

MOTHER'S WORK.

"My mother gets me up, builds the fire, and gets my breakfast and sends me off," said a bright youth. "Then she gets my father up, and gets his breakfast and sends him off. Then she gives the other children their breakfast and sends them to school; then she and the baby have their breakfast." "How old is the baby?" asked the reporter. "Oh, she is most two, but she can talk and walk as well as any of us." "Are you well paid?" "I get \$2 a week and father gets \$5 a day." "How much does your mother get?" With a bewildered look the boy said: "Mother! Why she don't work for anybody." "I thought you said she worked for all of you?" "Oh, yes, for us she does; but there ain't no money in it."

DECEIVING MOTHER.

"I'm hungry," announced Charlie for the fourth time that afternoon. We children were playing store out behind the house. "Let's have some more crackers," he continued. "Allie, it's your turn to go in after them." Father always keeps a barrel of crackers in a corner of the pantry, to aid in meeting the brisk demands our appetites made upon mother's baking. "Go in careful, now, so mother won't hear you," admonished Charlie; "'cause when I went in last time, she said seemed as 'o we'd eat her out o' house and home. She's in the sitting-room sewing, and she won't know anything about it if you don't rattle the door-latch. Hurry up, now, slow-poke!" Little Allie hesitated, a troubled look creeping over her sweet, serious face. She loved to do things for people, and have everybody happy, but still— "I'd rather ask mother first," she faltered. "Yes, and have her say, 'No, you've had crackers enough,' I s'pose," retorted Charlie, impatiently. "But," insisted little Allie, faintly, "if mother don't want us to have 'em, 'twould be wrong to take 'em." "Huh!" cried Charlie, contemptuously; "I'll go myself, 'raid-cat!" And off he ran, his curls shaking and shining in the sunny air. He lifted the door-latch lightly, and stole into the kitchen. Mother was singing softly to herself, at her sewing in the next room. Charlie tip-toed to the open door and looked in. Pretty, bright, busy little mother! There were the trousers he had torn so dreadfully the other day, when Smith's dog had run at him, and he had climbed the fence. How neatly she had mended them, and the stockings, too! And now she was cutting out

the girls' new dresses. Mother had lots to do, he reflected, and oughtn't to be plagued. Just then her singing took words. "Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber," she sang tenderly. Charlie had often known the comfort of that hymn, with those arms close about him, and those lips brushing the curls of his weary little head. He marched boldly into the other room, and stood, smiling but anxious, before his mother. "We want something t' eat, mother," he ventured. "Can't we have a cracker?" Mother laughed. "What! Hungry again? 'Don't seem possible! Well, you may get a couple of crackers apiece; and there's a jar of new cookies on the broad shelf—you may each have one of those. But, remember, no more till supper-time." A moment later, Charlie joined us children behind the house. "Two crackers and a cookie apiece!" he proclaimed, jubilantly. But little Allie drew back in deep distress. "I don't want any," she said, sadly. Her lips quivered, and tears shone in her eyes. Charlie could not bear that. "Take 'em, goosie," he said, tolerantly. "Mother said we could have 'em. S'pose I'm afraid to ask mother?" So little Alice took her share with the rest. "Charlie you nice boy, you!" she exclaimed contentedly.—Adelaide Davis Reynolds.

THACKERAY'S TWO DRAGONS.

One day the great writer, Thackeray, was visiting the studio of Baron Marochetti, when the host took down a small engraving from the wall and presented it to him. The subject was "Saint George and the Dragon." Thackeray inspected it with great delight for a few minutes, until suddenly, becoming grave, he turned to one of his friends and said: "I shall hang it near the head of my bed, where I can see it every morning. We all have our dragons to fight. Do you know yours? I know mine. I have not one, but two." "What are they?" "Indolence and luxury." "I could not help smiling," says his friend, "as I thought of the prodigious amount of literary labour he had performed, and at the same time remembered the simple comfort of his dwelling next door." "I am serious," Thackeray continued. "I never take up the pen without an effort. I work only from necessity. I never walk out without seeing some pretty, useless thing which I want to buy. Sometimes I pass the same shop window every day for months, and resist the temptation, and think I'm safe. Then comes the day of weakness, and I yield. I shall look at this picture, and think of my dragons, though I never expect to overcome them."

