

THE FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

BY MAGGIE C. HIGBEE.

Gents may sigh for their regallas,
Maids for dainty cups of tea;
But something in this pleasant world
Hath greater charms for me.
Tis not exchanging gossip
With your neighbors as they pass,
Glancing o'er the latest fashions,
Nor yet looking in the glass.

It is sitting, nice and easy,
In a cosy old arm-chair,
With the open casement high you,
Filled with fragrant summer air,
And the "weekly paper" lying,
With its choicest gems of thought,
Wholesome stories, poets' musings,
From the far-off city brought.

Dropt into your quiet window,
In the leafy country here,
Where the cricket low is chirping,
And no jarring sounds are near;
Food it gives so lightsome, cheering,
For your sometimes doubting mind,
And it brings with modest teachings,
Truths that you could never find.

And I know that you will join me,
When I wish there soon might be
One in every cottage window,
From Nebraska to the sea;
And that all their happy inmates,
On the prairie, in the glade,
Knew to read them and to love them,
And would see the printer paid.

AN UNEXPECTED GIFT.—A young man of eighteen or twenty, a student in a university, took a walk one day with a Professor, who was commonly called the student's friend, such was his kindness to the young men it was his office to instruct. While they were walking together, and the Professor was seeking to lead the conversation to grave subjects, they saw a pair of old shoes lying in their path, which they supposed to belong to a poor man who had nearly finished his day's task.

The young student turned to the Professor, saying, "Let us play the man a trick; we will hide his shoes, and conceal ourselves behind those bushes and watch his perplexity when he cannot find them." "My dear friend," answered the Professor, "we must never amuse ourselves at the expense of the poor. But you are rich, and you may give yourself a much greater pleasure by means of this poor man. Put a dollar into each shoe, and then we will hide ourselves."

The student did so, and then placed himself with the Professor behind the bushes close by, through which they could easily watch the laborer, and see whatever wonder or joy he might express. The poor man had soon finished his work, and came across the field to the path where he had left his coat and shoes. While he put on the coat, he slipped one foot into one of his shoes; but, feeling something hard, he stopped and found the dollar. Astonishment and wonder were seen upon his countenance. He gazed upon the dollar, turned it around, and looked again and again; then he looked around him on all sides, but could see no one.

He put the money into his pocket and proceeded to put on the other; but how great was his surprise when he found the other dollar! His feelings overcame him—he saw the money was a present—and he fell upon his knees, looked up to heaven, and uttered a loud and fervent thanksgiving, in which he spoke of his wife, sick and helpless, and his children without bread, whom this timely bounty from some unknown hand would save from perishing.

The young man stood there deeply affected, and tears filled his eyes. "Now," said the Professor, "are you not better pleased than if you had played your intended trick?" "O, dearest sir," answered the youth, "you have taught me a lesson now that I will never forget! I feel now the truth of the words, which I never before understood, 'It is better to give than to receive.'"
[Ex.]

Nicaragua.—This unfortunate Republic, which is now brought prominently before the world by the operations of filibusters, is one of the largest of the Central American States. On the west it is washed by the Pacific ocean, and partly on the east by the waters of the Caribbean sea, the Mosquito Territory forming a large share of its eastern boundary. Honduras borders it on the north and Costa Rica upon the south. Its area is about forty nine thousand square miles, and the population is estimated at two hundred and forty-seven thousand. The females are said to greatly exceed the males in number. Not more than twenty thousand of the people are whites, the rest being negroes, Indians, and mixed races. Most of the population live in towns, many of them going several miles daily to labor in the fields. The plantations are scattered pretty equally over the country, and are reached by paths so obscure as to almost escape the notice of travelers, who are thus liable to fall into the error of supposing that the country is almost uninhabited.

The dwellings of the people are usually of canes, thatched with palm, although the better classes construct their residences of adobe, and, by the help of fruit and shade trees planted in the courtyard, render many of them exceedingly pleasant. A range of mountains extends along the west coast of the State at a distance of a few miles from the sea, but attaining no great elevation until they approach the confines of Costa Rica, when they reach the height of from five to eleven thousand feet. In the central part of the State is an immense level tract, known as the plain of Nicaragua, comprising in its area the lake of that name.

Numerous volcanoes exist along the Pacific

coast. There are a considerable number of rivers, but none of them, except San Juan, are navigable in a commercial sense. Veins of copper and silver ore of exciting richness are found in many parts, but they remain, almost all of them, either unexplored or only superficially worked. Gold also is said to exist.

