

Family and Fireside.

Mother's Boys.

Yes I know there are stains on my carpet,
The tracks of small muddy boots;
And I see your fair tapestry glowing
All spotless with blossoms and fruits!

And I know that my walls are disfigured
With prints of small fingers and hands,
And that your own household whiteness
All fresh in its purity stands.

And I know that my parlor is littered
With many odd treasures and toys,
While your own is in daintiest order,
Unharm'd by the presence of boys!

And I know that my room is invaded
Quite boldly all hours of the day,
While you sit in your own unmolested,
And dream the soft quiet away.

Yes, I know there are four little bedsides
Where I must stand watchful each night,
While you may go out in your carriage,
And flash in your dresses so bright!

Now I think I'm a neat little woman,
I like my house orderly too;
And I am fond of all dainty belongings,
Yet I would not change places with you!

No! keep your fair home with its order,
Its freedom from bother and noise!
And keep your own fanciful leisure,
But give me my four splendid boys!

—Selected.

For Sake of the Next One.

"Why, auntie, I thought you were through!"

"So I am with my work," returned Aunt Carrie, as with a smile she went on threading her needle. "I am only trying to smooth the way for the next one."

"Who, for instance?" questioned Will, curiously.

"Well, supposing that just as papa is starting for business to-morrow morning he discovers that he is about to lose a button from his coat, and he can spare only about two minutes in which to have it sewed on. Don't you think it would be quite a relief to mamma to find her needle already threaded.

"Of course, for I should'nt think one could find that little bit of an eye at all if he were in a hurry. I had a dreadful time the other day when I wanted to mend my ball. I should have been glad to be your next one then."

"Suppose, again, Will, that whoever dropped that piece of wood upon the cellar stairs had stopped to pick it up, remembering that some one else would be coming that way soon. Wouldn't it have been worth while? Think how Bridget has suffered from her fall, and how the household has been inconvenienced!"

"Yes, auntie; and if I had wiped up the water I spilled this noon, sister wouldn't have been obliged to change her dress when she was in such a hurry to get back to school; but a fellow will have to keep pretty wide-awake to remember every time." And with a

thoughtful expression on his boyish face, Will passed out of his house and toward the front gate, leisurely munching a banana as he went, but apparently engaged in deep thought. Reaching the sidewalk, he threw down the banana skin, and proceeded on his way; but presently he turned and looked hard at the yellow object lying upon the pavement, and then, quickly retracing his steps, he picked it up and flung it far into the road, where no one would be likely to slip upon it.—Morning Star.

Clearing One's Self.

Some years ago, a very uncommon scene was witnessed in New Jersey at the opening of the Passaic county, N. J., court. One of the most prominent and respected members of the bar, a man who, like the late Horace Binney of Philadelphia, had made it a rule not to undertake cases in which there was apparent even the shadow of fraud or injustice on the part of his client, made a motion to address the court upon a personal matter. Being told by the judge to proceed, he said:

"It has been my misfortune to commit a grievous offence against this court, and as the offence was committed in public, it is no more than right that I should ask forgiveness in public. Some time ago I was retained as counsel in a case in which the recovery of certain sums of money was sought. The plaintiff was a gentleman from New York, and the case was brought before your honor in Bergen county, when holding court at Hackensack. Among the items of money sought to be collected was one of \$1,000 for drawing a will. The will was a small one, and the charge was certainly exorbitant. My better judgment told me it was wrong, but I was self-willed, and began the suit. I will not so far accuse myself as to say that I intended to recover the whole \$1,000; no, I only thought the jury might allow a fair compensation. But I should not have brought the suit. In this I did wrong, and for this I humbly crave forgiveness. I thereby offended the court, the law, and God, the source of all law, and I want to confess my faults so that I may be forgiven. Again, I have at times not taken the rulings of this court with the grace and obedience they deserved, and for this I crave pardon."

Such a confession of error, never before heard in that court-room, was received with great astonishment and an impressive silence. Then the judge assured the Christian lawyer that he knew of no offence which he had committed against the court, or, at least if such had occurred, they had been long ago forgotten.

How little this vehement clearing one's self in the light of Christ, is comprehended by the natural mind, may be

perceived by the reporter's comment upon the incident,—that the lawyer's zeal for religion and temperance, together with his ill health, was thought to have "slightly affected his mind"—a condition of being beside one's self, we may add, far too infrequent.—Friend's Review.

Predictions That May Be Relied on.

Let times be ever so good, if you are slothful you will be in want; let times be ever so bad, if you are diligent in the ways of God you will prosper. "The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat." Pro. xiii: 4.

Even though you be simple, yet, if you study God's word, you will become wise. "The entrance of thy word giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psa. cxix: 130.

Whatsoever cause others may have for fear, you shall not be hurt if you trust in the Lord. "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever." Psa. cxxv: 1.

If you love and practice sin, it is impossible for you to escape punishment. "Be sure your sin will find you out." Num. xxxii: 23.

If you trust in your own resolution, strength, or righteousness, you are sure to fail. "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool." Prov. xxviii: 26.

If you seek salvation from any but the Lord Jesus Christ, you will infallibly be deceived. "For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts iv: 12.

Though you prosper in worldly things, if you practice sin, you will be unhappy. "There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked." Isa. xlvi: 22.

Whether you are young or old, weak or strong, sick or well, death is still standing at your door. "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Gen. iii: 19. "There is but a step between me and death." 1 Sam. xx: 3. —Old Humphrey.

Theatrical companies are complaining that this is the worst year for their business that is on record. Some three thousand of their members are out of employment at present. More theaters are closed, companies stranded, and more actors and actresses unemployed than ever known before, according to their statements. This may indicate a return to sanity on the part of the people. Never was the public more nearly amusement-mad than during recent years. Anything affording amusement has had support. The Sabbath has been desecrated and important interests have been thrust aside at the call of vanity and pleasure. Recreation is one thing, healthful when in place, and of the proper nature, but dissipation is something very different.—Herald and Presbyter.