

The Home Circle.

Conducted by Mrs. Harriet T. Clarke.

Falling Leaves.

They are falling, slowly falling, Thick upon the forest side...

ONLY.

Only a seed; but it chanced to fall In a little cleft of a city wall...

A Story of the Bonanzas.

How Jack loaned Jim \$5 to buy 100 shares of Sierra Nevada—And what came of it.

Jack looked puzzled for a moment. "Yes, by Jove I believe you do! Gad, I'd have forgotten all about it if you hadn't spoken."

DEAR JACK: I return your \$5 with interest to date. Your readiness to oblige me aided me in buying 100 shares of Sierra Nevada at \$5, and I have just sold it for \$220.

Keeping Boys on the Farm.

Farming, when well conducted, is a good and pleasant business. It our sons and daughters do not like it, there is almost always some good reason for their dislike.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

The ninth annual catalogue of the St. Helen's Hall, in Portland, is received. We can not speak too highly of this very excellent school for girls.

Christmas Week.

In old Kentucky, in the time of slavery days, Christmas week was a long succession of merry-making of weddings and "storms" (as impromptu or surprise parties were called).

Prince was dressed well and becomingly, and conducted himself with grace and dignity. The little cabin was crowded. The negro children piled on to the beds that lined the walls of the cabin.

BELLE W. COOKE.

Uranine.

A most interesting experiment, which anybody may try, consists in sprinkling a few atoms of Uranine upon the surface of water in a glass tumbler.

Every one of our readers should carefully peruse the advertisement of the Royal Manufacturing Co., of New York, which appeared for the first time in our issue of last week.

Rules for Home Education.

- The following rules are worthy of being printed in letters of gold, and placed in a conspicuous place in every household: 1. From your children's earliest infancy, inculcate the necessity of instant obedience.

Lucy Stone says that, although women have not secured the ballot, they have in her time vastly improved their condition. She remembers when a woman was thought competent to teach only small children in the summer schools.

A little girl was asked, "What is the sacrament of matrimony?" The poor child, who had learned her lesson by rote, got a little mixed and gave the answer to another question.

A magazine writer says there is a language of the hair. Don't doubt it in the least. At any rate we have heard of tolerably well authenticated cases where a single auburn hair on a dark coat-collar could talk plainer than a guide board, and furnish the material for a whole course of lectures.

POULTRY.

SLAUGHTERING FOWLS FOR MARKET.—Death by strangulation always presents a bad appearance, because the blood is instantaneously arrested, and, having no outlet to flow off in, it coagulates in the veins, presenting a swollen, dark appearance.

FOWLS FOR DEFERRED PURPOSES.—Henry Stewart, in the Rural New Yorker, contributes an interesting article on the above subject as follows: For eggs alone, one should choose White Leghorns, if that color is desired for Black Fowls, the Black Spanish, and for handsome plumage and eggs, the Brown Leghorns.

FOR THE CHILDREN.

Only a Baby's Grave. Only a baby's grave? One foot or two at the most Of star-dusted soil, yet I think that God Knows what that little grave cost.

A Word to Boys.

I think I would ask permission, if I had happened to be born in a city, to have the opportunity of passing all my vacations in the country, that I might learn the names of trees and flowers and birds.

I would keep "better hours," if I were a boy again; that is, I would go to bed earlier than most boys do. Nothing gives more mental and bodily vigor than sound rest when properly applied.

If I were a boy again, I would practice perseverance oftener, and never give a thing up because it was hard or inconvenient to do it. There is no trait more valuable than a determination to persevere when the right thing is to be accomplished.

A loan woman—One who has money out at interest.

The Rarer Metals.

It is stated that four hundred years ago but seven metals had been discovered, while we are now acquainted with the existence of fifty-one, thirty of which, nearly three-fifths, have been made known to us since the beginning of the present century.

Balium is a yellow, ductile and malleable metal, softer than gold. A red heat it burns with a dazzling white light. Erbium is a very rare metal at present, and seems to resemble aluminum in its properties and compounds.

Ruthenium is a very hard, white, brittle and infusible metal. When pure it is never acted upon by any acid. The uses to which this metal can be applied seem to increase rapidly as it is becoming more common.

Rhodium is a white, very hard and infusible metal. It is said that a small quantity of rhodium greatly improves steel. As it costs considerably more than osmium, the uses to which it is applied are very limited.

Thorium is an extremely rare metal, remarkable for its property of taking fire below red heat and burning with great brilliancy. Neither the metal nor its compounds are of any practical use, but its oxide is of interest for its high specific gravity of 9.4.

Tungsten is a hard, iron-gray metal, very difficult of fusion. An alloy of ten per cent. of this metal and ninety per cent. of steel, is of extreme hardness. Both the metal and its compounds have proved of value.

Vanadium is present in very minute quantities in nearly all clays. It is, as now produced, a brilliant powder. Rubidium and cesium so closely resemble potassium that no ordinary test will distinguish which metal is present.

"Don't worry about my going away, my darling. Absence, you know, makes the heart grow fonder." "Of somebody else," added the darling.