

THE QUIET HOUR.

Ejaculatory Prayer.

BY E. M. GOULBURN, D. D.

"Ejaculatory prayer is prayer darted up from the heart to God, not at stated intervals, but in the course of our daily occupations and amusements. The word 'ejaculatory' is derived from the Latin word for a dart or arrow, and there is an idea in it which one would be loath indeed to forfeit. Imagine an English archer, strolling through a forest in the old times of Crecy and Agincourt. A bird rises in the brushwood under his feet, he takes an arrow from his quiver, draws his bow to its full stretch, and sends the shaft after the bird with the speed of lightning. Scarcely an instant elapses before the prey is at his feet. It has been struck with unerring aim in the critical part, and drops on the instant. Very similar in the spiritual world is the force of ejaculatory prayer. The Christian catches suddenly a glimpse of some blessing, a longing after which is induced by the circumstances into which he is thrown. As the archer first draws the bow in towards himself, so the Christian retires by a momentary act of recollection into his own mind, and there realizes the presence of God. Then he launches one short, fervent petition into the ear of that awful presence, throwing his whole soul into the request. And, lo, it is done! The blessing descends, overtaken, pierced, fetched down from the vault of Heaven by the winged arrow of prayer. Do you require Scriptural proof that such immediate answers are occasionally vouchsafed, even as regards mere earthly blessings? Nehemiah, the cup bearer, stood with a sad countenance before Artaxerxes the king. The king seemed offended by his sadness, 'so he was very sore afraid,' having a large request to make, which might seem extravagant and presumptuous. The cup-bearer was in a great strait. What did he do? He entered into the closet of his heart, and shut his door, and prayed to his Father which was in secret. 'I prayed,' says he, 'to the God of Heaven.' Not many seconds can elapse between a question in conversation and the answer to it: it is hardly conceivable that he can have said more mentally than 'Lord, help me according to my need,' but then he said it with such an entire faith that God would help him, that it was as successful as if he had spent a whole night in prayer. He candidly explained his wishes, and down came the blessing immediately. The king illuminated Gondolas, electric and steam launches filled with happy parties—upon which glide past took the request very graciously, and the all-important crisis for Nehemiah and for the city of his fathers passed off well. One short act of the mind, one strong shaft of prayer, had won the restoration of the Holy City."

More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
For what are men better than sheep or goats,
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer,
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

"But ejaculatory prayer is to be used not simply in difficulties, and when our affairs are in a critical posture, but from time to time all along the course of the day. Look from without upon the Christian's life, and you will see divers occupations and employments, many of which, it may be, call for the exercise of his mind. But beneath the mind's surface there is an undercurrent, a golden thread of prayer, always there, though often latent, and frequently rising up to view, not only in stated acts of worship, but in holy ejaculations. Like the golden thread in a tissue it is woven into the texture of the Christian's mind, extending through the length and breadth of his life."

The every-day cares and duties which men call drudgery, are the weights and counterpoises of the clock of time, giving its pendulum a true vibration and its hands a regular motion; and when they cease to hang from the wheels, the pendulum no longer swings, the hands no longer move, the clock stands still. [Longfellow.]

UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES:—

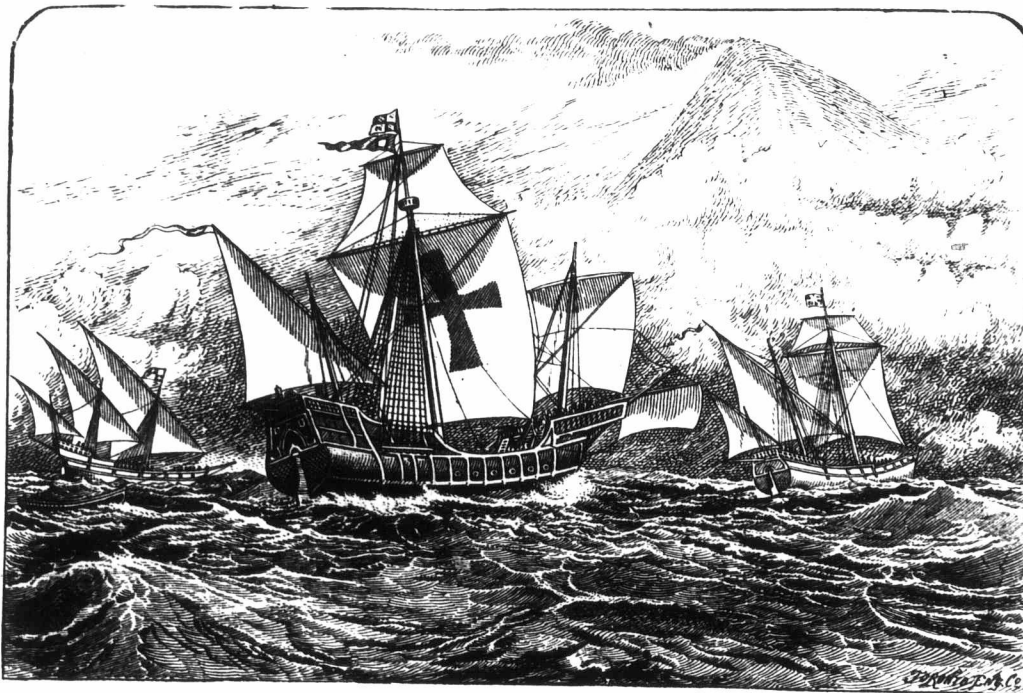
You have done well in sending in selections for the "Poets' Corner," and I hope you will continue to evince your interest in the competitions we may have from time to time. "Word Pictures" will be the subject for next month, with a view to bringing out the descriptive talent which I am sure many of my nephews and nieces possess. Choose what subject you will, a beautiful scene in your own neighborhood, or if you prefer it, the lovely character of some one near and dear to you—your choice is unlimited—you may even take an historical groundwork, but let the word painting be as clear and finished as possible, so that all who visit Uncle Tom's picture gallery may be pleased and profited.

The first prize will be \$1.50, the second \$1.00, and the third 50c. All communications to be in our office by the 8th of October.

UNCLE TOM.

The Three Ships of Columbus.

In this the year of the Columbian Exposition, everything in connection with the great discoverer receives an added interest in our eyes. Our illustration represents the three ships with which he set sail on his eventful voyage—that voyage which was destined to be one of the turning points in the history of the world. The Santa Maria, Pinta and Nina have been reproduced under the authority of the Spanish Government, and are now on exhibition in Chicago, no effort having been spared to make them the exact fac-similes of the vessels that left the port of Palos four hundred years ago. Curious documents were unearthed, libraries were searched, and everything concerning sea-life in the writings of early historians carefully studied. Calculations to determine the strength, sailing capacity, height



THE THREE SHIPS OF COLUMBUS.

of the masts, details of rigging and extent of sail of the Santa Maria, were made by Senor Bona, head of the naval construction department of Spain, and the vessel was completed in July, 1892. There are three masts, fitted with strange rigging, and a considerable area of canvas. The armament consists of two cannon and six falconets, while the furniture of the cabins is like that of the ancient ship, which was fully described by Columbus. On August 3rd, 1892, the Santa Maria took part in the great Spanish naval review at Palos, commemorative of the sailing of Columbus. She left Cadiz to follow Columbus' old tracks to the West Indies. February 11th, in tow of a Spanish gunboat, and together with the Pinta and Nina, formed one of the most interesting features of the New York naval display, which preceded the formal opening of the World's Fair.

Inference.

A Savannah drummer says a drummer who has a great many dealings with the Marcon lawyers went out recently to Rosehill Cemetery and amused himself reading the inscriptions on the tombstones. He finally came across one that read, "Here lies a lawyer and an honest man." Turning to his friend, he said, "Bill, what made them bury those two fellows in the same grave?"

A sleeper is one who sleeps. A sleeper is that in which the sleeper sleeps. A sleeper is that on which the sleeper which carries the sleeper while he sleeps runs. Therefore, while the sleeper sleeps in the sleeper the sleeper carries the sleeper over the sleeper under the sleeper until the sleeper which carries the sleeper jumps off the sleeper and wakes the sleeper in the sleeper by striking the sleeper under the sleeper, and there is no longer any sleeper sleeping in the sleeper on the sleeper.

