

# THE LINK

The Official Organ of the Humberstone Garden Suburb.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 26.

MAY, 1914.

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The "Link" is published monthly.

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The Editor,  
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## On Rates and Taxes.

Rates are imposts levied by local authorities to defray expenditure payable by them. Taxes are imposts levied by Parliament to defray National expenditure. Rates are levied by local authorities upon the occupiers or owners of properties within the district appearing on the rate book, and are usually payable half-yearly or quarterly.

Unfortunately, the tendency is for rates to increase rather than to decrease, and the only thing the ratepayer can do is to bring pressure to bear upon the councillors who are elected by the ratepayers to practise economy, or better still to carefully consider all schemes of public expenditure, and see that such are giving full value to the public convenience and welfare for the money expended upon them.

Rates are levied on the authority of Borough and County Councils, Rural District Councils, Parish Councils and Boards of Guardians; the two principal rates levied being the Poor Rate and the General District Rate. The Poor Rate was first levied in the year 1601, for the relief of the poor. Previous to this there were no unhappy ratepayers. From time to time rates for other purposes have been authorised by the Legislature to be included with the Poor Rate, so that at the present time the Poor Rate comprises: Guardians' expenses and relief of the poor; County Council Rate, including Education; Police Rate. The Poor Rate is levied by the Overseers of the Poor. The General District Rate is levied by the District or Borough Council, and includes expenses of the sanitary services, maintenance of highways, sewers, health, &c.

Our own estate is situated in a rural parish which, with thirty-three other such districts, forms a rural district area, governed by an elected Council, called the Billesdon Board of Guardians and Rural District Council.

The Rates levied are:—The Lighting Rate, imposed by and under the control of the Parish Council; the Poor and District Rate, levied by the Billesdon Board, in which, of course, are included the calls made upon them by the County Council for the larger services, such as education, maintenance of highways, police supervision, &c. (over which as rural district councillors they have no direct control); a Special Sanitary Rate, levied upon the parish for special expenditure for sewers not applicable to the whole of the district. In addition, we pay to the Borough of Leicester the Water Rate for the service supplied by them exclusively.

The tendency of these rates generally, as has been said before, is upwards, the calls made by the County Council particularly—for education, highways, and the new duties imposed upon them for sanatoria, &c.—making continually larger demands. The Poor Rate, largely owing to the Old Age Pensions Act, in the past few years has declined. Fortunately we have comparatively few people in receipt of Poor Law relief, the Billesdon Union proportion being one of the lowest in the country.

In regard to Taxes—a question far too large to deal with in one small article—we are concerned as an Estate only with one of the various methods of raising these, that is the Property Tax which comes under Schedule A: a tax levied upon all owners of property at the present rate of 1s. 2d. in £ upon the rateable value of such property, subject to a rebate upon the amount of any mortgage thereon. The main point which affects the ratepayer is the rateable value of his property appearing in the rate-book, upon which the rate is levied. The amount of the rate as made and levied cannot be altered, but it is possible to get the rateable value of the property reduced if it is inserted at too high a figure.

NOTE.—The question of rating has been prominent of late and the information given above cannot, of course, cover the whole ground. The writer of the above will, however, be pleased, through the medium of THE LINK, to answer any questions bearing upon the subject which may be addressed to us in writing.

### PARISH COUNCIL.

The Annual Meeting of the Humberstone Parish Council was held in the Village Schoolroom, on Thursday, April 9th, Messrs. Underwood, Rouse, Hibbett, and J. B. B. Robertson (clerk) being present. Mr. Hibbett presided in the absence of the Chairman, and the first business was to elect a chairman for the coming year, Mr. E. G. B. Fowler being re-appointed; Messrs. S. W. Fox and A. Rouse being also re-appointed overseers. Two gardens being vacant on the Keyham Lane hill, they were let to Mr. O. Richardson and Miss Bright, these being the two first names on the list.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST.

