

Gift of Mrs. Nellie Gunn

The Western Liberal,

AND THE PROPOSED COUNTY OF ELGIN ADVOCATE.

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The Western Liberal.

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TERMS:

The Liberal will be delivered to subscribers in the Village, or sent by mail to any part of the country, at the rate of 7s 6d a year, per annum, when paid strictly in advance, or 10s per annum payable during the year.

Any person who will procure us 6 subscribers, and forward us \$9 in advance, for one year's subscription, will be entitled to one copy gratis.

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Of every description executed with neatness and despatch, and at low prices.

Poetry.

HOME AND FRIENDS.

Oh, there's a power to make each hour
As sweet as heaven designed it;
Nor need we roam to bring it home,
Though few there be who find it;
We seek too high for things close by,
And lose what nature found us;
For life has here no charms so dear
As Home and Friends around us.

We oft destroy the present joy,
For future hopes—and praise them;
While flowers as sweet bloom at our feet,
If we'd but stoop to raise them!
For things afar still sweetest are,
When youth's bright spell hath bound us;
But soon we're taught that earth has nought
Like Home and Friends around us.

The Friends that speed in time of need,
When hopes are lost and shaken,
To show us still, that, come what will,
We are not quite forsaken,
Though all were night—if but the light
From Friendship's altar crowned us,
'Twould prove the bliss of earth was this—
Our Homes and Friends around us!

RESOLVE to do a thing, and it is more than half done. Half resolve to do it, and it will remain forever unaccomplished.

By relying on our own resources, we acquire mental strength; but when we lean on others for support, we are like an invalid who, having accustomed himself to a crutch finds it difficult to walk without one.

Boys that have been properly reared are men in point of usefulness at sixteen, whilst those that have been brought up in idle habits are a nuisance at twenty-one.

GREAT minds are charitable to their bitterest enemies, and can sympathize with the feelings of their fellow creatures. It is only the narrow-minded who make no allowance for the faults of others.

THE heart of the generous man is like the clouds of heaven, which drop upon the earth fruits, herbage and flowers; the heart of the ungrateful is like a desert of sand which swallows with greediness the showers that fall, but buries them in her bosom, and produceth nothing.

If we would enjoy ourselves, we must take the world as it is—mix up a thousand spots of sunshine—a cloud here and there—a bright sky—a storm to-day—a calm to-morrow—the chill, piercing winds of autumn, and the bland, reviving air of summer.

HE is rich who receives more than he spends; he, on the contrary, is poor, who spends more than he receives.

PRaises of the unworthy are felt by ardent minds as robbers of the deserving.

Choice Selections.

THE USE OF LEARNING.

BY T. S. ANTHUR.

I'm tired of going to school, said Herbert Allen to William Wheeler, the boy who sat next to him. I don't see any great use for my part, in studying geometry and navigation, and surveying, and mensuration, and a dozen of other things that I am expected to learn. They'll never do me any good. I am not going to get my living as a surveyor, or measurer, or sea captain.

How are you going to get your living Herbert? his young friend asked in a quiet tone, as he looked up in his face.

Why, I'm going to learn a trade; or, at least, father says that I am.

And so am I, replied William. And yet my father wishes me to learn everything that I can, for he assures me that it will be useful some time or other in my life.

I'm sure I don't see what use I'm ever going to make, as a saddler, of algebra and surveying.

Still if we can't see it, Herbert, perhaps our fathers can, for they are older and wiser than we are. And we should endeavor to learn simply because they wish us to, if in every thing we are expected to study, we do not see clearly the use.

I can't feel so, Herbert replied, tossing his head, and I don't believe that my father sees any more clearly than I do the use of all this.

You are wrong to talk so, his friend said in a serious tone; I would not think as you do for the world. Our fathers know what is best for us, and if we do not confide in them we shall surely go wrong.

I am not afraid responded Herbert, closing the book over which he had been poring reluctantly for half an hour, in the vain attempt to fix a lesson on his unwilling memory; and taking some marbles from his pocket commenced amusing himself with them.

William said no more but turned to his lesson with earnest attention. The difference in the character of the two boys is too plainly indicated in the brief conversation we have recorded, to need further illustration. To their teachers it was evident, in numerous particulars in their conduct their habits, and manners. William recited his lessons correctly, while Herbert never learned a task well. One was always punctual at school, the other a loiterer by the way. William's books were taken care of; Herbert's soiled, torn, and disfigured, and broken externally and internally.

Thus they began life. The one obedient industrious, attentive to the precepts of those who were older and wiser, and willing to be guided by them; the other indolent, and inclined to follow the leadings of his own will rather than the more experienced teachings of others.

