

MY KINGDOM.

A little kingdom I possess, Where thoughts and feelings dwell; And very hard I find the task Of governing it well.

For passion tempts and troubles me, A wayward will misleads; And selfishness its shadow casts On all my will and deeds.

How can I learn to rule myself, To be the child I should, Honest and brave, nor ever tire Of trying to do good?

How can I keep a sunny soul To shine along life's way? How can I tune my little heart To sweetly sing all day.

Dear Father! help me, with the love That casteth out my fear! Teach me to lean on Thee, and feel That Thou art very near.

That no temptation is unseen, No childish grief too small, Since Thou, with patience infinite, Dost soothe and comfort all.

I do not seek for any crown But that which I may win, Nor try to conquer any world Except the one within.

Be Thou my guide until I find, Led by a tender hand, My happy kingdom in myself And dare to take command.

—Louisa Alcott.

THE HOME.

A Receipt for Happiness.

New ways for stating old truths are forcible and effective.

Even if there be no new thing under the sun there is certainly a perennial coming to life of old things. The true logic of the following clipping from the London Atlas has been proven again and again: "It is simple. When you rise in the morning form a resolution to make the day a happy one to a fellow creature. It is easily done. A left-off garment to the man who needs it; a kind word to the sorrowful; an encouraging expression to the striving; a smile to the despondent; a light as air will do it at least for the twenty-four hours. And if you are young, depend upon it; it will tell when you are old; and if you are old rest assured it will send you gently and happily down the stream of time to eternity. Look at the results. You send one person, only one, happily through the day; that is 365 in the course of the year; and suppose you live forty years only, after you commence this course, you have made fourteen thousand six hundred human beings happy, at all events for a time. Now, worthy reader, is it not simple and is it not worth accomplishing?"

Fingers and Forks.

BY MARY W. WINSTON.

Did you know that Queen Elizabeth ate with her fingers? You may have known that she loved shod and style, that she was fond of fine clothes that when she died she left three thousand dresses and any quantity of jewels; but did you ever imagine that such a great lady could be so inelegant as to eat with her fingers? But she did, and so did Shakespeare, and Chaucer, and William the Conqueror, and King Alfred, and everybody else who lived before her time. These last were more excusable than she—they had no forks; but even she was not without excuse, for though she had several, they had been given her as curiosities, which, I suppose, nobody expected her to use. There was one of crystal garnished with gold and specks of garnet, another of gold with two little rubies and two pendant pearls and still another of coral.

Why didn't she use them? you ask. Well, because she had never seen or known anybody else use them, and they were something new and besides, she was a prejudice against this invention just from Italy. But you must not think because there were no forks, that the old-fashioned dinner made no pretensions to elegance or refinement.

The guests had knives and they had fingers, and with the two implements they managed nicely. From their old books of etiquette we learn how they did it. In the first place, the fingers must be publicly washed before beginning the meal; even if this had just been done privately, it must be repeated at the table, that no one might feel uneasy in eating after his neighbors' fingers had been in the dish. To aid further, the meat was prepared as far as possible before it was brought to the table. If in a stew, as was usually the case, it was in bits; if roasted, it was cut by a carver, and passed in large plates with a knife.

As to the way of helping himself, each guest must choose and keep a particular part of the dish for his own. He must help himself directly from this place, using only three fingers; afterwards, in carrying the food to the mouth, which of course was done with the hand, these same three fingers must be used, taking care however not to touch the nose with them, to do which was extremely inelegant, and showed a lack of good-breeding.

Of course all this soiled the hands, and in refined households at various intervals bowls of perfumed water and different napkins were passed, and no one must refuse to wash. This old fashion of bathing round a silver bowl or dish of rose-water is still sometimes seen in Europe. After a while man found out that he needed forks, or rather, woman did, for it was she who first used them. Great claims kept them in their rooms to eat comfit with and to toast bread; and in course of time, they brought them to the table.

As I have said, there was a prejudice against them, and the first few persons who were brave enough to use them were laughed at and called effeminate; a preacher has even gone so far as to say that for any one to refuse to touch his meat with his fingers was an insult to Providence.

Nevertheless they spread in England slowly, even after Italy, the home of their birth, was full of them. These who knew their value, however, found them so convenient that up to 150 years ago—since which time it had been no longer necessary—gentlemen traveling from place to place, and knowing how poorly supplied were the inns,

carried one with them in a case with a knife. Since that time the old two-pronged fork, or fourchette (little pitchfork), as the French call it—and really they were only tiny pitchforks—has given way to the more convenient three and four pronged forks in use in our own homes.—Harper's Young People.

