

## THE HOME CIRCLE.

### THE MOTHER'S DREAM.

Boy, your mother's dreaming; there's a picture pure and bright,  
That gladdens all her homely tasks at morning noon and night;  
A picture where is blended all the beauty born of hope,  
A view that takes the whole of life within its loving scope.

She is dreaming, fondly dreaming of the future when  
Her boy shall stand the equal of his grandest fellow-men,  
Her boy, whose heart with goodness she has labored to imbue,  
Shall be, in her declining years, her love proud and true.

She's growing old; her cheeks have lost the blush and bloom of  
spring.

But, oh, her heart is proud because her son shall be a king;  
Shall be a king of noble deeds, with goodness crowned, and own  
The hearts of all his fellow men, and she shall share his throne.

Boy, your mother's dreaming; there's a picture pure and bright,  
That gladdens all her homely tasks at morning, noon and night.  
A view that takes the whole of life within its loving scope,  
Oh, boy, beware! You must not mar that mother's dream of hope.

### SMALL MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE.

BY SUSAN TEALL PERRY.

It is to be deplored that some parents show such a want of principle, in what they term "little things." A boy came into his mother's room from school, not long since, with a glow of enthusiasm on his face, and held up a pocket knife. "See, mother, I traded that old, broken pencil with a boy to-day, and got a great bargain; it's almost brand new. The pencil wasn't any good, but the boy was willing to swap because it had such a pretty handle." The boy chuckled with delight at the thought of his shrewd bargain. The mother was busily sewing, and just glanced up at the knife her son held in his hand. Then the boy threw down his books and took his ball. As he passed out he said: "He was a little chap, and did not know how much more the knife is worth than the pencil, or he wouldn't have made such a bargain."

The mother heard the last remark, although it was made in a lower tone of voice, but she did not say anything. If that mother had been a woman of high principle, she would never have let such a transaction on the part of her child pass without showing him the advantage he had taken of the one younger and less shrewd than himself. She would have insisted on his returning the knife, which was of so much greater value than the pencil, and have made him understand that the trade had been a dishonest one.

Helen had not done her examples, and it was only a half-hour before school time. She could not possibly do them in that time, so she said to a friend: "Let me copy my examples from your paper, so I can hand them in to my teacher, and not have to stay in after school." The obliging schoolmate allowed Helen to copy her examples. Helen's mother knew of the deceit her daughter was practicing on her teacher, but let it pass unnoticed. Helen was marked perfect in her arithmetic lesson when she did not merit it.

Sarah forgot her penny for Sunday school one Sunday, and a friend who had two pennies lent her one. Sarah promised to return it the next Sunday. She told her mother about the matter, but her mother did not take the opportunity to impress upon her little daughter that she must be sure and not forget to pay that debt at once. The child forgot her obligation and the little friend did not speak of it, so it was not paid. "Only a penny!" Yes, but the principle involved was just the same as if it had been a dollar.

A father, in the presence of his little son, hired a boy to shovel off the snow in front of the house. When the job was done the father had nothing less than a five dollar bill, and of course the boy could not change it. "Come around to-night when I get home and I will pay you," said the business man. The boy came and waited, but something kept the man down town so late that he had to go home without it. The next morning the little son said, "Father, that snow-boy came for his money last night and waited and waited." "I forgot all about that boy," the father said carelessly, "he'll probably come again to-night." But it was three days before the boy could come again, and then there had been no change left for him, and although he needed that money as a dire necessity in his home it was one week before he got it. Would the son of such a father learn promptness from his example in paying the laborer, who is worthy of his hire? Would he think it a matter of principle that even such a small transaction as the business man regarded this one, was worthy of immediate attention?

"Mother is sorry for you, but she needs the money for the wash so much. You see Johnny is sick, and"—When Mrs. Baxter heard that pathetic child voice in her ear she exclaimed: "O yes, I entirely forgot that I promised to send my little girl with that money." When the washerwoman's child had gone this

same little girl said: "You know, mamma, I asked you twice to let me go to Mrs. Brady's with the money, and you said there was no hurry about it." What impression of trustworthiness for one's word did that child learn of her mother's careless keeping of her promise to one who had served her, and who was kept waiting for her just dues so long that her sick child really suffered in consequence. The poor can make no debts, you know. They must pay down or go without.

Children are very quick to learn what is right in the way of honesty and trustworthiness. How wonderingly the child looks at the mother, as she receives a coming guest with a show of pleasure, when that same child has heard her mother, only a short time before, speak in the most depreciating manner of that very guest.

Ah, father and mother, let our children learn from us to be straightforward, honest, true and trustworthy, even in the smallest dealings. The glories of the world are nothing in comparison with a solid, right character. To be trustworthy in every word and action in one's life is far surpassing all other honors in this world. Impress upon your children the great importance of being true, and noble in principle, even in the minutest details of life. Never let underhand, crooked, dishonest things pass unnoticed, but show the upright way at once.

Uprightness and true sincerity in one's purposes of life are characteristics that never bring any one to confusion, or in temptation, as regards deceit and falsehood. To have our children noble characters we must be living epistles of truth, justice and mercy ourselves. We must be Christ-like in our daily lives.

Smiles says: "The good and true draw others after them. They brighten and lift up all who are within reach of their influence. They are so many loving centers of beneficent activity. Let a man of energetic, upright character be appointed to a position of trust and authority and all who serve under him become, as it were, conscious of increasing power." And Edward Garrett says: "No life can be pure and true in its purpose and strong in its strife, and all life not be purer and stronger thereby." Another writer says: "Every duty, even the least duty, involves the whole principle of obedience. Little duties uprightly performed, make the will supple and prompt to obey. The commonest life may be full of uprightness and fidelity to God and one's fellows." And St. Paul says: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report—think on these things."—Ex.

### LITTLE CHRISTIANS IN CHINA.

A little boy in China, eleven years old, was the means of a great revival there recently. Formerly he lived a great way off from the missionaries, and all his family were strangers to the true God. Somehow his father, Wang Cheng Pei, heard about the true God, and then set off with his family and his old mother to find the foreigner who had the good news to tell. Wang brought his old mother in a wheelbarrow the whole journey of four hundred miles to hear the Gospel.

Some time after this Wang's little son was in a Gospel meeting, when he got up and said:

"We have been asked to confess our sins, and I want to confess mine. I have three great sins that I want to confess. The first was some time ago, while I was playing with my little sister, I struck her and hurt her so much that she cried. The second was not long since, when I was away from home, and did not get back till after dark. I was afraid. And I knew I ought to trust Jesus to take care of me in the dark just the same as He does in the light. The third was recently, when a man wanted a hymn book. I took one out of the chapel and gave it to him as if it were my own, and that was the same as if I had stolen it. I want to be forgiven for these sins."

After the little boy had thus confessed his sins many older people began to see that they were sinners also and to pray for God to forgive them; and as a result many people were converted to God. This little boy and his still smaller brother were both converted and were overheard to make the following statements to each other. The oldest one said, "I feel as happy as if I had a double handful of cash" (Chinese money). The younger one exclaimed, "Oh, I feel as happy as if I had a double handful of silver!"

Since the revival there has been a strong desire on the part of a large number of boys in the Mission school to be the happy possessors of a Bible. So the teacher suggested the following plan:

Each boy has two meals per day and two small cakes as a lunch at noon. Those who give up their lunch at noon get the value of it in money. Each Sunday they do without lunch, take the money and put it in the various collections.

A little girl who was among the converts asked her mother to unwind her feet. When asked "Why?" she replied, "Because I want two little feet to walk for Jesus."