## OUR HOME CIRCLE.

THE VOICES OF THE FLOWERS. If you lie with your ear to the soft, green earth When the rain and the sunshine fall, You can hear the flowers in their gay, glad To each other whisper and call.

For hush'd, like an infant, in sleep they lie In their moist cool cells below, Aweary of hearing the wind's bleak sigh, And the falling of the snow.

But when spring comes down to the earth, and her feet Sends a thrill through woodland and plain, and the clouds weep tears that are soft and

But which we miscall the rain, Then they waten up with a light in their look,
And in low, sweet whispers they cry,
"Sisters, a murmur is heard in the brook,
And sunsnine is seen in the sky.

"It is time we should burst through young, green earth. That the young and the old may rejoice in

And we in the calm, sweet light."

Then one said; "Sisters, where shall we grow I shall grow by the side of the stream, "I had all day long I will biossom and blow Till the days feld me up in a dream,"

Where the children goth's band? And thich say how with their hand." "I will peep from the long, rich grass," said

And I. said one, in some garden raro, Where my fairer staters abide; And it may be that I may be twined in the he Of the maid as she blooms into bride."

Then a sweeter voice held the sest in thrall Lehallegrowan the sweetest spot of ull-On the graves of the calm, pure dead.

They will know that I blescom above the And will yearn, in their silent abode, Eartheugrand resource won to epown their trus

Thus the flowers whisper, and if you lie When the rain and the sunshine fell, You will hear them question and make reply It your heart is at one with all.

—Good Words

> REMINISCENCES. HARTOR BASTOR

Many years agominaa village fin which the writer was then mreach ng, there lixed, an elderly man known as a hitter opponent of re-ligion. Excepting on tuneral occa-sions, when some old neighbor was buried, he had never been known to " "attend a religious meeting." But one Sunday morning, to the surprise of ally he appeared in shurch and was an attentive historer to the sermon. The text was ... Thou art weighed in the balances and found want- giveness of sin and acceptance with ing " A few days, subsequently I God. And this fact gives increased was sent for to see him. The mes- significance to the declaration of senger told me that he had met with | Scripture: Now is the accepted an actident which would probably prove fittal; that he was in great distress of mind, and kept repeating the text of the previous Sabbath, wanting.'

I hastened to his home, but even before I reached his room I could hear his cries of distress. As soon as he saw me he extended his hand and exclaimed, "I am weighed and found wanting! Is there no hone for me?" I remained with him over an hour, endeavoring to calm his mind; praying with him; repeating those promises of divine mercy that applied to extreme cases, and pointing to Christ as one mighty to save and willing to save even the chief of sinners. He told me that the Sunday morning before he was led, as by an invisible power, to the house of God, and when the text was read it seemed as if a voice kept repeating to him "Thou art the man." He tried to shake off the impression, but could not; and when the accident occurred so soon after he feltas if the hand of God had taken hold of him; fear took possession of him, followed by despair, for he thought that the hour of indgment

I had several interviews with him afterwards, and many were the promises he made that, if God would only have mercy on him and restore him to health again, his life would be devoted to His service. It pleased God to permit him to live, but as econ as the danger of dying passed sway all his anxiety and interest about his soul disappeared and he returned to his old ways more bitter toward religion than he had ever been before.

The case to me was a solemn and suggestive one, and furnished many lessons that, in my subsequent ministry, have not been without benefit. Where came the impulse to break away from confirmed habits and to go to the house of God? Such impulses men often have-perhaps not so strong and well-defined as in this case, but sufficiently so to arrest attention and impress the mind with their significance. The Young Pro-Hurrying through the meal I took digal had such an impulse when he Freddie, who was getting restless, drawings of the Spirit that appear in so cross and irritable that I could and keep your mind constantly and

ways strive with man. There would be no use in always striving with him. But when a favorable opportunity presents itself then the Spirit immediately operates and by impulse and impression seeks to draw the man into these activities that

