

The Family.
ROWING AGAINST THE TIDE.
It is easy to glide with its ripples
Down the stream of Time,
To flow with the course of the river
Like music to some old rhyme;
But ah! it takes courage and patience
Against the current to ride,
And we must have strength from Heaven
When rowing against the tide.
We may float on the river's surface
While our oars scarce touch the stream,
And visions of earthly glory
On our dazzled eyes may gleam;
We forget that on before us
The dashing current flows,
And while we are idly dreaming,
Its waters will carry us o'er.
But few—ah! would they were many—
Row up the "Stream of Life,"
They struggle against its surges
And mind neither toil nor strife;
Though weary and faint with labor,
Singing triumphant their hymns,
For Christ is the hero's captain
When rowing against the tide.
For on through the hazy distance,
Like a mist on a distant shore,
They see the walls of the city,
With its banners floating o'er—
Seen through a glass so darkly
They almost mistake their way,
But Faith through lights on their labor
When darkness shuts out their way.
And shall we be one of that number
Who mind not toil or pain?
Shall we mourn the loss of earthly joys
When we have a crown to gain?
Or shall we glide on with the river,
With DEATH at the end of our ride,
While our brother, with Heaven before him,
Is rowing against the tide?
MAGGIE'S STEPMOTHER.
BY PAULINA.
It was not her own mother who bent over
Maggie Wortley, bathing so tenderly her
bruised limb. It was that hated and dreaded being
—a stepmother. Maggie's earliest recollections
were of the home of her dotting grandmother,
to whom her every wish was law, and whose
injunctive indulgence was quietly re-
gretted by Mr. Wortley. The death of this
aged relative occurring soon after her father's
second marriage, left the child entirely to the
care of her new mother. Very earnestly and
in the fear of God, did the gentle young wife
assume this arduous duty, and her success was
anything but encouraging. Evil reports, the
idle gossip of neighbors and servants exerted
their evil and adverse influence upon the mind
of her young charge, turning every good into
seeming evil.
"It's all the doings of your new mother,
Maggie, that you can't go to the party. The old
niver says anything that would please ye."
"What right has she to keep me at home?"
"She ain't my mother. I shall go away,"
and the passionate child stamped on the floor
in her angry violence.
"So ye shall, honey; it'll never do for the
likes of me to help ye off; I should lose me
place; but just slip out of your window on the
sloping roof 'an' it's Biddy O'Callahan that'll
happen to leave the step ladder mighty convenient."
This was done, and as Maggie slipped from
her window, flushed with excitement and pink
tartar, she saw the top of the ladder gleaming
in the moonlight. Hurrying along her foot
caught in a loosened shingle, and in a moment
she was precipitated to the ground.
No one saw her fall; no eye but God's rested
upon her as she lay insensible on the damp
ground; her face and arms scratched, bleeding,
and a fragment of her dress fluttering from the
highest bar of a sweet-brier thicket.
"Henry! Henry!" said Mrs. Wortley,
arousing her husband at midnight, and speaking
in low, hurried tones. "There's something
the matter in the garden. Listen! A moan
came faintly on the night wind, followed by the
furious barking of the house-dog. As Mr.
Wortley rushed down stairs, his wife opened
the door of the adjoining room. It was vacant
—the bed untouched, and the window open.
She thought of the party, and her womanly
instinct divined the rest. Upon opening the
door into the hall, she met her husband, bearing
in his arms the half-unconscious child. To
disrobe her, clasp her cold hands and feet was
the first care, while a messenger was despatched
in haste for a physician. Before he arrived,
Maggie was raving in a delirium, and Bridget's
complicity in the affair was fully apparent.
The girl's steady denial of all knowledge of the
matter procured her discharge in the morning,
and her place was soon supplied by one in every
way more desirable. For many days the
child's life trembled in the balance, and when
the crisis was passed, her mind seemed struggling
to regain some lost recollection. Slowly
indeed was her convalescence, but the time was
not lost, for the true loveliness of her stepmother's
character became daily more apparent, and
the wonder was how she could have so mistaken her.
"I should love you so much," she said to her
one day, after a long and thoughtful silence,
"if you were not my stepmother."
"Forget the ugly word, then," was the smiling
reply; "I will remember how I used to
dislike it."
"You, mother. Did you have a stepmother?"
"Indeed I did, Maggie."
"Was she kind to you?"
"She meant to be I am sure, but she was
very cruel."
"Why, what did she do?"
"Let me have my own way in every thing,
and never reproved me."
"Oh! said Maggie, opening her eyes a little
wider and relaxing into silence. A new query
had arisen: What is real kindness?
"Please leave the baby with me, mother,"
she said the next morning. "We will nurse
each other, and when we are tired, we'll just
go to sleep together, won't we Charlie?"
Mrs. Wortley set him down on the bed, cautioning
Maggie not to lift him up.
"O no, but we must have the box of blocks,
or how can we build houses?"
An hour passed quietly away in general superintendence
of household matters, ere the
mother returned to the nursery. Softly opening
the door, she discovered the children fast asleep,
and the girl's arm thrown carelessly
over her little brother. Maggie in her after
life of usefulness, ascribes her success greatly
to the patient care and Christian faithfulness of
her stepmother.—North Western Christian Ad-
vocate.

