

Girls.

Farmton in *The Advance* makes some very discerning observations on this interesting subject in a most affectionate way. He says:

"I confess to a fondness for girls. I am the husband of one and the father of another.

My fondness for them is the ground of a little remark I am going to make about them.

I am fond not only of girls *per se et in se* but also of pretty girls, attractive girls. I notice the growth of girls, of girls pretty and homely, of all sorts. I notice that pretty girls and young grow into homely old girls; some grow into yet prettier girls. I notice that some homely girls and young grow into really attractive, winsome young women.

I like to trace the course of this growth, progressive and regressive. The pretty girls who become homely are the girls whose brains are sleepy, whose associations are coarsish, whose reading is trivial, who are more fond of having a good time than of doing a good piece of work. The homely girls who become pretty are those whose brains are active, whose reading is strong, who give whatever attention is right to study, whose associations are pure and enobling, who are eager to do well their work.

It seems almost natural for a good woman to be attractive. If she has lived from the age of ten to the age of thirty the best of life open to her, she cannot well be other than pleasant and winsome.

Ten Facts About Flags.

1. To "strike the flag" is to lower the national colors in token of submission.
2. Flags are used as the symbol of rank and command, the officers using them being called flag-officers. Such flags are square, to distinguish them from other banners.
3. A "flag of truce" is a white flag displayed to an enemy to indicate a desire for a parley or consultation.
4. The white flag is a sign of peace. After a battle parties from both sides often go out to the field to rescue the wounded or bury the dead, under the protection of the white flag.
5. The red flag is a sign of defiance, and is often used by revolutionists. In our service it is a mark of danger, and shows a vessel to be receiving or discharging her power.
6. The black flag is a sign of piracy.
7. The yellow flag shows a vessel to be in quarantine or is a sign of contagious disease.

8. A flag at half-mast means mourning. Fishing and other vessels return with a flag at half-mast to announce the loss or death of some of them.

9. Dipping the flag is lowering it slightly and then hoisting it again to salute a vessel or fort.

10. If the president of the United States goes afloat, the American flag is carried in the bow of his barge or hoisted at the main of the vessel on board of which he is.—*Selected.*

A Little Laughter.

A burst of laughter greeted me as I neared the entrance to Miss Bright's room. Doubtful as to whether I should enter, I stopped a moment; but knowing there could not be anything very wrong in that class, and feeling sure that their teacher would not consider my visit an untimely intrusion, I knocked and stepped in. The children looked the very picture of happiness and merriment, while Miss B——was trying in vain to control her risibles.

With an effort she managed to regain her wonted gravity, and touched her silver-toned bell; when quiet again reigned and all looked very orderly and attentive. "You didn't know we were such a jolly class, Miss Lee?" she said. "We do not often make so much noise, but we were enjoying a good laugh over the funny experience of 'Mother Hubbard and her dog.' Freddy brought his Christmas book, and I was reading the story aloud when we became so uproarious." What is so refreshing as the unrestrained and unaffected laughter of children? "Cold water to the tired soul and food for the hungry mind," it is said to be by one of the sages. I begged that the story might be continued, and so the remaining verses were read, while the children sat with parted lip and sparkling eyes that dance from their teacher to each other with most infectious merriment.

I thought as I left that room, what a pleasure it is to be in a good-natured atmosphere. Good humor was the standard rule in the class. Orders were given with the necessary firmness, and yet with a pleasant tone and manner that always insured cheerful and happy obedience.

No doubt some of my readers can recall teachers they had in their younger days, who possessed the "knack" of creating cheerful atmospheres, and who carried sunshine with them wherever they went. They undoubtedly recall others of a "nagging" disposition, who succeeded in producing instead a feeling very far removed from good humor.

The habit of good-nature is one that needs to be cultivated in all departments of teaching, but especially among the little ones. Children are such brilli-