The Scattered Household.

The family group is gathered, and all are happy
there;
The cheerful glance and word pass round, for
life with them is fair.
A full unbroken household met! it is a pleasant
sight!
The mother's smile is sweeter then—the father's
glance more bright.

There is another gathering, but one is wanting
there;
The youth who sat beside his sire comes not to
fill his chair.
The graveyard bears another stone—the missed
one sleeps beneath;
The cheerful smile doth yet pass round, but thou
art felt, O death!

Again there is a gathering, but where is she
whose smile
Was wont to make our breast so glad—our father's care beguiled?
In vain we list a mother's voice, 'tis silent in the
tomb!
There happy smile is seen no more; where
mirth was, now is gloom.

Once more there is a gathering, once more an
empty place
Proclaims that death has been at work to fill a
brother's space.
His grave is on a distant isle, made by a stranger's hand!
O! hard it is to die away from one's own native
land.

That group will never gather more around that
kindred hearth;
'Tis broken up; what death has left are scattered o'er the earth!
And where that humble mansion stood, there
now is not a stone
To mark the spot, or tell of those who to their
graves have gone.

The Barren Apple-Tree.

Two men came with their axes to cut down a tree in our garden. They looked around, but saw none to spare. "That is it," said the owner, pointing to a noble apple-tree. "You don't mean to have that cut down," cried one of the men; why it is the handsomest tree in the ground. I'd sooner thought of that," turning to an ugly-looking dwarf pear.

"I set more value on that dwarf pear-tree than anything in my garden," said the owner; "it yields the finest fruit. As for the apple-tree, it bears nothing but leaves. I have waited and hoped something from it year after year, and can wait no longer. Without fruit, it is worse than useless, for it takes the sun from the strawberry-bed, the light from my kitchen window, and it takes the room of something more profitable; so cut it down."

With that the men took their axes and began hewing the trunk. Did the poor tree know its fate? How proud and secure it looked that morning with its strong limbs stretched out on every side, and every leaf sparkling with dew-drops; and it made me think of the garden of our Lord; and how the great Master comes to find fruit there. Looks are not enough for him. The proud and the strong find no favour in his sight on account of their strength. Beautiful as we may appear to others' eyes, if that is all, it is, alas! "nothing but leaves."

He says, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;" and what does that mean, but that a life of usefulness is the only life that will satisfy the Master? You may be crooked and deformed; you may be poor and lowly; you may be despised by the world: all this matters not to him, if, like him, you live not to yourself alone, but in such a way as will bless those around you. This is bearing fruit.

Can a little child do that? Oh yes, for a *penitent tear* is fruit he loves. The bended knee and heart-felt prayer, a willing mind, a tender conscience, and little kindnesses—all these are dear to him. Truth and love and fidelity blossoming in each hourly duty are precious in his eyes. And youth is no hindrance to these. You may grow up to be rich, or powerful or learned; but keep always in mind that nothing deserves the name of success, nothing *is* a success in life, but bearing in your life the good fruits of true love and obedience to your Heavenly Father.

Mark what else our Lord says: "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire." There is no spot in all his kingdom for *uselessness*.—*Family Treasury.*

My Mother's last Request.

It was a glorious spring morning, nearly forty years ago, when I was a very little girl; but the scenes of that morning are as fresh and clear in my mind as though they had but recently occurred. Out of doors all nature seemed to have awakened to a new life of activity and joy, and in haste to atone for its long slumber.

In my own pleasant little house I can almost see my patient, loving mother, her eyes sparkling with joy, as she tells us of the "unspeakable love of Jesus," and committed her children to his care. We learned our lessons, put our books away, and prepared to spend our play-hour out of doors. I never cared much for play, and often spent my hours reading to mother. I had just received as a reward at Sunday-school, a little book with the quaint title, "A Full Christ for Empty Sinners." Knowing how well mother would like to hear me read it to her, I laid aside my bonnet, and sat down to read. O how she seemed to feast on its precious contents, often exclaiming, "Blessed be God for such a Saviour!"

