

## EXERCISE I.

[1.] The finest idea of a thunder-storm was when Wiggins came home tight. He came into the room where his wife and daughters were, and just then and there he tumbled over the cradle, and fell whop on the floor! After a short time, he rose and said:

- [2.] "Wife, are you hurt?"  
 [3.] "No."  
 [4.] "Girls, are you hurt?"  
 [5.] "No."  
 [6.] "Terrible clap, was n't it?"

## EXERCISE II.

THE LAST LEAF.—O. W. Holmes.

[1.] I saw him once before, as he passed by the door, and again the pavement stones resound as he totters o'er the ground with his cane. They say that in his prime o'er the pruning knife of Time cut him down, not a better man was found by the erier on his round through the town.

[2.] But now he walks the streets, and he looks at all he meets so forlorn; and he strikes his feeble head, and it seems as if he said, "They are gone."

[3.] The mossy marbles rest on the lips that he has pressed in their bloom; and the names he loved to hear have been carved for many a year on the tomb. My grandmamma has said—poor lady! she is dead long ago—that he had a Roman nose, and his cheek was like a rose in the snow.

[4.] And now his nose is thin, and it rests on his chin like a staff, and a crook is in his back, and a melancholy crack in his laugh.

[5.] I know it is a sin for me to sit and grin at him here, but the old three-cornered hat, and the breeches—and all that, are so queer! And if I should live to be the last leaf upon the tree in the Spring—let them smile as I do now at the old forsaken bough where I cling.

## HOW VICTORIA TRAINS HER CHILDREN.

A primary regard is paid to moral and religious duties. They rise early, breakfast at eight, and dine at two. Their various occupations are allotted out with almost military exactness. One hour finds them engaged in the study of the ancient—another of the modern authors, their acquaintance with the languages being first founded on a thorough knowledge of their grammatical construction, and afterwards familiarized and perfected by conversation. Next they are trained in those military exercises which give dignity and bearing. Another hour is agreeably filled up with the lighter accomplishments of music and dancing.—Again the happy party assemble in the riding school, where they may be seen deeply interested in the various evolutions of the *menage*. The ice-while drawing and the further exercise of music, and the lighter accomplishments, call off the attention of their sisters—the younger Princes proceed to busily engage themselves in a carpenter's shop, fitted up expressly for them, at the wish of the Royal consort, with a turning lathe and other tools essential to a thorough knowledge of the craft. They thus early become, not

only theoretically, but practically acquainted with the useful arts of life. A small laboratory is occasionally brought into requisition, at the instance also of their Royal father, and the minds of the children are thus led up from a contemplation of the curiosities of chemical science and the wonders of nature to an inquiry into their causes. This done, the young carpenters and students throw down their saws and axes, unbuckle their philosophy, and shoulder their miniature percussion-guns—which they handle with the dexterity of practiced sportsmen—for a shooting stroll through the Royal gardens. The evening meal, the preparation for the morning lessons, and brief religious instruction, close the day.—*Selected.*

## SUPPORT YOUR HOME PAPER.

The world is flooded with papers—all sorts of papers—secular papers, religious papers; papers for the farmer, the mechanic, the teacher, the child; daily, weekly, monthly papers; papers pictorial and papers congressional; funny papers and stupid papers; Posts, Tribunes, Forums—Messengers, Advocates, Herald—Banners, Flags, Trumpets—Day-Books, Journals, Ledgers—Worlds, Suns, Stars—Dispatches, Expresses, Couriers—Chronicles, Examiners, Reporters, and a thousand other famous papers, all of which are scattered broadcast throughout the land; but one of the best papers for a family of young persons, and the one deserving the first and promptest patronage from the head of the household, is the indispensable local or county paper—the home paper.

2. We would earnestly recommend farmers and mechanics, teachers, lawyers, doctors, preachers, by all means, encourage first your own paper, published in your county-town and containing all the local news of your neighborhood. It is a grand mistake for persons in the country or at remote distances from the great cities, to send their money hundreds of miles away in exchange either for a stale daily, or a weekly made up of dead dates, and expect thus to find profitable and entertaining reading for a family!

3. Be neighborly. Subscribe and pay your dollar or two, as the price may be, for your home paper. If it happen to be a little dull at times, breathe new life into it by writing something lively for its columns, or sending a few subscribers and as many dollars to the editor. Sure cure for dullness! Encourage home enterprise and home industry. Encourage home talent by teaching your children to contribute articles, short, pointed, useful, suggestive, to the juvenile department of the home paper.

4. Any thoughtful farmer—any shrewd mechanic—and of course any professional man, ought to be able to lend a hand literarily, and a dollar or two literally to the support of an independent, faithful local paper.

5. Friends, think of this, and resolve to assist your neighbor, the publisher of the paper established and continued to promote your interests and your happiness. Give your nearest paper a hearty

welcome these winter evenings; and should you have an extra quarter or half dollar left for reading money, give it to Johnnie or Mary, and let it be expended in securing the regular visits of some live youth's paper. Such investments will pay a thousand fold. A. C.

## THE EDUCATION MOST NEEDED.

The idea too commonly prevails that a mere knowledge of books is the beginning and end of education. The sons and daughters, especially of the rich, grow up with this notion, in idleness, as it were, with little idea of the responsibilities that await them. Their natures revolt at the mention of "labor," not dreaming that the parents before them obtained the wealth they are so proud of by industry and economy. How many young men, college bred though they may be, are prepared to manage the estates which their fathers possess, and which it may have required a lifetime to acquire? How many young women, though they have acquired all the knowledge and grace of the best schools, know how to do what their mothers have done before them, and which the daughters may be compelled to do at some period of their lives? The children of the poor have to labor or starve, and as far as that goes they are educated to be practical. The education that scoffs at labor, and encourages idleness, is the worst enemy for a girl, man or woman. Instead of ennobling, it degrades; it opens up the road to ruin.—The education which directs us to do what we are fitted to do—that respects labor—that inculcates industry, honesty, and fair dealing, and that strips us of selfishness, is the education we do need, and that which must become the prevailing system of the country before we can be a people either happy or prosperous.—*N. Y. L. Press.*

READING ALOUD.—There is no treat so great, truly remarks the Springfield Republican, as to hear good reading of any kind. Not one gentleman in a hundred can read so as to please the ear, and send the words with gentle force to the heart and understanding. An indistinct utterance, whines, drones, nasal twangs, guttural notes, hesitation, and other voices of elocution are almost universal. Why it is, no one can say, unless it be that either the pulpit, or the nursery, or the Sunday School, gives the style in these days. Many a lady can sing Italian songs with considerable execution, but cannot read English passably. Yet reading is far the most valuable accomplishment of the two. In most drawing-rooms, if a thing is to be read, it is discovered that nobody can read, one has weak lungs, another gets hoarse, another chokes, another has an abominable sing-song, evidently a tradition of the way in which Watts' hymns were sung, when he was too young to understand them, another rumbles like a broad-wheel wagon; another has a way of reading which seems to proclaim that what is read is of no consequence, and had not better be attended to.