

Our Boys and Girls.

THE TWO HANDLES.

There isn't anything in life
But has two handles to it;
And if one fails to lift the weight,
The other's sure to do it.
Suppose you quarrel with your
friend;
One handle is "He's wrong!"
But try "He is my friend!" instead,
And faithful love is strong.

One handle to our daily lives
Is "I, and what I need."
How can we hope to lift our load
With such a selfish creed?
But say "My brothers," lend a hand
To every fellow-man,
And lo! the strength of all is ours,
And what we ought, we can.

One handle to our griefs is "loss,"
We cannot bear them so;
The other is "God's plan for us,"
More wide than we can know,
And when we lift, beneath His smile,
The burden He has given,
We learn its meaning here on earth,
Its full reward in heaven.

—Christian Work.

METHODS.—There are some boys who are precise in all things. These boys will grow up to be men of method, and will be very apt to succeed in life for the simple reason that, before doing a thing, they stop to think how it shall be done. Thinking how to do it will naturally lead to what will be the result of the doing, and so as they advance in years, these young men are not simply living in a careless to-day, but are preparing for a careful, prosperous to-morrow. So, dear young reader, do not get into slovenliness, which is the father of poverty. Recollect that as you live now each day, so will you continue. And above all, learn to have a method in doing things.

SHARP WORDS.—You sometimes hear boys and girls say words at play with a quick, sharp tone, as if it were the snap of a whip. If any of them gets vexed, you will hear a voice as if it were made up of a snarl, a whine and a bark. Such a voice betrays an ill-temper, and shows more ill will in tone than in words. It often speaks far worse than the heart feels. Such as these get a sharp voice for home use, and keep their best voice for those they meet elsewhere. We would say to all girls and boys, "Use your best voice at home." Watch it by day as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you in the days to come than the best pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is a lark's song to heart and home.

LOYAL TO MOTHER.—There are a large number of children who don't appear to take any heed to the advice or warnings of their best friend—mother. If the good parent should allow a short recreation in the evenings, and they are ordered to be in the house at a certain hour they must always add a few minutes on to the allotted time, and when they arrive late they have the "manufactured lie" ready at hand to defend their indulgence. The following story is worth perusal:

"Nine o'clock. Oh, dear, how quick it does come!" and Clara White looked at the long hands of the clock, with just a little shadow coming over her bright face.

"That is not very late," her Cousin Effie said, who turned the leaves of the book that she held in her hands, as if to begin another chapter.

"But it is my bed-time, and I must retire at once," and Clara rose to go.

"Do you have to go precisely at 9 o'clock?" Effie asked, while she still remained in her chair.

"It is mamma's wish that I retire at 9 o'clock," was the quick answer.

"But your mamma is away, and you have company. My mamma always allows me to remain up as long as I please when my friends are spending the evening with me, and—"

Effie stopped before she completed the sentence, for there was a look of surprise on Clara's face that reproved her.

"It would be wrong to disregard

mamma's wishes in her absence. While she might not insist on my retiring at exactly 9 o'clock, I know that she does not wish me to remain up later than this time," and the honest little girl looked straight into her cousin's face.

"Well, I will go if you say so, but this story is so nice. I think that the clock is too fast, anyway," and Effie closed the book somewhat reluctantly.

"The clock is always right," was the quick reply of the little girl that would not be tempted to disregard her mamma's wishes.

In a few moments both little girls were fast asleep in their nice warm bed. Mrs. White came home from her visit to a neighbor's house at 9.30 o'clock. She stepped into Clara's room before retiring to kiss the sweet-faced little sleeper.

"Fast asleep. I knew that I should find her thus. She is so loyal to my wishes in everything that I think she is the dearest little girl in the whole world," and as the fond mother said this softly to herself, she kissed the happy little dreamer again.

A LITTLE NOTE OF THANKS.—Just a word girls, about the gentle art of writing a graceful note of thanks. Do not be chary of such notes. Does somebody send you a pretty gift, it goes without saying that you write a cordial note of appreciation, but if some act of courtesy is done, or some small favor rendered, the written word of thanks is too often neglected.

It's an art, this art of writing a brief word of thanks, says an exchange, but it is one which every gentleman should cultivate, and it will, in the long run, be of far more service to her than even the mysteries of china painting or mandolin playing.

You go out of town, perhaps, and stay overnight, with a friend, and if you wish as pleasant a memory of your visit to linger with your hostess as with yourself you should write a line repeating to her your spoken thanks. Oh, that's a "board and lodging letter," you say. Very true, but it's always appreciated by the woman whose hospitality you have accepted, and, presumably, enjoyed.

KINDNESS OF A GREAT MAN.—Little deeds of kindness are the necessary adjuncts which help to make life happy and cheerful.

