

best is to help it to be its best, if there be the proper protection thrown about it; but, on the contrary, to express suspicion in its natural disposition is to discourage and thwart its good intentions. Parents thus become, in many cases, the cause of a child's motives. And in another way, also, are they largely responsible; that is, by holding before the child, as an inducement to obedience, the very incentives which they sadly deprecate at other times and upon other occasions. "Johnnie," says Mamma, "here is the bowl of milk you wanted; come and get it." But Johnnie prefers the milk in his silver bowl, while mamma has it in a china one, so he demurs and refuses to accept it. "Very well, then," concludes mamma, "I'll give it to little sister," and starts to make good her word. This arouses Johnnie's selfishness, and he receives the milk. Mamma comments, "I thought I would conquer," and in half an hour after, perhaps, she is lamenting this same selfishness. This is but one instance, where many might be given, where, through the parent's fault, the child develops impure motives. Too much care can not be taken in mingling with children at all times, that the slightest development of a wrong motive be checked as soon as it appears, and that requires the parent's watchfulness over his own actions as well as those of the child.

READING FOR BOYS.

Many boys drift into loose, and even bad, habits, more because they are not well engaged in something profitable and elevating, than because they naturally incline to a wrong course. Mothers realize this, and very generally make some effort to supply entertainment at home. Games, society reading, and whatever the ingenuity of parents may suggest, are employed for the purpose. Best of all these means, as a source of pleasure and improvement, is that of reading, for it not only affords pleasant employment, but if well directed by parents, it enriches the mind and gives it bias in the right direction. Reading aloud is often more entertaining than reading to one's self. Especially is this so to the young, for in talking the subject over they may give their own thoughts with seeming weight, and enjoy the added information which those older may give upon it. Every family, whose circumstances will at all permit, should have always on hand a book in progress of reading in this way. It may take weeks, and perhaps months, to complete it, but the pleasure and profit will pay for the trouble. A book thus read is never forgotten. The matter of family reading is not a subject which parents may pass by lightly. The child mind must be fed in some way, by some means. The following, taken from an article in one of our exchanges, discloses the folly of such parents as not only do not direct the taste of their family in the selection of reading matter, but neglect to supply the means necessary for the purchasing of such as is interesting and instructive: "Not long ago, I overheard a conversation between two boys, upon the merits and demerits of their favorite books—which, alas! seemed to be all of the blood-and-thunder kind—and though I profess to have a fair knowledge of boy nature, I must confess I was surprised; not so much at the class of literature they had evidently been digesting, as at the credulousness they displayed in speaking of their Rocky Mountain Jims, Three-Fingered Jacks and Mustang Petes, for these bloody gentlemen were seemingly as much heroes to the boys, as though they had really existed anywhere except in the diseased imagination of a sensational novel writer. I could not understand, at first, how these boys had formed the habit of reading such unhealthy stuff; but after talking to them, it came out that their parents, who are good, conscientious christians, by the by, who would not let a novel come in their households, if they knew it, did not take any interest

in, or furnish them with, reading of any description, and so the boys supplied themselves with flash literature, which they devoured by stealth. I also discovered that the only reason they had, in the first place, for buying this style of reading, in preference to any other, was that their limited supply of pocket money would not allow them to indulge in anything but ten-cent "yellow-backs." I also found out that they had so deteriorated their minds by such reading, that it was doubtful whether they could now enjoy a pure, elevating book. Such is the effect that flashy, cheap literature has on those who oftentimes become its too willing slaves."

PLAN YOUR HOUSEWORK.

The following, from a Maine housekeeper, is full of practical suggestions, just such as have long been thought to be practiced by New England housewives: Have your bread baked in the forenoon. Pile your supper dishes together snugly and set them in the closet, to be washed with your breakfast dishes, except your knives and forks, which you can wash and wipe in a very short time. Have two sets of milk strainers, one for night and one for morning, and drop the night strainer into water until morning. Rinse milk pails and turn them bottom side up in the sink, and give them a thorough washing in the morning. Get a half-bushel basket; when you wash your dishes, have two pans of nice water, one very hot; wash through the first, rinse through the second, and turn on edge in the basket to dry; in an hour or so they will be dry and ready to set away. Plan all your work so that it can be done as quickly as possible, and when evening comes, always dress up and enjoy it with your husband, in such ways as are most agreeable. What work you can not do before evening, leave until morning.

BRIEF NOTES.

Boston has always been noted for her intellectual women. That city has now an organization of women, known as the "Boston Political Class." Its members meet twice each month to discuss questions of public importance. At one of the recent meetings, there was a spirited debate of two hours upon the tariff question, which was decided, by a vote of the house, to be a victory for free trade. Some of the opposite sex, who believe in protective tariff, will doubtless give it as their opinion, that the ladies who discussed the question were not of the laboring classes.

At the civil service examination held in New York last month, eighty-five women expressed their willingness to serve Uncle Sam, by applying for an examination for customs inspectors. They came from various vocations in life, each hoping to better her condition. The passing average of the examination was sixty-five per cent. The rustling, crowding and jostling of Eastern women, for sufficient money-paying labor to meet daily needs, proves that the broadly aggressive and enterprising West is better than the East, for woman as well as for man.

Miss Etta Shattuck, the Nebraska school teacher, who was so badly frozen during the recent blizzard, in saving the lives of her pupils, died at Seward, Nebraska, after having suffered the amputation of both legs. A sum of money, amounting to over \$2,000.00, which had been contributed as a reward for her heroic effort, was given to her parents, who were dependent upon her for support.

Of the two thousand six hundred and nineteen graduates from twelve American colleges, a large proportion—nine hun-