The again, the appositeness of the text on the occasion reserved to with the condition that the man was in, would show hat the Spirit is not unmindful of the eculiar temperaments and peculiar mental states of

choice of texts, for which at the time they cannot account. But the same be seen and felt when he noticed away from enjoyment; little thought influence is also as mysteriously that the/toast was not as he liked of personal appearance except when brought to bear on some one else to

that the individual feels. "I am the man," soon reveals, the source of and reason for that influence. "The reason for that influence. "The clame quick and prompt, "Not one." wind bloweth where it listeth, and "is a not the unpleasant that the unpleasant the control of the unpleasant." thou hearest the sound there of; but caret' not tell whence it cometh nor whither it goeth. So is every one that is born of the Spirit?" God moves in a sivsterious way

But, when these impressions and convictions appear it is a sign that the Spirit is at work, and that the day of salvation has come to that individual.

Without exhausting all the lessons that this incident would suggest, it. will suffice to notice but one mare, and that is that death-bed repentance said. cannot be relied on. The death-bed is a poor place, at any rate, to attempt to make our peace with God Not to characterize the act itself, as it deserves, of throwing the fag-end of our existence into the hands of God for his mercy, when it is worth no more to ourselves or to the world, it is an act with respect to the success of which grave doubts may be well entertained. "How many have repented and sought mercy with great carnestness on what was supposed to be their death-bed, but who on their subsequent recovery; went back again to their old ways "es"a dog to his vomit and as a sow to her wallowing in the mire",? A few, comparatively, may remember their resolutions and keep their vows; but the fact is that, in such circumstances as the imminency of death would naturally produce, there are wanting those motives to a godly

KIND WORDS.

time and behold now is the day of

salvation."—N. E. Methodist,

repentance that would secure for

I looked up when John came into the room, and I noticed that his face was more sober than usual; but he smiled the moment he saw me, and stooping down kissed Birdie and then turned to me; but just at that instant I sprang to catch Freddie, who was rocking himself wildly back and forth in Birdie's chair, for I feared he would go over; then something else attracted my attention, and I did not go back to John.

In a few moments dinner was ready, and we sat around the table. John liked toast at his evening meal and this was one thing he was par ticular about. He wished to have it well and evenly browned, but not hard and dry. It was not to his taste that night, and I knew it; but the children had made me so much trouble during the day-not that they were cross or peevish, but so sull of their busy life. I had no sooner saved Birdie from pitching headlong from the table, where she had climbed when my back was turned, than I was obliged to fly to Freddie, who was threatening to dismember himself with the carving knife, which he had taken from the

It seemed as if their ingenuity in devising new and dangerous ways of amusing themselves had never been so active before; and with it all I was tired. I noticed that John looked at the plate of toast rather ruefully, and when he took a slice and broke it it snapped with a quick sharp sound, and he laid the pieces beside his plate.

If he had eaten it I shouldn't have cared, but I felt annoyed by the cool way he disposed of it. Then I took the plate, and selecting one of the

nicest pieces, handed it to him. "No, thank you," he said, pleasantly enough to be sure, but it vexed me nevertheless; and from that time there wasn't a word spoken only what was said to the children. said, "I will arise and go unto my up stairs to my own room. I sat father." They are evidences of the down with him in my arms, feeling drowsiness, sloth, and inattention; critical junctures of the soul to arouse scarcely keep the tears back. In a fully alive to your dangers, privilegit to such action as will tend to its little while Freddie became quiet, es, and responsibilities.-From" Life salvation. The Spirit does not al- and picking up the first thing that of Thomas Jackson.

came within my reach. I began listlessly to turn over the leaves.

Soon my eyes rested on "Sharp Words," by Laicus. I read and

how sober John looked when be the family. Boys' lives during those first came in, and how he brightened when he met my glance.

membered that I did not return for are sometimes aware of strange in the kiss of welcome which he came; and to start off early buengh and fluences that direct there in the colorer; and I remembered how to be late; looking upon an errand as plainly I allowed my irritation to taking so my be seen and felt when he noticed

that message; and the application and then immediately followed it by of this truth to heir conscience, so the question. But after a whole the question, "But, after a whole day of absence, has there seen a pleasant word?" and the answer feeling that has been made so plainly manifest created unhappiness equal to many harsh words?

