#### The Grace of Cheerfulness.

I said: I will be glad to-day! The rain-clouds drift along the hills, The grass is drowned in lakes and rills, The birds of song are chilled and mute, The dreariness seems absolute; And yet I will be glad to-day!

I will be glad, be glad to-day, Though many tiresome tasks are set My patient hands, I will forget The frets that trouble and depress, And think on things of pleasantness; And so I will be glad to-day!

I will be glad to-day, to-day; For summer suns again will shine, The air will thrill like tonic wine, The birds will sing as n'er before,
And with these blisses yet in store,
Why should I not be glad to-day?
-Emma A. Lente, in 'Christian Endeavor World.'

## The Personal Relations of Fathers and Sons.

I was afraid of my father. So were my brothers. We loved him, but there was no community of interest between us then, nor in later life. Yet he was a capable man, whose intimacy would have conferred a charm to our boyhood and a benefit to our character that nothing in after life can compensate for.

I have observed hundreds of families, only I have observed hundreds of families, only to find that my boyish experience is all too common. The father may be 'too busy' to get acquainted with his sons. 'I have no time to spend with my boys as you do,' is often said to me. Then make time. You will accomplish more in your busines by so planning that you may enjoy the renewed vigor that comes from sensible play or intelligent work with your children, especially the boys.

Your dignity and parental authority will not

Your dignity and parental authority will not suffer if you use godly judgment. 'Familiarity breeds contempt' only when it ought to! Most people lack tact, partly because it was not developed in youth. Intimacy between father and son is a school of tact in which teacher and child benefit equally. A father said to me in despair: 'I can't "get at' my boy; somehow we don't understand each other at all.' That man would resent it if told that at all.' That man would resent it if told that he did not possess sufficient tact to 'get at' some set of men with whom he wished to do business! The boy is a little man—in many ways not so much smaller than ourselves as

ways not so much smaller than ourselves as we may think.

'When my boys get along in their teens, I shall go off with them a good deal and devote time and thought to training their character,' said another fried, whose only hours at home are mostly spent in bed. He is deceiving himself. We must grow up with the boys, or they get away from us.

The first time my youngest boy did a job of painting at the house, he made a mess of it, though I had shown him how. Mother said: 'You would have hired it done better, pater.' 'Yes, but the boy would not have had the experience, nor I the fun.'

Mother looked thoughtful, and then remarked: 'How true that is! It is little enough our boys have to do, because we live in a town house, but this is all the more reason for encouraging them to do everything possible.' Now that boy can do more about the house than I can—almost as much as his mother. Experience is about the only good teacher.

Let the father make the first advances toward a community of interests, and the way in which the boys respond will surprise and delight him. The benefit will be mutual. The father often gets more out of it than the boys. It keeps him young, gives him a new view of life, keeps him in touch with childhood hopes and fears, and in sympathy with the enthusiasm and aspirations of youth. The bigger a man's character the more he will profit by such association; the smaller the father's nature the more he needs it.

The personal relations of fathers and sons are intended to supplement each other. Nature meant it that way. But here, as in all other respects, how often are we blind to the joys and responsibilities nature offers!—'Good Housekeeping.'

Housekeeping.

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