As will be seen from the advertisement in another column of this issue, the Teachers have again succeeded in making satisfactory arrangements for the Scholars' Annual Outing on June 27th to Sutton-on-Sea. Scholars can go for either a day or a full week at a very nominal cost beyond the usual train fare, and the outing last year was such a great success that a good number of the scholars have already signified their intention of staying the week, and commenced paying their coppers in weekly to their teachers. It is to be hoped that many will be able to avail themselves of the outing, and that the weather will be propitious to the full enjoyment of their holiday. Parents and friends going for the day can have tea with the scholars in the bungalows at a charge of 6d. each. To enable proper railway arrangements to be made all names must be in by Wednesday, June 10th, at latest, to the Superintendent, Mr. J. T. Taylor.

The Billiard Championship was played as usual during the Easter holidays at Willowdene. The game was a very interesting one and provided a close finish. This time the winner is Mr. Aston, he beating his youthful opponent by four points.

## Items of Interest.

We understand definite arrangements have now been made for the opening of our new Tennis Courts on Saturday afternoon, May 9th, when the ceremony will be performed by Councillor Gimson, of Leicester. Invitations are being extended to friends of our Estate, and no doubt residents will co-operate in promoting a pleasant afternoon. They will greatly assist by turning out in good numbers at the time of opening (for which see notice boards, where full particulars will be announced).

\* \* \* \*

"Our own comic" sings that "Sister Mary has been to Gay Paree," but evidently she is not the only one who has been cementing the *entente*—as witness the "chapeaux" on show at the Ladies' At Home. Some of the "creations" were adjudged by feminine experts in the audience to be "quite fashionable." But—up to the time of going to press we have seen none of them in actual wear.

\* \* \* \*

Who said life in the country is dozy and quiet? If you would have it proved otherwise, ask the visitors round the Skittle Alley on Easter Monday what *they* think.

\* \* \* \*

The bearded "Tyke" who appeared suddenly on the Assembly Room stage on Easter Monday has since mysteriously vanished. If this should meet his eye, we should like his hair food recipe for our next issue.

\* \* \* \*

Someone has been at considerable pains to investigate the contents of the money-box at the Skittle Alley. We hope the result did not disappoint them. They would have had a greater haul had they decamped with the box as well.

\* \* \* \*

Amateur Theatricals are booming on the Estate just now. The idea seems to be "catching." It looks as though an "A.T." Dramatic Society would have plenty of adherents.

\* \* \* \*

We hear the Fern Rise whist "friends" almost swept the boards at the Cricket Club Whist Drive. Another case of "practice makes perfect."

\* \* \* \*

Now that the H.G.S.C.C. have an improved ground to play on, we are expecting them to win matches with greater frequency. Get a move on, lads!

\* \* \* \*

Many thanks to the Estate Council for organising the Easter Saturday Social on behalf of THE LINK, and to our friends who attended. As a result we are now clear of debt.

\* \* \* \*

We can contradict the rumour that a "Night Club" has been started on the Estate. It *was* zeal for the Estate's welfare that prevented members from reaching home until a late hour on April 23rd.

\* \* \* \*

PERSONAL PAR.—Have you informed the Estate Secretary of your paint requirements? If not, why not? "The noblest spirit is the public good," and your own self-interest also demands that you should preserve the "erection," and do nothing that will detract from the value of the Estate. At least one individual has already started operations. Who will be next?

## ESTATE MONTHLY MEETING.

At the April monthly members' meeting, presided over by Mr. Groome, there was a very gratifying attendance, due, no doubt, to the fact that the members had been specially summoned to discuss matters of more than usual importance to the community.

Mr. Scott first reported, on behalf of the Estate Council, that the Easter arrangements had passed off successfully, and that the Council had now completed the schedule for the August Flower Show, which included several new classes, some of which were open to the parish.

