

the Resurrection, yet it was a work not unworthy of the care of the angels, even at that solemn season, to lay the linen clothes by themselves, and to wrap together the napkin that was about the head in a place by itself. Even the linen cloth, which had touched the most holy sin-offering, was holy in the sight of those heavenly ministers.—Bishop Selwyn.

REWARDS OF GRACE.

The Duke of Burgundy was waited upon by a poor man, a very loyal subject, who brought him a very large root which he had grown. He was a very poor man indeed, and every root he grew in his garden was of consequence to him; but merely as a loyal offering he brought to his prince the largest his little garden produced. The prince was so pleased with the man's evident loyalty and affection that he gave him a very large sum. The steward thought, "Well, I see this pays; this man has got fifty pounds for his large root, I think I shall make the duke a present." So he bought a horse, and he reckoned that he should have in return ten times as much for it as it was worth, and he presented it with that view; the duke, like a wise man, quietly accepted the horse, and gave the greedy steward nothing. That was all. So you say, "Well, here is a Christian man, and he gets rewarded. He has been giving to the poor, helping the Lord's church, and see, he is saved; the thing pays, I shall make a little investment." Yes, but you see the steward did not give the horse out of any idea of loyalty, and kindness, and love to the duke, but out of a very great love to himself, and therefore had no return; and if you perform deeds of charity out of the idea of getting to heaven by them, why it is yourself that you are feeding, it is yourself that you are clothing; all your virtue is not virtue, it is rank selfishness, it smells strong of selfhood, and Christ will never accept it; you will never hear Him say, "Thank you" for it.

A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE.

BY A. L. J.

I heard a young man lately in a conversation, that at once attracted my attention, with a girl some years his senior, and he stated the fact that he left the party early because his mother objected to late hours. "You ought to cut loose from that apron string," was her sneering rejoinder, and though I knew the remark would not influence the youth in question, who was strong of will and well balanced in judgment, yet I knew, too, that there were many young men weak-minded enough to be influenced by such baneful advice. How many of the sex have been led to ruin by the scornful tones of their girl companions, who tampered with the holiest affections and lured them into paths of folly and wickedness by just such thoughtless speeches? Oh, boy, man, think more of that "apron string" than of the girl who so sneeringly mentions it, for every thread of it is pulling you in the path of right and duty! Your mother's heart is full of love and devotion, and your acquiescence in her wishes will only bring you honor and contentment. Shun as you would a pestilence any girl who talks that way, for if she does not respect and revere your mother she will not make a wife to be desired. You may trust the judgment of your parents, though perhaps it seems at times to be at variance with your own. But the one who loved and cared for you through all the helpless years of infancy, who is always thinking of and praying for your future, who ponders in her heart the best way for your well-being, her "apron strings" are safe, and you will not be in any hurry to "cut loose" from them if you are wise.

FRUIT AFTER MANY DAYS.

"My mother taught me when a child, and it has come back to me in old age."

In the year 17—, there came to a village in the Valley of Virginia, a German family, to whom five children were born. At the time we write of, the youngest, a boy of five, stands at his mother's knee,

as she teaches him, in her native tongue, a verse from the family Bible and his evening prayer. For a while the father's efforts are crowned with success, but his partner, proving dishonest, escape with all available means, leaving the debts to be paid by the old gentleman, which in time he accomplishes, leaving him penniless; his only resource being a small country school, during the winter, and the proceeds of a few acres of land, which he cultivates in summer.—When about thirteen years old, the son is sent to live with an elder brother, where he acquires good business habits, and is thrown with men of influence and intelligence, but of such loose morals that but for the mother's teaching he would have made shipwreck of virtue.

Soon after reaching manhood he married a lovely woman, who bore him a large family, and whose comparatively early death was the greatest grief of his life. Time, the healer, also brought friends and fortune; still, there was the "one thing needful" yet wanting in his soul, for, as he once remarked to a friend, "I have all I need around me, and would be perfectly happy but for the hereafter."

Thrice after this, God laid His hand upon him in bereavement, but he gave no answering touch. When he had reached his "threescore years and ten," sickness came upon him, and long before his friends were aware, he knew his disease would prove fatal. To the Christians of his family his salvation was dearer even than life; and there were those who agonized for him in prayer, as day by day they saw the light in the dear eyes grow dim. One day, when a daughter's "heart had grown sick with hope deferred," he called her to him, saying, "The end is near, but I do not fear it; I have made my peace with God. Through all these years of worldliness I have never been able to sleep until I had said my childish prayer, 'Now I lay me down to sleep.' My good mother taught me, when a child, that the 'blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin,' and it has come back to me in my old age."