'I didn't stop to carry the monologue any further, but faying Freddle, who had fatten asteep, upon the bed, I hurried down stairs determined to make amends at once and true?

a I found John sitting by the table with the evening paper, before him, but he was not reading. Birdie lay on the sofa asleep with a shawl thrown over her. I went ap to him, and laying my hand on his shoulder "John, I'm afraid I have t been very good to you to night."" His lips trembled slightly, and he

only half smiled as he answered. "F was just thinking" -- and then stopped, I drew a chair close to his side.

"What were you thinking?" asked. "Tell me, tell me all-and then, after a moment's pause, he

He told of the little vexations that had troubled him through the day, and finished by saying # And last of all, instead of the money which I expected from Blank & Count I received a telegram, this afternoon, saying that they cannot pay for another week. This was the climax. There are bills of my own that I have to put off waiting for this money that ought to be met this week, and I don't know how they can be put off any longer. I left the office thinking how, I could manage, and crossed the ferry, walked up the street turning the subject over and over, and the more I thought the worse things seemed to look; but when I came in the house I deto one side, but—well, I guess I didn't after all."

It is no matter what happened after this confession; it is sufficient to say that we agreed then and there that in future we would try to remember that one had burdens to bear as well as the other, and that it is almost if not quite as bad to leave out the kind words. as to put in the sharp ones.

It isn't a wery long time vet since then, but, so far, it is wonderful how easy everything has gone. - J. L. in Christian Union.

" WATCH."

The spirit of the times is not favorable to the advancement of Christian goddiness. The public mind is unduly occupied by secular politics, stimulated by cheep newspapers. In many quarters where the Bible is not assailed by downright infidelity, at is treated with a levity bordering upon profameness; some of its most important dectrines being denied, or explained away, superseded by human opinion, un-der the plausible name of philosophy. Railroads with their excursion trains draw the laboring class from the house of God, and children from their Sunday-schools; 'liberal' senators are anxious to open the mu-seums and other places of secular attraction of the Lord's day, the quietness of which is interrupted by cries in the public streets, tempting children and idlers to the purdefiance of law, both human and divine, to the grief of God's faithful servants, and compelling them to

Where now the beauty of the Mabbath, kep With conscientious reverence, as a day By the Almighty Law-giver pronounced Holy and blest?

Never were the solemn and emphatic words of the Son of God, addressed to his apostles at the close of his life, more applicable to Methodist preachers and the Methodist people, generally, than in these eventful times: "What I say unto you I say unto all, Watch:" meaning, as I apprehend, Shake off all

TRAINING FOR BUSINESS.

There is one element in the home instruction of boys to which, says a Boston paper, too little attention has been given; and that is the cultivation of habits of punctuality. It is paper down and thought system, order and responsibility. It is poken in the family to it at it is poken in the family to it at it is own any households boys from the family to it at it is own and the paper down and thought system, order and responsibility. It is poken in the family to it at it is well at the paper down and thought system, order and responsibility. It is poken in the family to it at it is well at the paper down and thought system, order and responsibility. It is poken in the family to it at it is well at the gallery opposite. Mr. Speaker, dropping the galax with one quick electation of the eyebrow, this last mentioned trick being the only part of a series of actions which, though familiar to his observer, was never a mere matter of habit. Probably —and it is worth noting in reference to the non-fulfilment of the gallery opposite. Mr. Speaker, dropping the galax with one quick electation of the eyebrow, this last mentioned trick being the only part of a series of actions which, though familiar to his observer, was never a mere matter of habit. Probably —and it is worth noting in reference Boston paper, too little attention years are the halcyon days of their in season for breaktast; nothing to

