

THE HOME CIRCLE

COMFORT.

Whatever my God ordains is right— His will is over just; How'er He orders now my cause...

FRIVOLOUS WOMEN.

The Sacred Heart Review, in a recent article on feasts of the Blessed Virgin, whom the church holds up to women as their model in their service of the Divine Redeemer, says...

How are the women of to-day following the example given them by this perfect handmaid of the Lord? Historians tell us that, through her example and the reverence offered to her, the condition of women has been, we may say, radically altered...

"We hear of young men who have lost hundreds and even thousands of dollars at the game, as provided by hostesses of social distinction; and some of them are put to dire straits to raise the money, and save themselves from social ostracism which would be the penalty of their default."

The old saying is that a man is known by the company he keeps; and the company we keep is not always precisely of flesh and blood. Our minds keep company with the things we read; and are raised or lowered, refined or tainted, thereby.

The extravagant dresses of a multi-millionaire bride, the engagement gift of a city, the social triumphs of a young debutante or of a theatrical star, possess a fascination for the frivolous woman that is absolutely appalling when one finds how little time there is also on Sunday for ennobling things.

And on the contagion of it the distaste that follows for one's everyday, commonplace life, the aping of the rich, the living beyond one's means, the pitiful endeavor to appear one's true, honest self, the failures that too often follow in business, the shame, the family skeleton discovered—perhaps the suicide. This frivolous reading, on Sunday especially, is no sign of strength of mind or elevation of soul.

THE WELL-DRESSED GIRL.

White holds first rank this summer, as it did last, for children, young girls and young women, and for older ones also when combined with black.

Things that may be bought in all sizes. As a rule the collar is made of the dress material and trimmed as the waist is.

Many of the parasols this season are of striped silk in white, colors, and many others are of plain black and the dark shades. The sticks are long, and as a rule are less ornate than they were a year ago.—May Ladies' Home Journal

THE BOER VROW.

In Winston Spencer Churchill's book on General Ian Hamilton is the description of a prosperous Boer farm house, a large square building with a deep verandah, a garden and half a dozen barns. Indoors he found a series of decorations evidently ministering to a sense of beauty than to the moral life.

The woman's were hung with curious prints or colored plates, and several texts in Dutch. One set of plates represented the ten stages of man's life, and another showed the woman's. Both were displayed in every period from the cradle to the grave, and the terminus lay at the comfortable age of a hundred.

THE SPIRIT OF REPENTANCE.

The majority of us think little of the sins which have been confessed and which we believe have been forgiven—we have no fear for them. Whereas we are told in Holy Scripture to "be not without fear about sin forgiven; and add not sin upon sin; and say not: The mercy of the Lord is great; He will have mercy upon the multitude of my sins."

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S STONE.

Albert W. Quinby in the June Forum says: There is one word of almost magical influence that needs to be whispered in connection with the theme of housekeeping. It is system! Without it, success is doubtful; with it, failure cannot ensue.

THE SONG OF SADNESS.

The bird that has lost her young still sings. She still repeats the notes of her happy days, for she knows no other; but by a stroke of her art the musician has merely changed her key, and the song of pleasure is converted into the lamentation of grief.—Chateaubriand.

TRUST GOD.

We must look out to God, pass over to Him, lean upon Him, learn to be one with Him, and let love of Him burn love of self away, so that our union may be effectual.

LESSON OF FORGIVENESS.

It would be well for us to study and take to heart the lesson of forgiveness. Those who foster jealousy and envy are their own bitterest enemies, and the heart that is free from those things experiences a feeling of freedom, for it belongs to God. With our hearts free of envy and anger, we know what peace and contentment are, and become more Christlike. Revenge is a sin that makes him who entertains it unhappy and miserable.

Funeral Flowers

An outrage on good sense and Christian piety is the prevalent custom of flowers at adult funerals, where flowers have properly no place at all. They have come to be there because people without faith or piety thought "they'd be so nice," the devil naturally, favoring their use as some aid to cloak over, to sentimental imaginations, the memory of mean and worthless lives, and especially to shut out of view the everlasting lot and condition which Christian faith foreshadows for such lives beyond the grave.

When Christian children die before coming to the use of reason, and so before their soul sin, the church recommends that their coffins be decorated with flowers, emblematic of their souls' beauty through the grace infused in baptism, and the burial service is a protracted chant of joyous praise and thanksgiving to God or the instantaneous entrance to the happiness and glory of heaven.

Following the wise mind of God's church, we do well by ourselves, our neighbors and our dead. We escaped being jaded with that large number whose extravagant outlay at funerals leave them for months and years unable to pay their just debts and current obligations. We eschew and prevent the growls and muttered curses that often enough accompany the fashion-oriented offering of flowers.

WHAT THE SPIDER SAID. "I was spinning a web in the rose vine," said the spider, "and the little girl was sewing patchwork on the doorstep. Her thread knotted and her needle broke and her eyes were full of tears. 'I can't do it,' she said, 'I can't.' I can't!"

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The Monk and His Work

In the Travellers' Record of Hartford appeared, recently, a picture of a monk engaged in illuminating a manuscript. Apropos of the picture the editor of the Record writes: "Our monk is evidently amused. In his eye beams a benevolent satisfaction, the set of his lips, the hand that nestles the chin, are full of supreme self-complacency. Evidently the copy is a work of art. The letter has moulded perfectly under his careful strokes, or the colors of the careful illumination have blended into a beautiful and perfect whole."

