

DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF RELIGION AND MORALITY. GENERAL AND LOCAL NEWS, AND TO THE ADVOCACY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

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ADVERTISEMENTS. ADVERTISEMENTS not inconsistent with the character of the paper, will be inserted at the following rates.

Management of Laying Fowls in Small Runs.

SELECTIONS.

Are You Ready?

"What do you mean by this question?" There is a great event before you—its arrival is certain; but it is utterly beyond your power to ascertain at what hour it will arrive.

"Who asks this question?" Your Maker. He does it in his Word. One of the grand objects of that blessed volume is to enable you to give it an affirmative answer.

"Why ask this question?" Because none can be conceived of so much importance. Because, disturbing man's sinful mind as it does, they are not disposed to press it honestly and earnestly upon themselves.

"But I am in health, in the fulness of my strength, why press this matter so earnestly upon me?" You are just the person to be addressed.

Once more, the question, Are you ready? though asked now in terms of affectionate earnestness, will not be asked by that unrelenting destroyer, Death.

ONLY JESUS.—I love to feel the Sabbath coming, but cannot bear to awake and find it gone.

Any person desiring to purchase a comfortable house in Suffolk, for a small family, would do well to read the advertisement of E. C. Wells, in this week's issue of the Sun.

Take Heed to Thyself.

"Take heed to thyself, and to the doctrine, continue in them, for in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

I am not going to preach to preachers, but to suggest certain conditions upon which the salvation promised in this text may be secured by them.

1st. See that you are constrained by love to preach the gospel, as Christ was to provide a gospel.

2d. See that you have the special inducement of power from on high, by the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

3d. See that you have a heart, and not merely a head-cold, to undertake the preaching of the gospel.

4th. Constantly maintain a close walk with God.

5th. Make the Bible your book of books. Study it much, upon your knees, waiting for divine light.

6th. Beware of learning on commentaries. Consult them when convenient; but judge for yourself, in the light of the Holy Ghost.

At the Hour of Death.

A family in the village where the writer lives recently lost two daughters. The elder, named Clara, died in the winter, or early spring; the younger, named Anna, died in the summer.

Anna was spending her last moments in talking about her teachers and companions, when suddenly, looking upward with an expression of joy and surprise, she exclaimed, "Clara! Clara! Clara!"

The girl was a mere child, and the circumstance, which was related to me by one of her teachers, left a pleasant impression on my mind.

Neither of these children knew anything of what is called spiritualism, and neither understood that the hour of death had come.

It is easy to raise these questions; it is impossible to answer them. But, aside from any discussion of the truth or fallacy of such appearances, the data themselves are interesting; and I have collected from various authors a number of them, which the reader may interpret according to his faith or scepticism.

The protomartyr Stephen beheld God's glory and died, and in all ages have there been those who have supposed that they saw celestial visions at the parting hour.

Looks, as well as words, often express triumph in death. Some one says of the Countess of Seafield, after quoting her last prayer, and seemed to all present to be yielding up her breath.

The dying expressions of the face of Jean Paul Richter are described by his biographer as having been exceedingly lovely.

Elements of Success in Sabbath Schools.

At the inauguration of the Sunday school Institute of St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church, in Cincinnati, October 31st, 1871, Rev. James E. Gilbert delivered an address on the "Elements of Success in Sunday Schools," of which the following, published in the Cincinnati Gazette, is an abstract.

The all-absorbing question of the times among Sunday-school teachers is not, "Is the Sabbath-school a valuable agency?" That question was answered affirmatively many years since.

1. The financial element. Like every other human institution, the Sunday-school needs money. As in every other enterprise, failure and success depend largely upon money.

2. The social element. A school is an assembly of children and adults under such circumstances as demand sympathy and sociability, so that all will feel at home.

3. The literary element. This institution is a school, not a mere assembly. It is a place for instruction. To instruct, one must possess knowledge of God's word, child nature, and the art of teaching.

4. The religious element. This institution is not merely a school, but a Sunday-school; not a place for instruction, but an evangelizing and Christianizing means.

These four elements, properly combined, will bring success to our Sunday-schools everywhere.

Dr. Eadie, one of the best biblical scholars of the age, says that from a collection of all the passages in Scripture that refer to dancing it may be inferred:

Finding Fault.

How much easier to find fault than to remedy the same. How much easier to find fault with others than with ourselves.

Some men think that it displays wisdom and acute smartness to tell others of their faults, when if there had been so much lack in piety as to have permitted retaliation, faults more flaming than some folks would admire would appear.

Who is it when they have done their best, with the best of motives, that can enjoy a boiling hot bath once a month or oftener? Who that with motive pure as the heart can claim, want to have those motives impugned?

