

HOME DEPARTMENT.

EYELS OF GOSSIP.

I have known a country society which withered away to nothing under the dry rot of gossip only. Friendships once as firm as granite dissolved to jelly and then ran away to water, only because of this; love that promised a future as lasting as Heaven and as stable as truth, evaporating into morning mist that turned to a day's long tears, only because of this; a father and son were foot to foot with the fiery breath of anger that would never cool again between them, only because of this; a husband and his young wife, each straining at the hated leash which in the beginning had been the golden bond of a God-blessed love, sat mournfully by the side of the grave where all their love and all their joy lay buried, also only because of this. I have seen faith transformed to a mean doubt, hope give place to grim despair, and charity take on itself the features of black malevolence, all because of the spell words of scandal and the magic mutterings of gossip. Great crimes work great wrongs, and the deeper tragedies of human life spring from its larger possessions; but woful and most melancholy are the uncatalogued tragedies that issue from gossip and detraction; most mournful the shipwreck often made of noble nature and loving lives by the bitter winds and dead salt waters of slander. So easy to say, yet so hard to disprove—throwing on the innocent all the burden and the strain of demonstrating their innocence, and punishing them as guilty, if unable to pluck out the stings they never see and to silence words they never hear, gossip and slander are the deadliest and the cruellest weapons man has forged for his brother's hurt.

A HARD BED.

Early one sharp, frosty morning the other day, a man going early to his work saw something lying close to a pile of boards which made him suddenly stop. He thought he saw two heads. Sure enough, they were two little heads on some leaves and straw. He kicked away the leaves with his foot, and found two small children, with their arms around each other, asleep; an old shawl covered them. The little boy opened his eyes. "How came you here, children?" asked the man. "We had no where else to sleep," said the boy. The little girl now waked up and began to cry. "Hush, sissy," he said, "don't cry."

"How came you here, children?" asked the man again. "Where's your mother?" "Mother's dead," answered the boy. "Haven't you a father?" "Yes, sir," answered the boy. "Well, where is he?" asked the man. "He turned us out doors last night. He drank, and came home and swore us out of the house, and sissy and I came here," said the little boy. "Poor, dear children," cried the man, tears running down his brown cheeks. "I see; rum did it. Nothing but rum can turn a father's heart to stone, and make him drive his motherless children from his door. Yes, and I dare say rum broke your poor mother's heart."

The man took the little girl in his arms, for she was stiff with cold, and carried them both to his own warm kitchen, where his wife gave them plenty of good breakfast. He then went to hunt up their miserable father. He was on the floor in his own house, raving with that sickness which is the drunkard's own sickness—delirium tremens. Once he was an industrious, healthy man. Now what a sight was he! The neighbors called him a beast. That is not fair, for the poor beasts are kind to their little ones. He was far, far, far below the beast. He had made himself a degraded monster.

That is what rum, whisky, and strong drink do for a man, boys.

times and the depreciation of our currency, the calls of benevolence have never been responded to so nobly as within the past two or three years. Why is this? To a great degree because we, as a people, have never made such sacrifices before, and as a result of these sacrifices our sympathies have become enlisted in every good cause. Do you wish to become interested in some benevolent enterprise? Then do something for it. Do you wish others to become interested? Then persuade them to do something.—Morning Star.

A new scholar came to Rockford school at the beginning of the half year. He was a well-dressed, fine-looking lad, whose appearance all the boys liked. There was a set of lads at this school who immediately invited him to join their "larks," and I suppose boys know pretty well what that means. They used to spend their money in eating and drinking, and often ran up large bills, which their friends sometimes found it hard to pay. They wanted the new scholar to join them, and then always contrived, by laughing at him, or reproaching him, to get almost any boy they wanted into their meshes. The new boys were afraid not to yield to them. This new scholar refused their invitations. They called him mean and stingy—a charge which always makes boys very sore.

"Mean!" he answered; "and where is the meanness in not spending money which is not my own; and where is the stinginess in not choosing to beg money of my friends in order to spend it in a way which they would not approve of, after all, our money must have come from our friends, as we have not it, nor can we earn it. No, boys, I do not mean to spend one penny that I should be ashamed to give account of to my father and mother, if they asked me."

"Eh! not out of your leading-strings, then? Afraid of your father; afraid of his whipping you? Afraid of your mother? won't she give you a sugar-plumb? What a precious baby!" they cried in mocking tones.

"And yet you are trying to make me afraid of you," said the new scholar, boldly. "You want me to be afraid of not doing as you say. But which, I should like to know, is the best sort of fear—the fear of my school-fellows, which would lead me into what is low; or fear of my parents, which will inspire me to things noble and manly? Which fear is the best? It is a very poor service you are doing me, to try to set me against my parents, and teach me to be ashamed of their authority."

The boys felt there was no headway to be made against such a new scholar. All they said hurt themselves more than him, and they liked better to be out of his way than in it—all bad boys, I mean. The others gathered around him, and never did they work or play with greater relish than while he was their champion and friend. "That new scholar is a choice fellow," said the principal, "and carries more influence than any boy in school. They study better and play better where he is. You can't pull him down. Every thing mean and bad sneaks out of his way!"—Children's Prize.

