

...The HOME CIRCLE

GRANT ME THY PEACE! Lord, through the coming year I make no plea For wealth or power; neither that of grief I have no portion; but where'er I be, Grant me Thy peace!

I ask not that my days shall pleasure know; Nor that from sorrow I shall find relief; In hours of joy, in hours of pain, or woe, Grant me Thy peace!

If storm-clouds lower, if the sky be grey And lightnings rift the air, if stormy seas Threaten to me engulf, dear Lord, I pray, Grant me Thy peace!

If those I trust deny me, or betray, Till sorrow's chalice holds but bitter lees; If hopes, long cherished, fail me by the way, Grant me Thy peace!

If joy bids fair to be my welcome guest— Lost I forget—oh, leave me not alone; But let my happy heart have added zest; Grant me Thy peace!

That peace which passeth understanding give, A peace which deadens pain when hope hath flown In joy, in grief, whether I die or live, Grant me Thy peace!—Elizabeth Crannell in New York Sun.

ONE WAY TO BE HAPPY

(From The Baltimore Sun.) One of the best ways to make the new year a happy one to yourself, as well as everyone else, is to pay promptly the bills, big and little, which have been left over from the old. Unpaid bills are a source of immense worry and trouble, both to debtor and creditor. To the honest man who owes them they bring vexation of spirit by day and unquiet slumber at night, and the man to whom they are owed is in an equally unpleasant frame of mind. The dishonest debtor, of course, does not lose any sleep over the situation. He leaves his creditor to do all the worrying. But the average man or woman does not intentionally leave these obligations unattended to, and fails to meet them rather from thoughtlessness than from premeditation. It is the small bills which people are apt to neglect, on the theory that they are so small that their payment or non-payment makes little difference. It is, however, the failure to meet these little bills which, as a rule, causes most annoyance and trouble. Small separately, they form a great sum collectively, and, like the little drops of water and little grains of sand, represent big things in the aggregate. Moreover, the honest debtor who pays a debt of \$5 has the satisfaction of knowing that he has started his \$5 on a financial tour of usefulness that may circle the globe before it completes its work and discharge a thousand times its own face value in the course of its journeying from pocket to pocket. The little \$5 note forms an endless chain of payments, and as it circulates briskly about the debit and credit line gathers volume as it goes, bringing peace and sunshine to all within its reach, and effectively curing the ill-effects produced by unpaid obligations. Therefore, let every one send out these small but active financial agents without delay, with the assurance that he cannot begin the new year more satisfactorily than by delivering himself from the shadow of debt and helping others to do the same.

A GENUINE GHOST STORY.

A widower, whose only pleasure in life he found in his children, was, in treaty for an old farmhouse in the country. The little ones were delighted on seeing the place and inspected the new premises from cellar to garret. Great was their joy when they found a dark passage underground, and were running nether-skelter down the stairs when they were stopped-in amazement, but without fear, at the sudden apparition of their dead mother, with outstretched arms, waving them back silently. When their headlong career was stopped the figure vanished, and the children crept back to their father to tell him what they had seen. Search was made, and at the foot of the narrow stairs down which the children had been running was found a deep well entirely unguarded. This story is related as a fact by a writer no less veracious than John Ruskin.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.

It is cruel of parents to keep children up late at night. The hour of bedtime should be promptly heeded. What about meals? They should be served with regularity and the food should be plain and wholesome. The heartiest meal should be in the middle of the

day. It is much better in every way that children should have a table to themselves, otherwise they will wish to eat those things which are not good for them or their meal will be constantly embittered by denial of their desires. Moreover, grown people are restrained from the full enjoyment of conversation, which is for them the greatest aid to digestion. The mother or some equally responsible person should superintend the children at table to see that they eat properly and the right amount. What about their dress? Children's clothes should be adapted to them in the way of giving them proper protection. A child should not be overdressed, nor overburdened with clothes in summer or too lightly clad in winter. The child should be unconscious of its clothes. The make and fit should leave it untrammelled for its work in life, which is constantly to exercise every muscle in its little body.—Delineator.

