

Beautiful Social Customs.

Quite recently I visited a German widow living in a delightful country seat, with a little son of eight and a daughter of five. As we sat down to the well-spread table, the little boy, folding his hands and closing his eyes, thanked our Father in heaven for the food before us, and asked him to bless it. Then the little girl, in childish accents, repeated, "Lord Jesus be our guest. Come, and this table bless, and do us good." The little ones were taught by their pious mother to think whom they were addressing.

At several places where we visited in Scotland, the youngest child at the table asked the blessing, and the memory of those sweet, low, reverential, childish voices haunts us yet, as the echo of some rich carol.

In some families there prevails the beautiful custom of joining in the Lord's Prayer at breakfast; and in one that we visited off last summer, this was sometimes omitted, and in its place the 23d Psalm recited. For a Sunday morning, after a week of plenty and joy, what can be more suitable.

In other families the silent blessing is the custom; and very touching it is, too, for it seems to make us realize that God is indeed near, when we can give him thanks, though our lips move not. —Presbyterian Journal.

A Mistake.

Many farmers make a mistake in giving their children no more sleep than they allow to themselves. Childhood requires more sleep than maturity. The infant does well when it sleeps pretty much all the time. As years increase less sleep is demanded, till we arrive at second childhood, when sleep, as an old Greek philosopher expressed it, hands us over to his twin brother, death. Rousing up boys at four or five o'clock of a winter's morning and sending them out to do chores, or on the mountain for a load of wood, is a sin against humanity. It brings on disease and premature old age. We see many laboring men at forty or fifty years of age bent over and walking as though it was a tax on their energies to drag one foot after the other. One great reason is that they have discounted the hours that should have been allotted to sleep. If a farmer makes it a rule to get up in season to hear the matin song of birds, he should also make it a principle to go to bed at the same time with the feathered bipeds. Every man should study his own constitution, and eat, sleep and work in such proportions as to make the most of life. —Ex.

Sponge Fishing.

Returns of the sponge fisheries belonging to Greece show that there are at present about 1,000 men engaged in this trade. Each of the boats, supplied with diving bells, has a crew of from eleven to fifteen while the others are manned by only four sailors. They took last year more than 240 tons of sponges of different qualities, the total value being £80,000. Sponges of the finest quality are sold upon the spot at from 13s. to 14s. 6d. a pound, and the second qualities for rather less than 6s. Each vessel makes four voyages a year, taking about a ton of fine sponges. The divers remain under water six hours a day when they are fishing; and it is said that many of them die of suffocation, and that a great number of them lose their hearing after a few years of this work.

Keep Borax in the House.

Having long used borax for various domestic and hygienic purposes, I have come to regard it as a necessity. Housekeepers who do not use it have something yet to learn concerning a very convenient and useful article. In the laundry it is economical, as it saves both labor and soap, and is really

cheaper than the latter. For blankets and other large articles it is especially valuable; and in all cases the use of a little borax will save half the labor when articles are much soiled, while it is not injurious to clothes. It is perfectly effectual in driving away red ants, cockroaches, etc., if sprinkled about on pantry shelves, or put in small quantities on paper and placed in the runways of the insects.

Borax is also of great value for toilet uses. For removing dandruff and cleansing the hair it is unequalled. It is also a good remedy for rough face and chapped hands. Its application to wounds, sores, bruises, sprains, etc., proves very salutary, and is often the only remedy required, even in severe cases.

Indeed, borax, is one of the best remedies for many ailments in our whole hygiene, and for that reason alone should be kept ready for use when wanted. That prepared by Smith Brothers is the best, and can be obtained of almost any grocer or druggist. There are many other uses for borax which I need not specify, but those I have mentioned, are alone enough to satisfy any family of the value of the article, and to all such, as well as to those who do not understand its properties, I repeat, *Keep borax in the house.* —A HOUSEKEEPER, in N. Y. Advocate.

A Newspaper Valedictory.

The editor of a California newspaper publishes the following valedictory: "The publication of this paper will be indefinitely suspended from and after this date. To all who have paid in advance we will, upon application, refund in proportion to the unexpired term of such paid subscription. We require a little time in which to make bills payable meet bills due, and persons owing us, no matter how small a bill, will please remember that we need it all to enable us to meet our obligations. As we may be expected to give some reason for this, as it may be termed, rather abrupt termination of our enterprise, we will state that we feel justified for several reasons. We leave the country in a comparatively comfortable and secure position: The European war is fairly inaugurated, a good market and high prices for our surplus crops secured; the great strike is safely over; the whites are obtaining the ascendancy in the South, and the niggers are emigrating to Liberia. The Louisiana Returning Board is in limbo and Hayes is badly scared. Tom Fowler is nominated for State Senator, with a certainty of being elected, and—well, what more could be expected of us in four brief months? For the rest, it is a very dry year, the weather is hot, we have had all of this kind of fun we want for the present, and now we are going a-fishing." —Selected.

Says the N. Y. Observer: A despatch from Hartford, Conn., on Friday last, stated that Mr. Moody had made a proffer of his services to conduct a series of meetings in Hartford, running through four weeks. A meeting of ministers and laymen was held to consider the matter, and it was the unanimous expression that the offer should be accepted, but no formal action will be taken till the churches have been called on to decide. The purpose is to begin the meetings very soon. Mr. Moody has been preaching at Northfield, where his family reside, every Sunday afternoon in August, and it was announced, not long since that he would not labor the coming winter in any one large city, but would go from place to place, chiefly in New England.

Some of the steamers on the Long Island Sound and upon the lakes have Bibles on the tables in the saloon. In the cars on some railroads also there are copies of the Bible placed in racks, for the use of passengers. It is a custom of which no one can com-

plain, and for which some are thankful. But it seems that at least one Roman Catholic priest is bound to put a stop to this method of publishing the Word of God. A despatch from Chicago, September 13th, says: "When the train on the Illinois Central Railroad arrived last evening an officer was at the depot to arrest Father Grogan, who, according to the story of the conductor and passengers, had without provocation thrown from the car windows during the trip two Bibles placed in the racks by religious societies. He was admitted to bail, and the case will be heard to-day." A later despatch says: "Father Grogan who was arrested for throwing a Bible from the windows of the Illinois Central Railroad train, explained to the police authorities that he did so on account of the obscene sketches he found on the fly leaves, and was released without bail. The case will not, therefore, come into court."

This explanation does not relieve the matter. Could not the priest's virtuous indignation have been appeased by tearing out and destroying the obnoxious "fly leaves," instead of throwing them out of the car window to corrupt any one who should pick them up? It looks very much as if his hostility were aimed at the Bible instead of the fly leaves only. —N. Y. Observer.

At a dinner of a provincial law society once, the president called upon the senior solicitor present to give as a toast the person whom he considered the best friend of the profession. "Then," responded the sly old fox, "I'll give you the man who makes his own will."

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