

The Household

THE NEW YEAR'S TABLE is generally a matter of doubt, and often one of real disappointment to hospitable housekeepers. So much is often prepared to delight the eyes of expected guests, and tickle their palates, that it is discouraging to have them merely glance in the direction of the edibles, and declare that "they really cannot touch anything,—so many calls to make," etc., etc.

Perhaps to the young, dressed in their best, and thinking only of charming each other, there is something very prosaic in eating and drinking with anything like deliberation. A motto to read, a philippic to eat, or a light confection over which a compliment may be paid, is more successful than a plate filled with substantial. Still there is a generous feeling, and a touch of romance, in the thoughts of "breaking bread" with old friends on the first day of a New Year, and the custom of having a "Table" of some kind will continue while "Calls" are made.

Taste now controls the whole subject. We may set a complete Party Table, keep urns of coffee, tea, and chocolate, and have oysters served warm from the kitchen, or we may offer our friends a slice of cake, a cup of coffee, or a glass of lemonade.

Of course, the hostess waits upon her guests, therefore everything needed should be at hand, and if warm dishes are served, a servant is indispensable. Far-seeing young ladies set a pretty table, of flowers, fruits, and confections in abundance, but nothing more substantial than solid sandwiches, and pickled oysters. These are easily served, and the dresses are not endangered. Fancy mottoes, bonbons, and trifles of any kind, make talk, suggest ideas, and fill up awkward pauses. Baskets of fresh-cut flowers, or drooping ferns, also please the senses, and add to the illusion of a pleasant call.

Friends from a distance should also be considered; and a cold roast turkey, a ham, and a round of spiced beef, would not be out of place on the sideboard. We have heard of a lady who delighted her guests with the novelty of an English plum pudding. A saddle of venison, and a game pie, have also added charms to a New Year's Day, as good dishes generally find appreciation.

But, moderation in all things, is a rule very applicable to a New Year's Day, and the women of the present generation should use their influence to enforce it; therefore, if a gentleman declines any refreshment do not press him, it is absurd to expect a man to touch food at every house where he may wish to call. The attraction for him is the sight of a fair face: the Table is a secondary affair, and is fast becoming the mere type of a generous hospitality. So make the table as ornamental as possible; many will content themselves with a look at its attractions.

Ducks are sometimes roasted without stuffing. When stuffing is used, white potatoes, well boiled, mashed, and highly seasoned, make a rich stuffing. Wild ducks are never stuffed. Wild ducks should be a little underdone. Always stew the giblets; mince them, and add to the gravy, which thicken with a little flour.

SPICED BEEF.—Make a brine with half a pound of salt, the same of sugar, half an ounce of saltpetre, a table-spoonful of allspice, whole grains; measure and bruise them; half as many cloves, a table-spoonful of black pepper ground coarse; half a tea-spoonful of ground red pepper. Boil these in three tumblers of water. Take a piece of the round weighing eight pounds, pour this spiced water over it; turn it once or twice a day for ten days. Then salt it sufficiently, and put it in a deep earthen dish to bake. Pour the brine over it, lay pieces of suet thick over the meat, and cover with a dough of coarse flour and water. Bake slowly, and let the meat become cold in the pan. This keeps well.

STUFFING FOR ROAST FOWL.—Crumb stale bread, season with thyme, pepper, salt, and chopped parsley (or onion). Mix with a table-spoonful of butter, a tea-cup of milk, and an egg; for richer stuffing, use eggs, and no milk. Never cram the stuffing in too close; room for swelling should be left, and put the stuffing in an hour before the fowl is set to bake.

A GOOD SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

We have on more than one occasion alluded to the Episcopal Academy for boys, established in the beautiful village of Cheshire, Conn., in terms of high approval, and a longer acquaintance with the merits of this institution has so deepened our convictions of its character and usefulness, as to render whatever we can say in its behalf a duty we owe to parents who are desirous of finding a home, as well as a disciplinary school, for their sons.

The Academy, as is well-known, is established on a military basis, and its training is systematic and thorough. The boys are turned out gentlemen, with a code of honor as well as morals, a distinction which all schools do not understand. At the same time, the discipline is not so strict but that they have their moments of relaxation, and, out of study hours, and in the domestic circle, the atmosphere of a home. The location is exceptionally charming, and perfectly healthy, the village a rural gem set in the hills, out of the reach of contaminating influences, and free from the plague-spots found in cities and towns.

The utmost care and guardianship, without unnecessary or fussy control, is exercised over the boys, and their material wants are well attended to. Parents who have their boys here for several years in succession, are exceedingly well-satisfied with the result.

A SPLENDID CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR'S GIFT.—The pair of elegant companion Chromos, Niagara and Yosemite, richly worth \$10, given as a premium for a \$3 yearly subscription to the model Magazine, DEMOREST'S MONTHLY.

THE ART OF WOOD-ENGRAVING.

MISS SARAH E. FULLER, for many years a practical exponent of the art of wood engraving, and now a teacher at 28 Bond Street, has written an excellent manual for the use of students, which we commend highly to all those who wish to make wood-engraving a profession, or become acquainted with its technical requirements. The little work is profusely illustrated by Miss Fuller's own hand, and furnishes specimens of every detail of the art.

