#### The Living Room.

Let us begin with the frank abandon-Let us negre with the frank abandon-ment of very formal parlor, but, taking the largest and pleasantest and most accessible room in the house, let us give it up to the wife and children in the duytime, and to wife and children in the daytime, and to the meeting of the whole family when evening coules. There is not much need at the present time to emphasize this aug-gestion, for it is our-which experience and necessity have already made to a good many people, and now that the problem, "How to get a dwelling at within noderate means" is being solved by the increase of "flats" and apartment houses, the "parlor" must be given up, there being the "parlor" must be given up, there being no provision made for it in the common plans. But it is by no means my notion that the hying room should be a homely, matter of fact apartment, consecrated to the utilities, while the Muses and Graces are left to kick their heels in the hall On the contrary, we want in the living-room, for a foundation, that the furniture shall be the best designed and the best made that we can afford, and all of it intended to be used and necessary to our comfort; not an article to be allowed that doesn't earn its living, and cannot prove its right to be there. These wants being provided for first, then we will admit the ornaments of life—easts, pictures, en-engravings, bronzes, books, chief neurish-ers in life's feast; but in the beginning these are to be few, and of the choicest, and the greatest care is to be taken in admitting a new-comer. The room, from the very first, ought to represent the culture of the family,—what is their taste, what feeling they have for art; it should represent themselves, and not other people; and the troublesome fact is, that it will and must represent these, whether its owners would let it or no. If young people, after they have secured the few pieces of furniture that must be had, and made sure that they are w at they ought to be, have some money left to get a picture, an engraving, an east they ought to get a work to sure or a cast, they ought to go to work to supply this want as seriously as they would the other, which seems the more necessarily ie other, which seems the more necessary, but in reality it is not a bit more necessary. I look upon this ideal living room of mine as an important agent in the education of life; it will make a great difference to the children who grow up in it, and to all whose experience is associated with it, whether it be a beautiful and cheerful room, or only a homely and bare one. The relation of these things to education is all that gives any dignity or poetry to the subject, or makes it allowable for a reasonable man to give much thought to it. But it has a real vital relation to life, and plays an important part in education, and deserves to be thought about a great deal more than it is. It is therefore no trifling matter whether we hang poor pictures on our walls or good ones, whether we select a fine cast or a second-rate one. We might almost as well say it makes no difference whether the people we live with are first-rate or secondrate.—Some Chapters on House Furnish-ing;" Scribner for June.

#### Two Queries.

Will you write editorials on the best mode of sustaining Sabbath-schools during winter—also on most useful reading matter for both sexes and all ages?

matter for both sexes and all ages?

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2. The most useful reading matter for both sexes and all agos is the Bible; and

both sexes and all agos is the Bible; and the is the only book that can be so generally recommended, the only book that re-commends itself alike and equally to mails reason and women's tenderness, to the savago's experience and the child's

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