The Family.

Last Night.

That rare, ethereal flower I saw last night
Which never blossoms till the sun is gone,
And, like a spirit shrinking from the light,
Folds up its petals ere the morning dawn:
Night-blooming Cerus, beautiful and white,
In its brief hour, what else befel last night?

Last night a child was born: its clear blue eyes
Were opened to a life that will not end;
In depths of woe, or joy above the skies,
A young eternity the child will spend.
But yester-morn he had not seen the light;
A soul immortal, he awoke last night.

Last night an old man died: his silver hair,
That was a cloud of glory on his brow,
Will float no more upon the summer air,
His day is past; his mouth is silent now;
And months and years will come, and take their flight:
He will not come home again—he died last night.

Last night a bride was to the altar led,
Lovely as a morning when the sun appears.
Last night a mother bent over her dead,
And bathed the icy brow with burning tears,
Meanwhile the stars shone on, the moon looked bright,
And the blue lake lay sleeping 'neath their light.

Last night a field was won; and all the air
Was rent with shouts of joy and victory:
Last night a ship went down, and wild despair
Sent cries of anguish o'er the troubled sea:
Last night some ransomed souls went up to heaven:
Last night how many perished unforgiven:

So goes the world; and sometime, soon or late,
When households gather at the break of day,
When the sun passes through his golden gate,
And all the earth is brightened in his ray—
When sea and sky are filled with rosy light,
It may be said of me, "She died last night."

—*N. Y. Observer.*

Signing the Pledge.

BY MRS. E. E. BROWN.

Alice Mason and Emma Howard sat alone in the elegant drawing room of Mr. Mason's residence. The rich satins and delicate laces, together with other paraphernalia peculiar to such occasions, intimated that a bridal was at hand, and so it was. Alice, the only daughter of the wealthy and aristocratic Mr. Mason, was betrothed to Charles Raymond, a young merchant, who was doing a thriving business in a neighbouring city, and who was a leading star in the fashionable world. It wanted but two weeks of the time set apart for the wedding, and Emma Howard, the intended bridesmaid, and the friend and confident of Alice, had come to assist in the preparations; while their fingers were busy in arranging the delicate fabrics, their tongues were no less busy in discussing the reality of the Present, and painting glowing pictures for the Future.

'Don't you think, Emma,' said Alice, after a short silence, 'Charley's cousin Ned almost persuaded him to join the Good Templars; I really believe he would have joined them if it had not been for me.'

'What do you mean, Alice? you surely did not raise any objections?'

'Most assuredly I did; and why not, little one?'

'O, Alice, I am so sorry;' and the troubled face of Emma showed that for some reason she was deeply moved.

'Why, Emma!' said Alice, petulently, 'what ails you? one would think it was a serious matter.'

'I fear it is serious,' said Emma sadly. 'I must tell you, Alice; at Squire Clifton's party the other night I saw Charles drink four glasses of wine, and how much more he drank I cannot tell.'

'Well, what of that?' said Alice, half angrily; 'of course he drinks wine; every gentleman is expected to. If it had been gin or whiskey it would have been different.'

'But, Alice, drunkards don't always commence their downward course by such strong drinks; they come to liking them gradually; and I am sorry you did not try to persuade Charles to join the Good Templars instead of opposing it.'

'Why, Emma, do you think I would have him join an order like that? thereby proclaiming to the world that he could not stand alone? No, indeed! I would not trust my happiness to the keeping of one who could not take care of himself.

'Alice, I have something I want very much to tell you,' interrupted Lewis, the brother of Alice, suddenly entering the room, and speaking in an excited manner. It is about Charles; do you mind having Emma hear it?'

'No, no! don't leave me, Emma;' and as Emma rose to leave the room, she clung to her, half frightened, and drew her back to her seat.

'Well, then,' said Lewis, 'the members of the "Social Club" had a supper at their rooms last night. Charles Raymond was there, and was carried home drunk: helplessly drunk!'

'O, Lewis! it cannot be! there must be some mistake!' came from the pale lips of Alice, and she buried her face in the soft pillow and sobbed aloud.

