

HEARTH AND HOME.

THE FIRST STAIN.—Did our young readers ever think how little it takes to stain their characters? A single drop of ink is a very small thing, yet, dropped into a tumbler of clear water, it blackens the whole; and so the first oath, the first lie, the first glass, they seem very trivial, yet they leave a dark stain upon your character. Look out for the first stain.

FAMILY DISSENSIONS.—In all troubled families there ever arises some servant or gentle friend, powerful with both sides, who may moderate and compound the differences of the family; to whom, in that respect, the whole house and the master himself are beholden. This servant, if he aim only at his own ends, cherishes and aggravates the divisions of a family; but, if he be sincerely faithful and upright, he is, indeed, valuable.

AGE AND YOUTH.—Hard age and irreverent youth will not make a good combination, whatever name associates them together; but age that is tender and maternal, age that remembers its own youth and does not demand bread from the growing corn nor wine from the green grapes, and youth that can feel for infirmities which it does not know and that can believe in wisdom which it has not reached—these two together make a whole, perfect for what it is, and turn a chance companionship into a mutual blessing, and out of a temporary association create a life-long affection.

MODERN IDOLS OF CLAY.—The man who sacrifices his children's health and prospects in life for the sake of a "picturesque" admiration is a man as little fit to have the charge of the young as is the mother who makes the boy effeminate for the sake of dressing him in long curls and semi-girlish tunics because he looks "so pretty"—and to look pretty in her eyes the great *raison d'être* of childhood altogether. People who care for beauty before cleanliness and for grace before goodness are people who, making an idol of clay, pass through the fire before it, as its sacrifice, the loving sons of men.

BAD TEMPER.—There are few things more productive of evil in domestic life than a thoroughly bad temper. It does not matter what form that temper may assume, whether it is of a sulky kind that maintains perfect silence for many days, or the madly passionate, which vents itself in absolute violence. Ill temper at any age is a bad thing; it never does anybody any good, and those who indulge in it feel no better for it. After the passion has passed away one sees that he has been very very foolish, and know that others see it, too. Bad temper in the aged is, perhaps, the most trying of all; it is indeed a pitiful sight to see the wrinkled cheek of an old person aflame with anger and passion. Since anger is useless and an unspeakable misery to its victims, why should it be indulged in at all?

WHY THEY OFTEN FAIL.—Young men often fail to get on in the world because they neglect small opportunities. Not being faithful in little things, they are not promoted to the charge of greater things. A young man who gets a subordinate situation sometimes thinks it is not necessary for him to give it much attention. He will wait till he gets a place of responsibility and then he will show people what he can do. This is a very great mistake. Whatever his situation may be, he should master it in all its details, and perform all its duties faithfully. The habit of doing his work thoroughly and conscientiously is what is most likely to enable a young man to make his way. With this habit, a person of only ordinary abilities will outstrip one of greater talents who is in the habit of slighting subordinate matters. But, after all the mere adoption by a young man, of this great, essential rule of success, shows him to be possessed of superior abilities.

THE FAMILY.—The family is the educator of the race. Here men and women are made. What they are in the world, that they were in the family as children. The family is the place where the first lessons of law are received, and where the whole character in view of law has a direction given it. The citizen is made in the family long before the time for voting or activity has come. When Napoleon said, in answer to Madame de Staël's question about France's greatest need, "Mothers," he asserted the all-potent influence of a true life. The family is the greatest means for the development of character. What a world does it present for the affections to abide in! Where in all the earth beside are sympathies so warm, love so pure and fervent as here! All that gives value or beauty to human character finds in the family at once an atmosphere in which to expand and develop the elements which shall bring it to the highest perfection.

