

Family Circle.

THE TRAINING OF CHILDREN.

Avoid undue adherence to system: and render your instruction free expatiating, and some what miscellaneous. A systematic course, beginning with the doctrine of Divine existence, and ending with a view of the consummation of all things, is desirable for the sake of both connectedness and completeness; yet, if closely or even generally followed, it will make you move round the mere interior of Divine truth, and keep you constantly away from the life and warmth of its centre. All your instruction ought, like that of the Bible itself, to have much scope and variety; and whatever parts of it descend to limited subjects, you ought also to ascend to the loftiest, and to allude to the infinite and the all pervading. An expounder of the solar system cannot explain the state of any one planet or satellite without referring to the light, and heat, and attraction, of the sun, and a correct expounder of the Christian system cannot properly explain a single doctrine or feature of it, or even any history, or prophecy, or institution of the Scriptures, without referring amply to the love of God, and the work of the Redeemer.

Subordinate all your instruction to direct religious results. Let none of it aim at display, or ornament, or mere respectability, or any other worldly object. Always treat your children, even in the most secular matters, and especially in the course of all set instruction, as souls, accountable, immortal beings, who must eternally perish unless they are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and made inwardly beautiful by the work of the Holy Spirit. Shrink from the thought of appearing to them mainly anxious that they should become fine ladies and gentlemen in the present life. Abhor the tremendous crime of dealing out to them any portion of religious truth as a means of their getting money, or station, or praise, among their fellow-mortals. Let them see that, in every thing you say to them, and in every thing you do, you regard sin as their great foe, and hell as their great danger, and the knowing and adoring of God as the very end of their existence. While you exercise due care for their health, and comfort, and secular training, and future worldly welfare, never treat these as if they were equal in importance to everlasting affairs, or even as if they constituted a separate and competing set of interests; but interweave references to eternity with the whole of your secular training, and show your children that all the benefits they receive from you, all the happiness they enjoy, all the powers they possess, and all the attainments they can acquire, ought to assist in making them wise and good throughout the endless ages beyond death and the grave. Restrict your notions of "self-respect," "accomplishments," "good-breeding," and "amusements," within such limits as would have been sanctioned by the personal teaching of the Lord of glory, or as comport with the near prospect of arraignment at the bar of God; and take care that these fashionable and glittering names do not delude you both to practice and inculcate such conformity to the world as may seem to give the lie to your solemn professions, and to convert your most solemn instructions into a farce. You are, every hour, making eternal impressions on your children. Oh! then, let not one be an impression of the wisdom which is "earthly, sensual, devilish," but let all be the impressions of the wisdom which is from above, and which is pure, peaceable, and full of mercy and good fruits, and which ever stands embodied before you in the person and work of Him who says, "Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honor are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. Now, therefore, hearken unto me, O ye children; for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.—Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord."

IMPORTANCE OF PURE AIR.

Blood is the grand support of life, and the action of every part of the organization is directly affected by the supply and quality of the blood which it receives. From the moment that any organ ceases to act. If the current of blood to the brain is arrested, insensibility instantly follows, and, under the same condition, the nerves and muscles become equally disabled. Every part thus depends on the blood for its stimulus and nourishment, and is consequently affected by the quality of that fluid, or its power to impart the stimulus and nourishment required.—If the blood be imperfectly constituted, it will afford inadequate support, and the general health will become impaired. Of this result we have familiar proofs in the feeble and sickly frames of those whose blood is impoverished by want of food. But the respiration of pure air is, as we have seen, not less essential than proper food to the formation of well-constituted blood;

and this fact also is evidenced in the pale and debilitated aspect and health of those who live much in a contaminated atmosphere. In one respect, pure air is even more essential to the formation of good blood than supplies of proper food. The influence of the air we breathe never ceases for a single moment of our lives, while that of food recurs only at intervals. By night and by day respiration goes on without a pause, and every time we breathe, we take in an influence necessarily good or bad according to the quality of the air which surrounds us. No wonder, then, that a cause thus permanently in operation should, after a lapse of time, produce great changes on the health; and no wonder that attention to the purity of the air we breathe should amply and surely reward the trouble we may bestow in procuring it. Accordingly, of all the injurious influences by which childhood is surrounded, few indeed operate more certainly or extensively than the constant breathing of a corrupt and vitiated air; and, on the contrary, few things have such an immediate and extensive effect in renovating the health of a feeble child as change from a vitiated to a pure atmosphere.

