

THE HOME CIRCLE.

A Column Devoted to tired mothers as they join the Home Circle at Evening tide.

THE BUSY MAN.

If you want to get a favor done by some obliging friend, And want a promise, safe and sure, On which you may depend, Don't go to him who always has Much leisure time to plan, But if you want your favor done, Just ask the busy man.

The man with leisure never has A moment he can spare. He's always "putting off" until His friends are in despair. But he whose every waking hour Is crowded full of work, Forgets the art of wasting time— He cannot stop to shirk.

So if you want a favor done, And want it right away, Go to the man who constantly Works thirty hours a day. He'll find a moment, sure, somewhere That has no other use, And fix you while the idle man Is framing an excuse.

BEAUTY is a dangerous gift. It is even so. Like wealth it has ruined its thousands. Thousands of the most beautiful women are destitute of common sense and humanity. No gift from heaven is so general and so widely abused by women as the gift of beauty. In about nine cases in ten it makes her silly, senseless, thoughtless, giddy, vain, proud, frivolous, selfish, low and mean. We think we have seen more girls spoiled by beauty than by any other one thing. "She is beautiful and she knows it" is as much as to say she is spoiled. A beautiful girl is very likely to believe she was made to be looked at; and so she sets herself up for a show at every window, in every door, on every corner of the street, in every company at which opportunity offers for an exhibition of herself. And believing and acting thus she soon becomes good for nothing else and when she comes middle-aged woman she is that weakest most sickening of human things—a faded beauty.

TRUE LIVING.

It seems to be difficult in this world for men and women to keep a middle course. For one it is all saving and working, for another all spending and shirking. And neither is happy. Idleness has as many miseries as overwork. It is only those lives in which labor and leisure are united that truly are happy. The middle course is the right course. We must have some purpose in living and work enough to be self-respecting. No idle person is self-respecting, and without self-respect we cannot be happy. We must have time to rest and cultivate the mind and the heart. Too much work stupefies the intellect and deadens the affections. A woman who is "tired to death" cannot be bright and cannot appear affectionate, however tender hearted she may be naturally. It takes a great deal of intelligence, character and good sense for a woman who does her own work and cares for her own children, not to overwork. The demands upon her time and strength are manifold. There are a thousand things to be done in the house.

Surely life was made for something more than this, or else it is not worth the living. God has endowed man with several natures,—a physical, a mental, a moral. Man cannot live by bread alone. He must have food for the mind and food for his heart. It is as great a sin to starve the soul as to starve the body. A mental or moral suicide does not seem so dreadful as physical self-destruction, because it is less palpable, less sudden, less apparent in its results; but it would seem more terrible if we had the power to see the effect consummated. A dead mind, a dead heart, a dead soul, that drags itself about in a living body, is a terrible spectacle. Whether the result of active immorality, or of passive submission to over work and neglect of the higher nature, its result is the same. We must not fling away and squander the best of life. We must work, but we must not dudge. We must remember that God breathed into us the breath of life, that we are living spirits, and that God and man hold us to account for the fruits of the spirit, as well as for the work of the body. When we have labored until we are weary it is right to stop and rest; it is right to have the spirit and character to refuse to be reduced to the level of dumb driven cattle. It is right to stop and think, to distinguish what absolutely must be done, to realize that each day should have its pleasures and recreations, and to take the time for them.

HOME AMUSEMENTS.

The question of home amusements is one of more serious import than is presented upon the surface. There are amusements and amusements and parents should select for their children their amusements, just as carefully as they select their food, clothing or studies; for as the child's amusements are, so will the child herself be. Children are more easily led than is at first sight imagined and a judicious parent can create an interest in some pursuit that would have been utterly distasteful. There is so much to learn and so much that is interesting and amusing in the process of learning, that it seems a pity not to cultivate in children an interest in solid amusements. Indeed, so closely are the subjects of home training and home amusements connected, that it seems almost useless to try to separate them. When it is possible, amusement, usefulness and instruction should be combined. Lest we should be accused of disapproval of a "good time," let us give one or two illustrations. Your little boy, we will say, for example, rejoices in a pair of "snub-nosed scissors" and loves to sit on the floor and surround himself with clippings of paper, until he is almost buried in them. Excellent! There could not be a better amusement provided for him. It is clean and safe and if he has been judiciously set upon a large cloth or druggist before he began, you have the delightful consciousness that, no matter what amount of clippings he has made, the moment he is done you have but to gather up the cloth by its four corners, empty the clippings into the fire or some receptacle for the purpose and lo! the room is as undisturbed in its order as before he began. Well and good! The boy is amused for two or three hours, perhaps and peace reigns. But why not say to him, "See, little Paul! Do you see these straight black lines all up and down the newspaper? Now see how many straight strips mama's little man can cut for her. We will lay them aside and show papa when he comes home, that Paul cut those strips himself nice and straight." Or, in the same way, teach him to fold his paper in four, telling him that, when he has learned to do them nicely, you will give him some different paper and he can make some for you to lay away, to be used some time in covering your preserves. The boy's ambition is fired and a desire to excel is created; at the same time his eye and hand are being unconsciously cultivated and the day when one of his "very own" papers graces the top of one of your preserve jars, finds him a proud, happy little mortal. He has been of use—he has been a producer—and he can see the result of his work. And the simple cutting of a few papers has, perhaps, been to him one of the most useful lessons of his life.