O that I had contentedly read the book through to her! how many bitter tears would it have saved me! But while reading, every few minutes I heard the ringing laugh of my brother, and some exclamations of delight from my sister; and so full of joy and gladness were they that reading became tiresome, and I wanted to join them in their sport. Twice I asked my mother if she wanted to hear more; and, little thinking how I felt, she said—

"Yes, dear, read it through; *it is all written for me.*"

At last I told her I could not read any more; I wanted to play. She quickly answered, "Go, my child," and pressing me closely to her, fondly kissed me. It was my last kiss. After our play, we worked among our flowers, and several times called mother out to see them, and advise us. How delighted was she with our work! We were happy family that day; but before another sun rose, my mother had entered that world where there is "fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore," and we were motherless.

How much regret and sorrow it would have saved me, had I read the book through to her! While she was lying dead in the house, how many times I stole away alone, and with my hands on her cold face, and the book before me, begged of her to listen to me but for a few minutes more! I have never thought of it since but the tears flow; and a sadness creeps over me as I remember that my mother's last request was not complied with.—*Christian Advocate.*

Fault-Finding.

Children are more hurt by indiscriminate, thoughtless fault-finding than by any other one thing. Often a child has all the sensitiveness and all the susceptibility of a grown person, added to the faults of childhood. Nothing about him is right yet; he is immature and faulty at all points, and everybody feels at perfect liberty to criticise him from right to left, above and below, till he takes refuge in callous hardness, or irritable moroseness.

A bright, noisy boy rushes in from school, eager to tell his mother something he has on his heart, and Number One cries out, "O you've left the door open! I do wish you wouldn't always leave the door open! And do look at the mud on your shoes! How many times must I tell you to wipe your feet?" "Now, there you've thrown your cap on the sofa again. When *will* you learn to hang it up?" "Don't put your slate there; that isn't the place for it." "How dirty your hands are; what *have* you been doing?" "Don't sit on that chair; you'll break the springs, bouncin'." "Mercy, how your hair looks! Do you go up stairs and comb it." "There! if you haven't torn the braid off your coat! Dear me, what a boy!" "Don't speak so loud; your voice goes through my head." "I want to know, Jim, if it was you that broke up that barrel that I have been saving for brown flour?" "I believe it was you, Jim, that hacked the side of my razor." "Jim's been writing at my desk, and blotted three sheets of the best paper."

Now, the question is, if any of the grown people of the family had to run the gauntlet of a string of criticisms on themselves, equally true as those that salutes the unlucky Jim, would they be any better natured about it than he is? No but they are grown-up people; they have rights that others are bound to respect. Everybody cannot tell them exactly what he thinks about everything they do. If every one did, would there not be terrible revelations?

John, the Grave-Digger.

Mr. Gray had not been long minister of the parish, till he noticed the odd practice of the grave-digger; and one day when he came upon John smoothing and trimming the lonely bed of a child which had been buried a few days before, he asked why he was so particular in dressing and heaping the graves of infants. John paused for a moment at his work, and looking up, not at the minister, but at the sky, said, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

"And on this account you tend and adorn them with so much care?" remarked the minister, who was greatly struck with the reply.

"Surely, sir, answered John, "I canna make over braw and fine the bed-covering o' a little innocent sleeper that is waitin' there till it is God's time to wauken it and cover it with white robe, and waft it away to glory. Where sic grandeur is awaitin' it yonder, it's fit it should be decked oot here. I think the Saviour will like to see white clover spread abune it; dae ye no think so tae, sir?"

"But why not thus cover larger graves?" asked the minister, hardly able to suppress his emotions. "The dust of all his saints is precious in the Saviour's sight."

"Very true, sir," responded John, with great solemnity, but I canna be sure wha are his saints, and wha are no. I hope thear are many of them lyin' in this kirkyard; but it wad be great presumption to mark them oot. There are some that I'm gey sure aboot, and I keep their graves nate and snod as I can, and plant a bit floure here and there as a sign of my hope; but daurna gie them them the white shirt," referring to the white clover. "It's clean different, though wi' the bairns."—*The Gem.*

Temperance.