'I wish it were a mistake,' said Lewis; 'but I had the information from a reliable source, and thought it best to tell you of it at once. If I were you I'd give him a ticket of leave quick!' and he turned and left the room, while Emma threw her arms around her friend and strove to comfort her.

'What shall I do, Emma? I did not think he would get drunk!' and Alice shuddered as the words passed her lips.

'See him at once,' said Emma, 'talk to him kindly, but firmly—tell him you cannot marry a drunkard, and if he will not give you some surety of abstinence in future, break off the engagement; it will be hard, I know, but better that than a life of misery.'

A few days passed, and again Emma was sitting with her friend; and again the conversation turned upon Charles Raymond.

'I have talked with him about that affair, said Alice; 'he says it was a sort of an accident, that he had no idea of becoming so, and that the brandy must have been stronger than usual or it would not have affected him so; he promised never to become so again, and only to drink very moderately in future. He even said he would join the good templars if I wished it, but I would not quite agree to that; it would look so weak and foolish.'

Emma did not reply; but her heart was heavy with misgivings.

A week later and the fashionable Miss Linfield gave a splendid party, to which, of course, Charles Raymond was invited, as well as our young friends Alice and Emma. Wine passed freely at the supper table, and young Raymond, who was usually somewhat reserved, became at first witty and lively, then almost boisterous, while his flushed face and imperfect articulation told the observer he had taken too much wine.

Alice saw it all; and disappointed and sick at heart she strove to persuade him to return home. 'But no! he was having too good a time, it was all nonsense to think of going home so early;' and he commenced singing noisely. 'I won't go home till morning.'

Alice turned sadly away, and seeking Emma, poured into her sympathizing ear an account of her trouble and mortification.

'Come out this way, away from the crowd, and we will consider what is best to be done,' said Emma; and they turned toward a room which appeared to be empty. Passing the door of the supper-room they looked up, and there stood Charles Raymond alone, just in the act of pouring out a glass of wine; while his hand was so unsteady that the red drops were freely scattered around. Alice was speechless; but Emma sprang forward and grasped his arm just as he was raising the glass to his lips.

'Charles Raymond, stop!' exclaimed she in a commanding voice. Complete astonishment rendered him, for a moment, powerless to resist, and he put the glass down.

In a moment, however, he recovered from his surprise, and once more taking up the glass he said moodily—'What business is it to you, Emma Howard? I have a right to drink when I please!'

'No!' said she firmly, 'you have no right to mar, by beastly intoxication, the form which God has made in his own image! You have no right to bring down your parents' gray hairs with sorrow to the grave! You have no right to break the heart of my nearest and best friend, and make her whole life a wilderness of sorrow! Look upon her!' and she drew the weeping Alice to her side. 'Look upon her whom you have professed to love, who in a few days is to become your wife, and say if you have a right to bring so much misery upon one whose whole life, before she knew you, was one unruffled stream of happiness.'

'A great deal she cares about it,' said he contemptuously. I knew my own danger before she did, and would have joined the Good Templars but for her. She who was afraid I would disgrace myself by joining an organization of temperance, will not think it disgraceful for me to drink a few glasses of wine!' and again he raised the glass to his lips.

'Stop, Charles, I implore you!' said Alice, stepping forward, 'I acknowledge my own wrong and withdraw all my objections. O Charles! I beseech you, by the memory of all you have been, and still are to me—by all our hopes of happiness, and dreams of future bliss—stop, before it is too late—sign the pledge if you will—put my name there beside yours; together we will join hands and step back from this fearful precipice! Promise me, Charles, this night, before you leave me, promise me, before God, and in the presence of our true friend, to renounce at once and forever, the tempter who has such power over you! Will you promise?'

Charles was completely sobered by the unexpected turn affairs had taken, and thoroughly ashamed and repentant, he grasped a hand of each, and said, solemnly,—

'Alice, I do promise; never, so long as the blood courses through my veins—never will I drink another glass of intoxicating liquor of any kind. And oh, Alice, and you too, Emma, can you forgive me and strive to forget the past?'

