

HOUSEHOLD.

Running Away From Mamma.

Running away from mamma,
Bareheaded up the street,
Kicking the dust into yellow smoke
With little roguish feet,
Tossing it over his clean white dress,
Into his stocking heels,
Checking the little wooden horse
That trundles along on wheels.

Dreaming away with wide blue eyes,
And speculating why
God won't give him the golden ball,
That drops in the quivering sky.
What is the use of that pretty pink cloud,
Sailing away so high.
If he can't have a ride in it?
And it's no use to try.

If that woman grew with glasses on,
If this house is papa's;
Why that nice red cow won't talk to him
Looking across the bars.
Into the neighbor's gates and doors,
Under their cherry trees,
Into mischief and out again,
Wherever he may please.

Wandering at last to the old church steps,
Little horse and all,
Climbing up laboriously—
Too bad if he should fall!
Pushing in with dimpled hands,
The great doors strong and tall,
Letting the warm, sweet summer light
Slide down the shadowed wall.

Standing still in the solemn hush
Of chancel, knave and dome,
Thinking it is prettier
Than the sitting room at home.
Not a bit afraid, ah! no, indeed,
Of the shadows vast and dim.
Quite at home, and sure it was made
All on purpose for him.

The old, old story comes up to me
Written so long ago,
About the heavenly temple,
Where you and I must go,
The beautiful waiting temple,
That has no room for sin—
Something about a little child
And the way of entering in.

—Selected.

Fun at Home.

Some one addresses parents in this way: 'If you want to ruin your boys, let them think that all mirth and social enjoyment must be left on the threshold when they come home. When once home is regarded as only a place to eat, drink and sleep, the work is begun that ends in gambling houses and degradation. Young people must have fun and relaxation somewhere. If they don't get it at one place they will another. If they don't find it at their own hearthstones it will be sought in other, perhaps less profitable, places.'

Which leads us to say that there are varieties of 'fun.' If children demand a variety which is wholly contrary to the principles of Christian parents, should the parents sink their convictions and allow the offensive fun to proceed? Should Methodist parents, for instance, permit their children to play cards and give parlor dances at home? Some of them do so, but they are usually of the class who do so without any qualms of conscience. Ought other parents whose consciences forbid such amusements violate their consciences lest their children may seek these diversions in 'less profitable places?' We think not. Home is a place for discipline as well as for merriment. It is a school as well as a playground. Parents owe to their children an example and training that will stand them in hand in all their future years. Parents whose principles are of the jelly-fish order are not usually the ones who rear sons and daughters of the stalwart type.

Parents must be reasonable, and so must children. Fun and relaxation are good, and so are sane and wholesome employments.

Home may have its sunshine without its shade of poison ivy. Good times are possible without an aftermath of perils. The fires may burn brightly on the dear home hearth without feeding them with the devil's kindling wood. The spirit of merriment in boys and girls may be fostered without directing it toward perdition. It is possible to make the home a shrine of sweet delight and loving remembrance without establishing within its sacred precincts a half-dozen Molochs where offerings are made to the gods of evil. Parents should be wise and very studious. They must consider the needs of their children. They must be able to give reasons for their attitude toward the injurious and debasing. They cannot expect to hold the respect of their offspring if they are either ignorantly and stubbornly strict, or recklessly and foolishly lax. As far as practicable, let them join with their children in all innocent and recreative diversions. Let them direct the tendencies, not simply curb them. If some varieties of fun must be suppressed, let other varieties that are better be cheerfully substituted. Children are usually rational creatures, and they heartily appreciate the efforts of sensible parents to provide the best things for their pastime and happiness. If children do not belong to this class, they are not likely to be helped toward correct lives by knocking down before them all the fences of restraint. —Michigan 'Christian Advocate.'

'Who Sweeps a Room?'

