

## The Family Circle.

### HOW TO GROW STRONG.

The man who leans contentedly and perpetually upon some one else, whether it be for his livelihood, for sympathy, or help of any kind, is not being really aided, but only still further enfeebled. He drains another not merely to no purpose, but to the injury of both. But if, on the other hand, he receive the help, whatever it be, with thankful gratitude, and use it as a stepping-stone to better things—if he regard it as a temporary loan, which he in his turn may repay to some weaker than himself—if he be inspired by it to greater efforts, and through it gain strength to stand on his own feet—then it has fulfilled its true mission, and is no longer a dead weight, but a living force.—*Set.*

### WORDS IN SEASON.

The writer of the Proverbs says: "It is a pleasant thing if thou keep within thee" the words of the wise and the knowledge which the Spirit teaches, for if thus kept, "they shall withal be fitted to thy lips." This readiness for Christian service all may have, and it is a great loss for any servant of the Lord to be without it.

Familiarity with the Word of God by constant, prayerful reading is the way to "keep within us" these words of wisdom. Thus stored in the memory and the heart, when the need comes to use them for the help of others, whether in sorrow or in sin, "they are withal fitted to the lips."

Not that everyone has the gift of memory to quote the exact words of Scripture, though such ability may be acquired to a very good degree by those not naturally thus endowed, but the spirit of the teaching may be stored in the inner being so as to be used fittingly as occasion may require. The Spirit is promised "to bring all things to our remembrance" whatsoever the Lord has said to us. He does not put into our minds that which we have never heard nor read, but he does quicken the powers of memory and thought to use that which we have stored away.

It is a very precious gift, this fitting to the lips of Scripture comfort and promise. No words can help a soul seeking Jesus as the words of the Bible; none can bring such comfort to the sorrowing. "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." To every young Christian we would say: If you wish to be helpful, comforting, instructive, as you pass along amid the multitudes needing your help, grow familiar with your Bible. Say with the prophet, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them," and they will be not only the rejoicing of your own heart, but of the hearts of many for whose comfort or instruction the Holy Spirit may fit them to your lips.—*Set.*

## GOSSIPING IN THE PRESENCE OF CHILDREN.

A habit of indulging in gossip is pernicious in its influences and results over us all. "Pity 'tis, 'tis true," that we oftentimes give a willing ear to the stories circulating about our friends and acquaintances, and more is the pity that we are tempted too readily and yield to the temptation to tell these detrimental reports over again to other willing ears.

It is astonishing how thoughtless parents often are of their manner of speech before children. Children are very attentive listeners. They may seem to be interested in their play or their books, but nevertheless nothing said by their elders escapes their ears. Children like to hear what their elders are talking about, especially if the talk is carried on with a show of mystery.

Friends may speak depreciatingly of some other friend, without a thought of the consequences, and perhaps without even a remembrance of the words spoken a few days afterward, but the child who hears it makes a memorandum of the sins of commission, or of omission, which are talked over, and thus an unjust prejudice is acquired, which the parent is astonished to hear expressed perhaps weeks afterward. "What mother says, must be so" is the argument a child uses to reason out the wrong and right of things. Mother is the ideal of all that is true and just and good.

Think of this, mothers! What wonderful trust your little child places in you and your judgment and actions. Is it not a very serious matter to be a child's ideal of what is best and truest in motherhood? "Mrs. So and So must be a dreadful woman," reasons the child, who has heard that neighbor spoken of in a deprecatory manner. And if that neighbor has a child, what a show of superior goodness the child of the gossiping mother carries about with her hereafter when she mingles with Mrs. "So and So's" child! How pitifully she regards her in the light of her mother's depreciating estimate—it is such a dreadful thing to have a mother who does things which mother thinks are so bad! Two-thirds of the gossip circulated about persons is libellous, because it is untrue, and if legally followed up would prove a crime. The sad results of scandalous stories are often pitiful in the extreme.

We try to have our children acquire habits of truth and justice that will help them on in right living, but are we particular to teach them not to speak untruthfully or unjustly of their little playmates? When they come to us with a story which depreciates the good qualities of some little friend, do we counsel them not to tell over anything which will hurt the reputation of that child? Do we help them to acquire the habit of that charity which thinketh no evil of one's neighbor?—*The Evangelist.*