

The Orphans' Friend.

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IT NEVER PAYS.

It never pays to fret and growl,
When fortune seems our foe;
The better bred will push ahead,
And strike the braver blow.
For luck is work,
And those who shirk,
Should not lament their doom.
But yield the pay,
And clear the way,
That better men have room.

It never pays to foster pride,
And squander pride in show;
For friends thus won are sure to run,
In times of want or woe.
The noblest worth
Of all on earth,
Are gems of heart and brain.
A conscience clear,
A household dear,
And hands without a stain.

It never pays to hate a foe,
Or cater to a friend,
To fawn and whine, much less repine,
To borrow or to lend.
The fruits of men
Are fewer when
Each rows his own canoe;
For feuds and debts
And pampered pets,
Unbounded mischief brew.

It never pays to wreck the health
In drugging after gain;
And he is sold who thinks that gold
Is cheaply bought with pain.
A humble lot,
A cosy cot,
Have tempted even kings,
For station high,
That wealth will buy,
Not oft contentment brings.

It never pays! A blunt refrain,
Well worthy of a song,
Forage and youth must learn the truth,
That nothing pays that's wrong.
The good and pure
Alone are sure
To bring prolonged success,
While what is right,
In Heaven's sight,
Is always sure to bless.

LEARNING FROM CHILDREN.

Never be hasty to check a child's talk. Children not only sometimes speak truth, but a child's way of thinking of a subject and speaking of it is often so fresh that a man may learn from it. Out of the mouths of babes may come wisdom. Children have made some of the great inventions of modern times. When the first steam-engine was slowly pumping water out of a mine, the engineer had to work it by hand, letting on and shutting off the steam, and once left a boy to do his work for an hour. When he came back, he found that the boy had gone off to play, having tied a string to the working bar of the engine, which let on and shut off the steam more regularly than a man. This was the first "cut off." An English engraver, Sadler, of Liverpool, found some children pasting engravings on broken china to beautify their play-houses. He went home at once, and transferred his engravings to the china, to be baked there, thus learning from children the vast industry of printing porcelain and earthenware, which employs thousands of workmen, and beautifies innumerable homes. It will pay to be respectful even to a child's thoughts.—*Sunday School Times.*

—A minister going to visit one of his sick parishioners, asked him how he rested during the night. "Oh, wondrously ill, sir," he replied, "for mine eyes have not come together these three nights." "What is the reason of that?" said the other. "Alas! sir," said he, "because my nose was betwixt them."

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

There seems to be an awakening throughout the State on the subject of education. The attendance of 182 teachers at the Normal School at Chapel Hill attests this fact. Much is due to the press of the State for the increasing interest on this all-important subject, and especially to the *Observer* of this city. Convinced as we are that education in North Carolina will never be a success until the Legislature passes a law compelling the attendance of the children and making it a misdemeanor, with fine and imprisonment, to keep them away from school, except in case of sickness, we desire to call out the press of the State upon this question.

Many States of the Union have adopted the compulsory system; it works well and after thorough trial the people would not have it abolished. There can be but one serious objection to the measure and that is this: A great many poor people are compelled to have the services of their children to support them, and therefore, can not send them to school. The various counties can better afford to support such persons for the time their children are at school, than to have them grow up in ignorance and become fit subjects of vice, immorality and crime. The spirit of liberty which pervades our people, might be opposed to compulsory education in its inception, but a fair trial, with sufficient number of schools in every county, would soon make the people unwilling converts to the new system.

There will be no politics in this matter. The Republican party will join with the Democrats in every measure which looks to the education of the masses.—*Raleigh Register.*

FOOLHARDY COOLNESS.

The following story is told by a correspondent of the *London Times* at Varna:

The coolness of Englishmen is well known, but for a real disregard for personal peril I can recommend a Turk. The other day at a station here a quantity of gunpowder was being packed in trucks for Shumla. One of the tin cases got damaged, and some wisecrack sent for a brazier to repair it where it stood. The man came with his fire and soldering iron, mounted the truck, and was followed by a score of soldiers anxious to see the fun. He was just about to commence operations, when the station master jumped up after him, and unceremoniously pitched him and his hot iron on to the platform, told the soldiers that they might kill themselves if they liked, but that he was responsible for the station, and nobody should blow that up while he was there.

