

as to justify the neglect of your children.

Too busy, do you say, to have a share in the rearing of your family? Then you are too busy to have a family. You have no more moral right to be a father if you cannot find time to do the work of a father than you have to be an alderman if you cannot find time to do the work of an alderman.

Many a father spends more time on his driving horse or his automobile than he does on his boy; and yet he expects that boy to be a credit to him. That father makes a serious mistake who will not take time to be a companion to his boy.

God pity the father whose boy goes away from him and to others for counsel and sympathy. And especially, God pity the boy!

Do you want to save your boy, your girl? Then make home the dearest spot on earth. Make it just as attractive and cheerful as you can—not for the occasional guest, but for the boy and girl.

Wise Fathers and Mothers.

President Roosevelt's wise words, in a recent speech in Maine, strike home upon an important phase of the higher life of the household: "Every father of a large family—and being an old-fashioned man I believe in large families—knows that if he has to do well by his children he must try to do well by himself. Now haven't you in your own experience known men—and I am sorry to say even more often women—who think that they are doing a favor to their children when they shield them from any effort? When they let the girls sit at ease and read while the mother does all the housework? Don't you know cases like that? I do, yes when a boy will be brought up to be very ornamental and not useful? Don't you know that, too? Exactly. Now those are not good fathers and mothers. They are foolish fathers and mothers. They are not being kind, they are simply silly."

Letting Alone.

Often a mother must stand aside and let her children alone to work out their own problems. But to a certain extent she is responsible for them and cannot evade her responsibility. No mother should allow her daughter to drift into an undesirable friendship which may ripen into love, and may affect an entire life, or two lives. Not by antagonism, but by subtle and tactful influencing, the mother should, so to speak, shape her daughter's love affairs.

More letting alone is like mere sitting still. It may mean shipwreck. It may mean ruin, it may mean death. Interference is sometimes injudicious, but letting alone is disastrous. The true safeguard is found in that sweet confidence between mother and daughter which makes them sharers of each other's thoughts, and renders secrets between them impossible.

A Merry Heart.

A merry heart is the best medicine. Have you ever tried what the sunshine spirit will do? Try it for one month and you will never go back to the nagging fault-finding life.

A woman with a family of half a dozen little children has a hard time. Everybody knows it and extends ready sympathy; but if this woman talks morning, noon and night about her hard times, and her six children, and the mending, she soon loses the sympathy of her friends and becomes a by-word in the district. Let her on the other hand take the best view of it; let her talk of the joy she gets out of her children, let her laugh her way along in spite of her tears, and she will become a ministering angel at her own fireside, and an inspiration to all her friends.

Every woman should resolve that if possible she would never scold. It accomplishes no good, but it prevents that flow of affection which is the condition of all happy, healthy home life.

One who perceives that the big thing in life is harmony, peace and friendship, and that possessions are but secondary will have but little time for the scolding life. Read these two little clippings and see if they do not contain worthy ideas:

WHY DO YOU SCOWL?

Does it improve your looks? Not even so much as the thundercloud in a summer sky, for it, at least, gives signs of the sun behind.

Does it add to your popularity? Not while a sunny disposition is the winner as friend maker and keeper.

Does it heighten your charms? Not to those who count sullenness the deadliest fault a woman can have.

Does it boost your chances in life? Not with the man who has ever had the ill-luck to employ a sulky worker.

Does it keep you young looking? Ask the masseuse who has to wage war on that heavy line between the eyes and the crow's feet at the corners.

Does it make life sweeter? The sweetening power of a scowl is as salt in the sugar bowl or vinegar in the molasses jug.

Does it make things easier? About as easy as sand on a ballroom floor, or running an unrolled jigsaw.

Does it pay? Not until crossness becomes currency for content, and a frown is paymaster for a smile.

FOREVER BLAMING ROUND

The writer remembers that years ago when he was living in the country there was an old man living not far distant who had "a time of it" trying to live in peace with a termagant of a wife. The old man was eager for peace and harmony, but the old lady was always looking for trouble and creating it when it did not exist, as is common with such unfortunates. One day the old man came over to the writer's home much depressed and seemingly on the verge of tears. When asked the cause of his woe-begone appearance, he said: "Oh, it's Eliza Ann! Same old story—blaming 'round, forever an' forever blaming 'round! No matter whether you do what she wants you to or what she doesn't want you to, she blames 'round all the same! Turrible to be born that a-way!"

