

## HOUSEHOLD.

### A Memory.

The fire upon the hearth is low,  
And there is stillness everywhere;  
Like troubled spirits here and there  
The firelight shadows fluttering go.  
And as the shadows round me creep,  
A childish treble breaks the gloom,  
And softly from a farther room  
Comes, 'Now I lay me down to sleep.'

And somehow with that little prayer,  
And that sweet treble in my ears,  
My thought goes back to distant years  
And lingers with a dear one there;  
Again I hear the child's Amen,  
My mother's face comes back to me;  
Crouched at her side I seem to be,  
And mother holds my hand again.

Oh, for an hour in that dear place!  
Oh, for the peace of that dear time!  
Oh, for that childish trust sublime!  
Oh, for a glimpse of mother's face!  
Yet as the shadows round me creep,  
I do not seem to be alone—  
Sweet magic of that treble tone—  
'And 'Now I lay me down to sleep.'  
—Eugene Field.

### Put Yourself in His Place.

It isn't the man who gives the largest sum of money to the poor who is the most charitable man. It isn't the woman who is the leader in all the philanthropic work of her neighborhood who is the most charitable woman. There is a charity that is so far above and beyond the mere act of giving dollars and cents that it seems almost absurd to try to speak of the two in the same paragraph.

I have known men who were liberal enough in giving money for the relief of the suffering, and yet I would be willing to take oath that they did not know what the word 'charity' meant. I have known women who were at the head of all kinds of charitable societies—missionary societies, sewing guilds, relief associations, and the like—and yet their own actions have proved that true charity was not in their hearts.

There are probably few words in the English language that are more generally misinterpreted than the word 'charity.' People in general are quite accustomed to confusing it with 'philanthropy,' and they seem to think that by giving money or time for the relief of the poor or needy they are doing all that is necessary to attain a reputation for being charitable. As a matter of fact, nothing could be further from the truth, for the genuine charity—the sort that is really kind—is that which inspires one to be merciful in his judgment of others. To aid the poor is a good thing, and a duty that should not be neglected. To care for the sick, the orphan, and the widow is another duty that should be heeded. But to be merciful in one's expressed opinions about others is by far a more charitable act.

There is probably no more difficult thing to do than to put one's self in the place of another person, especially if that other person is an individual who has done something to offend or injure you or somebody who is near and dear to you. It is hard, too, to put yourself in the place of a man who has shown himself to be a fool, or, what is even worse, a criminal—whether his offense has been against human or divine laws. It is difficult to look upon those who have been ostracized by society and think that society may be unjust and they less black than they have been painted. It is so easy to stand with the majority—to let one's voice participate in the chorus of the world's opinion. It is so hard to step out alone in the face of the multitude and insist that the world is wrong. As the result most people find it convenient to take the judgment of the majority as final, and it is a great deal easier to give a dog a bad name than to supply him with a good one.

Everything runs smoothly for everybody but the unfortunate victim.

To be truly charitable, however, one must have the strength of character to face the whole world even to the point of confuting its opinions. In the eye of the world there is nothing that is commendable except success. Failure, however induced, is little less than a crime, while the most unpardonable thing about any criminal action is the misfortune of being found out.

Such injustice, of course, common as it is, runs counter to true charity. The charitable man knows that there is no crime without a motive. He realizes that man is like a machine.

To be charitable in this sense of the word is by no means the easiest thing in the world, for the man who lives up to the letter of this ideal will find himself practically alone. Debarred from association with gossip mongers, deprived of the privilege of wrecking reputations with a word, compelled to regret, not exult over, the downfall of another, he will be obliged to select his associates with care, and will find most of his satisfaction in the fact that he has succeeded in catching a faint glimpse of that immortal principle to which we refer when we speak of 'divine justice.'

### Influence of a House on Health.

Size and surroundings of a house influence health. In apportioning income do not depreciate the necessity of such accommodation as shall preserve you in health.

If possible, have a good dwelling amongst self-respecting neighbors. The index to the character of many houses is seen in their back doors, and in keeping of their windows.

Fronts, trim, smart—backs neglected, dingy.

You must keep up appearances, true; but keep them up all round, and not merely for your neighbour's eyes. It means moral deterioration if a woman thinks that shabbiness and ugliness don't matter if they are out of sight.

Not only physical but moral conditions are regulated by the conditions of our homes.

Better save money by having poorer clothes and plainer living if, by so doing, you can have airy, sunny apartments, than indulge in fashionable attire, and a luxurious table at the expense of health. Sunk rooms and dark rooms are notoriously unhealthy; dark passages and dark closets soon grow close and stagnant.

