

The Orphans' Friend.

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EVENING SOLACE.

The human heart has hidden treasures,
In secret kept, in silence sealed;
The thoughts, the hopes, the dreams,
The pleasures,
Whose charms were broken if revealed.
And days may pass in gay confusion,
And nights in rosy riot fly,
While, lost in Fame's or Wealth's illusion,
The memory of the Past may die.

But there are hours of lonely musing,
Such as in evening silence come,
When, soft as birds their pinions closing,
The heart's best feelings gather home.
Then in our souls there seems to languish

A tender grief that is not woe;
And thoughts that once wrung groans
Of anguish,
Now cause but some mild tears to flow.

And feelings, once as strong as passions,
Float softly back—a faded dream;
Our own sharp griefs and wild sensations,

The tale of others' sufferings seem.
Oh! when the heart is freshly bleeding,
How longs it for the time to be,
When, through the mist of years receding,
Its woes but live in reverie!

And it can dwell on moonlight glimmer,
On evening shade and loneliness;
And, while the sky grows dim and dimmer,

Feel no untold and strange distress—
Only a deeper impulse given
By lonely hour and darkened room,
To solemn thoughts that soar to heaven,
Seeking a life and world to come.

—Curren Bell.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

The school question presents itself anew every year to thousands of parents. To many the purse solves the problem; the boys and girls are sent to the public school because none other can be afforded. To others the solution is not so easy; it is to them we wish to speak.

1. Do not send your child to school too early. Nature's way of teaching is God's way of teaching, the way of question and answer. Encourage your children to ask questions; answer them; stimulate them to find answers for themselves. Spend a little money on picture-books that will incite in them to read. For little children the monthly visit of the "Nursery" is an admirable educator. Alphabet blocks serve the purpose of a primary school. In no household where either father or mother has any leisure, ought children to be sent to school to learn their letters.

2. The private school has some great advantages over the public school. Its associations are generally healthier; its social atmosphere cleaner; its classes smaller, its educational processes more carefully adapted to the individual; it is less mechanical. But above all there are opportunities for moral and religious instruction in the private school which our heterogeneous population denies to our public schools. Primary schools ought not to be schools of theology, but, other things being equal, the school where the child is taught not only to use his reason and his imagination, but also his conscience, his reverence, and his love, assuredly the better one.

3. Boarding schools have suffered under an opprobrium, but boarding schools furnish some important advantages which the day school cannot give. The teacher is brought into closer contact with his pupils. He can

study them more carefully. He can train as well as teach them. The studying is less liable to interruptions. The school is a little community by itself; in it the child is constantly learning from its companions as well as from its instructors. Sometimes he learns more; for the boy who has learned how to carry himself among boys makes the man who knows how to get on successfully with men. Of course there are dangers; but the danger to a child in a well-ordered Christian school is less than the danger to a young man or woman who has been coddled and cradled and coaxed at home. It is better that your child should eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil under the fostering care of a wise teacher than that he should do it on the sly, or go out into the wilderness from his domestic Eden without practically knowing the difference between the two fruits that often grow on the same tree.

4. Beware of cheap schools. They are expensive luxuries. Some locations are more economical than others, but no school can furnish pabulum for both body and mind for less than it costs you to keep a horse or a cow. You would not starve your children at home; yet it is no better to do it by proxy than to do it personally.

5. The first essential of a good school is its hygienic condition. *Mens sana in corpore sano.* What sort of food does the school prescribe? What air do the pupils breathe? What is the ventilation? What are the opportunities, what the incitements for physical exercise? Generally the country school is better in these respects than the city school. And these conditions are fundamental. If the body is ill supplied, its mind will be lean.

6. The large school has some great advantages. It can grade the classes more thoroughly. It can provide a large corps of teachers, and a more thorough division of labor among them. It can equip itself more adequately with scientific apparatus. It can secure lecturers on specialties.

But the small school also has some great advantages. It preserves the type of a family. The principal can know his pupils. The moral atmosphere is likely to be healthier; the moral training more careful and specific. Faults are more easily corrected. Incipient disease is recognized and checked; accidents are fewer; fagging and bullying and petty tyranny are relatively unknown. The small school trains best, the large school is a finishing shop; the small school is always best for beginners, the large school is often, but not always, best for mature pupils.—*Christian Union.*

A NEW INDUSTRY.

In France, a scientific gentleman has just made public what seems to be a well-digested plan for converting the white or unedible stalks of asparagus into common brown paper, foolscap, and letter paper of the finer descriptions. Not merely theoretical is this scheme for utilizing a material for paper that has hitherto been wasted. There are actually

in existence, in France, two new factories where paper is made from the white portion of asparagus stalks. In the vicinity of these establishments, the housekeepers hoard up the white scraps of asparagus with a diligence not known, perhaps anywhere else on earth. Only a very small price is paid for them; but the people discern, without argument, that little pay for an article which was hitherto considered absolutely useless, and was therefore thrown away as offal, is clear profit.

So far as we know, paper from asparagus has not yet been exhibited in this country. As the well-known succulent stalks are little more than a mass of tough vegetable fibres, there is the best of reasons for putting implicit faith in the report that fine paper can be made of them. Flourishing luxuriantly throughout the Middle and Southern States of our country, asparagus is certain now of being tested as a paper stock by American paper makers—all the more so, because the new materials for paper, discovered of late years have invariably flourished remote from the centres of American population, consequently entailing heavy costs of transportation to the regions where well-appointed paper mills most abounded. Asparagus, growing almost spontaneously here, can be secured by paper makers much more readily than in France, where it requires assiduous care in cultivation. The time may not be far distant when France will be flooded with American paper, made from asparagus stalks, for be it borne in mind that we immense paper consumers of the United States were heavy importers of paper twelve years ago; now the importation of paper by us has entirely ceased.—*Printer's Circular.*

LEMONS FOR CONSUMPTION.