It certainly is "turrible" to be born with a disposition to "blame 'round" all of the time, and it is sorrowfully true that the discontent and the unhappiness that run rampant in so many homes arises from the fact that there is someone in the house who is "forever blaming 'round." This chronic tendency to find fault, to censure instead of praise, to be ever on the alert for something to criticize and condemn, is a disease as insidious and disastrous in results as diseases that destroy the body. It is as truly a disease as consumption, but is far more possible of self-cure. It is a disease quite within the range of our new methods of mental healing or mind curing, and it is unfortunate that more people afflicted with this disorder do not try to be cured of it. Fault-finding can become a habit as vicious in its tendencies as some of the actual immoralities of life, and the chronic fault-finder can wreck the peace and happiness of the home as easily as it is sometimes wrecked by the intemperate husband and father. Indeed intemperate men are often exceedingly kind and good when they are not under the influence of liquor, but the chronic fault-finder rarely lapses into kindness and tenderness.

The man or woman who is "forever blaming 'round" should be a sorry object for his or her own contemplation, and such persons owe it to themselves, to their friends, to society in general, and to their Creator in particular, to put themselves through a course of self-treatment and reorganization that will make them fit to dwell with those who are kindly and generous and who are seeking to advance the common good of the world. The chronic and caustic critic is about as great and ugly a blot as one will find on the fair face of creation. May his kind decrease!

A Wise Observation.

While the threshers were at a certain farm-house the little boy came in and told his mother that the boss of the machine was saying some very bad words, "But," said his mother, "that man's mother died when he was a little boy, so he had no one to tell him that it was wrong to say such words."

The little fellow went out again, but very soon returned and said, "Mother, I think there are a lot of men out there that lost their mothers when they were little boys."

\$1,000 given away FREE to our Readers

We have succeeded in evolving a new sort of Competition which we are absolutely certain will prove a pleasant and popular pastime for readers during the coming long evenings. It embodies all the elements that make for success, and we are sure that it will prove the most popular competition ever inaugurated by any periodical in Canada.

The charm of the idea is its simplicity

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

Every month during the winter we will, in a disguised form, print the names of a number of Canadian post offices, and competitors will be required to find out the correct answers. To make our meaning clearer we will give an example:—

A Girl's Name—a small pointed Piece of Wood.
The solution of this is "Winnipeg."

CONDITIONS

There are absolutely no conditions regarding the eligibility of competitors. We extend a cordial invitation to everyone to come in and win. There is no entrance fee. Remember that YOU stand just as much chance of winning the \$500 prize as anyone else. If you cannot solve all the names, don't be discouraged. Try again and bear in mind the fact that we are giving nearly sixty prizes, any one of which is worth getting. We feel sure that our readers will find this competition most fascinating. It is perfectly simple, and success should reward the efforts of those who will take a little time and trouble once a month.

PRIZES

To the persons sending in the largest number of correct answers we will award:—

1st Prize, goods to value of	\$500.00
2nd Prize " "	\$250.00
3rd Prize " "	\$100.00
4th Prize " "	\$50.00
5th Prize " "	\$25.00
6th Prize " "	\$10.00

And a handsomely bound Book to each of the next 50 as Consolation Prizes.

Winners will be entitled to select their own prizes from any firm advertising in *The Western Home Monthly*. We think this will be more popular than if we chose the prizes ourselves, as you are the best judge of what is most wanted in your home.

A different coupon will appear in each issue until the close of the contest.

Every name represents that of a Post Office in the Dominion of Canada.

No employee of *The Western Home Monthly* will be allowed to compete.

The competition is so simple that it does not require any explanations. We think we have given full particulars, but if there is any point on which further information is required, write us and enclose stamp for reply.

All answers must be made on blanks appearing in issues of *The Western Home Monthly*. Answers received on any other sheets will not be accepted.

The decision of the management of *The Western Home Monthly* shall in all cases be final.

The First List of Names

We append a list of well-known Canadian Post Offices. Some of them you may be able to solve at a glance, while others may require a little thought. Get your friends to help you!

CUT THIS OUT

NOVEMBER COUPON

POST OFFICE

- To mark with a Hot Iron a Proposition
- The Governor-General of Canada
- To Sell—a House of Worship
- The Latin for Queen
- A European Country
- Acid—Exists
- A Vehicle—a Person

Important Notice.

Fill in the answers in the spaces provided, cut out Coupon and retain it. Do not send it to us now. We shall tell you when Coupons are to be sent in, and how they are to be addressed. THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY, WINNIPEG.