

The Orphans' Friend.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, - 1883.

We may not be able to interpret God's providences, but we are sure that the Judge of all the earth will do right.

Life is so short that it is a pity to shift a good example into the unknown future. If in giving money it be true that "he gives twice who gives quickly," it is surely the same with our example.

In the article headed "Whisperers" on our first page, the sprightly editor of the *Sunday Magazine* "plows mighty close to the row." He is sometimes called sensational; we find his writings full of necessary truth, expressed in a piquant and entertaining style that is sure to attract. Do not fail to read the article, and if the evil practice there depicted is troubling you, heed the wise admonitions therein contained.

THE READING HABIT.

"I don't know anything that is a surer preservative from dissipating associations than a fondness for reading, and I want my boys to read, even though there is much pernicious literature in circulation."

Thus spake a christian minister in our hearing a few days ago, and the numerous periodicals on his table showed that he was practicing his faith.

If we take no higher view than this it is wise to foster the reading habit. Only let our reading be of the right kind, and no material harm to the morals can come of it, though we are persuaded many read in such way that little good is derived. By hasty and careless reading the mind becomes like a sieve, through which everything of value escapes, and thus positively injurious mental habits are formed. But even this, coupled with the danger of moral harm from reading that which is positively pernicious, does not make so great a risk as that incurred by promiscuous street associations in the town or village of average moral tone.

But we would encourage this habit because it is likely to do great good. By it we are brought into the highest and best associations, come in contact with purest and noblest thought, and find sources of rational pleasure that are otherwise unknown.

IMMIGRATION.

Our State needs not so much an influx of population as it does the elevation and development of the people it now has. The character of our citizens is more important than their number. Education is more desirable than immigration. One million of intelligent, industrious, patriotic, christian men and women are better than five millions of such nondescripts as inhabit Mexico or some of the South American States.

We would not be understood as opposing immigration, but rather the idea which many seem to entertain, that our prosperity and general advancement de-

pend upon it in a considerable degree. Whether such a result is to be realized therefrom depends altogether upon the character of the immigrants. Thrifty, honest, industrious, law-abiding strangers should be welcomed to our borders. But from restless adventurers, atheists, Sabbath-breakers, may we be perpetually delivered.

THE ORPHAN'S LAMENT.

BY MATILDA.

The world for me no longer wears
A beauty or a bloom,
Since all I loved and cherished most
Lies buried in the tomb.

I once was happy as a lark,
But now those days are gone,
And I am left an orphan child,
All desolate and lone.

I do remember well the time,
When I was glad and free,
A little laughing, merry child,
Upon my father's knee.

When on my gentle mother's breast
I laid my nestling head,
And listened with attention deep,
To all the words she said.

And when low kneeling at her feet,
She taught me how to pray;
I never thought such love as hers
Could ever pass away.

But she is gone—that mother dear,
Gone to a world on high—
Gone to a home where tears no more,
Can dim her cloudless eye.

I know she is an angel now,
Among the saints in light;
And when I lay my weary head
Upon my bed at night,

I feel that she is near me still,
Her orphan child to keep,
To fan me with her spirit wing
While silently I sleep.

I have no father—mother—friends;
Alone I am on earth;
A stranger in a stranger's land,
Beside a stranger's hearth.

There's none to love and bless me here,
Since my dear mother died;
Oh, would that I were sleeping now,
Thou loved one! by thy side.

But mother! when I go from hence
I'll meet thee in the skies,
Where parting never comes again,
And love no longer dies.

DOING ONE'S OWN WORK.

"Never mind what he's doing,
attend to your own work."

"But he's putting his machine
all out of gear; he'll ruin it!"

"The superintendent will see
to that—mind your work."

And so he went back to his
work, and did it well and earned
his wages.

So it is in churches. Men are
too busy watching other people's
work and machinery to do their
own properly.

And now we propose, as an
experiment, that every man and
woman begin by doing modestly
what first comes, and with faith
and hope build up their own
souls, and labor for the impenitent
around them. There are
many in our own families
who need the word in season
and the faithful, believing prayer.
What an impression would be
made if each one of us could see
the conversion of one soul—sister,
brother, child, friend, neighbor.
Direct prayer for one,
leads to effort for one, and the
Lord's power is not limited to
scores, or hundreds, or thousands.

But hundreds and thousands
are made up of individuals and
the redemption of each soul is
precious. There is perhaps too
much talk now of the question of
salvation, and shall all be saved
or lost at once, or will there be
further probation? The opposing
opinions and arguments show

that the question cannot be settled. And what matter?

There is too much stress laid upon the mere safety of the soul. That, no doubt, is precious, but the great point is the living to God, the making of this life a school-

room for the preparation of another. Even if it were promised in some way that a soul should be saved in the end, we need be none the less zealous that the life be given to the service of Christ.

Therefore, we say, "Arise, arise, good Christian!" and be faithful to individual souls. "Save with fear,"—pulling them out of the fire.

Some years ago a child of Christian parents said to a friend, "You are the first person who has ever spoken to me directly on the subject of personal religion."

My brethren, these things ought not so to be. "Speak to that young man." Let us try if personal faithfulness will not bring the revival we seek and need so much.—*Christian Reid.*

WHY IT'S CALLED A BREAK.

The enquiry is frequently made "Why is a sale of tobacco in the warehouses called a break?" and but few of the young people are able to answer. In olden times, in the days of our daddies, the weed was all prized in hogsheads before being marketed and when placed on the warehouse floor the hogsheads were stripped off and with a sharp iron plunger breaks were made in the bulks of tobacco and samples taken therefrom and submitted to the inspection of purchasers. Hence the origin of the word "break," and it is used to this day notwithstanding most, if not all, of the tobacco is placed on the warehouse floor in loose packages or piles. Persons unacquainted with the former mode of selling, are at a loss to know the significance of the word "break" in connection with the sales of leaf tobacco.—*Tobacco Plant.*

J. F. EDWARDS. | W. F. ROGERS.

EDWARDS & ROGERS,

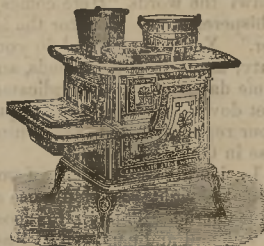
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