

Saint Mary's Beacon.

LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND.
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.
Be More Ready to Praise than to Blame.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe says of her father, Dr. Lyman Beecher, that he had in a very high degree the power of expression; by which she means, the power of letting those who had done him a favor know that he was grateful to them for it. Perhaps to this is partly due the fact that most of the children of that remarkable man have also this power.

It is terrible to think what mischief has been wrought among children and young people by this want of the power of expression on the part of parents and teachers. How many a sensitive child has been almost ruined by parents who never saw that he was trying his utmost to please; or if they saw it, never did as Lyman Beecher did with his children, let them know that he saw and appreciated the act, however slight it might appear. A little fellow has been reading of some young hero who helped his father and mother in all sorts of ways; and after racking his brains to think how he, too, can help, he remembers that he can fetch his father's slippers, and take his boots away and put them in the proper place. Without saying a word to anybody, when evening comes he does it; but the father is so occupied that he notices not what the boy has done. The little fellow hopes on, thinking that when he goes to bed his father will say how pleased he was to see Charley so willing to help; but not a word is uttered; and the boy goes up to bed with a choking feeling in his throat, and says his prayer by the bedside, with a sadness very real in his heart.

Parents often complain of children not being so ready to help as they should be; the fault is with the parents, who have not known how to evoke feelings with which the heart of every child is richly stored.

A little girl has battled bravely with herself, and got up early on a Sunday morning, done many little things for her mother, hurried over her breakfast, and got to her school in time. There has been her teacher, stiff and cold, with just a nod of recognition for the child and nothing more. Without knowing exactly why, the little scholar has felt very sad. How delighted she would have been if the teacher had, with unglowed hand, kindly drawn her to her side, and said, with a beaming face, how pleased she was to see her at school so early.

If parents and teachers would but cultivate this grace of expression, how good it would be! Many, alas! exercise the grace in a way which makes one wish they were bereft of the power altogether, for they are troubled with a conscientious conviction that they must look for defects in those about them. Of course they find them, and then they are pointed out in a way that cruelly wounds a highly conscientious and sensitive nature, and incalculable harm is done.

Hearts are always drawn out in love and admiration toward those who possess the gift of saying wise, strong words at the right time. It is said of Mohammed, that once when he was all unknown to fame, he addressed a little knot of acquaintances, asking who would join him, and so spoke that a boy of sixteen rushed into his arms, and in fierce, passionate language declared he would.

It is quite remarkable what results have followed from even one simple expression of loving approval.

When John Gibson, the artist, was a little boy, he is said to have sat at the cottage window sketching some geese that were passing. He showed the sketch to his mother. "Well done!" she said; "that's very nice. I would try again if I were you." He tried again, and became the world-renowned sculptor.

Benjamin West, when about five years old, was left one summer day in the garden with a baby cousin. He made a rude sketch of the child. "Why," said the delighted mother, "he has sketched little Sally!" He made other sketches after that, and became the favorite painter of George III, and President of the Royal Academy.

Years ago, a fond aunt said to a boy who had written out a piece of poetry in short-hand: "Why, you'll be a short-hand writer in the House of Commons some day!" And the prediction has been fulfilled.

Pleasant, helpful and never forgotten are all such words of approval. In a large family, there have been days of anxiety and care. The eldest daughter, by her skill in teaching, has earned a little extra money, and without a word to any one she lays nearly all of it out in buying things that are much needed in the house. What joy fills her heart when a fond mother takes her aside, and

with emotion that cannot be concealed, says how thankful she is for such considerate kindness, and murmurs: "I don't know what we should do without you, darling."
Music is sweet, and will often heal a wounded heart; but the winsome words of approval uttered by one we love, are sweeter still, for they are as balm when they are spoken; and in after-days—days of darkness and sorrow, they return upon the soul with healing on their wings.

PURE LAZINESS.—The Baltimore American, in an editorial comment on the above subject, has the following to say in regard to it: "A young man was arrested in New York a few days ago on a somewhat curious charge. It was 'pure laziness.' His protracted and unvarying indolence had made him a burden upon his poor father, and the father was forced to take steps for the protection of himself and his family. As a result, the good-for-nothing son was placed within the power of the law."