The monk and his kind we owe much. The best thoughts of the old philosophers and poets, the history of past ages, the chronicles of his own day, have been preserved to us mostly through his labors; much also of morality and virtue, in an age when civilization seemed vanquished.

The Benedictines, especially, encouraged learning; reading was compulsory, and during certain hours chosen brethren made their rounds to see that all the inmates were reading or writing, instead of languishing or gossiping. To them, and the orders that sprang from them, we owe in great part the preservation of the Greek and Roman classics, and though in the utter darkness that seemed to creep over the Western world in the tenth century—the dark age; the age of lead, as these years were called which saw the growth of the feudal system, the decay of the church, the frightful immorality of priests, monk, noble, and people alike—yet the work of copying the old manuscripts, the building up of the great monastic libraries, the art of illumination, had been so far accomplished and so widely taken up as a means of monastic employment, that the momentum of past practice brought it through into the regenerating influences that came in the middle years of the eleventh century.

A SELFISH CHILD. Nobody loves the selfish child, except, perhaps, those whose untimely devotion has made them such. "Selfish parents often have the most selfish children, and selfish parents the most unselfish," is a remark we frequently hear. The unselfish mother puts away her share of a choice dish for Bob and Kate. The best etc. etc. are given them, and mamma goes slubby. Mamma wears herself out in unstinted service; and all these sacrifices they come to accept as a matter of course. On the other hand, the course of the selfish parent naturally involves sacrifice, self-denial and service on the part of the child; and in this sense, the selfish parents' child has the advantage; yet the advantage is dearly bought, for childhood's most precious possession, manhood's and womanhood's most inspiring memory, is a loving, unselfish mother. Only let the unselfish mother be on her guard against developing in her child the fault she herself does not cherish, and all will be well. One of the loveliest traits in childhood is readiness to serve parents, and to find in this, privilege, and not sacrifice. Unselfishness toward brothers and sisters and playmates is a far more precious and abiding possession than the best hat or biggest piece of cake.—Christian Herald.

THE YOUNGEST KING.

The young King of Spain is just fifteen years, and according to the custom of his country, is "of age." Alfonso was born six months after his father's death, and thus he has been a king almost since he first saw the light of day.

TO PREVENT IS BETTER THAN TO REPENT—A little medicine in the shape of the wonderful pellets which are known as Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, administered at the proper time and with the directions adhered to often prevent a serious attack of sickness and save money which would go to the doctor. In all irregularities of the digestive organs they are an invaluable corrective and by cleansing the blood they clear the skin of imperfections.

J. E. SEAGRAM

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What he is now, was an amusing imp of mischief. One of the Sovereign's playmates told his King that he was going to London. "What are you going to London for?" asked Alfonso. "Why," was the reply, "papa has been made Ambassador there" "And," began the Sovereign with solemn anger, "I was not consulted about it!"

The March of Civilization

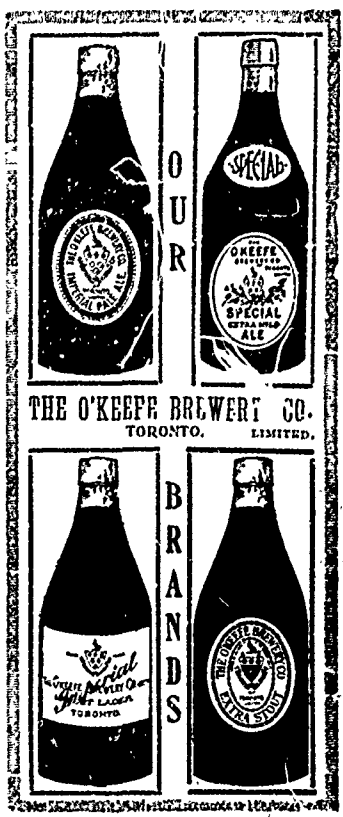
In some one of our exchanges—we rather think it was the New York Journal—Mr. Henry A. Massingham a famous London journalist, thus expressed himself touching the problems of the twentieth century: "The chief danger which, in my view, confronts the coming century, is that the civilized world, which claims the right to impose its ideas on peoples that it calls uncivilized or insufficiently civilized, is itself without Faith, without Hope, and without Love."

That is, indeed, the most terrible and malignant form of barbarism—namely, a barbarism furnished with the weapons which science has placed in its hands and which it does not use for good. It was this Mr. Massingham who received a pressing invitation to resign the editorship of the London Chronicle some time last year because he could not see his way to testify to the purity of the British republic. According to the published accounts at the time, he had been highly acceptable to the directory of the paper. He was regarded as one of the purest men in British Journalism, a forcible and brilliant writer, an incorruptible and patriotic gentleman.

But he refused to eulogize the Chamberlain-Rhodes-Bell-Eckstein combination. He "hurt the business," and he had to go. Now, speaking without reproach or heat, he utters the sentiment we have quoted above from our New York contemporary.

It was explained to us that England, in destroying free government in South Africa, was acting as the pioneer of humanity and exaltation. Then came the ravaging of China: a collusion of the Christian powers to rebuke and punish paganism and to impose upon 400,000,000 of people the customs and ideas of Europe.

It amounted to a declaration that the Chinese, who know the arts and sciences before our progenitors had emerged from their savage caves or had imbibed the first lessons of the most primitive civilization, were not entitled to respect even in their homes and their domestic practices. It amounted to a solemn notification of the purposes of the European powers to order and control the moral, social and political observances of China for all time to come.



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