It isn't only in story-books that kindness to others is rewarded. An exchange tells a charming anecdote of Finiguerra, the master of early engravings.

The artist, in mastering the new and difficult art of engraving upon metal, had acquired a singularly keen eye and delicate touch.

Being a kindly man he sometimes placed both his sure hand and his fine tools at the service of his friends and neighbors, in performing for them some of the simpler operations of surgery, until he acquired a reputation for skill in doctoring their hurts.

One day a poor laundress, in wringing out a garment in which a needle had been carelessly left, ran it deeply into her hand, a part remaining embedded in the flesh. She was in much pain and stopped at the house of the artist. Entering his studio, she hastily sat down her wet and heavy bundle, begging his assistance. Finiguerra, after long and delicate manipulation, extracted the broken needle. The woman thanked him and turned to go, lifting her bundle from its resting-place.

Then he saw that she had set it upon one of his engravings. Like all others at that time, it was a plate engraved metal, complete in itself, and regarded as a single and sufficient picture, exactly as if it had been a painting.

But as the damp bundle was raised, Finiguerra saw that it had received an impression from the engraved picture beneath, and his quick mind seized at once the suggestion of the possibility of indefinite reproductions from a single original.

So that from the kindness of a great artist to a poor washerwoman sprang the discovery which has placed the beautiful products of the engraver's art within the reach of all of us to-day.

Random Notes For Busy Households.

SPRING DISHES.—The first warm days are apt to find us with jaded appetites, very tired of the substantial cold-weather fare, says a correspondent to an agricultural journal. Town markets supply anything and everything of all times of year, but the country house-keeper must cudgel her brains to offer dishes at once delicate, nutritious and appetizing. This is the time for light soups, and the following will be found excellent:

Chicken and Clam Bouillon.—Mix equal parts of chicken stock, free from fat, and clam broth; season with salt and cayenne pepper, and serve in cups with a spoonful of whipped cream in each.

Tomato Bisque.—One quart can of tomatoes, 1 cupful of water, 1 teaspoonful of salt, the same of sugar, and a little pepper. Put these over the fire, and when they boil, add two tablespoonfuls of flour and one of butter, rubbed together, and boil 15 minutes. Strain through a sieve and serve with toasted bread.

Cream of Barley Soup.—Wash three tablespoonfuls of barley, and cook for three hours in a quart of boiling water. Press through a sieve, and

add a pint of milk, with salt and pepper to taste. Beat the yolks of two eggs and stir in carefully; cook for three minutes without boiling and serve immediately. Rice may be used instead of barley, and the soup is made richer by the addition of a little veal or other white stock.

Tomatoes.—The acid of tomatoes is especially acceptable at this season, and they are among the very best of canned vegetables, whether put up at home or in factories. They may be stewed and served on buttered toast, scalloped with an equal quantity of bread-crumbs and a liberal allowance of butter and seasoning, or if large and solid, served raw as a salad, with shredded cabbage and a simple French dressing.

Sunshine Cake.—White of 11 eggs, yolks of 4 eggs, 1½ tumblerfuls of sugar, 1 tumblerful of flour, sifted five times; 1 teaspoonful of lemon juice, ½ teaspoonful of salt. Beat the yolks and sugar together, and proceed as with angel cake. Bake in an ungreased pan about 40 minutes.

Sardines.—Still another pretty new idea is to serve sardines molded in very sour lemon jelly. They should be thoroughly drained from oil, and

each one laid on a little bed of chopped parsley. Many country housewives have parsley at this season, either in their windows or in the cold frames.

Mint Jelly.—Is another novelty, suitable to accompany cold lamb or veal. Wash a handful of mint and steep in a cupful of boiling water. Soak a tablespoonful of granulated gelatine in half a cupful of water for ten minutes; add the juice of a lemon and two tablespoonfuls of sugar. Strain over this the water from the mint, stir until dissolved, pour into a mold and set in a cool place to harden.

Baked Rhubarb.—Those who have never tried baked rhubarb do not know it at its best. The early stalks should be cut in short lengths without stripping; put them in an earthen dish, with a pint of sugar, a cupful of water, and a scant teaspoonful of ginger to each quart, cover tightly and bake for an hour. It should be eaten very cold; if for dessert, serve with whipped cream and some variety of sponge-cake. Here is one that can be recommended:

ABOUT DUST.—The modern housewife has learned that feather dusters and other flitting brooms and brushes merely scatter the dust and germs in her house, instead of removing them. She is now being told by scientists that to shake her rugs and carpets, beat her draperies, etc., in the tiny yards of her city home is undesirable. The dust flies in near-by windows, her own perhaps, and is again disseminated. The idea of housekeeping to-day is to destroy dust. Carpet-sweepers, covered dust-pans, and cloths are the implements to be made use of, and the dust thus gathered should be burned, or, in the case of cloths, washed out. Back of this care, however, should come a wise choice of household belongings. Simplicity should be the fundamental law of their selection. Have the things needed for comfort and use in simple, easily cared for designs; for pure decoration, only a few very satisfying things. Gauds as a rule are useless, and may be dispensed with.

