

# The Family Circle.

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Our Magazine continues to grow in favor, and not being limited to any class or district, the verdict comes from the households of every Province of the Dominion, as well as many of the States of the Union, that *no fireside reading is complete without the FAMILY CIRCLE.*

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## CIRCLE CHAT.

### CLIMBING THE LADDER.

The first step towards the right is to regret the wrong, the foundation of knowledge is a due appreciation of the deficiency, and no individual or social advancement can be attained without the individual or community becoming first imbued with a knowledge of the necessity thereof.

It has been said, with some degree of truth, that advice should never be given, because if the one advised is wise he does not require it and if he be unwise he will not follow it.

But there are persons who, becoming aware of a fault, at once set to work to remedy it, and many, through discrimination, offset a lacking in one faculty by another. To "know thyself," then, is of the greatest importance, if you would improve and strive to achieve the honors that only the fullest development can bring. The tendency is to ignore that in which we are deficient, but attentive study is always rewarded by one's becoming fond of his subject.

In cases, then, where persons are anxious to become better, we would like to call their attention to two very powerful influences at work on their characters. We refer to the choice of friends and the choice of books. As to the former, much more depends upon ourselves than upon our circumstances, for there are desirable companions among the poor as well as the rich, but judgment must be exercised in the matter. With regard to the choice of reading the following list, given by a contemporary, will not come amiss:

Are you deficient in taste? Read the best English poets, such as Thompson, Gray, Goldsmith, Pope, Cowper, Coleridge, Scott and Wordsworth.

Are you deficient in sensibility? Read Goethe and Mackenzie.

Are you deficient in political knowledge? Read Montesquieu, the Federalist, Webster and Calhoun.

Are you deficient in patriotism? Read Demosthenes and the Life of Washington.

Are you deficient in conscience? Read some of President Edwards' works.

Are you deficient in anything? Read the Bible.

## CURIOUS NOTIONS.

The notion of a child to have revenge upon a toy or any article that may have been the means of causing injury to it, is not more absurd than many actions of a similar nature by older people, which have from time to time come before our notice. Perhaps we have all known men who, if some stray tool would be left in the way, through their own carelessness, and was the means of injuring one of their little ones, would break the said tool to pieces. It may be that they would regret their conduct afterwards, but would nevertheless repeat the principle under similar circumstances.

But apart from such strange displays of temper it is often surprising to observe the conduct of some in the matter of little superstitions and eccentricities that will ever cling to them, and it is even more a matter of surprise to see such eccentricities infect a whole community; but such occurrences are not uncommon. In fact, the different habits and customs of separate communities testify to the truth of this theory. We often laugh at the actions of foreigners, never suspecting the absurdity of our own.

Anent this subject an American paper relates the following:

There is in the possession of William Ellery, of Providence, R. I., a grandson of the William Ellery who signed the Declaration of Independence, a silk bed-spread under which no one but a President of the United States has ever slept. It was made to cover the bed of Washington when he visited Rhode Island, and ever since when a President stays over night in that State it is sent to perform a similar service.

## A NOVEL MOVEMENT.

The discovery of a society known as the "Shut Ins" is announced. It is composed of persons who are confined to their homes by chronic diseases, but who are not incapacitated from writing and reading. The "Shut Ins" are introduced to each other by letter, and many pleasant friendships are thus formed, and many a weary hour whiled away by the writing and reading of letters.

There is no class of beings who should appreciate each other's circumstances more acutely than those enduring physical pain, and letters from friends similarly afflicted may do much to brighten their lives.