

The HOME CIRCLE

THE HOME THAT IS HAPPIEST.

Our burdens are lightened That many hands bear, And pleasure are brightened That many hands share, And that is happiest, Brightest and best, Where they all labor, A-2 where they all rest.

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

The following definitions were given in answer to this question, propounded by an exchange: The sunshine of calamity. The essence of pure devotion. The ripe fruit of acquaintanceship. One who understands our silence. Friendship, one soul in two bodies. A star of hope in the cloud of adversity. A volume of sympathy bound in cloth. A diamond in the ring of acquaintance. A safe in which one can trust anything. Friendship is the personification of love and help. The jewel which shines brightest in the darkness. One who considers my needs before my deservings. The link in life's long chain which bears the greatest strain. The first person who comes in when the whole world has gone out. One who loves the truth and you, and will tell the truth in spite of you. The triple alliance of the three great powers—love, sympathy and help. A jewel whose lustre the strong acids of poverty and disaster cannot dim. One who, having gained the top of the ladder, won't forget you if you remain at the bottom. A bank of credit on which we can draw supplies of confidence, counsel, sympathy, help and love. One who smiles on our misfortunes, frowns on our faults, sympathizes with our sorrows, weeps at our bereavements, and is a safe fortress at all times of trouble.

FOR DAYS OF ABSTINENCE.

Fish Steaks.—Take about two pounds of fresh cod, halibut or other large fish and cut into steaks about three-quarters of an inch thick; flour and fry it. In the same fat as that in which the fish was browned add a teaspoonful of chopped lemon peel, a tablespoonful of flour, and brown well. Pour in about half a pint of hot water, stir well and simmer the gravy five or ten minutes, then strain it. Place the fish in a clean pan, cover with the gravy and stew for thirty minutes. Arrange on a dish, pour the gravy round and scatter chopped capers and parsley over the steaks. Potatoes au Gratin.—Put a pint of cold mashed potatoes in a saucepan; add half a cupful of milk, stir and beat until the potatoes are hot and smooth. Take from the fire, fold in the well-beaten whites of two eggs, heap in a baking dish, and brown quickly in a hot oven. Chocolate Sandwiches.—Cut some thin slices of bread and butter, take a cake of sweet chocolate, grate it thickly on each slice and make into small sandwiches. Pile nicely on a dish. It will be found very appetizing to all who are fond of chocolate. Apple Pudding.—Two cups flour, two teaspoonfuls baking powder, salt and one-half cupful sugar mixed together. Beat one egg light, add one cup milk and mix. When well beaten add three tablespoonfuls hot butter, which has been melting in the pan in which you are to bake the pudding. Beat well and pour in baking tin. Now cover the top closely with pared and quartered apples, wedge side down, pushed them into the dough a little. Sprinkle over with sugar. Bake one-half hour. Serve with hot sauce. Sauce: Cream one-half cup butter, add gradually one cup powdered sugar, beating till light and foamy; add one cup boiling milk or water, stirring rapidly till it foams.

A CENTURY OF MARRIED LIFE.

Diamond weddings are very rare indeed, yet there has just been celebrated in the little Hungarian village of Isenbolgi the anniversary of a wedding which it is declared occurred just one hundred years ago. All the country is intensely interested, and the Emperor has asked the authorities to forward to him particulars so that he can personally congratulate the couple.

THE INVENTION OF BLUE PAPER.

"A woman," said a papermaker, "invented blue paper. It was by accident that she did it, though. Before her time all paper was white. She was the wife of William Eastes, one of the leading papermakers in the eighteenth century. In passing through the paper plant one day she dropped a big blue bag into a vat of pulp. Eastes was a stern chap, and so, since no one had seen the accident, Mrs. Eastes decided to say nothing about it. The paper in the vat, which should have been white, came out blue. The workmen were mystified, Eastes enraged; Mrs. Eastes kept quiet. The upshot was that the paper was sent to London marked 'damaged,' to be sold for whatever it would bring. But the selling agent in London was shrewd. He saw that this blue tinted paper was attractive. He declared it to be a wonderful new invention, and he sold it off like hot cakes, at double the white paper's price. Eastes soon received an order for more of the blue paper, an order that he and his men wasted several

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WOMAN'S LOOKS.