"Pure laziness is altogether too plentiful, even in this country of magnificent energies and splendid enterprise. We find it loitering around the street corners, in bar-rooms and in all places of public resort. It does not live. It merely exists. Time to it is a something that must be quietly and indolently killed. It acknowledges no responsibility, it knows no duties. It gets everything from others that it can, and it gives nothing in return. In the home it is selfish and burdensome, a bore to itself and a bother to its relatives. In the world at large it is an annoyance and a curse, adding to the afflictions of mankind and clogging the wheels of progress and civilization."

"We all know what a power for evil pure laziness is. In the first place, it is itself a sin, and in the second, it covers itself with more sin as rapidly as an old stone gathers moss. The easiest job that Satan has is attending to his lazy constituents, for he knows full well that they haven't energy enough to begin to be good. And laziness is not only wicked, but is thoroughly injurious from a worldly point of view. The lazy man is never happy. Burton calls indolence 'the mother of misery,' and Pollok declares that 'Enjoyment stops where indolence begins.'"

"Every community would be better off if it could dispense with its lazy population. The people would be more prosperous, life would be pleasanter, and the world generally would be brighter and happier. It is a good thing, therefore, that the charge of pure laziness against a person is enough to put him in the hands of the law. The New York case ought to be a valuable precedent."

ANOTHER FORTUNE MADE.—Omaha Man—"Are you making a fair living out of your Kansas farm?"

Kansas Man—"Living? Why, I'm rich. You see there was a little piece of poor ground back of the dugout which was not fit for anything. Well, one day brother Jake dreamed there was gold under it, and the next morning he offered me \$100 for it, on long time of course, for he hadn't any money, and I sold it."

"Well, brother Bill heard of Jake's dream and bought the lot of him, for \$1,000, in the same way, you know. Then I got scared and bought it back for \$5,000. Then I sold it to Bill for \$10,000, and so it went until a few days ago, when I got the lot again and sold it to Jake for \$100,000. Just think of it. No more farming for me."

"But what security have you to show for all that value if Jake has no money?"

"Why, I've got a mortgage on the lot.—Omaha World."

PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE.—You may say that a man is not wedded to the truth:
Or sometimes suffers from a spirit of exaggeration;
Or occasionally finds it difficult to confine himself strictly to actualities;
Or is unfettered by the four corners of hard matter-of-fact;
Or is a past master in the pleasing art of realistically describing;
Or is partial in describing nature, to borrowing from the pages of romance;
Or is much given to an artificial recollection of misleading statistics;
Or cannot distinguish the false from the true, with a bias toward the former;
Or has a distinct liking for statements of a misleading character;
But you must not! No, you must not! You really must not! Call him a liar!—Punch.

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"I told you this morning that I would whip you if you were not a good boy to-day, did I not Johnnie?"
"Yes, sir."
"And you have been a good boy?"
"Yes, sir."
"Wait because you wished to please me?"
"No, sir."
"What then, Johnnie?"
"Because I don't believe in encouraging strikes."

"Birds are not very common here," said a man to a Coney Island bartender, as he cast a melancholy glance at the glass of beer that had been served to him.
"What makes you think so?"
"Because," replied the customer, pointing to the foam, "I see there are only two swallows here."

The Spring Season.—French cook—"Please mum, the guest is away in that the butter we're usin' is ole."
Mistress—"Merely! Did they see the stamps?"
"Oh, mum, oi attended to them myself."
"Well, Jane, its about time for spring butter now. Just mix a little garlic with it."

"Mr. Thompson," said his tailor, meeting him, "can you let me have my bill?"
"Certainly," replied Thompson, pulling out the bill; "but don't keep it long—I may forget the amount," and off he rushed.

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Office of County Commissioners,
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A reward of fifty dollars (\$50.00) will be paid for the arrest and conviction of Benjamin Cottingham, alias Price, charged with larceny of a sheep, belonging to S. E. Vielt, on or about January 31st 1887.
By order,
JO. F. MORGAN, Clerk.
March 10th—11

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All persons are hereby warned not to trespass on, gun, stock or otherwise on the property called and known as
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All persons disregarding this notice shall lawfully be ejected.
WILLIAM YEATMAN,
JOS. M. TENNISON,
March 8—11

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June 25, 85—11

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