The Restless Woman

(By Cardinal Gibbons.) That woman was created to fill certain well-defined places in this world no one familiar with her physical, moral and mental make-up can doubt. That many women of to-day show a tendency to think slightly of those privileges and responsibilities which have come down as the best inheritance of their sex is a fact which faces us on every side in this country in any other nation, I regret to say. It has spread in the last few years like some great epidemic, until it has, to a distressing extent, affected the whole system of society and home government. Modesty and gentleness, those two sweet handmaids of womanhood, seem to have been laid aside by many, and masculinity and aggressiveness have been given their places. The spirit of unrest has found easy victims in thousands of American homes, until the social condition which presents itself to-day, even among the best and most cultured classes, differs essentially from the standards heretofore held as inviolable. It is sad and a dangerous change which confronts us. Its shibboleth would seem to be: masculinity is greater than motherhood. I wish I could impress on American women the dangers that attach to such innovations. I wish I could show them, as they appear to me, the ultimate results of participating in public life. It has but one end—the abandonment, or at least the neglect, of the home. And when the influence of the home is removed life loses one of its most valuable guides, and government its strongest ally—indeed, its cornerstone. You remember, perhaps, what a great general of ancient times said: "Greece rules the world, Athens rules Greece, I rule Athens, my wife rules me, and, therefore, my wife rules the world." Nor is the illustration overdrawn. The woman who rules the domestic kingdom is in reality the ruler of all earthly kingdoms. As I have said before, I regard woman's rights women, and the leaders in the new school of female progress as the worst enemies of the female sex. They teach that which robs woman of all that is amiable and gentle, tender and attractive, and which gives her nothing in return but masculine boldness and brazen effrontery. They are habitually preaching about woman's rights and prerogatives, but have not a word to say about her duties and responsibilities. They withdraw her from those sacred obligations which properly belong to her sex and fill her with ambition to usurp a position for which neither God nor Nature ever intended her. While professing to emancipate her from domestic servitude, they are making her the slave of her own caprices and passions. Under the influence of such teachers we find woman, especially in higher circles, neglecting her household duties, gadding about, at rest only when in perpetual motion, and never at ease unless in a state of morbid excitement. She never feels at home except when abroad. When she is at home, home is irksome to her. She chafes and frets under the restraint and responsibility of domestic life. Her heart is abroad. It is exulting in imagination, in some social triumph, or roving in some scene of gayety and dissipation. Her husband comes to his home to find it empty, or occupied by one whose heart is void of affection for him. Then arise disputes, quarrels, recriminations, estrangements, and the last act in the drama is often divorce. I speak the sober truth when I affirm that, for the wrecks of families in our country, woman has a large share of the responsibility. In so many instances she seems to have entirely forgotten, or purposely avoided, the place she is called upon to fill. She looks to material greatness in man as her guiding star. She wishes to do what men have done, and are doing. She enters this field, foreign to all her faculties and her strength, and seems to think she is living up to a higher standard than was ever before permitted to her kind. But if she stopped a moment to consider, could she find a mission more exalted, more noble or more influential than Christ's wifehood and motherhood? That

makes her the helpmate of her husband, and the guide and teacher of her son- and daughters, rather than a stumbling-block in the way of all. If woman would only remember that her influence over a child the first few years of its life can have greater effect, and produce wider and more lasting results, than her whole life given up to walking in the ways of men!

Where are the men that have achieved triumphs and have not owned that the debt was largely due to their mothers? What know we of the mothers of the world's greatest men, save that most of them were faithful to their holy station and true to the high privilege of motherhood—the most divinely sanctioned and the noblest of all earthly positions?

Christians set its enduring seal on this Queenhood in Bethlehem centuries ago, and the woman who seeks a higher sphere will not find it among men, or even in earth. But the tendency of the times is altogether apart from such things. Women must be independent, and masculine. They must even indulge in all the sports formerly classed as masculine. They take to these not as occasional pleasures, but as constant pursuits. I see no harm in a woman's taking part once in a while in a game of golf, or any other outdoor exercise that befits her station. She is not to be housed like a plant, and never allowed the benefits derived from fresh air and moderate exercise. Any proper outdoor pursuit should be encouraged as an occasional recreation, but as a regular avocation it must be condemned. For pleasures that become habitual are no longer mere recreations, but serious occupations.

Then there is the woman who must join a club, or perhaps two or three clubs. These will require her presence or attention several hours of the day. How can she do all this and at the same time fulfill the duties of domestic life? After the labors of the day the husband rightly expects to find a comfortable home, where peace, good order and tranquility reign. But his heart is filled with sadness and despair if he finds the partner of his bosom attending a club, or neglecting her household duties for those of some semi-political or social organization.

There is another phase of this great question which presents a most dangerous aspect. When the home is abandoned, what follows? The substitution of flats and hotels as residences, where, instead of having a home in any sense of the word, women are merely escaping the responsibilities and the cares of domestic life. But if domestic life has its cares and responsibilities—and what life has not?—it also has its sweetness and its consolations, its joys and its benefits, that are infinitely superior to anything that can possibly be obtained in hotels or flats. It is manifest that hotels do not furnish the same privacy and the same safeguard against questionable associations that are supplied by the home. I am glad for their own sake that American women generally do not exercise the privilege of political suffrage. I regret that there are those among our American women who have left their homes and families to urge on their kind the need of suffrage. I hope the day will never come when in this land all women will be allowed to register their votes, save, perhaps, in municipal elections which come near to the home, and might therefore, properly be influenced

by those who should be responsible for the home. Who enters the political arena is sure to be soiled by its mud. As soon as woman thrusts herself into politics and mingles with the crowd to deposit her vote, she must expect to be handled roughly, and to surrender, perhaps wholly, at least, in part, that reverence now justly paid her. The more woman gales in the political arena the more she loses in the domestic kingdom. She cannot rule in both spheres. The model woman is not she who takes up all the "ologies" and scientific studies. She is not the woman who is constantly seen and heard in public places, the woman who insists upon entering all branches of trade and commerce, and pursuing all lines of thought, who wanders restlessly through the world.

