

Religious Items.

The fewer the words the better the prayer.

He is a rich man who has God for his friend.

If we did but know how little some enjoy the great things that they possess there would not be so much envy in this world.

Industry is not only the instrument of improvement, but the foundation of pleasure. He who is a stranger to it may possess, but cannot enjoy; for it is labor only which gives relish to pleasure.

There is not an experience in life by whose side God has not fixed a promise. There is not a trouble so deep and swift running that we may not cross safely over if we have courage to steer and strength to pull.

There never was a ray of starlight in the Mammoth cave of Kentucky; only the glare of torches ever lights its walls. So there are many men whose minds are mammoth caves, all underground, unlightened, save by the torches of selfishness and passion.

The rich colors, so grateful to the senses, which float in our atmosphere, are they atoms escaping from the dewy petals of the rose or lily which blossoms as you feet. Most emblems are there others—floating around us all unceasing—the influence of life-spoken words.

Errors to be dangerous must have a great deal of truth mingled with them; it is only from this alliance that they can ever obtain an extensive circulation from pure extravagance, and genuine unmingled falsehood, the world never has and never can sustain any mischief.

There are 7,000,000 young men in our land, and only 250,000 profess to be Christians.

A Jersey Quakeress thinks it an insult to force vegetables and fruit by the use of hot beds, which she calls an invention of the Evil Spirit.

A naughty little boy, being told by his mother that God would not forgive him if he did a certain act, replied: "Yes, He would—God likes to forgive little boys—that is what He is for."

A lady has a Sunday school class in one of the churches. Two brothers attend it alternately. One Sunday the lady asked one of the boys if he would be there on the following Sabbath? "Oh no," says he, "I can't; it's my turn to saw wood."

A little boy in a Sioux City Sunday school put a pose to his teacher. The lady was telling her class how God punished the Egyptians by causing the first-born in each household to be slain. The little boy listened very attentively, and, at a proper interval, mildly inquired, "what God would have done if there had been twins?"

Little Susie prying over a book in which angels were represented as winged beings, suddenly exclaimed, with vehemence: "Mamma, I don't want to be an angel, and I need not, need I?" "Why, Susie?" questioned her mother. "Hump! leave off all my pretty clothes and wear feeders like a hen?"

Respect for the Sabbath. A friend of ours, an Albanian, who is very proud of his old Scotch prefix "Mac," recently visited the land of his fore-fathers, and among other calls made one upon a Scotch cousin, an old gentleman of seventy-four, a clergyman of the Established Church (the Presbyterian), at Liberton, three miles from Edinburgh.

The minister invited his Yankee Scotch cousin to dine with him the next day, which happened to be Sunday. "My modest friend, who knew from the traditions of his ancestors that the Sabbath day" used to be kept in a very strict manner in Scotland, thought that his kinsman had forgotten the day in giving the invitation, and so intimated to him.

The old gentleman at once broke out: "It's all right mon; we are no an strict too as we used to be; 'T'wink weel."

since, when I was far younger, awhile I was studying for the ministry at ———— and up in the Highland, we war wout a minister. Several came along to preach on trial; and among others, one who preached a right guid sermon, that greatly pleased the people, as the deacons and elders told him when he came down from the pulpit. But one of them a man who was sour and crabbed, and always finding fault at something, said: "Mister, ye hae a very clean face. How oft do ye shave?"

"The minister replied, "Avry day."

"Did ye shave this morn?" "Aye," said the minister.

The deacon shook his head knowingly, and went among the people and said: "This mon will nae do; he brakes the Sabba' day; he shaved this morn."

And so he was not hired. "A bit aiter, anither minister came along, who, perhaps, had heard the story of the others failure; and he preached also, and pleased the people right weel. But when he came down from the pulpit, one of the elders said to him:

"Minister, de ye think it right to gang into the pulpit of the Lord's house on a Sabba day wi' sae dirty a face as ye hae?"

