

The Orphans' Friend.

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OUR HOMESTEAD.

Our old brown homestead reared its walls
From the wayside dust aloof,
Where the apple-boughs could almost cast
The fruitage on the roof:
And the cherry-tree so near it grew,
That when awake I've lain,
In the lonesome nights I've heard the limbs,
As they creaked against the pane;
And those orchard trees—oh, those orchard
trees!
I've seen my little brothers rocked
In their tops by the summer breeze.
The sweet brier upon the window-sill,
Which the early birds made glad,
And the damisk rose by the garden fence,
Were all the flowers we had.
I've looked at many a flower since then,
Far brought, and rich, and rare,
To other eyes more beautiful,
But not to me so fair:
For those roses bright—oh, those roses bright!
I've twined them with my sister's locks,
That are laid in the dust from sight!
We had a well, a deep old well,
Where the springs was never dry,
And the cool drops down from the mossy
stones
Were falling constantly;
And there never was water half so sweet
As that in my little cup,
Drawn up the curb by the rude old sweep
Which my fathers hand set up;
And that deep old well—oh, that deep old well!
I remember yet the splashing sound
Of the bucket as it fell.
Our homestead had an ample hearth,
Where at night we loved to meet;
There my mother's voice was always kind,
And her smile was always sweet;
And there I've sat on my fathers knee,
And watched his thoughtful brow,
With my childish hand in his raven hair—
That hair is silver now!
But that broad hearth's light—oh, that broad
hearth's light!
And my father's look, and my mother's smile,
They are in my heart to-night.
—*Phoebe Cary.*

From the Shelby Banner.

EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN.

Education is a preventive of crime. The statistics of all countries show that the large majority of criminals are uneducated. Go to your own State penitentiary. Walk within those enclosed walls—behold four or five hundred criminals. Who are they? Nearly the whole of them are ignorant. They are coarse, illiterate, uneducated men. There is not one educated man among the whole group of them. Go to the Penitentiaries of other States, to the jails, the houses of correction, and you find the same truth that ignorance is the mother of crimes. If we go to the barbarous tribes of Africa—or the South Sea Island, we find that such crimes as stealing, murder, and gross licentiousness are the rule of action—not the exception. Sins and crimes there are as thick as the trees and as luxuriant as these tropical growths. In that country roam the lion, tiger, the panther—there lurk huge and deadly vipers; but the people are more dangerous than these wild beasts of the jungle. Because of their rudeness, malignity, savagery, all the outgrowth of their long ages of profound ignorance. We appeal to statistics for further demonstration.

In France, 95 of every hundred criminals are illiterates—persons unable to read. This is not guess work, the facts drawn from official records. And is one of the most startling and convincing proofs that can be given. In Ireland, 74 of every hundred criminals are ignorant persons.

In Switzerland, 93 in every hundred are unable to read and write. In our country, 85 in every hundred are uneducated persons. Here is proof strong as Holy Writ of the relation between crime and ignorance. Education then is a powerful restraining force—restraining men from the outbreking crimes of illiteracy. The reasons are obvious. Ignorant men commit crime with the belief that they can escape detection. They have not mental power enough to see how almost impossible it is for criminals to escape the thousand ways of detection. Neither have they culture enough to make conscience any restraining power. Nor mind enough to foresee the terrible result of crime.

Education confers power upon persons to supply their wants, to make a living, to take care of themselves. Every person has numerous wants—necessary wants. He must have food or die, he must be clothed or go naked, he must have shelter or be turned out of doors to the pelting storm. These wants are daily and life long. Now how is he to get them? Well there are three ways. He may inherit them from rich ancestors, or he may attempt to steal them, or beg them, or do the honorable way of making his money. Now a man may make money, by the practice of law, medicine, teaching, but in these professions education is a necessity. He may make money by trading, by farming, by mechanical work, in these things, the more intelligence, the better. The rising generation is to be educated to secure the regular progress of society. The mental attainments of preceding generations must be transmitted to the rising ones in order to keep the world on the high plan of christian civilization. Education then has reference to the general good of society, as it qualifies by an intellectual apprenticeship the youth to take the place, in order of organized communities, of those who are removed by death. The superiority of an educated mind is clearly seen in its ability to trace out the obscure hints in the laws of nature and turn these discovered laws into useful ends to society. To illustrate take a few cases, Gallileo, sitting in an old cathedral, observed that the chandelier suspended to the ceiling when touched swung to and fro. Its vibrating motion suggested the idea of clocks moved by the swing of the pendulum. That was the beginning of the millions of clocks so useful in giving the time of the day all over the civilized world. The fall of an apple suggested to the educated mind Sir Isaac Newton the grand discovery of the great law of gravitation.

The uplifting of a tea kettle lid by steam generated in boiling water suggested the idea of steam engines. And what a far reaching blessing is this discovery of steam power to the world! Steam power, unknown to the ancient world, is made to grind our grain, saw our lumber, spin our cotton, rush our ships across the sea and send the ponderous locomotive thundering on its iron

track. To-day the aggregate steam power of England alone is equal to the labor of four hundred millions of men. Whence comes the lightning rod, that turns the fiery bolt of the storm cloud from our homes? From the educated mind of Franklin. Whence the Telegraph flashing intelligence around the world in the twinkling of an eye? The printing press whose rays of knowledge beam upon society like an orb of light? Look at the valuable implements in agriculture, architecture, in navigation—all made by educated minds. Mental forces now rule the world. We close with a word of exhortation to parents. Have you sons and daughters? Strive to educate them. It costs money, you say, yes it does. But as Franklin says: "If a parent empties his purse into the head of his son, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the interest." Addison remarks, "An industrious and virtuous education of children is a better inheritance for them than a great estate."