Mr. J. S. Wilford, Estate Secretary, in presenting the General Committee's Report, mentioned that three matters had received earnest consideration at the hands of the Committee, viz.: the need for a more sustained flow of contributions towards share capital; the question of the allocation of the rates; and the thorny subject of the regulation of outbuildings. He said it rested largely with the members as to whether the Estate was to develop steadily on good lines in the future as in the past, and a great factor in ensuring progress was a steady flow of share capital from resident members, as this provided a sure indication to outside investors of the vitality of the concern. It was essential that everyone should do their utmost to fulfil the obligations into which they had entered, and the General Committee appealed for a greater response in this way. Dealing with the question of allocation of rates, he said the amount paid by tenants towards rate charges during the last financial year had fallen short of actual requirements by over £50, which sum had been made up out of profits, and this was unfair to non-resident shareholders and others. The Committee had decided, as the best solution of the difficulty, that members should continue to make weekly contributions towards rates as at present, and that the shortage, if any, should be made up by the tenant at the end of each half-year. In this way every tenant would be actually made responsible for the amount charged by the rating authorities against his particular dwelling. Dealing with the regulation of out-buildings, the Secretary said the Committee were now compelled to take a serious view of the matter, as the beauty and harmony of the Estate's appearance was being destroyed. In regard to existing buildings he appealed to the sentiment of the tenants and asked that they should be improved in every possible way. A wonderful improvement could be effected in many cases by the application of a coat of paint of a colour in harmony with the surrounding vegetation. So far as future erections were concerned, the Committee felt it would be necessary to enforce regulations in regard to position, height, &c.

A good discussion followed the report, in the course of which the duty was enforced upon members of seeing that payments towards share capital were kept up. The Committee's decision in regard to the method of balancing up rates seemed to be generally approved; and there was also evident a disposition to assist in every possible way in the remedying of the outbuildings grievance, one good suggestion which was thrown out being that the Estate should arrange for a supply of paint of a suitable shade in bulk, that it might be supplied at a minimum cost to tenants.

Accuse not Nature; she hath done her part; do thou but thine.—*Milton*.

## Eastertide Holiday Happenings.

Our Easter open-air and indoor programme was a very full one. The weather, happily, was well nigh perfect, and the various attractions left little inducement for residents to wander away.

\* \* \*

### "LADIES' AT HOME" INVITATION SOCIAL.

As in previous years, the Ladies' At Home wound up their season by a Good Friday Social, invitations being extended to the newer tenants who had not had an opportunity of attending the fortnightly gatherings, and, of course, to the husbands of the "At Homers." The first part of the evening was devoted to games and a hat-trimming competition for men, which latter gave great joy both to participants and onlookers. Opportunity was also taken by Mrs. Parsloe, the ladies' president, to review the season's work, to point out the benefits that had been derived, and to appeal for continued support in the future from the women folk.

After refreshments had been served and appreciated, a humorous dialogue, "Like Mistress, Like Maid," was presented by nine of the ladies, those taking part being:—Mrs. Meekins, Mrs. Parsloe, Mrs. Purdy, Mrs. Stanion, Mrs. Mawby, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Wilford, Mrs. Dye, and Mrs. Jays. All the ladies did themselves credit, introducing plenty of "life" into their parts. Mrs. Silvester, the newly-rich widow, and her two oldest daughters, showed just the necessary restraint and new-found dignity due to their position; while the irrepressible madcap Wilhelmina delighted the audience with her unorthodox antics and spasms of mischievous energy; the part of the much-worried French governess being also in capable hands. The four servants proved an exceedingly lively lot; and their efforts to imitate "their betters" allied to the delightful "brogue" of the Irish maid, were irresistibly funny. The function all through was unanimously voted a decided success.

\* \* \*

### "THE LINK" SOCIAL.

A Social on behalf of THE LINK Fund was held on the Saturday evening. This had been kindly arranged by the Estate Council, and there was a good muster of friends, who spent a merry time. The order of the evening was: games, interspersed with humorous songs by Messrs. Butler and Hunt, and after a goodly number remained to "trip the light fantastic" until—well, rather late. Thanks are due to Mrs. Stanion and Mr. W. Meekins, who jointly fulfilled the duties of accompanist. It is gratifying to be able to record that our magazine fund will benefit to the extent of £2 4s.

