

THE HOUSEHOLD.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.

A child has a right to reading matter, intelligently and judiciously selected. The master has said, "Whatsoever ye sow, that shall ye also reap," and can we expect to reap intelligent, cultured, Christian men and women if we do not sow the seed to make them so? The old copy books used to tell us, "Nature abhors a vacuum," and so if our children's minds are not stored with the beautiful thoughts to be gleaned from history, poetry, biography, and good fiction, they will surely be filled with something less worthy.

If by rigid self-denial you find you can only take one paper or periodical, subscribe for that and exchange with your neighbors. Recently calling on a newcomer, mention was made of an article published in our town paper, when I was astounded by her remark: "We don't take any papers, Mrs. March: we feel we can't afford them." Yet they had venison at fifty cents a pound for their Christmas dinner, and cakes and pies are always on the dinner table. The husband is in good business. She is not an ignorant woman, only careless. Before her marriage, she was for several years a teacher. The family consists of five children, ranging from six years to fourteen, the two older being boys—our future voters and law-makers. When so many good books and papers are to be had for so little—many of them for two cents a week for a year's subscription, is not such negligence inexcusable?

Another right is that of regular attendance at school. If parents try as they should, they will seldom have to keep a child from school. I have been a teacher and I know by my own experience, and that of others, that it is seldom the child of the poor Irish or German laborer, or of the widowed mother who attends school two or three days in the week. The children realize the need of a good education, and are usually the most diligent and persevering in trying to obtain it. The children of well-to-do parents are the ones who are most to blame in this respect, and did you ever think, dear mother, that by allowing your child to stay away from school at all times, you were not only injuring your own child, but actually helping to rob other people's children? This is strong language, I know, but true, as I will show you. When your child returns to school, the teacher must take time to explain to him the lessons gone over during his absence.

Another right is that of pocket-money. Let them earn it if you will, and be it ever so little, the fact of its being their own will be a pleasure. They need not spend it foolishly; mamma can suggest and help with the planning, and how much comfort it is to them! Try it once and see. They will learn habits of economy and self-denial. A busy mother of six children pays each one on Saturday night for work done during the week. The little account books are brought out and amounts entered by the childish fingers. One little maid earns her weekly stipend of fourteen cents by filling the pitchers in the various bed-rooms and seeing that clean towels and soap are provided. The little four-year-old carries in kindling and shavings for one cent a day, his seven cents being duly recorded by mamma. All money is spent for useful things, mamma being duly consulted. Every penny counts, for money has never been plentiful in this household. These little ones are not only learning the value of money, but are learning economy. The writing and calculation are helpful, and "the end is not yet" of the benefits derived.—Bertha March.

SUNDAY DINNER AND TEA.

The problem of arranging the "Sunday dinner" is one which perplexes many householders.

In a large number of families it is the only day in the week that the husband and father takes his midday meal with them, and naturally it is desired to have it especially enjoyable.

But on the other hand it is a day that the maid must be regarded, also. As far as possible it should be a day of rest to her, and a conscientious mistress will so order her household duties that her maid

can attend church some time during the day, even if she is unable to give her the entire afternoon and evening which is so often claimed.

A mother with young children needs all the tact and management that she is capable of, to get through the day so that it may be one to be enjoyed and looked forward to as the happiest one in the week, which we know in theory it should be, but which in practice is often the reverse.

If we would commence to prepare for our Sundays on Saturday, it might simplify the question and be of great assistance.

This Saturday preparation does not mean a cold Sunday dinner, or warmed-over dinner; in place of that it should be made especially good, for by judicious forethought on Saturday one can select dishes that could be quickly cooked, a dessert that could be made the day before, and an additional delicacy might be added for this dessert which requires no cooking, such as nuts and raisins, or confectionery, or fruit.

Pretty little fancy dishes, that are not used through the week, will help make a table attractive, and one or two flowers with a cluster of green leaves will give a touch of refinement and brighten even the plainest-looking table.

Changes in the table linen through the week should be made with a view to having it perfectly fresh and clean for Sunday.

In our own family our Sunday tea was prepared Sunday morning, before breakfast. Thin bread and butter sandwiches were made, from which the crusts were removed and kept for bread puddings; these were cut sometimes into fanciful shapes such as triangles, or into long and narrow strips, and piled up in log-cabin style on a bread plate, covered with a pretty doiley.

Maccaroons, coconut cakes and squares of cake were piled in the cake-basket, and these were then placed in a stone crock until tea-time to keep from drying, and a bowl of whipped cream for our chocolate was put into the ice-chest.

This simple little "picnic" tea, as we called it, was served in our modest drawing-room entirely by the children, an easy chair for mother being pushed close to a small round table, from which she poured the chocolate and the younger children passed it around to us. It was the most enjoyable meal of the whole week, and we always looked forward to it.

