

# THE HOME CIRCLE COLUMN

Pleasant Evening Reveries.—A Column Dedicated to Tired Mothers as They Join the Home Circle at Evening Tide

## CRUDE THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITORIAL PEN

### WHEN THE BOY LEAVES HOME.

When the boy was born into the home there was joy in all the chambers of the household, says the editor of the Texas Christian Advocate. In infancy he was watched with care, and the unfolding of his powers, physical, mental and spiritual, was watched with greatest interest and concern. When he reached the point at which he began to take notice of the boys in the neighborhood, his associations were guarded with more than ordinary care and watchfulness. The time came when he started to the near-by school, and this was no ordinary event in his progress. He was kept in the way of learning until he finished his training in the village or city school and then was sent to larger opportunities away from home. This was a sore trial to their parental hearts, but his absence was to be but temporary and for his good in preparing him for life's greatest work. At prayers around the home alter his name was always mentioned, and a special petition was offered for his preservation and protection: And when he had finished in his wider sphere, and returned home a well developed young man, strong and vigorous and cultivated, he was the pride of the whole circle.

But there came a time when the business of life called him away not temporarily, but permanently. The called him to enter one of its avenues where he was to try his hand in the carving out of his destiny. He was no the boy of the home circle, but a man, entering the stern duties of life. It was a trial to see him go, and tell him goodbye, and to feel that he was no longer dependent upon you; but life required it, and so he went. Yet in the home heart he is still a boy. A hundred little incidents come up out of his by-gone boyhood life to remind you of him, and you almost forget that he is gone. But when the time for the family meal comes round and the circle gathers at the table for the morning prayer, he is not there! And he will not be there permanently any more. He is out in the wide world. Still his name is mentioned regularly before the prayer ends. The parental hearts hold him in a strong grip, and the good Father above is asked to keep and guard him safely. Parental love! What is it that it will not do for the boy who is away? Until death closes the old eyes and seals the old lips, he is their boy still! When the time for the mail arrives, how they look for a few lines from his pen to tell of his well fare and success! And when in the busy rounds of his life, he drops everything to pay them a hurried visit, it is heaven in the old home when his footfall is heard on the door-way.

Boys, away from home, do not forget the old hearts at home. They follow you with unspeakable tenderness and think of you in the night watches. Make it a point every week to sit down and write them a message of filial love. Tell them of your health, your employment, your associations, and how the world serves you. Every little incident in your experience will deeply interest and cheer them. They can not help loving you; hence you ought never to neglect them. Maybe you will reach a period when you do not need them, but they will always need your thoughtfulness of them. Some of these days, a telegram or a letter will bear the intelligence that they have passed out and up, and them any more. But while they are here, though they may be old, prosy and childish, still a thoughtful word from you, written to them, will make their hearts glad for a whole week. While they are here, do them a kindly turn, and often write and tell them that you think of and love them tenderly. No sort of misfortune that can overtake you will ever affect their abiding affection for you; so be faithful to them as long as their old heads are above the sod. Take time to

think of father and mother, though life's burdens may press hard upon you, and demand all your time. Where is the father and mother who has not a boy away from home? And where are the boys far out in life's journey who have not a father or a mother, or both, at the old place, thinking about them? This editorial is written for such father and mother, and for such absent boys.

—The trade territory of a town is not all dependent upon the distance to neighboring trading points. The trade territory depends upon the enterprise of the merchants and the residents of the town. If a town does not reach after the trade it will grow as it is forced to. But if the merchants go after business in the surrounding country, advertising in every possible way, and making good every word of their advertising, trade will come from an ever-increasing radius, the town will gain a reputation for being awake and it will forge to the front. It is the men in the town and not altogether the men living within a certain number of miles from it that makes the town.

### BUYING WIDOWS.

Matrimonial Trafficking in the Days of Chivalry.

"Of all the matrimonial trafficking in the age of chivalry the ways of widows," says a writer in an English magazine, "are at once the boldest and most comprehensive. As a rule their methods seldom resort to blandishments. It is remarkable when tenderness is an item in their bargain. Speed was their maxim. It was one that King John honored, for he profited by it. Yet one of the rarest exceptions in the way of delicacy to these commercial negotiations has evidently been prompted by a widow who had quite an exceptional lover. In 1206 William de Landa, either one of the most famous of the crusaders or his son, offers 50 marks and a palfrey for having to wife Joan, who was the wife of Thomas d'Aresay, if he may be pleasing to the said Joan." The sheriff is instructed to ascertain the widow's wishes, and if the said Joan shall be pleased to have him for a husband then the sheriff shall cause William to have seizin of Joan and her land, both of which he obtained in the name of gentle love and the faith of a true soldier. It is fitting that the name of one of the men who led the assault of Acre should be preserved in such a record as the above. He was in truth a very perfect knight.

"One of the most rampaging of the northern English borderers manifested the like delicacy. Young Walter de Umfraville, son of Gilbert, had left a widow, Emma, presumably in the very blush of her charms. Peter de Vaux had fallen at her feet, but he declined to obtain her in border fashion, and this fact is the earnest pledge of the chivalry of his love. If he would not steal her he was bound to buy her, and coin with the De Vaux was always a scarcity. So he offered the king 5 palfreys for her if she wished it, and with what would read as a graceful acknowledgment of the borderer's pure chivalry John absolutely drops the commercial from his reply and simply orders Robert Fitz Roger, the sheriff, 'to permit it to be done.'"

### The Mosaic Law and Marriage.

More than two centuries ago a tailor living in Carrie was admonished by the kirk to stop courting his first wife's half brother's daughter. Instead of yielding obedience he fled to England with the woman, and there married her, according to the Dundee Advertiser. A jury unanimously found him guilty, and the court ordered him to be beheaded. The reporter suggests that on the death of a wife his sister is no longer within the degree forbidden by the Mosaic law, nor is his brother's wife on the death of that brother. In fact, to marry a brother's widow was an express injunction of that law, and if the surviving brother declined the match the widow was entitled by that stagnant and dignified system of jurisprudence to

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