A Word to Mothers.

EAST PORTLAND, Dec. 18, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I never take up a copy of the FARMER without looking over the letters written by the dear children. A lady remarked, I never think of looking at them, I want something more interesting. I hope not many mothers think of them so lightly. What can we expect from their small minds? A child's soul is as pure as the driven snow, beautiful as a cherub angel, spotless and innocent; it is the chart of a man or woman, yet to be filled with the elements of character, which are first outlined by the parents. Now is the time to encourage and assist them; it is now that they receive these impressions and contract such habits, which impel them to honor the good and true, or towards the evil and false. I feel that Aunt Hetty should be highly appreciated in every house where the paper is taken. She has to give time every week to look over these little letters and prepare them for the press. Dear mothers, do you read the kind advice she gives to each and every one of them. The day will surely come, if spared, when these dear little hearts will return her thanks for her time and kindness and feel that much of their nobility and goodness were due to her advice; and I dare say many sorrowful mothers like myself will have the pleasure of glancing over these lines, written by one whose little hand is still in death, and you will almost worship them. Then let us cherish her loving influence and never again say or think those things which concern children to be of no importance. The little things which they see and hear about them mould them for eternity. Children are more easily led to be good by examples of loving kindness and tales of well-doing than threatened into obedience by records of sin and crime and punishment. Then strive to impress on the minds of children sincerity, truth and benevolence. How fleeting these years of childhood pass away. We may be nearly over our rough pathway of life, but let us make the years of children pass as pleasantly as possible. They soon stride rapidly forward in their course of life while we must move slowly back. They will soon regard us in the light of memory, and look upon others in the light of hope. Then let it be one of our great desires to impress upon our children what they must need, and let us not forget that one great duty above all, that is the duty we owe to our Maker. Teach them that God is love and without His infinite goodness and mercy we can do nothing. I once heard it remarked, "there is no need of prayer;" I consider that prayer is the key to open the day, and the bolt to shut it in at night. Real inured devotion knows no prayer but that which comes from the depth of its own feeling. In the darkest night let a prayer be offered up from a pure heart will reach to heaven's height and bring a blessing. When the heart is full and bitter thoughts come crowding too thickly for utterance, how little can words of sympathy from friends relieve, but what relief the bursting heart may find in prayer. It is not every one who is able to pray in the presence of throngs; the timid tongue falters, and our thoughts struggle in vain for utterance, but I hope every mother will teach her children to repeat the "Lord's Prayer," in accent of tender trust which if we only think of it includes everything. True religion has in it nothing weak or sad; it enlarges the heart, it enobles us to bear the sorrows of life, and it lessens the pangs of death. Whoever thinks of life as something that could exist in its best form without religion is in ignorance.

We are often called upon to pass through severe trials, sometimes sickness, reverses of fortune, and even that terrible ordeal of giving up one or more of our beloved jewels, we feel sad and dejected, our hearts are broken, our spirits reduced to soberness, and we find ourselves asking this question, is there no solace, must we endure this agony? God, who governs this world in mercy and wisdom would never have allowed us to be afflicted without giving us a sense of feeling that comfort and happiness awaits us. He tells us when trouble presses heavily to lean on Jesus' breast, and in his precious promise we will find quiet rest. Some natures perhaps need to be tried by suffering to evoke the excellence that is in them. Then give more attention to teach the children and prepare them to go forth in the world as good and useful men and women, and for that glorious future. Yours respectfully, MRS. E. J. PRICE.

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WE SHALL continue to study the markets and inform our patrons on all points, so that they will be able to judge the situation for themselves. Our old patrons will bear witness we have worked faithfully, in this connection, in the past. We shall do so in the future. No daily newspaper in Portland has ever given the producers of the country such clear views of the world's crops and markets as the FARMER often does. Our market reports have been worth hundreds of thousands to the producers of this region. We shall carefully cull such miscellaneous matter for use as will benefit and instruct both young and old. The FARMER aims to be an educator in every department of life.

OUR EDITORIALS will freely and independently discuss every question that interests the people from the standpoint of right. So far as we have influence, it shall be exerted in favor of good principles, good government, true religion, temperance and for education of the masses of the General and State Governments.

THE HOME CIRCLE is edited by a lady of mature experience in the labors of the farmer, and well acquainted with the ways of the world. She interests herself in all the duties and pleasures of home. Thousands bear witness to the good influence the FARMER exerts in many homes to make the lives of mothers, wives and children better and happier.

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THIS IS the farmer's own organ, open for all to relate experience, seek information, and state any grievance they may have to complain of against whoever and whatever seeks to oppress or deceive them. Our columns belong to the people, and the value of the FARMER chiefly depends on such popular utterances.

The Editor brings to your assistance the experience of 33 years spent in this region; intimate knowledge of the country; many years connection with agriculture and twelve years' acquaintance with many of you in the columns of the FARMER.

The reduction of prices is made in expectation that it will bring increased circulation. We ask every friend to aid us in that respect, and shall appreciate the good will of all who do so.

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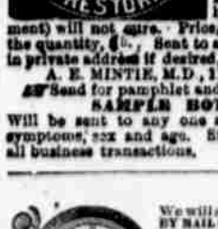

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