

Devoted to Religion, Morality, Temperance, Literature, News, and the support of the principles of the Christian Cause. PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

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Advertisements not inconsistent with the character of the paper, will be inserted at the following rates: One square of ten lines, first insertion...

SELECTIONS.

The Night-Bell of Prayer.

"Pull the night-bell." This is the inscription we often see written on the door, post of the shop in which medicines are sold. Some of us have had our experiences with night bells, when sudden illness has overtaken some member of our households, or when the sick have rapidly grown worse.

Seasons of trouble and distress are often spoken of in God's Word, under the simile of night. The word vividly pictures those times when the skies are darkened, and the lights that gladden the soul have gone out, and it is not easy to find one's way.

If prosperity be likened to the noonday, day, the seasons of perplexity or distress may be likened to the "night."

Perhaps some of the readers of this paragraph may be in a gloomy night-season of poverty or bereavement, or of spiritual doubt and depression. Each heart knoweth its own bitterness. Friend! arise, and pull the night bell of prayer!

There are different kinds of prayer.—There is the calm communion of the soul with God. There is the affectionate converse of the believer with Him, in which faith feeds on the promises, and recounts its mercies and finds in meditation to be sweet.

Influence of Christian Character.—Even in the basest town and amid the most absorbing pursuits, the hearts of men turn with an instinctive homage to those who have brought down and illustrated in their lives the purest precepts of our faith.

The life of a true woman reveals to us sources of influence which the world can never give. She may be endowed with a charm of personal loveliness, which adds to the attractiveness of her virtues; she may have advantages of wealth and position which give her an opportunity that all cannot have to show her disinterested regard for others.

Does the prayer of faith really move God? To this we can only reply that God himself tells us that it does actually produce that state of things in which it is right, and in accordance with his will, to bestow the asked blessing.

On his bed of anguish, Herodias rang this night bell, and God heard it, and spared his life. In the dungeon at Jerusalem, Peter cried unto the Lord, and a whole prayer meeting cried at the same time for his deliverance, and God sent his angel and brought the apostle out of prison.

Nothing brings such peace to the heart as a calm trustfulness in God's over-ruling care.

The Duty of Cheerfulness.

In one of his novels Thackeray says that, if a man could have bestowed upon him the most abundant wealth; honors, all that he could ask; health and friends the most attached and faithful, on condition that he should constantly undergo some small annoyance, such as a peevishness in his boots, he would make but a poor bargain.

And mourning for the dead which now is only a poetic license, an exaggeration of his melancholy moments. A healthy nature can enjoy poverty and remedy it, making the struggle for wealth a pleasure.

It is not the great sorrows that cause the most unhappiness, or which are most difficult to bear with a cheerful spirit. Job could bear the loss of his property and the death of his children with equanimity, but his patience broke down under a disease that was neither very dangerous nor very debilitating.

Temperament has a good deal to do with one's cheerfulness. On some persons trouble seems to fall like rain on a duck's back; they stand it, and only look the brighter for the shower, while with others the grasshopper is a burden long before they are weakened by age.

The diamond and man.—The diamond, though exceeding in value more than a hundred thousand times its mass of gold, the most cherished treasure of kings and the most brilliant ornament of their crowns, is of all precious stones the meanest in its elements, the weakest in its structure, and the most perishable in its nature.

I have seen great beehemoth-natured men led, not by little children alone, but by the memory of little children. I have seen many a man that was "sainted" and "welcomed" and "corried" and "spiritualized"; and the sermon that did it, and the sanctuary where it was done, were the sermon of sorrow, and the sanctuary of the heart.

Are the Lights Lit in Heaven, Mamma Dear?

"Are the lights lit in Heaven, Mamma dear?" How oft that voice I greet! So oft, so full of trusting love That bears my heart to heaven above.

Days have passed, months, months to years, since that sweet voice died on my ear. To the thoughtless and gay time may have passed as a short season full of levity and mirth; but to me it has been a century of tears. Away, oblivion; away with thy darkened shadows! Cast them not over my beams of light! Memory, sweet remembrance! Hinge nearest me, for by thy indulgent smile I revel again in the presence of my departed boys.

Does any one say he has not the time to devote to the work to which I am speaking? Allow me to bring before your notice an example, and so that I may not be wearisome, but that one, as a means of spurring you on to greater exertion—and I select this from amongst the profession to which I belong—for many of you will say that if in the legal profession such a person be found, there must be multitudes of the same class in those honest occupations which are so common in the world.

Let us, then, with our comparative leisure and few responsibilities, seek to rival the Chancellor of England in his good work. The one short life we have should be devoted to our Master's service, and a miserable tribute to him is it at best.

There is the pearly gate, Where the bright-winged angels wait— There, there'll I taste of Heaven's joys, And also meet my angel boys.