EARLY MARRIAGES.—Look where we will, we see the bad effects of early marriages. The dockets of courts are disfigured by applicants for partial and temporary divorces. In the latter case, incompatibility of temper, personal violence, or proverbial criminality are set forth for the amusement of bad people, and for the edification of the good—always provided the lesson is remembered beyond the next exciting event of our agitated age. And the cause of these bad effects are early marriages. In America—by which we mean the United States—they delight in fast things. Out of the nursery into the ball-room, and then into the arms of some silly fellow who is husband to a child-wife. So go the girls, sowing the wind, and often reaping the whirlwind. It must strike a

foreigner strangely to see mothers almost as young-looking as their daughters, telling plainly how early girls rush into matrimony. Throughout America this rate of things may be seen—if mothers have not broken down under the cares of domestic duties, which is too often unhappily the case. Most of the woes which come upon married people can be avoided if parents would exercise good government in their households. It is their fault, in these days of superior educational advantages, if their daughters are unfitted to be the companion for life of cultivated, or sensible men without high cultivation. Girls should be educated in a more thorough manner than now. It is not enough to have a smattering of grammar, history, and other elementary branches, and drum from morning till night on a pianoforte. To be sure, girls should be well taught, for a man's wife should be a friend and companion alike; and, to be both, a certain amount of cultivation is necessary to make winter fireside enjoyable. Nor does education stop here. A wife may never be called upon to do culinary work, but she should know how it ought to be done, though she have twenty servants. Beauty and parlour accomplishments will never recompense a weary husband for a bad dinner and the mismanagement and squandering of his hard-earned money.

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

BUSTLES ain't worn any more, and a man stands some chance of finding the morning paper after nine o'clock.

It is said that Eve was made for Adam's Express Company, but this is probably a figment of some common carrier of slander.

"MANDARIN" is the name of the fashionable collar affected by ladies this spring, and mandarin't say a word against it, if his wife wears it.

THE season fast approaches when the young man with finances to cover two plates of ice-cream, awaits breathlessly the answer to "Will you have cake?"

"Don't you think," she inquired amiably, "that most men are possessed of a devil?" He said he thought they were, particularly after they were married.

THE last rose of summer has a charm all its own, but it does not compare with the rosy flush which creeps into the cheek of the widow who has got a beau from out of town.

"WHAT is the reason that your wife and you always disagree?" asked one Irishman of another.—"Because we are both of one mind. She wants to be master, and so do I."

WOMEN should never be given free access to the ballot-box so long as they persist in offering a twenty-dollar bill in payment of a paper of pins when they have abundance of small change in their pockets.

THE Massachusetts papers are discussing the question "May Cousins Marry?" We should hope so. We don't see why a cousin hasn't as good a right to marry as a brother or an uncle or a son or sister.

THE rocks up the Delaware are now nearly warm enough for love-lorn lads and lasses to sit on and admire the beauties of nature, and gaze into each other's eyes like a couple of imbecile codfish, and sneeze.

THE present elevated style of bonnet has the great drawback that a man who sits behind one in church thinks he is hidden from the rest of the congregation, and never puts anything into the contribution-box.

RECTOR'S wife, severely: "Tommy Robinson, how is it you don't take off your hat when you meet me?"—Tommy: "Well, marm, if I take off my hat to you, what be I to do when I meet the parson himself?"

MARRIAGE increases a man's modesty so that after a year or two he can't summon up enough courage to kiss the woman whose lips, in the vanishing past, were glued to his four hours on a stretch three times a week.

"LENNY," said an elderly maiden to her young nephew, "you should eat the barley that is in your soup, or you'll never get a man."—Lenny, looking up innocently, inquired, "Is that what you eat it for, ammie?"

It makes a man mad to get up softly in the middle of the night, noiselessly open a bottle of beer, hear its gassy foam escaping, and despairingly jamming his thumb over the nozzle, squirt a fine little stream of beer all over his wife's face.

A young man was serenading his lady-love by singing, "Meet me by moonlight alone," when her father opened a window and wanted to know if the lover intended that as a personal affront upon him. You see, the old man was the chairman of a gas company.

A SURLY husband once said to his wife, "Why are you always so polite to these fools who come here to eat our dinners?"—"Why," replied the wife, "I suppose it's because, when you and I are present, I am conscious that I must be polite for both of us."

"MR. JONES, don't you think women are more sensible than men?" asked Miss Smith. And Jones, after scratching his favorite bump for a moment or two, said: "Why, certainly, they are—they marry men, and men only marry women." Miss Smith beat a hasty retreat.

