

## Hearth and Home.

### A TALK WITH THE YOUNG FOLKS ABOUT THE MONTH.

November is a month of very uncertain character in the latitude of Canada. Usually, however, it gives us pretty plain intimations of coming Winter before it is over. The pleasant weather it sometimes brings is like the seeming amiability of certain people, who easily change into storminess and anger, and need but little provocation to show the real roughness of their natures. Even before November comes, we require artificial heat in our houses to make us comfortable, and ere November is out, wood-cutting becomes a serious business in every family. The accompanying picture of two young folks in the act of chopping and carrying wood, is therefore quite characteristic of the month.

Fuel makes a great deal of work, and causes no little expense, but without the need for it, we should have no firesides. The "fireside" and "domestic hearth" are phrases that express much in regard to home comfort. In warm countries, where there is no winter that renders artificial heat necessary, such terms are without meaning. We hope our youthful readers know the joys that blaze forth from an open fireplace. How pleasant it is to come in from the outside cold, and from outdoor toil to the warm welcome which a bright fire flashes into your face. It is a fine picture of rural life in winter which is drawn in the following lines:—

"Tis now the time from hoarding cribs to feed  
The ox laborious, and the noble steed ;  
'Tis now the time to tend the bleating fold,  
To strew with litter and to fence from cold ;  
The cattle fed, the fuel piled within,  
At setting day the blissful hours begin ;  
'Tis then, sole owner of his little cot,  
The farmer feels his independent lot ;  
Hears with the crackling blaze that lights the wall,  
The voice of gladness and of nature call ;  
Beholds his children play, their mother smile,  
And tastes with them the fruit of summer's toil.

"All hands" should try to make home life pleasant in winter. There are many cheerful, innocent games that may help to do this.



NOVEMBER.

Puzzles, conundrums, rebusses, conversation, geography and history, cards, combine amusement and instruction. A few house-plants well cared for make in-door life cheerful, when the gardens outside are locked in frost and covered with snow. The difficulty of keeping them from being frozen in the coldest weather may be overcome with very little trouble. A few tulips or hyacinths make the house gay and fragrant. The tulips are cheap and easily multiplied. The hyacinths cost a little more, but even these are not very expensive, and they are charming floral ornaments. Their culture is very simple, and most families might easily, if they pleased, have the innocent gratification they yield.

Happy is the family that is warm and cozy in doors with the glow and light of loving hearts. There are fires of the heart which need to be lit and tended as well as fires of the house. Heart fires must be kindled and fed from above to be worth anything. "Having the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost given unto us," is the secret of a truly happy life both at