—"Don't show my letters," wrote a Rockland young man to a young lady whom he adored. "Don't be afraid," was the reply; "I'm just as much ashamed of them as you are."

—Love those who advise, but not those who praise you.

A PARENT'S INFLUENCE.

There is a powerful and potent influence exerted for good or evil over the human heart by the precepts and examples of those who have gone before us, having the charge of our early education. Years may have flown since the voice of a mother has whispered to the soul words of instruction and warning; but the words thus spoken will come to us when in after life we are beset by the cares and perplexities of the world. The voice of a fond parent, though that voice may have long since been hushed in the silence of the grave, will, at times, ring in our ears as though the words uttered had fallen in burning emphasis from those sacred lips but yesterday. What an influence the example set, and the lessons taught by a parent to his child exerts over its future destiny! Words perchance that drop almost unconsciously from a parent's lips, and fall upon the ears of the little ones whom the parents may consider too young to comprehend, and the thoughts that pass through that youthful mind too transient to make a lasting impression; but, alas! the seeds that are sown in "the garden of the heart," in childhood, take root and vitiate its future character, and blast the hope of the fond parent who gazed in ineffable delight upon the likeness of himself embodied in the form of his child. The image of our mother, who in infancy taught us to hush a grateful prayer to our Preserver, and turned our young affections towards that Being whom she taught us to prize above all others, will rise up before us as our guiding star, when the rude buffetings of the world beat upon our pathway on every side; and in our hearts we attribute all that is commendable in our nature to her whose image we cherish and whose memory we revere as sacred.

Cold must be the heart and seared the affection of a man in whom the memory of a departed parent arouses no sympathies, and who can not look with pleasure upon the time when he received from those lips the first lesson taught him in infancy. But few men who have proved themselves an honor to the age in which they lived, and a blessing to their race, could say but that they owed their greatness to the teachings and examples of a pious mother.

If parents, on whom is enjoined the sacred duty of forming the character of the future generation, would pause and reflect, as they behold the little one whom they love following the bent of its own wayward inclinations, that they are to decide whether that child shall be an ornament to society, or a curse to humanity, it would be reasonable to conclude that the morals of the succeeding generation would be far more exalted than any that has preceded it. Yet how often do we see parents exhibiting the most reckless concern to the moral welfare of their children, and in after years are called upon to bewail their blighted prospects and behold the wreck of their fondest hopes.—*Family Journal.*

CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS.

It is very surprising that anything that will yield so much pleasure and enjoyment should be so universally neglected by the wives and daughters of our farmers. Although, to be fair, I think the cultivators of flowers are on the increase from year to year. Many ladies would like to have a flower garden, well enough. Oh! yes; they like flowers—"but how shall we get the ground prepared?" they say. "We cannot go out and hoe, and dig in the dirt." Oh, yes, my readers, you could, and be the gainers thereby. Let me tell you, as one who knows by experience whereof they speak, that it does not take half the strength and vitality to go out and hoe and shovel a while in the garden, that it does to sit at the sewing machine all day, to say nothing of the benefit to be derived from being in the open air, and the great pleasure, the beautiful flowers will afford to a lover of flowers. Oh! I wish that everybody's wives and daughters could be induced to try the cultivation of a few flowers. If they could they would soon see husbands and brothers interested, to such a degree at least as to perform the hardest part of the labor, and their own happiness and pleasure increased thereby.

BIG VERSUS LITTLE COLLEGES.