Canned Goods Should be Eaten as Soon as Opened.

An "expert" says that canned goods should be turned out and eaten as soon as possible. If kept at all the food should be covered and put in a cool place—all ways, however, turned out of the original tin. The liquor should be retained, and all vegetables excepting tomatoes, it is desirable to strain off and throw away. Lobsters and prawns are improved by being turned out into a sieve and rinsed with clear, cold water. Never, on any account, add vinegar sauce of any kind of condiment to tinned foods while they are in the tins.

All tinned goods are put up as fresh as it is possible for them to be, but unless corned or salted, will not keep if turned out, as freshly cooked goods will; and certainly not longer, as many thoughtlessly suppose or expect they will. Sardines, if preserved in good oil, and of good quality, will be an exception; so long as the oil is good the fish can be kept in the tins.

Consumers should not buy larger packages of canned goods than they can consume quickly; if they should, most of the fish and meats can be potted after re-cooking, sauces and seasonings being added. If the nose and eyes are properly used it is impossible to partake of an unwholesome tin of canned food of any kind as to partake of bad meat, fish or vegetables from a shop.—Grocer's Chronicle.

Hints for the Housewife.

Cuts, Wounds and Bruises.—The tincture of calendula diluted in nine parts water is far more valuable dressing for cuts, wounds, and bruises, than any other simple remedy now in use. It is made by Every family should keep an ounce of this simple but valuable tincture in the house. It is made, as most of our readers will remember, from the flowers of the yellow marigold.

ONE WAY TO CLEANSE A CARPET.—Having dusted and removed such articles as can be carried from the room, wring a flannel mop out of hot water, and wipe the carpet thoroughly, wringing the mop from clean water as often as it may become soiled. Now sweep with a broom, as you ordinarily would, and when you have finished you will have a bright clean carpet, with little or no dust, and all at the expense of a very little hard labor. Those who have not tried this method are sceptical about its merits; but one trial will convince.

It is convenient to have something in the kitchen, ready to use at any moment, for removing stains from articles of cleaning nickel-plated or brass articles. A simple and good mixture is made as follows: Take half a cup of whiting, fill the cup with water, put it in a bottle and add an ounce of ammonia. Shake it well before using. A flannel cloth moistened with this will remove the discoloration made by eggs on silver spoons or forks, with a little trouble that will not be neglected. It will also remove the brown smoke stains from lamp chimneys, and make them as clear and bright as crystal.—Selected.

THE FARM.

Farmers' Clubs.

This is the age of clubs. Their name is legion. Every trade and calling has its club, and why should not the farmer have his, as well? The farmers' club, properly conducted, may be made the means of great good. The meetings come at a season of the year when the farmer is most at leisure, and can attend them. There is also much time for study during the winter, which the farmer will be prompted to put to good use if he joins a club. If he takes part in the debates, it will be a great advantage to him, and all young farmers should, if possible, avail themselves of such meetings.

The farmer should be alive to all the advantages within his reach. The more intelligent he is the more successful will he be, other things being equal. Farming as a rule is not a debater, but they ought at least be able to think standing before an audience. Young men will find it of very great advantage to attend farmers' clubs or debating societies and take part in the exercises. There is nothing better to give them confidence, and accustom them to hear their own voices. There are many excellent questions that may with profit come up for discussion before a farmers' club. We give a list of such questions taken from the New England Farmer.

Are the men who feed the world governed by those for whose food they are? Home market for home industries. Causes of the present decline in agriculture; and what are the conditions necessary to make farming in New England a success?

Cultivating of small fruits and vegetables for profit. Fruit. Who fare the best, those who work or those who don't? Can farmers lessen their hours of labor? Does it pay to raise Indian corn? Is a big farm its number of acres, or amount of crop? Marketing hay. Should farmers as a distinct class take an active part in politics? A purpose in life, education in schools, in the home and on the farm. Roads and walks; how to build and repair them. Should farmers and others organize for a lower rate of municipal taxation? Resolved that New England offers greater advantages to young men than the West.

In this club an educator; and if so, how can we increase its interest? Insects and birds that are injurious, and those that are a benefit. Reclaiming old pastures. The value of the clover crop to the farm, and economical use of barnyard manure and fertilizers. Can spring seeding to grass be done successfully; and if so, how?

Tell your neighbor he can have the Messenger and Visitor from this date to end of next year for \$1.50 in advance.