'Willingly, gladly,' said they both! 'We, too, will renounce forever the sparkling wine; and to make our resolution still stronger, let us join heart and hand with the noble band of brothers and sisters who have stepped out from the snare of the tempter, and are using all their power to draw others out.'

The next week, Charles Reymond and Alice Mason took upon themselves double vows. First, in the Temperance Hall, before a crowd of earnest workers in the good cause, they pledged themselves to abstain from all that would intoxicate; and the next day they stood up before the man of God and pledged themselves to 'love, honor and cherish—till death us do part.'

Both pledges have been faithfully kept; and you will not find in the whole city a happier household than that of Charles Raymond.

Temperance.

The Manufacture of Drunkards.

BY HON. M. CAMERON, OTTAWA.

Temperance! I could write and talk upon the subject for ever. It is old, yet ever new. The last and present crop of drunkards present so much that is melancholy and awful, that I feel the whole question as freshly as if yesterday was the first time I ever heard the word. It never struck me so strongly as it does this day that drinking is the most horrible, the most cruel, and the most unnatural of vices. A man may steal to support, comfort and cherish his family; a man may lie to obtain means to support his family: a man may gamble and yet lavish means on those he loves; a man may curse and swear at those who annoy his wife and children; he may profane God's holy day to give them pleasure and amusement—and yet be comparatively happy. 'Tis only drinking that turns the heart to stone, the man to a demon. Selfishly and alone he drinks the means that should be given for the comfort and sustentation of those he is sworn to support; then, disgusted with himself, he returns home the very incarnation of the devil, and vents his wrath on the wife and children he has robbed; if they remonstrate, the fiend within urges him to attack, beat, bruise, and sometimes murder these intolerable *reminders* to his soul and conscience of his sin. He becomes their enemy, their persecutor, and makes his house the Hell his own mind has already become. Yes, men of naturally kind hearts, with excellent wives and six or eight children, are exhibiting this dark picture in Canada to-day! How then, can temperance societies or pledges grow old or tiresome, more than the Scriptures or preaching? The female portion of the land should league in self-defence on this subject. They are terrible sufferers, and they have it in their own hands if they would arise in their might and purity, and work it down. But alas! many of them are its victims, and as long as weak, covetous, ignorant, selfish doctors will recommend alcohol because it pleases people, because it gets customers and assures a good crop for ever after,—so long will woman fall, the churches be disgraced, and inebriate asylums be a necessity. It is the mean, week-kneed, conscienceless doctors that do much of the mischief, and are making drunkards in the best society daily. I have said my say this morning.—*Com. to London Advertiser.*

A Temperance Christian Senator.

Rev. Theo. L. Cuyler writes from Saratogo to the *Independent*, giving an account of a great temperance demonstration. He says:—

The meeting yesterday was a signal success. The leading speaker was Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, who to all his honourable titles now adds the other loftier one, "Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ." Wilson's manly frame and ruddy cheek are a living argument for total abstinence. Such hale, lusty vigor is not inspired by the bottle. No sophistries about the "need of alcohol stimulants" can answer such evidence as Gough, and Beecher, and Wilson furnish to the capacity of enduring heavy strains on the nervous system without a drop of distilled spirits. The men who fight the best, write the best, speak the best, and live the longest, are those who eschew the product of rottenness in the fermenting-vat, and feed the bodily forces with such beverages as the Creator furnishes. I never loved Wilson as I did yesterday. His speech was tender, so manly, so honest, so Christian in every syllable. He spoke of his early days of toil on a farm and as a "prentice boy," as Lincoln used to speak of his; not to boast of his elevation, but to draw lessons from these rough experiences. He told us of congressional experiences, of the superior skill and endurance of those senators who never resort to the brandy-bottle for inspiration, and of the melancholy fall of great statesmen who were drowned in the abyss of strong drink. When he exclaimed, "Young men! you are too precious to be lost! God has made me childless; I have buried my only boy; and whenever I meet a young man of prominence I seem to say, *There is* my boy"—the tears rolled down his manly cheeks, and the audience wept with him. God bless Henry Wilson! The new England conscience has no better public representative. His speech had the religious unction of a son of the Puritans.

Agriculture.

The Law and Manners of the Road.