Let a person think you mean to insult him or show your superiority over him, and you drive the good feelings he might possess for you away, and all you say falls to the ground disregarded, and well it might.

It is much sweeter and heavenly for us to help each other, to uphold each other, to encourage each other, to love each other, to cheer each other, and not seek occasion to give vent to personal or general dislike.

Rules for Promoting Brotherly Love.

1. To remember that we are subject to failings and infirmities of one kind or other.

2. To bear with and not magnify each other's infirmities.

3. To pray for one another in our social meetings, and particularly in private.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Thinking vs. Working Farmers.

It is a mistaken idea many people have that farming is a branch of business that requires but little forethought; think if a man has a well developed body, so that he can plow, sow, reap, mow, and do many different kinds of work without much fatigue, such a person will answer for a farmer.

The above described person has always raised wheat, instead of the other kinds of grain, and does not know which is the most profitable—corn, oats, flax, peas, rye, or buckwheat.

The thinking farmer has his plans all matured for the year; has his rails split, or boards drawn for a new fence, or where it wants repairing; sends his teams after plaster if it must be hauled far, so as to be ready to sow it early; hauls out manure to a distant field on his farm, piling it in one or two large piles where he intends to put corn, or having it well rotted to be spread on his wheat ground; finally drawing one kind of manure and then another, making a flatish pile at first, for by so doing it will get thoroughly mixed.

The thinking farmer has his lambs come early, so as to sell for high figures; feeds his hogs a little corn with the milk from the dairy during the summer, having them ready to slaughter when most of other people just begin to think about fattening their pork.

If a man has several sons, all bright and active but one, that one must be made a farmer if the others are not, as the father thinks that by giving them all equal starts in life, the one selected as a farmer will manage to make a living, perhaps, and a pretty poor one at that, if a mortgage is not foreclosed on his farm in a few years; then he will condemn farmers and farming.

The farming community have too many such farmers that engage in the business, and do not know what they are making, as they "go it on the blind," allowing me to use the expression. What would a farmer think of a banker, merchant, or dealer of any kind, who could not tell him what his expenses were, and how much he had made the past year? He would say at once that he was not fit for his business.

MANURE.—On off days, when the hands and teams cannot be otherwise employed, they may be profitably engaged in cleaning up the stables, stock lots, hog pens, fence corners, ash-hoppers, etc., gathering the proceeds in a well-sheltered manure pit, and hauling to mix with them, all the leaves and other "trash" which can be converted into manure.

FANSIES.—Dig only those needed for market or for winter use. These are the cheapest roots to keep for spring feeding, though the market price is usually high, that few can afford to use them for that purpose.

FENCES.—From this time until the new year, every opportunity should be taken to build fences where they are needed, and repair them where they are defective.

Management of Laying Fowls in Small Runs.

I am constantly hearing complaints respecting the almost total want of eggs and scarcity of chickens from fowls which the owners inform me are tended with every care, and fed in the best possible manner—the account concluding perhaps with such a statement as that "the fowls have a beautiful sunny run, upwards of twenty-five feet long and seven wide."

Look at a pen of fowls mowed up in a wire enclosure. There they stand, moping, dull, and inactive, knowing full well that it is of no use scratching in the hard soil, fowls with their own droppings, which contaminates every morsel of food given to them, and in which a worm has not been seen for months.

On the other hand, observe a set of fowls at liberty. No matter how well fed they may be, they refuse to live exclusively on the corn and grain given by their owner, and pass their time hour after hour, scratching for worms and insects, which constitute by far their most natural food.

If persons want a succession of eggs in a run of limited extent, I know of but one mode by which it can be effected with certainty, and that is by continually getting rid of the old hens, and supplying their place with fresh healthy young pullets.

If the run were sufficiently large to allow it to be divided, and each part alternately dug up and planted with rape and grass seeds, it would be very advantageous; and under all circumstances, the greatest cleanliness in the house and run, and an avoidance of overcrowding, would be found essential to success.

SALTING BUTTER.—The proper salting of butter requires great care. The salt should be thoroughly incorporated into the mass, so as to reach any remaining particles of either case in moisture.

EARLY TOMATOES.—A correspondent of an exchange suggests that tomato plants should be started in the autumn and wintered in six inch pots, in an atmosphere of 40 or 50 degrees, with just water enough given to keep them alive.

FAVOR GROWERS and horticulturists have learned that toads are great helpers in keeping down bugs and insects that infest gardens and orchards.

CLEANING KID GLOVES.—Compound three ounces of good hard soap, united in one ounce of warm water; one ounce of hypo-sulphate of soda, and one drachm of liquid ammonia, and apply to the stretched glove with a piece of flannel.