

The Home Circle.

The People's Advent.

'Tis coming up the steep of Time,
And this old world is growing brighter!
We may not see its dawn sublime...

Farm House Chat.

The good things in late RURALs have been so abundant and suggestive that, as H. W. Beecher hath it, I am in danger of "slopping over," and responding to these nimble pens in the gushing style of a Mutual Admiration Society.

and profit and social enjoyment for the humble laborer as well as for other hard-handed folks—except the middlemen. And actually I have known a middleman or two that nobody could curse very heartily.

The contributors will please accept thanks for my share of the good things they have served up. The wife of a rural editor has just sent me for information about graham bread and muffins.

Set sponge up for wheat bread; in the morning take one pint of sponge, 3/4 pint of warm water, 1/4 teaspoon of syrup, one teaspoon of soda, and enough graham flour to make a thick batter.

But the discomfited Irishman said—"Faith-an-bajess I've got a brother in Ireland who can fight the bear just as easy."

Exercise.

Two friends are in a canoe in the Mozambique Channel. A sudden flaw of wind upsets the boat. Before they can right her, she fills with water, and sinks; and the two men are swimming for their lives.

The Commissioner's Returns.

Farmers are not the only parties who pay dearly for the services of the middleman. We once knew a wealthy capitalist who owned, with other productive property, a piece of land in the suburbs of Utica, N. Y.

Well, the harvest-time had come; and though the November mornings were cold and frosty, our friend the capitalist was a field with his hoe as early as the regular farmer.

Mr. P. replied that he should sell them, as he had no use for them. Whereupon the neighborly visitor remarked, that having the facilities for moving the crop, and having had at an earlier period of his life some experience in disposing of farm products, he could perhaps dispose of them to better advantage than their owner.

Yes, they met as debtor and creditor; but the producer was unexpectedly forced into the latter unenviable position: for his agent produced a bill at the bottom of which Mr. P. was proved to be in debt to him to the amount of forty cents.

Second Love.

The Charleston (S. C.) Courier and News, which touches upon queer topics in a quaint sort of way, inquires why it should be a reproach to be called a second-hand swain, and goes on as follows: "The title is a patent of nobility—a token that the possessor is terribly in earnest."

Rules and Regulations for Parents' Paradise.

- 1. Shut every door after you, without slamming it.
2. Never call to persons up stairs, or in the next room; if you wish to speak to them, go quietly where they are.

Toes.

We are accustomed to use our toes so very little, that for all the practical purposes of life we might almost as well be without any. They were intended, in the first place, to give flexibility to the foot, and to help us in our walking; but the modern custom of cramping them up in tight shoes renders them almost as immovable as if they grew together.

The Limits of Caricature.

The third and last volume of Forster's biography gives some curious facts, which seem to show that Dickens recognized no limits in caricature. He sketched Walter Savage Landor as Boythorn, in "Bleak House," and made Leigh Hunt masquerade as Harold Skimpole.

A Troy editor took his wife to New York the other day.

The conductor, when he came along, recognized our Troy brother as entitled to a free passage; not knowing the lady, whispered to him: "Is this lady a friend of yours?" "No, no," said the Troy editor in haste, "she is my wife."

A bad habit to get into—a coat that is not paid for.

Water clocks.—Bowls were used to measure time, from which water, drop by drop, was discharged through a small aperture. Such bowls were called water clocks. It was then observed how much water from such a bowl or cask, from sunrise till the shortest shadow, trickled down into another bowl placed beneath; and this time being the half of the solar day, was divided into six hours.

The Old Scotch Servant.

Dr. Robert Chambers tells a good story, in his "Scrapbook," of a Mr. Erskine, of Dun, who had an old man servant, who took great liberties in virtue of his long and faithful service.

Young Folks' Column.

Little Miss Meddlesome.

Little Miss Meddlesome, scattering crumbs, into the library noisily comes—
Twirls of her apron, tilts open some books,
And into the work-basket, rummaging, looks.

'Who'll Be Victim?'

This is a game which may be played by any number of persons—the more players the better. The Victim and the Leader are the more important persons in the game. Care must be taken by the Leader to ascertain that the Victim does not know the game.

A PUZZLED PIKE.—In the great aquarium at Brighton, England, a pike was introduced among the trout and other fish. At first its behavior was quiet and commendable, but after a while the discovery was made that it had a great fondness for the trout—such an extreme liking, indeed, that it did not hesitate to chase, catch and eat them.

A Hint to Young Students.

It is a most excellent study to write off sentences or whole pages which have pleased you, and then putting books and manuscripts both aside, again write the ideas or facts, clothing them in your words and not referring either to the written or printed page.

'Papa, what does the editor lick the price current with?'

"Whip it! he don't whip it, my child." "Well, this ere paper says, Price Current carefully corrected; and when I gets corrected I gets licked, hey, don't I?"

'How long will my chop be, waiter?'

"About five inches, sir," was the accurate reply.

'Has the cookery-book any pictures?'

"Not one," replied the dealer in books. "Why," exclaimed the pretty miss, "what is the use of telling us how to make a good dinner, if they don't give us no plate?"

The earliest known mention of 'wire drawers' and 'wire millers.'

As those who produce wire by drawing were variously called, occurs in the 13th century, in the histories respectively of Augsburg and Nuremberg. Previous to that time we have only accounts of "wire smiths," or those who fabricated wire with the hammer. For the making of iron wire the best and toughest wrought iron is selected.

'Similifer.'

We have recently seen some specimens of a new combination of metal christened by the French inventors "Similifer," which is stated to be as malleable as zinc, and not liable to oxidize, while at the same time it is capable of receiving as high a polish as steel, and can be either gilt or bronzed as desired.