

Family Circle.

THE YOUNG MOTHER.

Train your infant to habits of obedience—for in early childhood it is more a habit than a virtue—and I would now speak of it as such. An infant will naturally attempt to seize hold of anything that attracts its notice, and it must be taught to yield up what would be injurious, even an infant must learn obedience. In order to facilitate the acquisition, never allow anything to be taken from it without immediately supplying its place with some other attractive object; but as prevention is better than cure, you must avoid placing within its reach anything that it ought not to have. When you are obliged to compel it to resign anything, a kind, yet determined expression of countenance, and a gentle, yet firm tone of voice should be used; it is not well in such cases to resort to coaxing. We should never thwart an infant unnecessarily, but when it must be opposed, it should be done effectually; it ought never to come off victorious, as its obstinacy will be strengthened by conquest. Try to make compliance with your wishes pleasant to its feelings, by often requiring it to do what you know will give it pleasure, as much as possible avoid commanding what is disagreeable, and Gently lead and assist your infant to obey.

"Kiss mamma, dearest," is a command you may be sure will be obeyed with alacrity, but beware how you hazard your authority by saying, "kiss that lady, my dear." Look well at the countenance of the child before you issue the command, to see whether it is willing to be embraced; for it is of immense importance that it should not disobey its mother in a single instance. When a child has, unnoticed by you, obtained possession of some object that you wish him not to have, do not speak in a tone of alarm or anger when you require him to give it up; you will frighten or irritate him, and he may injure himself, or the article he holds, before it can be removed. The best plan is to offer him something with one hand, while with the other you firmly, but gently, grasp the little hand that holds the interdicted object, and say in a cheerful tone, "take this, baby, see I see how pretty!" Thus, an open penknife was once taken from an active child, in the arms of a careless nursemaid; had the mother called to the maid, in a tone of alarm, to take the knife, no doubt but one of the parties would have been injured.

As soon as a child can utter a few words, he seems to take delight in contradicting or opposing those around him, nor are they seriously displeased with such an early display of self-will. Almost one of the first words you hear a child utter, is "no! no!" which he will often vociferate with a merry laugh, or an angry frown, as his humor may be. These are sweet sounds to the young mother's ears, and she scampers after the young tyrant, exclaiming "you shall," and loading him with kisses, shows that she is delighted with his provess. Beware, fond mother, how you train your child to contradict and disobey you! He will soon add to his vocabulary, and "I won't," will resound through the house, and what was at first a subject of amusement, will soon become a source of deep anxiety and discomfort. To contradict is in fact to disobey, and the best plan is for the mother not to contradict in reply, but quietly and with serious composure to say, "you must obey." Another contradictory answer will probably be made, but instead of noticing it steadily lead the child to perform, or to submit to the required act; when he finds that he must invariably yield, he will soon cease to contradict.

It is well to give children as few commands as possible, and to avoid needlessly opposing them, especially in their amusements. Take care to provide them with toys that they cannot spoil, or that you are quite willing they should spoil; it sours a child's temper to be continually opposed, and it tries your own to see valuable things destroyed. Children should have few playthings, and those should be strong and of small value, so that they may knock them about as they please.

Do not burden the memory of very young children with commands that are to be obeyed at some future time. If, for instance, a child enters a room calling in a loud voice, it may be well to say to him, "Now, tell me quietly what you want?" and make him repeat his message or request. You may thus easily cure him of a rude habit. If you say, "Never come into the room again, my dear, speaking so loudly," you issue a command which is almost sure to be broken, though quite unintentionally. The child forgets your order, and is guilty of disobedience, which you do not like to punish; but if you only correct the fault when committed, the habit will soon be conquered, without your authority being called in question.

Try to interest your child as he gets more knowledge in your own occupations, with a view to making him feel that he is useful. I have often been amused at the ingenuity of children in finding themselves employment. Put them into a room over so largely arranged, and they will soon litter it all over. They will be equally industrious if you will say, "Come and help me to put all things straight," and there will be as much exertion as you could desire, to assist you. You will thus be well repaid for your self-command, by seeing the ani-

mated countenance of your child while trying to "help dear mamma." Remember that the unceasing activity of childhood is no mischief, but is a certain sign of both a healthy body and an active mind.—British Mother's Mag.

