

Faithful in Few Things.

Harry went to his uncle's blacksmith's shop. He was sorry to leave his books; but his uncle thought books made blockheads of boys, and was not satisfied till he got Harry out of school and into his shop.

"Mother," said he, "then there will be no chance of my getting an education."

His mother thought the chance was small, but the poor widow did not dare to interfere with her brother-in-law, who had promised Harry's father on his death-bed to look after his son.

Harry had no taste for the smithy, and that the boys knew, so one of them gave him this piece of advice:—

"Show your uncle you *don't care*! I wouldn't learn. Be as bungling, and make all the mistakes you can; make believe you can't learn; then he'll be glad to ship you off."

"Never!" cried Harry, indignantly. "I shall try to be as faithful as I can. I should dishonour God, dishonour my mother, dishonour my father's memory by such conduct."

The boy turned on his heel, and Harry went to his work. He found many a spare moment, and these he thought he might improve by reading or study. But the head workman did not like that. He did not like any boys very well, and a reading boy he heartily despised.

"Pity the mare that is shod by a stickler to his books," he said.

Very likely he complained to Harry's uncle, for his uncle presently made it very plain that books got into the wrong place when they got into the smithy.

"You can't do two things at a time," said the old blacksmith; "no how."

Harry pleaded the spare moments, but uncle did not allow there should be any spare moments in business; so poor Harry was quite cut off. It was a disappointment, a great one. But he cheerfully gave up his taste and his ardent wishes, and tried to be a first-class smith.

Harry lived at home, between two and three miles off, and he used to bring his dinner in a tin box. The dinner-hour, then, was his own time, and as an algebra or Latin grammar was usually a part of the contents of the box, he used to go out under an old elm, not far from the shop, and there feed his hungry mind as well as body. His uncle observed it, and saw, too, how careful he was not to steal business hours.

"That's a good boy," said the old man many times to himself. He found also how intelligent and observing he was. That did not touch his heart, however.

"Plenty of bright boys," he used to say to himself, "but faithfulness is a scarce article—a scarce article."

To make a long story short, in the end Harry won the day. Uncle loved Harry.

"And Harry," he said, at the close of his second year at the smithy, "I've been two years weighing you, and haven't found you wanting. You may get an education, and I'll help you along. You'll do good with it, I'll be bound."

What a happy, thankful day was that! Before

honour is humility! Harry went through a full course of education, and he now fills a high and responsible post. There is no stain on his integrity. Every duty he discharges he accepts as from God's hand, feeling that to Him one day he must render his account. That sets all right. To honour God by a faithful and godly life is stamped upon every day he lives; and everybody who knows him feels that him who honours God, God will honour.

The Young Housekeeper.

Nothing pleases a boy or girl so much as to be trusted. So it is not to be wondered that Alice, whose picture is printed on this page, feels very happy; for her mother has gone away for a whole week with the children, and has left Alice to keep house for her father. She is to do all the baking that may be needed and to look after the house. Alice has always been accustomed to assist her mother in the various household duties, and will perhaps get along very well. She is now preparing the dinner and is going to surprise her father with one of his favourite puddings. Judging from



the fresh appearance of the materials and the general neatness of the little housekeeper, the pudding will be a success. At any rate we all trust so.

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Hints to Housekeepers.

Lady fingers, strawberries and whipped cream make a good dessert. A mold should be lined with lady fingers split in two and moistened with strawberry juice. Strawberries and whipped cream in alternate layers should fill it up, and the whole put on ice and served very cold.

Another delicious strawberry dessert is made of strawberry juice, the whites of eggs and powdered sugar. The proportions are two cups of juice to the stiffly beaten whites of twelve eggs and twelve spoons of sugar. This should be served very cold with whipped cream.

CABBAGE SALAD.—White cabbage makes a cheap and good salad. Use the firm, white heads only; a quarter is enough for a small family. Shred very fine, mix with some minced boiled potatoes, and cover with the French dressing two hours before serving. If the cabbage is not tender, shred and cover with boiling water about fifteen minutes, drain and dress.

CAPER AND MUSTARD DRESSING.—A variation on the mayonnaise, that sauce which many attempt but few accomplish, may be relished sometimes. Mash the yolks of two hard-boiled eggs to a paste; add gradually five tablespoonfuls of oil, a teaspoonful each of capers and French mustard, two tablespoonfuls of vinegar, or lemon juice to the required acidity, a dash of white pepper, and salt to taste.

ORANGE ICING.—From a small baker's loaf of stale bread cut off all the crust, and grate or crumble the inside as fine as possible. Pour over it one quart of boiling milk; add a quarter of a pound of butter, and the same of sugar. Let it stand until cold; then add the grated rind of one and the pulp and juice of two large oranges and six eggs beaten light. Pour into a buttered dish, and bake one hour. Serve hot or cold.

Lemonade is best when made of boiling water, covered up closely and allowed to cool. In this way it is more full of flavour and goodness and best suited to invalids, an one lemon will go as far as two.

To make old cashmeres, or rusty black alpacas, cords, or veiling, look as good as new, put two tablespoonfuls of copperas crystals and two of extract of logwood into four gallons of strong soap-suds; when just at the boiling-point, put the things into the mixture, boil them for five minutes, turning them round with a long stick. Let them drip dry; when half dry, pull them straight and iron with a cool iron on the wrong side.

BANANAS AND CREAM.—Place bananas and strawberries on ice; whip well sugared cream until very stiff, and when ready to serve peel and slice the bananas and place them in layers with the strawberries and cream; keep on ice until served.

BANANA ICE CREAM.—Peel six ripe bananas; split them and remove the dark portion in the centre; rub the pulp through a sieve; add to it a pinch of salt and the juice of one lemon and sufficient sugar to make it very sweet; add to this pulp one quart of sweet cream and freeze as other ice cream. If cream cannot be obtained make a mock cream of boiled custard. Use four eggs and one quart of milk; heat the milk and when it is hot pour in the well beaten eggs, stirring constantly until it thickens slightly; when cool add it to the pulp and freeze it.

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—Cotton culture is rapidly increasing in Burmah, as is indicated by the amount of exports, which increased seven fold in the last fiscal year over those of the preceding year.