

HOUSEHOLD.

In the Cars--The Difference.

The day was hot, the train was a 'flyer,' the dust and smoke terrible, and the car well filled.

The train stopped, a lady came in, and, seeing no vacant seat, said to a gentleman sitting alone, 'Is this seat engaged?'

'No, madam; you are welcome to it. Be seated.'

'Thank you, sir;' and she sat down, smiling her appreciation of the favor.

Again the train stopped, and a sharp-visaged lady came rushing in, followed by a young man carrying a large basket. Having gone to the middle of the car, and seeing no entirely vacant seat, the young man spoke hastily to a gentleman sitting alone, 'Is this seat taken, sir?'

'No, sir; you are welcome to it,' was the reply.

'Here, mother, you had better take this seat,' said the young man, 'I must get out, as the train is moving.'

'Well, this is a nuisance,' said the lady, as she glanced angrily first at the seat and then at the man, who by this time was packing himself close over against the side of the car so as to make as much room as possible.

'Be seated, madam; be seated,' he said, kindly, but timidly.

'Well,' said she, 'this is an imposition.'

'Not to me, madam,' said he, 'if it is not to you.'

'Well, but it is imposing on you,' she said, trying to soften her former remark.

'No imposition on me, madam. The seat is designed to accommodate two. You are welcome to half of it so far as I am concerned,' said the gentleman.

'Well, it seems to be the best I can do; so I suppose it's all right,' and with that she subsided, a grim expression of 'a victim of circumstances' pictured on her face. And they rode side by side for two hours without ever exchanging a word, he all the time looking out of the window, and she bearing herself as one out of sorts with the world.

These observations awoke a train of reflections. Why not be agreeable and pleasant, rather than sour and morose? Life's burdens are heavy enough without adding to their weight by finding fault with our environment. Under exactly the same circumstances one of those women was sweet-spirited, grateful and happy, while the other was rasping and badly out of humor with all her surroundings. How true it is that circumstances are largely good or evil, pleasant or disagreeable, favorable or adverse, according as we take them!—Intelligencer.

Teaching Falsehood.

Farmer Thompson came in one day and found that some of the children had opened a gate and let the hogs into his corn. His temper came up in a flash. He began to shout and call the children. When they came running to see what was wanted, he began by storming out: 'Whoever done this is going to get a good thrashing, now mind it. Who left that gate open?' It was like saying to the little ones, 'Which of you wants to be thrashed?' No child could be expected to have the physical courage to invite a thrashing from an angry man. A lie was almost assured by his words and manner. The eldest, a boy of seven years, was the culprit. He was never known to tell a lie, but now there seemed no other way, for his physical courage was not very far advanced, and it was a plain impossibility for him to bid for that thrashing. He denied it; of course, the others also disclaimed any knowledge of the matter. The real culprit suggested that perhaps Farmer Jenkins, in passing through, had left it open. The storm passed over and the wrath subsided, but George felt so uncomfortable over his first falsehood that he could not endure it.

At bedtime, when Farmer Thompson was in a quiet, good humor, George found courage to make his confession. He had been sent to pull a basket of weeds for the pigs, and when he came through with his full basket he was so busy seeing the pigs take the weeds that he never thought of the gate again. He was so sorry for his carelessness, and so sorry he had lied about it. Here he broke down and sobbed on his fa-

ther's breast, and, good man that he really was, he clasped the boy close and forgave him.

But, parents, it is too costly to force the little ones under our care into hiding their faults from us by denying them. The tender nature is injured beyond reparation, and no good is done. We but gratify our own ill temper and at such awful cost. All confidence between us and our children may thus be lost. If so, then all is lost.—Candace Smith, in 'Christian Oracle.'

The Child and the Lily.