The climate is healthy, though variable. In the interior and mountainous parts, the temperature is more dry and cool than on the coast, where it is hot and approaching to humid. The greater portion of the State consists of plains and gentle slopes, formed of a rich black loam, of which but a small portion is made available. The productions are indigo, sugar coffee, cotton of superior quality, corn, rice, wheat, &c., besides oranges, lemons, and fruits of various kinds.
—[Boston Journal.]

ORIGIN OF THE HAPSBURG FAMILY.—The history of the imperial family of Austria is a striking illustration of how often the greatest event are the offspring of small accidental causes. A Count of Switzerland once met, whilst on a sporting excursion, a poor priest on his way to administer the sacrament to a dying parishioner. His progress is arrested by a brook, just at the moment when the Count with his retinue arrives. Respectfully he offers his own horse to the priest, humbly it is accepted, and the next day returned.

"God forbid," exclaims the Count to the messenger, "I should ride a horse again which carried my savior! I bestow it on the church and the priest." This poor priest becomes the chaplain and the confidant of the Prince Elector of Mentz, and his influence prevailed on the first spiritual Prince of Germany to propose the pious horse-lender to the assembled electors of his empire. As his military powers promised to be useful at a time when Germany was infested by numberless petty way-laying knights, and his want of power gave no reason for jealousy, he was accepted, and thus Rudolph, Count of Hapsburg, became the first though least powerful monarch of Christendom. Though a wealthy Count, he was a poor Prince. He had, however, a treasure in his daughters, which he disposed of in that prudent way, which enabled him, with the assistance of his princely sons-in-law, to deprive Otocar, the King of Bohemia, of Austria. This dukedom had been seized, after the decease of the last Duke of the house of Babensburg, by Otocar, and was in vain demanded by Rudolph. Otocar was twice defeated; and his death on the field of battle secured the family of Hapsburg in the first possession, the archdukedom of Austria.

His successors pursued the same prudent and marrying way, and acquired by these means the kingdom of Bohemia, Hungary, a number of smaller provinces, and, finally, the vast Spanish monarchy, till Charles V., the most powerful monarch of Europe, dared to aspire, three hundred years afterwards, to universal monarchy. Without a distinguished character, without even the love of those nations, and in spite of continual revolts, this family not only extracted itself from imminent dangers, but rose from its frequent downfalls more powerful than before.
—[Ex.]

FAMILY GOVERNMENT.—It is not to watch children with a suspicious eye; to frown at their merry outbursts of innocent hilarity; to suppress their joyous laughter, and to mold them into melancholy little models of octogenarian gravity.

And when they have been in fault, it is not to punish them simply on account of the personal injury that you may have chanced to suffer in consequence of their fault; while disobedience unattended by inconvenience to yourself passes without rebuke.

Nor is it to overwhelm the little culprit with a flood of angry words; to stun him with a deafening noise; to call him by hard names which do not express his misdeeds; to load him with epithets, which would be extravagant if applied to a fault of ten-fold enormity, or to declare with passionate vehemence that he is the worst child in the village, and destined to the gallows.

But it is to watch anxiously for the first risings of sin, and to repress them; to counteract the earliest workings of selfishness; to suppress the first beginnings of rebellion against rightful authority; to teach an implicit and unquestioning, and cheerful obedience to the will of the parent as the best preparation for a future allegiance to the requirements of the civil magistrate, and to the laws of the great Ruler and Father in Heaven.

It is to punish a fault because it is a fault; because it is sinful and contrary to the commands of God; without reference to whether it may not have been productive of immediate injury to the parent or to others.

It is to reprove with calmness and composure, and not with angry irritation; in a few words, fitly chosen, and not with a torrent of abuse; to punish as often as you threaten, and threaten only when you both intend, and can remember to perform; to say what you mean, and infallibly to do as you say.

It is to govern your family as in the sight of Him who gave you your authority; who will reward your strict fidelity with such blessings as he bestowed on Abraham, or punish your criminal neglect with such curses as he visited on Eli.
—[Religious Herald.]

THE INKSTAND.—A FABLE.—An antique china inkstand stood on a philosopher's table.

"I am very beautiful," said the inkstand, "and should be much more so if it was not for that black ink I am compelled to hold. I am sure there is nothing else in the room half so handsome or so much handled or admired as I am. It is the quantity of gold about me, I think, that gives such an imposing effect; but you, you dirty ink, see what a slop you've made on my face. I wish you were back in your bottle, or, better still, they would throw you out of the window!"

