OFFICE OF EVENING NEWS.

Published every morning except Monday at 4 p. m. at the following prices, viz: Delivered, $10.00 per year, $5.00 per half year, $2.50 per quarter, $1.00 per month. Single copies one cent. Mailed, postpaid, at the rate of $6.00 per year.

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A FORELIGHT OF HEAVEN.

Seek to a Home in Which Love and Forbearance Reign Supreme.

I was talking one day with a lady about a friend whom we knew and loved, and she said, "If there is a heaven upon earth it is in his home!" It was a home from which selfishness had been expelled and love had come in to take its place.

Types imperfectly shadow the things they are intended to represent, but the stock of human happiness would be greatly increased if Christians would strive to make their homes some little of the better home hereafter, of which it is said there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth.

There is moral force in a home made beautiful by architecture and art, but there is uplifting power in a home that is made attractive by a pure and happy family life. A Christian father once said to a minister, "The moral influence of my son is their cheerful, pure, attractive home life."

The humblest home may be made the center of the highest happiness. In a recent article in a western paper the writer says: "Over a coffin the other day I heard a man say to the sleeper, 'In poverty and grief she never failed to have a kind and hopeful word for me!' Think a tribute as that opens up to us a glimpse of a home that had a touch of heaven in it.

We often say that it will be our highest happiness in heaven to be with Jesus. Why may we not have a foretaste of that happiness by having Jesus with us in our homes here? It is written of God's chosen people that when, all over the land, there was darkness that might be felt, "all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings." May not the heavenly father's children always have light in all their dwellings?

A short time ago I was present at the placing of a window in a chapel as a memorial to one who had wrought a good work among his fellow men. The window is rich in coloring and beautiful in design, having in it a striking and appropriate legend. The rays of the afternoon sun lighted it up radiantly, filling the room with brightness, even as the light that shone through his life had carried brightness into the hearts and homes of those whom he loved. How happy every home would be if the true light shone through the lives of all who make up the household.

We speak and sing of heaven as a home. A letter from a friend, giving an account of the serious illness of a good woman, contains this postscript, "Mother has just gone home!" What a happy reunion that will be when her loved ones go up to meet her in the Father's home. There is something beautiful in the Christian love that unites a family together, and God has made it emblematic of his love for his children. The tie will be enduring. The true household of faith will be the household of the saved. Those who have Christ with them in their homes here will have their homes with him hereafter. "He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."

I have just read a notice of the death of a good man, who, during a long life, had been loved in the community where he lived, and had filled many places of honor and trust, in which it was said of him: "He was a firm believer in religion in the home. He never allowed anything to interfere with family worship."

Who can fully estimate the influence of such a family life upon the children and servants and strangers within the gates?

Some of the richest blessings promised in the Word run in the family line. Multitudes of parents have rejoiced to see all their children brought into the kingdom in answer to their prayers. It may be that many who have died without the sight will be made glad at the great day by seeing their children gathered around the throne, an unbroken family circle, saved by God's blessing upon their faithful Christian home instruction and example.—Lex in New York Observer.

A Missionary Spirit.

A missionary spirit is inseparable from true Christianity. "What kind of Christians," says Dr. Maclaren, "must they be who think of Christ as a 'saviour for me' and take no care to set him forth as a 'saviour for you.' What should we think of men in a shipwreck who were content to get into the lifeboat and let everybody else drown? What should we think of people in a famine-haunted country who hoarded their private stores while women were boiling their children for a meal, and men fighting with dogs for garbage? What of those who withholds the bread of life and all the while claims to be a follower of the Christ who gave his flesh for the life of the world?"

Seven Ways of Giving.

First—The random way: To give something to every cause that is presented, without inquiring into its merits.

Second—The impulsive way: To give from impulse—as much and as often as love and pity and sensibility prompt.

Third—The lazy way: To make a special effort to earn money for benevolent objects by fairs, bazaars, etc.

Fourth—The self denying way: To save the cost of luxuries, and apply them to purposes of religion and charity. This may lead to asceticism and self righteousness.

Fifth—The systematic way: To lay aside as an offering to God a definite portion of our gains—one-tenth, one-fifth, one-half, or one-half. This is adapted to all, whether rich or poor, and gifts would be largely increased if it were generally practiced.

Sixth—The equal way: To give to God and the needy just as much as we spend on ourselves, balancing our personal expenditures by our gifts.

Seventh—The honest way: To limit our own expenditure to a certain sum, and give away all the rest of our income. This was John Wesley's way.—Dr. A. T. Pierson.

FELINE HAGGITY.

A Fifth Avenue Household Pet That Is as Tenderly Cared For as a Babe.

Boarding the top of a Fifth avenue stage going north the other day I witnessed an amusing as well as a novel sight. On top of this stage coach were seated several passengers, but what particularly interested them was a party of two handsome young misses, accompanied by a woman who appeared to be their governess and a pretty mulatto girl having on a nurse's cap and a white apron. In her lap, apparently sleeping peacefully, by a baby richly attired in a long white dress, trimmed with old point lace of a fine texture, and a cap, a marvel of milliner's work, consisting of a mass of white lace and ribbons.

For a time baby's face was invisible. The younger of the two girls seemed more deeply concerned than did the other in the welfare of the nurse's little charge, for she frequently leaned over, caressing and speaking to it in terms of affectionate baby talk, and constantly referring to the many virtues, playfulness and the intelligence of "dear little Kitty," which was evidently the little one's name.

"Kitty" had by this time begun to show signs of restlessness. The nurse, trying to quiet it, patted, fondled and spoke to it in an affectionate manner, with no apparent effect, for it suddenly humped its little back and startled the passengers by moving with all the musical qualities of a full fledged feline, and what was apparently a precious baby turned out to be a bona fide cat with a white head, a face no prettier than the general run of midnight disturbers of peaceful slumber. The lower portion of pussie's body was invisible, owing to its long garment.