THE sexton of a parish church in County Armagh, was about to lose his wife. She begged him to bury her in Tyrone, among her own kindred, forty miles away. "Indeed, Peggy,"

said he, "I'll thry ye here first; but if ye give any trouble, I'll take ye up and bury ye in Tyrone."

A NOVEL mode of advertising for a wife has been adopted by an inhabitant of a provincial town. A photograph of the gentleman is placed in the window of a shopkeeper, and underneath is the following notice:—"Wanted, a female companion to the above. Apply at the *Guardian* office."

WHEN a Buffalo young lady—so writes a correspondent—parts from her beau who is too bashful to understand the nicer usages of his position, she will say: "William, if you were to kiss me you might be afraid ma would hear it. But if I creak the gate she won't know the difference!"

A St. Louis newspaper man rescued eight servant girls out of a sixth story window at the burning of the Southern Hotel in that city. And when his heroism is rewarded by the respective fathers of those eight maidens calling upon him accompanied by their daughters, and placing the girls' hands in the palm of their preserver, with the words: "Take her, my boy, and be happy. You saved her life and she's yours," he will say it is too much—eight too much—and wish he had perished in the flames himself.

THE GLEANER.

DON CARLOS is to be seen daily driving in the Bois de Boulogne.

THE English navy is as powerful as all the other navies of Europe put together; and that of France is nearly as powerful as all others put together, except the British.

THE newest invention is a violin contained in a walking-stick. The idea is copied from the ancients, for the dancing-masters of the last century in Paris, who could afford it, had something of the kind. It would suit our "Wandering Minstrels."

THE Prince of Wales has presented to Marshal de MacMahon a copy of his travels in India, inscribing the following on the fly leaf:—"A son Excellence le Maréchal de MacMahon, duc de Magenta, Président de la République Française.—Albert, Prince of Wales."

THERE is a rumour that in the course of the coming autumn another royal visit will be paid to Ireland; but whether Her Majesty will visit the "Emerald Isle" in person, or depute the Prince of Wales (who, it will be remembered, is also Earl of Dublin) to represent her, is not yet settled.

THE Cambridge men have taken the initiative deliberating on the expedience of removing the race from the neighbourhood of London to some more retired spot. The matter has been taken up at Cambridge on the ground that they want a private match to be rowed privately. It would be a great relief to London, which suffers much from the vitality given on that day to the rough element.

The King of Bavaria has again devised for himself an innocent but rather singular amusement. Near his château of Hohenschwangau, in the Bavarian Alps, he has had constructed a reproduction of the cottage of Hiendig as it was represented at Bayreuth in the first act of the *Walküre*. This first act is to be performed there during the starry summer nights to come. The singer, Vogl, and his wife will appear as Siegmund and Sieglinde, and the King, costumed as a warrior of the primitive ages of Germany, will traverse the near lake in a boat drawn by swans.

NOT MUCH AHEAD.—A man with the most lonesome expression an artist ever conjured up for canvas halted at an eating stand on the Central Market the other day, and said:

"My good woman, I have been robbed of eight thousand dollars in this city."

"Poor man!" she promptly sighed.

"Yes, robbed of eight thousand dollars, and I am a hundred miles from home, and hungry and penniless."

"And you want something to eat?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"You shall have it. Sit right down here."

He sat down and she gave him some coffee, a piece of meat and a biscuit. When he had finished eating he said:

"Madam, did you really believe my story?"

"No sir," she answered.

"You thought I lied, did you?"

"I knew you did."

"But you gave me food."

"So I did. My boy found a dog yesterday and gave him more than he could eat. I simply gave you what was left to save filling up the slop-pail."

"Madam," began the man as his mouth commenced to draw round. "Madam, I—I don't see whether I'm ahead of the dog, or the dog ahead of me on this thing, but I know you're ahead of both, and I feel sick. You played it well, and if there's any dying declaration in my case I won't mix you in. Bye-bye, old gal—I'm sinking fast."

NOTICE TO LADIES.

The undersigned begs respectfully to inform the Ladies of the city and country that they will find at his retail Store, 196 St. Lawrence Main Street, the choicest assortment of Austrian and Culture Feathers, of all shades; also, Feathers of all descriptions repaired with the greatest care. Feathers dyed as per sample on shortest delay. Gloves cleaned and dyed black only.

