

## OUR DESSERT TABLE.

APPROPRIATE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS DEPARTMENT SOLICITED.

## DINNA ANSWER NAY.

Dinna think and look afar  
 For chance o' doing good,  
 For ye have duties where ye are,  
 If they are understood.  
 There is nae lack o' good to do  
 All along the way;  
 And our days at best are few,  
 So dinna answer nay.

The daily task wi' patience done,  
 Wi' kindly voice and smile,  
 Is seen by God the Holy One,  
 And noted down the while.  
 It leaves its footprints plain to see,  
 All along the way;  
 Though homely duties call for ye,  
 Oh dinna answer nay!

Ye need nae seek for happiness  
 Wi' only self to please,  
 For they receive small blessedness  
 Who live for selfish ease.  
 Ye find the sorrowing and distressed  
 All along the way;  
 And if ye would be ever blessed,  
 Oh dinna answer nay!

The good example ye may set,  
 Where'er your lot is cast,  
 May be a blessing to ye yet.  
 A crown o' joy at last.

So if ye wish for good to do,  
 'Tis all along the way;  
 And our days at best are few,  
 So dinna answer nay.

The little deeds in kindness done,  
 Where there is chance or time,  
 May be to some poor sorrowing one  
 A blessing most divine.  
 And though no voice o' thanks are heard  
 For aught ye do or say,  
 Our Father sees each deed and word,  
 So dinna answer nay.

Save not the kindly word and smile  
 To carry off abroad,  
 If home is destitute the while  
 Ye have nae thanks o' God.  
 It matters not what praise is won  
 In some fair, chosen way,  
 If life's stern duties are undone  
 Ye have more need to pray.

Anna Lindon.

## SAY IT SHORT.

If you'd strengthen the weak, or curb the too strong;  
 Or bold, brave words speak, to right any wrong;  
 If you've advice or entreaty, rebuke or retort,  
 Or counsel to give, say it short, say it short,  
 If you'd soothe, if you'd cheer, or charm, or inspire,  
 Or wake some dull soul with fervor and fire;  
 If you've wise word, or kind word, or far sounding thought  
 To echo forever, say it short, say it short.

Lydia M. Millard.

## ANTICIPATION.

When failing health, or cross event,  
 Or dull monotony of days,  
 Has brought me into discontent  
 That darkens round me like a haze,  
 I find it wholesome to recall  
 Those chiefest goods my life has known,  
 Those whitest days, that brightened all  
 The checkered seasons that are flown.

No year has past but gave me some:  
 Oh! unborn years, nor one of you—  
 So from the past I learn—shall come  
 Without such precious tribute due.  
 I can be patient, since amid  
 The days that seem so overcast,  
 Such future golden hours are hid  
 As those I see amid the past.

Chambers's Journal.

## MATED.

As the bird that sings, unknowing  
 Half the ecstasy it gives,  
 As the rose, that only blowing,  
 In a world of beauty lives;  
 So we two were each created  
 For the other's sweet content,  
 By the stars of heaven mated  
 Ere our souls to earth were sent.

Elizabeth Oakes Smith

## HOPE.

The wretch condemned with life to part,  
 Still, still on hope relies;  
 And every pang that rends the heart  
 Bids expectation rise.

Hope; like the glimmering taper's light,  
 Adorns and cheers the way;  
 And still, as darker grows the night,  
 Exits a brighter ray.