

Family Reading.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

Household Measures.—One pound of flour is a quart; eighteen ounces meal a quart; one pound butter a pint; one pound of sugar a pint, ten eggs a pound.

Hard Sauce.—One-half cup butter to scant cup pulverised sugar; one egg, or only the white.

Suet Pudding.—One cup chopped suet, one cup raisins, one cup molasses, one cup milk, three cups flour, one teaspoon powder and salt. Boil three hours.

Pudding Sauce.—Two-thirds of a cup of sugar, one egg thoroughly beaten and one-half cup of boiling milk.

Cottage Pudding.—One egg, half a cup of sugar, half a cup of milk, two teaspoonfuls of cream tartar, one teaspoonful of soda, and one pint of lightly sifted flour. Serve with sauce.

Tapioca Pudding.—Half a cup of tapioca soaked in water till soft, one quart of milk, four eggs, one tablespoonful of butter, sugar to taste and a little salt. Bake an hour.

Scotch Short-cake.—Three pounds flour, one pound and a half sugar, one pound butter, one teacup water, one teaspoon baking powder. Rub the butter into the flour, then the sugar, then water. Roll out half an inch thick and bake quickly.

Parsnip Stew.—Clean half a dozen parsnips and a dozen large potatoes; after paring, slice both. Take two quarts of water, a half teacupful of rice or vermicelli, six or eight large slices of salted pork and boil two hours; the parsnips will need to boil a full hour and the potatoes a half hour; and salt and pepper and serve hot. This is a genuine New England spring delicacy.

Spirits of Turpentine.—Is one of the most valuable articles in a family, and when it has once obtained a foothold in a house it is really a necessity and could ill be dispensed with. Its medicinal qualities are very numerous: for burns it is a quick application, and gives immediate relief; for blisters on the hands it is of priceless value, searing down the skin and preventing soreness; for corns on the toes it is useful, and good for rheumatism and sore throats, and it is the quickest remedy for convulsions or fits. Then it is a sure preventive against moths; by just dropping a trifle in the bottom of drawers, chests and cupboards, it will render the garment secure from injury during the summer. It will keep ants and bugs from closets and store-rooms by putting a few drops in the corner and upon the shelves. It is sure destruction to bedbugs, and will effectually drive them away from their haunts, if thoroughly applied to the joints of the bedstead in the spring cleaning time, and injures neither furniture nor clothing. Its pungent odor is retained for a long time, and no family ought to be entirely out of a supply of it at any time of the year.

—A careful estimate has been made of the amount of money actually expended in a single year in the repair and building of Churches and other buildings used in carrying on the work of the Church, together with the endowment of Bishops and other such like things in the various Dioceses of England, and it is found that the aggregate sum reaches the enormous amount of more than seven millions of dollars. These are free-will contributions, and are in no sense grants from the State. Some may argue from this and say, if the Church can command such sums from her devoted members, for special purposes, she has no need of recognition from the State or of union with it. More important are these facts, as showing that the Church

does not forget the obligations that rest upon her, and furthermore, that the accumulations of lands and buildings and endowments are the results not of a tax levy, but of the liberality and devotion of the membership of the Church itself.

CAST A LINE FOR YOURSELF.

A young man was listlessly watching some anglers on a bridge. He was poor and dejected. At last approaching a basket filled with wholesome looking fish, he sighed:

"If now I had these I would be happy; I could sell them at a fair price, and buy me food and lodgings."

"I will give you just as many, and just as good fish," said the owner, who had chanced to overhear his words, "if you do me a trifling favor."

"And what is that?" asked the other.

"Only to tend to this line till I come back; I wish to go on a short errand."

The proposal was gladly accepted. The old man was gone so long that the young man began to be impatient. Meanwhile the hungry fish snapped greedily at the baited hook, and the young man lost all his depression in the excitement of pulling them in, and when the owner of the line returned, he had caught a large number. Counting out from them as many as were in the basket, and presenting them to the young man, the old fisherman said:

"I fulfill my promise from the fish you have caught, to teach you whenever you see others earning what you need, to waste no time in fruitless wishing, but cast a line for yourself."

A VACANT CHAIR.

What an appeal is made to our hearts by the sight of a vacant chair in the family room! If it is a chair which was set apart, almost sacredly, for the use of some dear one, for the invalid whom every one loved and thought of, or for an aged father or mother, we cannot look at it without the sense of loss and the reminder of pain. Silent, empty, no longer needed, it is eloquent and pathetic, and the chord it touches is quick to vibrate responsively.

