

## Family Circle.

## Perseverance.

Charles Cranbrook sat by his little work-bench, busily employed in making a small box, or trunk, as he chose to call it. Its form was peculiar, his tools were blunt, and the hard wood made his work no easy task. The perspiration stood in drops on his forehead, and the quick motion of his hands showed that he was very tired. "My son," said Mrs. Cranbrook, who happened to see him thus engaged, "you look very weary. Lay aside your tools for a time, and rest yourself."

"I wish to finish my trunk very much, and I am not tired," Charles answered, but a moment's thought told him that he had not uttered the exact truth; so he added the words "not very." As these words were not spoken until Mrs. Cranbrook had gone into the house, they did not affect his expressions, so far as she was concerned. How careful young people should be, aye, and old people too, to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

After sunset, Charles brought in his trunk, and placed it on the table near where his father was sitting.

"What have you there?" said Mr. Cranbrook.

"My newly-invented trunk," said Charles, and he began to point out all its advantages.

"It is very well done," said his father, handing it to Mr. Stone, a neighbour, who had come in to spend the evening.

"Did you invent this, Charles?" he asked.

"Yes, sir."

"How long did it take you to make it?"

"I have been at work upon it since breakfast."

"Yes," said Mrs. Cranbrook, "the poor boy has been at work upon it all day long. He must be very tired."

"He must be a persevering boy. That is a good sign. When I see a smart boy who is persevering, I am sure he will make a man."

"I was very tired," said Charles, "before I got through with it, but I thought I would not stop till I finished it."

"That was right," said Mr. Stone, "always make it a rule to finish whatever you undertake."

"Charles undertakes too many things to finish them all."

"That is unwise, but it is a habit that is easily corrected. When you take a fancy to do a thing, think it over before you begin it, think whether you will be able to finish it, and whether it is worth finishing. By this means, you will engage in fewer plans, and will be able to execute them all. Let this be your motto, 'A persevering boy will surely make a man.'"

Charles was pleased with the praise bestowed upon his perseverance by Mr. Stone. Let us see how well he deserved it.

On the next Monday school began, and as usual, Charles was in his place. If you had entered the school-room about ten o'clock in the forenoon, you might have seen him sitting at his desk, gazing with a vacant look about the room. Before him lay a slate, with a large sum in division upon it.

"What is the matter, Charles?" said the teacher, "have you nothing to do?"

"I cannot get the answer to this sum," said Charles, in a tone that would leave one to suppose that he was a greatly injured boy.

"Have you tried to get it?"

"Yes, sir."

"How hard?"

"I have done it all over."

"How many times?"

"Once."

"I do not call that trying hard. Give your whole attention to it, and go over it again, step by step, with great care, and you will, I doubt not, get the answer."

Charles was accustomed to follow the directions of the teacher, or rather he had no idea of disobeying his teacher. He went over his sum again, and though not with fixed attention, he detected several mistakes, but the result was that he did not come so near getting the answer as he did

before. He turned over his slate as though the case was a hopeless one. At length the teacher, seeing him unemployed, said "Charles, have you got the answer to that sum?"

"No, sir, I cannot get it."

"Bring it here."

Charles did so. The teacher ran his eye over it, and then said, "Charles, there is no difficulty whatever about this sum. You know how to do it. All that is wanted is a little attention and perseverance."

"I have been over it twice."

"That matters not. You must keep at it till you get it right, if you have to go over it ten times, or a hundred times. You will never make a scholar unless you acquire more perseverance."

Charles went to his seat, but did not seem disposed to concentrate his efforts on the sum. The teacher observing it, told him in a kind but decided tone, that he would not be permitted to leave the school house till the sum was done. Charles, being thus compelled to work, succeeded in getting the answer before twelve o'clock.

In the afternoon a similar scene was enacted in connexion with a Latin sentence.

