Home Circle.

BANEFUL SMART SOCIETY.

The unit of strong nations is the family. All legislation, habits, ideals, policy or ambitions that increase the welfare and multiply the number of happy families are good for the nation. Things that stunt, diminish or ridicule domestic life are bad for the nation. This is copybook commonplace, but bedrock truth. Turkey is what it is mainly because the harem replaces family life in the upper or wealthier classes.

The note by which smart society may be recognized is its contempt for family life—its loathing of home. Luxury and overfeeding seven days a week kill desire for aught else but feeding and luxury. Plays and music halls, restaurant dining eternal card-playing, and the race course produce satiety, and therefore indifference to the calls of national life.

The art of conversation in smart society is extinct. Slang shibboleths, composed of baby talk and Italian or French tags to the Queen's English, form the dialect of the smart set. Disreputable women, who affect the conduct of Lais without her graces, are among the leading girits of smart society. When the morals of the poultry yard flourish in the atmosphere of the stable it is only natural that the intelligence of the nursery is applied to the problems of empire.

To enter the charmed circle neither brains nor breeding, birth nor influence, are necessary. All that is required is money, and then more money —with an insolent contempt for the laws that are the unseen foundations of civilized society. A "useful adventurer thus equipped can buy his way into illustrious circles as easily as he picks up a yearling at Newmarket.

Every now and then an explosion takes place, and the public learns with bewilderment that cheating at cards is a normal feature of smart society, or that women who are courtesans in all but name are no more tabooed in smart society to-day than they were excluded from the pavilion at Brighton in the days of the Prince described by Thackeray as "the first gentleman and most finished blackguard in Europe."—Arnold White, in the London Chronicle.

THE CHURCH AND EDUCATION.

The following are the opinions of a few great thinkers on the influence of the Catholic Church education:

Guizot says: "Europe owes its learning and its civilization to the Roman Church. It was that Church," he adds, "which powerfully assisted in forming the character and furthering the development of modern civilization."—"History of Civilization in Europe."

Von Ranke says: "A slow but unbroken progress of intellectual culture had been going on within its (the Church's) bosom for a series of ages. . . . All the vital and productive energies of human culture were here united and mingled."

Lecky says that in the long conflict for personal freedom, "the Catholic Church was the special representative of progress," and laid the very foundations of modern civilization."—"History of Rationalism in Europe." Vol. 1, page 209.

Halle says: "The praise of having originally established schools belongs to some Bishops and Abbots of the sixth century" (in England ?).

"The cathedral or conventual schools created or restored by Charlemagne became the means of preserving that small portion of learning which continued to exist."—Introduction to "The Literature of Europe," Vol. 1., page 27.

With the Children.

HOW TO GET ON.

A young man asks: "How can I get on in the world?"

1. Get at some work for which you are suited. Stick to it. Learn it from top to bottom. Excel in it. Know more about it than any other man, be more skilful in it than any of your competitors.

2. Save money. Begin to hoard the cents if you cannot afford to lay by a dollar a week. Acquire the habit of thrift.

3. Get a good reputation for honesty, truthfulness, regularity and trustworthiness. It is business capital. Deserve it. Don't try to deceive the world. You are sure to be found out.

4. Treasure your health. Avoid excesses of all kinds. Keep from drunkenness. Arise early. Sleep enough.

With a business experience, frugality, a good reputation and health, opportunities for advancement in prosperity are sure to come.

If we could only perform when awake the wonderful exploits we do in our dreams, we would become famous in a day.

There is something wrong with the small boy who can wait patiently for his dinner.

Don't tell everything bad the children have been doing during the day before your husband can get his hat off at night.

Luck seldom comes when we are looking for it.

Humanity is one of the best proofs of divinity in us.

A man is always willing to carry the first baby.

Very often the things we want we seem to get just as we've left off wanting them.