The New York Sun has an article against the four hundred Male Colleges in the United States that are struggling for the patronage of the educating public. The Sun thinks there are entirely too many of them, and urges that one magnificent college is worth dozens of little ones. We dispute the proposition. Big things are not always the best things, especially if they are colleges. It is well to have a few first-class Institutions like Harvard, Yale, Lafayette, and Princeton, but it is exceedingly doubtful whether they do as much good as smaller colleges. A hundred young men are about as many as ought to be gathered into one Institution of learning, in order to promote moral and intellectual culture. Princeton has as many students as Davidson, Erskine and Stewart Colleges combined, but the three, we are sure, are more efficient in promoting moral and religious culture than the one, although it could buy out ten colleges like Davidson, or twenty like Erskine. Big colleges are also very expensive affairs. It takes \$250 to educate a boy for a year at Davidson or Erskine, and \$1,200 at Yale or Harvard. Then the college influence is a very desirable thing. South Carolina has six colleges, and about 350 students. If it had no colleges and concentrated all its efforts in conjunction with all North Carolina, upon the border college, Davidson, there might be a big college at Davidson, but scarce a hundred young men from South Carolina, instead of its present three hundred and fifty would be there. The more colleges as a rule, the more education, and the cheaper education. Competition is hard on the college, but best for the people.—*Our Monthly.*

A TOUCHING INCIDENT.

A nobleman, who died a few years since, had a chest all locked up, but marked, "To be removed first in case of fire." When he died his friends opened that chest, supposing, of course, that some valuable document or deed of property, rich jewelry or costly plate would be found in it. But what did they find? They found the toys of his little child, who had gone before him. Richer to him than the world's wealth, richer than his coronet, brighter than all the jewels that sparkled on his crest. Not his estate, not his jewels, not his equipage, nothing glorious and great in this world; but the dearest objects to him were the toys of his little child.—*Children's Friend.*

ABOUT EATING FRUIT.

When fruit does harm it is because it is eaten at improper times, in improper quantities, or before it is ripened and fit for the human stomach. A distinguished physician has said that if his patients would make a practice of eating a couple of good oranges before breakfast, from February to June, his practice would be gone. The principal evil is that we do not eat enough of fruit; that we injure its finer qualities with sugar; that we drown them in cream. We need the medicinal action of the pure fruit acids in our system, and their cooling, corrective influence.

WHY OLDER MEN SUCCEED BETTER.

It has been stated, as a statistical fact, that the percentage of failures among business men is much larger of those who begin on their own account before they are thirty years of age, than of those who begin later. Assuming this to be correct, as we presume it to be, why is it so? Younger men, generally, though not always, are more energetic. We presume the great reason why they are not equally successful is because they do not comprehend so thoroughly the difficulties that lie in the way of success. If they did they would more frequently overcome them. Experience teaches the liability to many a slip—the necessity of systematic effort, and of sleepless vigilance. The young are more confident, and, as a consequence, less careful.

The realization of truth—if it be possible for youth to realize it—would be of the greatest advantage to those entering into business on their own account at a very early age. A danger understood is more apt to be guarded against. Young men should be taught that their greatest peril may be found in their too sanguine feelings; that success is ever, in the nature of things, difficult of achievement; and that no one of its many conditions can safely be omitted. An old head may succeed all the better on young shoulders—but the old head must be there, either through study and firm resolve or through years!—*N. Y. Ledger*

SENSITIVE CHILDREN.

Most children are sensitive, and it is wrong to wantonly wound their feelings by censuring them too harshly for their faults. Time cures a great many things; children outgrow infirmities and faults, and if right principles of action and feeling are instilled gently, constantly, wisely, the result will ultimately appear. It is mere cruelty to make the weak points of a child a source of teasing and ridicule, as is often done in schools and families. A mental infirmity should be treated as tenderly as a bodily deformity. A quick temper, an irritable or timorous or teasing disposition, requires far more tact and judicious management than any mere physical infirmity. When grown to maturity, our sensitive children become the poets, musicians, artists, writers, leaders of their times.—Help them, too, with their tasks, which to many of them seem hopeless. Definitions are hard to remember; the geography lesson is difficult to comprehend and won't stay fixed in the mind; history is dull and dead; arithmetic a hopeless tangle of figures, and grammar more puzzling than any possible conundrum. The little folks need help; they need cheer and encouragement, and who should be so ready, so willing, so able to give as the parent?

—"No," she said, and the wrinkles in her face smoothed out pleasantly. "No, I do not remember the last seventeen-year locusts. I was an infant then."