'Do people say that it is not the office of prayer to change the established order of things? Dear me, how often we parents grant the requests of our children without changing the established order of things, and is our Father in heaven less resourceful than we? Here is a simple illustration. Some weeks since my little grandson said to me: "Grandma, the big, red lily is going to bloom soon." "Yes, darling, it is sending up a flower-stalk already." In about a week he is here again, and tells me the red lily has one blossom out. Still again he comes and remarks on the increased number of blossoms on the flower-stalk this time, adding the information: "Teacher wants some one to take a big, red lily to kindergarten." I answer the prayer in his eyes with the statement: "Grandma has only one red lily with one flower stem on it, and would not like to cut it, but he can have some gladioli to take to school." But he does not want them; disappointment shows in his little face, but he says no more until his next visit, when he promptly goes to inspect the lily, and rushes back into the house, with the exclamation: Oh, grandma, the big, red lily has another flower-stalk coming up!" There is no request, but I see the hope in his face, and answer, "Yes, darling, and if you come on Tuesday or Wednesday morning, you may have the one now in bloom to take to kindergarten." On the first-named day he is here bright and early, when we allow him with his own hands to cut the great hollow red stem, fully thirty inches high, with its cluster of deep red blossoms at the top, and he trudges off to kindergarten, proud and happy as a prince.

'Have I violated any law of nature in granting the child's request? Why specify a day in the future for doing so instead of the time when he first discovered the second stem? Because I know what the child does not know, that by that time the last bud will be open and it will do him more good than when only partially developed, also the first one open will soon fade and the whole cluster quickly follow the universal law of decay and death; so no one is injured or defrauded, but at the best time for him and the kindergarten his wish is gratified, because of his wish and his importunity. Surely our Father's providence is not more limited than our own. To suppose law is to suppose that he has created laws pose him bound hand and foot by his own greater than himself.'—Mrs. Lewis Wright.

Selected Recipes.

Sponge Cake.—The simplest hot water sponge cake calls for four eggs beaten very light, the whites and yolks together, two cups of granulated sugar beaten in the eggs, two cups of flour with which has previously been sifted two even spoonfuls of baking powder. Warm the flour a little in cold weather. Finally add a cup of boiling water. Mix quickly. Bake in a moderately hot oven. Do not allow the cake to brown until it has risen in the tins. Bake it in two loaves about eight by ten inches in size and three inches high.

Popcorn Candy.—Put into granite kettle one tablespoonful of butter, three tablespoonfuls of water, and one cupful of white sugar; boil until ready to candy, then throw in three quarts of nicely popped corn; stir vigorously until the sugar is evenly distributed over the corn. Take the kettle from the fire and stir until it cools a little, and in this way each kernel will separate and coat with sugar. Of course, it must have undivided attention from the first to prevent scorching.

Old-fashioned Apple Pie.—Pare, quarter and core tart apples. Fill the pan full, sweeten, and grate cinnamon or nutmeg over the whole. Cover with an upper crust and bake.

Our Book Corner.

'Bible Questions.' A Series of Studies arranged for every week in the year, by James M. Campbell. This book will be found interesting not only to pastors, but to those who have to prepare Bible talks for prayer meetings, etc. The author says: 'In the selection of these fifty-two themes—one for each week in the year—the attempt has been made not only to present the great evangelical truths of Scripture in their proper proportions, but also to adapt them to special occasions. The leading events of the Christian year, such as Christmas, Palm Sunday, and Easter, are taken up in order. Children's Day and Thanksgiving Day also receive appropriate recognition. That these old-time questions may become living voices, and may find a swift and hearty response in many a heart, is the prayer of the writer of these simple Bible Studies.' (Price \$1.00. New York and London: Funk and Wagnalls Company.)

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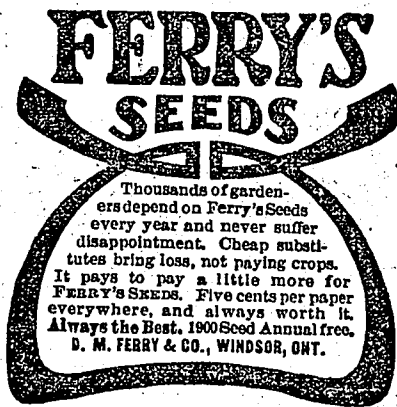
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