\* \* \*

### A MUSICAL SERVICE.

On Sunday night our own Choral Society, assisted by friends, provided an excellent musical programme in the Assembly Room, which was presided over by Mr. Jays. Part songs were rendered by the Choir, under Mr. T. Wilford's conductorship, in very pleasing fashion, and a duet by Mrs. Stanion and Mr. Riley, and individual contributions by Miss Nellie Grain, Miss May Robinson, Mr. H. Copson, and Mr. G. Riley, were all greatly appreciated.

\* \* \*

### GOLF AND SKITTLES.

On Monday forenoon a Golf Tournament held sway, and flags produced in honour of the occasion made the scene quite festive. There was a good turnout, fifteen

holes being played. As usual, the pond proved the grave to many ambitions, but this, of course, only added piquancy to the event. The Golf Shield found a home at "Edale" for the next twelve months, Mr. G. Ward's winning score being 102. Mr. Arthur Wilford was runner-up with 119.

In the afternoon the Skittle Championships claimed attention. After some exciting matches the Laburnum Road Ladies and the Keyham Lane Gents proved the respective victors. As last year's winners were Fern Rise (Ladies) and Lilac Avenue (Gents) it will be seen that the honours are going round.

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### CHORAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

At the Choral Society's Concert on Easter Monday evening the Assembly Rooms were again comfortably filled. The evening was divided into two parts, the first consisting of part songs by the Choir, solos by Mrs. Stanion and Mr. G. Riley, and humorous turns by Messrs. J. Rowlett and W. Butler. The second part of the programme consisted of a sketch, entitled, "My Wife's Relations," which was taken part in by the following:—Mr. Benjamin Buffins (retired tallow chandler), Mr. Arthur Wilford; Mrs. Buffins (his wife), Miss Ethel Meekins; Mrs. Grumble (her mother), Miss Louie Meekins; Mr. Cephas Meek (Mrs. Buffins' uncle), Mr. W. Martin; Mrs. Meek (his wife), Miss Evelyn Parker; Mr. Thomas Newgrass (Mrs. Buffins' uncle), Mr. T. Dye; Mrs. Newgrass (his wife), Mrs. Backus; Dr. Titus Bigpill (a friend of Mr. Buffins'), Mr. C. H. Goodenough; Augustus Simpleton (Mrs. Buffins' cousin), Mr. W. Duffin.

The audience followed the efforts of the distressed Buffins to expedite the departure of his wife's relations with feelings of amused sympathy, and certainly his visitors proved a particularly lively lot. The mother-in-law and the strong-minded "Mrs. Cephas" filled their parts with much assurance; while "Cephas" showed due humility in face of his wedded affliction. The "couple from Yorkshire" were also quite successful, Thomas's dialect savouring of the genuine article. The frivolous Simpleton was a convincing example of the genus "Knut," and Bigpill showed true professional dignity and resource, the potency of his drug proving so remarkable in its soothing effect on Buffins that there should be a big demand for the prescription. Buffins had a rather trying part, but he emerged from the ordeal very creditably; and his better half took her part in a way which provided the necessary contrast to her intractable female relatives. Altogether a creditable presentation.

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### A LONG NIGHT DANCE.

The holiday programme was wound up on Tuesday night by a long-night Dance, participated in with great zest by our "young" folks who seek delight in the dreamy waltz and the gay lancers.

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Instead of waiting for a rich uncle to die, go and learn wisdom of the industrious ant.

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He is not worthy of the honeycomb who shuns the hive because the bees have stings.

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"Let us then be what we are, and speak what we think, and in all things keep ourselves loyal to truth and the sacred professions of friendship."—*Longfellow*.

## Letters to the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

### A LENDING LIBRARY.

*To the Editor.*

SIR,—A few months ago some mention was made in THE LINK about a Lending Library on this Estate. That was all. There does not appear to have been any definite result as yet. It certainly is quite time something was done and a beginning made, however small. The difficulty seems to be to calculate the demand, and until a start is made we shall go on calculating.

I would suggest as a basis for discussion that a start be made on the following lines :—That a grant be made by the Estate Council toward the initial expense, supplemented by an entrance fee from intending borrowers, and a charge of 1d. per week per volume. Considering the cheapness of really good books that prevails at the present time, I think this would probably make the scheme self supporting.