Not a sharp word," I repeated; a little; finding his wardrobe always where mother puts it-in fact, having nothing to do but enjoy him-

Thus his life goes on until school ends. Then he is ready for business. He goes into an office where every thing is system, order, precision. He is expected to keep things next and orderly, sometimes kindle fires. come part of a nicely regulated machine, where everything moves in systematic grooves, and sach one is responsible for carrectness in his department, and where, in place of ministers to his comfort, he finds task-masters, more or less lenient, to be sure, and everything in marked contrast to his previous life. In many instances the change is too great Errors become numerous; blunders/ everlooked at first;

get to be an matter of serious mo ment then patience is overtaked, and the boy is teld his services are no longer wanted. This is the first blow, and sometimes he never rallies from it. Then comes the surprise to the parents, who too often never know the real cause, nor where they have failed in the training of their rat," says Malleson, ""on the high

child. The charge is for every box to have something special to do; to have some duty at a definite hour, and to learn to watch for that time to come; to be answerable for a certhin portion of the routine of the household; to be trained to anticipate the itime when thee may enter the ranks of business and be fortified with babits of energy, accuracy and application, often of more importance, than, superficial book learning, Scientific American.

BEACONSFIELD'S CONTROL.

termined to throw my worriment | health of the deceased gentleman | twelve are hot, and even then the during the last fifteen years particularly cannot fail to have noticed the shade. The nights are always the family taking tea with a neighthe struggle which has been main- cool, often cold, The Heratis have a | bor. tained by the mind against, and to some extent at the expense of the the cool breezes of Herat and the body.

While Mr. Disraeli sat in the House of Commons his life was an almost thing as death." The waters of the continuous effort. His imperturbable bearing, his habit of emotional self-restraint, his almost uniformly placid style of delivery-artistical ly, and always as the result of purpose, never involuntary, varied by and out, and charged for the avoirlighter and brighter passages of elo- dupois gained; a simple system cution—were the fruits of effort, The staquesque posture, the motionless face, the abstracted or seemingly indifferent manner which the superficial observer mistook for indications of a constitutional lack of sensibility, were, in truth, tokens of traordinarily fertile, and the orthe intensity of the emotional nature | chards, gardens, corn-fields and they disguised. Lord Beacons field was a man of profoundly deep feeling and a highly sensitive temperament, but with an indomitable will, habituated to self-control, the customary expressions of such feeling as he possessed were interdicted. For example, in place of move-ments of the ordinary excito-motor type, the noble Lord's physical habit was in the later-middle period, and toward the and of his career in the Commons characterised by slight and seemingly automatic but ago it paid an annual revenue of really conscious acts of the slight \$450,000, and Malleson declares est kind often repeated. at was very curious and profoundly interesting to study these movements chase of fruit and other objects in from the psychological standpoint. defiance of law, both human and di. Under ordinary circumstances, Mr. Disraeli would sit for long stretches of time during the violent or terribly irritating attack of a political opponent with nearly closed eyes, as though asleep.

When the onslaught waxed furious, he would, as though with allengrossing intent fix his gaze at the toes of his boots, moving them slowly so as to bring all points under observation. If the taunts or reproaches hurled at him were of so grievous a nature as to make

restlessness, he would higher; he can command no prespect: he has secured a emotional perhaps take out his single eye- er respect; he has secured for glass, and fixing it firmly, look for self the most enviable position an instant at the decrease front of the gallery opposite. Mr. Speaker, dropping the glass with one quick a firm "are gilt edged; they good for all they contract the gallery opposite." elevation of nables of punctuality as system, order and responsibility. As mentioned trick being the only part of a series of actions which, though the bargain in buying, for instance a falling market, and seeks not consider the probably and seek a mere matter of habit. Probably cuses for the non-fulfilment of -and it is worth noting in reference contract, but swallows his to the recent incident of his ap- with a good grace and pays the proaching the Ministerial bench in with the last dollar at his a ion at the close of the Candahar de-bate. the inchia Lord was less a Such a man can never be

> to the sub-consciousness, to be per- er was known to go back med automatically - than the average brain worker. The fact is interesting as throwing light on the type of his physico-mental constitution, and as illustrating the character of strain which the life and enterprise of the deceased statesman mposed on his mind power.