PAINTED FLOORS.—In selecting a color for floors it is essential to take into consideration the shade of the wall paper or paint and also the coloring of the inside wood-work, such as the window and door facings and the baseboard. Some complementary color should be selected.

After the floors are painted and dried the subject of how to keep them clean and shining is important. All sorts of expensive brushes for the purpose are to be had, but for the woman who does not wish to afford the luxury a piece of flannel sewed over an old broom will do quite as well.

DYSPEPSIA.—In grapes Italy has found a remedy for dyspepsia and dysentery. A story is told in that land of a regiment that being decimated by dysentery was sent to a vineyard to camp. The disease vanished, and the remnant that disease had spared soon recovered. Chronic crystallitis is benefited by the alkaline carbonates developed by the vegetable acids of grapes, but care is taken that the grapes are not sour. Cardiac affections are relieved by the laxative and diuretic action, while almost all patients are benefited by the fresh air, exercise and early rising which the rules of the cure involve. Grapes grown on volcanic soil are said to have a more markedly stimulant and diuretic action than others. Patients eat as many grapes as they possibly can. The cure requires one to three months.

As if by magic, after a few applications, every gray hair in my head was changed to its natural color by using LUBY'S Parisian Hair Restorer. I now use it when I require to oil my hair. Try it and see for yourself. 50c a bottle.

Give a helping hand when you may, and, if in need of assistance yourself, gratefully take it if it is freely offered, but never wait for it. Independence is always honored; therefore be independent, and by self-reliance show that you are at least deserving of success.

Thin Babies

often develop into weak, delicate, backward children; undersized, nervous, feeble, adults. Lack of nourishment is the cause.

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is the remedy. A little of it three or four times a day will do wonders. The pinched, sad faces become round and rosy; the wasted limbs plump and firm. If your baby is not doing well, try this great food-medicine.

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FARMING BY MACHINERY.

Laborious toil for the cultivator of the land is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. The term "horny-handed tiller of the soil," within a few years will be relegated in the United States to the vernacular of the poet. Automatic labor-saving machinery is supplanting the necessity for bodily labor in all agricultural processes from the turning of the sod to the harvesting of the crop. What little manual labor is required is devoted to supervision of the working parts of the various machines employed.

In 1800 not a single cast iron plough was in use. The plough was home-made—of wood covered with sheet iron. The man with the hoe was the laborious cultivator. There were no mowers, reapers or self-binders driven by horse power. Grain was scattered by hand and harvested with the sickle or the scythe. It was thrashed on the barn floor and ground into flour full of impurities, in rude grist mills, driven by great over-shot water wheels. In 1900 the ploughman uses a sulky plough upon which he has a comfortable seat from which to guide a pair of horses. The machine does the rest. The reversible sulky plough is equally adapted to stony, rough, side-hill work or level ground. In the former case it turns the sod with the slope, in the latter it leaves the land without tracks or dead furrows. For this work a right and left hand steel plough is mounted upon a steel beam, one being at right angles with the other, and easily revolved by unlocking a hand lever at the rear of the driver. The weight of the upper plough causing the lower to rise. Each plough has an easy adjustment to make it cut a wide or narrow furrow, and is raised out of the ground by a power lift and set in again by a foot lever, so that the operator has both hands with which to manage his team. An adjustable seat enables the driver to sit always in a level position and on the uppermost side in plowing side-hill land. In a few years horse labor will be dispensed with for moving this machine and some auto-power substituted. It may be that electricity is employed that the farmer will be able to sit smoking his pipe on his porch with a switchboard before him and control many ploughs. With electric motors applied to all agricultural implements a single man may be able to plough, harrow, fertilizer, sow and harvest his crops with no expenditure whatever of bodily labor or one cent of cost for the hire of human hands.

In earlier days the harrow was a crude-home-made square or triangular machine, on which wooden, and later, iron pegs were inserted. In some cases a log drawn to and fro was employed to level the furrows. In these times farmers use sulky-harrows of every imaginable form and device according to the local condition. There is a pulverizing harrow, a clod crusher and leveller combined in one machine. This crushes, cuts, lifts, turns, smooths and levels the soil all in one operation. It also prepares a perfect seed bed and covers the seed in the best manner. The operator from his seat on the machine effects all of these processes by turning a lever. Then there is a ball-bearing disk harrow with dirt-proof oil chambers. This machine does everything but supply the driver, automatically, with a glass of beer.

