

Happiness.

Happiness is supposed to be something dropped upon us or withheld, not drawn to us by any attracting force or will of our own. It is thought to be easy enough to be happy when everything conspires to make one so, and impossible to help being unhappy in opposite circumstances. If this be so, while men may be congratulated in the one case, they are not to be commended; and, while they may be commiserated in the other case, they cannot be blamed. If there is no power, there can be no choice, and no duty except to bow, with as good a grace as may be, to the decrees of fate. Yet, if this were so, happiness would always be in the exact ratio of what are called favourable circumstances. Wealth with its various opportunities would always let in floods of unmingled delight, while their absence would always be attended with unmitigated gloom and sadness. We know that this is not so. Some at least on whom fortune seems to smile are far less happy than some on whom she only frowns.

Kindness to Animals.

There are few things more pleasant to behold, or which children are more fond of looking at, than a flock of sheep with their shepherd. Such of our readers as live in a town may never have seen many sheep, except when driven along the road, dusty and weary, perhaps going to be slaughtered. There is certainly little pleasure in seeing the poor animals in this state. But what child would not be delighted to see a number of sheep in their own quiet fields, white and clean, feeding or lying down upon the green soft grass? And who would not admire the watchful shepherd, gathering them together in the evening, gently leading them to the fold, and carefully shutting them into it?

The Saviour, who "knew what was in man," kindly desired to make His instructions pleasant and easily understood. He intended even little children should know and love His sayings. We find several of His parables about sheep, and perhaps the little children in our picture, who feel such pity for the poor, imprisoned sheep, remember some of the words of the great and tender Shepherd.

Mordecai.

In the early part of the reign of Ahasuerus the Jews were greatly despised and oppressed by their haughty conquerors, who held them in captivity. But in the seventh year of his reign, Ahasuerus married a beautiful Jewess named Esther.

Esther was a cousin of Mordecai, a Jew who held a very humble position in the king's household. Now Haman, one of the courtiers and chief advisers of the king, hated Mordecai, because he was a Jew, and would not bow down and do him reverence; he also feared that Ahasuerus might be prevailed upon by Esther and Mordecai to improve the condition of the captive Jews. So, full of rage and envy, he formed a plan to have the Jews massacred on a certain day, to which he persuaded Ahasuerus to consent. But Mordecai discovered the plot, and determining to prevent it if possible, he sent to Esther, telling her to make supplication to the king for the lives of her people. So Esther one day asked the king to grant her a request which she would make the next day at a banquet, and he promised to do so.

That same night it was shown to the king that Mordecai had revealed a plot made by his enemies to assassinate him; and finding that no reward for this service had been made, he sent for Haman and asked him what ought to be done to the man whom the king delighted to honour? Haman, thinking that the man must surely be himself, promptly replied that he should be arrayed in royal apparel, and made to ride on the king's horse through the city while the proclamation was

made, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour." Accordingly this was done to Mordecai by Haman, who dared not disobey the king. At the banquet, at which Haman was present, Esther pleaded with Ahasuerus for the lives of her people, the Jews, and told him what a wicked, envious man Haman was. The king was very angry with Haman, and caused him to be arrested and hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

After this Mordecai was promoted, and during the reign of Ahasuerus the Jews were treated with kindness and consideration.

The Bowl of Liberty.

One of the curious customs of the ancients was that of filling a cup with wine on the anniversary of a great battle, and then pouring the contents on the ground, in honour of the gods who were foolishly supposed to have given the victory. This was called the *bowl of liberty*. I dare say you will think the custom a foolish one, and pity the poor people who worshipped false gods, but I can show you greater objects of compassion.

We see around us those who drain the contents of a deadly wine-cup, led on by a craving which they cannot resist. They profess to believe in God and His Son Jesus Christ; they even admit the promise of the Holy Spirit to those who seek His aid; yet allow themselves to become ensnared by a habit which is ruinous to health and



happiness, destroying both body and soul. Better that they poured it upon the ground, calling it the *bowl of liberty*, than that they thus suffered it to become to them the *bowl of slavery*.