Light is a great disinfectant. There is a health-sustaining, spirit-raising influence in light. If your house has small windows, they are better uncurtained than too much curtained. Every reader knows how musty some folks' best rooms are, where the blinds are always drawn for fear of fading the furniture. Better fade the furniture than fade yourself. There is true wisdom in the lines—

'Whene'er my heart feels drooping,  
I'll go out and feel the sun.'

'Glorify the room,' said Sydney Smith—meaning that the maid should pull up the blinds.

Ministry in outlook.—We all know the difference between looking on a dead wall and the waving boughs of some beautiful tree—the chestnut, the laburnum, the lilac. It raises the spirits to look on something bright. Therefore, if the back view is gloomy, better shut it out by fancy glass, or some device that blinds it.

When you can't help small rooms, do not cram them with unnecessary furniture or by hanging up unwashable garments on every available peg. Who is not familiar with the saying, 'The room was so close I've got quite a headache.' This is only a question of hours in an unventilated room. A sailor dying in a close bunk said—'Take me on deck; let me die where I can feel the wind.' Up there he recovered. Warmth and ventilation should go hand in hand. Some of us, perhaps, remember staying in houses where the mistress had never learned how to combine the two, and we have shivered miserably by reason of cold, draughty ventilation.

Now, fresh air in a house is as essential

as fresh water to a tap. Both must be brought in.

The smaller the house the more scrupulous need for cleanliness. Walls, doors, papers, tops of bookcases, tops of wardrobes, tops of doors, behind pictures—all are traps for vitiating the air. Every ornament that cannot be easily washed, and yet easily holds or accumulates dust, should be tabooed, no matter how ornamental to the eye.

All parts of a house want cleaning.

Put all dust, all vegetable refuse, on the fire. Never neglect an unusual smell. 'The house does smell stifling when you come in.' At once see to the cause of it.

If you live in a close room you are very prone to take a chill. Dr. J. B. Russell says—'Liability to catch colds arise chiefly from the chronic effects of foul air, for the lungs become congested and loaded by impurities.'

Again, we cannot expect delicacy and refinement if we do not arrange the conditions for them.—'Temperance Leader and League Journal.'

### Making Jellies.

Taking into account the trifling cost of jellies and their many uses, the wonder is that so little jelly is made as a part of the regular family stores. Ordinary apples, such as the farmer sells for making cider, are readily obtainable often at little more than the cost of cartage. These, when not too ripe, make a jelly fine enough for any purpose. Indeed, apple jelly has a wider range of uses than almost any jelly that is made. As an accompaniment to almost all meats, it is by many persons preferred to any other sort. It is admirable for cake, gives a keen relish to pot cheese, and with dishes of which the principal part is milk it imparts a flavor obtained by no other means.

Apple jelly is easily made and keeps better than most jellies, coming but slowly to the granulating process, which is the condition most to be apprehended. The apples must be quite green, but should be of good fresh flavor and rather tart. Cut them in slices or quarters, putting in cores and skins together. One may choose between putting a few apples in a kettle with a little water and adding apples as they make juice, or fill the kettle and supply sufficient water to cook the fruit. The former gives a richer, thicker juice, but the latter is quite good enough, especially if a quantity is to be made for general use. When the apple has boiled for about fifteen minutes, or until it will all crush to a pulp, pour it into a cloth and suspend it from a hook, where it will drip and not be disturbed. There are many traditional notions and facts about jelly bags, but they are of little practical value. If the pulp is carefully handled and not shaken up so as to be held in solution as it were, the juice will run very clear after the first two minutes. The first drip can be put through the bag again. As for jelly presses and weights, they are useless to the expert unless the juice is to be filtered, an operation that requires altogether too much time and patient work and care. Some of the most perfect jellies ever made were drained through a mosquito netting, and some that were so cloudy as to be worthless went through a very thick flannel bag.

The juice is measured and put into a preserving kettle or saucepan as soon as it runs through the bag. Apple jelly is specially economical because it takes less sugar than any other sort. Instead of a pint of juice and one pound of sugar, three pints of juice and two pounds of sugar answer very well, and if the apples are what they should be, half a pound of sugar to a pint of juice does admirably. Indeed, one jelly maker never uses more than this proportion for any of her apple, quince or ripe grape jellies.

Just how long jelly must boil is a debatable point. So much depends upon the condition of the fruit that no arbitrary rule can be laid down. The more watery the juice, the longer it takes to evaporate it. It will not set until a certain amount of water has been disposed of.