Someone once asked a woman how it was she kept her youth so wonderfully. Her hair was snowy white, she was eighty years old, and her energy was waning; but she never impressed one with the idea of age, for her heart was still young in sympathy and interests. And this was her answer: "I knew how to forget disagreeable things. I tried to master the art of saying pleasant things. I did not expect too much of my friends. I kept my nerves well in hand, and did not allow them to bother other people. I tried to find any work that came to hand congenial. I retained the illusions of my youth, and did not believe 'every man a liar' and every woman spiteful. I did my best to relieve the misery I came in contact with, and sympathized with the suffering. In fact, I tried to do to others as I would be done by, and you see me in consequence reaping the fruits of happiness, and a peaceful old age."

FLOWERS BY THE WAYSIDE.

A young girl visiting the country was following the farmer's wife along a winding half overgrown path amid a tangle of wild flowers. The young visitor exclaimed at their variety and beauty, "I mean to gather all I can carry when we come back and I have a little more time," she said. "Better pick them now if you want them," said the elder woman. "Taint likely we'll come back this way." It was one of those simple, homely incidents that sometimes seem to epitomize life. We must pick now, if we want them at all, the flowers that God scatters along our way. The pleasant hours, the dear friendships, the offered confidences, the happy gatherings—all the brightnesses and blessings that we so often push aside, but mean to find leisure to enjoy sometime—we must take them day by day as they come, or we shall lose them altogether; we never can turn back to find them.

FLOWERS FOR THE SICK.

When choosing flowers to send to sick friends remember that the two necessary qualifications are that they have only a faint odor and that they are a variety of flowers that is lasting.

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people to come and look at you. Who, watching our lives and following us as we go about our daily avocations, would dream that we are laying the foundation for an eternal mansion? Who, viewing our conduct, would ever imagine that we are conscious our actions and thoughts are all stamped with an indelible mark our life beyond the grave?

WHAT FRIENDSHIP DEMANDS.

"It is surely not necessary," says some one, "to be on one's best behavior at all times; one does not need to wear company manners at home or in the office, the factory, the store, with those with whom one is in constant association; is that not in danger of becoming affectation?" Listen to what the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" has to say on this point: "Don't flatter yourself that friendship authorizes you to say disagreeable things to your intimates. On the contrary, the nearer you come in relation with a person the more necessary do tact and courtesy become. Except in cases of necessity, which are rare, leave your friend to learn unpleasant truths from his enemies; they are ready enough to tell him. Good breeding never forgets that amourpropre is universal."

THE IMPATIENT MAN.

No man is more constantly unhappy, or makes others more so, than the impatient man. He is out of harmony with things; and all things fight and worry and wound him. He feels himself dishonored, too, by his impatience; and he does lose, so far as he indulges it, the true dignity of life. He is not cast, indeed, like the victim of sensual vice, into the slough of dishonor; his garment perhaps is not soiled, but it is burned through, in a thousand spots, by the ever-dropping little sparks of petulance; and it is in tatters and disorder with the ever-crossing furies of angry passion; and he seems to himself to others as one who scrambles through life, rather than as one who walks in the calm and dignified robe of conscious self-possession. Constant fretting and fault-finding and breaking out into sarcasm and anger may bereave a house of all honor, peace and comfort, almost as effectively as gluttony and drunkenness. Or suppose that the fretful temper be hidden and smothered in the heart, then it wastes and consumes the springs of the inmost life.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH.

"If a woman of average ability can keep her health she will be a success if she has a fair amount of perseverance and capacity, but the point is that the average woman neglects her health shamefully," said a woman physician whose hobby is the observance of the natural laws of health rather than tonics and medical prescriptions. The commonest ailments of young women who work in shops and offices are indigestion, headache, de-

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