The Wine Question.

To those who expect to see the evil of drunkenness greatly lessened by the universal introduction of "pure California wines," we commend a careful reading of the following from the "Sacramento Rescue":

"There are a great many people who make the argument that wipe drinking will prove a cure for the vice of drunkenness, and they talk with such seriousness that we are almost compelled to believe them honest in the doctrine they enunciate. But we would ask all such to note this: That every vineyard in this State is a drunkery; that men who a few years ago perhaps, were strenuous temperance people, or at least abstainers from drink, are, now that they have wine-producing vineyards, rapidly becoming drunkards, and that Los Angeles and Sonoma Counties, especially, and the other wine producing counties proportionally, are noted for the extent of this vice, just in proportion to the number of gallons of wine they produce. These are the facts of the case, as we know by personal observation, and we ask that such nonsensical theory be tried in the light of the facts as they do exist."

Mr. Edward Delevan, one of the strongest friends of the temperance movement in New York, writes as follows to General J. S. Smith, President of the State Temperance Society: "No man should be entitled to drink unless he first get a license; and any barkeeper who should sell to an unlicensed party should be subject to fine and imprisonment. The license should be annual; and the sum charged should be from $30 to $100. No young man should be allowed a license until he was sixteen, and then and until twenty one years of age, only a beer license at a moderate charge. After twenty-one he could vote, drink and chew tobacco upon payment of license; and the same privilege should be extended to strong-minded women. Some men whose constitutions utterly unfit them for potations should be refused a license altogether."

Your Glass of Ale.

You took it, young friend, did you, to wash down your "half a dozen fried," as you stood at the eating-house rack? You wouldn't take whiskey, gin, brandy, or even wine, because you consider them evil things. Evil enough they are. But listen to a word about that foaming, frothy stuff in the glass.

Not long ago, the spigot of a large vat in one of the principal breweries where they make the celebrated "Philadelphia XXX Ale" became obstructed, and refused to discharge the contents of the vat. It became, therefore, necessary to draw off the ale that was in the vat, either by siphon or by some other means in order that the cause of the obstruction might be ascertained and got rid of. The bottom of the vat being laid bare, the cause was at once discovered. There were about *four bushels of deceased rats*, in various stages of decomposition. The unfortunate creatures had fallen into the vat, and had become drowned rats. Of the precise amount of the flavour of RAT thus imparted to the many thousand gallons of ale that passed through this vat in process of manufacture, we are not informed. But it must be a pleasant reflection to the consumers of the bitter mixture that they partook of considerable rat without knowing it. Probably many of them smacked their lips over it, said it was nice, and called for more. Wasn't it delightful.

We object to the taste of the Chinese in feasting on stewed rat and dog-pie. But if we closely examine into the manufacture of the various brewed stuffs which Christian men pour down their throats, we could probably find that we partake of many things exceeding in nastiness anything that the Chinese enjoy.

Ale, porter and beer, either with or without the flavour of rat, may be very nice for those that like it, but give us rather for cleanliness, healthfulness, and economy, a glass of pure water.

Agriculture.

Instructions for Preparing Butter.