AYER'S PILLS

Excel all others as a family medicine. They are suited to every constitution, old and young, and, being sugar-coated, are agreeable to take. Purely vegetable, they leave no ill effects, but strengthen and regulate the stomach, liver, and bowels, and restore every organ to its normal function. For use either at home or abroad, on land or sea, these are the best.

Are the Best.

Ayer's Pills have been used in my family ever thirty years. We find them an excellent medicine in fevers, eruptive diseases, and all bilious troubles, and seldom call a physician. They are almost the only pill used in our neighborhood.—Rebecca C. Comly, Row Landing P. O., W. Feliciana Parish, La.

I have been in this country eight years, and during all this time, neither I nor any member of my family have used any other kind of medicine than Ayer's Pills, but these I keep at hand, and I should not know how to get along without them.—A. W. Soderberg, Lowell, Mass.

Family Medicine

For 35 years, and they have always given the utmost satisfaction.—James A. Thornton, Bloomington, Ind. Two boxes of Ayer's Pills cured me of severe headache, from which I was long a sufferer.—Emma Keyes, Hubbardstown, Mass.

Ayer's Pills,

PREPARED BY DR. J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass. Sold by all Dealers in Medicine.

Raspberries and Blackberries.

Set red raspberries and blackberries in the fall and start in the spring. I prefer to set between October 15 and November 15, as it saves time in the spring. Black raspberries do not seem to do well with us when set in the fall.

The plants as deep in the ground as they grow naturally; have all the long roots run with the row, lest the cultivator or the plants out by catching on them. In November cut blackberries and red raspberries one-half, and black raspberries to two feet, and much better with cutting over on heavy soil. The following June pull off all but the three best sprouts from the root of the plants, and pull up any suckers which may work through the mulch of the red raspberries and blackberries, and drop them in the mulch; also cut out the dead wood and any suckers which may have started since the June clearing. The best thoroughly tested black raspberries are Souhegan for early and Ohio for late. Red raspberries, Turner for early. Shafter for late, on light soils. Also Cutbush for late on heavy soils. Snyder stands above all other varieties of blackberries for market in New England.—Geo. S. Butler, in New York Observer.

When to Sell Hogs.

One writer advises to sell hogs when the most money can be got for them at the least output. The ups and downs of prices are naturally to be met with, and attention to feeding and the use of scales we can tell closely whether we are making corn into pork at a profit or not. If not, there ought to be a change of ration or an immediate sale of marketable stock. It doesn't pay to hold beyond the time of profitable growth and fattening. Most successful feeders believe it pays best one year with another to sell the pork when the highest point in gain has been reached, letting the question of probable higher prices alone. Corn used in fattening hogs will make twice as much pork if given to other animals. It is a losing game to hold for an increase of price as a rule. Make all the pork you can out of your corn in just a little time as possible, and then market to the best advantage.—N. P. Christie, Advocate.

Dealers say that the squash ranks next to the potato in popularity, especially in the larger cities.—New England Farmer.

Never limit the feed of stock because of their size. Either keep stock properly or don't keep it. There is no wisdom in wasting flesh that has been made by valuable feed.

It is not safe to invest much in fruits puffed off by nurserymen or nursery agents. Get testimony from some less disinterested quarter before buying.—Massachusetts Ploverman.

TEMPERANCE.

"When I Am Weak, then Am I Strong." One of the most impressive spectacles that I ever saw in my life was presented to my mind. I was a young student at college, not above fourteen years, not even quite that. On a week day one of the largest churches in the city where the college was placed was crowded with people. It was a very unusual service. A large platform was filled with the ministers of the presbytery and of the neighborhood. They were to do something that had never been done there before. They were to designate a group of young men to go from the Irish General Assembly to Gujarat, in India. You can fancy how it impressed the people that never saw a thing of the kind before. I sat, as it were, upon the end of that gallery, and I looked down; and I tell you as I saw those young men kneel down upon the platform, and saw the presbytery lay their hands together upon the heads, and then invoke the blessing of God Almighty upon them as they went into heathendom to preach the gospel—as a boy, I thought they were entering upon the most brilliant and noble career of which I could well conceive. And they went to India.

