

### Domestic Affliction

A bright girl asked to be absent from school half a day on the plea that company was coming.

"It's my father's half sister and her three boys," said the girl, anxiously, "and mother doesn't see how she can do without me, because those boys act dreadfully."

The teacher referred her to the printed list of reasons which justified absence, and asked her if her case came under any of them.

"O yes, Miss Smith," said the girl, eagerly, "it comes under this head," and she pointed to the words, "Domestic Affliction."

### The Test of the Sermon

Professor Houghton, of Trinity College, Dublin, was fond of indulging in quiet humor at the expense of some of his colleagues, says the writer of "Some College Recollections."

On one occasion he was asked by Dr. Stubbs, a senior fellow of his college, what he thought of the sermon preached that morning by the Bishop of Meath (Dr. Reichell).

"Well, Stubbs," replied the professor, "it was admirable, but not comparable with your own last Sunday."

"How so?" said Stubbs, highly gratified.

"Because," said the professor, "the bishop took forty minutes to put me to sleep, whereas you accomplished the same result in ten."

### A Turk Preferred

An English gentleman, who has resided in Constantinople for twenty years, and employs a large number of men, in speaking of the laboring population, exclaimed: "The laboring Turk has a great future before him. If I want a good, reliable watchman to watch my mill, or a boatman to row me down the Golden Horn to Pera, where I reside, I employ a Turk, and prefer him to a Christian;" and among the reasons which he gave for preferring Turks for such offices was that they are always sober. As it is against their religious principles ever to drink any kind of intoxicating drinks, distilled or fermented, they are consequently free from "the enormous sin of drunkenness."

What shall we say for ourselves and Christianity when we read that the religious principles of the Turks cause them to be free from the "enormous sin of drunkenness?"

### Dwellers in the Ice

The Etahyans, or "arctic highlanders," live in ice caves within the vast glacier cap which covers all northern Greenland. There is, perhaps, the most wretched and isolated existence it is possible to conceive.

Their "dwellings" are always wet, owing to the melting of the ice walls and floor. For half six months of the year the darkness of the arctic night envelops them. The ice is around them, beneath them, above them. In nine cases out of ten, if they venture abroad, they breathe the frozen particles, and the sensation is akin to that which comes from inhaling the blast of a furnace.

Nevertheless, they refuse to move farther south with the approach of winter, as do all the other Eskimo tribes. They take a sort of perverted pride in their loneliness, as in their misery. "What matter?" they say, "if we are cold and hungry? We are the last of all peoples. We dwell literally at the end of the world. To the north of us there is nothing that lives, breathes, or has independent movement."—Pearson's.

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