

OUR HOME CIRCLE.

WHAT THEN.

What then? Why, then another pilgrim's song. And then a hush of rest, divinely granted. And then a thirsty stage (ah me, so long!) And then a brook, just where it is most wanted.

THE TESTAMENT IN THE WATER.

In 1854, before any treaty with England, an English fleet of war came into the harbor of Nagasaki, Japan. The commander-in-chief of the native troops gathered to watch the new-comers, was accustomed to go out in a boat to see that no secret communication was attempted. One day he found in the water a small pocket Testament and was very anxious to know its contents.

to. Wakasa returned home rejoicing in the love of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit, and Dr. Verbeck removed to Tokio. In April, 1880, there appeared in the Nagasaki congregation two strangers, one of whom was evidently a lady of high rank and her attendant. They gave the most strict attention and after the services were introduced as the daughter of Wakasa and her former nurse. Early the next day they appeared and told how faithfully they had been taught about the true God and Jesus Christ the Saviour. They had learned the Lord's Prayer and a few portions of the Scriptures which Wakasa had written out in simple characters. Wakasa had died eight years before with a firm hope of eternal life through the Redeemer. The daughter had married and was now living with her family at Nagasaki. Since Dr. Verbeck had left she knew of no Christian or missionary to whom she could go for sympathy or instruction. As her husband was soon to remove to Osaka she did not wish to leave until she had received baptism, so she sent to Saga for her old nurse and together they set out to find a missionary. After some days they chanced to find a shop where Scriptures were sold. On opening the gospel of Matthew they recognized it as something they had already learned and purchased a full supply of Scriptures at once. This was on Saturday; on the next day they appeared at service and desired baptism at once. After satisfactory instruction and examination, the lady appeared with her husband, who listened attentively to all that was said, and the two faithful women were baptized.

which he praises God, implores blessings on the Prophet and all believers, and on the master of the house and all his children. Not until all this has been carefully gone through does he proceed to say the Nile has risen so many inches. This ceremony is carried on until the month of September, when the river has reached its culminating point, and the crier, as bringer of such good news, never fails to claim his "bak-sheesh"—sometimes humbly, and sometimes, too, very imperiously. The reports of these men, who in all Egyptian towns are the ambulant advertisers of the state of the Nile, are not always reliable. This is partly owing to the fact that, with true Oriental indifference, they do not take the trouble to acquire exact information at the only reliable sources, and also that the government intentionally spreads false reports in regard to the advance of the inundation. As the land tax can not be levied on certain large tracts of land until the rise of the Nile shall have reached at least sixteen Egyptian yards, it does not hesitate (a fact that has come within my own experience) to spread false reports; and although the imposition is patent to all, no one dares to raise his voice in remonstrance.—Harper's Magazine.

THE QUAKERS.

Sweet Quakers, in sober suit of gray, The brightest livery that thy sect allows; Thy fair, fond face shines back on me to-day— Thy soft voice breathes thy tender "thee's" and "thou's."

A "HOME COLLEGE" EXPERIMENT.

It is not my purpose to moralize on good reading, nor to give an exhortation to any of the advocates of good literature. It will be admitted that the friends of a sound literature are legion; and the interesting problem is, how are we to receive the best results out of the resources already prepared? Last year my attention was called to the "Home College series" of tracts, issued by the tract department of the Methodist Episcopal church. I concluded to try their use on the first occasion. I found on examination they embraced a wide range of topics; just such a course of reading to be popular among a busy people, and a large number who have not learned to read a serviceable literature. If it were more elaborate in the treatment of subjects, then there would be embarrassment. Busy people would not have time to take the course of reading, and the indifferent could not be secured. The diversity of subjects and brevity of treatment are excellences not to be overlooked in the practical work of a course of reading among the people who are to be enlisted as readers. Last November our class was organized with a membership of about twenty-five. Old and young were induced to take the course. Our work has progressed with increased interest, and with good results. We now have a class of forty-three, and our tracts are being read by many outside of the class. Our open session, which is on Tuesday evening of each week, is free to all who may desire to come to hear the exercises. In this way we have reached a very large number outside of our membership in the treatment of our subjects. Our class is divided into sections, which have been appointed

to duty about once in three weeks, or oftener. Our officers consist of president, secretary, treasurer, and programme committee. The programme committee arranges the order of exercises for two weeks in advance. Our exercises consist of written reviews on the tracts assigned for the week's reading, answers to referred questions, and recitations or readings. The reviews are a hopeful feature in the course. The reviewer is encouraged to use his own language in his writing, state his own views on debatable questions, given from the tracts on biography or from other sources, specimens of authors' writings, and compress all, if possible, into eight minutes or less. This gives in a living form the reading of the week, and all bear it. If any have not read the tracts, there is a new incentive to look them over at the first opportunity. The department of referred questions is no small item in the interest of the class. Scores of questions are at hand, and require investigation and research among books. It is raising up a class of explorers in literature. Our young people are becoming familiar with encyclopedias and their use. The readings or recitations are participated in by all. The reader chooses his own subject. We started out to read fifty of the tracts of the course. A number will do this. My attention was then called to the "Chautauqua Spare Minute course." I wrote to Dr. Vincent and told him what we were doing, and asked him what he would do for us. A prompt answer came: "For every twenty-five of your 'Home College series' of tracts which you read your members will be entitled to a 'Spare Minute Course' certificate. If you complete the fifty as you propose, each member who has read them all will receive, on payment of eight cents each, two 'Chautauqua Spare Minute Course' certificates." This was enough to complete our joy. We are in pursuit of an end, and, at the same time, associated, in a preliminary sense, with the large company of Chautauqua readers.

