

The Home Circle.

Conducted by Mrs. Harriet T. Clarke.

THE CARELESS WORD.

'Twas but a word, a careless word, As thisle-down it seemed as light; It paused a moment in the air, Then onward winged its flight.

HAROUN AL RASHID.

One day, Haroun Al Rashid read A book wherein the poet said: "Where are the kings, and where the rest Of men who once the world possessed?"

This and That.

In looking over the large exchange list of farming papers that comes to our table, we find of course very much that has an interest in common with us farmers in Oregon.

The March-April number of the INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (A. S. Barnes & Co., publishers, New York and Chicago) opens with the Confederate Reminiscences of Alexander H. Stephens, who here furnishes to the public many facts of great interest.

Jimmy, the Cow-Boy.

An eccentric old gentleman of wealth, named Morgan, invested a sum of money, the income of which he designed to be used for the liberal education of the most deserving lad in town.

He made his plan known to five gentlemen, requesting them privately to make observations and report to him in six months.

Had the boys known this, many of them might have used every means to gain his favorable opinion; but as the matter was a secret, he had an opportunity to watch them without their suspecting his motive.

At the end of six months the five gentlemen met at Mr. Morgan's and discussed the question in all its bearings. Each had his favorite, whom he considered most worthy.

"There is Johnny Ingalls, who is a most exemplary lad," said one. "What fault can you find with him, Mr. Morgan?"

"I will tell you," was the reply. "I once hired him to take some important letters to the morning mail, but he met a companion on the way, and was so anxious for his own amusement that he neglected to mail the letters till it was too late, and they were delayed a day; and a gentleman overheard him say to a companion that 'he did not care much, so long as the old fellow would never find it out.' But the delay caused the loss of quite a sum of money."

"Gentlemen," continued Mr. Morgan, "I have tried in one way and another all the boys you have mentioned, but none of them satisfy me."

"Then you have to give up your project," said one; "for I think we have discussed the merits of nearly every boy in town."

"I believe Jimmy has not been mentioned," said Mr. Morgan.

"What! Jimmy, the cow-boy?" asked one, with a smile.

"Yes, I believe he drives cows to and from pasture."

"Surely, Mr. Morgan, you must be joking now."

"I never joke; and had I any disposition to, I should not take a poor little boy for a subject."

"But, Mr. Morgan, do you know any good of this boy?"

"Do you know any harm of him?"

"Nothing special; but does he amount to anything, except to drive cows?"

"He never has had an opportunity, but I intend he shall have. I am fully decided to give him the benefit of my project."

"You will give us the reasons for making him your choice?"

"Certainly, with pleasure. You call him a cow-boy. Well, that does not signify to me one way or another. It is simply because I know him to be a good and faithful cow-boy that I give him the preference. It seems a small thing to drive cows to pasture, but he is the only one who has always done it faithfully every day, the season through the same in my absence as when I was at home, while others, lured on the way and allowed the cattle to stray into other inclosures for the day, thinking it would never be known. It is evident to me that if he is so strictly faithful in small things, he has the right spirit in him to make him trustworthy in greater things."

"Just then,

"To think, to think, to think! O'er banks with buttercups a twinkle, The cows came slowly home."

Jimmy, gray-shirted and bare-footed, guided them into the yard. He saw the last cow in, put up the bars, saw that the gate was shut secure, and was about to trip away, when Mr. Morgan called him into the house, where he told him something that made him dumb with glad surprise, and sent him home the happiest lad in town.

A Reliable Man Wanted.

"A reliable man wanted to take charge of a farm"—"A reliable man wanted in a counting house"—"A reliable man wanted to superintend a mill"—"A reliable man wanted as teller in a bank"—so the advertisements read. What a demand there is for reliable men! Young women want them for husbands; fathers and mothers want them for sons-in-law. People in trouble inquire anxiously for a reliable lawyer whom they can consult; the sick want a reliable physician; the churches want a reliable man for a minister, although they do not advertise their wants in a newspaper.

There seems to be no end to the demands for reliable men. Are reliable men so scarce that so much point is made of them?

We apprehend they are not as plenty as they should be. Reliable architects and contractors and engineers are not to be found in every place, or there would not be so many railway and bridge accidents; cashiers and other bank officers are not always reliable, or there would be no defalcations. The same may be said of trustees and insurance officers. In truth, reliable men do not crowd one another in any class or occupation.

