated their manners, and often conduced to make more firm their morals. Surely hospitality, whether exercised by those having large means, or those in moderate circumstances, or even by those who are poor, and have little to offer in the way of a tempting table, is a grace which is a benediction to all who cultivate it, and to all who enjoy it. It is a simple virtue, easy to cultivate. It costs little, but it pays large dividends.

### Selected Recipes.

Potato Lemon Pudding.—Three ounces of potatoes, the peel of two large lemons, two ounces of white sugar, two ounces of butter. Boil the lemon peel until tender, and beat it in a mortar with the sugar; boil the potatoes and peel them; mix all together with a little milk and two eggs; beat it slightly.

Orange Custard for Cakes.—The rind and juice of one orange, one small cup of powdered sugar, a small piece of butter, one egg, one-half cup of cold water, one tablespoonful of flour. Cook until of the consistency of soft custard.

A Delicious Corn Soup—Use for every canful of corn one and one-half pints of milk, one and one-half tablespoonfuls of butter, one tablespoonful of flour, one level teaspoonful of salt, one-sixth of a teaspoonful of pepper, and one tablespoonful of minced onion. Mash the corn as fine as possible, and then put it into the double boiler. Put the milk—except one gill, which you will reserve for blending the flour—with the corn, and cook for a quarter of an hour. Cook the onion in the butter for about ten minutes, stirring frequently and taking care that it does not burn, and add it to the corn and milk. Mix the cold milk which you reserved with the flour, and when it is well blended and perfectly smooth stir into the hot mixture. Add the salt and pepper and cook for ten minutes longer, then strain, and serve very hot.

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