

## THE HOUSEHOLD.

## MRS. ALDEN'S HOME.

As we traverse the neatly kept walk, leading from the highway to the front door, we see on each side those small delicate flowers such as pansies, daisies, etc., which denote at once both culture and taste in the owners. The wide porch over the door is neatly trellised on each side, upon which is trained and kept well trimmed a woodbine, which through the hot summer months with its thick screen of dark green leaves, makes the broad hallway inside delightfully dim and cool, as we can see, for the door stands invitingly open.

Mrs. Alden smilingly answers our ring and courteously invites us in. Several chairs, one of them a sewing rocker, are comfortably arranged on one side, not set against the wall like sentinels erect at their posts of duty.

Here we seat ourselves by invitation, with our hostess, who is very ladylike and entertaining. We chat pleasantly for a short time, when a man's step is heard in the room at the upper end of the hall, and a voice says:

"Julia, are you in the front hall?"

"Yes, James, come in, we have lady callers and I invited them to stop here because it is so much cooler here where the sun does not strike the house," Mrs. Alden answers.

She does not leave the room, or seem to feel embarrassed at all to invite him in, although he has been at work on the farm all day, and may not feel like helping to entertain callers, if he is like a great many farmers. But we are soon at our ease with Mr. Alden, for he comes in genial and smiling, in plain clothes to be sure, as befits his employment, yet neat and whole. He is very agreeable, but is less of a talker than his wife is.

While we sit talking, the sound of children's voices is heard outside as they come from school. The Alden children leave the others at the gate, and come into the house. They are three in number, and the two boys seem inclined to dispute.

Mr. Alden rises from his seat, and bowing to us, leaves the room, evidently to quell the childish quarrelling in the next room. We listen to hear if he will speak harshly to them, for we can hardly believe he will, after what we have seen of his pleasant manner, and he does not disappoint us. He addresses them in this way.

"Come, children, do not dispute like this. What is it all about, any way? Will, you seem to have started it, what were you arguing with Harry about? Let me hear all about it, and I will see if I can help you settle it."

"I told him that Jim Lake's new pup that his father brought home to him from New York, last week, was a hound, and he says it isn't, it is a spaniel like Eddie Wilder's; but I know better than that."

"Well, the best thing for you both to do, is to leave it all to me to decide upon. I will go over and call on Mr. Lake after tea, and I can see the little dog, and you know I am something of a judge of canines, and I think I can settle it satisfactorily for you, if you will both abide by my decision."

The matter was at once dropped between the two boys, and we, at the same time, signified our intended departure by rising from our seats.

We were invited to remain longer, but my friend declined on our part, as it was nearing her tea time, and she had no one at home to prepare it for her, as she did her work herself. But before we left, Mrs. Andrews invited Mr. and Mrs. Alden to come and take tea while I remained a guest with her, on the coming Wednesday.

The invitation was graciously accepted by them both, Mr. Alden having returned to bid us good-day.

The tea party proved a pleasant affair as such parties always are, other neighbors being invited as well as the Aldens.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, and myself, were invited to each neighbor's house, who had visited them, in turn; invitations which we accepted, and returned visits at a later day. And at no place did we find discipline exercised with the children so firm and at the same time, so kindly, as we did at Mr. Alden's. At table they did not reach to help themselves, but asked politely to be helped to what they wanted, and we could see at once that it was not "company manners" with any of the family, and it was not a

stiff and formal meal as it was at some places.

The father and mother spoke politely to each other always, thus setting an example of politeness before their children, which we could plainly see by a little judicious training they were learning to follow, and which would, in time to come, make of them lovable and useful men and women, as they were now sweet and engaging children. Maud, the youngest of all, was a sweet little five-year-old, and as pretty as a picture, with golden hair, and rosy cheeks, and a shy bashful way of approaching strangers.

After tea we were all invited to go over the house which had lately been remodelled inside. We noted all the modern conveniences of a comfortable farm-house. They consisted of a bath and washroom combined; with a stationary kettle for boiling clothes, and stationary tubs, also a bath tub; two sleeping rooms on the lower floor instead of one, as we usually find it, and a pantry so arranged that food and dishes could be passed through it by means of a wicket, from the kitchen to the dining room, without opening doors. Gems of fancy articles were also to be seen in the sitting room and parlor, which were now thrown into one room by the opening of folding doors.—*Household.*

## FOR WANT OF A LATCH.

An old step-ladder lesson, setting forth the sad import of little neglects, is worth a thousand repetitions:

"For want of a nail the shoe was lost;  
For want of a shoe the horse was lost;  
For want of a horse the rider was lost—  
And all for the want of a horse-shoe nail."