WHY CHRIST LEFT NO IMAGE.—Four men who loved Christ with a love stronger than death, wrote his life, but left no hint of his height, complexion, features, or any point that could help the mind to a personal image. Others wrote long epistles of which he was the Alpha and Omega; but his form was as much kept secret as the body of Moses, hidden by the Almighty in an undiscovered grave. The Christian tombs and relics of the first centuries show no attempt to make an image of Christ. Too deep a sense of the divine rested upon the early church to permit any attempt to paint the human as it appeared in him.

THE JUG AND THE HEART.—The jug is a most singular utensil. A pail, a tumbler or decanter may be rinsed, and you may satisfy yourself by ocular proof that it is clean; but the jug has a little hole in the top, and the interior is all darkness.—No eye penetrates it—no hand moves over the surface. You clean it only by putting in water, shaking it up, and pouring it out. If it comes out clean, you judge you have succeeded in cleaning the jug, and vice versa. Hence the jug is like the human heart; no mortal eye can look into its recesses, and you can only judge of its purity by what comes out of it.

How to Make a Barnyard.—The best way, in my opinion, to form a barnyard for the preservation of manure, without its becoming muddy where the ground is lower than some of its surrounding parts, is to plow and scrape from the center to the outside, making a gradual descent from the outside to the center. Let the fall be one-half foot in ten, and falling a little more as you near the center. Dig a drain from the center to some suitable place without the yard, where you can construct a vat to put in leaves, sods, muck &c., that will absorb and retain the liquor from the yard. The bottom and side may be formed of plank, or may be more substantially built of stone and mortar. The top of the vat should be made to guard against rains and surface water as much as possible. The drain should fall considerably, and should be made of plank eight inches high, and one foot wide, inside. The head of the drain should be covered over with a good, strong iron grate. The yard ought to be well paved with cobble stones, and, with a little pains, you can always have a dry yard. The water from the barn and shed should never be allowed to run into the yard, but should be carried by good eave-troughs to a large cistern for the purpose of watering stock.—Working Farmer.

FARMERS' PAINT.—Farmers will find the following profitable for house or fence paint:—Skim milk, two quarts; fresh slaked lime, eight ounces; linseed oil, six ounces; white Burgundy pitch, two ounces; Spanish white, three pounds. The lime is to be slaked in water, expose to the air, and then mixed with one-fourth milk; the oil, in which the pitch is dissolved, to be added, a little at a time, then the rest of the milk, and afterwards the Spanish white. This was sufficient for twenty-seven yards, two coats. This is for a white paint. If desirable, any other color may be produced; thus, if a cream color is desired, in place of part of the Spanish white, use the ochre alone.—Working Farmer.

How to Care for a Light Harness.—A friend of much experience says the first requisite for a good appearance and durability, after good leather, is to keep the harness clean. Oil it with neat's foot oil about twice a year; a little lamp-black added to the oil is a good thing. Occasionally take a sponge and rub it with a piece of Castile soap, wetted, until fully saturated, then, your harness taken to pieces, should be thoroughly rubbed with this sponge. Fill a second sponge with the white of eggs and again rub the entire harness. This will impart a gloss to the harness scarcely obtainable in any other way without injury to the leather.—Prairie Farmer.

How to Cleanse a Cistern.—Another simple thing I have accidentally learned; and it, too, if not generally known, ought to be, relating to stagnant, odoriferous water in cisterns. Many persons know how annoying this sometimes becomes. After frequent cleanings and other experiments, all to no positive permanent utility. I was advised to put, say two pounds of caustic soda in the water and it purified it in a few hours. Since then, when I tried what is called concentrated lye, I had quite as good a result. One or both these articles can be obtained at almost any druggist's.—Ex.

REMEDY FOR SCRATCHES.—In answer to the query for a remedy for scratches, I will give one which I have used for thirty-five years with complete success, having never failed in one instance.—Take white pine pitch, rosin, beeswax and honey, I ounce each, fresh lard one-half pound, melt well together over a slow fire, then add one-half ounce sulphate copper (verdigris), stir till it is quite thick, so the parts may not settle and separate. This makes an excellent application for harness galls and cuts and sores of all kinds, on horses and cattle.—Maine Farmer.

HOG CHOLERA.—PREVENTIVE AND REMEDY.—The following is Prof. Turner's remedy for hog cholera:—"Take one peck of ashes, four pounds of salt, one pound of black antimony, seven pounds of copperas, one pound of sulphur, one-fourth or one-eighth pound of saltpeter. Pound the ingredients fine and mix well, and keep them constantly in a trough by itself, and each hog will eat what he needs of the medicine from day to day. If predisposed to cholera they will eat it much more freely than it wholly well; and at such times the expense will be considerable. If through any cause, a hog gets down, pour down him, or induce him to drink in slop, one gill of coal oil per day, till he dies or recovers." Farmers will take note of this.

PEACH trees may be preserved from the ravages of the worms, by freeing the diseased part from earth and gum, and spreading over it a thin coating of common hard soap, and filling it up with fresh soil.

Why are suicides the most successful people in the world? Because they accomplish their own ends.

Who is quartermaster? The man who gives the poor soldier one-quarter, and keeps all the rest himself.

Why was the St. Albans invasion like the Lily of the Valley? Because Solomon in all his glory was not a raid like one of these.

Why may the exercise of skating serve as an excellent introduction to society? Because when the ice is broken you may often drop in.

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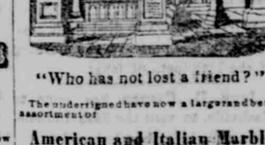
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