

Family Circle.

Parental Authority.

To maintain union in the house, it is necessary that fathers should preserve their authority inviolate. No State prospers where the Sovereign ceases to act as President of the commonwealth. In primitive ages, when Kings were governed by favourites, or allowed their authority to become invested in Queen-mothers, Queen-consorts, or even in Princes of the blood-royal, their subjects always felt the change. Tyranny became rampant; the seal of the empire was abused; the members usurped the dignity of the head; the haughtiness of menials and subordinates was intolerable; and the incubus under which the nation groaned was finally thrown off, by putting to death either the favourite or the too-indulgent master.

Households are empires on a minor scale. The same rules govern both; the same constitution Divine Providence has given to both; and it is equally a law of nature and religion, that every man should bear rule in his own house. Sturdy, imperious sons, we are aware, are difficult to master; like Eli's, they are too many for their facile parent. Besides, he cannot be always struggling with them. If advice will not prevail, authority is disregarded. Begin betimes. It is easier bending the sapling than the full-grown tree. Much of that stubborn resistance of which you complain is of your own creating. You have given your sons, in every instance, their will, and so has this evil betided you. Slacken your rein upon a wild colt, let him slip from your management, and see if you will be able to restrain his impetuous career.

There is nothing fathers should be so jealous about as the maintenance of their prerogative. The idea of yielding it into other hands, however capable, is foreign to the Divine decree, and calculated to establish anarchy and promote confusion. The power ought always be lodged in the head, and the head should retain its power. The hands are not designed to plan, but simply to execute. The cornice presses down the stones underneath, and thus maintains the solidity of the building. Remove the keystone out of its place, and the finest arch will totter to pieces.

We do not advocate the doctrine of despotism. While every father is to act as ruler, none should degenerate into a tyrant. Constitutional liberty is found to be essential to civil government; the associating of responsible advisers with the Sovereign, as a restraint upon arbitrary power. In families, this limitation is not needed. Familiar intercourse, common interests, and deep-seated love, are supposed to be sufficient restraints to undue authority; and hence, the governor stands alone. This is no reason, however, why these important checks should be disregarded, or why the slave-driver and the father should be convertible terms.

Notwithstanding these precautionary statements, we believe that parents too largely err on the side of leniency. Their orders should be strictly enforced. No child should ever be suffered to step into their shoes, unless for very substantial reasons. The usurpation is degrading. The interests of all demand a concentration of power; and let this be rigidly maintained. *Rev. W. Oliver.*

Importance of Good Training.

The children of the present age are the hope of the age to come. We who are now acting our parts in the busy scenes of life, are hastening to the grave, and soon shall pass away; the circle of thirty years will plant another generation in our places, and we shall be sleeping beneath the clods of the valley. But those we are now training will ere long fill the world with blessings or with mischiefs, and in them we shall live again. Shall we not, then, feel anxious so to act towards the young ones around us, that we may secure wisdom, and goodness and religion among the people of the next generation? Care you not, mother, that God should be glorified by those who are dear to you, and whose characters you are now forming for the future? Care

you not for their future happiness? Yes, yes; we must believe you do. Then begin to instruct them very early in those things which are necessary. Are you willing to learn, young mother? Well, then, we will try to help you.

In the first place, instruct your children in things necessary and useful for them in their rank and station, both with regard to this world and the world to come; remembering ever that very much of their happiness in time and eternity will depend upon the way in which you now train them. You can very early make your child understand that there is a great, and good, and almighty God, who made him, and gives him every good thing—that He sees him everywhere—and that He takes notice of all the actions of men and children. With the Bible in your hand, you can teach him that, to be happy here, he must do what the Bible commands,—that he must love everybody, be kind to everybody and to every creature that God has made—that he must be upright and sincere, industrious and cheerful,—obedient to all who are set over him, and do to others as he would like others to do to him.