This is said to be originally taken from actual history—of a certain aide-de-camp whose horse fell lame on a retreat and delayed him until the enemy overtook and killed him.

Another actual case, embodying the same lesson against the lazy and shiftless habit of "letting things go," is related by the French political economist, M. Say.

Once, at a farm in the country, there was a gate, enclosing the cattle and poultry, which was constantly swinging open for want of a proper latch. The expenditure of a penny or two, and a few minutes' time would have made all right. It was on the swing every time a person went out, and not being in a state to shut readily, many of the poultry were from time to time lost.

One day, a fine young porker made his escape, and the whole family, with the gardener, cook and milk-maid, turned out in quest of the fugitive. The gardener was the first to discover the pig, and in leaping a ditch to cut off his escape, he got a sprain that laid him up for a fortnight.

The cook, on returning to the farm-house, found the linen burned that she had hung up before the fire to dry; and the milk-maid, having forgotten, in her haste, to tie up the cattle in the cow-house, found that one of the loose cows had broken the leg of a colt, that happened to be kept in the same shed.

The linen burned and the gardener's work lost were worth fully a hundred francs, and the colt was worth nearly double that money; so that here was a loss in a few minutes of a large sum, purely for want of a little latch which might have been supplied for a few half-pence.

## FOREST FIRES.

Very few, even among those who make a special study of forestry, have any idea how great is the area burned over every year by fires in the woods, and how great is the damage done. Pipes and cigars, sparks from locomotives, hunters, and anglers, and thoughtless boys all come in for a share of the blame of starting them. The total of damage done, as exhibited by the returns and the map about to be published by the Census Bureau, is amazing. The direct value destroyed cannot be less than two or three hundred millions of dollars annually, and is probably more. The indirect damage is great and many-sided, including the destruction of young trees, and saplings and sprouts, seeds in the ground, and in many cases the vegetable substance in the soil itself. Then we must take into the account the harm done because of uncertainty caused in the minds of those owning woodland or land which might be profitably planted or left to grow into timber.

"What is the use," men are apt to say,

"to prune and trim and go without the interest on my money, when, do all I can, I can never be sure that the carelessness of others will not sweep it all away?"

We need much more stringent laws to punish the setting of forest fires, to fix the pecuniary responsibility, and especially to enforce preventive measures, such as keeping woodland clear of the tops, limbs, etc., left by loggers, and maintaining broad and frequent fireroads, and an efficient patrol in all large timber tracts. Prevention is cheaper than cure, especially when, as in this case, cure may require a century of time, and not be always practicable even then.—*Watchman.*

## TEA-CAKES.

BY ELIZABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL, IN  
"CHRISTIAN UNION."

**QUICK MUFFINS.**—Put into two quarts of sifted flour a piece of butter as large as an egg, add two even teaspoonfuls of soda and four of cream of tartar, one quart of milk, and, lastly, four eggs, thoroughly beaten. Bake in rings twenty minutes.

**CORN MUFFINS.**—Dissolve one teaspoonful of soda into one quart of sour milk; add two tablespoonfuls of sugar, four tablespoonfuls of flour, a pinch of salt, two eggs—the whites stirred in the last thing—and enough corn-meal to make a thin batter. Bake quickly in rings.

**MODERN SALLY LUNN.**—To four teacupfuls of flour add two teaspoonfuls of sugar and one teaspoonful of good lard, four eggs well beaten, and four teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Use one-half milk, and one-half water to reduce this mixture to a thin batter. Bake in gem-pans, in quick oven.

**SALLY LUNN.**—Take one quart of milk, a quarter of a pound of butter, four eggs, and a teaspoonful of yeast; mix carefully; add a little salt and sufficient flour to make a very stiff batter. Butter four round pans, divide the mixture evenly between them, and put by the fire to rise for about nine hours. Bake in a quick oven about half an hour.

**ROYAL TEA-CAKE.**—Take one quart of flour, put into it a piece of butter the size of an egg, sift in one teaspoonful of soda and two of cream of tartar, add two well-beaten eggs, and enough milk to make a batter as stiff as can be easily stirred with a spoon. Bake in a flat pan about two inches deep, and break in squares when done; it requires from fifteen to twenty minutes according to the heat of the oven.

**WHIGS.**—To four cups of sifted flour add a piece of butter the size of an egg, a little salt, half a teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar; mix in gradually two cups of milk, and last of all two well-beaten eggs. Bake in cups or gem-pans. If the housekeeper is fortunate enough to possess a waffle-iron she may indulge in these delicious cakes; they do not taste the same baked in any other form.

