

Our Home Circle

LIFE.

"But a week is so long!" he said, With a toss of his curly head...

"But a month is so long!" he said, With a droop of his boyish head...

"But a year is so long!" he said, Uplifting his bright young head...

"Ten years may be long!" he said, Slowly raising his stately head...

"Ah! life is not long!" he said, Bowing his grand white head...

PRAY OVER IT.

"I have just wasted this day," said one Sabbath school teacher to a friend...

"I have always a good rule which I find it safe to follow in any perplexity..."

"I pray over it."

"The cheek of the other flushed, and she hardly knew what to reply."

"You would not pray over a dress would you?" she asked at length...

"I think it is getting to be a matter of most serious moment with Christian women. Indeed, there is scarcely anything we need to pray over more fervently, if we would ever wear the white robe in the Father's mansion..."

"What would you think of me; I say, if I went on in that way? not perhaps even reflecting upon the meaning of the words I used, but intent only to keep up all while the mechanical gabble..."

"But I must make the dress some fashion."

"Certainly; but I think our duty is to choose a fashion that is most modest and simple."

A HELPING HAND.

In a town on the Monongahela, among some hundreds of pledge-signers, was a man grossly intemperate and profane...

Just then a lawyer of the place, who was also a signer of the pledge, came along. The poor tempted man grasped him by the hand and told him that if he had not come along he would have broken his pledge...

But what eternal horror shall hang about the doom of those who are "not far from the kingdom of God," but whose good desires, and resolutions, and determinations shall only end in the disappointment of perdition at last!

VAIN REPETITIONS.

My Spanish tutor was an old man. It was said that he was of noble birth, and had been rich and distinguished in his country, but had fallen into political difficulty and disgrace, and had been obliged to leave his native country and seek an asylum in ours...

Of course I took him to be a Romanist, like most of his nation—probably a bigoted one, and resolved to leave that question entirely untouched, although it pervades almost every page of Spanish literature...

One day I was translating a passage from a Spanish author, in which very pointed reference was made to the common forms of the Romish worship, attaching great efficacy to the devout repetitions of certain phrases and formulas of prayer...

"Ma'nseñor," almost fiercely, starting up from his chair, "I thought he was moved to scold me for a badly prepared lesson, and was quite frightened by his tone and manner..."

"Miss," he repeated after a moment's pause, "suppose I wanted a favor of you, a small favor—say a dollar, which I thought I could obtain for the asking. And suppose I should come and say to you, 'Give me a dollar, give me a dollar, give me a dollar, give me a dollar, give me a dollar,' and he repeated it as many as twenty times before I had recovered from my surprise enough to comprehend his meaning...

"What would you think of me; I say, if I went on in that way? not perhaps even reflecting upon the meaning of the words I used, but intent only to keep up all while the mechanical gabble, 'Give me a dollar, give me a dollar, give me a dollar, give me a dollar, give me a dollar, believing I should get it in consequence of these senseless repetitions..."

And with these words he made me his stately bow and took his leave.—Golden Rule.

ALMOST, BUT LOST!

"Many years ago," says Dr. William M. Taylor, "while we were ministering to a church in Liverpool, it was our melancholy duty to go to the widow of the first officer of the Royal Charter, and tell her that her husband was drowned. The vessel had gone round the world in safety..."

"Almost can not avail. Almost is but to fail. Sad, sad that bitter wail. Almost, but lost!"

THE GRAVE OF JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

I must tell you of our visit to the Protestant cemetery, to see the grave of John Howard Payne, the immortal author of "Home, Sweet Home." This man, who never knew the joys of a real home, died alone and unhappy in this far-off land...

In a small enclosure, planted with cypress trees, and shut in with high walls, we found this quiet resting-place of the dead, among many tombs of foreign consuls, English, German, and other nationalities...

"JOHN HOWARD PAYNE. Twice Consul of the United States. Died April 1st, 1822. Born at Boston, June 8, 1792."

