

## THE HOME CIRCLE.

## GOOD TEMPER.

Good temper is like a sunny day, it sheds its brightness on everything. No trait of character is more valuable than the possession of good temper. Home can never be made happy without it. It is like flowers springing up in our pathway, reviving and cheering us. Kind words and looks are the outward demonstration; patience and forbearance are the sentinels within.

If a man has a quarrelsome temper, let him alone. The world will soon find him employment. He will soon meet with some one stronger than himself, who will repay him better than you can. A man may fight duels all his life if he is disposed to quarrel. How sweet the serenity of habitual self-command! How many stinging self-reproaches it spares us! When does a man feel more at ease with himself than when he has passed through a sudden and strong provocation *without speaking a word, or in undisturbed good humour!* When, on the contrary, does he feel a deeper humiliation than when he is conscious that anger has made him betray himself by word, look or action? Nervous irritability is the greatest weakness of character. It is the sharp grit which aggravates friction and cuts out the bearings of the entire human machine. Nine out of every ten men we meet are in a chronic state of annoyance. The least untoward thing sets them in a ferment.

There are people, yes, many people, always looking out for slights. They cannot carry on the daily intercourse of the family without finding that some offence is designed. They are as touchy as hair triggers. If they meet an acquaintance who happens to be preoccupied with business, they attribute his abstraction in some mode personal to themselves and take umbrage accordingly. They lay on others the fruit of their irritability. Indigestion makes them see impertinence in every one they come in contact with. Innocent persons, who never dreamed of giving offence, are astonished to find some unfortunate word, or momentary taciturnity, mistaken for an insult.

To say the least, the habit is unfortunate. It is far wiser to take the more charitable view of our fellow beings, and not suppose that a slight is intended unless the neglect is open and direct. After all, too, life takes its hues in a great degree from the colour of our own mind. If we are frank and generous, the world will treat us kindly; if, on the contrary we are suspicious, men learn to be cold and cautious to us. Let a person get the reputation of being "touchy," and everybody is under restraint, and in this way the chances of an imaginary offence are vastly increased.

Do you not find in households—refined, many of them—many women who are jealous, exacting, and have a temper that will be swayed by nothing; and do we not see in another family circle, a man as coarse and foul mouthed as a despot? The purpose of the existence of a score of people is to make him happy, fan him, feed him, amuse him, and he