

## HOUSEHOLD.

### The Secret of the Lord.

God sometimes shuts the door and shuts us in.

That He may speak, perchance through grief or pain,  
And softly, heart to heart, above the din,  
May tell some precious thought to us again.

God sometimes shuts the door and keeps us still.

That so our feverish haste, our deep unrest,  
Beneath His gentle touch may quiet, till  
He whispers what our weary hearts love best.

God sometimes shuts the door, and though shut in,

If 'tis His hand, shall we not wait and see?  
If worry lies without, and toil and sin,  
God's Word may wait within for you and me.

Selected.

### The New Departure.

'Another year is but another call of God,  
To do some deed undone and duty we forgot;  
To think some wider thought of man and good;

To see and love with kindlier eye and warmer heart,

Until acquainted more with him, and keener eyed

To sense the need of man, we serve  
With larger sacrifice and readier hand our kind.'

For some time things had not run at all smoothly at meal times in Mrs. Blossom's house. The lady was an excellent cook, perfectly neat, taking all things in general, and was almost invariably willing and sweet tempered. The three children who sat at the board were well trained and consequently well behaved.

The increasing annoyance, or whatever it might be, that arose at the table, and particularly at breakfast time, called forth irritating remarks on Mr. Blossom's part, who was a good provider, a kind husband and father, and a lover of home. Matters had grown so uncomfortable that at the close of the year the wife and mother sat herself down to puzzle out the affair. When the children were little she had 'kept a girl,' but they were trying to pay for their pretty house Mrs. Blossom's health was good, the doctor had said that household duties were beneficial when not too arduous, and with such help as was easily attainable from outside when needed, the work caused no undue fatigue or trouble.

Now, as the anxious housewife reflected with clouded brow, and asked herself, with a perturbed air, what could be the cause of the altered atmosphere of her home, especially as related to the table, she thought that, would the trouble but reveal itself, she would gladly begin the new year by trying to do away with whatever was acting as a disturbing element in her hitherto peaceful home.

Reflection brought two or three things to mind not particularly noticed when they happened. To begin with, when she sat down to breakfast that morning Mr. Blossom was trying to straighten the table cloth, which was just a little awry. Then he said, somewhat impatiently, 'I do wish, Lizzie, you would ever sit down to the table with the rest of us; it is very confusing to have you running to and fro half the breakfast time.' Yes, she really had been getting more and more into the habit of getting the family seated before the food was quite on, necessitating considerable hurrying to and fro before breakfast was fairly served. And yesterday Mr. Blossom had placed the 'peppers and salts' more evenly after taking his seat at the dinner table. He was rarely home at lunch. Then Susie, whose duty it was to fill the glasses, had forgotten to draw the water, and Mr. Blossom remarked petulantly that he believed before long he should have to do things himself, if they were to be attended to decently.

'Poor man!' soliloquized Mrs. Blossom, 'I really have been growing very negligent, al-

most slovenly, in my manner of conducting things in the dining room, and the joke of it is,' she added, brightening, 'I was the one who, a few years ago, he used to say had taught him love of extreme orderliness and quiet at meal times. Now, I am going to reform, nor shall I relapse into negligence again along this line.'

She was as good as her word. A little talk with the two young daughters and Sammy, was sufficient to let them understand that in the future nothing pertaining to the few simple rules of the table was to be overlooked. On New Year's morning, when the breakfast bell rang, Mrs. Blossom was waiting beside her chair to sit down. In the centre of the neatly, evenly laid table was a clear, shining glass of flowers. Everything in the way of food was on, the oatmeal steaming at each plate. With a swift, satisfied glance around, Mr. Blossom said cheerfully, 'Well, now, this is something like!' Susie quietly and promptly removed the oatmeal dishes as they were emptied. The warm plates were close at her father's hand. The meal passed off so pleasantly that every one hailed the new departure, which was in reality but a return to former rules of order and regularity. At dinner the same order was preserved. Meantime no mention had been made to the master of the house of the resolve taken. But one night when the year was only about ten days old, he remarked to his wife, 'Lizzie, I don't know how it is, but it seems to me your cooking improves every day. I always thought you excelled, but nowadays everything seems to be perfect.' When he was simply reminded that with the New Year a more orderly, careful way of serving had been inaugurated, he slowly said, 'That may be the difference, but what a great difference it is!'

The defect in Mrs. Blossom's household creeps into too many other well regulated homes. Will not other anxious, well meaning householders be warned by Mrs. Blossom's experience, and prevent dissatisfaction, and perhaps warrantable fault-finding, by observing the scrupulous neatness, orderliness and quiet that are inseparable from a truly well served meal? Now is a good time to begin.—'Christian Work.'

### For the Busy Mother.

Where more than one pattern is wanted, additional coupons may be readily made after the above model on a separate slip of paper, and attached to the proper illustration.



CHILD'S DRESS WITH BERTHA.—NO. 1064.

A dainty little frock for the small girl is here shown with yoke and bertha in round effect. The yoke is made of all-over embroidery, the skirt is full and gathered at the yoke and has ruffles of embroidery which are finished at heading with a band of insertion. The round bertha can be made plain or scalloped

as desired, and edge finished with ruffles of embroidery to match the skirt. The sleeves are in one piece in long, or puff style, and are finished with insertion and ruffles. The design would develop nicely in handkerchief linen and the material can be hemstitched or embroidered when the ruffles are not used, making a very pretty finish, or it may be made plain if preferred. If heavier material be used ribbon would make a nice trimming.

The pattern is cut in six sizes, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 years. For five years it requires 3 3-8 yards of material, 36 inches wide, with 11 yards of edging for skirt ruffles, and 5 1/4 yards of insertion.



A USEFUL APRON.—NO. 1078.

A practical design is here illustrated. The square bib is gathered to the belt, and straps with frills are brought over the shoulders and fastened to the belt at the back. The apron is finished at the bottom with a hem, and two rows of insertion might be added. The pattern is cut in three sizes, 24, 28, and 32 waist measure. For medium size it requires 2 3/4 yards of material 27 inches wide.

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