GOD IS WAITING TO BLESS YOUR CHILD.

"Mother, what a nice trumpet James has, it sounds so loud!" said a little boy, whose prevailing fault was idleness.

"Yes," replied his mother, "it was given to him for good behaviour, and I have something for you the first day you are diligent during all the time of your lessons."

"I will try to-morrow," he said, and ran away to play with his brother. More than a week, however, passed before he could be lured from the box of tin-pans which had been laid aside for him. Having succeeded in mastering his love of play for about an hour and a half one forenoon, he said to his mother, with a pouting countenance, "I have been diligent this morning, and have finished my lessons already; may I have my box now?" then, though with less apparent joy, yet with no less real satisfaction, did the mother gratefully her boy.

"If ye, then," said our blessed Saviour, "know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him!" If there is one good thing which Christian parents desire more than another, surely it is the salvation of their children, and we have the promise of our heavenly Father—"I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring," as well as the invitation of our Saviour, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." He is more ready to give than we to receive. He wants to be gracious. Why, then, do we seem so often to labor and pray to so little purpose? are we diligent in our Christian course? are we walking closely with God? are we striving to overcome our besetting sins? are we laborious and self-denying?

In the case alluded to, the mother was exceedingly desirous of bestowing the gift, and grieved that her boy did not fulfil the conditions. May not God, in like manner, be exceedingly desirous to bestow gifts that we are longing most to receive? but as in the case of the little boy, may we not be neglecting some necessary condition?—Montreal Witness.

STUDY A CHILD'S CAPACITIES.

If some are naturally dull, and yet strive to do well, notice the effort, and do not censure the dullness. A teacher might as well scold a child for being near sighted, as for being naturally dull. Some children have a great verbal memory, others are quite the reverse. Some minds develop early, others late. Some have appeared stupid, because the true spring of character has never been touched. The dance of a school may turn out, in the end, the living progressive wonder working genius of the age. In order to exert the best spiritual influence we must understand the spirit upon which we wish to exert that influence; for with the human mind we must work with nature, and not against it—Like the leaf of the nettle, if touched one way, it stings like a wasp, if the other, it is softer than satin. If we would do justice to the human mind, we must find its peculiar characteristics, and adapt ourselves to individual wants. In conversation on this point with a friend, who is the principal in one of our best grammar schools, and to whose instruction I look back with delight—"Your remarks," said he, "are quite true; let me tell you a little incident, which bears upon this point. Last summer I had a girl who was exceedingly behind in all her studies. She was at the foot of the division, and seemed to care but little about her books. It so happened that, as a relaxation, I let them at times during school hours, unite in singing. I noticed that this girl had a remarkably clear, sweet voice, and you may lead in the singing?" She brightened up, and from that time her mind seemed more active. Her lessons were attended to, and she soon gained a high rank. One day as I was going home I overtook her with a school companion, 'Well Jane,' said I, 'you are getting along very well, how happens it you do much better now than at the beginning of the quarter?'

"I do not know why it is," she replied.

"I know what she told me the other day," said her companion.

"And what was that?" I asked.

"Why, she said she was encouraged."

"Yes, here we have it—she was encouraged. She felt she was not dull in everything. She had learned self-respect, and thus she was encouraged."

Some twelve or thirteen years ago there was in Franklin school an excessively dull boy—One day the teacher, wishing to look out a word took up the lad's Dictionary, and on opening it found the blank leaves covered with drawings. He called the boy to him.

"Did you draw these?" said the teacher.

"Yes, sir," said the boy, with a downcast look.

"I do not think it is well for boys to draw in their books," said the teacher, "and I would rub these out, if I were you, but they are well done. Did you ever take lessons?"

"No, sir," said the boy, his eyes sparkling.

"Well, I think you have a talent for this thing. I should like you to draw me something

when you are at leisure at home, and bring it to me. In the mean time see how well you can recite your lessons."

