

Family Circle.

CHRISTMAS-EVE.

The following verses, by a true woman, simple, touching, and teeming with mother-love, come to us from Monroe, Michigan. 'Tis Christmas-eve the tireless clock is tolling the hours away. And my household all are sleeping, dreaming of Christmas-day.

early. We can't build a house. We must slip it up.' We can't build a bridge that will last ages; we must 'throw one over the stream,' and in a few years see it perish. We don't want to have boys and girls. They must leap from infancy into manhood. We must stimulate the brain, and develop the man in him.

How many little stockings, that on last Christmas-day were filled by darning little ones, have since been put away! How many smiling faces, that to our nursery door came wishing 'Merry Christmas,' will come again no more!

How many pleasant visions, and oh, what sad ones too. With each succeeding Christmas-eve, come vividly to me again my childhood's home, and every loved one's face!

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Miscellaneous.

JAPAN.

Our readers will not be displeased with one or two additional extracts from the fine article in the last London Quarterly, on this remarkable and interesting country.

THE DAIMIOS OF JAPAN.

The regal Government, as it is now constituted, is hopelessly effete, and seems to be used chiefly as a political instrument by the ambitious Daimios and the priesthood. Of all the anomalies which are found in this extraordinary country, one of the greatest consists in the social restrictions which have been long acquiesced in by the nobles, although they have constituted, in effect, the ruling power of the state.

CIVILIZATION IN JAPAN.

No Asiatic nation has attained so high a degree of material civilization as the Japanese. It is as noble as that of any other people, and quite recently has been indebted to Europe for the progress which they have made. Their swords and cutlery are of finer temper than any which Birmingham or Sheffield produce, their silk manufactures are admirable, their landscape gardening is distinguished for its taste, and they are no mean proficient in the arts of design.

In family government it is very important that the father and mother sustain each other. The child will early learn which parent yields soonest to importunity, and he will therefore be refused by the sternest one, never rest till he has tried the weaker. I shall not say which of the parents is oftener the soonest to yield. But when the child makes a request which you see fit to deny him, and he says, 'well, I'll go and ask father.' I know he will go. The father is making a great mistake. The mother shut up, worn and troubled, wearied and discouraged by the constant supervision of her children, needs all the aid and support which the authority of a father can give her.

PRESERVING SWEET POTATOES.

The following mode of preserving sweet potatoes is given in the last report of the Agricultural Department at Washington, by J. C. Thompson, of Tompkinsville, Staten Island: 'For winter use, after the first frost select a dry, clear day. Cut the vines with a scythe, leaving the stem to which the potatoes are attached three or four inches long, to lift them by. The vines are readily eaten by cattle. Use a fork for raising the potato; lift them by the stem, and lay them on the ridge to dry. In a few hours they will be ready to pack. Prepare plenty of dry cut straw (old straw is preferable), and take straw and barrels or boxes to the field.

SUGAR AN ANTIDOTE FOR WORMS.—M. Debon says that sugar is an excellent diet for worms. He once accidentally put sugar instead of salt on a leech which he wished to detach from the skin, and was surprised at the spasms produced by it. He therefore tried sugar on earth worms, and found it had a similar powerful effect; and he since used it in solution, with success, as an injection in children.—British Medical Journal.

TO IMPART a fine flavor to ordinary tea, place rose leaves in the tea-canister, or add one drop of the otto of roses on a piece of soft paper to every pound of tea; and keep the canister closely covered.

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