"To show how shallow you really are," said the ink, "what a hollow-hearted being you must be not to know that it is my influence that gives you what little importance you may possess. You

are a heavy mortal, with one idea, that can never do anything but stand still and be stared at; but, as for me, I am the life, the soul, the mind of your existence. You cannot throw life and power from out of you an hundred miles hence; but within me are wisdom, and science, and learning, and beauty, for every drop of me is full of all that can diffuse knowledge, and make it useful and delightful to the world. What would you be without me for a mind? while I could just as well have fulfilled my purpose in a cracked pot, or, had it been so ordained, some empty cocoa-nut shell."

"Love may be lord of all," said the philosopher, taking up the inkstand; "but vanity is indeed the archbishop that crowns him. The mere dull lump of clay, priding its outside on beauty and gold given to it by the designer, without the slightest effort on his own part—a beauty that any cat may unconsciously upset and destroy in a moment! And thou, ink, that art the mind of the thing, of what avail are all the poetry and wisdom now imbedded in thee, if it is not drawn out and worked upon by a superior power? The empty inkstand of itself would soon be put on a shelf and forgotten; and, ink, where are thy worth and usefulness while thou standest idle here, getting thick and stagnant with disuse, and retaining every impurity that presents itself?"
—[Godey's Lady's Book.]

PRIMEVAL FORESTS.—The appearance of the soil is frequently very deceitful. It is not uncommon to see a forest of magnificent trees growing in soil of apparently pure sand, which will even produce the underwood with which Ceylon forests are usually choked. In such an instance the appearance of the trees is unusually grand, as their whole length and dimensions are exposed to view, and their uniting crowns throw a sombre shade over the barren ground beneath.

It is not to be supposed that these mighty specimens of vegetation are supported by the poor sandy soil upon the surface; their tap roots strike down into some richer stratum, from which their nourishment is derived. These forests are not common in Ceylon; their rarity accordingly enhances their beauty.

The largest English oak would be a mere pigmy among the giants of these wilds, whose statue is so wonderful, that the eye never becomes tired of admiration. Often have I halted on my journey to ride around and admire the prodigious height and girth of these trees. Their beautiful proportions render them the more striking; there are no gnarled and knotted stems, such as we are accustomed to admire in the ancient oaks and beeches of England, but every trunk rises like a mast from the earth, perfectly free from branches for ninety or a hundred feet, straight as an arrow, each tree forming a dark pillar to support its share of the rich canopy above, which constitutes a roof perfectly impervious to the sun. It is difficult to guess the actual height of these forest trees; but I have frequently noticed that it is impossible to shoot a bird on the higher branches with No. 5 shot.
—[Baker's Eight Years' Wanderings in Ceylon.]

POVERTY A BLESSING.—Poverty is the nurse of manly energy and heaven-climbing thoughts, attended by love, and faith, and hope, around whose steps the mountain breezes blow, and from whose countenance all the virtues gather strength.

Look around you upon the distinguished men that in every department of life guide and control the times, and enquire what was their origin and what was their early fortune. Were they, as a general rule, rocked and dandled in the lap of wealth? No; such men emerged from the homes of decent competence or struggling poverty. Necessity sharpens their faculties; and privation and sacrifice brace their moral nature. They learn the great art of renunciation, and enjoy the happiness of having few wants; they know nothing of indifference or satiety. There is not an idle fibre in their frames; they put the vigor of a resolute purpose into every act. The edge of their mind is always kept sharp; in the school of life, men like these meet the softly-nurtured darlings of prosperity as iron meets the vessel of porcelain.
—[Godey's Lady's Book.]

A HINT TO THE LADIES.—Among all the accomplishments which our young ladies are expected to acquire, it is to be regretted that the art of conversation is not included. No grace of person or manners can compensate for a lack of this. In youth the conversation of our women is apt to be trifling and insipid, and in middle age is too often confined to complaints of health and the scandal of the day. Lively conversation, upon instructive and elevating topics, is but little practised, but whenever it is found, it gives a charm to the society of females which nothing else can. It triumphs over deformities and old age, and makes ugliness itself agreeable.

Curran, speaking of Madame de Staël, who was by no means handsome, but a splendid conversationalist, said that "she had the power of talking herself into a beauty." Ladies should think of this. Beauty lies in other things than fine features and cosmetics.
—[Ex.]

THE DUTIES OF A MOTHER.—She should be firm—gentle—kind—always ready to attend to her child.

She should teach him to obey a look—to respect those older than himself; she should never make a command without seeing that it is performed in the right manner.

Never reprove a child when excited, nor let your tone of voice be raised when correcting. Strive to inspire love, not dread—respect, not fear. Remember you are training and educating a soul for eternity.

