

The Home Circle.

MRS. HARRIOT T. CLARKE, Editor.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

Placing the little hats all in a row, Ready for church on the morrow you know; Washing wet faces and little black feet, Getting them ready and fit to be kissed; Putting them into clean garments and white That is what mothers are doing to-night.

DANGER.

Write it on the liquor store, Write it on the prison door, Write it on the gin shop sign, Write, ye, write this truthful line— "Where there's drink there's danger."

CHOICE RECIPES.

Here is a recipe for steamed bread: One quart of Indian meal, one pint of rye flour; stir these together and add one quart of sweet milk, one cup of molasses, two teaspoonfuls of soda; add a little salt and steam it for four hours.

For The Children.

THE FIRST STEP.

To-night the tender gleaming To the love and the longing, Near to the mother's breast; Brightened the dark'ning room; I laughed with the gay hearted lass.

OUR LETTER BOX.

The first letter this week comes from Iowa, from one who has written before. Will some of our little friends of the Home Circle send their letters; if several send, all the better, then this will be a good opportunity to write a letter which, of course, will have to be different in its composition from those written for a paper.

Isabel writes a letter that is without criticism. It is beautifully written and interesting also, and is long. Many do not write half a page of note paper. It is better to try and think of some little interesting circumstance and write it down.

Vellie does just what I am trying to teach you all to do. He tells of things he sees, just as if he was talking. There are things to tell of every day if you will only think about them. Now, every child will be interested in reading about the little blue birds that come to the shelter of the porch during the cold, snowy weather.

Maggie writes again and complains of the weather up in Colfax. It has been colder than usual everywhere. The idea of trying to do something for the missionary cause, is a good one and if the money is earned or made by personal effort it is a great deal better than to ask father or mother for it.

Our friend Mrs. Lewis sends another good word to the Circle and words of encouragement to all.

KANSAS, Iowa, Dec. 23, 1882. It has been some time since I have heard from the little folks and I thought I would write again, as you was kind enough to publish my other letter. I go to school; there are 44 scholars attend; to-day was our speaking day; me and four other girls spoke a dialogue, the title of it being "The Everlasting Talker"; we have a good teacher; Christmas will soon be here and I hope all the little writers will have a good time; papa bought 160 acres of land here; we have not got a house built on it yet; we like our new home very much; papa has 80 acres broke on it; we have rented a farm till we can build on our land; papa has sent for the WILLAMETTE FARMER another year; we have lots of work to do; when I don't go to school I have enough to do to keep me busy; we churn for the man that owns the place; we have churned about 40 pounds of butter this week; Aunt Hetty how much will it cost for you to send me a nice quilt pattern. I will have to close. If this is worth printing I will try and write again. I wish Aunt Hetty and all the little folks a Merry Christmas.

Editor Home Circle: I see so many "letters from little folks" in your paper, it has inspired me to write again. I wrote you one letter which you were kind enough to print and for which you have my thanks, but it has been so long since, I presume the "little folks" have forgotten I ever did write. I see in the Circle a letter from Delia A. Robnett. I used to know her when we lived near Halsey, Ogn.; I wonder if she remembers me? I wish she or some of the correspondents of the Circle would tell in their next letter if they know where Lettie Bassett is and give me her address. She used to live at our house when we lived near Halsey, but since we have come here—over five years ago—I have not heard from her. If she should see

this in the Circle, I wish she would write to me personally or write to the Circle so I could hear directly from her. My grandpa takes the FARMER and he kindly allows me to read the little folks' letters all I want to. I take the Youth's Companion and like it very much, but would rather read the Circle letters. I must tell you about my nice little canary given me by a kind lady. He is just the sweetest little pet I ever had. He sings so nicely and when I give him something to eat then put my fingers up to the cage again, he will open his mouth and ruff up his feathers and make an awful scolding noise as much as to say "let my dinner alone." When I put my face up to his cage and talk kindly to him he will rub his beak against my face and act so lovingly. This has been an unusually cold winter for this country. The past month, and so far the present one, has been very stormy and cold. Previous to that we had very nice weather, the grass was growing nicely and stock was doing very well without any other feed. The present cold spell has caused the feed and fire-wood to disappear rapidly. Last Saturday night was the coldest known here for many years. Sunday morning the mercury was down to 28 degrees below zero. There is snow on the ground now about eight inches deep. It has laid on the ground for a week or more. Some farmers think their fall wheat is frozen so it will die; others think it is not. Time will tell. Wheat brings a good price here now, finding ready sale at \$1 per bushel. Now, I have written quite a lengthy letter, and perhaps, longer than you care to receive from a little thirteen year old girl; if so, pardon me, for I like to write so well I can scarcely quit 'till there is any room left. If you think this worthy of publication and say I may write again, and you want me to, I will write you a letter from time to time descriptive of Klickitat, its towns, country, farms and other points of improvement since we came here. It may be interesting to some of the older readers to hear a description of Klickitat, even from the pen of a little girl. Until then, good bye.