We have a constitution. It is a brief of our plan of work, and yet comprehensive enough to be suggestive and practical for an enthusiastic leader. We have arranged to have suitable closing exercises in the month of June. It will be in the week following the Children's day service. We can use the decorations for both occasions, and the two will harmonize in spirit. Aside from the practical results named, we have found that thoughtful reading has given place for religious conviction. During our four weeks of special services, we had no session (which is provided for in our constitution), and all save two who were not Christians were converted; and those two requested prayer. The first-fruits of our revival came from this class, and the conviction widened in its influence and power until over one hundred and fifty were converted. Any pastor who will encourage this reading will find that it will give moral and religious help to him in his work.—E. S. McChesney, in N. W. Adv.

THE LOST FOUND.

One night last week I received a summons from a distant part of the city to visit the dying bed of one of the pupils of the Elm Street Sunday-school. She was a young and beautiful girl whom I had occasionally observed with interest, but of whose life and character I knew nothing. They told me at the door that she could not live till morning, so that I was unprepared for her look of booming consciousness as she feebly extended her hand with a smile. "Mrs. T—," said she; "you do not know me, but I want to tell you that you may tell all the dear teachers what Jesus, the Lord, has done for me. I am a miracle of grace. God sent one of your number to pull me out of the horrible pit. My parents both died three years ago, and left me in great straits. They never taught me to fear God and keep his commandments, but had they lived they would have shielded me from open hunger and cold, and alone in this great city. I strove hard with the tempter, but he offered me gold and ease and warmth and food, and better than all, kind words, which were balm to my sore heart. "Well, after I had drunk off the foam and sparkle and richness from the cup, I found only dregs at the bottom. Stunned with grief, surprise, and shame, I cared

not what became of me, and should have sunk, oh, whither! had it not been for her who, under God, has been my saviour. "The woman with whom I then lodged was a respectable Christian woman, and told the lady about me when she called, accompanied by a friend, to see some member of her class. On the landing below my room I heard the voice of her friend remonstrating. "You had better let her alone," said she; "You will get rough thanks for your pains, and perhaps soil your fingers in the contact. Take my advice. You can do such characters no good. They are lost!" "Ah! I shall carry the precious answer, that came echoing up the stairs like a silver bell, to heaven's gate: 'I came to seek and to save them which are lost!' Dear Mrs. T—, I was redeemed from that moment. My heart melted in an instant at the sound of her voice and the touch of her hand. She did not despise or hate me though I was lost, but came on Christ's errand to save me. Her wise, judicious, tender counsel helped me to my footing, and in the Sunday-school whither she led me I learned the way to the feet of the Lord who so gently said, 'Neither do I condemn thee. Go and sin no more!'" "Had Miss Allen followed the advice of her friend, what would have become of my soul? How dark and terrible this hour, while now all is light and peace. Please tell every Christian lady that they may never turn away from the darkest or lowest."

GIRLS IN BUSINESS.

We commend to all girls who expect to engage in any self-supporting occupation, especially where they may come into competition with men, the following extract from Elizabeth Stuart Phelps' article entitled "Supporting Herself," in the St. Nicholas: "But girls, if you don't mean to make a thorough business of the occupation you have chosen, never, never, never begin to be occupied at all. Half-finished work will do for amateurs. It will never do for professionals. The bracket you are sewing for a New Year's present can hang a little crooked on its screws, and you will be forgiven 'for the love's sake found therein' by the dear heart to which you offer it; but the trinket carved for sale in the Sorrento rooms must be cut as true as a rose-leaf. You can be a little shaky as to your German declensions in the Schiller club, which you join so enthusiastically after leaving school, and no great harm ever come of it; but teach Schiller for a living, and for every dative case forgotten you are so much money out of pocket. "People who pay for a thing demand thorough workmanship or none. To offer incomplete work for a complete market price, is to be either a cheat or a beggar. The terrible grinding laws of supply and demand, pay and receive, give and get, give no quarter to shilly-shally labor. The excellence of your intentions is nothing to the point. The stress of your poverty has not the slightest connection with the case. An editor will never pay you for your poem because you wish to help your mother. No customer will buy her best bonnet or her wheat flour of you because you are unable to pay your rent. When you have entered the world of trade, you have entered a world where tenderness and charity and personal interests are foreign relations. Not 'for friendship's sake' nor 'for pity's sake,' nor 'chivalry's sake' runs the rallying-cry of this great world—but only 'for value received.'"

