

who pride yourselves upon your well-kept houses!—that where the prescribed laws of perfect housekeeping exist there will not live a Kindergarten? Beware of fettering the limbs of your little ones by weaving around them too early the fine threads of which your well-constructed house-keeping-web, with its lines and angles of geometrical accuracy, is composed. Your children will soon see that their life-blood of freedom is surely to be drawn out from them, will fly and buzz around a little while and then wisely seek more attractive quarters.

A Kindergarten may spring up and flourish in a perfectly-kept *home*, but not in a perfectly-kept *house*. There must be a compromise between house-keeping and home-keeping. If there be a strife for the mastery, let the former yield the point to the latter. Perfect housekeeping is the swallowing-up of individual comfort, individual freedom, individual action, into one groove laid out by the whim and wishes of one whose word must be law; while home-keeping looks after the comfort, freedom, habits, and wishes of each individual member of the household by the introduction of those charming little irregularities which give some homes such an attractive, free-and-easy atmosphere.

In the intricate machinery of a well-kept home, the wonderfully flexible hands stoop gladly to the happy, noisy children; reach up in loving tenderness to the feeble grandfather; embrace indulgently the rough, rol-

licking school-boy; yield considerately to the all-too-busy, care-worn father; relax mercifully for "the man-servant and maid-servant;" and stretch out hospitably to the "stranger within the gates." And this by a beautiful spirit of compromise,—of each bending to the other, and by all working together in quiet consideration of one whose heart,—ever-cheery, ever-loving, ever-lenient, ever-sympathizing, ever-merciful, ever-generous, is the motor which moves and controls the whole.

In the sunshine of such a home will our own children like to bask, and to it will others wend their little footsteps to find that freedom which is their light and life, as surely as the leaves of window-plants all turn themselves toward the sun to drink in their light and life.

Let us then be sure to prepare such a home-soil that we may have a Kindergarten. Our own children may form the nucleus, and around it will cluster all the little playmates, who will find themselves gravitating,—some at one time, some at another, now here, now there,—toward our happy little centre; and while we shed the atmosphere of our influence and the dews of our teachings upon our own little ones, all the other followers will unconsciously breathe in the atmosphere and drink in the dews.

And thus having our Kindergarten, we ask: What shall we do? where shall we begin? *Let us study the children.* "A little child shall lead them."

—*The Primary Teacher.*