Cold, snowy Sundays it was the perfection of inward harmony and comfort, with a big log crackling in the grate, especially when father told us stories, as he sometimes did. Mother declared that she never knew anything to equal our appetites for bread and butter sandwiches.

The children cleared everything away, washed the cups and plates, and brushed up whatever crumbs there were on the floor, and mother was never called upon to do anything but pour out the chocolate.

There are many things besides the meals that might be planned for as a help to the day.

If the customary change of clothing for each member of the family is taken from bureau or closet and laid carefully on a chair in the bedrooms, before going to bed Saturday night, with buttons all on, rents repaired, spots removed from dress and cloaks, shoes blackened, and fresh ruffles basted in neck and sleeves, much will have been done to insure happiness and peace of mind for the coming day, and we shall have more time to think how we can make the day brighter for the others, by striving to make our tones and manners more gentle and affectionate, and to give expression to the love and good-will in our hearts for the dear ones in our home.—Elizabeth Courtney in the Home.

THE CHILD'S "BETWEEN MEALS."

"Oh, dear, I've just washed my hands and sat down to my sewing and now you want some bread and butter," exclaimed a hurried mother to her hungry little one, as she reluctantly and impatiently lays aside her work, goes down into the cellar for the butter, cuts bread and spreads it, clears up the crumbs and washes her hands, consuming some five minutes of valuable time, and considerably fraying the edges of her temper. And as every mother knows, it is very annoying, and sadly interferes with accomplishing anything. Here is the way I manage this matter. When clearing

the breakfast table I spread what bread I judge necessary for the "between meal," and cover it up with a basin, leaving it where the child can get it. If a cup of milk is to be allowed, I also set this in a cool place, covered from flies and where the child can help itself.

My between meals are always bread and butter and milk—nothing richer or more complex of digestion, though the giving of dainty bits of pie, cookies, cake, meat, sauce, etc., might sometimes be easier to me and apparently in the interest of economy, but these bits are eaten at regular meal times or not at all. If children require a "between meal," or think they do, health demands that it be very simple.

I teach my children to ask for their lunch, but let them get it after they are able to walk. Then I keep a wash-cloth where they can get it to use, and this saves me much trouble and many grease spots. At noon, before removing the food, I make preparations for the afternoon "between meal." I cannot tell what trouble this method saves me and my children also; and I wish every mother with growing, always hungry, little ones, would try it. It will save many interruptions and great loss of patience.—Estelle Mendell, Belmont, Iowa.

KITCHEN HINTS.

Put salt on the clinkers in your stove or range while they are hot, after raking down the fire, and it will remove them.

To make a lining for stoves or fireplaces take six parts in bulk of common potter's clay, one part of plaster of Paris, and one part wood ashes. Mix this together with water to form a thick cement, which must be spread thickly and smoothly in the place where the lining is needed. Fire may be made in the stove in a few hours. If, in a day or two, cracks appear, fill them up with fresh cement made in the same way, and you will have a perfectly hard and durable lining.

If you rinse the floor and shelves of your closet with clean linewater after scrubbing, they will be delightfully clean and pure.

Remove the dust from your wall paper by rubbing it with a flannel cloth dipped in oatmeal.

For cleaning lamp chimneys have a soft sponge the size of the chimney tied to a stick; you can get nothing handier.

Cover a thick cushion with oilcloth to stand on while ironing, and thus prevent your feet from becoming tired.

To clean bottles, cut a raw potato into small pieces and put them into the bottle with a tablespoonful of salt and two tablespoonfuls of water. Shake well together until every mark is removed.

DUSTING.

The windows should be opened every day, and fresh air allowed to just fill the room. While dusting it is very easy to put chairs in their proper places, pin tidies straight, put the books in order, wipe off the table-spread, and shake the rugs. The whole will not take more than five or ten minutes, and the result well repays one for the slight trouble and exertion.

If cloth furniture is wiped off with a slightly dampened cloth it will be much freshened thereby. There is much dust on furniture that would not be noticed. Everything should be wiped off just the same as though we could see the dust thick. Because we can't see it is no reason it is not there. Besides all this, the dust can be smelled, and it fills one's lungs by being breathed, and in the end is very bad. A child can be taught to dust well, and it is quite a help to a mother to have the sitting room or parlor attended to each day, and not having to think of it herself. I once heard a lady say of a little girl: "She is the best duster I ever saw." So I noticed one day, and soon knew the reason. She went over everything in the room and left nothing.—S. L. T. in Philadelphia Record.

THE WEDDING TROUSSEAU.

