

THE HOME CIRCLE.

FORBEARANCE AT HOME.

In order to make home pleasant it is necessary that the different members of the family should try to please one another. Attention to the wants of others will ensure friendly feeling in any position, but in no place is it more essential than in the family circle. In our dealings with the outside world we may perhaps be excused for carefully considering our own interests; but when within the precincts of home, we should remember that the members of the family are bound together by one tie, and however numerous the family may be, they are in reality but one, and whatever affects one member affects the whole.

In a large family there is, of course, a great variety of tastes and inclinations. To make home pleasant it is necessary that these tastes should be gratified as far as practicable. But who does not know that in many instances members of a family seem to think their own desires must be gratified, irrespective of the wants of others. This is one of the most frequent causes of jangling between husband and wife. Failing to appreciate each other, they often neglect those little attentions that give to married life its happiest hours.

There are numerous dainty dishes that the husband enjoys, and that can be easily prepared; and there are "hundreds" of trifling presents, one of which would require but a small outlay, and yet would carry joy to the wife's heart.

Nothing tends to mar the happiness of home life more than an irritable temper. "Snappish" words are like thorns that prick the flesh, but inflict no serious injury. They hinder the cultivation of many good qualities, arouse feelings of dissatisfaction, and make life very uncomfortable. We have seen people who would become vexed at the merest trifle; the displacing of anything, or the failure to have everything right the first time, causes frowns and sharp words. Such people cannot fail to make every one around them uncomfortable, and at home they not only annoy other members of the family, but also set an example which, if followed, will make home as unpleasant as it can be. And it is extremely apt to be followed by younger members of the family; for children learn from their superiors, and wherever we find surly, irritable children, we usually find the parents irritable also.

But an irritable temper not only makes others uncomfortable, but causes serious discomfort to the possessor of it. Who can be more unhappy than he who pauses at every little obstacle in his pathway, or cries at every pain? Therefore, we say, be kind and courteous to one another. Carefully consider others' wants and bear and forbear.

Outward comforts are like the rotten twigs of a tree; they may be touched, but if they are trusted to, or rested upon, they will certainly deceive and fail us.