



Die Großmama
und
Mutter lieb und gut.

„Daß Mehrere ein Ganzes
sind,
Dieß ahnet wohl schon früh
ein Kind ;
D'rum lehrt die Mutter auch
mit Fleiß
Es kennen den Familien-
Kreis.“

XIX.

THE FAMILY.

WHEN baby's eyes first open to the light,
The same dear household faces meet his sight,
Which, as months change to years, he learns to love.
Oh, teach him that the dear ones of his home,
Both now and in the years which are to come,
Beneath one roof, or wheresoe'er they rove,
Are *one dear family!*—more closely bound
By love than if by iron girded round.

If there is one thing which more than any other demands to be rightly apprehended and reverently cherished it is the life of the family. Family life! Family life! Who shall fathom thy depths? Who shall declare thy meaning? How shall I compress into the few words I may permit myself any idea of thy sacred import?

Thou art the sanctuary of humanity; thou art the temple wherein the flame of divinity is kept alive and burning. Let me be frank and outspoken. Thou art more than school and Church! Thou art greater than all the institutions which necessity has called into being for the protection of life and property! Without the conscience to which thou givest birth, without the reflection which thou dost foster, the school is but a sterile egg—an egg which con-

tains indeed nourishing material but lacks the germ of life. Without thee, what are altar and temple? Thou must anoint thy members with the oil of consecration. Then shall they seek with heart and mind, with love and thought, the altar of the one true God, learn with reverence to understand his revelation, and with strenuous will obey his law. And once more, O family! thou art the security of all institutions, offensive and defensive, whose object is to maintain law and justice. For he who is reared in a family unhallowed by the presence of justice and of law tends to become a scoffer of the one and a rebel against the other.

Therefore, mother, strive to awaken in the soul of your child, even in infancy, some premonition of the nature of a living whole, and particularly some glimpse into the meaning of the family whole. So doing you will lay the foundations for true and vigorous and harmonious life. For where wholeness is there is life, or at least the germ of life; where division is, even if it be only halfness, there is death, or at least the germ of death.

In picturing the family, the relationships of grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, and child should be thrown into clear relief. In the relationship of his parents to his grandparents the child beholds, as in a mirror, his own relationship to father and mother. As he stands to his father and mother, so they stand to his grandfather and grandmother. Conversely, parents behold a reflection of their relationship to their

child in the relationship of his grandparents to themselves. To apprehend the manifold aspects of this double relationship is undoubtedly of the highest importance for the inner life and development of the child. Doubtless our artist felt its significance, for he shows us repeatedly in his picture a living whole of five members, giving us hints of it even in the forms of flowers. In connection with these flowers there seems to have hovered before his mind a fancy which it may be worth while to mention. Not only all kernel and stone fruits, but all plants belonging to the family group they represent, accentuate the number five in their blossoms. Has the pleasant flavour of these fruits anything to do with this pervading law?