He lingered several weeks after this, but not once did his faith falter. I see him now as he lay upon his bed, all eagerness to catch the "Words of Life," as if hearing them for the first time. Nor can I forget his rapturous expression, as he exclaimed, "I have not a doubt or fear; I am one of the redeemed; bought with the blood of the Lamb!" And as a child resting upon its mother's breast, he sweetly fell asleep.

O, ye discouraged ones, take heart! This faithful mother had been dead fifty years; but "God's word cannot fail," and through it she "being dead yet speaketh."

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

WHEN you talk keep your hands still.

CULTIVATE the habit of listening to others; it will make you an invaluable member of society, to say nothing of the advantage it will be to you when you marry. Every man likes to talk about himself. A good listener makes a delightful wife.

Do not be guilty of the discourtesy of shaking hands with one person while you are looking at or talking to another.

NAPKINS should not be used tucked in at one's neck. In eating with a spoon be careful not to put it too far into the mouth.

WHEN eating bread and butter at table, butter a small piece at a time, not the entire slice.

KEEP a fruit-jar that has a cover, full of dissolved gum tragacanth, or gum arabic. Have a brush with a ring in the cut off handle, so that it may be hung up when not in use. If scraps of paper get loose on the walls, a moment's work will put them on again as good as new. When the house is papered always save the scraps or get an extra roll. It is but the work of a moment to put on a fragment of paper that has been torn off, and it improves the appearance of the house wonderfully.

If the plastering is broken, or a place dug out by some careless expressman or mover of furniture, before the paper is put on wet a spoonful of plaster of Paris and fill the place. Let it dry and then put on the paper. It will look decidedly better, and will pay for the trouble it takes.

"I. H. S."

Some derive this from "I Have Suffered," others from "In Hoc Signo;" others from "Jesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus the Saviour of Men); but it is only the first three letters of the word Jesus in Greek. And, says one:

"The Greek origin and meaning of this familiar device is a matter of interest, as one among many things which show that England was a Christian country—christianized from the East—long before the Bishop of Rome sent St. Augustine, of Canterbury, as a missionary to the heathen Saxons, who in the sixth century had conquered the British Christians. It is thus a memorial to us of the most ancient church of our forefathers in England, the church planted, in all probability, by the great Apostle, St. Paul, and certainly as independent of Rome for the first five centuries as it is this day."

HOW TO DUST A ROOM.

The proper way to dust a room, says a writer in the *New York Mail and Express*, is to begin with the walls. Pin several thicknesses of cloth over a broom and sweep the walls down thoroughly, leaving at the same time all the doors and windows open. This matter of sweeping the walls is important and should be done once a week in rooms that are much used. Then with a damp cloth wipe off the picture cords or wires, the backs of all the picture-frames, and the tops of the doors and window frames. If there is any danger of injuring pictures or frames with a damp cloth use a dry one, but wipe them all off carefully. As often as you can get a good draft which will carry the dust out of the window, shake and beat the curtains, whether they be Holland, lace, scrim, or what not, for they are prime sinners in the matter of harboring dust. The window—sash, sill, and glass—should also receive attention. Use a large cloth, with half of it well dampened for dusting, the dry end being useful to wipe off small articles that might be injured by dampness—and be careful that you manipulate the cloth so as to wipe the dust into it and keep it there. If it gets dirty have a clean one, and always wash them out and scald them after using. If there are inside shutters to the windows they need to be cared for as tenderly as a baby. A thorough cleaning every week, carefully wiping both upper and under sides of the sashes, is the only thing that will keep them in decent order. A room is not thoroughly dusted until all the furniture and woodwork and gas fixtures have been cleaned with the damp duster. Upholstered furniture should be taken out, brushed all over and then wiped with the damp cloth, not forgetting the under side.

PRAYERS.

BEFORE SERVICE.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be always acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

AFTER SERVICE.

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with outward ears, may, through Thy grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honour and praise of Thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—In the morning fix thy good purposes, and at night examine thyself what thou hast done, and how thou hast behaved thyself, in word, deed and thought; for in these perhaps thou hast oftentimes offended both God and thy neighbors.