MISS VIENNA DEMOREST'S NEW BIRD SONG.

AMONG the attractive contents of the present number, our lady readers will find a new and pretty bird song, by Miss Vienna Demorest, who occupies part of her leisure in arranging melodies, for which she seems to have a special predilection. The present composition has been distinguished by the approbation of Madame Lucca, to whom it is dedicated.

FOR ONLY \$3.—If you wish a splendid present for a friend, do not fail to secure the magnificent prize offered in the pair of elegant Chromos, Niagara Falls and Yosemite, together with a year's subscription to DEMOREST'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

"MAOML"

We commend the charming story with the above title, by the author of "Beck at the Farm," and now appearing, in serial form, in this MAGAZINE, to the admirers of "Beck."

THE best and most welcome present to a friend, and one that will bloom with sweetness and vigor during the whole season, will be a year's subscription to the model Magazine, DEMOREST'S MONTHLY, with a pair of elegant Chromos worth \$10, and all for only \$3.

"THE HOUSEHOLD."

We request contributions and suggestions for the Household from good housekeepers throughout the country.

A SPLENDID ORNAMENTATION. To those of our yearly subscribers who select the beautiful Chromos, Niagara Falls and Yosemite Falls, as their premium, and wish to have the Chromos bound in with the MAGAZINE at the end of the year, we will send them on a roller, unmounted, for this purpose, in which case they will be sent post free. Either of the other Chromos can be used in the same way, provided they are sent unmounted.

LONG AFTERNOONS.

WHEN you are tired of sewing, take up your pen, and write what you think, and what you feel, for the benefit of other women. We will publish it, if it is not too long, and to the point.

LOOK out for the splendid Novelties to be given in the February number of the MONTHLY. Among which will be a full display of the various illustrations and adaptations of the Standard trimmings for the ensuing season.

AMONG the many articles offered to the American ladies, as a substitute for the natural food of infants, none possesses greater nutritious qualities, or enjoys the confidence of a larger number of resident physicians, than Nestle's Lacteous Farina. Its claims, as a superior article of diet for the young, are so well established, that it must become indispensable to every household in the land. It is readily prepared, and as an article of diet for the sick and for invalids, it is unsurpassed. Messrs. H. Astie & Co., 15 South William St., are the agents in New York city.

ARRANGEMENTS for delivering the beautiful Chromos, Niagara Falls and Yosemite Falls, as premiums, are now complete, and will be ample to supply any ordinary demand. Do not fail to send early and secure a splendid New Year's gift. 335 Broadway, N. Y.

"LETTERS TO MY DAUGHTER."

Mrs. CROLY (Jeanie June) will commence a new series of articles, with the above title, in the February number of the MAGAZINE.

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN.

"YOUNG AMERICA" is now in the sixth year of its existence; it has grown, from small beginnings, into popularity with a wide constituency of boys and girls of intelligence and thought. It has tried to fulfil its original purpose of providing a periodical for the young, which should be interesting, but always true, and practically instructive and useful.

It has published no waltzing-bear, talking-duck, or green dragon and fairy stories, but it has given complete epitomes of real child life, by a writer who holds the key to the hearts of children. It has furnished a complete child's history of France; a primary series of French, and drawing-lessons; and facts and sketches in relation to almost every object which a child sees or hears of, in addition to much useful elementary science and philosophy, bearing on the relation of such objects to human life, and the laws by which they are governed.

To establish intimate relations with the boys and girls themselves, induce them to try to express what they feel and what they know, and stimulate them to the exertion of their own powers, departments have been created which for years were exclusive to YOUNG AMERICA, and are only now partially copied by some leading juvenile periodicals. Out of these departments, which include matters of interest to both sexes, and are gathered under the general heads of the "FARM AND WORKSHOP," "LITTLE HOUSEKEEPER," and "POST-OFFICE," has grown an earnest and flourishing Club—"OURS"—whose moral purpose, as set forth in its constitution, animates the youngest, as well as the oldest member, and will make its influence felt long after its members become men and women.

All that can be done to make YOUNG AMERICA the most interesting and useful juvenile Magazine in the United States will be done, but parents must help, also, by enlarging the subscription list to corresponding dimensions. Our costly premiums, the efforts put into every department, leaves no margin for profit, and the only chance for continued prosperity, therefore, lies in a subscription list which will somewhat reduce the aggregate cost.

We ask every parent, teacher, or guardian, to purchase YOUNG AMERICA for January, and judge if we do not more than fulfil our word. It is true that the January number is a "holiday" number, and therefore some may think not a fair representative, but though its toys may be somewhat more numerous, they are of the character furnished always, from time to time, while the contents are in no wise superior to an ordinary number.

Among the attractions of the January number are "Flags for the Christmas Tree," a puzzle portrait picture, a cut paper pattern for dolly's evening dress, in an envelope, magic transformation picture, and many other pretty things; besides the stories, puzzles, correspondence of "Ours," including the first letter from the president, and the regular departments.

A year's subscription to YOUNG AMERICA is the best possible investment for intelligent son or bright little daughter, for a Holiday or birth day present—try it.