

HOUSEHOLD.

Up, My Heart, and Sing.

The dark, dark night is gone,
The lark is on the wing,
From bleak and barren fields he soars,
Eternal hope to sing.

And shall I be less brave
Than you sweet lyric thing?
From deeps of failure and despair,
Up, up, my heart, and sing!

The dark, dark year is gone;
The red blood of the spring
Will quicken Nature's pulses soon,
So up, my heart, and sing!

—Ella Higginson.

A Little Gossip.

(Inez M'Fee, in the New England 'Homestead'.)

'Good morning, Mrs. Little. Come right in. I haven't seen you for an age!' exclaimed Mrs. Blake, cordially shaking hands with her neighbor.

'I know it, and I am ashamed to think I have stayed away so long, but I've been just like the Irish washerwoman lately, so terrible busy that I haven't got anything done. I don't know as I would have come over this afternoon, if my Yankee curiosity hadn't been strong enough to quench my desire for work.'

'It was your washing,' she continued. 'When I threw out my dish water about 7 o'clock this morning, your girl was just hanging out the last of your colored clothes. The sight fairly made me sick, for we had only just begun to wash. I don't see how you do it. I don't believe you have as good help as I have, either. Your girl is so much younger than sister Helen. Do you use some kind of washing fluid, or do your washing in any new-fangled way?'

'No,' replied Mrs. Blake. 'I think I wash much the same as you do. You know I have no washing machine. I think the secret lies in the management. We get up about 4.30 on wash day. Mary goes right at the washing and I get the breakfast. I always try to have things to warm over so that I can get it in a hurry. When I am alone, I always get the first boiler of clothes on to boil, and then prepare breakfast on the back of the range. On wash day all else takes second place until the clothes are out. We don't stop to do any other work, unless it is to prepare something to cook while we have a hot fire. It is so much help to begin early, for after the children are up, I can't depend on being able to help at all. My grandmother always used to say an hour early in the morning was worth three later in the day.'

'Well,' exclaimed Mrs. Little, 'I believe she was right. I know if we don't get much done early in the morning, the work drags all day. I'm going to try your way of managing the washing hereafter. We have always thought we had to have the house all in order downstairs before we began to wash, and lots of times Helen does the chamber work before she helps any. Often by the time she is ready to help, Bernice is up and cross, and the other children seem to have a hundred wants, and a particular bent for getting into mischief. Frequently Helen is all day at the tubs, and it is terribly fatiguing in hot weather.'

'Yes, indeed!' assured Mrs. Blake, 'I'm sure you make a mistake by putting your house in order first. By the time your washing is out, it is all at sixes and sevens and you have the greater part of it to put to rights again.'

'By the way, Mrs. Little,' observed Mrs. Blake, 'did you ever stop to think how much management had to do with a day's work? For instance, Mrs. Brown is a good illustration. She never has any system to her work, but does whatever comes to hand first. Her house looks well enough too, but her work is never done. Sometimes she doesn't wash a dish during the day, but stacks them up

on the kitchen table and leaves them until after the children are in bed. I don't think anyone makes anything by leaving their dishes. They—'

'No, nor I either,' interrupted Mrs. Little. 'It would make me so nervous I would feel like flying.'

'I wish all housekeepers would make their heads save their hands and feet more,' continued Mrs. Blake. 'When I'm at work, I am continually planning how I can get through the best and quickest way. Most good housekeepers do a great deal of unnecessary work, such as ironing their dish wipers and their stockings perfectly smooth—useless waste of time! I like to see a neat house as well as anyone, and if I had to neglect one, I had rather have my closets and the corners of my room clean than the centre, where it shows the most. I don't care how much housework a woman has to do, if she plans her work, she can get some time for her own recreation. How many books have you read this year, Mrs. Little?'

'None this year, but it is not very far gone,' returned Mrs. Little. 'However, I mean to get more time than I did last year.'

'Well,' returned Mrs. Blake, 'I've read three books, and my monthly magazines, besides studying up a little in Algebra so that I could help sister Genevieve. I usually try to have a book or paper handy so that I can read when I am holding the baby. My dear friend, let me advise you to try the management theory. Be sure to plan some time for yourself. You must do it if you wish to be a true wife and mother. Don't allow yourself to rust out. There's too many intelligent women, who, in their zeal to be known as the best housekeepers in the neighborhood, let the dust from their carpets smother their intellectuality.'

What Children Cost.