Hoping that this short letter will at least stimulate some interest in the matter.—Yours, &c.,

WOOD B. READER.

### THE PEPPERMINT EVIL.

*To the Editor.*

SIR,—Prior to next indoor season I hope the Estate Council will take steps to deal with the peppermint evil which has been so prevalent at our Saturday Evening Concerts and Week-day Socials during the past winter. In view of the fact that many people have a natural antipathy to peppermint, and that the inhalation of its pungent fumes must irritate the throats (and feelings) of the artistes who so kindly come from town to give their services, the matter ought to have serious attention. I suggest the Estate Council display a notice at the head of the Assembly Room stairs conveying a warning that anyone caught sucking peppermints will be summarily ejected; also, that, when culprits have been so discovered, immediately the function concludes the room should be treated with a good tobacco fumigant such as is used in greenhouses. Pressure might also be brought to bear on the General Committee to issue a regulation prohibiting the sale of peppermint on the Estate.

If peppermint devotees must suck something—and I suppose they must—may I recommend black currant pastilles, which would be helpful to the vocalists and harmless to the audience. No doubt the Shops Committee would be glad to lay in a stock.—Yours, &c.,

PEPSNIFF.

You can build a house, but a home must grow.

\* \* \* \*

Never condemn the sinner without bearing in mind his temptations.

\* \* \* \*

It isn't the man who will stick at nothing, but the man who will stick to one thing who wins in the long run.

\* \* \* \*

A pessimist will grumble just as much if the sun shines when he is carrying an umbrella as he will if it rains when he only has a walking stick.

## FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW.

### PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

The date of the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show has been fixed for August 15th. There will be fifteen classes, as follows :—

- Class 1.—Collection of hardy fruits, 6 dishes (open).
- „ 2.—Collection of vegetables, 6 varieties, tomatoes excluded (open).
- „ 3.—Tomatoes, dish of 6.
- „ 4.—Peas, dish of 20 pods.
- „ 5.—Potatoes, dish of 12 tubers.
- „ 6.—One pair of vegetable marrows.
- „ 7.—Roses, vase of 6 blooms (open).
- „ 8.—Sweet Peas, vase of 12 stems (own foliage).
- „ 9.—Cut flowers, hardy, 4 vases, 4 varieties.
- „ 10.—One vase of cut flowers (confined to ladies).
- „ 11.—Children's Class.—Collection of wild flowers arranged by exhibitor.
- „ 12.—Dahlias, 6 blooms, any variety.
- „ 13.—Collection of plants.
- „ 14.—Best window plant (foliage or flower) in pot.
- „ 15.—Onions, dish of 6 (open).

In the classes marked “ open ” residents in Humberstone Parish are eligible to compete. The last day for receiving entries is August 8th, and in view of the arrangements that have to be made the Council hope that all intending exhibitors will forward their entries before that date, as none can be entertained afterwards.

Mr. W. Coles has kindly consented to again officiate as judge, and has suggested that his brother should assist him, being of the opinion that the time at disposal is insufficient for one man to do justice to the task. The Council were very pleased to agree to this.

Many residents have sent in suggestions with regard to the position of what might be called the “ expert exhibitor ” and the “ average man,” Mr. Coles informs us in this connection that the idea in judging vegetables is to award the prize to the collection that is best grown, for size and for use, so that the utility growers have an equal chance with the exhibition grower, the prize being awarded to the vegetables that are the best cultivated for the table and not for size only.

Will intending exhibitors please note that this year the number to be shown in each class is definitely fixed. Time of opening and other particulars will be given later.

CHURCH OF CHRIST LORD'S DAY SCHOOL,  
HUMBERSTONE GARDEN SUBURB.

## SCHOLARS' ANNUAL OUTING

On Saturday, June 27th, 1914, to Sutton-on-Sea.

Fare for the Day: Under 14, 1/9; Over 14, 3/6.

SCHOLARS desirous of staying for the week—Full charge, including Railway Fare: Under 14, 8/6; Over 14, 14/—.