Then you can tell him that there is another world besides this, and that the soul does not die when the body is put into the grave; but that it soars away into a world of spirits, where every deed done in the body will be heard of and remembered again; and that, at the last great day, the body and soul will be united again, to pass away together into the joys of heaven, or into the miseries of hell. But, mother, of course we take it for granted that you believe all this and act accordingly. Well, then you may tell him about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came down from heaven to teach men the way to reach that blissful place; how he was born in a stable, cradled in a manger, suffered and lived among the poor, was obedient to his mother, was always kind, went about doing good, and then died upon the cross, that those who love and serve him here may wear a crown of glory hereafter—that godliness is profitable for *this life* as well as the life to come.

Teach him also the importance of prayer; and oh, mother! let him hear you pray earnestly and often for him, and encourage him to raise his voice in prayer on his knees by your side, after you have impressed his mind with the NEED he has of all he asks God to bestow. We have often said, and we will say again, "*be yourself all that you wish your child to be*;" feel assured that, in nine cases out of ten, "*the child takes after its mother*."

Oh, take care that you do not allow over-indulgence to suffer bad habits to grow up in the young mind, many a mother fears its present disturbance more than its future ruin, and repents too late that she did not commence in her child's babyhood to train it aright. Above all, be earnest with your Heavenly Father for grace and wisdom to direct your child into the right path, and strength and faith to walk before Him yourself.—*Mother's Friend.*

General Miscellany.

The Magnetoscope.

Our readers will remember that a few weeks since we published an account of an instrument recently discovered in England, called the Magnetoscope, by which the existence of the magnetic currents which constantly traverse the human frame, was plainly indicated to the sight. We have since seen one of these instruments, constructed by Dr. Grandin of this city, in operation, giving all the phenomena described in the article referred to. At the touch of the operator's hand to the brass ball the suspended piece of sealing wax immediately commences a circular motion, which is increased in circuit by another person taking the left hand of the operator. The smallest quantity of arsenic held in the left hand of the operator immediately suspends the action, thus showing the delicate impressibility of the human constitution.

But the influence of this aura, or subtle fluid, may be rendered visible without even

the aid of the simple instrument called, Magnetoscope. We have tried several experiments in the manner pointed out in an article in the last number of Buchanan's Journal of Man, and the results are truly surprising. Suspending a gold ring from one end of a hair, and winding the other end around the first joint of the forefinger, resting the elbow upon a table, and facing the north, the ring immediately commenced a swinging movement north and south. In order that we might not be deceived by any movement of the finger, we supported the end of it upon an upright book, and the results were the same. We then began to experiment with manuscripts. A letter written by a female, placed immediately beneath the suspended ring, caused an east to west movement, while a letter written by a male caused a movement from the north, to the south; and during repeated experiments these rules did not fail, thus enabling us to decide with certainty whether a given letter was written by male or female. The two letters placed together caused a circular movement. The influence from these manuscripts we suppose not to act immediately upon the ring, but to act upon it through the person of the operator. Thus were the ring merely suspended from a fixed point, it would not act. But a more singular fact remains to be stated. Letters containing expressions of love or affection, placed beneath the ring invariably caused a circular movement. Perceiving this influence we suspended the ring over the head of another of the same sex, and found that when above the region of the moral faculties the movement was always circular, when held over the organs of intellectuality the movement was transverse, and when over those of hatred and fear the action was stopped altogether, as by the action of poison. A bone held in the left hand also stopped the action.

In further experiments we found that the movement of the suspended ring, (which simple instrument has been termed an odometer or aura-test,) was subject to the will. Thus when it was in full swing in the north to south movement, an effort of the will immediately changed the action to a circular one. Another person touching the operator, could also produce any movement desired. This illustration of the power of the will over matter is very remarkable. And we may here remark, should any try the experiments and fail, the result may be owing to the fact that, being sceptical, they have involuntarily willed the aura-test not to move. Many other substances besides gold will answer to perform these experiments—as a cork stopple, or a piece of steel.

The results to which this discovery may lead, we do not now pretend to indicate. Indeed, it is probable that all the phenomena attending it have not been detected, and therefore no fixed rules are established. The fact that the action can be controlled by the will, however, without conscious movement of the muscles, would seem to indicate a solution of some of the "rapping" phenomena. The whole subject is one of great interest, and is well worthy of investigation.—*Portland Transcript.*

Inhabitants of the Polar Region.

