

**SECRETS OF HAPPY
HOME LIFE: WHAT HAVE
YOU TO DO WITH IT?**

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Secrets of Happy Home Life: What Have You to Do with It? by J. R. Miller

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J. R. MILLER

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What Have You to Do With It?

BY

J. R. MILLER, D.D.

AUTHOR OF "SILENT TIMES," "MAKING THE MOST OF LIFE,"
"THE EVERY DAY OF LIFE," "THE BUILDING OF
CHARACTER," "GLIMPSES THROUGH
LIFE'S WINDOWS," ETC.

"Each man's chimney is his golden milestone,
Is the central point, from which he measures
Every distance
Through the gateways of the world around him."

Longfellow.

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ONE summer afternoon during our Civil War, some Southern generals were sitting under a tree, when suddenly a shell from a Northern battery crashed over their heads. The officers hastened to seek a safer place. But one of the party lingered; and the others, glancing around, saw him stooping to the ground, as if he had found something of great value. The crashing of the shell through the branches had torn a bird's nest from its place, and hurled it to the ground. And the general of armies was gathering up this nest, with its sacred burden of young bird-life, to replace it among the branches.

This book may come into the hands of some whose home happiness has been shattered,—its torn fragments lying now on the ground. It would be a comfort to the author if these simple words should put fresh hope into a discouraged heart, and thus be the hand to help restore the home to its true place, amid the branches of the tree of love.

J. R. M.

PHILADELPHIA.

"Into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house."

JESUS CHRIST.

*"A truce to the jarring notes of life,
The cries of pain and passion.
Over this tull in the eager strife,
Love hovers, Eden fashion.
In the rose brown house were lessons taught
Of strong and sturdy living,
And ever where honest hands have wrought,
God hears the true Thanksgiving."*

MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

SECRETS OF HAPPY HOME LIFE.

HOME is among the holiest of words. A true home is one of the most sacred of places. It is a sanctuary into which men flee from the world's perils and alarms. It is a resting-place whither at close of day the weary retire to gather new strength for the battle and toils of to-morrow. It is the place where love learns its lessons, where life is schooled into discipline and strength, where character is moulded. Out of the homes of a community comes the life of the community, as a river from the thousand springs that gush out on the hillsides.

We are all concerned in the making of some one home — our own home. One instrument out of tune in an orchestra mars the music which breaks upon the ears of the listeners. One discordant life in a household mars the perfectness of the music of love in the family. We should make sure that our life is not the one that is

out of tune. We do not need to worry about the other lives; if each looks to his own that will do.

When our Lord sent his disciples out to preach, one of his instructions was: "Into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house." Peace is a good word. It is more than a salutation; falling from the Master's lips it is a divine benediction as well. Peace, too, is a fruit of grace which includes all that is sweetest and most divine in Christian culture. It is especially suggestive of the harmony of love which is the perfection of beautiful living. Christ's peace is a blessing which comes out of struggle and discipline. Well, therefore, does the salutation "Peace!" befit a Christian home, which ought to be the abode of peace.

What are some of the secrets of happy home-making? The answer might be given in one word — Christ. Christ at the marriage-altar; Christ on the bridal journey; Christ when the new home is set up; Christ when the baby is born; Christ when the baby dies; Christ in the pinching times; Christ in the days of plenty; Christ in the nursery, in the kitchen, in the parlor; Christ in the toil and in the rest; Christ along all the years; Christ when the wedded pair walk toward the sunset gates; Christ in the sad hour when farewells are