All of us have ideas more or less correct in regard to the law which regulates our use of the highways; and, at any rate, good sense and good nature are usually very safe guides. A few words on the subject, however, may not be amiss.

It is commonly said that every one has a right to half the road. This is practically true, and comes about in this wise:—You and I meet upon the road—our legal rights are exactly equal, and both have a right to go on our several ways without obstruction, so, popularly we say, I own half and you half. The law steps in to facilitate matters, and directs each to turn towards his right hand. The road should be "worked" wide enough for two teams abreast, then each man has a clear title to a passage on his right hand side of the way, and no one has a right to obstruct another while on his own proper track. This is true whatever the road or the team; for if one can drive such a team that another can pass him but with difficulty or not at all, then their rights are no longer equal. This point becomes very important in winter, for it is no joke to turn your horse and all in the deep snow while your neighbour goes smoothly along in the beaten path. No one has a right so to load his team as not to be able to give up half the track to whoever demands it.

A footman may choose the part which pleases him on any portion of his right hand half the way, and the team must yield to him. This is clearly so in winter, and no man is obliged to step into the snow for one or two horses; this is the law, and the Court awards it

Now for the manner of the road; which, in some instances, vary from the law thereof.

The first requirements of road manners is good nature and an accomodating spirit. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Always be willing to yield more than half the space, then you will be pretty sure to be equally well treated. They who exact inches will have inches exacted of them. If your neighbour has a heavy load, consult his convenience as far as possible: you may sometime be loaded. It has become a practical rule of courtesy to turn out for wood or logs, and for other heavy teams in winter; for they say, "we often cannot turn out, and never safely, so if you want wood accommodate us;" which we are very willing to do. But remember, it is a favour, not your right, and you have a reciprocal duty to perform, one which I am sorry to observe is not always kept in mind. When you have unloaded and are returning empty, just recollect that you had the whole road in the morning, and it is no more than fair that you should be particularly obliging to those whom you meet now, and give them their full share of the path.

One word in relation to teams going the same way; in which case many seem to think there is neither law nor manners. When a team comes up behind you, which desires to proceed faster than you do, that team has a right to reasonable space and opportunity to pass in—and your obstructing him in his lawful desire is both bad manners and bad law. If your load is heavy, do the best you can. In most cases the very least that can be asked is that you should stop. This is particularly so in winter, when it is a heavy tax on any team to force it into a trot in a deep snow—made necessary by your continuing at a walk. My remark above in relation to the empty wood sled sled applies here, and, if one wishes to pass you, remember that while loaded you had the whole road.—VIA, *in N. E. Farmer.*

When a Hen will and will not Lay.

When a hen is *satisfied* it will lay. It is satisfied when it has enough to eat and drink, and that of a good quality. It is satisfied when it has warm quarters (in winter). It is satisfied when it is unmolested. It is satisfied when it has a safe, retired place to lay, for a hen does not want to be annoyed with doubt in regard to its future progeny. It is satisfied when it has room enough. It is satisfied when it has a place to wallow in. It is satisfied when it finds gravel and bits of burnt bone strewn where it is. It is satisfied with a variety of food, animal and vegetable, and vegetables from the garden, such as cabbages, onions, etc. It is satisfied when it feels the warming influence of pepper mixed with its food. It is particularly satisfied when it has somebody to give it these things daily, and be a daily friend to it—for the hen is social and companionable. And, lastly, it is satisfied with a rooster.

But it is *not* satisfied when it suffers for the want of food. It is not satisfied with dirty water. It is not satisfied with shivering in the cold. It is not satisfied with disturbance and danger. It is not satisfied when thrust with a great number of hens and jostled about. It is not satisfied when it has a hard, naked floor, where its bright eye cannot detect a grain of sand to form a shell for its egg. It is not satisfied when it has no safe place to lay. It is not satisfied when it is neglected. And, last of all, it is greatly dissatisfied when forsaken and left to shift for itself, as is usually done in barns, often trodden upon, at least its toes, if not frozen off.—*Colman's Rural.*

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'When I survey the wondrous Cross"
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Not all the blood of beasts."
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