ISABEL HAM. PHLOMATH, Feb. 21, 1883. Editor Home Circle: When it was cold and stormy the little blue birds came and roosted up in the porch. My cat tried to climb up and catch them, but mamma would let her. We did not go to the Christmas tree; papa went and got a little fir tree and we had a Christmas tree at home; we had a nice time. They were tolling the bell on the college and cracked it and now it don't sound well. We have 13 little pigs; it is such fun to see them play; they push each other over and then they jump and run away. Please put my name on the temperance roll. I wish the FARMER success. Your little friend, VELLIE E. CHAPMAN. COLFAX, Feb. 22, 1883.

Editor Home Circle: This is my second letter to you. I have lived here four winters and this has been the coldest of them all. I don't like such cold weather; I will be 11 years old the 11th day of April; we have a faully school at our house now; I think we have a good teacher. I study arithmetic, geography, reading, spelling and am taking lessons in music; I can cook, wash dishes, help mama wash and scrub the floor and can sew and knit; I like to read the letters from the boys and girls of the Home Circle; I am going to ask mamma for a hen so that I can give all that she earns for the missionary cause; I should like to visit you when I come to Portland. Your friend, MAGGIE DEAR.

Editor Home Circle: Few can estimate the real advantage that is derived from a good newspaper like the FARMER. In studying its pages our minds are invigorated, our views are enlarged and the sources of our enjoyment multiplied. We can all remember a decade or so in the past when States and sometimes counties had their own peculiar slang phrases. Many of the expressions that had their meaning greatly distorted by the far Western man, have disappeared in the long, long ago. It is true, education is more general; public schools have increased and improved, until they have reached a high grade of learning; yet a great deal is being accomplished by the general circulation of good papers, with large subscriptions, thousands of persons having the same ideas presented to their minds, they are unconsciously influenced in the same channels and language becomes more uniform. It is pleasant when one is all worn out with hard work and the gloomy shadows of despondency are gathering around by the still harder strain, the demands of society, to sink into an easy chair and with a good paper soar into the realms of thought, with culture, with real moral goodness, getting help and hints in our ordinary affairs, we forget the ill-tempered malice that pervades society, they help resist the destructive wear and waste of the never ending routine of daily life. We are thankful that we have outlived the mistaken notion that it was not necessary for a woman to know more than how to read the new testament and to spin and weave for her family. These things are good in their place; yet we are glad we live in an age when it is not considered unfeminine or as violating the conception of womanly propriety to spend a short time each day in reading, and with the aid of a sewing machine and other modern improvements she has time to furnish her mind thoroughly for her life work of doing good and helping those around her onward and upward. And it is the high privilege of all who dwell in this favored land to have a paper with a department wholly for the benefit of ladies and children, ably conducted by one who knows how to sympathize and instruct and lead woman on to take her rightful position in the world's work.

Mrs. Lewis. The Toronto Monetary Times says that in the opinion of lumber operators there will be a shortage in the lumber production of the Northern Ontario district this year equal to 20 per cent. of the average product.

A Government Asked for Alaska. Senator Cross has introduced the following concurrent resolution, requesting Congress to pass an Act providing for a civil government for the Territory of Alaska: Whereas, the mining and commercial resources of Alaska Territory are believed to be of great value, and many mining and business companies have been organized in San Francisco and elsewhere for the purpose of developing such resources; and, whereas, the honorable Commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington has decided that no applications for patents for mining lands in Alaska Territory will be received or considered by the Department of the Interior, Congress having failed to organize that Territory into a surveying district; and whereas, the effect of this decision is to hinder and retard the development of the mineral resources and the settlement and occupation of the public lands in said Territory; and whereas, the said Territory of Alaska is without local government, and its inhabitants have petitioned the Congress of the United States to organize a Territorial Government in said unorganized Territory, and a bill is now pending before Congress with such object in view. Therefore, be it resolved, that the Senate in Congress be empowered and our representatives be requested to use all honorable means in their power to secure the passage, at the present session of Congress, of an Act of Congress providing for a civil government for the Territory of Alaska.

The Great Wall of China. An American engineer who, being engaged in the construction of a railway in China, has had unusually favorable opportunities of examining the famous Great Wall, built to obstruct the incursions of the Tartars, gives the following account of this wonderful work: The wall is 1,728 miles long, 18 feet wide and 15 feet thick at the top. The foundation throughout is of solid granite, the remainder of compact masonry. At intervals of between two hundred and three hundred yards towers rise up twenty-five to forty feet high and twenty-four feet in diameter. On the top of the wall, and on both sides of it, are masonry parapets, to enable the defenders to pass unseen from one tower to another. The wall itself is carried from point to point in a perfectly straight line, across valleys and plains and over hills, without the slightest regard to the configuration of the ground; sometimes plunging down into abysses a thousand feet deep. Brooks and rivers are bridged over by the wall, while on both banks of larger streams strong flankin towers are placed.

A pretty way to make a border for a patchwork quilt is to piece one narrow strip of straight bits of silk; sew this to the quilt; then put around it a row of blocks matching the center of the quilt; and outside of this put a wide strip similar to the narrow one. The effect is very pretty, and this is a good way to utilize the strip of silk left that could not be used in the blocks.

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