As men at the age of thirty-five, we will again present them to the reader. Mr. Wheeler is an intelligent merchant in active business, while Mr. Allen is a journeyman-mechanic, poor, in embarrassed circumstances, and possessing but a small share of general information.

How do you do, Mr. Allen? said the merchant as he entered his counting-room. The contrast in their appearance was very great. The merchant was well dressed, and had a cheerful look, while the other was poorly clad and seemed sad and dejected.

I can't say that I do very well, Mr. Wheeler, the mechanic replied in a tone of despondency. Work is very dull, and wages low, and with so large a family as I have it is tough enough to get along under the best circumstances.

I am really sorry to hear you say so, Mr. Allen, said the merchant in a kind tone; how much can you earn now?

If I had steady work, I could earn nine

or ten dollars a week. But our business is very bad; the substitution of steam engines upon railroads for horses on turnpikes, has broken in seriously upon the harness-making business. The consequence is that I do not average six dollars a week the year round.

Is it possible that railroads have wrought such a change in your business?

Yes, the harness-making branch of it; especially in large cities like this, where the heavy wagon trade is entirely broken up.

Did you say that six dollars a week were all that you could average?

Yes sir.

How large is your family?

I have five children, sir.

Five children and six dollars a week!

That is all, sir. But six dollars will not support them, and I am in consequence going behind hand.

You ought to try to get into some other business.

But I don't know any other.

The merchant mused for a while, and then said, perhaps I can get you into something better. I am president of a newly projected railroad, and we are about putting on the line a company of engineers, for the purpose of surveying and engineering, and as you studied those sciences at school the same I did, and I suppose have still a correct knowledge of both, I will use my influence to have you appointed surveyor. The engineer is already chosen, and at my desire, will give you all requisite instructions until you revive your early knowledge of these matters. The salary is one hundred dollars per month.

A shadow still darker than the which before rested there, fell upon the face of the mechanic.

Alas! sir, he said, I have not the slightest knowledge. It is true I studied it, or rather pretended to study it at school, but it made no permanent impression on my mind. I saw no use in it then, and am now as ignorant of surveying as if I had never taken a lesson on the subject.

I am very sorry, Mr. Allen, the merchant replied in real concern. If you were a good accountant, I might perhaps get you into a store. What is your capacity in this respect?

I ought to have been a good accountant, sir, for I studied mathematics long enough—but I took little interest in figures, and now, although I was many months at school, pretending to study book-keeping, I am utterly incapable of taking charge of a set of books.

Such being the case, Mr. Allen, I really do not know what I can do with you. But stay! I am about sending an assorted cargo to Buenos Ayres, and thence round to Callao, and want a man to go to superintend who can speak the Spanish language. I remember we studied Spanish together. Would you be willing to leave your family and go? The wages will be one hundred dollars per month.

I have forgotten all my Spanish, sir, I did not see any use for it while at school, and therefore it made no impression on my mind.

The merchant, really concerned for the poor mechanic, again thought of some way to help him. At length he said, I can think of only one thing that you can do, Mr. Allen, and that will not be much better than your present employment. It is a service for which ordinary persons are employed, that of chain carrying to the surveyor on the proposed railroad expedition.

What are the wages sir?

Thirty-five dollars a month.

And found?

Certainly.

I will certainly accept it thankfully, the man said. It will be better than my present employment.

Then make yourself ready at once, for the company will start in a week.

I will be ready, sir, the poor man replied and then withdrew.

In a week the company of engineers started and Mr. Allen with them as chain carrier; when, had he as a boy, taken the advice of his parents and friends, and stored up in his memory what they wished him to learn, he might have filled the surveyor's office at more than double the wages paid him as chain carrier. Indeed, we cannot tell how high a position of usefulness he might have held, had he improved all the opportunities afforded him in youth. But he perceived the use of learning too late.

Children and youth cannot possibly know as well as parents, guardians, and teachers, what is best for them.

Men who are in active contact with the world, know that the more extensive their knowledge on all subjects, the more useful they can be to others; the higher and more important use to society they are fitted to perform, the greater is the return to themselves in wealth and honor.

A GENTLE REPROOF.

The following, though not new, will bear reading at least once in every seven years:

One day as Zachariah Hodgson was going to his daily avocation after breakfast, he purchased a fine large codfish, and sent it home with directions to his wife to have it cooked for dinner. As no particular mode of cooking was prescribed, the good woman well knew that whether she boiled it or made it into chowder, her husband would scold her when he came home—but she resolved to please him once if possible, and therefore cooked portions of it in different ways. She also, with some little difficulty, procured an amphibious animal from a brook back of the house, and plumped it into the pot. In the mean time her husband came home; some covered dishes were placed on the table, and with a frowning, fault finding look, the moody man commenced the conversation:

"Well, wife, did you get the fish which I bought?"