—The loftiest poems written are the singing of songs, the deep, strong melodies of which were first tuned to the tender chords of tears.

—We cannot know what future honour may depend on the way we do the simplest, most commonplace thing to-day.

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Feed the Nerves, Enrich the Blood, Revitalize the whole Body by Using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

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Dr. Chase's Nerve Food occupies a field by itself, and is unique in all respects, that it cures by forming new, rich blood and nerve force, building up the system and increasing the weight.

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Tenders for Coal, 1900

Sealed tenders, addressed to the Provincial Secretary, Province of Ontario, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, and marked "Tenders for Coal" will be received up to noon on MONDAY, MAY 28th, 1900, for the delivery of coal in the sheds of the institutions named below, on or before the 15th day of July next, except as regards the coal for London, Hamilton and Brockville Asylums and Central Prison, as noted:

Asylum for Insane, Toronto.
Hard Coal—1,100 tons large egg size, 150 tons stove size, 150 tons nut size, soft coal—450 tons lump, 150 tons soft screenings.

Asylum for Insane, London.
Hard coal—2,500 tons small egg size, 200 tons egg size, 205 tons stove size, 50 tons chestnut size. Soft coal—40 tons for grates. Of the 2,500 tons, 700 may not be required till Jan., 1901, also 50 tons egg size.

Asylum for Insane, Kingston.
Hard coal—1,700 tons large egg size, 275 tons small egg size, 25 tons chestnut size, 500 tons hard screenings, 500 tons soft screenings, 30 tons stove size (hard).

Asylum for Insane, Hamilton.
Hard coal—2,550 tons small egg size, 245 tons stove size, 121 tons chestnut size, coal for grates, 41 tons; for pump house, 200 tons imported slack, 75 tons imported screenings. Of the above quantity, 2,125 tons may not be required until January and February, 1901.

Asylum for Insane, Mimico.
Hard coal—1,750 tons large egg size, 120 tons stove size, 10 tons coal for grates, 30 tons nut coal; 100 tons soft screenings; 50 cords green hard wood.

Asylum for Idiots, Orillia.
Soft coal screenings or run of mine lump, 1,500 tons; 80 tons hard coal, stove size.

Asylum for Insane, Brockville.
Hard coal—1,100 large egg size, 150 tons stove size, 50 tons small egg. Of the above quantity, 1,050 tons may not be required until January and March, 1901.

Central Prison, Toronto.
Hard coal—25 tons nut size, 100 tons small egg size. Soft coal—2,500 tons soft coal screenings or run of mine lump. The soft coal to be delivered in lots of 150 tons monthly. **Institution for Deaf and Dumb, Belleville.**
Hard coal—700 tons large egg size, 90 tons small egg size, 18 tons stove size, 14 tons No. 4 size; soft coal for grates, 4 tons.

Institution for Blind, Brantford.
Hard coal—400 tons egg size, 175 tons stove size, 25 tons chestnut size.

Reformatory for Boys, Penetang.
Forty tons egg size, 61 tons stove size, 15 tons nut size, 30 tons soft coal screenings. Delivered at Institution dock.

Maroon Reformatory, Toronto.
Soft coal screenings, 500 tons; stove coal 120 tons.

Tenders are to specify the mine or mines from which the coal will be supplied, and the quality of same, and must also furnish satisfactory evidence that the coal delivered is true to name, fresh mined, and in every respect equal in quality to the standard grades of coal known to the trade.

Delivery is to be effected in a manner satisfactory to the Inspectors of Prisons and Public Charities.

Tenders will be received for the whole quantity above specified, or for the quantities required in each institution. An accepted cheque for \$500, payable to the order of the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, must be furnished by each tenderer as a guarantee of his bona fides, and two sufficient sureties will be required for the due fulfillment of each contract. Specifications and forms and conditions of tenders may be obtained from the Inspectors of Prisons and Public Charities, Parliament Buildings, Toronto. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the department will not be paid for it.

J. R. STRATTON, Provincial Secretary, Parliament Buildings, Toronto
May 7, 1900.

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