To improve the hygiene in the homes of the poor and prevent as far as possible the propagation of tuberculosis through dust, these rules have been issued by the New York Committee on the Prevention of Tuberculosis:

When you sweep a room raise as little dust as possible because this dust, when breathed, irritates the nose and throat, and may set up catarrh. Some of the dust breathed in dusty air reaches the lungs, making parts of them black and hard and useless.

If the dust in the air you breathe contains germs of consumption—tubercle bacilli—which have come from consumptives spitting on the floors, you run the risk of getting consumption yourself. If consumptives use proper spit-cups and are careful in coughing or sneezing to hold the hand or handkerchief over the nose and mouth so as not to scatter spittle about in the air, the risk of getting the disease by living in the same room is mostly removed.

To prevent making a great dust in sweeping, use moist sawdust on bare floors. When the room is carpeted, moisten a newspaper and tear it into small scraps, and scatter these over your sweeping. As you sweep brush the paper along by the broom, and they will catch most of the dust and hold it fast, just as the sawdust does on bare floors. Do not have either the paper or the sawdust dripping wet, only moist.

In dusting a room do not use a feather duster, because this does not remove the dust from the room, but only brushes it into the air, so that you breathe it in, or it settles down and leaves you the work to do over again.

Use soft, dry cloths to dust with, and shake them frequently out of the window, or use slightly moistened cloths and rinse them out in water when you have finished. In this way you get the dust out of the room.

In cleaning rooms you should remember that dust settles on the floors as well as on the

furniture, and is stirred into the air we breathe by walking over them. You can easily remove all this dust in rooms which have bare floors, in houses, stores, shops, schoolrooms, etc., after the dust has settled, by passing over the floor a mop, which has been wrung out so as to be only moist, not dripping wet.

Bad Art, Worse Morals.

One of the worst features of the Sunday newspaper is its so-called 'comic supplement.' It splashes of crude color daubed over cruder drawings have nothing to do with art except to dwarf and deform all artistic ideas in the minds of those into whose hands they happen to come. The 'wit' of these atrocities is even coarser and more degrading than the pictures. How any boy or girl can be encouraged in a taste for these depraved and depraving supplements is a thing beyond understanding. It is almost as difficult to understand how self-respecting editors and owners of newspapers can so lower themselves for the sake of 'circulation.' The comic supplement is cheaply produced, and it catches the thoughtless and the empty minded, but that makes the responsibility for it all the heavier.

It is no necessary part of a real newspaper, as is proved by the fact that great newspapers can be maintained without it. And there is an art which is popular without being vicious. A recent exhibition of original drawings and paintings made for an illustrated weekly, has proved, if proof were needed, how the people respond to the self-respecting work of conscientious artists. There never was a more insulting libel on American intelligence than the one which takes it for granted that coarse and malicious practical jokes, illustrated by shockingly bad drawings, are all that the majority of the people, or even of the children, know how to appreciate. The exhibit above referred to gives the lie to that slander, and it is refreshing to know that not a few newspaper men are becoming ashamed of their part in the comic supplement's degradation of the popular taste. —Epworth Herald.

Religious Notes.

Dr. Josiah Strong tells us that there are now 439,729,838 Christians in the world. During the first fifteen hundred years of the Christian era 100,000,000 people flocked to the standard of the Nazarene. In the succeeding three hundred years there was a similar gain, while during the past two hundred years the gain was 200,000,000, or equal to that of the previous eighteen centuries. After all, these figures are very encouraging.

Three of the Australian colonies have Bible teaching in the state schools, and the other three have an entirely secular system. In the former case the people appear to be perfectly satisfied and in the latter there is continual unrest and dissatisfaction. There is surely an explanation for this fact.

On the Indian frontier an Afghan mullah has been led to Christ by an Afghan Christian farmer, and was baptized on Christmas Day. A yellow-robed and long-bearded Hindu devotee, who used to distract the worship of the little congregation in the heathen town of Tinnevely by his noisy drumming outside, and had to be 'moved on' by the police, was bap-

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