

which cannot be bought, is justifiable if with it there are mingled a feeling of humility and a desire to do one's own part to transmit the name as unsullied as it has been bestowed. What makes home love dearer and sweeter than all else, and treasured while life lasts? Not the tables and chairs, not the delicacy of porcelain, or the æsthetic beauty which the loom achieves. These minister to the comfort, taste and artistic nature; but beyond these there is something which ministers to the heart and soul, glorifying plain surroundings and homely details—something illusive to measure or weigh, yet potent to guide, to comfort and to help. What is this but the sympathy, the trust, the spirit of sacrifice, the gentleness, the faith, the readiness to do and to bear which, blended together, make the chain that binds us to our homes?

What beautiful prospects, what luxurious surroundings, what wonders of nature or art but lose their mysterious charm when viewed by eyes that

see not, or when shared with cold thankless heart? The power to enjoy, the power to appreciate, these are what render pleasures real and bring the joy into them. This thankful receiving of pleasures great or small, and extracting the honey of enjoyment from them, is not to be found at any store, yet it is another and large factor in true happiness?

Contentment, too, that balm against the ravages of worldly unrest, where can it be found, and what is its price? Not silver or gold, but patient striving with a thankful heart will bring it to the soul who desires it, and in its possession lurks the charm to chase away unhappy visions, to still unwise longings, and to open the inner vision to the peaceful delights of the home, the friends, the advantages which may be ours. And so through all the phases of human happiness we may go, finding always that its true essence is something that must be gained without money and without price.—*Harper's Bazar.*

GEOGRAPHY.

THE statistics of the average size of families in the various countries of Europe are as follows:—France, 3.03 members; Denmark, 3.61; Hungary, 3.70; Switzerland, 3.94; Austria and Belgium, 4.05; England, 4.08; Germany, 4.10; Sweden, 4.12; Holland, 4.22; Scotland, 4.46; Italy, 4.56; Spain, 4.65; Russia, 4.83; Ireland, 5.20.

THE length of the Suez Canal is 92 miles; depth, 26 feet, and it was thirteen years in construction. Tolls average \$4,300 per vessel. Steamers pass through in forty hours. For sailing vessels tugs are provided at a charge of \$1,000 extra. The entire cost of constructing the canal was \$85,180,000. The British Government owns

one-fifth of the shares of the canal, having bought 176,602 from the Khedive in 1876, for £4,976,600, being 12½ per cent. premium. The coupons having been cut off, the Khedive pays the interest till 1892. The canal shortens the voyage between England and the East by one-third; that is, it enables two vessels to do the same work that would require three by the Cape of Good Hope.—*Age of Steel.*

A QUARTZ CAVE.—The quartz cave in the side of Mount Stephen, in British Columbia, is said to have been almost entirely rifled of its contents by tourists and dealers. It should have been preserved in its integrity as a natural curiosity. It may be