

Evenings with Browning, evenings with Tennyson, are merely high-sounding titles to those who regard that style of entertainment as intellectual boredom, while to others they are mental food to be conned over during the busy working hours.

All have not the same thirst for knowledge and a form of more material pleasure must be found for such; in fact, any innocent entertainment that gives an evening's unalloyed enjoyment is in order, for "To the pure all things are pure."

A FARM READING CIRCLE.

Constitute mother and father honorary president and vice-president, critic and audience. Divide the reading matter into two parts, wise and otherwise, or, to make it plainer, solid and humorous.

Doubtless you will be surprised to find how interested the little ones will become in some humorous anecdote; perhaps at school the next day an older sister will hear it repeated to a group of very small women and men, thus showing the memory of the little one is becoming strengthened. Even history may be made palatable to the younger ones if told them in interesting form.

Have one of the family read aloud or take it in rotation. Discuss, if possible, fully and intelligently what is read. "Mark, learn, and inwardly digest," is sage advice. One might take notes, another hunt up the meaning of any unfamiliar word or phrase, or any foreign word. Then if the pronunciation is doubtful, have a reliable dictionary at hand for reference.

Before closing the night's work, one of the family might briefly outline the history, biography, or story; when the memory fails let another take up the thread and go on to the end.

By all means have a critic, but let the criticism be given in a helpful spirit, for even friendly criticism is sometimes unappreciated.

A series of winter evenings spent in close companionship with some of the great authors cannot fail to bring the reward of wider knowledge and truer culture.

Trusting I am not trespassing on your valuable space. I am,

Yours very cordially,

MARY R. FERGUSON.

Smith's Falls, Ont.

What is that which is invisible yet never out of sight? The letter S.

Why is a comprehensive action an affectionate one? It *embraces* everything.

What is the difference between photographing and the whooping cough? One makes fac-similes, and the other makes sick families.

A servant ushered Mr. Foote and his two daughters into a drawing-room as "Mr. Foote and the two Misses Feet."

We Never Know.

We're most always grumblin', an' we're nearly always stumblin',
An' we're growlin' and we're gruntin' all the time;
Some of us are cussin', and most of us are fussin',
Whether we're worth a million or a dime.
We're whining or we're bragging, we're twisting tails or nagging,
At fortune we are liable to scoff;
But after earnest praying—I know what I am saying—
We scarcely ever know when we're real well off!

We scorn the precious littles, we grumble at our vituals,
We sit upon our haunches and we chew the toothsome rag;
We worry out our lives, fret our sweethearts and our wives,
Ah, heartlessly we fret them till their spirits sink and sag,
We're scowling and we're howling, we're yowling and we're growling,
To fortune in our pathway our hats we never doff;
But after earnest praying—I know what I am saying—
We scarcely ever know when we are real well off!

We never see the beauties, we never see the duties,
That God in lavish kindness has spread on every side;
We shun his sweet advances and never take the chances
To gather all the lilies that float upon his tide.
We are ever after bubbles, we manufacture troubles,
'Tis we who put the bitter in the cup we daily quaff,
So after earnest praying—I know what I am saying—
We scarcely ever know when we're real well off!

—The Khan.

Housekeepers' Alphabet.

Ants—Scatter branches of sweet fern where they congregate.

Brooms—Hang in cellar way to keep pliant and soft.

Coffee—Keep securely covered, as its odor affects other articles.

Dish of hot water in oven prevents cake from scorching.

Economize—Time, health, and means, and you will never beg.

Flour—Keep cool, dry, and closely covered.

Glass—Clean with tablespoonful of ammonia in quart of rainwater.

Herbs—Gather on a dry day when beginning to blossom. Keep in paper sack.

Ink stains—Immediately saturate with milk; rub vigorously with a cloth.

Jars—To prevent, remember it takes two to make a quarrel.

Keep—An account of your expenditures and income.

Love—Lightens labor.

Money—Count carefully when you receive your change.

Nutmegs—Always grate blossom end first.

Oranges—Keep best wrapped in soft paper.

Parsnips—Are best in March and April. Keep in the ground till spring.

Quicksilver—And white of an egg destroys bed-bugs.

Rice—Should be large, plump, and white. Old rice may have insects.

Scalds—And light burns; dress with the white of an egg to keep out the air.

Table napkins—Should never be starched.

Use—A cement of ashes, salt and water for cracks in stove.

Variety—Is the best culinary spice.

Watch—Your back yard for dirt and bones.

Xantippe—Was a scold; don't imitate her.

Youth—Is the best preserved by cheerfulness.

Zinc—Lined or ironed sinks are better than wooden ones.

October Notes.

Repair the walks.

High feeding for pansies.

Hard frosts do beets no good.

Do you lift the tardy tuberose?

No compromise with the late weeds.

Chrysanthemum buds should be thinned.

New York city uses 40,000 rosebuds daily.

Do not sow lawn grass seed after October 1st.

A pot of mignonette comes in nicely in the spring. Sow now.

One advantage of autumn tree planting is that there is more time at this season.

Prune blackberries closely. You will notice that the best fruiting is on the young, not the old, branches.

The bloom from October-planted bulbs is a little better than that from November-planted. Have the better bloom.

What a first-class asparagus bed needs is a three-inch coat of rich manure every year. This is the time to apply it.

Many persons never have fine beds of Dutch bulbs simply because they do not bring themselves to the easy but necessary task of fall planting. Such neglect is inexcusable.

Thousands of spring-planted, cut-leaved birches die every year, because these trees are poorly adapted to spring planting. Set them in the fall and ninety per cent. of them would live.

If you contemplate a hotbed next spring, it is well to make some provision ahead, as early as this fall. One provision is to collect soil of good loamy quality—decayed turf well enriched is the best. It should be covered to prevent deep freezing, although if the outer part be frozen it will be a benefit. Another is, see that you have a site that is well drained and well protected. If there is no other shelter, a tight board fence eight or ten feet high will answer. Such a fence, if required, can be better erected with