It is well for our girls, and boys, too, to remember that a gracious presence and cheerful, well-modulated voice have more power to create beauty in the home circle than all the luxuries that money can buy. The parent and teacher also, cannot overestimate their moral value. They forestall opposition, allay irritation, and prepare the way for receptivity. What is called "personal magnetism" is largely capable of analysis. If a stiff, uninteresting person has genuine kindliness and sincerity, though he have only ordinary endowment, he can be transformed by correct training.

A husky, dull or weak voice may be made pleasant and clear, a slovenly enunciation may become elegant, a slouching gait dignified and an unattractive person may become winsome. The charm of manner consists in its grace, its simplicity and sincerity. Cultivate a pleasant manner of laughing. Keep the voice sympathetic and cheerful.

Look with interest, but without staring, at the person with whom you are talking. Do not let your eyes wander over his clothes or around the room. Be simple and sincere. Be yourself a good listener while another is talking. In talking to a number of people scattered around a room, even though you are telling the story especially to one let all the others feel that their presence is recognized and their interest is appreciated. Hold each one pleasantly with you eye.

A priest in Australia, being asked what books were best suited to mold the moral character of boys and girls, replied that it was quite obvious that the principles which ought to be instilled carefully and constantly into the minds of all young persons were truth, justice honor, kindness, gentleness, piety. To promote such instruction, he said, the best books, in my judgment, are: For truth, Lingard's "History of England;" for justice, Fenelon's "Telemachus;" for honor, "Plutarch's Lives;" for kindness, "The Imitation of Christ;" for gentleness, St. Francis de Sales' "Introduction to a Devout Life;" and for piety, the Holy Bible. These books are all compiled on the broadest principles of truth and morality, and hence cannot fail to instruct and improve everyone who reads them.

Auburn hair is of itself beautiful, but one rarely meets an auburn-haired girl who knows just what colors suit her best.

The girl whose hair is of any shade of so-called red must never, under any circumstances, wear pink, red or bright yellow. These colors will only accentuate the reds in her hair, and the contrast is exceedingly unbecoming.

She may, however, wear golden browns and plenty of them. These will bring out the ruddy gold tints of her hair. She may also wear light and dark shades of blue and green, dark purple, gray, white and lavender with a blue cast, and when properly dressed the red haired girl is a real beauty.

CONUNDRUMS.

Why is an umbrella like a pancake? Because it is seldom seen after lent.

What tree bears the most fruit to the market? The axle-tree.

What great Scotchman would you name if a footman knocked at the door? John Knox.

Why is a pretty girl like an excellent mirror? She is a good looking lass.

What affection do landlords most appreciate Parental (pay-rental).

Why is a pig with a curly continuation like the ghost of Hamlet's father? Because he could a tail unfold.

Why does a dressmaker never lose her hooks? Because she has an eye to each of them.

Why are quinine and gentian like the Germans? Because they are two tonics (Teutonics).

Why are nose and chin at continual variance? Because words are always passing between them.

Why is a person with his eyes closed like a defective schoolmaster? He keeps his pupils in darkness.

WISE SAYINGS.

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on Life's parade shall meet
The brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round,
The Bivouac of the dead.
—Theodore O'Hara.

Because half-a-dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, whilst thousands of great cattle, reposing beneath the shadow of the British oak, chew the cud and are silent, pray do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field.—Burke.

With regard to the choice of friends, there is little to say; for a friend is never chosen. A secret sympathy, the attraction of a thousand nameless qualities, a charm in the expression of the countenance, even in the voice or manner, a similarity of circumstances—these are the things that begin attachment.—Mrs. Barbauld.

All the means of action—
The shapeless masses, the materials—
Lie everywhere about us. What we need
Is the celestial fire to change the flint
Into transparent crystal, bright and clear,
That fire is genius!
—Longfellow, "The Spanish Student."

If you saw a house on fire, what three celebrated authors would you feel disposed at once to name? Dickens—Howitt—Burns.

Cards were at first for benefits designed,
Sent to amuse, not to enslave the mind.
—David Garrick.

Books are men of higher stature, and the only men that speak aloud for future times to hear.—Mrs. Browning.