**POULTRY DRESSING.**—Helen Campbell recommends, as a dressing for poultry, one pint of bread or cracker crumbs, into which mix dry one teaspoonful of pepper, one of thyme or summer savory, one even teaspoonful of salt, and, if in season, a little chopped parsley. Melt a piece of butter the size of an egg in one cup of boiling water, and mix with the crumbs, adding one or two well-beaten eggs. A slice of salt pork chopped fine is often substituted for the butter. For ducks, two onions are chopped fine, and added to the above.

**A PRACTICAL and simple help for strengthening and invigorating the body is found in the exercise received in sawing wood. Surely no country boy should complain if he can do this, for it is an excellent thing, and there is hardly an apparatus to be named which can compete with it. It develops the back, chest, and arms and produces a most delightful sense of invigoration, giving tone to the entire body. I have known sons of wealthy men do it solely for the physical benefit to be derived therefrom.—*Household.***

Out of four thousand Jews in Toulon and Marseilles only seven, it is said, were attacked by the cholera. It is the repetition of an old experience, and is attributed to the dietary laws of Moses.

## PUZZLES.

## ENIGMA.

In Africa once I delighted to roam,  
On the tail of my owner I fled,  
But now far away from my own native home,  
I, instead of a tail, dress a head.

## CROSSWORD.

My first is in light, but not in dark;  
My second is in boat, but not in bark;  
My third is in near, but not in far;  
My fourth is in gig, but not in car;  
My fifth is in first, but not in high;  
My sixth is in ear and also in eye;  
My seventh is in late, but not in soon;  
My eighth is in planet, but not in moon;  
My ninth is in love, but not in hate;  
My tenth is in fellow, but not in ma.;  
My whole is a poet whose words have weight.

## NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

58 letters.

My whole is a remark of Dr. Johnson's, which every one who would accomplish anything would do well to remember.

3, 14, 20, 44 is the prominent word in the sentence, and is personified as a supposed opponent in a race. This opponent always gains by the fact that he is never hindered by 45, 32, 9, 6, 19, 15, 12, 2, 26, 49, 56, 21, 10. Dr. Johnson shows how a poet, in making a famous 17, 7, 5, 28, 16, 54, 11, 18, 34, 33, could not compete with this opponent. With this competitor it is wise to 42, 57, 31, 14, 37 in advance, and never 35, 8, 45, 49, 41, 20, 42 to 54, 19, 29, 36, 54, 44 hindrances. It is wiser not to 46, 7, 2, 13, 39 him as an 50, 33, 47, 53, 31, 48, 9, 14, 58, 55, but 52, 51, 21 him as a friend; and, 23, 54, 47, 1, 32, 41, 31, 4 beaten, rather note with 43, 21, 25, 54, 32, 8, 40 care how you run, 46, 23, 27, 9 how fast; 30, 24 this must be controlled by the lack of that advantage he 24, 32 aptly ascribes to this opponent.

## RHOMBUS.

1. o o o o o  
o o  
o o  
o o  
2. o o o o o

You will not find my number one  
Among the busy, toiling throng;  
'Tis only found in kingly courts,—  
With royalty alone consorts.

My number two repeats my first,  
When duly it has been reversed;  
It names a beverage,—drink thou not!  
'Twill change a man into a sot!

Now read both ways—from east or west,  
Or up or down—this is no jest,—  
Each of those words then you will see  
Will quite four times repeated be.

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.

DOUBLE ANAGRAM.—Joan of Arc.

CHARADE.—Co-nun-drum.

ANAGRAM.—Little Red-Ridinghood.

ENIGMA.—Fractions (cat, not, car, fact, str., tion.)

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.  
Correct answers have been received from Alida Ferguson.

## DRINKS FOR THE SICK.

**ORANGE WHEY.**—The juice of one orange to one pint of sweet milk. Heat slowly until curds form, strain and cool.

**EGG LEMONADE.**—White of one egg, one tablespoon pulverized sugar, juice of one lemon, one goblet water. Beat together.

**SAGO MILK.**—Three tablespoons sago soaked in a cup of cold water one hour; add three cups boiling milk; sweeten and flavor to taste. Simmer slowly a half hour; eat warm.

**BAKED MILK.**—Put a half gallon of milk in a jar and tie it down with writing paper. Let it stand in a moderate oven eight or ten hours. It will be like cream and is very nutritious.

**SNOW FLAKE.**—Dissolve in one quart of boiling water a small box of gelatine, and add four teacups of white sugar, and the juice of two lemons. When almost cold strain. Beat the whites of six eggs to a stiff froth, mix them with the water containing the dissolved sugar and gelatine, pour into moulds and place them upon ice or in a cool place. Snow flake served with boiled custard makes a pretty dish.