Shall we not prize the clear, fresh water which, like God's precious gift in the Gospel, flows pure and free? "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." Children, be not enslaved by any bad habit, and pray for those who are. Bear witness against evil as far as you can; but remember there is but one path to liberty, and that is through faith in Christ Jesus. "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Believe those who have tasted earth's poisoned pleasures when they have learned a better and purer way, and tell you there is no joy so sweet as that of true Christian liberty—the joy of knowing your sins are forgiven, and you who were once slaves to sin and Satan are free to serve the best Master. "Free from the law," free from condemnation, freed also from the power of sin.

Hood's and Only Hood's.

Are you weak and weary, overworked and tired? Hood's Sarsaparilla is just the medicine you need to purify and quicken your blood and to give you appetite and strength. If you decide to take Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced to buy any other. Any effort to substitute another remedy is proof of the merit of Hood's.

Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner Pills, assist digestion, cure headache. Try a box.

Hints to Housekeepers.

PINEAPPLE CREAM.—Beat half a pint of sweet cream until it is stiff. Peel and chop a pineapple, add the juice of a lemon and two-thirds of a cup of powdered sugar; dissolve an ounce of isinglass in a little hot water, and mix all lightly together, and pour into a mould. When wanted turn it carefully on the dish in which it is served.

PINEAPPLE DESSERT JELLY.—Make a jelly with gelatine by the directions that come with the package, using a somewhat larger amount, so that the jelly will be quite stiff. When cool enough to begin to thicken, so that the fruit will stay where it is put, place a layer of thinly-sliced pineapple that has been lying well-sprinkled with sugar for two hours in a glass dish, cover it with the jelly, and as soon as it sets add more fruit and more jelly until the dish is full. Set it upon ice and serve with whipped cream.

ASPARAGUS SOUP.—Make a soup on the same plan as the White Soup. Add to this soup one-half a can of asparagus, or, if in season, the tips of one bundle of fresh asparagus, cut in pieces one inch long and previously boiled in salted water. Then add a little cream and serve very hot. If canned asparagus is used, take care not to put in any of the liquor and use only the tips, or tender portion cut fine.

ORANGE MARMALADE.—One dozen oranges, three lemons, three quarts of water, eight pounds sugar. Slice the fruit very thin, cutting each slice into three or four pieces. Remove all of the seeds. Turn the water over and let it stand for twenty-four hours; then boil two or three hours, or until tender, add the sugar and boil one-half hour longer. Turn into tumblers, and, when cold, cover as you do jelly or jam. Keep in a cool place.

To get the most nutriment from vegetables, they should be put into boiling water and kept boiling vigorously. Boiled that way, they do not sear up the whole house, as they do when simmered half a day.

If you want to keep your stove in shining shape, rub it with an old newspaper. Just crush a page or two up in a wad and rub the stove vigorously. It is best to do this when the stove is warm and you will be astonished to see how bright and clean this treatment will leave it. It will burnish nickel plate beautifully, and there is nothing better for polishing window glass than old soft newspapers.

An appetizing relish for tea, or to serve as a course at lunch, is made from sardines and toast. Drain the fishes on brown paper and cut your bread before toasting into strips a little longer and broader than the fishes. Lay one fish on each strip; stand in the oven until hot, and scatter lightly with Parmesan cheese. Garnish the dish with parsley and lemon and serve a portion on each plate.

Norway Pine Syrup cures coughs, colds, asthma, bronchitis, hoarseness, sore throat and diseases of the throat and lungs. Price 25 and 50c.

Bad Blood causes blotches, boils, pimples, abscesses, ulcers, scrofula, etc. Burdock Blood Bitters cures bad blood in any form from a common pimple to the worst scrofulous sore.

Skin diseases are more or less directly occasioned by bad blood. B.B.B. cures the following Skin diseases: Shingles, Erysipelas, Itching Rashes, Salt Rheum, Scald Head, Eruptions, Pimples, Blotches, by removing all impurities from the blood from a common Pimple to the worst Scrofulous Sore.

The Chinese Postal System.

The Chinese have no governmental postal system, and letters are transported by means of so-called "letter-shops." These are somewhat like our express stations, as packages are also sent, and both letters and packages are insured and registered, and charges are in proportion to the distance to be carried. There are said to be nearly two hundred of these letter-shops in Shanghai alone, which send out employees to work up custom. Foreign letters are conveyed from China to other countries by the postal systems of the latter, consuls being considered as postmasters for their own countries.

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