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FIRE SWEAT.

When the fire wrought lierce with fire, Twin-mixed with the mist of the deep, Did the Fates wax glad that man emerged, To eat and to drink and to sleep:

To darken the day with Toil; To blacken the night with sin; To grope and never find the path To the royal life within;

To crush and be crushed in the crowds
That beggar the world for bread;
To crawl in the dust of the earth and die,
As the worm that dies and is dead?

Is it worth one's while to be born And be cursed for the sins of his sires?
To be trampled before he has strength to stand
And be thrown as chaff to the fires?

Is it worth one's while to be born, To be, and naver know why?
To be rubbed 'twixt the hard-akinned hands of Fate,
And ere he has lived, to die?

Is birth but a mishap of chance? Is man but the fruitage of dust? Shall the ages forever come and go, And leave but a handful of dust?

The wings of the years sweep low,
And the shadows are long and deep;
Are we but the embers of alumbering fires,
And is life but the dream of a sleep?

Shall my soul dwell on with the night When the planet of day is high?
Shall I never look up, when to lifted eyes Man's life is a prophecy?

I see by the smallest arc Of the circle of mystery; Shall I doubt when I gaze on the rounded track In the full orbed Eternity?

By the blood and the tears of parth, By the yearnings that never lie, By the aweat of a master agony, There is immortality.

I scorn to believe in a fate— Blind—formed of my blindness and doubt; I will hold to my soul and will let it speak For the godhood within and without.

I will live my life and be glad, I will trust, though I cannot see; I will cling to the golden chains that swing From the portal of destiny.

From the portage of the massive wall,

I stand by the massive wall,

With my hand on the bolted gate;

It may be long, but the bers shall lift

To the soul that will trust and wait.

Lyman Whitney Allen, in Independent.

Princeton, N. J.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

LETTER TO COUSIN CARYL.

Dear Cousin Caryl: - Co-operative house-keeping will never eliminate dish washing, for the tendency is ever and slways towards more instead of fewer dishes. In the good time coming doubtless the dish-washing maids will be connoisseurs in china and crystal, and there will be no more chipping, or cracking or breakage. In the meantime our treasures must take their chances, I suppose. The average domestic service is so bad here, one is foolhardy indeed who trusts her fine dishes to other hands than her own, yet the demands of modern civilization upon one's time are such she is forced to give over as much of the machinery of living as possible to "hired help." Oh! for a generation of trained, intelligent house servants!

But I was going to say, as soon as the little crescent-shaped china dishes for the reception of bones and so on won their way into favor for dinner service, some ingenious soul invented bread and butter plates. These are made in all grades and styles, and sold in acparate sets, or acccompany handsome tea and breakfast sets. They are like tea plates in shape, but are made smaller, and solve the problem of what to do with bread and butter, hot muffins and gems when one's breakfast or tea plate is filled with some-

thing else.

Here is an explanation of "kissing under the mistletoe," the only one
I have been able to find, and one that sounds housest enough to be true. "From the part played by the mistletoe in Scandinavian mythology, one would suppose," says my informant, "that this custom was common to all northern people. Balder was slain by a mistletoe dart at the instigation of Loki, and in reparation for the injury the plant was afterwards dedicated to his mother Friggs, so long as it did not touch earth, Loki's empire. On this account it is hung from the ceilings of the houses, and the kiss given under it signifies that it is no longer an instrument of mischief. The fictes in commemoration of the sacred mistletoe survived in some parts of France into the 16th century. The plant was credited with many talismanic properties, and its festival attracted immense gatherings of people." This answers your question in outline at least answers your question in outline at least.

Have I told you my recipe for an apricot short cake? It makes a delicious tea dish, and is essily put together, a recommendation not to be depised so long as there will always be people given to dropping in to tea unexpectedly, and always when the larder is at the lowest ebb. For the Printingdenequickly,
Bold, stylish and neat,
By Harting A neath,
A 1161 Health Street.

Coke, mix one pint of flour, one half tesspoonful salt, and two tesspoonfuls
baking powder together, and sift. Then rub in with the hands one-fourth
cup of butter until the flour is like fine yellow meal. Mix with sweet milk