Again, your little girl wants to knit, certainly, let her knit, but give her some object in learning. Let her imagine she is making something, if it be only a garter, with the hope that, some day in the near future, she may be able to successfully construct a hood for dolly. To simply knit, knit, knit a long string, without any prospect of immediate result, is so very purposeless that the brain of a child soon wearies, and the effort to learn is abandoned and the child has imbibed one more lesson of instability.

A BATCH OF NEWS FROM TURNERS.

Snow and hail no rarity—Death of Mrs. Diana Biddy—the cause of Belton Jackson's broad smile

Snow and hail are no rarity with us just now, but we hope they will be soon.

We are sorry to report the death of Mrs. Diana Biddy, an elderly lady who lived near Cooper Gap. She died at the home of one of her daughters where she has been visiting and was buried at Cooper Gap church on Friday last. She was a faithful member of that church and will be greatly missed from church and community.

Mr. J. D. Ledbetter and family of Marion, N. C., are visiting relatives near Turner's.

Miss Bertha Ruppe, who has been attending school at the Central Industrial Institute, is at home for a few days, but expects to return soon. She reports lively times at Columbus.

We are glad to say that Mr. H. H. McCrain who has reported ill in a former letter is much improved.

You have surely noticed the broad smile that our mail carrier—Mr. Belton Jackson—wears for the last few days. That is because he is so well pleased with his new bride. He and Miss Mollie Jackson were happily married recently. May their lives be long and happy ones.

Rev. J. M. Walker did not fill his monthly appointment at Big Level Saturday and Sunday on account of bad weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Ledbetter spent a very pleasant day at Rev. Elbert Jackson's Thursday.

We are sorry to hear of little Ula Jackson getting her collar bone broken. Hope she will soon recover.

COLUMBUS NEWS.

The Severe Weather—Little Edgar Newman—People Coming and Going—Other Matters of Interest.

Little Edgar Newman, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Newman, is stopping with friends in Spartanburg, S. C., where he is being treated by a specialist for disease of the eye. He is home now for a few days visit but will return to Spartanburg Saturday.

Severe weather has visited here since the last issue of THE NEWS. Rain, snow and hail have fallen at intervals since last Friday, until now (Wednesday night) there is about six inches of snow and ice on the ground. The weather has not been cold but travel has been rough and slow. The telephone wires are encased in a quarter of an inch of ice; bicycles are hanging from the house tops, porches and trees, and everything has the appearance of a northern winter. Even the sun seemed anxious to avoid us as it only glanced in this direction two or three times Wednesday and then hid itself behind the snow clouds which stood over our little town. The boys took advantage of the good sleighing the forepart of the week and a glance at some of the side hills in town will bear witness to this fact.

Curtis Arledge, who has been attending Wake Forest college, came home Tuesday.

Robert McFarland is fixing up a small barber shop in his apartment over the post office.

J. T. Waldrop was in town Monday and Tuesday and he called at THE NEWS office and took advantage of our offer to send the Southern Agriculturist and THE NEWS both one year for one dollar. If you haven't already done so you had better follow his example.

Mrs. J. P. Arledge, who has been visiting her parents in Rutherford county, returned home Tuesday.

Guy and George Bowie, who had been attending school here, returned to their home in Pikes county, S. C., Tuesday.

Ex-Senator T. T. Ballenger, of Tryon, was here Monday.

Geo. A. Gash, of Tryon, had business with the county commissioners here Monday.

W. A. Cannon, of Lynn, was in town Monday but seemed afraid to show himself to anyone. At least, he acted that way for he just hustled in and out and didn't even stop long enough to say howdy to his friends.

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Be sure to inspect these goods before you buy or you will lose a bargain.

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