

blessed with a Mother's love, be thankful and let your mother know that you love her.

### Influence of a Newspaper.

A school teacher who has been engaged a long time in his profession, and witnessed the influence of a newspaper upon the minds of a family of children, writes to the editor of the Ogdensburg Sentinel as follows:—

I have found it to be a universal fact, without exception, that those scholars of both sexes, and of all ages, who have had access to newspapers at home when compared with those who have not, are

1. Better readers, excelling in pronunciation and emphasis, and consequently read more understandingly.

2. They are better spellers, and define words with greater ease and accuracy.

3. They obtain a practical knowledge of geography in almost half the time it requires others, as the newspaper has made them familiar with the location of the important places and nations, and their governments and doings on the globe.

4. They are better grammarians, for having become so familiar with every variety of style in the newspapers, from the common place advertisement to the finished and classical oration of the statesmen, they more readily comprehend the meaning of the text, and consequently analyze its construction with accuracy.

5. They write better compositions using better language, containing more thoughts, more clearly and connectedly expressed.

6. Those young men who have for years been readers of the newspapers, are always taking the lead in the debating societies, exhibiting a more extensive knowledge upon a greater variety of subjects and expressing their views with greater fluency, clearness and correctness, in their use of language.

### The Snake and the Crocodile.

The following thrilling account of an engagement between a boa constrictor and a crocodile in Java, is given by an eye witness:—

It was one morning that I stood beside a small lake, fed by one of the rills from the mountains. The waters were clear as crystal, and everything could be seen to the very bottom. Stretching its limbs close over this pond, was a gigantic teak tree, and in its thick, shining, evergreen leaves, lay a huge boa, in an easy coil,

taking its morning nap. Above him was a powerful ape of the baboon species, a leering race of scamps, always bent on mischief.

Now the ape, from his position, saw a crocodile in the water, rising to the top, exactly beneath the coil of the serpent. Quick as thought he jumped plump upon the snake, which fell with a splash into the jaws of the crocodile. The ape saved himself by clinging to a limb of the tree, but a battle royal immediately commenced in the water. The serpent grasped in the middle by the crocodile, made the water boil by his furious contortions. Winding his fold round the body of his antagonist, he disabled his two hinder legs, and, by his contractions, made the scales and bones of the monster crack.

The water was speedily tinged with the blood of both combatants, yet neither was disposed to yield. They rolled over and over, neither being able to obtain a decided advantage. All this time the cause of mischief was in a state of the highest ecstasy. He leaped up and down the branches of the tree, came several times close to the scene of the fight, shook the limbs of the tree, uttered a yell, and again frisked about. At the end of ten minutes a silence began to come over the scene. The folds of the serpent began to be relaxed, and though they were trembling along the back, the head hung lifeless in the water.

The crocodile also was still, and though only the spines of his back were visible, it was evident that he, too, was dead. The monkey now perched himself on the lower limbs of the tree, close to the dead bodies, and amused himself for ten minutes in making all sorts of faces at them. This seemed to be adding insult to injury. One of my companions was standing at a short distance, and taking a stone from the edge of the lake, hurled it at the ape. He was totally unprepared, and as it struck him on the side of the head, he was instantly tipped over, and fell upon the crocodile. A few bounds, however, brought him ashore, and taking to the tree, he speedily disappeared among the thick branches.

### The Child and the Queen.

Refurcht (gardener to Elizabeth, consort of Frederick II.) had one little daughter, with whose religious instructor he had taken great pains. When this child was five years of age the Queen saw her one day while visiting the royal gardens at Sonhausen, and was so much pleased