"THEY SHALL NOT BLUSH FOR THEIR FATHER."

"Two men had entered into an agreement to rob one of their neighbors. Everything was planned. They were to enter his house at midnight, break open his chests and drawers, and carry off all the silver and gold they could find.

"He is rich and we are poor," said they to each other, by way of encouragement in the evil they were about to perform. "He will never miss a little gold, while its possession will make us happy. Besides, what right has one man to all this world's goods."

"Thus they talked together. One of these men had a wife and children, but the other had nothing in the world to care for but himself. The man who had children went home and joined his family, after agreeing upon a place of meeting with the other at the darkest hour of the coming night.

"Dear father," said one of the children, climbing upon his knee, "I am so glad you have come home."

The presence of his child troubled the man, and he tried to push him away; but his arms clung tightly about his neck, and he laid his face against his cheek, and said in a sweet and gentle voice:

"I love you, father!"
Involuntarily the man drew the innocent and loving one to his bosom, and kissed him.

There was two older children in the man's dwelling, a boy and a girl. They were poor, and these children worked daily to keep up the supply of bread, made deficient more through idleness in the father than from lack of employment. These children came home soon after their father's return, and brought him their earnings for the day.

"Oh, father," said the boy, "such a dreadful thing has happened! Henry Lee's father was arrested to-day for robbing; they took him out of our shop when

Henry was there, and carried him off to prison. I was so glad when I saw Henry weeping. And he hung his head for shame of his own father! Only think of that!"
"Ashamed of his father," thought he. "And will my children hang their heads, also, in shame! No, no; that shall never be."

At the hour of midnight, the man who had no children to throw around him a sphere of better influence, was sitting at the place of rendezvous for him whose children had saved him. But he waited in vain. Then he said:

"I will do the deed myself, and take the entire reward."

And he did according to his word. When forth to his labor on the next day, he learned that his accomplice had been taken in an act of robbery, and was already in prison.

"Thank heaven for virtuous children!" said he with fervor. "They have saved me. Never will I do an act that will cause them to blush for their father."

WOMEN'S WORK.

All thoughtful persons have observed the wide influence of a heavenly-minded men and women in the world, whether they are engaged in active service or called to a life full of quiet home duties. I remember two instances of lives in whose whole course no unusual missionary effort was or could be made, whose faithfulness was blessed of God to results both wide and lasting. The first was a woman of large family connection. Poor in this world's goods, of timid nature and weak health, whose family cares took up all her time, yet this woman became to her many relations and whole circle of friends a very Great-heart on the way heavenward. The second was a single lady, dependent on her brother, to whose family her life was a means of grace. It is no small thing to send out soldier's such as she sent—strong men, active in the battles of the kingdom, and women devoted to the cause of Christ.

These things are encouraging to those whose field of labor is at home.

Some of us have a stranger within our gates; perhaps an ignorant, awkward kitchen girl. After our dear ones she is more dependent on us for happiness than any one else. Is she not the answer to the question "Who is my neighbor?" Yes, to her we have a duty which may not be lightly neglected. She is a Romanist, and we say if we even lend her a good book she would leave at once; or she is a Protestant and we say, "I do not like to speak to her on religion, because it is like taking advantage of my position." It may be that consciousness of our own inconsistencies makes us fear to bring up the subject. Now these are all hindrances; but our duty is to preach the gospel to every creature. Why did God in His Providence send her into a Christian home if not for a blessing? There are different ways of working. Suppose a girl comes to us who, apart from her work, seems an unmitigated evil in our lives?

We do not care to speak to her beyond what is necessary; nor can we in this spirit speak as we should; but we can in our own room beg the Savior to open her eyes, to give us loving sympathy for her, to give us grace to show our faith in daily life, to give us suitable words at all times.

"I will be to you a mouth and wisdom." "My grace is sufficient for you." "If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed ye could remove mountains." These are promises needed in daily life service.

One thing which seems little, but is of much importance in the elevation of character, is careful attention to courtesy. The mistress who says a kind good night and a cheerful good morning to her servants, who respects their feelings and chooses her words in finding fault, taking pains in little things for their sakes, acts a Christian part to them, and often has the pleasure of seeing the effect of such example upon their heart as well as manners. This conduct opens the way for "the word in season" which our Lord gives us in answer to our prayers. Let us be single hearted then in His service, and He will glorify himself in us.

DISMAL SWAMP ON FIRE.

The great Dismal Swamp is on fire. Over 2,000 acres are now burning over, destroying timber and doing great damage to the land, the surface of which is a rich vegetable deposit several feet deep. Gangs of laborers are engaged in cutting ditches and using all other precautionary means to prevent the spread of the flames to the richly cultivated fields of the farmers in the swamp. As a result of these fires, Norfolk and Portsmouth are overhung with thick clouds of disagreeable smoke.

In the United States there is a population within the school ages, of 13,000,000. The actual school enrollment is 8,500,000. Of the 5,000,000 who do not attend school it is not known how many are illiterate. But it has been ascertained that there are 2,000,000 of adult illiterates in the United States while those above the age of ten, in 1870 exceeded 5,500,000.

If you cannot be a great river, bearing great vessels of blessings to the world, you can be a little spring by the wayside of life, singing merrily all day and all night, and giving a cup of cold water to every weary, thirsty one who passes by.

"Please, sir," said a boy with two bottles, to a grocer, "mother wants a cents worth of your best yeast," "well, which bottle will you have it in?" "Please, she wants it in both; and won't you put corks in 'em, and send 'em home, as I'm going t'other way; and mother says she ain't got no cent, but you must charge it."

We can do more good by being good than in any other way.—*Rowland Hill.*

Persons will refrain from evil speaking when persons refrain from evil hearing.