Do you suppose I'm worth it?' a bright girl exclaimed, as she handed me a neatly bound account-book. 'From June 10, 1880,' it said on the cover. Opening to the first page I found a list of expenses, including such articles as rubber rings, patent food, etc. 'That is a record of every cent that has been spent for "yours truly" since the date of her birth,' she exclaimed. 'Mamma started the books for both Fred and me, and kept them till we were sixteen, then she made us do it. You see,' turning the leaves, 'she put down everything, even to our baby photographs, and it's been a wholesome revelation for us to count up the totals once in a while. It tells the story of a boy's and girl's expenses to compare. There was a time when it was about even, and I remember how glad I was Fred had to have his teeth filled first. I wouldn't part with my expense-book for anything, and I wonder more mothers don't start them for their children.'—'Good Housekeeping.'

Parental Duties.

(Alice Jeffries, in the 'Homestead'.)

Much of the comfort and happiness of a family depends upon the deportment of the young members. Only the most gentle firmness will restrain and guide without making the teaching galling, and a bondage that leads to deceit. Parents and teachers often fail to realize that they are under obligations to treat children politely. If our children do not see us practice the politeness which we inculcate, why should they believe our precepts are of any great importance? Children have as strong claims for civil, polite attention as their elders have.

Such gentle courtesy as we show to our friends, or are expected to, if extended to the children, will not interfere with the respect, deference or obedience to parental authority. Parents and teachers, on the contrary, will find an ample reward if they teach children good manners by their own example as well as by precept. True politeness and good manners cannot be taken on or put off at pleasure. They must be home-made, instilled into the minds of the children from the cradle, to be the pure article.

Now if parents can teach their children that they must not enter a friend's house and

throw off hats, cloaks or rubbers anywhere, on the floor, chairs, sofas, etc., instead of putting them in their appropriate places, that they must not rush noisily about, talking loudly or calling from one end of the room to the other, that they must be respectful and deferential to all when visiting, they surely can teach them that rude conduct at home is offensive and reprehensible to the last degree and in nowise to be tolerated. Parents can train their children to be polite at home as well as abroad, and they are guilty of a great wrong if they do not.

Well-bred persons, young or old, will respect the taste, comfort and pleasure of others, and be quite as solicitous of securing it as their own. They will be ashamed to allow any habit that would offend the taste or delicacy of anyone to have control over them. They are watchful to use no annoying expressions, to guard or overcome any propensity that will make another uncomfortable, such as sharp words, sarcasm or repartee that gives pain, and many little but troublesome habits. If parents will so teach their children, they will not only add to their own comfort a thousandfold while the little ones are maturing, but they will prepare them to go out from their home when they arrive at man's and woman's estate, useful and respected members of society.

A Song of Content.

Sweet are the thoughts that savor of content:

The quiet mind is richer than a crown:
Sweet are the nights in careless slumber spent:

The poor estate scorns Fortune's angry frown.

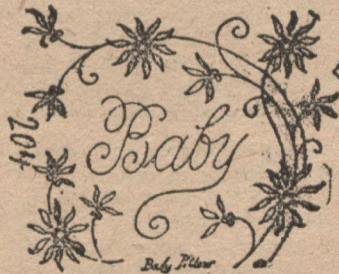
Such sweet content, such minds, such sleep,
Such bliss,

Beggars enjoy, when princes oft do miss.

The homely house that harbors quiet rest,
The cottage that affords no pride nor care,
The sweet consort of mirth's and music's best,
The sweet consort or mirth's and music's fare.

Obscured life sets down a type of bliss;
A mind content both crown and kingdom is.
—Robert Greene.

For Home Work Room.



No. 204.—What can please the home-loving person, be it man or woman, more than a prettily embroidered cushion top for the baby? To make a top with little expense and less work, should prove an attraction for every woman. The pattern here illustrated will be effective and striking after an unusually small amount of time and labor has been expended thereon. The design is furnished already stamped on linen or in a perforated pattern which is simple to use and includes material and full directions for stamping. The prices are 30 cents for perforation, or 50 cents for stamped linen top and back. Four skeins linen thread, 20 cents.

HOW TO ORDER DESIGNS.

Order by number as well as name, stating whether it is the design alone or the design and working material that is desired. A lapse of one week beyond time needed for return mail should be allowed.

Write your address distinctly.

Address your letters to:

Needlework Department, John Dougall & Son, 'Witness' Office, Montreal.