"The minister replied, "Yes, mon, I agree wi' ye. Me face is nae that clean all over as it should be; but last night I had barely finished me sermon, when I bethought me that I was nae shaved, and I jumped up, and I got just sae far as ye see, when the clock struck twal, and I stopped, for I doek not brak the Sabba' day."

"This mon they hired, for he respect the Sabba day."

After this story our friend accepted the invitation, and dined well with his Scotch cousin, the clergyman—Albany Argus.

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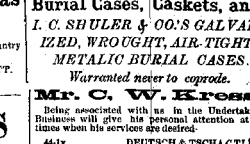
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There is no man in his behavior, though he sometimes puts on the airs of older persons in exhibiting some of their most prominent characteristics in all manner of places, sometimes in a crowded, in a quiet, in a hall, in a room, in a street, wherever he could get shelter. He speaks very highly of the propriety of Iowa farmers and Iowa landlords, but says that he occasionally meets with a cunning fellow who denies him shelter, but he has nothing to complain of, for it is his business to get the place to sleep, and another's to give it to him. He says that he has, once or twice, been kicked out of railroad offices, and several times been put off trains, but they were only temporary inconveniences. He hopes by hook or crook to reach California before winter sets in. He is as lively as a cricket. Neither drinks nor swears, and at the end of his journey will be a hero.—Connell Bluff's News-press.

On one occasion Mr. Charles Dickens was upholding the theory that whatever trials or difficulties might stand in a man's path there is always something to be thankful for. "Let me in proof thereof," said Dickens, "relate a story. Two men were to hang at Newgate the morning arrived; the bell of St. Sepulchre's began to toll; the convicts were punished; the possession was formed; it advanced to the fatal beam; the ropes were adjusted round the poor men's necks; there were thousands of motley sight-seers of both sexes, of all ages, women and children, in front of the scaffold when, just at that second of time, a bill which was being driven to Smithfield, broke its rope, and charged the mob right and left, scattering the people everywhere with its horns. Whereupon one of the condemned men turned to his equally unfortunate companion, and quietly observed, 'I say Jack, it's a good thing we ain't in the crowd!'"

Newspaper Influence. Ralph Waldo Emerson says:—"Show us an intelligent family of boys and girls, and we will show you a family of devils." "Show us a family of devils, and we will show you a family of angels." Nobody who has been without these private tutors can know their educating power for good or evil. Have you ever thought of the innumerable topics of discussion which they suggest at the breakfast table; the important public measures with which, thus early, our children become acquainted; great philanthropic questions of the day, to which, unconsciously, their attention is awakened, and the general spirit of intelligence which is evoked by these quiet visitors? Anything that makes home pleasant, cheerful and chatty thus the haunts of vice and the thousand and one avenues of temptation should consider its influence on the minds of the young, as a great social and moral light?

To keep grapes through winter, take boxes the size of handle boxes; nail pieces across the ends to lay slats on; put in the bottom a newspaper. Have ready a fish of hot sealing wax, and dip the ends of the stems in this. Put them in a layer in the box carefully, then a paper, then put in your slats, then a paper, then grapes again and so on till full, not more than three layers in a box. Nail upright; keep in a cool, dry place, until cold weather, then place in a dry cellar. Grapes by this way will keep till March.

Silent Eloquence. O'Connell was amazingly powerful at times; but one of his most effective displays was a silent reply to a youthful member, who had made an attack upon him that was quite unique. The almost breathless assailant was so much frightened at his own audacity that, after a few tampering sentences, he broke down, and made various wild and senseless gestures, tumbled upon his seat amid a chorus of sounds. The shouting having subsided, the great agitator rose and looked at the greatly agitated youth with so calm a smile that he started with so quiet a smile that he quieted the noisy fellow. He quite forgot to say anything more, and the speaker and began to talk about something else. Better saying was never seen on any stage.—Lippincott's Magazine.