Teach your children to wait upon themselves—to put away a thing when done with it. But do not forget that you were once a child. The griefs of little ones are too often neglected; they are great for them. Bear patiently with them, and never in any way rouse their anger if it can be avoided. Teach a child to be useful whenever opportunity may offer.
—[Ex.]

THE WAR.

THE CRIMEA.

Gortschakoff reports, Dec. 16, two bodies of Cossacks defeated a strong squadron of Gen. Vivian's Anglo-Turkish Cavalry near Kertsch. The English Commander and 47 men were taken prisoners. There is nothing else new from the Crimea.

A letter from Kamiesch of the 25th ult., in the Austrian Gazette, says:—According to the latest accounts from the Crimea, the Russian troops have been reinforced by a regiment of the Guard and by the Radezky regiment of Hussars, formerly stationed at Odessa.

It is therefore evident that no want of provisions is experienced by Prince Gortschakoff.

A letter from Odessa to the 21st ult., in the Austrian Gazette, says large bodies of troops are marching from the Crimea into Bessarabia. There is not, however, any intention of evacuating the former, as their places will be filled by other troops from the reserve and by the militia.

Gen. Gortschakoff will, it is said, be replaced in the Crimea by Count Osten-Sacken. The former will resume the command of the troops in the Danube.

The Allied gun-boats which remained at Kinburn have been frozen in, and all the efforts made to release them have been hitherto fruitless.

It is rumored, but not confirmed, that Pelissier is appointed Commander of the Allied Armies, and Admiral Lyons Commander of the Allied Fleets in the East.

The Muscovite Party are striving to supersede Gortschakoff by Mauryavoff in the Crimea, Menschikoff is appointed Military Governor of Cronstadt.

ASIA.

Omer Pacha has returned to Soukouin Kaleh, renounced his intention to attack Katak at present. The Russian General Susloff took possession of the defiles of Hassan Kaleh as soon as Selim Pacha retreated to Erzeroum. The greater part of the Russian army will winter at Kars.

Intelligence from Constantinople of the 24th ult., states that many persons had already quitted Erzeroum, fearing it would be attacked by the Russian army. These persons had sought refuge at Trebizonde.

The Invalides Russe publishes a proclamation of Inneria and Mingrelia to wage a war of extermination against the enemies of the Cross. It is this measure which is supposed to have induced Omar Pacha's retreat.

RUSSIA.

The Czar has ordered the commanders of Finland in the Baltic Provinces to report means of defence to the Grand Council of War in session at St. Petersburg.

Contracts are advertised for immense quantities of artillery and stores. New rifle regiments are being enrolled. Emancipation is offered as a bribe to serfs, while some of the restrictions imposed by Czar Nicholas on the nobles have been repealed.

The publication of the Austrian Concordat is prohibited in Russia, lest it should cause religious discontent.

The Czar has also issued a decree conferring on peasants the right to possess landed property in Poland. Personal serfdom is to be replaced by annual payment. Three years are allowed for the execution of the decree.

Letters from Constantinople state that the Austrian Government has made a satisfactory explanation to the Porte respecting the seizure of Col. Turr on Ottoman Territory. Other accounts from Constantinople say that the popularity of Omar Pacha has been much diminished by reason of the failure of his present expedition.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Messrs Palmer & Greene, Bankers, at Litchfield, have failed. Their liabilities are £220,000, and their assets 150,000.

WIND FLOURING MILLS FOR THE PRAIRIES.

—The Peoria Transcript is informed that the Rochester (N. Y.) Mill-Erecting Company intend to place in operation fifty mills on the Western Prairies during the year 1856, the motive power of which is to be wind alone. The Transcript adds:—[Ohio Columbian.]

"We hear a company is to be organized in Peoria for the immediate establishment of one of these wind-mills. We understand that the cost of a mill in operation, with two run of four-foot stones is only \$5,000. That includes cost of building, machinery, and every requisite, including the right to use the patent. One on this plan is now in operation at Rochester, New York, and with two run of stones, thirty bushels of grain are ground in an hour. The running of the mill by wind power is ten months in the year, about the average time of steam power, deducting, repairs, &c., and more times than most of the water mills. It is represented to be just what is wanted on the prairies."

CAUSE FOR DIVORCE.—At a late term of the county court of Perry county, Indiana, there were twenty-two applications for divorce—seventeen of which were granted. One lady set forth in her petition that her lord always slept with his back towards her. She obtained a bill.
—[Ex.]

A barrister observed to a learned brother, in court, that the wearing of whiskers was unprofessional. "Right!" responded his friend, "a lawyer cannot be too bare-faced."

An English water classifier old maids and bachelors as "solitary mature men and women who have nothing happening to them."