

Parents' Department.

THE WORTH OF A DOLL.—A tract has been written on the worth of a dollar; but I know not that any one has written upon the first four letters of that word *dollar*. I think much might be said upon it. With your leave, I wish to say a few words.

Many parents seem to overlook the importance of home amusements, home instruction, home employment, for their children. The minds of children are active, and they need something to interest them, amuse, instruct, and employ them.

As soon as my eldest daughter was able to speak, I produced her a box of blocks, with the letters of the alphabet marked upon them. With these she amused herself, and soon learned the whole alphabet, and also to spell words by selecting the proper letters.

In like manner I procured for my son the Infant's Library, as soon as he could repeat the letters. First these thirty-six little books were read to him; very soon he learned to read them himself, and read them over and over again; and I have no doubt that they were of as much service to him as the next six months schooling, though they cost but twenty-five cents.

Last fall I sent for a doll for my little daughter. It did not cost a dollar; but it was better than I intended to get, and of course cost more. But after she had been in possession of it for some six months, I began to reckon up the worth of it to her, and I was really surprised to find the sum so great:—

1. In the first place, it had made her contented at home, and kept her out of two streets, and this was surely worth to her at least	\$25 00
2. It had taught her to sew, cut and fit dresses, and make hats and bonnets, without calling on her feeble mother for aid, at least	25 00
3. It had cultivated a cheerful, contented, and happy disposition	25 00
4. It had furnished self-employment, amusement, and instruction; and so relieved her sick mother from care,	25 00
5. It had helped to develop those traits so amiable and lovely in a female, sisterly and motherly affection, and love for domestic duties,	50 00
6. As a motive to diligence in study and attention to other duties, it has been worth at least	50 00
7. Other benefits, unthought of, or indescribable, at least	100 00

Whole amount, \$300 00

So in a short time I found the little doll had already been worth more than three hundred dollars! Of course I concluded that a few shillings had been profitably expended; and I am led to think that if all parents would furnish their children with some appropriate home amusement and employment, it would be greatly to the advantage of both parents and children. It may not be necessary for all to purchase dolls, but if they would expend some few dollars in getting books, papers, and the like, for themselves and their children, I have no doubt that in less than a year they would find it a real saving. A little spent in this way might save much needless expense. If it is difficult to estimate the worth of a doll, who can tell the value of a good book or a useful paper.

Some abhor idolatry who are yet not so much afraid of dollar-worship! For a child to play with a doll is a very harmless kind of idolatry; and though many can tell the value of a dollar, I very much doubt whether any one can estimate, in a family of children, the worth of a doll.

THE THORN IN THE PILLOW.—Mabel went to spend a few days with her grandmother. She rode in a stage-coach, without either her father or mother to go with her; for though a little girl, she could take good care of herself, and the driver promised to set her down just where she wanted to stop. Mabel thought it was very fine to go off just like grown-up folks to think and act for herself, and she was much pleased with the idea of taking her grandmother by surprise and carrying her a new cap. So she kissed her parents, and the baby, and jumped into the coach, and drove away with a very smiling face. When she reached her journey's end, about fifteen miles off, her grandmother was surprised, and glad to see her; she had a cherry-pie for Mabel: the cap fitted, it was called "a beauty," and Mabel was very happy.

When it came night she was tired and very thankful

to go to bed, and her grandmother put her into a nice little chamber opening to hers. It had white curtains, and a straw carpet. After the lamp was put out, and all was still, it might have been expected that she would drop directly to sleep; but it was not so. Mabel lay quite still for a little while, then she grew restless, twisting her head about, jorking her pillow this way, and that, and then smoothing it down. However, before grandmother came up to bed, the little girl had gone to sleep; but when she came to give a good-night look at Mabel, she saw a tear-drop on her cheek, and she thought, "Very likely Mabel is a little homesick," and she asked Mabel the next day if that was so; but Mabel laughed cheerily and shouted, "O no, grandmother, I should never be homesick here."

It was just so the next night, and the next. When Mabel was in bed she tossed about, and there were the same little tear-drops on her cheek.—At last her grandmother thought, as the little girl seemed to be troubled, she would take the lamp, and go and sit in her chamber which you know was next to Mabel's until she fell asleep. And presently, although she had tucked Mabel nicely into bed, she heard her rustling the quilt, and fixing the pillow, and then she thought she heard a little cry, or a sob. So the good grandmother went to the little girl's bedside, and said, "Mabel, my child, you have got a thorn in your pillow: what is it?" Then Mabel hid her face and began to cry aloud. Her grandmother looked very much troubled, and kindly asked again what the matter was. "O grandmother" at last the little girl said, trying to be composed, "when I am alone here, I cannot help thinking how I said, 'I won't,' to my mother, and I can't unsay it; and mother is so good, and loves me so, and I—I was so naughty;" and the tears streamed afresh down the child's cheeks.

Here then was the "thorn in the pillow," the memory of a wicked, disobedient, rebellious "I won't," to her mother. In the daytime, with every body around, she could forget it; but when it came night, and she was alone, and tender thoughts of her happy home and her dear parents came over her, the naughty "won't" came also. O how sadly she felt. And she would never unsay it. Yet it was well that she felt it so: it bowed a tender conscience, and we may hope that her penitence led to amendment, indeed, I do not think Mabel ever again spoke a naughty word to her parents, or cherished a wicked and rebellious spirit against their authority; for she saw that by so doing she was putting thorns in her pillow, and treasuring up sorrow for the time to come. Yes, children, by disobedience and unkindness to parents you are certainly sowing thorns in your pillow, and treasuring up sorrow for days to come.

