

THE HOME.

The Big Bubble.

"I'll blow a bubble pretty soon,
As big as yonder silver moon!
You'd like to see me!"

Johnny Boast
Cried out, till out of breath, almost.
And then his pipe he took, and swung,
Drew in his breath, and held his tongue.
Then Johnny Boast began to blow:
The bubble soon began to grow.
'Twas first the color of a brook,
And then a purple tint it took.
That melted into green and red,
The lights of sunset o'er it spread.
And still it bigger, bigger grew,
While Johnny blew, and blew, and blew!
His cheeks puffed out a wondrous size;
You couldn't see his bulging eyes!
The bubble swayed with every breeze;
A piping voice cried, "Step in, please!
I am the jolly Bubble King!
I travel thus: we'll now take wing
Through space."

I'm out of gold and blue,
And almost every other hue.
We'll gather them at early morn,
From clouds about the sun, new-born;
And from the delicate pink shells,
And ere he had the tale rehearsed,
Puff! into air the bubble burst!

Ah! Johnny Boast, how many do,
Though blown by wiser heads than you!
—George Cooper, in Independence.

Who is to Blame?

MAY P. STAFFORD.

"I never was allowed to have company
at home, and so was obliged to seek other
places in which to entertain my friends.
As with my parents I knew nothing of
what company I was in, and I had no one
to advise me, I was tempted—and it has
come to this."

"This" was a narrow, whitewashed,
comfortless prison cell, and the speaker
was a young man, so young in years that
few could have credited him with little more
than a lad. And yet this lad had com-
mitted and known more sin than would
have been thought possible in one double his
years. He had set at defiance the laws of
both God and man; and now it had come
to this.

I wonder if all parents realize what a
terrible risk they run when they refuse to
allow their boys and girls to have and
entertain their company at home.

And yet how many parents do this very
thing, perhaps thoughtlessly, but none the
less wrongly. Home is the only proper or
safe place in which our sons and daughters
may entertain their young friends. And if
they are not allowed the privilege of enter-
taining them at home, who is it that is to
blame if they go elsewhere to meet and
entertain their friends? And who is it to
blame if they fall into the ways of sin? I
think that the parents are certainly very
much, if not wholly, to blame. Young
people want young associates; it is only
natural that they should; and the wise
parent who desires to do his or her whole
duty by the children given them, will
never close the doors of home against the
children's friends, if they are proper friends
for them to have.

I think that parents often unthinkingly
fall into the way of closing their doors or
gates against their children's companions.
It commences when Frankie or Charlie,
Gerie or Susie are few tots; just old
enough to run out in the yard to play. The
said yard is neatly laid out in flower beds,
and its walks are kept clean. The children
must on no account leave their children in
the yard to make a litter on the walk, or,
perhaps, run across the flower beds. Then,
when the children are old enough to go to
school, their friends may come as far as
the gate, but no farther; papa and mamma
cannot have boys romping about the yard,
or girls bringing their friends into the house
to tattle what is in their ears, and the
manner in which they live. So the boys
go out into the fields or street as the case
may be to fly their kites, play marbles and
"pick up" companions of doubtful charac-
ter. The girls who cannot have friends at
home, entertain them elsewhere. And so
they drift away from the parents who may
imagine that they are doing all that is
required or necessary for their children
when they give them plenty to eat and
drink, plenty of clothes to wear; a nicely
furnished house to live in, and a good
education.

As the boys grow older, and evenings
are spent away from the safe shelter of
home because "The folks won't let me
have any of the fellows in the house," are
not the said "fellows," i. e., the parents, to
blame, if the evenings are spent in the
company of doubtful companions, or in
places of ill-repute. Or, if our girls are
driven to meet their friends at the "corner,"
or the "depot," or at "Jennie's," or at some
other appointed place. Are not we, their
parents, to blame if these girls fall into a
trap? If we, their parents, had opened wide our
doors for our children's friends, they would
not have been driven upon the street to
meet and entertain them. If we, with our
greater experience, had advised our boys
and girls against the more unworthy of
their friends, and at the same time extend-
ed a cordial, hearty welcome to all in any
way worthy of the friendship of these sons
and daughters, all would probably have
ended well; but if home is made too fine,
or considered too good for the children's
friends, it is to be wondered at if our girls
speak with some unprincipled man, and
perhaps, die of broken hearts in consequence.
—or, if our boys become criminals and end
their days behind the prison bars.—Child's
Culture.