THE BEST HELPER.
"God is true; I leave you in his care said a
dying woman wearily. She could speak no
more.
Mrs. Wright died in a five story tenement
house, and they buried her outside of the city
walls. It was only a pauper's grave; no one
beside it, but the sexton and the motherless
boy. What difference if tears trickled down
on the long grass, and low sob shook the
form little body at the sound of each shovelful
of earth? All over! The sexton drew his rough
hand over his face, and walked off; the boy
dried his tears, and "looked up."
"Yes, yes," he murmured, and at every
step homeward, repeating the same in a more
confident tone.
"The child is crazy!" cried the people look-
ing after him.
"Crazy boy, crazy boy!" cried a mischiev-
ous youth, till a crowd stood gazing after
him.
On he went, murmuring, "Yes, yes."
Homeward, he said: ah! who could call it go-
ing homeward to mount these rickety stairs into
such a miserable room?
"Gather up your clothes, and be off; it
else belonging to me," cried the stern voice of
the landlord. "Precious little left for the
rent."
"Good-by," said Jack, turning down the
stair-case again.
"Good-by," came from several rooms on the
upper story. Women and children looked
out to see what would become of the orphan
boy.
"Sure and hell have no helper now," sighed
many a kind heart, as his little figure glided
downward.
"Yes, yes," he whispered low, not wishing
a crowd to follow. Away he went, outside of
the city, till, just as the stars would be seen,
he stood in the country, outside of the dingy
alleys and crowded streets.
"The world is wide, and I am young," he
thought. "Besides, God helps those who try
to help themselves, mamma said; but I must
ask for Jesus' sake." Down he knelt, and the
stars orbbed. Afterward he fell asleep.
Next morning, the soft, sweet air blew so
freely across his forehead, while the birds in a
tree sang so lovingly, that he awoke, not know-
ing himself to be Jack Wright.
"The world is wide, and I am young; God
will help those who help themselves. God is
true; mamma said so, and mamma knew a lot.
Dear mamma!"
Jack sat down and cried. How could he
help it? A book fell from his bundle, old and
worn, and torn; but all the precious things it
told, they were new as ever, for the book was
the Bible. Jack read a while and then trudged
on. Farm-houses came in sight; Jack passed
none without asking for work. People treated
him differently; some spoke roughly, others
kindly none gave him work.
Another night he slept under the stars; another
morning found him ready to try again.
Near noon, tired and hungry, he came to a lit-
tle white cottage; half covered with vines;
such a sweet, cool, quiet spot his eyes had
never before rested on. The farmer's wife came
forward, speaking in such a kind, soft tone,
that the tears rushed into Jack's eyes, and he
could scarcely say what he wanted. It would
seem so hard to be turned away from such a
place he thought.
"Work, my boy? Work? Ay, plenty of it"
cried the farmer, in a loud, hearty tone.
"Glad to see you want it."
"Where are you from?" asked the farmer's
wife.
"Just out of the city."
"It's seen his face before," she said, turn-
ing to her husband with a puzzled look.
"Your name, boy?" she cried.
"Jack Wright. Here's my mamma's Bible,
mamma, with her name in it. She told me never
to give it up; and she said God would help
me for Jesus' sake."
"I knew it!" both exclaimed.
Jack couldn't think what they meant, but he
was presently made to understand that this
very house was where his mother had been
brought up. She had gone to it with her husband,
and now, after years in which sorrow and death
had come to her, God had guided her boy to
the home of her old master and mistress.
"Yes, yes," cried Jack; "mamma said God
would help her prayer, and he has!"
God helped him, Jack still lives the farmer's
boy, and year by year his trust in his mother's
God grows stronger.—S. S. Visitor.