The boy felt he was understood. He began to love his teacher. He became animated, and proud of his books. He took delight in gratifying his teacher by his faithfulness to his studies while the teacher took every opportunity to encourage him in his natural desires. The boy became one of the first scholars, and gained the medal before he left school. After this he became an engraver, and up money enough to go to Europe, studied the works of old masters, sent home productions from his own pencil, which found a place in some of the best collections of paintings, and is now one of the most promising artists of his years in the country.—After the boy gained the medal, he sent the teacher a beautiful picture as a token of respect, and, I doubt not, to this day he feels that that teacher, by the judicious encouragement he gave to the natural turn of his mind, has had a great moral and spiritual effect on his character.—American Paper.

Geographic and Historic.

CARRIER DOVE.

This description of the dove was known and employed in very ancient times throughout the East for conveying intelligence. Bochart furnishes so many ancient and great authorities, that there can remain no doubt upon the subject. Intius and Brutus, at the siege of Modena, held a correspondence with one another by means of pigeons. Ovid and Pliny inform us that Taurosthenes, by a pigeon stained with purple, gave notice to his father of his victory at the Olympic Games, by sending it to him at Egina.

Linnaeus calls this most interesting, far-famed, gilded bird by the name of *Columba toliaria*. The name is derived from a word signifying a letter. This dove is of a larger size than the greater part of pigeons, being 15 inches in length, and sometimes weighing twenty ounces. The symmetry of its form is more superior and complete. Those which are of a blue or of a blue pied color, are most esteemed by pigeon fanciers. We know not the country to which the carrier originally belonged. It is said to have been imported from Bassorah into Britain, where it is now completely naturalized.

Pliny makes a striking remark on the intelligence conveyed by pigeons at the siege of Modena. "Of what avail," he says, "were sentinels, circumvallations, or nests obstructing the river, when intelligence could be conveyed by aerial messengers?"

It is said pigeons are hooked winged, and in this state conveyed from twenty to one hundred miles, they will find their way back to the place of their nativity. They are regularly trained to this service in Turkey and Persia.—They are carried first, while young, short flights of a mile, afterwards the distance is gradually increased, till at length they will return from the farthest parts of the kingdom, and even from foreign lands across the sea. It was customary, and it is probably the case now, that every Bashaw had a basket of these pigeons bred in the seraglio, which were used in cases of pressing emergency, which require urgency and expedition. It is said that while an army was besieging Tyre in the Crusades, intelligence from a distant quarter was suspected from a pigeon being frequently observed hovering above the city. The besiegers obtained possession of the bird, removed the billet, containing useful intelligence to those who were within the city, this billet was replaced by another containing deceitful intelligence; the bird was liberated, and by the false information the besiegers got possession of the city.

A STRANGE VISITOR.

I had been sitting in the verandah reading, and went away for a few minutes to speak to my wife. When I came back my chair was occupied. There, sitting as quietly as possible, was an enormous orang outang, or monkey of some sort. When I first caught sight of him he had my book in his hands, and was to all appearance reading. It happened, however, to be rather a stupid book, and he threw it down. He then placed his hands upon his knees, and sat perfectly still, just as if he had been meditating on what he had been reading. I should say, as nearly as I could judge, that he must have been about five feet in height, supposing him to stand erect. He sat as upright as any man. After watching him for a minute or two, and observing that the calves of his legs were thicker and more like those of a man than monkeys' legs usually are, I stepped quietly back and called my wife. All this time I had not seen his face. However, as she came one of the parrots screamed, and the old gentleman turned his head. His face was very dark, with large whiskers and beard, and all perfectly white; his body a light brown, and his hands peculiarly large. As soon as he saw me he half rose, laid both hands on the elbow of the chair, and began to grin and show his teeth and spit at me. I did not quite like it, as I was afraid he might make a spring in my direction; yet I know my voice would at once frighten him away, if I raised the horrid unearthly yell

used by the natives to scare wild beasts, and which even the tiger will hardly resist, unless much pressed by hunger. Still I felt more inclined to watch him. Once I thought of going round the other way, and getting my gun; but really he looked so much like a man, that I could not have shot him. He continued to grin, and spit till I turned away, hoping he would resume his former sedate position. As soon however, as he thought my eye was off him, he rose suddenly from his chair, stepped slowly out of the verandah, caught hold of a branch of the banyan tree, and swung himself up into it. While he did this I saw he had a long tail, so that he could not, I believe, have been an orang-outang. Indeed, I never heard of them coming into this little island, nor, I think, into the district. I went into my study, and immediately afterwards heard him scuffling away over the roof of the house.—Memoirs and Customs of India.