It was practically too late when Mr. Disraeli became Barl of Beacons" field to prolong a valued life by the means adopted. Speaking now freely, we believe the deceased statesman would have lived longer if-be had not thus late retired to a scene of, comparating quiet, upon which he wought, in a the minterest of his health, to have entered when the Queen urged him to do so some years before As It was Lord Beaconsfield was deprived of his accustomed mental stimulus at the precise moment when he most need ed it, and, although his immediate personal feelings were those of re-'ed at'too great a price.—Lancet.,

THE GEM CITY OF CEN-TRAL ASIA DO B.

"The position occupied by He

road between India and Persia, the

centre spot of an extensive and fer-

tile valley, well watered by chan-

nels from a perennial, stream, marks

her out as the natural garden and

granary of Central Asia. It is sit-

mated on a plain about 2.500 feet above the sea, and is fortified with mud walls, presenting the form of a square, each side of which is under a mile, in length, The streets' are ill-built, narrow and dirty; indeed, the common saying of the place is, "If dirt were to kill," where would we be ?"" 'Only man'is vile" at Herat, however, for nature has done everything for the city and its environs. The climate is the finest Those who closely watched the in Asia; only two months of the mercury rarely rises above 850 in proverb, "If the soil of Ispahan, waters of Khwarzin were in the same place, there would be no such Heri, Connolly describes in 1831 as the best he ever tasted, and the fruits as the most delicious in flavor. People enter the gardens and eat at will, being weighed as they pass in which that same wag, Nasir Eddin, once defied by filling his pockets with pebbles, and casting out ballast as he took in lading, so as to bring the astonished proprietor into his debt. The soil is exvineyards stretch to the mountains. four miles away on the north and twelve on the south, and along the valley as far as the eye can reach. There are extensive mines of iron and lead, only worked at the surface, and the cimeters of Herat are as famous in Asia as its horses. Silk is spum there largely, and carpets of wool and silk are manufactur ed. The other articles of exports are manns, assafœtida, gum, saffron, and pistachie muts. Half a century that under British rule the income to the Government from the district would suffice to pay the expenses of garrisoning the chief cities of Afganistan. Foster, who visited Herat in 1783, described the city as far surpassing Caudahar in the extent of its trade. Christie, who spent a month there in disguise in 1810, is as loud as Conolly in his praise of its delightful situation, brisk business and phenomenal fertility.

COMMERCIAL HONOR.

There are numbers of men doing business who pride themselves on their commercial honor. That is any other man furious, he would to say, they value their pledged straighten himself and brush some | word above any money consideraparticle of dust from the front of tion that can be accorded them, and his buttoned frockcoat or from the it is often said of them that "their sleeve of his left arm. Then he word is as good as any other man's would examine his nails, and as a | bond." When a merchant has atclimax, when few statesmen so as- tained this elevated position in the when his father had cartloads of sailed could avoid some token of commercial world he can go no them.'

mand, is a thoroughbred, and s man of habit in the true sense of down for his credit is unimpe the term—that is, as implying the able, and when he desires relegation of large classes of actions favors he gets! them, "for he

There is, however, when to say, another class of than mere money makers. sole aim and object in life is to cumulate riches, and it they hap to get caught with a bad conta on their hands they are flaight w subterfuges to avoid the payment their honest debt ... It is en them that the payment of this de involves a loss, and putting side crawl under the shadow of the perjured word, and ignore any on tract that has not their dist name signed to it in full

OUR YOUNG POLKS

A QUESTION. Tell me, oh, fair mother, Counting your household joys, After the fun and frolic,

What do the children read!

