# Country Home Department.

Conducted by Mrs. E. D. Nall, Sanford, N. C., to Whom all Matter for this Department Should be Sent.

#### ONLY ONE MOTHER.

You have only one mother, my boy, Whose heart you can gladden with joy. Or cause it to ache Till ready to break-So cherish that mother, my boy.

You have only one mother who will Stick to you through good and through ill, And love you although The world is your foe-So care for that love ever still.

You have only one mother to pray That in the good path you may stay; Who for you won't spare Self-sacrifice rare— So worship your mother alway.

You have only one mother to make A home ever sweet for your sake, Who tolls day and night For you with delight-To help her all pains ever take.

You have only one mother to miss When she has departed from this; So love and revere That mother while here-Sometime you won't know her dear kiss.

You have only one mother-just one. Remember that always, my son. None can or will do What she has for you, So cherish that mother, my son.

### AN ALPINE CUSTOM.

-Selected.

In some of the Alphine districts of Piedmont and Savoy, in which the entire population consists of shepherds dwelling in scattered habitations, a beautiful and reverent custom still prevails. As the shades of evening are closing in on the valley, and only the crests of the mountain ridges remain lighted by the last rays of the departing sun, the shepherd whose dwelling is situated highest on the mountain-side, takes his Alpine horn, and, using it as a speaking trumpet, cries to the valley below: "Praise God, the Lord!" Each of the neighboring shepherds take up the cry in turn as it reaches him, and thus for the space of about a quarter of an hour the quiet Alpine glen echoes from side to side with the solemn cry of "Praise the Lord," until the reiterated call dies away in the far distance.—American Messenger.

### MODESTY.

This is a quality of the mind that is especially commendable in girls and in children generally.

But in youth it is too often confounded with the term shame to be deserving of that approbation which it should always receive.

For instance, when a boy or a girl, through no impure thought whatever, does not like to push forward in the conventionalities of social life, but prefers to maintain a reserved disposition, it has always been said of him or of her that they were ashamed.

The interpretation is in no sense correct, because modesty is such a lofty attribute that it can have no semblance of shame.

Modesty has been defined as the possession of a decent reserve, the exhibition of a virtue that "quickens the soul."

The child that has learned the art of deference, or it is an art, has made a long step towards attaining to modesty. Deference to older people, to teachers and deference to the feelings of ones companions is commendable in youth and a virtue that is so easily acquired that we must call it lovable.

The forward, rushing, pushing, youth, may hit the mark success, but those quick shining lights who exercise a deferential reserve for the rights of others, are most cherished by the wise world.

on in the business of the world is not | ships that are good and those that are

ually reprehensible, is always a matter of doubtful delicacy.

Nor need we confine our thoughts on this subject to youth alone, but we love to see a modest man or woman equally as well; and we applaud the person who makes it his pleasure to respect the rights of others without vainglory, but with shrinking from before the public through modesty.

Brag, and bluster, are just the opposite qualities of the mind from modesty, and are not more greatly

Getting on in the world can be, and is, accomplished without ruthlessly pushing others to the wall and driving one's self through it.

### SCHOOL MOTTOES.

Good Education prints the following mottoes as good for the school room:

Try, Try Again. Every Little Helps. Will It Pay? Be Ye Kind. Think Deep Not Loud. Look Before You Leap. Not to Try is to Fail. There is a Right Way. Always Speak the Truth. Practice Makes Perfect. Well Begun is Half Done. Take Care of the Minutes. A Good Deed is Never Lost. Make Hay While the Sun Shines.

Lost Time is Never Found Again. See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil.

#### CHILDREN THINKING FOR THEM-SELVES.

The mother should keep in mind that in her anxiety to have her children think rightly she should not expect them merely to adopt her ideas, but should strive to train them to think for themselves, and for themselves arrive at whatever conclusions she may feel just. We cannot realize too deeply the responsibility of guiding young minds aright, and that the only lasting way to do this is to help them to think things out for themselves. Their safety lies in the development of sensible and just reasoning powers. Ideas and opinions that are adopted because enforced by parental authority but without finding any real lodgment in the mind of the child by its own approval, will be as easily dislodged after awhile by others when the conclusions are chal-

You are to do whatever is possible to build up the character of the child that it may be capable of standing alone, if need be, for whatever is good and true in mature life. That strength of character will depend upon its real convictions, and these are reached by thinking them out for itself, with whatever teaching and guidance may be advisable. Unless the child learns to think for itself, the man or woman is likely to be a puppet pulled about by other people's thinking after awhile. When the child's conclusion is evidently wrong, calmly give it all the light and gentle leading you can, to show wherein it is wrong and what the right conclusion is.—Selected.

### GIRLS' FRIENDSHIP.

I am not writing to any one girl, but to girls in general, and I can standpoint only.

Undue and unseemly haste to get diviscions of this subject: Friend-

er girls and those between boys and girls.

First, I shall try to tell what I have noticed in connection with the friendships established between girls themselves. Now the girl is known by the friends she has. A good, wholesome girl would no more think of retaining a vicious or unprincipled girl for her friend than a chicken would a fox. But the trouble is, that the innocent girl is often unaware of the real character of the other until she has, as she thinks, committed herself, and does not know just how to cut loose without hurting her feelings, or laying herself open to the charge of setting herself up for a prude.

So we come to my first maxim, "Make Friends Slowly." Prevention in this case is better than cure; a girl's sense of kindliness often prevents her breaking off an attachment that has become distasteful.

Another very needful piece of advice is this: "Never forget that a friend to-day may be an enemy tomorrow." Consequently, be very careful before you trust another girl absolutely. Of course common honestly would prevent a former companion from repeating your sacred confidences, but what we call common virtues are often the most uncommon, and more heart burnings have been caused in this way than in any other that I know.

I don't say to our girls, "Don't trust one another," but I caution them not to put themselves in the power of other girls by yielding to the natural temptation to pour out their inner selves into sympathetic ears.

Remember, we are talking of friendship, and not every girl is capable of this rare relation. True friendship demands depths of character, intensity, it is a thing of the spirit, of the soul.

It cannot exist between frivolous girls; there can be no selfishness in it, there can be no jealousy in true friendship, for jealousy comes from distrust. Its object is to give, not to get, it is a holy thing, an eternal thing, it knows no limits in its aims.

A girl once told me complainingly that her friendship with another girl had been broken up by the introduction of a third into the relationship; this is one of the most common dangers of friendship; to find one other congenial personality is rare, but to look for three is to strive after that which is almost impossible.

Girls, do you not see how serious a thing this friendship is? It is truly one of the greatest blessings bestowed upon us as mortals, but, like every precious gift, it may be turned into a most harmful thing; and, as Emerson so forcibly tells us, every great and precious asset brings with it its own danger and demands its own price. So friendship has a price, it is costly, it means great sacrifice, lofty ambitions for the beloved one, often bitter disappointment, earnest prayer; it calls for almost unlimited faith, and all this can come forth from unbounded love.

Thus you see how rare a thing this is of which I am writing, not at all like the intimacy you have with other girls, is it? Well, that is just what I am trying to show you. Your association with your girl friend, or your chum, as boys express it, is quite a different thing from real friendship, isn't it? So now you understand why I gave you the caution to "Make Friends Slowly." And that other piece of advice is, "Don't Tell Too Much."

Girls are peculiar creatures anytreat my subject from a general way; they go so much on their emotions; they are so finely constructed Remember, there are four logical that a very little thing affects them; they are extremely sensitive, especially if they have had no brothers genuine ambition, and when not act- injurious, also friendships with oth- to rub up against. What wonder is

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