The Breathing Cure.

A writer in the "Nineteenth Century" is responsible for the statement that almost all the ills which flesh is heir to can be cured by a system so simple that "rolling off a log" would be difficult compared with it. He stumbled upon his wonderful discovery accidentally, whilst climbing a mountain, and has, it would seem very selfishly, been profiting by it himself for almost a lifetime without letting the world into his secret. In order to avoid suffocation whilst going up the mountain side on account of the decreased amount of oxygen inhaled, the discoverer of the breathing cure was compelled to breathe twice as quickly as usual, by doing which the normal amount of oxygen was secured. It occurred to him afterwards, when feeling somewhat depressed, to see what effect fast breathing would have on the system under normal atmospheric conditions, and learned that he was able to get rid of headache and pain of various kinds simply by taking long and fast breaths of air. For insomnia, he claims that it is the best possible specific; and states that owing to his use of the system he has kept in perfect health for over thirty years, having been, since he commenced to use his cure, entirely free from coughs, colds, sore throats, and other ailments from which he formerly suffered. One of the best things about the cure is that it does not require any special conditions, even exercise being unnecessary, since the breathing can be done in an easy chair by the fireside as profitably as on a mountain top. Like many other valuable remedies, this will probably prove too simple for the majority of mankind, the average run of mortals preferring to dose themselves with nauseating nostrums which originally cost little more than the air, but are sold at a fabulous profit, to meet the demand of hypochondriacs on the question of health. Whatever virtue there is in the cure can easily be tested without any cost; and it is gratifying to know that nobody can get a patent on it and create a monopoly. Let us breathe away!

Good Manners.

Sydney Smith said that the "manners are the shadows of virtue." Certainly a man's behavior is, in a large measure, the outward expression of what he really is. Coarse speech and uncouth dress tell of the coarse character. The Tattler said that the "appellation of gentleman is never to be affixed to a man's circumstances, but to his behavior in them." That is true, and, therefore, whatever a man's circumstance, he can be a gentleman, and the fact that he is a gentleman will manifest itself in his good manners. There are persons who seem to think it impossible to be cordial and hearty in manner without being boisterous or almost rude. Delicacy of behavior and gentleness in speech are not impossible to thorough cordiality. As a good heart expresses itself in good manners, so good manners react to increase goodness of heart. Good manners are possible to every one who is true, kind and considerate. These inward qualities need to be nurtured and their outward forms of expression cultivated. Study of the characters of good people and observation of their manners will do much to aid in acquiring a knowledge of the ways of really good society. Let the heart be right first and the rest is easily learned. Good manners, in a high sense of the word, helps a man far along in life. "If you meet a king he will recognize you as a brother," was said concerning a man who would possess himself of the manners of a true gentleman.

"Who misses or wins the prize?
Go, lose or conquer as you can;
But if you fail or if you rise,
Be each, pray God, a gentleman."

Puzzles.

I—CHARADE.

Good morning, dear cousins, every one.
"I have only a minute to stay."
Like friend "Edwards," but I'll not forget
To call again some other day.

Friend "Banks" appears quite thankful
To be admitted to the crew;
Yes, there's room in the front ranks. "Thomas,"
And with pluck you'll get there too.

A "Blythe" young man, a winsome man,
Down last Marden there doth dwell;
He lives complete a honeycomb,
And finer his *Em* cuts a swell.

There! "Devitt" is after the girls again—
Miss Lily *Thuy*, I'll be bound!
Instead of the frog that sat on a log,
And sang its merry "go round."

"Miss Armand," they say, is after a *jay*,
In January, July and June;
But to get one to-day, in autumn,
They say, she'd better go off and spoon.

Come, "Reeve," sit down, explain yourself,
You Dutchman, you, and "crank";
Limburger cheese I've left for one
Whose friends all call him "Hank."

My friends down east I'll not forget,
Though my letters may not be so "bright"
And cheerful as those I never get
In reply, and now I'll say good night. FAIR BROTHER.