"AS THE TWIG IS BENT."

There is, I am persuaded, a connection more intimate than most suppose between the days of our childhood and the doings of our riper years. The figures on your electric telegraph, when put in operation, do not speak more distinctly fifty miles off than to the influences which are brought to bear upon the infant mind produce their corresponding effects fifty years hence. Would you even now look on the future warrior, then mark the bullying boy on the playground. Would you see the future money grasping merchant, there he is in that little fellow who can stand the chances pitch and toss longer than any of his associates. Is it the blood stained murderer you would see in his boyhood, then look out for that one who delights in pinning spiders to the floor, and who has more gratification in seeing flies crawling along without their wings than in buzzing about in all the enjoyment of a happy existence. and would you see the future tippler, the man who will be oftener at the taproom table than at his fireside hearth; then mark the boy, who even now relishes the sugared little drops from his father's tumbler. Parents may regard these things with an indulgent eye, and think that time will develop more pleasing features; but depend upon it they are the indications of future character. The character of the man is being formed in the mind of the boy. It is no infidel doctrine after all that we are to a great extent the creatures of circumstances. Our characters to take the impress of the moral influences under which they are formed. Children are just what you make them, and oh! what a world this is you have made for their reception! They come into a world where shedding human blood is called "glory"—and hence the bullying, boasting spirit of which we speak: they come into a world where distinction is associated with the possession of wealth—and hence that early hoarding of marbles and buttons, they come into a world where kindness is associated with certain pernicious customs—and hence, too, they drink, and smoke, and ape their heaven-appointed, but hell blinded teachers.—Rev. W. Reid.

WORK FOR CHILDREN—ITS IMPORTANCE.

There is no greater defect in educating children than by neglecting to accustom them to work. It is an evil that attaches mostly to large towns and cities. Our children suffer from it. The parent considers whether the child's work is necessary to him, and does not consider whether the work is necessary or not to the child. Nothing is more certain than that their future independence and comforts much depend on being accustomed to provide for the thousand constantly recurring wants that nature entails on us. If this were not so, still it preserves them from bad habits; it secures their health—it strengthens both mind and body—it enables them better to bear the confinement of the school-room, and it tends more than anything else to give them just views of life. It is too often the case that children, provided they spend half-a-dozen hours of the day at school, are permitted to spend the rest as they please. They thus grow up in the world without a knowledge of its toils and its cares. They view it through a false medium. They cannot appreciate the favors you bestow, as they do not know the toils they cost. Their bodies and minds are enervated, and they are constantly exposed to whatever vicious associations are within their reach. The daughter probably becomes that pitiable, helpless object, a novel-reading girl. The son, if he surmount the consequences of your neglect, does it probably after his plans and station for life are fixed, and when knowledge, for one of its important objects, comes too late.

No man or woman is fully educated if not accustomed to manual labor. Whatever accomplishments they possess—whatever their mental training, a deduction must be made for their ignorance of that important chapter in the world's great book—active industry.

PARENTAL EXAMPLE.

Example is a living lesson. The life speaks. Every action has a tongue. Words are but articulated breath. Deeds are the fac-similes

of soul! they proclaim what is within. The child notices the life. It should be in harmony with goodness. Keen is the vision of youth, every mask is transparent. If a word is thrown into one balance, a deed is thrown into the other. Nothing is more important than that parents should be consistent. A sincere word is never lost. But advice, counter to example, is always suspected. Both cannot be true, one is false. Example is like statuary. It is sculptured into form. It is reality. The eye dwells upon it; the memory recalls it; the imagination broods over it. Its influence enters the soul.