The model woman, thanks to Christianity, is she who is thus sung of in Holy Writ: "Who shall find a valiant woman? far from the uttermost coasts in the price of her * * * She hath looked well to the paths of her house, and hath not eaten her bread idle. Her children rose up, and called her blessed, her husband, and he praised her. * * * Beauty is vain, the woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."—Proverbs xxxi.

American women, your husbands are the sovereigns of America, and if you be the sovereigns of your husbands, then, indeed, you would rule the nation. That should be glory enough for you. We are more governed by ideals than by ideas. We are influenced more by living, breathing models than by abstract principles of virtue. The model that should be held up to American women of to-day is not the Amazon, glorying in her martial deeds and powers, not the Spartan, who made female perfection to consist in the development of physical strength at the expense of feminine decorum and modesty, not the goddess of impure love like Venus, whose votaries regarded beauty of form and personal charms as the highest types of womanly excellence. No, the model that should be held up before you and all women is Mary, the mother of Christ. She is the great pattern of virtue, and all that goes to make the perfect woman alike to maiden, wife and mother.—January Ladies' Home Journal

COMPENSATION. (Ruth Ward Kahn in Boston Transcript.) Better to mourn our dead—Than never to know how sweet The hisping words of a child Or the patter of little feet; Better to mourn, I say, Than never to know the care Of tender trusting souls That God Himself sent there.

Better to mourn our dead— I say it through scalding tears— Than not to know the charm They trailed through our faltering years; For a heart from which love has fled Is nearer the great unknown, And perhaps is bound by a golden thread To the Master's plying throne.

Better to mourn our dead— O you who hear my voice, I pray you smile through your blind-tears, And though sad is your heart, rejoice! For we who weep for our own know well,

HOPIN' FOR THE BEST. When the world seems full o' trouble From the 'n'in' east to west, A fellow makes it lighter Just by hopin' for the best. It brings in sight the valleys Where the weary ones can rest, An' he hears the birds a-singin' Just by hopin' for the best!

It's like a benediction To a soul that seems unblest. The privilege of hopin'— Just hopin' for the best. —Atlanta Constitution. DO NOT DELAY. —When, through debilitated digestive organs, poison finds its way into the blood, the prime consideration is to get the poison out as rapidly and as thoroughly as possible. Delay may mean disaster. Parmalee's Vegetable Pills will be found a most valuable and effective medicine to assail the intruder with. They never fail. They go at once to the seat of the trouble and work a permanent cure.

HAD LAME BACK FOR EIGHT YEARS

The Terrible Experience of a Nova Scotia Gentleman and How he was Cured

After a long period of suffering he is entirely restored to good health by Dodd's Kidney Pills—He is very grateful. Bridgewater, N. S., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Mr. John S. Morgan, a prominent man of this place, has had a terrible time with his back for eight years, but now he is receiving the congratulations of his friends on his complete and satisfactory recovery. To look at Mr. Morgan to-day one would never suspect that he had been the victim of so much torture, and for such a long time, and yet from his own statement the pain he has endured must have been something awful. He says: "For eight years I have suffered the most severe pain in my back. I had gradually grown worse till at last I was completely crippled up. "I heard of Dodd's Kidney Pills as a remedy for lame back, but as I had tried so many things without any benefit I was beginning to lose all faith in anything. However, I decided to try them, and I can truthfully say I am heartily glad I did so, for they cured me. "I had run down in weight to about 140 pounds, but during the time I was using the Pills (I used in all about twenty boxes) I regained about 23 pounds. "Of course I realized my danger, and when I found that Dodd's Kidney Pills were helping me I stuck right close to them after commencing till I was perfectly well again. "Everyone who knows Mr. Morgan knows that he means every word he says, and much interest has been aroused by the publication of his statement. Dodd's Kidney Pills are well known to be a sure cure for all cases of Lame Back and Kidney Trouble.

But ah, at what bitter cost, How dreary must be the hearts of men Who never loved and lost. HOPIN' FOR THE BEST. When the world seems full o' trouble From the 'n'in' east to west, A fellow makes it lighter Just by hopin' for the best.

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