I suppose it was about twenty years after, when I was a minister myself in the capital of the country. I had a Bible class in the lecture room of the church every Sunday, and on one Saturday, as I was conducting the class, the sexton came to me and apologized for disturbing me, and said: "There is a man here, sir, that I don't know. He looks as if he had been a gentleman once, but he is very poor now, and he can't get rid of him. He says he must see you, and I was afraid to make any disturbance, and so I have come to you." I arranged for the class as well

as I could for the little while that I was to be absent, and went out into the passage. There was a man with clothing that had once been respectable, speaking in such a way as to show that he had been well educated. It was a very rainy day; he had no overcoat, and he had that look of misery that you see upon a man dripping all over with rain. His shoes, I could see, had no stockings within them; they were broken in places, so clearly that one could see the naked feet. And he began to tell me that he had come to get a little money. "You don't know me," he said; and then he proceeded to tell me who he was—one of the young men upon whom I had seen the hands of the presbytery laid as he went forth to do the work of missions in India. He had had that look of misery; he had yielded to the temptation, and he had become a pitiable, helpless drunkard. It became necessary for the presbytery to send him home. Charity had put forth its hand in his favor again and again, and there he was, a poor, wretched, despicable, hopeless tramp, begging like the coverless leger in the streets.

Lead me not into temptation! Oh, young man, thinking within yourself, "I am so strong, there is no fear for me," I tell you, you make the most dreadful mistake! The very fact that you think yourself so strong opens the way for the devil and his insidious attacks. Fling the temptation aside! Come to the Lord's side, and pledge yourself to Him and be His; and when you say, "Lead me not into temptation," move in the direction of your prayer, and God will give you the strength in which alone you shall be able to conquer the tempter. Then you will look up to God, not taking credit to yourself, not magnifying yourself, but saying, "Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory."—Dr. John Hall.

A market-gate has occurred in the business world during the last thirty years in regard to drinking habits. Formerly, if a man was not a habitual drunkard, the fact that he used liquor didn't hinder him from getting employment as a mechanic, engineer, or foreman in a factory. But it is a common thing now for merchants, manufacturers and railroad men to prohibit the use of liquor by their employees, and an applicant for a business position, known to use liquor as a beverage, would find it a serious obstacle to his getting employment. Security for the people in travel and labor, and the progress of business, require the suppression of the saloon.

"My customers say that Burdock Blood Bitter is the best blood purifier in the market," thus writes Wm. Lock, of McDonald's Corners, Ont.

The Messenger and Visitor will be sent to new subscribers from this date to the end of 1891 for \$1.50 in advance.

"I wish to say to the congregation," said the minister, "that the pulpit is not responsible for the error of the printer on the tickets for the concert in the Sunday-school room. The concert is for the benefit of the Arch Fund, not the Arch Fund. We will now sing hymn six. 'To err is human, to forgive divine.'"—From Sunday-school Paper.

Messrs. Stott & Jury, Chemists, Bowdoinville, Me. We would direct attention to Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery which is giving perfect satisfaction to our numerous customers. All the preparations manufactured by this well-known house are among the most reliable in the market.

A minister, with a rather florid complexion, had gone into the shop of a barber, one of his parishioners, to be shaved. The barber was addicted to heavy bouts of drinking, after which his hand was consequently unsteady as his work. In shaving the minister on the occasion referred to, he inflicted a cut sufficiently deep to sever the lower part of the ear with blood. The minister turned to the barber and said, in a tone of solemn severity: "You see, Thomas, what comes of taking too much drink." "Ay," replied Thomas, "it makes the skin verra tender."—Sheffield Telegraph.

For Cholera, Cholera Infantum, Summer Complaint, Cramps and Pains in the Bowels, there is no remedy that can be more relied upon than Kendrick's Mixture, for children or adults.

If there is one virtue that should be cultivated more than another by him who would succeed in life, it is punctuality; if there is one error that should be avoided, it is being behind time.—F. Hunt.

Whooping and snuffles in children can be instantly relieved by the use of Nasal Balm. Why let the little one suffer when such cheap and sure cure can be had? Try it.

We men are but poor, weak souls after all. Women beat us out and out in firmness.—Charles Dutton.

Silk Needlework.

The latest edition (1890) of that series of instructive and entertaining books on Home Needlework, published yearly by the Curtis and Sons Silk Co., is now ready. It will repay any lady interested in fancy work to send to their address (St. John, Que.) six cents in postage stamps and receive one of these books. The 1889 edition had many novelties in designs and patterns which are so useful in the Home Circle, as well as in all the work done by this company, this edition is fully up to the standard. The advice given as to the selection of silks alone will save time and disappointment to many. Both editions can be had, we understand, by addressing the Company as above. The Curtis and Sons Silk Co. are selling the well-known Wash Colors Art Silk made by the Brainerd & Armstrong Co., United States.

Send three new names and \$1.50 and you will receive a copy of the Messenger and Visitor free to the end of 1891.

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