

OUR HOME CIRCLE.

LOVE'S OPPORTUNITY.

"A d being in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spices, and poured it on his head."—MARK XIV. 3.

TEN YEARS' WORK.

A SKETCH FROM MEMORY.

"Oh Han! I've heard awful news about you," said Mrs. Eldred, excitedly, rushing into her friend Mrs. Peebles' easy sitting-room.

years, years which sufficed to plant the appetite for the "liquid fire" firmly in father and son. Disease too, was rioting upon the abused vital forces.

Consumption means something when it is superinduced by alcohol. Mr. Peebles, after a few months of intense suffering, went down into the grave, and Mrs. Peebles, wasted and worn, looks back upon her ten years work, lost treasures, dissipated fortune, and sighs, "Oh! if I had only known."

THE PENITENT PIRATE.

Some few years since an East Indian trader was attacked, while cruising in the Indian Ocean, by a piratical schooner, and the attack being sudden and unlooked for, the merchantman fell an easy prey into the hands of the pirates.

As they descended the companion-way, they heard a soft voice evidently engaged in supplication; and the chief, directing his followers to halt at the entrance, went noiselessly forward, to ascertain whence the voice proceeded.

"Good-morning, Master N—." "Good-morning, Master C—." "So you be a-digging your 'taters, Master N—?"

"Yes, I be, Master C—." "And why be you a-digging them in two heaps, Master N—?" "Well, you see, Master C—, these be the good 'uns, and those be the bad 'uns, and I keeps 'em separate."

"What an awful thing it would be," said William, solemnly, "if you and me was like them rotten 'taters, and had to go with the bad 'uns on that day."

William conducted a Society-class on Sunday mornings in his own house. On the Sunday following the above conversation, when the members were assembled and he was about to commence the meeting, he heard a heavy step in the yard, and presently the door opened, and to the astonishment of all, old Master N— himself walked in.

He was still undecided when they knelt down for the first prayer; but before they rose from their knees the matter was settled by old Master N— himself.

"What is Life, father?" "A battle, my child, where the strongest lance may fail, where the wisest eyes may be beguiled, and the stoutest heart may quail."

"What is Death, father?" "The rest, my child, when the strife and toil are o'er; The angel of God—who calm and mild, says we need fight no more."

"Let me die, father! I tremble, and fear To yield in that terrible strife!"

"The crown must be won for heaven, dear, In the battle-field of life; My child, though thy foes are strong and tried, He loveth the weak and small; The angels of heaven are on thy side; And God is over all."

Good breeding, like charity, should begin at home. The days are past when children used to rise the moment their parents entered the room where they were and stand until they received permission to sit.

When the strife and toil are o'er; The angel of God—who calm and mild, says we need fight no more; Who, driving away the demon band, bids the din of the battle cease; Takes banner and spear from our trembling hand, and proclaims an eternal peace."

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hold, but it is very easy, if children are themselves scrupulously respected, to teach them in turn scrupulously to respect the convenience of others, and to know when to talk and when to be silent.

If a child is brought up in the constant exercise of courtesy toward brothers and sisters and playmates, as well as toward parents and uncles and aunts, it will have little left to learn as it grows older.

The best brought up family of children I ever knew were educated on the principle of always commending them when it was possible to do so, and letting silence be the reproof of any wrong-doing which was not really serious.

Whenever God calls a Christian to do a certain work, there is always a marvellous co-operation of events to facilitate it. Towards the close of the year 1880 a young lady in Chicago was deeply impressed that it was her duty to labor for the conversion of the sailors on the lakes while on the water.

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THE ADVANCING YEAR.

It is the Lord God that is passing by. Not in the great and mighty wind which roars.

BE ALIVE.

Death is out of place in the service of the Lord of life. The living God does not choose dead servants.

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piece of cloth, and sewing them up again with linen floss, or spending precious moments in hurtful gossip with companions as idle as themselves. I long to say to them: "The hours you waste in this worse than useless manner could be employed to such advantage as to make you noble, talented, intelligent women, instead of the silly, empty-headed creatures that your present way of passing your time will surely develop."

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

A SERMON TO THE LITTLE FOLKS.

BY THE REV. E. A. BLAIR.

"Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you." (1 Peter v. 7.)

Many times you have heard your minister, as well as other good people, say it was easy for children to be Christians. Although you know they believed what they said, you wondered if they had not forgotten when they were children, or whether they had as many cares and troubles as you, so you said silently: "It may be easy for ministers or deacons to be good, but very hard work for girls or boys."

I do not wonder you felt so, especially if you had never thought of what Peter wrote in our text. If you will read it again carefully, I think you will see the whole secret.

Whom does Peter mean by "him?" He cannot mean any of your friends, because not one of them understands all your needs, and their own cares are so many, they are anxious to find some one to assist them. He cannot mean himself, for he had failed many times to bear his own burdens, and he dare not trust himself. If you will read the fourth verse you will find he means God. So our text would be: "Casting all your care upon God, for he careth for you."

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