A TRUE STORY.

Willie and Harry and Crusoe were three great friends, though Willie and Harry were boys, and Crusoe was only a dog, but that made little difference, for he was just as good a playfellow, and often seemed to have so much good sense. He certainly was better tempered than either of the boys, and as to quarreling or fighting, he seemed quite above such behavior. One day Crusoe lay in the sun taking a nap, when all of a sudden he heard loud, angry words, then a sharp blow, and starting up quickly what did he see but Willie and Harry in a regular fist-cuff fight. No wonder the sensible dog was shocked and indignant, and what do you think he did? He sprang right in between them, then separating them, bit each of them sharply! He evidently thought both deserved punishment, and did not stop to ask which struck first. The mother of the boys told me this, who beheld the scene from the window.

"It is with sorrow and shame, but yet with hope and courage, that I write it—there is reason for the extensive complaint made thoroughly. I am afraid that, till time and trouble shall have taught them better, they will not. Is it because they have never been trained? Is it because they expect to get married? That it is not in the least because they can not, we know; for we know that some of the most magnificently accurate work in the world has been done by women."

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

MY BRAVE LADDIE.

Tap, tap, along the pavement, tap, It came, a little crutch. A pale-faced lad looked up at me. "I do not mind it much," He answered to my pitying look; "It might be worse, you know; Some fellows have to stay in bed, While I can walk at all."

THE IRISH BOYS' VICTORY.

In the northern part of Ireland there lived a good clergyman, who was an earnest worker for Christ. Sabbath after Sabbath he preached of the love of Jesus to perishing sinners. He told how he left his home in glory, led a life of toil and sorrow, died a death of woe, rose again triumphant, and ascended up on high, having "led captivity captive," how for those who believe in Him, the sting of death is taken away, for with "His right hand and His holy arm He hath gotten Him the victory." As the preacher spoke thus, his gaze rested on a ragged boy sitting beneath the pulpit. On his pinched face was a look of extreme interest, and he appeared eagerly drinking in the good news. Directly the service was over the clergyman hurried down but he was too late, the young listener had disappeared and every inquiry failed to discover his name or dwelling. At length one evening an old man called on the clergyman with a request that he would come to see a poor dying lad. "He has asked for you, sir," said the messenger; "and he do be talking so strange, sure none of us can understand him at all." The clergyman went with the man. On a bed of death he found the boy he had so wished to meet. Raising himself with a last effort, the little fellow exclaimed: "With His right hand and His holy arm He hath gotten himself the victory." He never spoke on earth again. Reader, what is this victory to you?—Christian Press.

PRACTICAL.

- 1. Every sin be... 2. God's judgment will surely... 3. Ambition for multitude of evils... 4. Uprightness... 5. Flatterers are... 6. A son who will do other wisdom descended from Scholastic.

THE SUN... ABSALOM... David's doubtfully repented of God, but it had been worked out had to be predicted, 2 Sam. 18: 1, etc., and grateful teaching death of his father all the natural vid's sin again. Absalom—father of David by Maers. Heaven's sister Lamah half-brother An the event, 2 Sam. the court of his at Geshur, where years, 2 Sam. 1 allowed to return he lived two years, 14: 23-28 by David, and plotting his rebellion limits of the kingdom before had been and Beer-sheba David reigned in Egypt to the east to and from all this vast empire exacted." Geshur of Bashan in Syria and where still father Talmai, a descendant of Anak, Num. 13 brother of Jothab, Bathsheba, 2 Sam. a man highly esteemed, 2 Sam. 16 privy councillor treacherously to him. Slighted mitted suicide, 2 only suicide in except in war. mountains of Solomon, 5: 51, the native of Aithophel, the Gilonite. EXPL. Chariots, ordnance phal processions abroad only on hots and horses witeration of the port Men to run before go before and riot; cf. 1 Kings 19: 17, when man going in and out where men aser Ruth 4: 1, and to hear and judge Deut. 25: 7. Cing pretence of each one. Thy each one that his is no man, better thee, from the king excited a feeling of David. Oh that, only king! Obed as the king's son, would not allow down before him kissed them as e Forty years, a "four years," a sacrificial feast, to have vowed, pet, which was to volt, and to proe Simplicity, innoc know anything volt. Sent for, Aithophel, perhaps been estranged account of David's granddaughters. The meaning that him to be present David said, etc., prepared against rection, there being in time of peace. David wished to see horrors of a siege PRACTICAL 1. Every sin be 2. God's judgment will surely 3. Ambition for multitude of evils 4. Uprightness 5. Flatterers are 6. A son who will do other wisdom descended from Scholastic. PACKING BUT The style in which ed and marketed with its sale that and shippers are Boston market preference for a spr white ash or spr from thirty-one to it always sells d tubs should be w before filling with the top. Cover the of clean new blea soaked in brine, a down at the edge. ter and getting it neatness is indispe that it pays. New in the same packa or stretched better and at low price salt you can find correctly.