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HOUSEHOLD.

Keeping Hold of the Boys

There were once two boys in a home I know and after a few happy years one was taken into the Shepherd's arms. The two boys and their mother had always knelt together for the bed-time prayer, and each had offered a simple petition. The first night there were only two to kneel, the sobbing voice of the lonely brother uttered but one sentence, 'Dear Lord, keep mother and me intimate.'

Said the mother, years after, 'I consecrated my life to answer that prayer.'

Did she have to give up anything? Yes; receptions and calls were secondary matters when the boy's friends needed entertaining.

Embroidered doilies and hand-painted screens were of no account whatever beside the cultivation of intimacy with her boy, and the answering of his prayer. 'Always give me the first chance to help you, dear,' she would say; and he did. Whatever was dear to his boyish heart found glad sympathy in her.

Perhaps mothers do not always realize how soon a boy begins to think toward manhood, and so they treat him like a child to be watched and scolded instead of helped and trusted.

This mother's boy was just as impulsive and self-willed as you often find. But she had a few rules that helped wonderfully. Shall I copy them for you?

- (1) I will pray and work to be patient.
- (2) I will strive to 'grow in grace and in the knowledge of God.'
- (3) No matter what happens I will try to hold my temper and my tongue.
- (4) I will try never to scold and never to reprove or punish in anger.
- (5) I will listen patiently and tenderly to my boy's side of a grievance.

You will notice that these rules are to govern the mother instead of the boy; and is not that the secret of success? Mother, do you want to keep your boy? Then control yourself. Not the fashionable attempt at stoicism that says it is not 'good form' to display emotion but the real holding of one's self in hand.

Fashion would tie the mettlesome steed fast. Control harnesses him to life and lets Christ hold the reins.

This mother's boy made many a blunder, he had his days of waywardness and times of unreasonableness but never a time when he was not sure that his mother was ready to listen, advise and help. There were times when his impulsiveness made him sore trouble but the first place he turned for help was to the tender, loyal 'mother-friend' and he was sure of comfort. Do you think it paid? When she reads in the papers the theories on 'how to get hold of the boys,' she thanks God she has never lost hold on hers. And in the answering of the boyish prayer the mother has not only grown more and more intimate with him but both have grown intimate with Christ. Mother, you have no 'charge to keep' half so sacred as the heart of your boy. Are you true to your trust?—Emma Graves Dietrick, in 'Christian Work.'

Selected Recipes.

Potato Cups.—Peel eight large potatoes, cut them in two. Take out the centres smoothly with a tin scoop. Take any cold meat you may have, although beef and veal are preferred; chop this fine and season well. Fill the holes with this, and set the potatoes on a tin in a hot oven, bake until done, and serve with brown gravy left over when the meat was first cooked.

Saratoga Biscuits.—The following breakfast cakes are said to be great favorites at a certain Saratoga hotel: Heat a pint of milk over the fire, and when hot enough to melt butter, remove, add butter the size of

a walnut, three beaten eggs, three table-spoonfuls of good yeast, a little salt, and flour enough to make a soft dough. Let them rise in a warm place for two or three hours. Make up into small biscuit or bun-shaped cakes, lay close together on a well buttered tin, and bake for fifteen minutes in a quick oven.

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