



THE HOME CIRCLE

CONTENTMENT.

I would not chafe, O Lord, beneath Thy hand, Nor murmur at the limits of my life; I would not spend my time for gold or land, Nor waste my strength of mind in selfish strife.

She began her lifework in a little dingy, gloomy room of an abandoned cotton-gin in her old-home community, with ten little colored pupils.

By and by the white people of the community began to take a promising interest in the Mayesville School for Young Colored People; they set aside their race prejudice and examined the project fairly and with a friendly spirit that gave them to understand the great importance of the work.

Miss Wilson, finding it impossible to enlarge her work to meet with its increasing demands, took the only way to secure the necessary help by going North—and she had to pay all her traveling and boarding expenses in manual labor—and making her appeal to sympathetic and well-to-do northerners.

Boys are taught the best farming methods, and girls are instructed in all the household arts, as well as in the ordinary school studies, for from the very first Miss Wilson's aim has been to teach young colored people complete independence of the highest order.

How many ambitious, well-intentioned young girls who dream great dreams have the courage and perseverance to make their dreams come true through unflinching personal endeavors?—By Hjort Valdemir, in Young People.

RELIGION IN THE HOME.

The Presbytery of Chicago has just issued a pastoral letter deserving of more than denominational attention. Acknowledging themselves deeply sensible of all that is excellent and of good report in the church life of today, the members of the Presbytery agreed to observe a better character of religious discipline than now obtains among the families of the the inestimable value of the "quiet hour," when in solitude the soul may speak to God and itself hear the voice of God.

"We further admonish you to build anew the altars of family religion,

honored by our fathers and still worthy of honor by their children. We know the hurry and the rush of the morning hour in many a Christian household. We are not unmindful of the difficulties attendant upon the regular observance of "times and seasons" of family devotion.

The closing paragraphs urge parents to maintain the good old custom of a "blessing" at the table, and to see that only such diversions be permitted on Sunday as "will strengthen and cement the home ties in whose perpetuity lies the safety of church and state."

It is customary to plead the "rush" of our modern life as an excuse for the absence of religious exercises in the home. The "rush" is almost altogether of our own making, and is easily obviated by a definite decision on our part that some things are more important than the things which seem to compel the "rush."

TINY'S ALARM CLOCK.

Tiny looked up from her slate as her big brother Kent came in one day with an odd-shaped paper bundle in his hands. Tiny ran to meet him.

"Oh, Kent, what is it?" she asked, curiously. "Anything for me?" "No," said Kent. "Such a wide-awake puss as you are doesn't need aids to early rising," and he untied the strings and opened the package.

"Why, it's a clock!" said Tiny, disappointed. "We've got three clocks now, Kent. What made you bring another?" Kent began winding the little clock. "You just listen," he said.

"Whir-r-r! Rattle, rattle, rattle! Whir-r-r! What a way for a clock to strike!" "It's an alarm clock," explained Kent, smiling at Tiny's wonder. "We can set it so that the alarm will strike at any time of night and wake us. You know I have to leave home before daylight sometimes!"

"How very, very funny!" said Tiny with sparkling eyes. "Goes off all itself, without anyone touching it! Oh, how I wish I had one!"

"There's another funny thing about it," went on Kent. "If people don't mind the alarm when it strikes, but think they will sleep a little longer, they grow less liable to be waked by it, and soon it doesn't make any impression at all."

Tiny considered. "I wish I could have one all my own," she said again. "It must be such fun to hear it go off."

"You have one," said Kent, gravely. "I? An alarm clock?" Kent nodded. "Where?"

"Right in there," said Kent, with his hand over Tiny's heart. "Well, I don't believe it ever went off," laughed Tiny.

"Yes, I'm sure it has. Wait till you feel like doing something wrong. That little clock will say, 'Whir! Tiny, don't.' You see if it doesn't."

Tiny laughed and went back to her examples. Soon a call came from the kitchen: "Tiny, dear, I want you."

Tiny's mouth began to pout, but she suddenly called out, cheerily: "Yes, mamma," and danced out of the room, looking back to say: "It went off then, Kent, good and loud."

Kent nodded and smiled. "I thought it would," he said. And all of you little folks with alarm clocks must be sure to answer the first call, or they will ring and ring in vain, and turn you out good-for-nothing men and women.—Selected.

Fussy folks strain at little things; and so, too, does the careful dairyman.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE SMALL BOY WHO SMOKES.

In the December Woman's Home Companion there is an excellent article on "The Professional Parent." The "professional parent" is one who on all occasions in the presence of children, his own included, always looks solemn and dignified. The author says that this role of omniscience and omnipotence can deceive only very small children. As an illustration of a better way to handle boys, the following case is reported,—a case where the parents, according to the author, dealt wisely with a fourteen-year-old boy who had taken up smoking:

"The question of smoking came up early in our family. Lawrence has always been greatly attracted by what he considers manly accomplishments. If he had been brought up in a Puritan atmosphere, he would have sown an abundant crop of wild oats—so great to him is the glamour of the forbidden thing. If it savors of fashion or of luxury, it becomes almost irresistible.

"He was only fourteen when we noticed a suggestion of cigarette smoke about him.

"Have you been smoking, my boy?" his father asked in a tone unsuggestive of rebuke. Lawrence admitted that he had. "I should be sorry if it stopped your growth or injured your heart, so that you could not go in for athletics at college," his father went on in a casual tone. "I would rather you did not, if you do not care very much about it. I will give each of you boys a hundred dollars if you will not smoke until you are twenty-one. Think it over for a few days. If you decide that you prefer to smoke, and if, after you have had a talk with the doctor, you are not afraid of what it may do to you, your mother will find a place for you to smoke."

"A few words from our doctor, treating the matter from a scientific point of view, helped Lawrence to decide that he would take the hundred dollars. The other boys decided as he did; this ended it."

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