Geographic and Historic.

A GOLD DIGGER'S ADVICE.

A California correspondent of the Commercial Advertiser recommends the following test, whereby any one disposed to go that way may try whether he can stand a long or even a short campaign at the mines.—Let a person who may be seized with the California fever, go into either of the Southern States in the month of August, and with the sun beating upon him three fold hotter than he ever before felt, let him go to work with pickaxe and shovel, and dig a hole about ten feet square and as many deep, and when that is done, let him fill a pan full of dirt and carry it about half a mile to some running stream, and then set himself down and work, by dipping his pan in the stream and shaking it well up and down, then pour off the water, then dip again and pour off until every particle of dirt is washed out: and then back for another panful; and after pursuing that course twenty times, he will be able to form some idea of the process of digging for gold in this country. If he can stand all this why he may venture to go round the "Horn" or cross the Isthmus. This is the mode of proceeding in this country; and if gold is not found in one hole, he must give up that hole and strike upon some other spot; and out of every six diggings he may find a supply of that which brings so many to that country. I admit, that in every hole he digs some gold will be found, but I do say that there is not one in six where he can be sure of earning even ordinary compensation in this country. Some of the comforts let me mention. When the miner has dug some two or three feet down, the water begins to show itself, and then he has to stand in it up to his knees and bale out as he proceeds. This produces much sickness in the summer months, as the water is icy cold, the sun at this time pouring down on his head with great intensity, which alone is enough to break down the stoutest constitution.

HABITS OF INSECTS.

It is not known that any insect depends entirely upon only one kind of species of plant for its existence, or whether it may not have recourse to congeners, should its habitual plant perish. When particular species of plants of the same family occur in places widely apart, insects of the same genus will be found on them, so that the existence of the plant may often be inferred from that of the insect, and in several instances the converse. When a plant is taken from one country to another in which it has no congeners, it is not attacked by the insects of the country: thus our cabbages and carrots in Cayenne are not injured by the insects of that country, and the tulip tree and other magnolias are not molested by our insects; but if a plant has congeners in its new country, the inhabitants will soon find their way to the strangers. The common fly is one of the most universal of insects, yet it was unknown in some of the South Sea Islands till it was carried there by ships from Europe; and it has now become a plague. Mosquito and culex are spread over the world more generally than any other tribe it is the torment of men and animals from the poles to the equator by night and by day; the species are numerous, and their location partial. In the arctic regions, Culex pissens, which passes two-thirds of its existence in water, swarms in summer in myriads. The lake Myvatnar, in Iceland, has its name from the legions of these tormentors that covers its surface.—They are less numerous in middle Europe, though one species of mosquito the simula columbaris heasis, which is very small, appears in such clouds in parts of Hungary, especially the banat of Temeswar, that is not possible to breathe without swallowing many; even cattle and children have died from them. In Lapland there is a plague of the same kind. Of all places on earth, the Orinoco and other great rivers of tropical America, are the most obnoxious to this plague.—Mrs Somerville's Physical Geography.

BATHING IN THE DEAD SEA.

The first thing I did was to take a dip in the water, which I found extremely agreeable. To a person unacquainted with swimming, the sensation of being able to lie like a cork upon the surface, must feel something akin to the acquisition of a new faculty. The only difficulty I experienced was, that I floated so high out of the water, that I had some trouble in keeping myself straight; being apt, like a little boy's ship that has not its keel in the centre, to turn over upon one side. But in everything there is an art, and by-and by I found out the art of lying

comfortably upon the Dead Sea. Thus I lounged on my luxurious water-bed, till I passed into a waking dream, and thoughts from a far land came stealing upon my soul; and I forgot that I was lying on a grave!—Journeys in the East.

LETTERS FROM MADRAS. BY A LADY.