"Yes, my dear."

"I should like to know how you have cooked it, I will bet anything you have spoiled it for my eating, (taking off the cover.) I thought so. What in creation possessed you to fry it? I would as lief eat a boiled frog."

"Why, my dear, I thought you loved it best fried."

"You didn't think any such thing. You knew better—I never loved fried fish—why didn't you boil it?"

"My dear, the last time we had fresh fish, you know I boiled it, and you said you liked it best fried. But I have boiled some also."

So saying she lifted a cover, and lo, the shoulders of a cod nicely boiled were deposited in a dish, the sight of which would have made an epicure rejoice, but which only added to the ill nature of her husband.

"A pretty dish, this!" exclaimed he.—Boiled fish! chips, and porridge! If you had not been one of the most stupid of woman-kind, you would have made it into a chowder."

His wife, with a smile, immediately placed before him a tureen containing an excellent chowder.

"My dear," said she, "I was resolved to please you. There is your favorite dish!"

"Favorite dish, indeed," grumbled the discomfited husband, "I dare say it is an unpalatable wishy-washy mess. I would rather have a boiled frog than the whole of it."

This was a common expression of his, and had been anticipated by his wife, who, as the preference was expressed, uncovered a large dish near her husband, and there was a bull-frog of portentous dimensions, and pugnacious aspect, stretched out at full

length! Zachariah sprang from his chair at the sight of the unexpected separation.

"My dear," said his wife, in a kind entreating tone, "I hope you will at length be able to make your dinner."

Zachariah could not stand this. His surly mood was overcome, and he burst into a hearty laugh. He acknowledged that his wife was right, and he was wrong; and declared that she should never again have occasion to give him another lesson.

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH DISEASE AMONG US?

Because, in numbers of things, we do just what, by our nature, we were never intended to do:—

1st. Man is intended to draw fresh air every time he breathes. Almost all people when in their shops, breathe the same air over and over again. To show the necessity of allowing fresh air continually to enter living rooms, and bad air to escape, it may be stated that every person, during each moment of his life, destroys a quantity of air twice as large as himself.

2d. Man ought to breathe pure air every breath. Our sewers and drains are so bad that the vapors and foul gases arise, and we breathe them.

3. Man was intended to take exercise every day. Neither his heart, his stomach and bowels, his liver, his skin, his lungs, his kidney, nor his brains, will act rightly without walking exercise every day. Most of us do not get any walk, or only a very short one, which is scarcely of any use.

4. Man is formed to take simple and wholesome food. He eats all sorts of things which not only do him no good, but do him harm; and drink large quantities of beer, spirits, and wine, which hurt his stomach, and take away the proper use of his brain.

5. Man ought to wash himself all over with water every day, so as to cleanse the pores of the skin, else they get stopped up, he cannot perspire rightly, and his skin cannot breathe. The majority only wash their hands.

6. Man should wear clean clothes next their skin, because the body gives off bad fluids. At present many people wear the same thing day after day, for weeks together.

7. Man was intended to live in the light. Many have scarce any light in their rooms.

8. Man, in this climate, must wear warm clothing. Many have no flannel, and are clad with heavy useless things.

FRESH AIR.—Horace Mann has well said:—"People who shudder at a flesh wound, or a tinge of blood, would confine their children like convicts, and compel them month after month to breathe quantities of poison. It would less impair the mental and physical constitutions of our children, gradually to draw an ounce of blood from their veins, during the same length of time, than to send them to breathe for six hours a day, the lifeless and poisoned air of some of our school rooms. Let any man who votes for confining children in small rooms, and keeping them on stagnant air, try the experiment of breathing his own breath only four times over; if medical aid be not at hand, the children will never be endangered by his vote afterwards."

A LOCOMOTIVE Engine is composed of no fewer than 5,416 pieces, all of which are fashioned and forged by their own particular artificers, and the whole of which must be put together as carefully as a watch.

THE cylinders of the Asia and Africa, two of the Cunard line of steamers, are 96 inches in diameter.

WIRE has recently been used in place of lath, for walls and partitions. It is first galvanized, and the plaster remains upon it without injury. It is considered greatly to diminish the risk of fire.

It is ascertained that one-seventh of the whole area of Ireland is bog-land.