Dr. Kane, in one of his lectures, gave the following account of the people who inhabit the polar region, adjoining Baffin's Bay:

The race of people who inhabit the country adjoining to Baffin's Bay and its tributaries are so little known, that anything in relation to them is caught up with avidity. This arrival furnishes us with a sight of some of their distinctive characteristics, in dress and otherwise. The dress of a married lady is composed of a pair of short seal skin pants, fur outside, extending nearly to the knee joints, where it meets with the legs of the boots, made of the same material, or of deer skin. The upper part of the person is covered with a "jumper," or a kind of sack, with a hood for the head, and sleeves, made whole, with the exception of a place for the head and arms. This also is made of seal skin, or deer skin, and in the warm weather is covered with a fancy coloured cotton cloth sack. In the coldest

and wet weather, the cloth sack is removed, and a seal skin covering, without fur, placed in its stead. The dress of an unmarried lady is distinguished by a broad band, made of fancy figured webbing, about two and a half inches wide, sewed on each side of the front of their pants, extending nearly the whole length of them.

A married woman can also be distinguished from an unmarried one by the hair, which in both cases is tied on the top of the head, and the ends of that of the married coloured blue, and of the unmarried, red. This enables a gallant to act the amiable, without danger of making advances to some one already married, and getting a stray shot from an injured husband. The boots are made very neatly, slender, and well proportioned. The deer skins are dressed in a beautiful manner, simply by drying and rubbing them on a smooth stone. A pair of slippers completes the wardrobe of a lady in the Esquimaux country; these are made of deer skins, and neatly fringed around the top with white rabbits fur. The clothing which was shown us was made in a very tasteful manner, every thread used being made of the sinews of the deer, and of course very durable. The dresses of the males are very similar to that of the married ladies, with the exception that they are longer and rather heavier. The Danes are scattered around among the Esquimaux, and furnish them with what foreign articles they may want, which are limited to steels for their spears, and some few ornaments for their dresses, and colouring for their hair and ladies' boots. The seal seems to furnish them with almost everything they require—food, clothing, and even fuel.

Ants in Peru.

The forests of Peru swarm with ants.—Every shrub is alive with them. The large yellow puca sisi is seen in myriads in the open air, and it penetrates into the dwellings. This insect does not bite, but its crawling creates great irritation to the skin. The small, black yaha sisi, on the contrary, inflicts most painful punctures.—A very mischievous species of stinging ant is the black suncliron. Its wound is painful, and even dangerous. "C. Klee, my travelling companion," says Dr. Tschudi, "being stung by one of these ants, such severe pain and fever ensued, that he was for a while delirious." The Doctor himself was stung, and he states that the pain was severer for a few moments than he had ever experienced. A most remarkable phenomenon is exhibited by the swarms of the species called the "great wandering ant," which appear suddenly, in immense trains, ceaselessly marching forward in a straight line. The small, and weak, form the centre, while the large and strong flank the army, and look out for prey. These swarms sometimes enter a hut, and clear it of all disagreeable insects. The united force of these small creatures is so vast, that not only snakes, but also large animals, such as the armadillo, on being surprised by them, are soon killed.

For Farmers.

Practical Advantage of Science.

The skill of Linnæus, derived from his intimate knowledge of science, devised a method of destroying an insect, or of preventing its ravages, which had cost the Swedish government many thousand pounds annually by its destruction of ship timber in a single dock-yard. The insect was the *Cantharis Navalis*. By merely a knowledge of the season when the fly laid its eggs, and attending to that fact, the timber was immersed in water at the proper time, and thus the ravages of the insect prevented.

By his botanical knowledge he also ascertained the cause of a dreadful disease among the horned cattle of his country, which had baffled all conjecture, and was considered wholly unaccountable and irremediable.

Under the management of Mr. Forsyth, and by his knowledge of vegetable physiology, timber trees in Kensington Gardens which had become hollow, were filled with