LAYERING RASPBERRIES.
All the varieties of black raspberries, as well
as some of the purple sorts, are propagated by
layering the extremes ends of the young canes.
The time for covering the "tips," as they are
usually called, will vary according to location,
soil, and condition of the plants, but it is usually
safe to begin layering as soon as the ends of
the canes show a slight enlargement and a
cessation of growth. In the latitude of New
York City, the first of September will be early
enough to begin this operation, and it may be
continued throughout the entire month. If the
soil is loose and free of weeds, many of the
canes will take root without assistance; but if
rally good, strong plants are desired, it is a
far better plan to cover the tips with a trifling
weight of earth, than to trust entirely to nature.
There are also several of our cultivated black-
berries that may be propagated in this manner,
and excellent plants produced very cheaply.
All the trailing or half trailing varieties are
usually multiplied by layering, and they root
more readily in autumn than early in the season.

CUTTING OFF THE SEEDS.
The maturing of seeds upon almost all kinds
of plants is an exhaustive process. There are
many of our annuals and biennials that will
produce perennials if they are not allowed to
produce seeds, and this leads the florist to prac-
tice a system of removing all seed-vessels from
plants where a strong growth is desired, and
the seeds are of no value. Small herbaceous
plants and shrubs will usually be greatly bene-
fited by the removal of the flower-stems as soon
as they are out of bloom, and the increase in
growth will readily be observed. It is not only
a waste of vigor in the plant to allow seeds to
mature that are not wanted, but it also exhausts
the soil to no purpose. In many of the com-
paratively slow-growing shrubs, like Rhodo-
dendrons and Azaleas, this practice of removing
the seed-vessels is of more importance than in
those of rapid growth, but it is beneficial to all.

PROTECTING SHEEP FROM DOGS.—A correspond-
ent of the Scientific American says that his
father, a prominent sheep raiser, finding that
the "bell weather" was never attacked by
dogs, conceived the idea that the use of bells
would tend to frighten away the murderous
canines. Accordingly he furnished fifteen or
twenty sheep of a flock of one hundred with
globular bells, the size of an ordinary teacup.
Having seen it practiced for several years suc-
cessfully, our correspondent is certain of its
value.

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8th 5.35 7.17 6.52 11.28 3.41 6.21
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10th 5.39 7.36 8.41 1.00 5.14 9.14
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Life Insurance Company, of Maine.
No Stock or Guarantee Capital drawing interest, but in lieu thereof
1,000,000 Surplus.
Directors' Office: 27 Court Street, Boston, Mass.
HENRY CROCKER, President; W. H. HOLLISTER, Secretary;
B. K. Corwin, Manager for Canada P. E. Island, and Newfoundland.
ASSETS JANUARY 1st 1870 \$4,411,380.55
Liabilities (exclusive of Reinsurance Fund) 3,467,400.00
Surplus (returnable to Policy Holders in Dividends) 918,080.55
DIVIDENDS PAID IN 1869, 382,508.55
BOARD OF REFERENCE
HALIFAX, N. S.—Hon. Charles Tupper, C. B. Hon. J. McCully, James H. Thorne, Esq., F. W. Fish
Esq., Esq.—Hon. A. McL. Selous, Zebedee Ring, Esq., James Harris, Esq., Thos. Hatheway,
Esq., Jeremiah Harrison, Esq., Messrs. J. Prichard & Son.
The Interest earned by the Company in 1869 was nearly 25-1/3 per cent. more than sufficient to pay
all its losses for the same period.
Life for claims and expenses to income is on the lowest grade.
Proof of Loss submitted to the undersigned will be forwarded, and the Loss paid without expense
the Policy holder.
Parties desiring Agencies or Settlements of Policies will apply to
J. THOMAS A. TEMPLER, St. John,
General Agent for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New
W. H. REDDING, General Solicitor. Aug. 4, 1870.
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and edited by the Rev. Henry Martyn.
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