The great world's altar-stairs
That slope thro' darkness up to God.
—Tennyson, "In Memoriam."

Genius is the highest type of reason; talent the highest type of the understanding.—Hickok.

Slow are the steps of freedom, but her feet turn never backward.—Lowell.

He is gentil that doth gentil dedis.
—"Chaucer, "Canterbury Tales."

For I am the only one of my friends that I can rely on.—Apollodorus.

Who would be free, themselves must strike the bow.—Byron.

STORY OF MAFEKING.

Boer forces invested the town on October 14. Thus the siege lasted 214 days if it ended on May 15, as reported.

Baden-Powell's fighters numbered at first about 1,000 men, all irregulars except a few officers. He had eight guns, six of them machine. Seven hundred white women and children and 7,000 black were also hemmed in. The besieging force has varied from 2,000 to 5,000.

Cronje first attacked Mafeking on October 15, following up the destruction of an armored train at Kraaipan, below the town. Repulse with heavy loss was the result. Heavy guns were brought up and bombardment began. A fierce assault on October 31 was futile, both sides losing heavily. Weeks of "sniping" and intermittent bombardment culminated December 26 in an unsuccessful British sally against Game Tree Fort. Twenty-one of the garrison were killed, and thereafter Baden-Powell remained on the defensive.

Col. Plumer, with 2,000 men from Rhodesia, moving south to raise the siege, got within 14 miles of the town on March 16, but was beaten back by the Boers, led by Snyman. Lord Roberts sent word that relief would arrive by May 18, and a column of 3,000 men is believed to have left Kimberley early this month to fulfill the promise.

Ever since January all in Mafeking have been on reduced rations. Life has been supported by means of horse and mule meat soup made from the animals' skins, and porridge concocted from fodder oats. Six ounces of bread, a quart of soup and two quarts of porridge was the daily ration a month ago.

Casualties in the town's fighting force up to April 28 totalled 240, including 66 killed and 133 wounded. Deaths from disease add fully 60 more, making a 20 per cent. loss during the siege. The deaths among non-combatants probably number 100 more.

To meet the peculiar exigencies of the situation Baden-Powell issued paper currency and postage stamps. The rescurceful commander also built a gun of steel plate to supplement his slender outfit of cannon, which comprised one weapon made in the last century. He had thrown his defence lines far out, thus preventing a concentration of heavy fire on a small space, which would soon have knocked the town to pieces.

THE TIN SOLDIER OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

Previous to his gong to the front, Lord Methuen was extremely popuuar with the masses. He is a genial man and took a very active interest in the British Volunteer. But his soldiers did not like him. They considered him too shifty and nervous; they had no confidence in him, and soldiers are clever at discovering the real ability of a leader. A story is told of Lord Methuen's interview with Lieut. the Hon. Walter Chetwyn.

Chetwyn came to Aldershot in charge of the Staffordshire Militia, ordered out for the annual month's training. Methuen, who is an officer of the Guards, the smartest of all smart regiments, journeyed down from London to inspect the militia, and, after putting the men through their paces, called up Lieut. Chetwyn and gave him a wigging.

After the inspection Lieut. Chetwyn, "mad clean through," ran up to London, and making this way to the Lowther Arcade, where all toys for children are sold, invested two sovoreigns in trim, tin soldiers. These he tacked on a board, in perfect order and without wrap or cover over them, sent them by special messenger to the Guards Club, addressed to Lord Methuen. On the reverse of the tag Chetwyn wrote that, as far as he had been able to gather, this was Lord Methuen's idea of a regiment. The arrival of this at the club caused consternation among the officers, as it was taken not only as an insult to Methuen, but a serious reflection on the Guards, who are, but hate to be thought, more or less "show soldiers." This that at first looked like developing into a very awkward incident was, on the advice of the gray heads of the service, allowed to drop.

MEMORABLE SIEGES.

