

HOUSEHOLD.

A Happy Home.

Some of the happiest homes I have ever been in, ideal homes, where intelligence, peace, and harmony dwell, have been homes of poor people. No rich carpets covered the floors, there were no costly paintings on the walls, no piano, no library, no works of art. But there were contented minds, devoted and unselfish lives, each contributing as much as possible to the happiness of all, and endeavoring to compensate by intelligence and kindness for the poverty of their surroundings. 'One cheerful, bright, and contented spirit in a household will uplift the tone of all the rest. The keynote of the home is in the hand of the resolutely cheerful member of the family, and he or she will set the pitch for the rest.'

If a wife cannot make her home bright and happy, so that it shall be the cleanest, sweetest, cheerfulest place her husband can find refuge in—a retreat from the toils and troubles of the outer world, then God help the poor man, for he is virtually homeless. 'Home-keeping hearts,' said Longfellow, 'are happiest.' What is a good wife, a good mother? Is she not a gift out of heaven, sacred and delicate, with affections so great that no measuring line short of that of the infinite God can tell their bound; fashioned to refine and soothe and lift and irradiate home and society and the world; of such value that no one can appreciate it, unless his mother lived long enough, to let him understand it, or unless, in some great crisis of life, when all else failed him, he had a wife to reinforce him with a faith in God that nothing could disturb?—From 'Cheerfulness as a Life Power.'

The Correction of Children.

We often find parents insisting on the duty their children owe to them in the matter of obedience, but it is not quite certain that they, on their side, are always equally careful to remember not, if we may use the expression, to provoke their children. Of one thing there can be no question, and that is, that any correction which it is necessary to administer should never be done in anger. This is a mistake that parents frequently make, and the habit of giving a child a slap and a shake for some trivial fault is not only most injudicious, but it has far-reaching results which are frequently unforeseen. The old precept of sparing the rod and spoiling the child is very often followed too literally.

Constant correction is most prejudicial to children, both bodily and mentally, and it is positively painful to witness the cowed, furtive and preternaturally uneasy look that is observable in constantly corrected children. In many cases this injudicious and wholesale correction has the effect of actually inducing deceit, slyness, and the habit of concealment. Surely every one must feel that there should be as little punishment as possible. There may be cases when it is absolutely necessary, but even then the greatest care should be exercised in administering it.—New York 'Weekly.'

The Home Which Makes the Right Kind of a Boy.

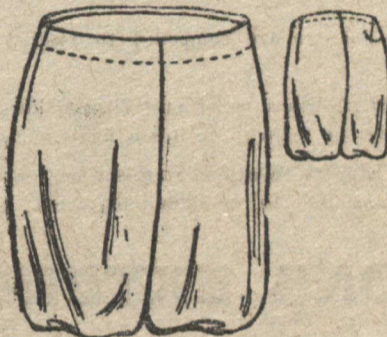
A good boy is the natural product of a good home, and all the efforts of philanthropy to make boys better are consciously imperfect substitutes for the natural influence of a healthy-minded home. The great and overshadowing peril of a boy's life is not, as many suppose, his bad companions, or his bad books, or his bad habits; it is the peril of homelessness. I do not mean merely homelessness—having no bed or room which can be called one's own—but that homelessness which may exist even in luxurious houses—the isolation of the boy's soul, the lack of any one to listen to him, the loss of roots to hold him to his place and make him grow. That is what

drives the boy into the arms of evil and makes the street his home and the gang his family, or else drives him in upon himself, into uncommunicated imaginings and feverish desires. It is the modern story of the man whose house was 'empty,' and precisely because it was empty, there entered seven devils to keep him company. If there is one thing that a boy cannot bear, it is himself. He is by nature a gregarious animal, and if the group which nature gives him is denied, then he gives himself to any group which may solicit him. A boy, like all things in nature, abhors a vacuum, and if his home is

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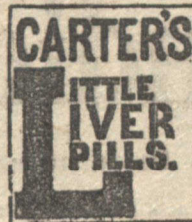
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a vacuum of lovelessness and homelessness, then he abhors his home.

Evidently, therefore, when one speaks of the peril of homelessness, he is not thinking of poor boys alone. Of course, there is a poverty which involves homelessness, the wandering life of the street arab or the young tramp. In a vast majority, however, even of very humble homes, one of the most conspicuous and beautiful traits is the instinct of family affection, enduring every kind of strain—the woman clinging to the drunken husband, the parents bearing with the wayward son; and, on the other hand, an increasing danger of the prosperous is the tendency to homelessness, the peril of the nomadic life, as though a home were a tent which one might at any time fold, like the Arabs, and as silently steal away; the slackening of responsibility through the movement of social habit to the hotel or boarding house, as ways of escape from the burdens of the home.—'Morning Star.'

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