September 1847.—A day or two ago the maty batted into the breakfast room, exclaiming, "Sar! one snake, sar!" They call the venomous snakes "good" by way of propitiating them; they consider them as a species of evil-disposed gods; and pay them some kind of worship, though they kill them too whenever they can. This brute was a large deadly cobra capello; it had hidden itself behind some bottles in a recess under the steps where the water is cooled. A—went directly to load his gun, and I peeped out, but could not go near enough to see the creature on account of the sun, and I calculate I should not have gone any nearer if it had been ever so shady. There stood all the palanquin-boys with bamboos in their hands, ready to beat it if it came out, and all the Peons peeping over their shoulders, array enough to attack a tiger. A—forbade their killing it in that way, on account of the danger of their getting bitten if they missed a blow; and he shot it dead himself, after which they all dragged it out, and beat it to their hearts' content. Two days afterwards we were told of another cobra, in a hole of a tree at the bottom of the garden; but while A—was preparing his gun, one of the snake conjurers came and charmed it out of its hole, and brought it into the garden to show us; it was quite fresh, its teeth not extracted, and its bite certain death; but this man had it perfectly under command; he set it up and made it dance, and when it tried to strike, he just whisked the tail of his gown in its face, and quieted it again. I offered to buy it, and pay him for killing and bottling it, but I could not persuade him to sell it at any price; he thought its possession would bring him good luck. In answer to my offers, the conjurer, who was interpreter, told me, "It misses pot snake in bottle of rack, snake dead." "I know that," said I, "I like it dead." "Yes, ma'am, but that man like 'live." "What is the use of his keeping it alive? sometimes snake bite." "No ma'am, no can bite; that man make conjure." However, to-day the conjurer came to say that he had found another cobra, so he was willing to sell me one if I liked it.—Accordingly he took it with his bare hands out of a brass pan which he brought with him, set it up, made it show its hood and dance a little, and then put it into a bottle of spirits, which soon killed it, and I have it now on my table corked up. It is a magnificent specimen, four feet long, and quite uninjured.

The snakes have very much confirmed my belief in physiognomy. They certainly have a great deal of countenance; a cunning, cruel, spiteful look that tells at once that they are capable of any mischief, in short, "beaucoup de caractère," and the more venomous the snake, the worse his expression. The harmless ones look harmless; I think I should almost know a "too much good snake" by his his too much bad countenance. The cobra is the worst, his eyes are quite hideous, and that boa constrictor at the Cape was very disgusting; but after all I do not know that there is anything more horrid in the way of physiognomy than a shark; there is a coldblooded, fishy malignity in his eyes that quite makes one shudder.

THE OLDEST REPUBLIC ON EARTH.

The American Quarterly Review contains a letter from G. W. Erving, Esq., giving a sketch of his visit to San Marino, a small republic in Italy, between the Apennines, the Po, and the Adriatic. The territory of this state is only forty miles in circumference, and its population about 7,000. The republic was founded more than 1400 years ago, on moral principles, industry, and equality, and has preserved its liberty and independence amidst all the wars and discords which have raged around it. Bonaparte respected it and sent an embassy to express his sentiments of friend-ship and fraternity. It is governed by a captain regent, chosen every six months by the representatives of the people, (sixty-six in number) who are chosen every six months by the people. The taxes are light, the farm-houses are neat, the fields well cultivated, and on all sides are seen comfort and peace, the happy effects of morality, simplicity, liberty, and justice.

INFLUENCE OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT ROME.

It is singular that most of the Roman revolutions should have owed their rights to women. From this cause sprung the abolition of the regal office and the decemvirate; from this cause arose the change of the constitution, by which the plebeians became capable of holding the highest office of the commonwealth. The younger daughter of Fabius Ambustus, married to a patrician, stimulated her father to rouse the lower order to a resolute purpose of asserting their equal right with the patricians to all the offices and dignities of the state. After much turbulence and contest the final issue was the admission of the plebeians first to the consulate, and afterwards to the censorship, the prætorship and priesthood.—Tytler.