

Be Brier.

When you've got a thing to say,
Say it! Don't take half a day.
When your tale's got little in it,
Crowd the whole thing in a minute!
Life is short—a fleeting vapour—
Don't you fill an eight-page paper
With a tale which, at a pinch,
Could be cornered in an inch!
Boil it down until it simmers;
Polish it until it glimmers.
When you've got a thing to say,
Say it! Don't take half a day.

—Texas White Ribbon.

His Love and Care.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

O brothers! if my faith is vain,
If hopes like these betray,
Pray for me that my feet may gain
The sure and safer way.

And Thou, O Lord! by whom are seen
Thy creatures as they be,
Forgive me if too close I lean
My human heart on Thee?
—John G. Whittier.

True Hospitality.

I pray you, O excellent wife, not to cumber yourself and me to get a rich dinner for this man or this woman who has alighted at our gate, nor a bed chamber made ready at too great a cost. These things, if they are curious in, they can get for a dollar at any village. But let this visitor, if he will, in our looks, in our accent and behavior read our hearts and earnestness, our thoughts and goodwill, which he cannot buy at any price in any village or city, and which he may well travel fifty miles and dine sparsely and sleep hard in order to behold. Certainly let the board be spread and let the bed be dressed for the friend, but let not the emphasis of hospita... lie in these things. Honor to the house where they are simple to the verge of hardship so that there the intellect is awake and reads the laws of the universe, the soul worships truth and love, and honor and courtesy flow into all deeds.—Emerson.

Learn to be a man of your word. One of the most disheartening of all things is to be associated in an undertaking with a person whose promise is not to be depended upon—and there are plenty of them in this wide world, people whose promise is as slender a tie as a spider's web. Let your given word be as a hempen cord, a chain of wrought steel, that will bear the heaviest sort of strain. It will go far to making a man out of you; and a real man is the noblest work of God; not a lump of moist putty, moulded and shaped by the last influence met with—that was calculated to make an impression; but a man of forceful, energized, self-reliant and reliable character, a positive quantity that can be calculated upon.

A Warm Handshake.

A Pittsburg pastor writes us: "It was at the close of the evening service last Sunday that, according to my wont, I stepped down from the pulpit and moved toward the door to greet old friends and welcome strangers. Presently there stood before me a shy, intelligent-looking lad, who grasped my hand with so much cordiality that looking him in the face, I said: 'What is your name? Do you live somewhere near by?' 'My name,' said he, with a charming accent 'is John Silas. I do not live here: I work at the K—hotel.' How did you find your way here?' 'I look for you many days,' responded the boy; 'I come from Germany one year ago—no father, no mother. I meet you one night you preached at W—(one of our suburbs), you shook hands with me, and I've been looking for your church ever since.' The incident deeply touched several who were standing by, and hospitality to strangers will seem to us all more valuable than before."—Phil. Pres.

Flowers from the forest.

False and Imperfect Proverbs Revised.

Of two evils choose—*neither*.
Business and *brotherhood*.
No man has his price.

When you are with the Romans, do as the Romans ought to do.

Nothing but truth of the dead, and a kind word now and then for the living.

A bad promise is *worse* kept than broken, but *better* not spoken.

Enough is *better* than a feast.

—From "Successful Men of To-day."

If the devil ever feels proud of his work, it must be when he has made a man mean enough to starve his wife and children to death while helping to keep some saloon keeper fat.—*Ram's Horn*.

Teacher—What is the future of "He drinks?"
Johnny—(after considerable thought), "He is drunk."

Men do less than they ought unless they do all that they can.—*Carlyle*.

There is a drinking house,
That every man can close,
It is a little opening
That's just beneath his nose.

Joy, Temperance and Repose,
Slam the door on the Doctor's nose.

—*Longfellow*.

Mistress: Bridget, where are the oyster crackers that I ordered? Bridget: Faith, mum, 'a I broke ivery one av thim, an' not an oyster could I find in one, an' I sint them straight back.

A sweet little four-year-old added this clause to her evening petition the other night: "And please help Grandma not to talk so much when the pies get burned."

"See, Ryer, here a German clock I bought for you in New York." "Good gracious, Hiram! how foolish. You know can't understand a word of German."