There is one matter upon which any ten brides—or wives, rather, of six honeymooners—will agree. It is that they wish they had selected their wedding outfit more economically, and kept some cash in hand for necessary articles for housekeeping, or for some of the things they need, yet cannot exactly see how to get.

The subject of income is coming to be

considered by sensible girls, and a man has no right to ask a girl to be his wife if he cannot at the same time give her the facts as to his business and prospects.

The bride wishes to make a neat appearance, but it ill contrasts with necessity for economy to possess fine clothing which one has no time or need to wear. Better have more neat home dresses, and less for "going out."

There is no reason why young mothers should not make a neat, even stylish appearance; but if there is anything forlorn, it is to repair and remodel wedding dresses for ten years after that event. Better only get a few, wear them out, and get new again, for your own comfort and the credit of "the firm."—Household.

RECIPES.

BEEFSTEAK PIE.—A paste made of one pint of flour and one half pound of beef suet minced very fine is very nice for this pie. Line the sides and bottom of a pudding dish and fill it with lean beef chopped very fine by the butcher. Season with salt and pepper and plenty of butter rolled in flour, and two slices of fat salt pork cut into small bits. Cover with an upper crust, securing the edges well, and bake in a moderate oven.

PORK AND POTATOES.—In preparing any form of salt pork, either smoked or pickled, it is essential both to palatableness and wholesomeness that it should be thoroughly freshened. The best method of doing this is to slice the meat in thin slices, from six to ten hours before using, and lay the slices in enough sweet skim milk to cover them. When ready to cook remove from the milk, cover with cold water and set on the stove. As soon as the water touches the boiling point remove the meat and it is ready for cooking. Where milk cannot be procured it will answer almost as well to parboil the meat as directed above, twice. Instead of frying sliced pork, either salt or fresh, it will be much nicer baked by laying the slices on a pie-pan and setting them on the shelf in a hot oven. It also saves spluttering the top of the stove with grease and makes one less vessel for the busy housewife to watch. For boiling or roasting meat, the piece should be soaked in the milk for ten or twelve hours, or it may be parboiled just before putting it on to cook. It might be remarked that there are few more palatable ways of cooking salt pork than roasting. If pared potatoes are added about an hour before dinner, but little else will be needed for the meal except bread and a dessert. It would be well to cook a little more than usual. There are always some thin, flabby pieces which are unfit either for frying, boiling or roasting. For these, make a nice dressing as for chicken, spread it over the flesh side of the meat and roll the meat, wrapping with twine to hold it in shape. Then it should be roasted; it is excellent either hot or cold. A dish that is always relished is made by paring and slicing as many potatoes as are required for a meal, placing them in a baking pan or an earthen baking dish and laying slices of pork over the top. Cover with hot water; pepper and salt to taste, and bake till the potatoes are tender. The meat is delicious and the potatoes are a very fair substitute for turnips.

PUZZLES NO. 2.

SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

The initials of the words left blank in the following verses from Job, give the name of a beautiful group of stars mentioned in that book.

1. "That man was — and upright."
2. "Canst thou draw out — with an hook?"
3. "This man was the greatest of all men of the —"
4. "Still he holdeth fast his —"
5. "Who hath sent out the wild — free."
6. "My — are swifter than a weaver's shuttle."
7. "Then — the Tomanite answered and said."
8. "When the morning — sang together?"

HOOR-GLASS PUZZLE.

The centrals spell the name of a noted musician.

GEOGRAPHICAL PUZZLE.

I am composed of 15 letters.
My first is a gulf west of Russia.
My second is a cape off Newfoundland.
My third is a river in South America.
My fourth is a town in Rhodo Island.
My fifth is a cape off Ireland.
My sixth is a country in Africa.
My seventh is an island near Italy.
My eighth is a bay in Canada.
My ninth is a bay on the coast of France.
My tenth is a great republic.
My eleventh is a river in Germany.
My twelfth is a sea east of England.
My thirteenth is a channel between England and France.
My fourteenth is an island south of Australia.
My fifteenth is a town in Japan.
The initials spell the name of a popular living authoress.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES No. 1.

SCRIPTURE EXERCISE.—Peace.

Paul, Acts, 20, 33.

Ephraim, Job, 15, 4.

A bigail, 1 Sam, 22, 20.

C leopas, Luke, 24, 18.

E lizabeth, Luke, 1, 28.

SHAKESPEAREAN ACROSTIC.

1. Richard. 2. Orlando. 3. Shylock. 4. Antonio. 5. Laertes. 6. Iachin. 7. Nerissa. 8. Dioneysa.

Initials.—Rosalind.

ALPHABETICAL PUZZLE.

Aristotle. Burns. Cleopatra. Democritus. Ennius. Franklin. Garibaldi. Hesiod. Isabella. Jackson. Khadjiah.