Young man, it is for you to determine whether you will be a reliable man or not. It all depends upon yourself. Nothing is easier; only resolve that you will be a reliable man, and stick to it through every temptation.

There has been some criticism on the word reliable, as not being good English. But the word will answer very well, if we can only have the quality which it describes.

Manners at Home.

Good home manners are the foundation and the sure structure of good manners everywhere else. The idea that it is of no moment how we behave at home, provided we are courteous and polite in company, is a radically wrong one. Persons often allow themselves to be ill-bred at home, thinking

that they can put on good manners when they choose, and appear as well abroad as others; but unconsciously they are continually betraying themselves. Few things are so subservient on habit as those ever-occurring little proprieties, graces, and amenities of social life which go to make up the well-bred man or woman. The expression, tone, carriage, manner and language of years cannot be changed in a day for some special occasion.

The requisites of good manners are so multitudinous, it is impossible to give them all; and each, like the snowflakes which form the avalanche, though important is so minute in itself that it is difficult to select any as most essential. Good manners at home and elsewhere are but the outward manifestations of love and that spirit which suffereth long and is kind; is not puffed up; doth not behave itself unseemly; seeketh not its own; is not easily provoked; thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity; beareth all things; believeth all things.

The well-bred man and woman express by their manner that they regard the judgment, feelings, tastes, wishes, convenience and pleasure of others as highly as their own. They strive to avoid all habits which offend the tastes, all expressions which shock the sensibilities or wound the feelings of those about them, and all needless violations of the customs and conventionalities of society. The following particulars will fall under and illustrate the general principle:

- 1. Avoid all expressions which tend to irritate, embarrass, mortify, or pain any member of the family.
2. Never allude to any fault or failing unless with the purpose to benefit, and then in private.
3. Avoid sarcasm, bitter words, "sore" subjects, and reference to any personal deformity.
4. Do not ridicule nor hold the opinion of others in contempt.

The "Bad Husband Headache."

It is many years since, in my early youth I was struck by a singular coincidence. Several of my married acquaintances were liable to a peculiar sort of headache. They were obliged, owing to these distressing attacks, to remain very frequently in bed at breakfast time, and later in the day to lie on the sofa with darkened blinds and a considerable exhibition of eau de Cologne. A singular immunity from the seizures seemed to be enjoyed when any pleasant society was expected, or when their husbands happened to be away from home. By degrees, putting my little observations together, I came in my own mind to call these the "bad husband headaches," and I have since no reason to alter my diagnosis. On the contrary, I am of the opinion that an incalculable amount of feminine invalidism arises from nothing but the depressing influences of an unhappy home. Sometimes, of course, it is positive unkindness and cruelty which the poor creatures endure. Much more often it is the mere lack of affection and care and tenderness for which they pine as sickly plants for the sunshine. Sometimes it is the simple oppression of an iron will over them, which bruises their pleasant fancies, and lops off their innocent whims, till there is no sap left in them to bud or blossom any more. Not seldom the misery comes of frequent storms in the atmosphere—for which the woman is probably as often to blame as her companion, but from which she suffers doubly, since, when they have passed, he goes out to his field or his merchandise with what spirit he can muster, poor fellow! while she sits still where the blighting words fell on her, to feel all their bitterness. Of course, it is not only unkind husbands who make women downhearted. There are unkind people in every relation, and the only specialty of a woman's suffering from unkindness is that she is commonly almost like a bed-ridden creature, for whom a single thorn or even hard lump in her bed is enough to create a soreness. To those who can get up and walk away, the importance which she attaches to the thorn or the lump seems inexplicable.

—The Contemporary Review.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADVICE TO BOYS.

The current number of the Sunday School Times contains brief articles from the pen of President Hayes and the Governors of the original thirteen States upon the lessons which are afforded to the young by the life and career of Washington. President Hayes writes thus: "The only American whose birthday is generally known and widely celebrated—the Father of his Country—is remembered and honored throughout all the world for what he did and what he was. None of my young friends are likely to have an opportunity to do such great deeds as were done by Washington. But all of them will have an opportunity to be like him in character. They can have his love of country, his integrity and his firmness in doing right. To have such a character is better than rank, wealth or fame. It is a possession which cannot be taken away. As Webster said so impressively of a 'sense of duty,' 'It will be with us through this life, will be with us at its close, and in that scene of inconceivable solemnity which lies yet further onward' it will still be with us."