A FAMILY WITHOUT THE NEWSPAPER.—Nothing presents a sadder commentary upon the present unhealthy condition of our once loved and prosperous country than the large numbers of families, both in city and country, but more especially in the latter, that subscribe to no paper of any kind.

PRAYER is the voice of the heart crying in deep need, by Him who alone can help and save. It is the silent appeal of the heart, anxious, eager, or depressed, to Him in whose hands are the issues of life, who can support and relieve and inspire the soul in its helplessness and amid its many cares.

Not too Great to Teach in Sunday-School.

It has been said of some of our churches that, if they ever cease to exist, it is of dignity they will die. And is not the truth of this remark felt peculiarly in our Sunday schools? In this work, does not the teacher place himself above his master? What numbers there are in our churches who, from their ability, learning, and position, could commend the respect and attention of our scholars, yet stand coldly by without offering us the assistance we so badly need or smile superciliously when asked to join the lowly band of workers in this portion of the Lord's vineyard; and yet, if these members of our churches would only come forward and lend us their aid, what a revolution would it work in our schools!

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FARM AND GARDEN.

Domestic Dried Fruit.

The fruit crops last year were very large and prices ruled so low, that it was generally believed, there would be an immense amount dried and preserved in cans, and that prices for these goods would be so low that they would not pay for the labor and expense of preserving. This impression was so general that most producers and manufacturers dried and canned less than in former seasons, when fruit was comparatively scarce and prices high; the former thinking it unprofitable, and the latter believing they would be able to supply their wants with more profit to themselves by buying goods at a low price put up by other manufacturers.

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How to Judge Character by the Hair.

Coarse black hair and dark skin signify great power of character, along with purity and goodness. Stiff straight black hair and beard, indicate a strong, rigid, straight forward character.

Fine dark broken hair signifies the combination of exquisite sensibility with great force of character. Flat clinging, straight hair, a melancholy but extremely constant character.

Harsh, upright hair is the sign of a self-reliant and self-spirited, a stubborn and harsh character. Coarse red hair and whiskers indicate powerful animal passions, together with a corresponding strength of character.

Auburn hair, with florid countenance, denotes the highest order of sentiment and intensity of feeling, purity of character, with the highest capacity for enjoyment or suffering.

Straight, even, smooth and glossy hair denotes strength, harmony and evenness of character, hearty affections, a clear head and superior talents.

Crisp, curly hair, indicates a hasty, somewhat impetuous and rash character. White hair denotes a lymphatic and indolent constitution; and we may add that, besides these qualities there are chemical properties residing in the coloring matter of the hair tubes which undoubtedly have some effect on the disposition.

Deep PLOWING.—If farmers will turn their lands over one inch deeper than it was plowed the last time, and follow the turning plow, running from six to ten inches deep, making the whole depth broken by the two plows some twelve or eighteen inches, they will find that they can bury rain sufficient to make the corn crop ninety-nine out of one hundred years. They will find also that the wettest seasons will not affect their crops nor hinder them from working them; also, that crop grasses will not grow nor flourish half as well on deep as on shallow plowed lands, because grass flourishes better on packed than on loose soils. Soils improve faster from the same causes when plowed deep; and the labor to keep a crop clean of a grass, and to keep the earth loose in making a crop, is far less on deep than shallow plowed lands, for the same reasons.

How to Test the Richness of Milk.—Procure any long glass vessel—a cologne bottle or long phial. Take a narrow strip of paper, just the length from the neck to the bottom of the phial, and mark it off with one hundred lines at equal distances; or if more convenient, and to obtain greater exactness, into fifty lines, and count each as two—and paste it upon the phial, so as to divide its length into a hundred equal parts. Fill it to the highest mark, with milk fresh from the cow, and allow it to stand in a perpendicular position twenty-four hours. The number of spaces occupied by the cream will give you its exact percentage in the milk, without any guess work.—Miss Agriculturalist.

SMALL FARMS.—Be content with a small place entirely paid for, if you have not the money to buy a large farm. Do not allow that eager and avaricious spirit to own "all the land that joins yours" to ruin you.—One of the curses of our agricultural districts is the size of our farms. Forty acres, paid for and thoroughly tilled is better, and far more remunerative than four hundred under a heavy mortgage, and only half cultivated. Where one man may succeed by treading in assuming large responsibilities, hundreds fail; and experience and observation will show that the successful managers of large tracts of land have usually begun by small purchases for cash, and by gradual additions as they acquired wealth by industry and economy.—Farmer and Agriculturalist.

To Revive Old Trees.—Dr. George B. Wood, at a meeting of the Philosophical Society at Philadelphia, stated that some experiments made by him had shown that non-bearing peach and other fruit trees may be revived by the application of ashes to the roots. He thinks that potash is the wanting ingredient, and is thus supplied.

Mr. Thomas Kingsford, in 1842, invented and first produced starch from Indian corn.

Be kind to every one.