The following is the most approved method of making and preparing butter for the London market, and it is submitted for the advantage of farmers and dairymen throughout this country. Butter made on this system, with care and quick despatch will insure high prices and quick returns. The best land is old pasture, as free from weeds as passible, with abundance of good water. The cows should not be heated or tormented in any way; housed at night, and fed on green food, and the pasture changed when practicable. In milking, take saltpetre in the pail, one-eighth of an ounce to eight quarts of milk. The dairy should be perfectly clean, airy, of equal temperature (say 50°), very little light, and completely shaded from sun by trees or otherwise; and in winter a stove may be required. Strain the milk into coolers, sweet and dry, (never mix warm and cold milk), keep it from two to four days, then put the whole of the milk and cream into a clean churn, which is not to be used for any purpose except during the time it is in operation. Boiling water to be added to raise the temperature to about 68° or 60°, if horse or water power be used. The time occupied is from one to two hours, depending on the size of the churn; but churning should not be continued beyond the proper time. After churning, put the butter into bowls or pans of pickle, made from pure water and fine-stoved salt (as common gives the butter a bad flavour). It should be well washed, and the pickle changed frequently, until all the milk is extracted, working with the hand the two pieces alternately, until the grain becomes quite close and firm, when it is to be cured with the finest dry-stoved salt and sugar. The proportion to be one ounce of refined sugar to one pound of salt, to be well worked into the butter with the hand; but the quantity of curing material will depend on the time and labour given by the dairy-woman, in working and beating the butter (after the salt and sugar are applied), which should continue until all the pickle is driven out. The butter should be finished the day it is churned, and then be pressed as closely as possible into the cask. The cask should be well seasoned for some days previous with strong pickle, frequently changed, or hot pickle and must be strong and air-tight; the size is of no consequence, if filled and sent off in one week. If not filled at one churning, the butter is to be covered with pickle until the next; but no cask to contain more than one week's butter. If butter should, at any time, appear pale in colour after churning has commenced, a little grated carrot juice may be put into the milk, and will not injure either milk or butter. All butter intended to be shipped should be at the place of shipping one day prior to the steamer leaving, so as to run no risk of going forward to the agents.—*Garden, Florist and Agriculturist.*

Qualities o Fine Vegetables.

For the purpose of selecting an assortment of the purest vegetables, best suited to the use for which they are grown, we have fixed upon certain qualities which we seek among the different kinds. In the blood beet we always look for a deep colour, smooth, handsome form, small top, and sweet, tender flesh. In the orange carrot, small top, smooth root, and deep orange colour. In the cabbage, short stump, large, compact head, with but few loose leaves. In the cucumber, straight, handsome form, and dark green colour. In the lettuce, large close head, pleasant flavour, with the quality of standing the heat without soon running to seed. In sweet corn, long ears, very shrivelled grains filled over the end of the cob. In the cantelope melon, rough skin, thick, firm flesh, and high flavour. In the water-melon, thin rind, abundant and well-flavoured juice, and bright red core. In the onion, thick round shape, small neck, deep colour, mild flavour, and good keeping quality. In the parsnip, small top, long, smooth root, rich flavour. In the pea, low growth, full pods, large and tender peas, rich flavour. In the scarlet radish, deep colour, small top, clear root, and quick, free growth. In the squash, medium size, dry, fine-grained, deep-coloured flesh. In turnips, handsome form, small tops and tap root, sweet crisp flesh. Those who have never seen better sorts than they possess suppose they are of the finest quality, when they may be very inferior, or almost worthless, when compared with the finest varieties.—*Gardener's Almanac.*

Choice Cows for Milk.

Cows with a small head, slim neck, horns, legs, and tail, big feet, two small teats on the back of the bag in addition to the four that are to be milked, with a white strip, or what I think is sometimes termed the feather, that is to be found on cows above the upper part of the bag, behind. It will be noticed that some of our deepest milkers have a feather that is full three inches wide, with a very large, what is called milk hole, in the milk vein, the larger the better, for greater will be the flow of milk, and of a better or superior article. As for richness and flavour, the cream of all such milkers will churn much quicker, and make very yellow butter. In this country much improvement is possible in this respect, and I would commend the subject to the notice of our dairymen—that is, calves may be selected that will make very deep milkers, before they are able to stand alone. If it is desirable to raise calves that will make good milkers, raise all calves that have six good sized teats that are well apart, as all such calves make the very best of milkers. It is much better that they should be in their new milk at two years old, as they make much gentler and better milkers. Many handsome red heifer calves are raised on account of their colour more than any thing else, that do not make very good milkers. *Cor. of the Cultivator.*

FEED FOR COWS.—The best forage for Milch Cows is well saved clover, while badly saved clover is the worst. Oats and potatoes mixed, afford best remuneration as regards to the quantity and quality of milk. Potatoes alone improve the quantity, but at the expense of the richness of the milk.

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