WOMEN TO THE FRONT.

To-day, the most hopeful feature of American society is this coming to the front of the finest American womanhood in every grade of the American school. The presence of the noble army of schoolmistresses (and a nobler body of women was never seen on earth) in the schoolrooms of the West, more and more taking the most responsible places of instruction and supervision, almost monopolizing the Sunday-school and the religious work of the church, is God's bow of promise bending above that wild waste of savage conflict...

MRS. STOWE'S PROFITS.

An exchange commenting on authorship and its reward, mentions \$10,000 received by Harriet Beecher Stowe as the author's compensation on the sale of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.' We can state the incorrectness of this figure, upon the authority of the publisher, Mr. Jewett, himself. That gentleman once gave the writer an interesting account of how he came to publish 'Uncle Tom,' what royalty he paid and its amount, and how Mrs. Stowe came to leave his house when 'Dred' was published...

Cookery Book. Mr. Jewett explained that it would then be necessary for her to bear part of the cost, and he suggested further that Mr. and Mrs. Stowe should take competent advice as to the fairest plan for Mrs. Stowe, and he named some prominent persons in Boston who could advise properly...

LIFE IN THE POLAR REGIONS.

It is impossible to form an idea of a tempest in the polar sea. The icebergs are like floating rocks whirled along a rapid current. The crystal mountains dash against each other, backward and forward, bursting with a roar like thunder, and returning to the charge until losing their equilibrium...

MUSIC-MAD MISSES.

"I'm sure I don't know how it is, but in these years everybody seems to be crazy on music, whether they have any in their souls or not. Regularly you will meet young ladies you know on the street with a music roll in their hands, and they are going to Kelleher, or to Fabbr, or to Melville or to Mancusi, or to Bianchi, to ah, ah, ah, oh, oh, oh, through a lesson of an hour, and that furnishes work to practice on for the rest of the week, and so they keep month in and month out, having all the little sweetness there is in their voices spoiled by their half attempt at something grand."

Our Young Folks.

BABY THANKFUL.

Roaming in the meadow, Little four-year-old Picks the starry daisies, With their hearts of gold...

HARRY'S VICTORY.

"Oh dear, I wish I had n't touched it. I do wish I had left it on the top shelf of the cupboard where it was! What will Aunt Martha say?" "You needn't tell her, and she'll never suspect once it was you who broke it."

ABRAHAM AND MELCHISEDEK. TIME—B. C. 1918. LAST LESSON. PLACE—Abraham 1 miles north of Jerusalem which Lot was captiv...

And they took Lot, with him went the companions of fools at Prov. 13: 20. How whilst they have looked themselves? When we of our duty, we put on God's protection, and choices made by our to our comfort. Part made of their taking goods which had occurred with Abraham, and his...

"The king... great on kings of the different congratulate them, and the deliverers of their ham had been one of whom he defeated, he-w up his victory, and mad the country. But the he was governed as a venter him from doing Melchisedek; i. e. ness. There is some mysterious in the first chizedek and in the au to him. Bearing a after ages would recog their own sovereign, to recall to Christians this Canaanite crosses path of Abraham, and recognized as a person rank than the friend, y king as suddenly as hit to the sacred writing and then a few embi other moment being the type of the coming le- note, after another I, knew Christians are to a proof that it was the of God to abolish the. His person, his off Christ, and the seat have given rise to i- sions, which even n- considered as settled. view of the true chara- is that given by Jos- was a Canaanite per- gious man, a person up by God, whose ge- designedly veiled in might be in this as in of Christ. He is men the Scriptures only in and in the Epistle to 5, 6, 7; where the age- the pre-manner of over what remarkab- subsistence between wh- Melchisedek, and wh- firm of Christ. At- the sacred rep- or, not by publi- date divine apparit- his office from be- before us in the sup- alone, constituting a priesthood. In the- nently" made like t- was also a priest, not the sons of Aaron, by predecessors, but at Melchisedek, that is, divine constitution. A...