THE NATURALIST'S DREDGE.

No one can have thrown down the dredge many times, on almost any sort of ground, and failed to bring up one or other of the various animals called Starfishes whose name suitably indicates their form. Sometimes the dredge comes up literally filled with these creatures, thousands being brought up in a single haul, as if the bottom were formed of a living bank of them, or as if we had disturbed a submarine hive in the process of swarming. The countless myriads of living Starfishes which thus cluster together may serve to explain to us the profusion with which similar animals, whose remains are now found in rocky strata, were dispersed through the waters of the early world. But, while we have this similarity in relative quantity between the modern races and those of ancient days, we find in this, as in most other cases, a complete change in the types most common at different periods of the world's age. The animals which represent our Starfishes in early strata have wholly perished from the modern waters; and the very type of structure to which they belonged has nearly become extinct, and is now confined to a very few species. In the seas which once flowed over the British Islands there lived a race of Starfishes whose bodies were affixed, like flowers, to a slender stalk, composed of numerous shelly plates, disposed like the bones in a vertebral column, and connected together and rendered flexible by the fleshy coat of the animal. This stalk was fixed to some foreign body, and thus the Starfish remained at anchor, ready to seize upon any animal which came within the length of its tether, but, unlike its modern representative, unable to pursue its game to any distance.—The petrified remains of these curious animals are commonly called *Lily stones*, or *Eocrinites*, and the joints of their stem are known by the name of *St. Cuthbert's heads*. Whether they became at any period of their life, free from the stalk, and capable of independent motion, is uncertain, as we have no living species to tell the tale; and, to judge from the remains found in a fossil state, it does not appear probable. The modern seas of Britain furnish us with but a single species of the family *Crinoidea*, the group to which the Lily Stars of early time belonged; and it is not a little curious that this species though it afterwards becomes free, swimming about like any other Starfish, is in its infancy affixed to a stalk perfectly analogous to that of the Eocrinite. When first detected in this young state, it was indeed, supposed to be a distinct animal and believed to be the pigmy representative of the Lily Star. Subsequent observations have shown that the little creature is merely the young of the Featherstar (*Comanula rosacea*), the only living Crinoid Starfish in the British seas.—Harvey's Sea-side Book.

FATAL HOT WIND OF INDIA.—One of the most awful scenes I have ever witnessed occurred at this place. One of the tents during the march, was used as a carpenter's shop, where the saddle trees for the regiment were made and repaired as the occasion required.—Whilst the poor fellow who performed this duty was at work, about mid-day, he was struck by one of the "hot winds" so common in India. It instantly deprived him of the power of speech. He was carried to the hospital, and the veins of both arms opened, leeches applied to his chest, and every remedy tried, but in vain. I saw the poor fellow laid on his guthrie besmeared with blood from head to foot, and in this state, within the hour, he was a corpse.—United Service Magazine.

THE HINDOO GIRL.—The *Northern Register* states that Mr. Pierpont made the following interesting statement in his lecture, before the Norwich Lyceum.—"At the present day, the uneducated Hindoo girl, by the use of her hands simply, could surpass in delicacy and fineness of texture the production of the most perfect machinery, in the manufacture of cotton and muslin cloth. In England, cotton has been spun so fine, that it would require a thread of four hundred and ninety nines in length to weigh a pound; but the Hindoo girl had, by her hands, constructed a thread which would require to be extended one thousand miles to weigh a pound and the Dacca muslins of her manufacture, when spread on the ground and covered with dew, were no longer visible."