THE FARM.

One of the "Old Folks" on Sowing Seed.

I haven't lived to be seventy years old
without learning some things 'twould be
useful for young people to realize. You
can't plant poor seed and have a good crop
come up. You can't mix good and bad
seed, and expect the good to grow, for the bad
seed will ruin the good. You can't have
Neither will the good come out the bad;
there's no getting around it any way. I've
seen boys go from good homes and talk
that unsavory nonsense about sowing wild
seed. "Y-e-s," and I've seen them come back
again, poor souls, after the crop was all
ruined; and of all the sin stained, soul sick,
I'd for a sick looking being on earth, a
man that's chosen to sow a crop of wild
seed is the most to be pitied when the har-
vest comes. It's true that a few leavens
of sin will ruin a whole crop, and the seed
of the old habits of the sinner's heart
germinate at last, but there's a warning
and a cure, and that is to sow the seed
of the good, and to sow it in the heart
of the child. It's pretty safe for young folks to lis-
ten to the teaching and experiences of the

who have tested this matter of sowing and
reaping. I sometimes wish young folks
could be old just for a spell, and then go
back to youth; 'twould teach them so much
about sowing the right kind of seed to begin
with.

But there; the aprons never were in
full ear for a bit, then go back to sprouts
again, and God's way is best, of bidden ones
the time is the slow rule of growth. But it is
beautiful to have the Spring sunshine of
God's love in an old heart; so if I were
gifted in speech, and could preach just one
sermon to the young folks, I'd beg of them
to sow in youth what they'd want to reap
in age, and I'd tell them over and over
again how blessed it is to have God walk
beside you when you are growing old.—
Christian at Work.

—There is reason why every housekeeper
and cook should have a knowledge of the
chemistry of cooking, and of the healthful-
ness of different articles of food. At this
particular season of the year, nature boun-
tifully supplies us with much that is cooling
in the way of fruit and summer vegetables,
which are not only delicious articles of
food, but are really health-preserving, for
often a slight indisposition of children, or
older persons, can be readily cured by the
free use of these culinary remedies. Spinach
has a direct effect upon complaints of the
kidneys; the common dandelion, used as
greens, is excellent for the same trouble;
asparagus purifies the blood; celery acts
admirably upon the nervous system and is
a cure for rheumatism and neuralgia;
tomatoes act upon the liver; beets and
turnips are excellent appetizers. Lettuce
and cucumbers are cooling in their effect
upon the system; beans are a very nutri-
ent and strengthening vegetable; while
onions, garlic, leeks, olives, and shallots,
all of which are similar, possess medical
virtues of a marked character, stimulating
the circulatory system and the consequent
increase of the saliva and gastric juices
promoting digestion. Red onions are an
excellent diuretic, and white ones are
recommended as a remedy for
insomnia. They are tonic and nutritious.
A soup made from onions is regarded by
the French as an excellent restorative in
dilatation of the digestive organs. We might
go through the entire list and find each
vegetable possessing its especial mission of
cure, and it will be plain to every house-
keeper that a vegetable diet is partly
adopted at this period of the year and will
prove of great advantage to the health of
the family. With vegetables as with any
thing else, much depends on the cooking
and the care and preparation before hand.

—Minnesota is the largest wheat market
in the United States. In 1885 it received
22,500,000 bushels of wheat. In 1886 it re-
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received 343,500,000 bushels. In 2207 it re-
received 344,500,000 bushels. In 2208 it re-
received 345,500,000 bushels. In 2209 it re-
received 346,500,000 bushels. In 2210 it re-
received 347,500,000 bushels. In 2211 it re-
received 348,500,000 bushels. In 2212 it re-
received 349,500,000 bushels. In 2213 it re