

# 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

MY NEIGHBOR AND I  
 "Oh, I pity my neighbor over the way,  
 Who has nothing to do but yawn all day;  
 No little hands to tumble her hair,  
 No little "Nuisance" to vex her with care,  
 No little "torment" to worry and tease,  
 Nothing to do but consult her own ease.  
 Poor, rich, neighbor, I am sorry for you—  
 Sorry, because you have nothing to do;  
 Sorry, because as the days go by  
 You are restless and weary, you know not why;  
 And once in a while I can see the trace  
 Of many a tear on your proud, fair face  
 You see I am only a laborer's wife,  
 Doing my part in the treadmill of life;  
 Joe, my husband, is off all day,  
 Fighting the giants of want away;  
 Baby and I are busy too,  
 But we've plenty of time to be sorry for you.  
 Baby's a nuisance, a plague and a joy,  
 But then, you see, he's my own sweet boy;  
 I have no time for a groan or a sigh,  
 No time to be idle as the days go by;  
 My arms are full as the days are long,  
 Full as my heart with its happy song  
 Poor, rich neighbor, over the way,  
 Watching my baby and me at play;  
 What of your wealth if your heart is bare?  
 'Tis to love and be loved that makes life fair.  
 Oh, neighbor mine, I can tell you true,  
 Indeed, I'd rather be I than you."

Love is a wife's wages, don't skimp in your pay.  
 \* \* \*  
 Those who do not shut their eyes to their own short-comings are always charitable in judging of others.  
 \* \* \*

For a good, everyday household angel give us the woman who laughs. Her pastery may not always be just right, and she may occasionally burn her bread and forget to replace missing buttons, but for solid comfort all day and every day she is a very paragon. Home is not a battlefield nor life one long, unending fight. The trick of always seeing the bright side, or, if the matter has no bright side, of polishing up the dark one, is a very important faculty, one of the things no woman should be without. We are not all born with sunshine in our hearts, as the Irish prettily phrase it, but we can cultivate a cheerful sense of humor if we only try.  
 \* \* \*

Probably one-half of the rudeness of youths this day, that later in life will develop into brutality, is due to the failure of parents to enforce in the family circle the rule of courtesy. The son or daughter who is discourteous to members of the family, because of familiarity with them, is very likely to prove rude and overbearing to others, and very certain to be a tyrant in the household over which he or she may be called on to preside.  
 \* \* \*

There is a shady side to every house—we all know it; but if we have any regard for our health we will sit in the sun. There seems to be a sort of morbid fascination for a large class of very earnest people in hearing their teeth chatter from the shivering cold. Let us not refuse to go through the dark and dismal spots when duty calls, but let us beware of doting there all the time, and forgetting that there is a sun in the heavens and a healthy-inspiring

breeze from the ocean of God's love.  
 \* \* \*

THE MODEL HUSBAND.  
 One thing which a model husband will not allow himself to forget is, that in giving to his better half in wedlock, he established a claim on her part to a reasonable amount of his time. Another thing he will remember is, that the very first society instituted by the Almighty for the benefit of his creatures was the home circle, and his first duty as a husband is to brighten that sphere with his presence. The church even must not take precedence of the home. As to the possibility of a conflict in such cases between religious and home duties, we think that such a conflict is not likely to arise; for true religion, if it does anything at all for a married man, will be sure to make him a good husband and one of the first qualities of such a husband is certain to be that he will love his wife, and will like her society so well as to want to spend in it a reasonable amount of his time.

All will agree that the essential requisite in the model husband is forbearance. You thought your wife was an angel when you married her; but she is not. As Bishop Wiley says "men are not long in discovering that their idols, though seeming bright as the sun, like the sun have spots." They have their weaknesses and foibles; if they had not they would be different from their husbands. Some one has said that, in order to have happiness in the married state, two things are necessary. The husband must be deaf and the wife blind. We can scarcely subscribe to so extreme a view as this. The poet comes nearer the truth, and he does it in better form, when he says:

"The kindest and the happiest pair  
 Will have occasion to forbear,  
 And something, every day they live,  
 To pity and, perhaps, forgive."

Yes, husband and wife must be forbearing toward each other. As the old saying puts it, there must be in every family two bears—bear and forbear. Possibly your wife speaks a little tartly sometimes. When she does let the husband show his good sense by keeping silent; and let the wife do the same when the husband is a little out of sorts.

A capital example for all couples subject to fits of temper, though a still better course would be to get cured of the fits. Happily, too, the apostle suggests how this may be done. Here is the receipt: "Husbands love your wives' even as Christ also loved the church," or, as the same apostle says in another place, "Husbands, love your wives and be not bitter against them." His obvious teachings being that love is a sure preventive against bitterness; as it certainly must be; the law of kindness will hold sway over the tongue and the whole husbandly and wifely demeanor or be such as to fulfill the ideal of the same writer when he speaks of preferring one another in honor, and of forbearing one another in love.

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