J. H. LEBLANC, Wo. 23: 247 Craig St.

"AVOCATION."

T. D. K., in a late issue, has something interesting to say touching the proper meaning of the word "Avocation." It is, he tells us, the calling away from one's ordinary line of duty,—a "diversion" in fact. The word should not therefore, as is so often found, be used to express that which is our regular business. T. D. K. is perhaps right, but a gentleman of his essentially logical tone of mind should have taken the trouble to prove his case better than he has done. What T. D. K. does is to beg the entire question. He assumes at once that the *a* before "vocation" is the latin *ab*. If so, of course, the meaning involved is *from*. But why may not this *a* stand equally as well for *ad*, as, in many English words, it certainly does? And thus, why may not the literal meaning of "avocation" be rather a call to a business instead of *from* one?

E. F. K.

Montreal, 3rd May.

SCIENTIFIC.

MILK and lime-water are now frequently prescribed by physicians in cases of dyspepsia and weakness of the stomach. Often when the functions of digestion and assimilation have been seriously impaired, a diet of bread, milk, and lime-water has an excellent effect.

ARTISTIC.

DE MAURIER the well-known *Punch* artist, is suffering from a complaint in his eyes which threatens to interfere with his professional labours.

WONDERS OF MODERN SCIENCE.

The perfect accuracy with which scientists are enabled to deduce the most minute particulars in their several departments, appears almost miraculous if we view it in the light of the early ages. Take for example the electromagnetic telegraph—the greatest invention of the age. Is it not a marvelous degree of accuracy which enables an operator to *exactly* locate a fracture in a submarine cable nearly three thousand miles long? Our venerable "clerk of the weather" has become so thoroughly familiar with those most wayward elements of nature that he can accurately predict their movements. He can sit in Washington and foretell what the weather will be to-morrow in Florida or New York, as well as if several hundred miles did not intervene between him and the places named. And so in all departments of modern science, what is required is the knowledge of certain signs. From these the scientists deduce accurate conclusions regardless of distance. A few fossils sent to the expert geologist enable him to accurately determine the rock-formation from which they were taken. He can describe it to you as perfectly as if a cleft of it were lying on his table. So also the chemist can determine the constitution of the sun as accurately as if that luminary were not ninety-five million miles from his laboratory. The sun sends certain signs over the "infinite of space" and the chemist classifies them by passing them through the spectro-scope. Only the presence of certain substances could produce these solar signs. So also, in medical science, diseases have certain unmistakable signs, or symptoms, and by reason of this fact, Dr. Pierce, of the World's Dispensary, has been enabled to originate and perfect a system of determining, with the greatest accuracy, the nature of chronic diseases without seeing and personally examining his patients. He has spared neither pains nor expense to associate with himself, as the Faculty of the World's Dispensary, a large number of medical gentlemen of rare attainments and skill—graduates from some of the most famous Medical Colleges and Universities of both Europe and America. By aid of Dr. Pierce's system of diagnosis, these physicians and surgeons annually treat, with the most gratifying success, many thousands of invalids without ever seeing them in person. In recognizing diseases without a personal examination of the patient they claim to possess no miraculous powers. They attain their knowledge of the patient's disease by the practical application of well established principles of modern science to the practice of medicine. And it is to the accuracy with which this system has endowed them that they owe their almost world-wide reputation for the skillful treatment of all lingering or chronic affections. This system of practice and the marvelous success which has been attained through it, demonstrate the fact that diseases display certain phenomena, which being subjected to scientific analysis or synthesis, furnish abundant and unmistakable data to guide the judgment of the skillful practitioner aright in determining the nature of diseased conditions. The amplest resources for treating lingering or chronic diseases, and the greatest skill, are thus placed within the easy reach of every invalid, however distant he or she may reside from the physicians making the treatment of such affections a specialty. The peculiarities of this scientific system of practice are fully explained in the Appendix of "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser,"—a book of over nine hundred large pages, which is so popular as to have reached a sale of almost one hundred thousand copies within a few months of its first publication. It is sent (post-paid) by the Author to any address, on receipt of one dollar and fifty-cents. Address, R. V. Pierce, M. D., World's Dispensary, Buffalo, N. Y.