(See illustration of Holiday Bungalows on front page.)

## Peeps into the Past.

### THE HINTERLAND.

Years ago, when Keyham Lane was just a bridle road leading to and from nowhere in particular, a cyclist who had got off the track somewhere in the eastern part of the county, and was making the best of his way townwards, came across a roadman—the first human he had seen for miles, and for company's sake got into conversation.

"Ain't you lonely out here?"

"Lonely, no, should think I ain't; a man came by on hossback yesterday, you've come to-day, and there's sure to be somebody else afore the end of the week—so I ain't lonely."

But if the paths and lanes in the "hinterland" seem lonely, at anyrate they are real country. One of the pleasantest walks in the neighbourhood is the one from Humberstone to Hamilton and Beeby, which runs in a north-east direction from the Estate. When the first field has been crossed the path zig-zags down a pleasant valley. On front across the fields is the village of Barkby with its spire among the trees, across the Soar valley to the left rise the hills of Charnwood Forest, whilst all around are fields—just fields—with their hues varying according to the season. About half-a-dozen fields from the Estate the path crosses a road, very rough and very crooked, and in the field before coming to the road a piece of uneven ground will be noticed. This is the site of the old hamlet of Hamilton, which many years ago aspired to the dignity of a village, but now consists of a couple of farmhouses.

In the reign of Edward II., just about six hundred years ago, it belonged to Gilbert de Hamilton, Kt., who had the misfortune to fall out with one of the Despencers and in the ensuing quarrel killed him. Now the "haughty and arrogant" Despencers were the favourites for the time being of the King, who made favourites his speciality, and although a terrible vengeance was taken on the family when Edward was deposed, one of them being, after the manner of Haman, hanged on a gallows fifty feet high, still, that time was not yet, so Sir Gilbert thought it prudent to "go over the hill" as the Yankees call it. He made his way to Scotland, then and for several centuries afterwards a separate kingdom. He must have been an enterprising young man, for he quickly made both fame and fortune, a feat that very few of his compatriots have been able to emulate in that particular region. He married Isabel, a daughter of Lord Murray, and was honourably entertained by King Robert Bruce, who no doubt found him very useful in defending Scotland against the southern realm. He was the ancestor of a long line of Marquises and Dukes of Hamilton, including one who was beheaded in the Old Palace Yard in London in 1649. A chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist formerly stood here belonging to the Abbot and convent of St. Mary de Pratis, at Leicester, who had the tithes of corn and hay—they usually looked well after things like this. But they are all gone now, Hall and chapel and cottages; Sir Gilbert with his quarrels and his ambitions, and the world in which such things were possible: there are the fields and the cattle and a few, very few, passers by.

PENDA.

## Garden Notes.

Among the many experiments in the cultivation of sweet peas the one of pinching back has been very successful. This should be commenced after they have been planted in their permanent quarters about a fortnight. Pinch back to two or three eyes, with the exception of "Thomas Stevenson," which, on account of its weak constitution, should be taken back to one eye. The remaining eyes grow very vigorously and must be treated as cordons—*i.e.*, training to sticks, pinching all side shoots until they are out of reach.

Plant kidney beans on 12th of this month; two very good varieties are Sutton's "Prize Winner" and "Best of All." The former under good cultivation will invariably grow twelve inches long.

Cauliflowers, Brussels, &c., should be transplanted as soon as in the third leaf into beds, four inches apart, to ensure sturdy growth.

When planting potatoes one handful of old soot should be placed direct upon each set before covering in the soil. Hoe round young plants as soon as they appear above the ground.

Give fruit trees a good soaking of cesspool just as the bloom is setting, also give a dressing of superphosphate one handful to the square yard.

T. R.

### PEST No. 9.—THE EARWIG.

The earwig causes a deal of damage by gnawing the tender petals of dahlias, violas, and other plants, and also has a partiality for ripe fruit. It lies hidden during the day and feeds by night. Being provided with wings, which are neatly folded away, there is always a danger of a fresh attack and they need to be carefully watched if perfect blooms are required. The female lays eggs underneath lumps of earth, and what is most rare in insects, remains beside them on guard until they hatch out in two or three weeks. The winter is passed hidden in a crevice, in bark generally. They are easily trapped by inverted flower pots or tubes of paper or a similar contrivance where they creep in to hide during the day.