SPAIN AND AFRICA.

The Spanish engineers who are to undertake the work of the proposed international tunnel between Spain and Africa at the strait of Gibraltar, have been at Marseilles several days. Their machines very much resemble those which are at present used at St. Gothard. The projected tunnel is to extend from within a short distance of Algiers, on the Spanish side, to between Tanger and Ceuta, on the African side. The length of the submarine tunnel will be nine miles with an inclination of one foot in a hundred. The approaches will be

an extent of six or seven miles. The greatest depth of the sea is 3,000 feet. A thickness of 300 feet of rock will be left between the roof of the tunnel and the sea bottom, making the greatest depth of the tunnel 3,300 feet below the level of the sea. The cost is estimated at \$4,000,000. By means of this tunnel and the one between Dover and Calais, travelers will be enabled to go from England to Africa by land.

CURE FOR SCALD.—Here is an article from a scientific paper which possesses interest for every body. The cure is simple and within the reach of every family: "A scald is most painful, it matters not whether it comes from a huge steam boiler or a cabbage kettle, and a cure should be borne in mind. Dr. Waters, of Salem, recently showed before the Massachusetts Dental Society that bicarbonate of soda, such as used for cooking purposes, or any other alkali in neutral form, would afford instantaneous cessation of pain from the severest burns and scalds, and would cure such injuries in a few hours. Deliberately dipping a sponge into boiling water, the Doctor squeezed it over his right wrist, producing a severe scald around his arm and some two inches in width. Then, despite the suffering occasioned, he applied the scalding water to his wrist for half a minute. Bicarbonate of soda was at once dusted over the surface, a wet cloth applied, and the pain, the experimenter stated, was almost instantly deadened. Although the flesh on the wrist was literally cooked down to the sweat glands, and the wound was of a nature to be open and painful for a considerable time, on the day following the single application of the soda the less injured portion was practically healed, only a slight discoloration of the flesh being perceptible.

CURE FOR A SCALD.—Bicarbonate of soda, in common use, dusted on the scalded surface will give relief almost instantly; a wet cloth should be bound on it.

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50,000 Sweet Potato Plants For Sale.

I have undertaken to furnish SWEET Potato plants or slips to those who desire raising their own potatoes. To those who desire to any part of Oregon or Washington Territory, plants will be ready to ship by the first of May. I will also send with every package of plants a statement of the kind of soil for planting, and preparation of the same. His potato is known in the East as the "SOUTH ERN QUEEN," and is the most productive, earliest, and hardest of any sweet potato yet known. Price of plants marked, and delivered at Express office or Railroad depot, 50¢ per piece. Money may be sent by express or registered letter. All orders should be addressed to: C. P. BURBANK, Albany, Oregon.

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I have the Largest Stock of Fruit Trees in Oregon! 200,000 Plum and Prune Trees, THAT WILL AVERAGE SIX FEET IN HEIGHT and I will sell them from \$10 to \$25 per Hundred. I call special attention to my AMSDEN JUNE PEACH TREES. I had Peaches of this variety ripe July 8, 1877, and they are of excellent quality. I have also many other varieties of Peaches, and a general variety of other Fruit Trees and shrubs. Also, a large lot of PEACH SEEDLINGS, at \$20 per 1,000. AGENTS FOR BY NURSERIES: D. J. Maloney, Portland; S. Berry, McMinnville; B. W. Whipple, Cottage; Mrs. E. A. Jenkins, Eugene; J. Michael, Westfield; W. M. Steeple, Turner; N. Lacroix, Sublimity; J. J. Lee, Halsey; J. Moore, Melama; L. A. Smith, Halsey; A. Wheeler, Halsey; W. Shuman, Halsey; W. T. D. W. Kludge, Howard Pt.; Wm. Harris, Brooks; W. H. Drake, Silverton; Dr. H. D. Olson, Harrisburg; J. A. Hunt, Oakland; J. B. Roberts, J. Benson, Brownsville; J. Jones & Porter, Salem; Jason Royal, Washington Co.; Wm. F. Crett, Traveling agent east of the Willamette river. H. W. PRETTYMAN, Proprietor of Railroad Nurseries, EAST PORTLAND, OR.

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