But, children, do you not sometimes in your heart say, "I won't," to God, your dear Heavenly Father? Do you not often have no mind to obey him? And yet how tenderly has He loved you. He has given you the air, and the sunshine. And your nimble hands, and strong feet, and your dear home, and kind friends; and when we disobeyed His laws, He sent His only beloved Son into the world, to be our Saviour; and he bore ill-treatment, and a cruel death upon the cross, for our sakes. What love is this! If our earthly father loves us, how much more our heavenly? And how should it grieve us, that we do not mind him better, and love him more, and O, children, nothing is more certain than that if you continue to cherish a rebellious, ungrateful, "I won't" spirit against this blessed Being, you are sticking thorns in the pillow of every comfort, and laying up sorrow for this world, and the world to come.

Selections.

CHOLERA.—ADVICE TO MASTERS OF MERCHANT VESSELS.—Captains of ships are hereby warned:—

1. What to avoid.

Overcrowding.—The amount of breathing space for the men, which may suffice in ordinary times, is insufficient in an epidemic season. Increase space as much as practicable. Permit no sails, large trunks, or any part of the cargo to occupy the fore-castle. If sufficient additional space cannot be otherwise obtained, erect a tent on deck awning, sails, &c., for the men at night, taking care that they sleep warm and dry. Ventilate the fore-castle and every part of the ship with fresh air as freely as possible. Pure air is the first essential requisite to safety.

Dampness.—To lessen the danger from dampness let the boards be dry-rubbed. Let the men change their wet clothes whenever practicable, and never allow the wet clothes to remain below an instant. A

thick flannel belt or bandage around the stomach or loins would be a great defence for sailors. Flannel or Guernsey frocks should be worn next to the skin.—Sudden and violent attacks of cholera often follow a chill.

Fifth.—Let every part of the ship be kept as clean and as sweet as possible, and enforce personal cleanliness on the men. Vessels affected by bilge water should be pumped out frequently, especially steamers.

Unwholesome Food.—Articles of food which may be taken with little inconvenience in ordinary times may be dangerous in an epidemic season. The best articles of food are meat, good biscuits, rice, oatmeal, and good potatoes. Solid food is better than fluids, and therefore, at this time it would be desirable to give the crew beef and mutton instead of soup. Care should be taken to avoid all tainted meat and decayed vegetables. Special attention should be paid to having a supply of pure water. All river water near towns should be avoided.

Excess.—Great moderation both in food and drink is absolutely essential to safety. A single act of indiscretion has been followed by a severe attack, and intemperance at such a time is fraught with extreme danger.

Purgative Medicines.—No purgative medicines of any kind should be taken at this season—unless under medical direction. Glauber's salts and Epsom salts are especially dangerous. Owners and masters should provide themselves with the necessary medicines immediately.

II. What to do.

Cholera is not so sudden in its attack as is supposed. It usually gives warning of its approach for some hours, and often for a day or two, by some degree of looseness in the bowels. This may be slight, and it is almost always without pain; but let no one be lulled by his guard by this circumstance. The master should, by observation and inquiry, take notice of the health of the crew; and for his guidance, until such time as he may be able to obtain medical assistance, the following recommendations are subjoined:—If any man should be attacked with any degree of looseness of the bowels, the following medicine should be given to him at once:—15 to 20 grains opiate confection, confection mixed with two table-spoonfuls of peppermint-water, or with a little weak brandy-and-water war. This should be repeated every three or four hours, or oftener if the attack is severe. If this medicine is not at hand, eight or ten drops of laudanum may be substituted for the opiate-confection. If the purging is severe, and especially if attended with vomiting or coldness, the man should go to bed immediately, and be kept warm. Bottles of hot water, or bags filled with salt or bran, should be applied to the stomach and feet and along the spine. A large quantity of mustard and vinegar should be put over the stomach, and kept on fifteen or twenty minutes. The above medicines should be continued every hour, or every two or three hours according to the emergency of the case, until a doctor can be got. Rest and warmth are essential until medical assistance arrives; but a moment should be lost in seeking medical aid.

THE GULF STREAM.—The external temperature of the globe has been beautifully illustrated by the Isothermal Maps of M. Dove. The amount and distribution of that superficial heat on which life and vegetation depend, are traceable to causes which it is more easy to assign than it is to measure their influence. The proportion of land to sea at the equator and at the poles, is a circumstance particularly dwelt upon by geologists. The climates of Labrador and of Kamtschatka, which are both intersected by a parallel of latitude running east and west through Britain, is so much colder than ours, principally because of the vast tracts of frozen land that lie between them and the pole; while we have open water, the great equaliser, of temperature, from the Shetland Isles northward to the Polar basin. Continents under a vertical sun are the chief treasuries of heat, which the currents of the ocean and of the atmosphere distribute to distant peninsulas and islands. The belt of rainless desert stretching from Sierra Leone to the Wall of China, has thus an office.—It is the sun which warms the air of the northern hemisphere, and aids in ripening the corn of the Siberian exile, at the wall-fruit in English gardens. The tepid seas that bathe the coast of Africa have their upper and lower waters conducted by an unceasing hand first westward with the sun, into the American Mediterranean; then under the name of the Gulf Stream, the same warm superficial current is found reflected along the United States, coast from Florida to New England; and thence this great ocean-river's tide is sent on more through the Atlantic, and poured upon the west