There is no more laborious kind of farm work than the spreading of manure; so much so that in farming on a large scale it is difficult to procure labor for the purpose. This can now be dispensed with. A machine called the manure spreader does all this work. It is drawn by horses and operated by one man. It breaks up and makes fine all kinds of manure and spreads it evenly upon the land in any desired quantity. It will spread very coarse manure, cornstalks or wood ashes, or guano—in fact, any manure or fertilizer, fine or coarse. Provided with a drill attachment it distributes compost direct in the drill before the seed is sown. It does everything in the manuring way except to use foul language.

When it comes to the planting of crops there is a machine for every process from the sowing of cereals, seeds and tubers, to the setting out of plants. For grain or grass there is a driving broadcast seeder, which is attached to an ordinary wagon. It also distributes all kinds of dry commercial fertilizers. It allows of the sowing of seed of any size. Then there is a grain drill driven by horse power, in which the quantity to be sown is easily regulated by a lever. It is also provided with a land measure or clock, which is adjusted before beginning the day's work. It is fitted with hoses which can be instantly changed by a lever, even while the machine is in motion, to

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run either straight or zig-zag. For grass seeding the hoes can be adjusted to distribute the seed in front of or behind them. There is also a fertilizer distributing attachment. There is still another grain seeder which weeds as well as sows. The riding corn and bean planter is a remarkable machine. It opens the soil, drops seed, covers and marks the next row at one operation. It drops corn in hills from nine to forty-eight inches apart, or for ensilage or fodder in a continuous drill. It drops alternately, if desired, a hill of corn and a hill of beans from nine to forty-eight inches apart. It also distributes fertilizer in a continuous drill at the same time the seed is dropped and both are covered by the single operation at any desired depth.

For the planting of tubers like the potato there is primarily a machine that divides this root into halves, quarters or any number of parts, separates the eyes and removes the seed ends. It does the work of ten men. When it comes to the planting there is employed an automatic machine drawn by two horses; the driver occupying a seat at its front. It plants whole or cut potatoes at any distance apart desired. It drops the seed, covers it with moist underneath earth, and marks for the next row all at one operation. It also sows fertilizer, placing just below the seed, after sufficient earth has been mixed with the former. It is provided with steel runners or discs to cover the seed and these yield to all irregularities of the soil. For the transplanting of plants, such as tomatoes, cauliflower, cabbages, celery, in fact all plants that do not require to be set nearer than one foot apart, the automatic plant setting machine will cover from four to six acres a day. An automatic check valve fitted to a tank attached to the machine lets water flow through a hose extending in behind the shoe or furrower, just before setting the plant. The flow can be regulated from one to six barrels an acre.

Formerly when crops were planted and had begun to grow farmers and vegetable gardeners had to ply the hoe vigorously in order to loosen or cultivate the soil, and to keep down weeds. This was hard work and moreover where growth was rapid and rank it involved hiring extra labor. The talent of inventors has reduced the fatigue of this agricultural function to a minimum. Most of these machines are light and operated by man power. There are others in which horses are used. Those who employ call them the greatest labor-savers of the age. There are some provided with a number of spring steel teeth which while they do not injure the plants loosen and uproot the weeds. These are more on the principle of the harrow. There is a machine for cultivating and hilling celery. It is through the use of these devices that celery is marketed in such perfect condition, with every stalk bleached to its very top. Potatoes are cultivated and hilled up by a special machine that does the work of many men far more thoroughly and expeditiously than human hands can accomplish it. There are many machines combining hoe, cultivator, rake and plough. The latest machine ploughs, furrows, covers and hills; there are rakes for shallow cultivation, fining, levelling and pulverizing the soil; there are cultivator teeth for deep stirring of the soil, and flat hoes of different widths for loosening crust and cutting off weeds.

Every growing plant except cotton is now provided with a cultivator that does away with an immense expenditure of human toil. As yet no machine has been perfected that picks cotton with the discrimination of a man. The difficulty to be overcome is to avoid injury to mature cotton bolls that are growing on the same plant with those that are immature. No doubt some method will be found that will overcome this defect. Then the Southern darky will find his services no longer so eagerly sought for as they are at present.

Machines to harvest crops come in every variety to perform a special function. Everyone is familiar with the mowing machine. It has driven the scythe out of use. Formerly there were men whose trade was confined exclusively to the use of this implement. None is following it to-day. The same is true of reapers and binders of grain; a single machine will do the work of twenty or more men. The old-fashioned flail to thresh grain is now a curiosity. The rattle of the power-thresher is a familiar sound in autumn to every resident of a farming country. The sulky hay-tender will thoroughly turn and spread four acres of cut grass in an hour. This can be repeated so often that in a single day the crop of hay from that amount of land can be cured and stored. In loading the crop, human hands are no longer necessary, except to guide the team that draws the wagon. The machine hay loader will put on a load in five minutes. It takes the hay direct

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from the swath, though it will raise and load from light windrows.

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