It will be interesting to recall the length of the historical sieges of comparatively recent times. Khartoum was besieged for 341 days. Sebastopol for 327 days, Paris for 157 days, Kimberley 123 days, Ladysmith 119 days, Plevna 94 days, Lucknow 86 days, Saragossa 63 days, Cawnpore and Badajos 21 days, and finally we have Mafeking with 213 days. Mafeking comes, therefore, in this list third in length of duration of investment.

LOOKING UPWARDS.

Looking Upward Through the Shadows
Looking upward through the shadows,
Though the eyes be veiled in tears,
Though the heart in secret sorrow
Trembles in its fears.

Looking upward through the shadows,
When the sunlight fades away;
Waiting through the hours of darkness
For the perfect day.

Looking upward, sometimes dreaming,
Dreaming of a bygone time,
When the heart in springtime gladness
Bowed before its shrine.

Looking upward, though the springtime
In its beauty has gone by;
Waiting, though the shadows deepen
And death's hour draws nigh

Looking upward, sweetly resting,
As though in peaceful dream;
Through the dark and misty shadows
Sunbeams brightly gleam.

Looking to a hope eternal,
When the shadows fade away,
When the sunlight, in its beauty,
Reveals perfect day.
—Ida E. Hutchings.

THE MOST POPULAR PILL.—The pill is the most popular of all forms of medicine, and of pills the most popular are Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, because they do what it is asserted they can do, and are not put forward on any fictitious claims to excellence. They are compact and portable, they are easily taken, they do not nauseate nor gripe, and they give relief in the most stubborn cases.

TWO NEW SAINTS

Secret and public consistories were held in Rome April 19. The first filled twenty-three vacant bishoprics and the second proclaimed May 24 as the day for a consistory to decide upon the canonization of Blessed De la Salle, founder of the Christian Brothers' schools, and Rita d'Acascia.

In his proclamation the Pope said: I am happy at the opportunity to give glory to two new saints, who will serve as an example for the imitation of the faithful. However, we have resolved again to postpone our decision, wishing to consult the archbishops and bishops concerning the advisability of so important a step as the creating of new saints."

The public consistory concluded with a solemn apostolic benediction of cardinals, archbishops and bishops, and the entire world was invited to a semi-public consistory in May, when all must cast their final vote as to whether they approve of the creation of the two new saints.

In the secret consistory the Pope preconized a number of bisops, including Mgr. Donati Sbaretti for Havana, Mgr. Kieley for Savannah, and Mgr. Bertrandorth for Vancouver.

ASTONISHING FACTS.

In 1880 there were 2,600,000 women employed in the United States, as shown by the census. In 1890 the number had grown to nearly 4,000,000. In a few decades at that rate of increase the number of women employed as wage earners will equal the number of men. But the facts are worse than they at first appear. Of that number the majority are between the ages of fourteen and twenty-five years. Women are mostly largely engaged in the mechanical and industrial trades. Sixteen per cent. of the boot and shoe makers are women, twenty-five per cent. of the cigarmakers, forty-eight per cent. of the bookbinders, forty-eight per cent. of the carpet makers, forty-three per cent. of the hands in woolen mills, fifty-three per cent. in the cotton mills, seventy per cent. in the knitting mills, and out of the whole manufacturing work of the United States forty-five per cent. is done by women.

AN EXPENSIVE MAP.

The most expensive map in the world is a map of France in mosaic work, sent by the Emperor of Russia to the President of the French Republic. None but an emperor and an autocrat could have afforded this present. The map, which is one yard square in size, took three years to make, and cost £160,000 sterling. The 86 departments of France are represented by as many varieties of Siberian jasp, only the rarest varieties being used.

CAN RECOMMEND IT. Mr. Enos Bornberry, Tuscarora, writes; "I am pleased to say that DR. THOMAS' ECLECTRIC OIL is all that you claim it to be, as we have been using it for years, both internally and externally, and have always received benefit from its use. It is our family medicine, and I take great pleasure in recommending it."

Newman says: "Not a man in Europe now who talks so bravely against the Church but owes it to the Church that he can talk at all."

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