Was Charles a persevering boy? Was Mr. Stone's commendation just? Like a great many boys, he was persevering in his play; he was persevering so long as the object in which he engaged was pleasant to himself. There is really no true perseverance in this. True perseverance will lead one to hold on to a thing, though it be not interesting—to finish whatever we undertake, whether we get weary of it or not. True perseverance will prevent one from growing weary in well-doing. It will lead us to hold on to the right, whatever temptations we may meet with. Perseverance is important everywhere; it is very important here.—Those only succeed who persevere to the end, and those only will obtain the crown.—*W. M. Friend.*

## Practical Wisdom.

A poor widow, with a large family of children dependent on her exertions for their support, in remitting the annual price of the religious paper she was taking, remarked that she "could not afford to do without it; that in other expenditures she could afford to make retrenchments, but the paper she must have for the benefit of herself and family."

"She could not afford to do without it," probably because she felt that she was more than remunerated for the expense by its weekly visits to her household. In the education of her children, it was the cheapest, the best, and the most impressive form in which it could be communicated; imparting to them a knowledge of the world, and especially of the Church of Christ; exhibiting its principles, enforcing its morals, and furnishing examples and illustrations of its practical influence upon the heart and the life. From its weekly perusal, in the mere matter of acquiring knowledge, they gained from it more than from any other single source, and perhaps more than from all other sources combined. And often a single miscellaneous article, bearing upon domestic economy—a single fact or recipe—was of more advantage to her than the cost of the paper for a whole year. It also proved to her an efficient aid in the management of her household. She found in it many a suggestion profitable to herself, prompting her to a greater cheerfulness and activity in the discharge of her responsible duties, and to a firmer trust in the good providence of God. And with greater ease and effect could she impress upon youthful charge the counsels which she had thus gathered from the experience and observation of others wiser than herself. These are among the considerations which caused her to feel that she could not afford to do without her familiar religious newspaper.

But the value of a religious paper is often greatly underrated. Many a Christian family in comparatively easy circumstances are under the impression that it is an unnecessary expense. And there are ministers too, and elders, who seem not to have estimated the power of this instrumentality up-

on the great interests of the Church. But if they will inquire who among their members are the most consistent, active and zealous Christians, and who contribute most liberally to the institutions of the gospel at home and abroad, they will find them, with rare exceptions, the supporters of a religious paper. Others may hold a pew in a Church, or contribute to the salary of their minister; but at least nine-tenths of the amount contributed to the extension of the gospel is given by those who learn, through a religious newspaper, the claims of Zion upon their liberality. And yet, on an average, such a paper is not taken by one-half of the families in our congregations. Again, it may be stated, without fear of contradiction, that those churches which most abound in every good word and work, are those in which the religious paper is most generally circulated. Its mission, therefore, is a most important one to all the interests of religion; and it is peculiarly important to the poorer members of the church, and to those living in vacant and partially supplied congregations. It fulfils the promise that "to the poor the gospel is preached." And many a silent Sabbath is rendered profitable by the instruction which it communicates.

Among the means of doing good some are in the habit of taking more than one copy of such a paper, for the benefit of a friend, or for some poor widow who could not afford to do without it. And some Churches in the country have provided that every family in their congregations should be supplied—they meeting the expense in every case where it was not voluntarily assumed. But these instances are comparatively rare. Yet it is questionable whether any expenditure for the cause of Christ could be more judiciously made.—*Watchman & Observer.*

## For Farmers.

## Oats.

As a general rule it may be laid down, as beyond all question, that the early sown oats produce the largest and best crops of grain. Therefore, acting upon this fact, we recommend to all, to seed their oats so soon as the frost is out of the ground, and the land may be in a condition to be ploughed without detriment, and put in first-rate order.

*Preparation of the Ground.*—The land should be deeply, thoroughly, and truthfully ploughed, harrowed, and rolled, until brought to a tilth as fine as the soil is susceptible of. Equally important is it, too, that the soil itself shall be in a condition to furnish the necessary food to sustain the growth of the plants; to nurture and mature their fruit; for, as we have often had occasion to remark, something cannot be made out of nothing.