We cannot forget our beloved whom God has taken. It would be strange and unnatural were our lives to go on just as though there had come no change. But we are wrong to nurse grief, and grief only, as we think of household voices hushed in our midst and fold away the garments that are needed no more on earth. Morbid sorrow is pagan, not Christian. We do wrong to the living who continue with us when we so mourn our dead that the home grows gloomy, and the light is excluded, and our sad faces are a check upon innocent mirth. If we could but take into our hearts the full significance of that wonderful phrase, the "whole family in heaven and on earth," we shall realize that God has a right to call some of the children home to rest, while others still tarry that they may work till He is ready to summon them to His immediate presence.

There is great consolation in the thought that the vacant chair in our group is vacant by God's direct agency. His personal will has removed one who was dear as the sight of our eyes. The death, sudden, perhaps, or after long illness, was in either case an accident. It was intended of God and in His time. The absent one is absent from us, but present with the Lord. It happens, sometimes, that the simple faith of heathen converts accepts this truth, and holds it in a way not always easy to us in our fuller light and longer experience.

Miss Adele M. Fielde, in her interesting record of missionary labour in China, tells that in many instances the native Christians ask that the words "Disciple of Jesus" may be inscribed on their gravestones. Miss Fielde asked an old woman, the first in her community to embrace the new religion, how many Christians there were in her village.

"She said there were twenty, and gave the name, age, and place of residence of each. Four of the number were in heaven. I went over the

list, and said: 'Then there are sixteen women who are members of the church here.' 'Ay,' said Sui, 'there are twenty.' I remarked that I had seen twelve of the sixteen, and Sui responded, 'Ay, teacheress, you have seen twelve of the twenty.' Like Wordsworth's little maid she had her way, and always counted the sisters who were in heaven."

The best wisdom is to take up our sorrow in a spirit of cheerful, or at least submissive, acquiescence with the divine will. When its first anguish has yielded to the ministry of time, then it is well to look about and see what work we may do for the sake of the dead. Were they forward in the distribution of books and papers among God's poor? Did they look after the prisoner and the sick in hospitals? Did they try to strengthen the weak, assist the tempted, and lead back to the narrow path the feet of the wanderer?

For their sakes let us take up their work which they were doing for Jesus. And He who is their Lord still, as he is ours, will bless the work of our hands and establish it, and comfort us concerning the vacant chair.

EDWIN ALDEN & BRO., Cincinnati, O., and New York City, have just issued a very beautiful and attractive Illustrated School Catalogue containing newspaper lists, and some valuable suggestions in the direction of using illustrated advertisements. Many sample illustrations of leading colleges in various parts of the country are given with the expenses that would be entailed by using large engravings in connection with newspaper advertising. The Catalogue is quite artistic, and will be sent free on application.

FREE THOUGHT.

The Bishop of Peterborough in a recent sermon said:—"Let us have done, once for all, with this mere cant, for it is nothing but cant, of freethought and the fetters of the Creed." How does it come that the man who thinks there is no God is any freer in his thinking than the man who thinks there is a God?—one thinks as freely as the other. We Christians think there is a God, and we are free in thinking so. The atheist thinks there is not a God, and he is free in thinking so. There is as much freethought on the one side as on the other, and each is subject to the penalties of his thought—each must abide the consequences of his thought concerning God, just as each must abide the consequences of his thought concerning his health, his life, his business, or concerning any other fact in this life. The only difference is that the consequences of misthought or disbelief in the one case are more serious, are more lasting, than in the other, but that does not at all affect the principle that thinking wrongly concerning divine or eternal facts may hurt our souls, just as thinking wrongly of material or physical facts may hurt our bodies.

HONOURABLE WORK.

A short time ago an earnest and manly mechanic came home at evening from his toil. A friend was sitting with him in his house. His bright little boy ran up to him and said: "Father how black your hands are." "Yes, my son," said he, with a beautiful Christian smile on his countenance, "My hands were blackened by my toil but the money I have made with them to-day is clean." It was far better for that man to be able to say those brave and manly words than to say, "I have made a thousand dollars." Men and women, far and near! You who read this, is the money you are saving up clean. It is more important for it to be clean than to support your family in elegance. It is more important for it to be clean than for you to make large contributions to the church and be able to give your family a fine education. As the evening sun of life is setting behind the hills of time, will you be able to say, "Thank God the money I leave my children and the name I leave behind me is clean."