Dear little heads bent over anni Scanning the printed page times).
Lost in the glowing picture anneign bowing the seeds for age.
What is the story, mother, "colored What is the witching theme, I at Set like a feast before them, linking Bright as a golden draam? Letters though small and simple.

Words though as feathers like Make on the snowy background Positive black and whitel 

ASKING A BLESSING

Henry had never heard his father pray. A Christian friend while visiting the house, was invited to conduct family prayers and also ask a blessing at the table. Hen wished his father would do so even

One evening only Harry and hi little brother and his aged grand mother sat at the table, the rest of

"Grandma," said Henry, "may I ask a blessing?" "Yes." she replied, her eyes fill ing with tears.

"O God, bless our bread an milk! Make us good children. Bless pa, ma, grandma. Amen," said Henry. He thought no more about it; but dear old grandma toll his father when he came home. The father's heart was touched by the example, and he resolved to follow it and have a prayerless house m longer.

THE SOMNAMBULIST.

Do any of our little readers walk or talk in their sleep? Ask mamma Then you may look in the dictionary and see what somnambulist means. Here is a story from the Youth's Companion in reference to a little somnambulist: "One cold day in the Fall of the year, when Peter was about ten years old, his Uncle John, who lived near their house, went away to be gone over night. His Aunt Emily felt lonely to stay alone with her five-year-old Johnny so she asked Peter to come over and stay there, and sleep with Johany Now Peter sometimes walked in his sleep. About two c'clock in the morning, his parents were awakened by hearing somebody rattling the front door, and calling. 'Open the door!' 'That's Peter's voice, sure l' said his mother, and his father got up and opened the door. There, in the bright moon-light, stood Peter, with nothing on but his shirt, while under each arm he carried a pumpkin. There was a field of pumpkins close by his uncle's gate, where he had picked them. It was a sharp, frosty night, and the poor little fellow shook with the cold. His father knew he was fast asleep, so he took him and put him to bed. It was a great surprise to Peter to wake in his own room in the morning, and he could not imagine how he came there. Before breakfast his Aunt Emily came over, bringing his clothes, and they all had a hearty laugh over the way Peter stayed with her over night, and also at the pains he took to steal pumpkins,

SUNDAY

It is evident going to receive He bad been in disguise. and become Hi the citizens in the ed him. He was away to receive ! who had the righ He would retur sitizens who ha those servants allegiance, and mitted a trust. The servants but their is no number. To

pound, with the come," which me improve it, mal the parable in S varies-" unto o to another two (Matt. xxv. 15). same. The for signed to illustr this, the gift of alike. In St. entrusted " to His several al alike, but the to his several the pound had another five. " In the Ta ceives a differe one; in the F same, one pou part of a talent

each faithful

fidelity by dou

\_the five are I

in the Pounds,

renders a differ his pound ten, therefore, the in ent, the one il with different di other, different of the same opp The principl warded accord faithfulness. pounds out of over ten cities. over five cities expressions, in which shew that of Curist's faith shall fill position authority in other parable ti be made "a ru (Matt. xxv. 21, are to sit on tw 28). We are pricets with G be sharers of (Rev. iii. 21), A

want is to be ra ruler. The parable rewards will be claimed. It ill which speak of names of His (Matt. x. 32.; was, indeed, peculiar distin servants. The Lord's propert they traded, we ties, and activ Him; yet here faith or labou gotten." '90

that our grac

to put honor

faithfully serv

Anothern po parable is that of heaven, and there. Our Sa strain in anoth The promises are all illustre (Rev. 11, 111.) we have a mou it (1 Cor. XAV poor aim, sim be barely save the gates. L Master's conte be one of the sons of lighter the eternal th

There is, in unfaithful ser between the case the uni of what had, b tried to thro character of the austere But where the absent, the to quirements o be complaine on this: "His lang

not to be sine has not found by Jesus so legal Christ grace, and ke pel but its a to him that t to exact so p ing the leaf God should! abstain from ing our taler the languag with the po kingdom. Servant 18 0 ficiency of th but at the to himself, i his associat bittered at t