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## Editorial.

### MY AIN FIRESIDE.

WITH the coming of Christmas there is a universal rush of work, a general bustle. Weekly papers must come out days before the usual time, the railway traffic is stupendous and well nigh dislocated, and all in order that sons and daughters whose work has taken them far afield may be gathered together under the old roof-tree for Christmas, for, from the highest to the lowest in the land, the one prevailing desire, to spend Christmas in the good old fashioned way, is the strongest feeling of the moment. At Sandringham, the festival is duly honoured, the centre of the home life being the gracious lady whose domestic affections are a moving power in her life, and in almost every house in the land the same observance, the same preparation, the same warm welcome are to be found in their degree. The love of home is indeed, the basis of the well being of the British Empire. It is observable not in Great Britain alone, but in her colonies, and our recent visit to the western hemisphere has shown us that in the United States, also, this

instinctive feeling is deep rooted, and that women are striving, as they probably never strove before, to make their homes not only comfortable and cheery, but beautiful and attractive. We can therefore afford to dismiss the sinister suggestion made by a contemporary—a woman's paper with a male editor, that "no one, man or woman, wants to have a home now-a-days. People who could have every domestic comfort, if they chose, prefer to flit from one hotel to another. The custom of dining, lunching, even of having tea in restaurants is on the increase. If the women shirk domesticity so do the men. We are rapidly developing into a homeless nation."

With the object lesson of Christmas before our eyes such a suggestion is peculiarly ill-timed. And once and for all we British women repudiate it, and decline to be judged or estimated by the standard—or lack of standard—of the small, frivolous, irresponsible, and often licentious minority who represent the class described in the foregoing paragraph. Every woman who is worth anything, and every man for that matter, appreciates the worth of the home life and knows it to be the secret of England's greatness, knows moreover

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