### "THAT LICKLE FROCK."

Mrs. Johnson was all excitement. Her husband was a Gordon Highlander, and she had an invitation to visit him in barracks in Scotland.

"You'll soon see daddy now," she said to her six-year-old little daughter, as the express bore them to their destination.

On arrival at the barracks Mrs. Johnson was informed that her husband was on sentry duty. One of the soldiers pointed him out to her, but, of course, they could not approach him.

The child eyed her daddy with big round eyes full of wonder as he paced up and down, rifle on shoulder, in his regimental kit.

"Mamma," she said, at last, in a childish treble, but with a strictly confidential air, "if daddy finds the man who stole his trousers, will he let me have that lickle frock?"

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THREE GOOD LINES FOR THE SPRING.—Sulphur Tablets, 1d. oz.; Camphor, 1d. square; Quassia Chips, 1d. per packet.—At WILLOWDENE, LABURNUM ROAD.



## Children's Corner.

My mother says that I should strive to love each creature that's alive,  
And that the little girls and boys who do not wash and have no toys.  
Are every bit as good as we, though they are brought up differently.

She says I should be kind and sweet to every single soul I meet,  
And make them happy if I can ; yet when I stopped the organ man,  
And asked him in to games and tea, Manuna was most annoyed with me.

A teacher was reading to her class and came across the word "unaware." She asked if anyone knew its meaning. One small girl timidly raised her hand, and gave the following definition :

"Unaware is what you take off the last thing before you put your nightie on."

"What do you mean by bringing sweets, Johnny, when I sent you to buy a picture book?"

"Well, Mamma, it said in the newspaper 'Every picture tells a story,' so I thought I ought not to have anything to do with them."

### GUARD THY LIPS WELL.

We say an unkind thing, and another is hindered in learning the holy lesson of charity, that thinketh no evil. We say a provoking thing, and our sister or brother is hindered in that day's effort to be meek. How sadly, too, we may hinder without word or act! For wrong feeling is more infectious than wrong doing; especially the various phases of ill-temper: gloominess, touchiness, discontent, irritability—do we not know how catching these are?—*F. R. Havergal.*

## THE FILBERT AND THE ACORN.

It was Saturday afternoon, and a schoolboy who had just come in from his half-holiday had emptied his pockets on the table. There were a knife, a ball of string, some marbles, a peg-top, an apple, some toffee, a lot of buttons, and ever so many other things, amongst which were a filbert and an acorn.

The schoolboy went upstairs two steps at a time to brush his hair and wash his hands for tea. Meanwhile the filbert began to sneer at the poor acorn.

"How dare you lie near me, you coarse, common thing!" said she. "Look at my rustling brown silk dress and at your brown serge; and then your frightful cup, like a hideous 'Tam o' Shanter' turned bottom upwards. You are only fit to feed pigs. But as for me, the ladies and gentlemen eat me with their wine at dessert."

"Well," said the acorn, meekly, "what does it matter how we die so long as we have been of some use? And if I am only fit to feed pigs, yet there are many people who like roast pork."

"Don't answer me, you impudent thing!" retorted the filbert, angrily. "I won't be answered. If I had any hands and you had ears, I would box them."

So the acorn, who loved peace, held his tongue.

At this moment the boy came back into the room, with a nice clean face and hands, and quite ready for his tea.

"Hulloa!" said he. "I quite forgot this filbert." Then he cracked it with his teeth and ate it. "As to acorns," he continued, "they are no good to eat; they are too bitter, though it is fine fun to gather them." Then he flung the acorn out of the window. But the acorn fell upon soft ground, and it grew and grew until, after 100 years, it was a splendid oak tree. Then it was cut down, and became part of a stately ship.

When we are tempted to boast of our fine ways and fine company, we should do well to remember that our humble neighbours are often of much more real use to the world than ourselves.

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