

Too Ready With our Discontent.

In the stern presence of the greater trial,
Who taketh thought for some small self-denial?
When brooding clouds the precious home invest,
Who grieveth for some trivial unrest?

We are "too ready with our discontent,"
We might win flowers where gathering thorn and rue,
We, who o'er trifles make so much ado.
Stronger are they who wear as coat of mail
The shield of faith, which vainly fears assail.
Wiser are they who lift their eyes in prayer,
And win the daily help that lightens daily care.

His Pessimism Left Him.

The people of Persia have a parable concerning one of their countrymen, who thought the world was growing worse. Men, he said, were all trying to cheat one another; the strong were crushing the weak. One day when he was airing his pessimistic views, the calif said to him:

"I charge you hereafter to look carefully about you, and whenever you see any man do a worthy deed go to him and give him praise, or write to him about it. Whenever you meet a man whom you regard as worthy to have lived in the 'good old days,' tell him of your esteem and of the pleasure you have had in finding one so exalted, and I desire that you write out an account of these good deeds for me that I may share your joy in knowing of it."

So the man was dismissed, but before many days he returned and prostrated himself before the calif. When ordered to explain his presence, he wailed:

"Have pity on thy servant, and release him from the necessity of complimenting men upon their worthy deeds, O my master. And, O son of Mohammed, I pray thee absolve thy servant from the duty of reporting to thee all the good that is going on in the world."

"And why, O slave, dost thou come to me with this prayer?" the calif asked.

"Since I have been looking for what is good," the man replied, "I have no time to do aught but compliment men for their splendid works. So much that is glorious is all around me that I may not be able to tell thee half of it. My task lies neglected because I have no time."

"Go back to thy work," said the calif. "I perceive that thou hast learned."

Punish Wisely.

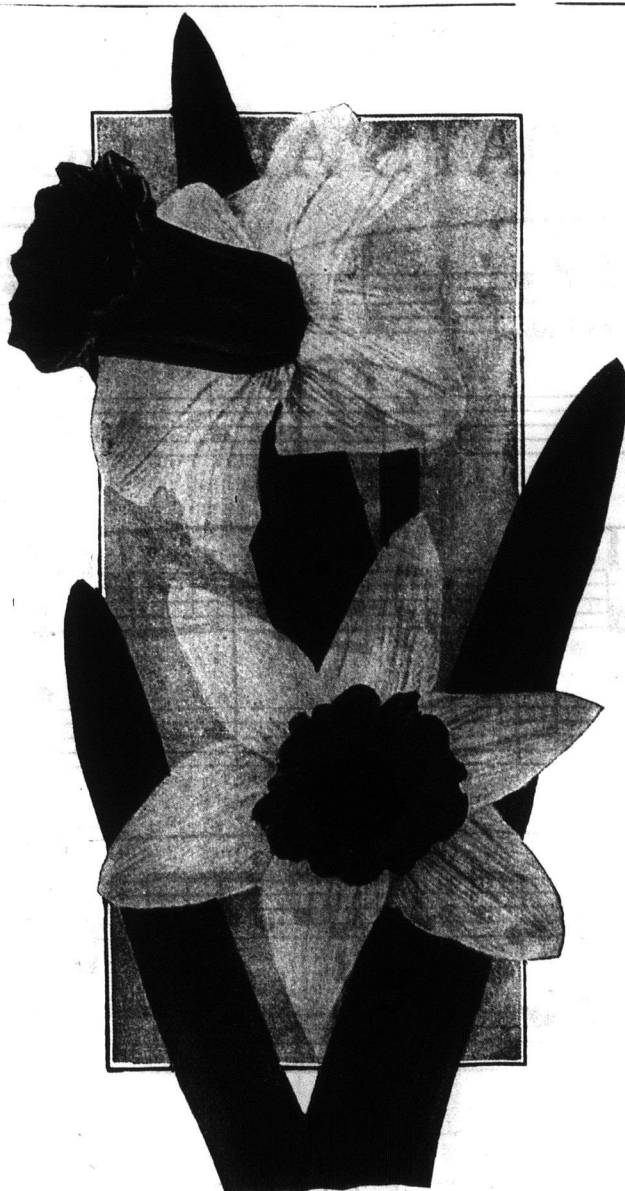
A mother said to her son, "Johnny, do you understand thoroughly why I am going to whip you?" "Yes'm. You're in a bad humour to-day, an' you've got to punish somebody before you feel satisfied."

This illustrates the real state of things in many cases of corporal chastisement. It is done to relieve the mind of a woman who cannot govern herself, or of a father whose temper has got the better of him. Corporal punishment should be rarely, if ever, administered. It is brutal, and leaves bitterness in the heart of the child. There are other penalties, more effectual, which do not, in so great a degree, lessen the self-respect of the child, or his respect for the one who administers them.

Fathers and mothers who study the dispositions of their children will know what punishments and what rewards are for their highest good.

Pass it On.

Have you had a kindness shown?
Pass it on.
'Twas not given for you alone—
Pass it on.
Let it travel down the years,
Let it wipe another's tears,
Till in heaven the deed appears.
Pass it on.



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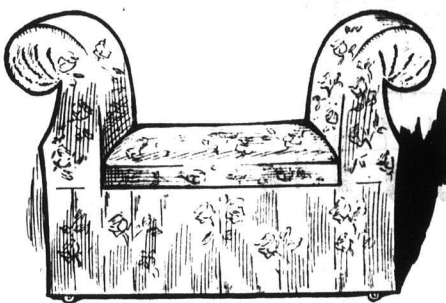
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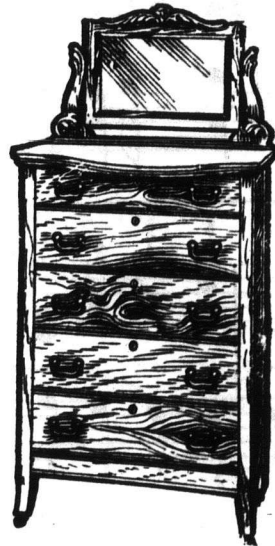


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