

## THE FAMILY CIRCLE

*Is published on the 15th of every month, at the London East Printing and Publishing House, London East, Ont., by Messrs. Lawson & Jones.*

The rush of letters during the past month containing lists of subscribers with the money therefor from all parts of Canada has exceeded our expectations and yet we wish to urge our friends to continue their efforts for their own benefit and ours. We pay liberally all who work for us that we may attain our object and have our magazine read by all the reading families of the Dominion.

Though subscriptions can commence with any month the majority of people desire to commence with the January number and we therefore wish canvassers to go to work at once.

### CIRCLE CHAT.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ACCURATE MEMORY in every walk of life is universally felt. A first-class means of cultivating the memory, then, should be duly considered by all, and practised by those at least who require improved accuracy in recalling events. Probably the best remedy for a bad memory and the best fertiliser of a moderately good one was practised by the late Thurlow Weed, who remarked that his memory was a sieve when he was a young man. Every evening for fifty years he mentally went over every incident of the day, the task being made more interesting by his wife's inducing him to recite his adventures and doings to her. "I could recall little at first," he says. "Finally I found I could recall more. Events came back to me more minutely and more accurately." Young men particularly should heed this lesson.

LOYALTY AMONG CANADIANS seems to be rather slender. Now, a deep attachment to one's country cannot be cultivated any time as well as in childhood. It must be instilled into the child's mind at home and in school. The curriculum of school studies should place no history—not England's—above that of our own Dominion.

PROPHECIES OF EXTRAORDINARY STORMS during the present year are supported by an old English doggerel couplet which foretells storms during the year following the event of Christmas' falling on Monday. Another couplet of similar origin, said to have been contributed to our literature long before Mother Shipton's time, reads:

"When Easter falls in our Lady's lap  
On England will come a great mishap;"

meaning when Easter Sunday coincides with Lady day, as it does this year. This has not happened since 1744, when a few days after Easter the war broke out with France which led to the battle of Fontenoy and included the Jacobite insurrection of 1745. To a great many those ancient prophetic doggerel couplets, with circumstance to support them, mean more than an interesting pastime, notwithstanding the proofs of their falsity in the past, and the rapid advance of mental culture, which tends to dispel such beliefs.

"STIMULANTS DO NOT ACT ON THE SYSTEM," says Mr. A. Cuthbertson, a student of Knox College, in a lecture recently; "but the system acts on them." Among other proofs of the correctness of this theory the condition of a body after death by poison is cited, which shows that the parts where the poison is are not affected, but the nervous system has been struggling to expel the poison. The theory presents plainly and forcibly the result of using stimulants.

## RESPONSES TO READERS.

*Questions for answers should be addressed, Correspondents' Department, "Family Circle," London East, Ont.*

MRS. S.—We are always glad to receive good recipes for publication.

W. R.—1. No; the scientific writers on love agree that women do not like pretty or foppish men. Height, size and activity are attractive to them, but intellectuality, courage, liberality, gallantry and firmness are qualities which have far more power in eliciting a woman's love. 2. Men love beauty in woman and a perfect form above all things. Literary faculties, purity, virtue and dignity are the most attractive qualities to men in the other sex. This applies only to those who are well sexed and old enough to know their own minds.

AMANDA.—You will only lose the respect of the gentleman mentioned by not being more reserved and dignified. It is probable that he really does not believe exactly what he tells you concerning kissing, and if he does he is prejudiced by his desires. If he will not love you without your compromising your dignity his love is not worth your efforts to obtain. If he is really worthy, a dignified manner will increase his respect and love for you.

H. H.—Canvassers for subscribers can always obtain sample copies of the FAMILY CIRCLE free on application. Outfit sent. Get all the subscribers you can at once. Your vicinity has never been canvassed.

ENQUIRER.—Walt Whitman's works may on a careless perusal appear vulgar in places, but upon careful reading their effect will be found to be an indescribable, elevating influence, which makes us view men and women as more wonderful, to recognize the holiness of their sex and physical parts and to raise us above the prevalent mock modesty.

CARRIE F.—It would be wise for you to wait until you know your own mind better. It is difficult to advise in your case. It might be to your interest to study the tastes of the two gentlemen, of course preferring the one most like yourself in tastes and the most unlike in complexion, size, temperament, etc. The one who has the most manly traits and is the most tender to you will make the better husband. Don't be frightened as to your judgment's being biased. The one who, to your mind, has those traits should be your choice.

KIRBY M.—If you love the gentleman you designate as Mr. X. and are as you say perfectly confident that there is a mutual understanding of marriage between you, we can see no reason why he should not be vexed at your conduct, but we would caution you against placing too much reliance upon being as "good as engaged." Until he has proposed to you formally he has no right to expect you to make the slightest sacrifice. His jealousy may possibly only show his love, but his conduct is unwarranted under the present circumstances, and you are right in feeling and acting independently.

C. V.—By all means, follow your mother's advice. She understands better than you can the circumstances, and if, as you say, you care no more for the gentleman concerned than for any other acquaintance, it will be a very little sacrifice and will show the appreciation you owe to your mother's loving interest in your welfare.

W. S.—Gray's "How Plants grow" would be the best, book for you to study.

G. J.—Unless you are fully satisfied that you are particularly adapted for a profession you had better remain where you are. Farming, with the facilities now in use, is by no means a hard occupation. If you look to a profession as being easier work you are making a grave mistake.

SUBSCRIBER.—We cannot allow agents to take renewals in places where another agent has worked up a good circulation; but we can generally give applicants sections to canvass, where they will have the right to collect the renewals and retain the regular agent's commission in future years. Read our 1882-83 circular mailed you.

*A number of answers have been crowded out of this number and will appear next month.*