

OUR HOME CIRCLE.

EVENING PRAYER.

I come to Thee to-night, In my lone closet, where no eyes can see, And dare to crave an interview with Thee, Father of love and light.

THE "WILLIES."

At the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, last month in Liverpool, G. B., the Rev. Charles Garrett produced an impression not soon to be forgotten by the relation of this sad incident in the history of an English Methodist home:

I was the other day in a beautiful residence where I have often been entertained before. There was a large gathering of friends, for this family I knew had been prominent for their hospitality. I knew that total abstinence had not been smiled upon there, but I was astonished when I sat down at the table to notice that there were no wine-glasses. I almost took it as a compliment to myself in my foolishness; but whispering to the lady, I said, "I see no wine-glasses here—are you teetotalers for the day because I am here?"

when he saw the state he was in. We carried him up stairs and laid him down upon the bed, and after a moment's pause he said, 'Father, the drink has killed me. 'No, my boy,' said his father, 'we shall bring you round yet.' 'Never, father—God be merciful to me a sinner,' and his head fell back and there was an end of our boy in this life.

WHAT A PAIR OF SLIPPERS DID FOR INDIA.

A TRUE STORY.

It was a sultry afternoon in India. The wife of a missionary sits quickly plying her needle with busy fingers, quietly bringing to completion a pair of slippers she is working for her husband. Although the pattern is so intricate and the execution so skillful that they would seem to demand all her attention, her mind is rather occupied with thoughts about the multitude of high-born women in that land of roses, whose condition is worse than that of convicts in our state prisons.

needle. Quick to learn, they soon have achieved results which do credit to their teaching and skill. Babu So-and-So takes the pair of slippers his wife has embroidered, and shows them with justifiable pride to Babu Thus-and-So. He in turn shows them to the ladies in his house, and they know that they can learn just as well as the ladies in the Babu So-and-So's zenana, so why not let the missionary lady come and teach them? She is invited; she comes; they learn quickly; and so the work spreads. A pair of slippers opened the doors upon the most heart-grinding captivity practiced in the world.

THE HABIT OF UNTRUTH.

Some men seem to have a constitutional inability to tell the simple truth. They may not mean to lie, or to tell an untruth; but they are careless—careless in hearing, careless in understanding, careless in repeating what is said to them. These well-meaning but reckless people do more mischief than those who intentionally foment strife by deliberate falsehood.

I SHUT MY EYES.

A young man, a member of a Christian church, with a good salary, said to me one day, "I shut my eyes to these appeals for money which are constantly coming before me." "Yes," I replied, "I know there are many who do so, but it may cost them more in the end to shut their eyes and ears to the cry of the destitute than it would if they gave to every needy case. There is an eye which is never shut, and the ear that heareth the cry of the needy may be closed to the cry of him who hardens his heart to the cry of the poor."

PUBLIC SPIRIT.

There is no point at which personal meanness betrays itself so strongly and surely as it does when brought into relation to schemes of public improvement. Set a subscription paper going through a community, to raise money for some public object, and it will usually sift out the mean men as certainly as a screen will sift the dust from a bushel of coal.

that give them passage across the country, and for the support of the Government. As heads of families and citizens of the State, they apprehend the fact that they owe duties whose fulfillment costs money. What is necessary beyond this is that they should see that membership in a social community involves duties just as really and distinctly as family ties or citizenship. No man can belong to a social community—as all men do who are not hermits—without having imposed upon him a great many duties.

A MOTIVE.

Some trifling act of small self-sacrifice—Large to her littleness—the child had done, Then sought reward in smile of mother's eyes. These eyes grew dim, and this the praise she won: "You have pleased God, my child!"

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

WATCH YOUR WORDS.

Keep a watch on your words, my darlings, For words are wonderful things: They are sweet, like the bees' fresh honey—Like the bees, they have terrible stings: They can bless, like the warm, glad sunshine, And brighten a lonely life: They can cut, in the strife of anger, Like an open two edged knife.

BISHOP BOWMAN'S LETTER.

If you will look at your maps you will see that Japan lies east of China, and is composed of four pretty large islands, with a great many small ones. Hundreds of these are so small that they are not marked on the maps. Until about twenty-five years ago but little was known of the Japanese. Strangers could

WEBSTER, CHOATE AND SUMNER.

Thirty years ago, when a student of Amherst College, I remember going over with several of my classmates to Northampton, where Daniel Webster and Rufus Choate were the opposing lawyers in the great Oliver Smith will case. I shall never forget the impression made by the great contrast between the manner and gesticulation of these two distinguished pleaders in their closing arguments. The courtroom was crowded almost to suffocation, and the immense interest involved, together with the high reputation of the opposing counsel, combined to excite the attention and interest of all to a remarkable degree.

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not visit them, and they were not allowed to go to other countries. After they had become willing that foreigners should visit their country, it was only to a few places that they would permit strangers to come, and for several years they would not consent that the gospel should be preached anywhere in Japan. Now it is preached in many places, and the Bible in their own language is scattered all over the country. Many day-schools are taught by Christian teachers, and Sunday-schools are found in all the larger cities and in many other places.

The children in Japan are darker and smaller than they are in America. In color they are a chestnut-brown, or more nearly, perhaps, a chocolate color. When little babies they are not so dark. I have seen them often nearly as white as babies at home. But as they get older they grow darker. The climate here is hard on them. The summer is very warm and moist. It seems like living in pretty warm steam. The sun is very hot. It pours down on one until he fairly reels under it. The houses are generally very small, so that the children spend most of their time out-doors. They have no chimneys. When cooking, or in the winter, when trying to keep warm, the people are nearly all the time in a thick smoke. Because of the dampness of the air the winters are quite severe. Hence the children must either suffer outside or bear the smoke in the house. Besides all this, nearly everybody, men and women, smokes tobacco a great deal. The children soon get into this bad habit, and that, I think, helps to make them dark.

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There is in Roumelia a valley known as the Kezanlik, entirely given up to the rose culture. During the flowering season it is from the top of the hills on either side one mass of flowers. So saturated is the air with the perfume that it clings to the hair and the clothes, and the scent remains for days on the latter. The essence sells wholesale in Paris at 1,500 and 2,000 francs the kilo, and is retailed at 5,000 francs and over.

SUNDAY

Balaam whom, who seem to be whatever the once to His home amongst the streams of rise. But the Assyrian tribes down Red Sea. (by that of prophetic with the first regarded the East as a whose course the possible was, i. e. B marks, " about the a an ambedic wald, King that was b late) had i for the Chr for sacrific the same l fue, that p his shield a with this u utrumque either.