No amount of baby talk would soothe poor ruffled "Kitty," and the nurse was rewarded for her endeavors to quiet it by receiving scratches from her unruly charge. The younger of the ladies then took charge of pussie, bestowing more caresses upon it than would fall to the lot of one-quarter of the babies of the town. "Kitty" seemed to take more kindly to the young miss, who held her so that she could see everything that passed.

She rested quietly until the stage reached the stables, and the party alighted, evidently well pleased with their outing. They soon drew the attention of the urchins who were playing about the stables. One boy in particular, a newsboy, seemed to have designs on little "Kitty," whose tail had become exposed, and which he frequently pulled, much to the annoyance of her catship.

The ladies became annoyed at the amount of attention they attracted, gathered their pets and disappeared up the street with the nurse and the much petted and dressed feline.

Verily the lot of this feline is one of felicity.—New York Herald.

Oregon's Mild Winters.

The climate of both Oregon and Washington is mild and equable. In western Oregon and Washington it is difficult to draw the lines that divide the seasons. Winter is usually a wet season, but there are often long periods of perfect weather in February and March. Flowers frequently bloom in the open air in January, and green fields of growing grass and grain may be seen all winter. Once or twice during the winter a few inches of snow falls, but it disappears rapidly.

At intervals of several years occurs a winter with ten days or two weeks of freezing weather and a considerable fall of snow. The summers are cool, and excessive heat is unknown. In eastern Oregon and Washington the climate is different. The dry season of summer is more protracted, the rainfall is less, and the heat is greater, though it is never excessive.

The winters are milder, but of short duration, the snowfall is light and seldom lies long in the valleys, and live stock ranges on the plains all winter, thriving on the natural grasses without other food, except when the snow is unusually deep or the cold period unusually protracted.—Senator Dolph in Forum.

Money Spent for Old Time Feasts.

In March, 1678, a whole ox cost 14s., but twelve teal and three ducks only 12s and 3d., while oysters were 2s. a quart. Westphalia hams were 5s. or 6s. each, geese 3s. and 6d. and turkeys 2s. and 2d. A brace of bucks cost £3 12s.; they were put into eight pasties at a further expense of £4. Green peas appeared in the bill of fare for the first time in 1603, and then at an October dinner. Some of the members of the company were allowed to take away the remains of these feasts, and there is an entry in one of the books that after an entertainment in July, 1720, Messrs. Trenlove and Foulks, who both subsequently filled the office of treasurer, carried off "four dozen quarts of wine, one whole venison pasty, one whole goose, one whole fowl, and several lemons and sugar."—Gentleman's Magazine.

An Electric Elevator.

An electrical novelty is a direct acting electric elevator. The motor is suspended beneath the car, and is equivalent to about three and a half horse power, while the movements of the cars are easily controlled by switches. The motor is connected with a system of gear wheels, and they grip the ropes on each side, and the car moves up and down only when the motor is in motion. Should any accident happen to the machinery the gear wheels are automatically locked and the car stops. In case of such an accident happening while the elevator is between the floors, the elevator boy may attach a crank to the gear that extends beside the car, and the car be wound up or down until a point is reached when the passengers may alight without difficulty.

A fast waiting horse on the farm will do a quarter more work than the slow gaited ones. Suffolk Punch farmers declare that the medium sized animal of this breed is the best farm horse, since it is the fastest walking work horse.

Why Railroad Employes Are Mum.

A railroad president said: "I feel kindly enough toward newspaper men to say that they exhibit a good deal of adjusted energy when they undertake to get any information out of the employes of a big railroad company. It may not be generally known that one of the strictest orders that the general managers issue is that of absolute secrecy. The reason why railroad men won't give any information to anybody is that they are quietly instructed by their chief when they take places in the employ of the road to preserve everywhere at all times the most cautious silence concerning things that happen accidentally or in the way of business.

"These orders are not the result of a discretionary feeling on the part of the employs. They are explicit, emphatic and very definite orders that in fact are the first which an employe receives. The reason for these orders is, that no matter how carefully an employe may tell a story, he is sure to state things a little out of the way, and, say the railroad folk, 'What the people don't know won't hurt them.'

"The same system of 'no information' prevails among the employes of steamship companies. Any man in the employ of a steamship or railroad company that gives out information of any sort, however apparently harmless, of the road's business, is discharged immediately on discovery, and no influence can accomplish his reinstatement. I myself have gone among employes of the road when they didn't suspect my identity and attempted to secure information, but I am glad to say I failed ignominiously."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Poisons of Tobacco.

As far back as 1869 the Indian grasses are said to have been known in New York state, Ontario county, with this difference: The Indian grasses of Ontario county in 1869 had black shoots where the breed in 1891 has yellow ones.

Sorghum seed, mingled with corn, is good feed for laying hens, by way of variety.

In Florida it is believed that the paspalum plicatumie, otherwise called carpet grass, Louisiana grass or dut grass, will in time root out the wire grass which is so objectionable in the pastures of that region. If the wire grass is pastured persistently by cattle that are turned in and made to graze down close, it will in three or four years be replaced by the nutritious paspalum. A Florida stock breeder writes that he has 5 and an acre of paspalum on good hammock soil to be nearly equal for grazing to an acre of blue grass.

Leg weakness in poultry is caused by forcing the growth and overfeeding. As the hens to get the birds ready for market they are filled full of soft, sloppy food, and it makes them soft and flabby. The large and heavy breeds are the ones most subject to this ailment.

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