

ments, we find they rest on the same basis; their corner-stone is home. To the question, then, how can social enjoyment be promoted? The answer is—make your homes happy.

Let us suggest, then, some things which may tend to promote the happiness of home.

1. Each in the home circle must have a benevolent spirit, or have a disposition to make the rest happy. If one be heedless of the wishes of the others, but tenacious of his own gratification, he acts on a selfish principle, which can sander all human ties. A benevolent spirit will lead to frequent self-denial for others' good, and it is the corner stone on which the happiness of home must rest.

2. Avoid the positive causes which tend to mar the peace of home. Everything which will be likely to displease, if unnecessary, should be avoided. The happiness of a day may be destroyed by a single word or action, and its repetition may keep a family in constant turmoil. Small things may embitter life. He who would knowingly give unnecessary pain is wanting in humane feelings.

3. Each must have a forbearing spirit.

No one, that knows himself, imagines that he is perfect, even as a social being. He needs the forbearance of others, and he must be willing to extend it to them. To ask perfection in others, when one has only imperfections to give in return, is not a fair exchange. There will often be difference of opinion, but there need be no alienation of feeling. Let the judgment lean to the side of charity, and what charity cannot cover, let forbearance excuse.

4. Be ready to ask forgiveness.

Many are too little to do this. But nothing can so stamp one's character with the seal of true greatness, as a free, open, penitent acknowledgement of a wrong, whenever it has been done. And when such spirits are together, harmony cannot long be broken, though the house be small.

5. Cultivate an open, communicative spirit.

An open expression of thought and feeling leads to a wider comparison of views, to more intelligent judgments, and to a knowledge of one another, which removes distrust, and forms the only true basis of mutual confidence and sympathy. Minds cannot flow into one another unless they know each other—unless they are open and communicative. Most subjects may be familiarly conversed upon. At least, a spirit of reserve should be avoided. If characteristic of a family in their relations to each other, it stops the spontaneous outflowing of feeling and thought; it deadens sympathy, chills affection, and thus breaks the sweetest charm of home.

6. Another requisite is the faithful performance of relative duties.

Every social relation involves corresponding social duties. Husband and wife, parent and child, brother and sister, owe to each other respectively the duties of these relations. It is a fundamental law, in all the relationships of society, that they involve reciprocal duties which balance one another. And if a person sustain a relation and neglect its duties, he violates the very principle of harmony in the social system. He disowns his own nature. He is worse than an infidel.

7. Cultivate a relish for useful knowledge.

Some of the family, at least, have leisure. Let them so use it as to increase the common stock of knowledge. If a family dwell only on the routine of daily affairs, or on events of mere local importance, their minds will want vigour and scope. The hour of leisure will drag heavily. Life will pass in a dull monotony. Home will be wanting in attractiveness. But enlarge and elevate the thoughts of home circle, and it will give vigor to the intellect and freshness to the feelings; it will awaken the spirit of inquiry, prompt, to diligent reading and study, and pour into the