"The Oats-Crop is a very Exhausting One," is a saying that has been handed down from father to son; but, for the life of us, we never could give it our credence to any but a limited extent. Why should it be more "exhausting" than any other crop? Does it abstract more from the soil? We have yet to see the proof that such is the case. If analysis does not reject such conclusion, it shows, that it is but partially so.

There is no plant more susceptible to the influence of draught than is the oat, and hence the land in which it may be sown should always be ploughed deep, for the twofold reason, that moisture and fertilizing elements may be economised from the air, as but little nutritive matters are to be found in those soils in which oats are mostly grown, as by previous improvident cropping, their virtues have been well nigh exhausted, and especially is such the case where shallow plowing for a long series of years has been pursued. To ensure a fair crop on fields of such description, deep plowing must be resorted to; for the deeper the bed, the greater will be the degree of moisture that is kept up, particularly so in seasons of drought, when its chief source of supply is from the transpiration of the earth.

With the exceptions of *Potash* and *Silica* wheat abstracts more inorganic matter than does the oat from the soil, and as *potash* can be supplied, and *silica* prepared, for the latter, by a top-dressing of ten bushels of

leached ashes, or five bushels of unleached ashes, per acre, we do not see why the oat should be considered in the light of a great exhauster, so far as the inorganic substances of which it is composed are concerned. It is, to be sure, a greedy devourer of potash, that being particularly necessary to form the outer coating of the straw, give it elasticity, and enable it to stand erect and support its grain; but that need not involve much expenditure of money, if moderate applications of ashes be made at short intervals.—*American Farmer.*

## Strawberry Cultivation.

Those who know anything about the magnificent strawberries, and the immense quantity of them raised on a bed about 30 feet by 40, for several years past, in the garden formerly owned by me in King street, may like to know the process by which I cultivated them.

I applied about once a week, for three times, commencing when the green leaves first began to start, and making the last application just before the plants were in full bloom, the following preparation—of nitrate of potash, glauber salts, and sal soda, each one pound of muriate of ammonia, one quarter of a pound, dissolved in 30 gallons of rain or river water, one-third was applied at a time, and when the weather was dry, I applied clear soft water between the times of using the preparation—as the growth of the young leaves is so rapid, that unless well supplied with water the sun will scorch them. I used a common watering pot, and made the application towards evening.—Managed in this way, there is never any necessity of digging over the bed, or setting it out anew. Beds of ten years old are not only as good, but better than those of two or three years old. But you must be sure and keep the weeds out.—*C. A. H. Northampton Gazette.*

## Feeding Calves.

Give them what is natural, viz.: sweet milk; and as they advance provide them some additional nourishing food, of rather a solid nature, but not too strong. When properly nursed and well kept, calves get strong before winter, the severity of which they are thus enabled to withstand, more especially if descended from stocks with plenty of hair. Ill-fed calves, on the contrary, suffer severely in winter, and often fall victims to the parsimony of their owners. An idea is entertained by some breeders that if all their cows produce calves they are sure to be well paid; but one good calf is better than three bad ones. Many animals which would have made good oxen, heifers, or cows, are ruined when calves; they may recover but not when young; so that the early maturity of such animals can never be attained. Every day's neglect in properly feeding calves retards their maturity; while every day's good feeding will tell in the animals favour. On a farm nothing but the best of food must be supplied to the calves, otherwise they will cut a poor figure when exposed for sale.—*Dickens on the Breeding of Live Stock.*

## Carrots.

Carrots bear a succession of crops very well, better than most other crops; yet it is not an established fact that they will bear good crops for a series of years so profitably as they would by a change of soil, and by being brought into a rotation once in three or four years. Generally there is no advantage in cultivating one crop on the same land for a series of years; for, in order to get good crops, higher manure will be necessary than in a rotation. As different crops differ in their constituent elements, they, of course, draw different elements from the soil. There is, generally, economy in a rotation of crops, as less manure is required. There are some exceptions. The onion, for instance, not only bears a succession of crops with success, but it is said that it flourishes better on land that has been longer under its cultivation. An instance is named of a piece of land in England that has borne good crops of onions for four hundred years in succession.—*N. E. Farmer.*