An exchange gives the following recipe for consumption: Put a dozen of whole lemons in cold water and boil until soft (not too soft); roll and squeeze until the juice is all extracted; sweeten the juice enough to be palatable, then drink. Use as many as a dozen a day. Should they cause pain or looseness of the bowels, lessen the quantity and use five or six a day, until a little better, then begin and use a dozen again. By the time you have used five or six dozen, you will begin to gain strength and have an appetite. Of course, as you get better, you need not use as many. We know of two cases where both of the patients were given up by the physicians, and were in the last stages of consumption, yet both were cured by simply using lemons according to the directions we have stated. One lady in particular was bedridden and very low; had tried everything that money could procure, but all in vain, when to gratify a friend, she was finally persuaded to use the lemons. She began to use them in February, and in April she weighed 140 pounds. She is a well woman to day, and likely to live as long as any of us.

THE TWO FRIENDS.

In the depths of a forest there lived two foxes who had never had a cross word with each other. One of them said one day, in the politest fox language, "Let's quarrel." "Very well," said the other; "as you please, dear friend. But how shall we set about it?" "Oh, it cannot be difficult," said fox Number One; "two-legged people fall out, why should not we?" So they tried all sorts of ways, but it could not be done, because each one would give way. At last Number One fetched two stones. "There," said he, "you say they're yours, and I'll say they're mine, and then we will quarrel and fight and scratch. Now I'll begin. Those stones are mine!" "Very well," answered the other, gently, "you're welcome to them." "But we shall never quarrel at this rate!" cried the other, jumping up and licking his face. "You old simpleton, don't you know that it takes two to make a quarrel any day? So they gave it up as a bad job, and never tried to play at this silly game again. I often think of this fable when I feel more inclined to be sulky than sweet.—*Children's Magazine.*

THE EFFICACY OF BREVITY.

A modern instance of the efficacy of brevity in a good cause may be cited. M. Dupanloup, the eloquent Bishop of Orleans, preaching in behalf of the distressed workmen of Rouen, contented himself with saying: "This is no time for long sermons, but for good works. You are all acquainted with the calamities of those whose cause I have come this day to plead. Once upon a time a king, whose name is still cherished by us, said to his companions-in-arms, on whom he thought with reason he could rely: "My good friends, I am your king, you are Frenchmen. Yonder is the enemy; let us march! I will not address you in other words to-day than these. I am your Bishop; you are Christians. Yonder are, not our enemies, but our brethren who suffer. Let us flee to their succor!" The result was the collection of more than three thousand dollars.—*Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine.*

COST AND NUMBER OF BIBLES.

One hundred years ago the cheapest English Bible in this country cost not less than two dollars, and sixty years ago the price was little less, and the styles and sizes of the books were poorly fitted for general circulation. Now the Bible is the cheapest of books, and of every form that necessity, convenience and taste may demand. At the beginning of the century, the whole number of Bibles in the world was not much more than four millions; and this included the book in all lands and languages since the invention of the art of printing. Now there are more copies of it in the English language than in all other human tongues together. Bible Societies alone have published over one hundred and forty-one millions of volumes since 1804.—*Dr. Taylor.*

DO YOU HEAR THAT!

A New Orleans paper tells us of a printer who, when his fellow-workmen went out to drink beer, put in the bank the exact amount he would have spent if he had gone with them to drink. He did this for five years. He then looked up his bank account, and found that he had laid up five hundred and twenty-one dollars and eighty-six cents. Think about the afflicted. In five years he had not lost a day because of sickness. Three out of five of his fellow-workmen had in the meantime become drunkards. The water drinker then bought out the printing office, and in twenty years from the time he began to put up his money, he laid aside a good many thousand dollars. The story teaches a lesson which every little boy should lay to heart.—*Youth's Companion.*

AN ELOQUENT EXTRACT.

Generation after generation have felt as we now feel, and their lives were as active as our own. They passed away like vapor while nature wore the same aspect of beauty as when she first existed. The heavens shall be as bright over our graves as they are around our paths. The world will have the same attractions for the offspring yet unborn as it once had for our children. Yet a little while and all this will have happened. The throbbing heart will be stilled, and we shall be at rest. Our funeral will wend its way, and the prayers will be said and we shall be left in the darkness and silence of the tomb. And it may be but a short time that we shall be spoken of, but things of life shall creep on and our names will be forgotten. Days will continue to move on, and laughter and song will be heard in the room where we died; and the eye that mourned for us will be dry and animated with joy, and even our children will cease to think of us, and will remember to list our names no more.

Self government is good, if those who exercise it know how to practice it. It is supreme folly to expect any number of persons to govern each other if they have never learned to govern themselves. Putting a man in a state-house, to make laws, before he has been placed in a school-house to learn how to study, and before he knows the science of government, is as much foolishness, as it would be to permit a man to navigate a vessel, who knows nothing about navigation. The right of universal suffrage is based on the duty of universal education.

Dishonest and uneducated persons should never be permitted to make our laws.—*Teachers' Monthly.*

—Man's love to God is like the changing sand; His is like the solid rock. Man's love is like the passing meteor with its fitful gleam; His is like the fixed stars, shining far above, clear and serene, from age to age, in their own changeless firmament.—*Rev. J. McDuff.*