

The Home Circle.

Example.

O friend! O Brother! not in vain
Thy life so calm and true,
The silver dropping of the rain,
The fall of summer dew!

A Week Among the Foothills.

There are days and scenes that seem to concentrate whatever is most attractive and valuable in time and space.

The evening was lovely beyond what I have even seen anywhere, except in the moonlit nights of dear old Tuolumne; and the hills, in their glittering mantles of mist and moonlight, looked like enchanted castles born of air.

We arrived too late to see much of the beautiful little mountain town, which we honor as our county seat, and being well tired out, found in the excellent accommodations of the City Hotel a pleasant and refreshing rest.

There is a hard hill to traverse before we come to the high valley or lovely little table land of Shaw's Flat, a small village, whose white cottages, with their pleasant patches of garden and vineyard, look peaceful and homelike; though the business life of the place has been nearly extinct for some years.

One mile from Sonora there is a deposit of Graphite, or Black Lead, sufficient to supply the whole market, while at or near Chinese Camp, there are mountains of iron, and equally extensive formations of kaolin, or porcelain clay.

But what interested me more than all was the extensive nurseries and well cultivated ranch of Mr. I. Dickinson and Brother, viewed in connection with its rapid strides to the present perfection, it seems like a scene of enchantment, called forth by some wonder-working Aladdin and his obedient slaves of the lamp.

Having plenty of time on their hands, the party, enchanted with the novelty and beauty of the spot, remained there over a week. During this time they became acquainted with a genial old gentleman—a native Californian—who hailed by the name of Don Rafael Castro.

This old gentleman had all the characteristics of Mexican earnestness and seldom got down from his spirited horse at the camp, which he frequently visited, being so near the scene of the party were quite often engaged in surf fishing, and Don Rafael used to come and watch their efforts from some shady place.

Should not such instances of industry, probity and perseverance be held as examples before our farmers, and young men generally, that they may learn the great truth, that in the soil there is a truer wealth than in the richest rock, for with right culture it is inexhaustible.

This scene and its author forcibly remind me of the rustic hero of Thompson,

When led the rural life in all its joy
And elegance, such as Arcadian songs
Transmits from ancient, uncorrupted times,
When tyrant Custom had not shackled man,
But free to follow Nature was the mode.

Childhood.

How many endearing associations cluster around the memory of our early childhood. In life's whole journey it is the brightest spot.

Childhood: fairest oasis in life's great desert; many are the pleasing remembrances, and never to be forgotten thy hallowed influences.

THE BASKET OF FLOWERS.—What a common thing! Yes, it is a common thing; but there is always something new to be learned about common things. We gather fresh cut-flowers in just such a basket, and fill our vases with them day after day until we tire of the trim, precise-looking vase.

A SCIENTIST has at last solved the ancient conundrum: "Can an Ethiopian change his skin?" This is the way he proposes to do it.

Fishing on Horseback.

Fishing on horseback may seem an anomalous phrase to many, but it is nevertheless a thing that can be accomplished. Indeed, Sir Walter Scott describes how salmon were speared in shallow streams, by men who rode their horses while engaged in the sport.

The writer, during a residence of 20 years in California, has traversed the State in every direction, while mining, prospecting, hunting or fishing. The latter is his favorite pastime, and in the indulgence permitted by fortuitous circumstances he made some five or six trips from this city as far down on the coast as Monterey, throwing a fly all the creeks on the route.

It was during one of these expeditions—remembered traps that the party camped in a delightful spot at the mouth of Sequel Creek, where it empties into Monterey Bay about eight miles south of Santa Cruz, of watering place territory. At this place the creek had high steep banks and there was only one place where a wagon might descend to the bank.

Two boys in Walla Walla, aged ten and twelve years, this year did the plowing, harrowing and rolling, on land that has yielded 3,000 bushels of grain. They also put in ten acres of rye, six acres of flax seed, and broke twelve acres of fallow land twice.

Here is an example of industry and enterprise, which all the young men of our country should strive to emulate.

BUFF WITH THE WAND.—Having blindfolded one of the party, the rest take hold of each other's hands in a circle around him, he holding a long stick. The players then skip around him once and stop. Buffy then stretches forth his wand and directs it by chance; and the person which it touches must grasp the end presented, and call out three times in a feigned voice.

Price, 50c.

the end of the line tied round the pommel of the saddle, and with characteristic gravity, worked, as native Californians all do when possible, by proxy.

THE common burden of humanity, which we have all to bear more or less, must be heaviest in those whose mental powers are the earliest and most widely unfolded.

COMMON sense is not a native original faculty, as many believe, but the result of a well-stored intellect, and of faculties trained to discriminate acutely.

He who waits to do a great deal at once, will never do anything.

HEROISM is active genius; genius, contemplative heroism. Heroism is the self-devotion of genius manifesting itself in action.

KINDNESS is stronger than the sword.

Young Folks' Column.

Shadows on the Wall.

We suppose our young readers have by this time become quite expert at showing "Grandpa's" shadow on the wall, and are now ready for another lesson, which our young lady friend is just now depicting, as shown below.



the general directions as given last month and you will have no trouble in further perfecting yourselves in this interesting and innocent pastime.

PEN FOR THE CHILDREN.—Did any of our young readers ever experiment with the requirements of a spider? If they haven't they have deprived themselves of much amusement.

Self-Reliance.

A gentleman who has had much experience in the management and education of boys, writes to the boys of the present day as follows:—It always seems to us old men as if the boys of the present day did not have half so hard a time as the boys of the past generation had.

There is nothing like teaching a boy to depend upon himself. That's the way I learned to swim. I tried for weeks to learn in shallow water, but never had confidence enough in myself to strike out and really try.

THE TRAVELER'S ALPHABET.—This is a game to test juvenile wits to work. The players sit in a circle, or round a table. The first one starts by saying to his left-hand neighbor, "I am going to America," (or any place commencing with A).

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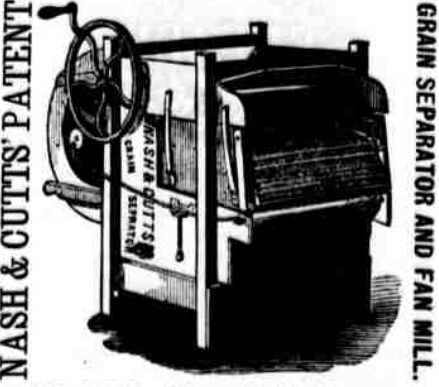
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